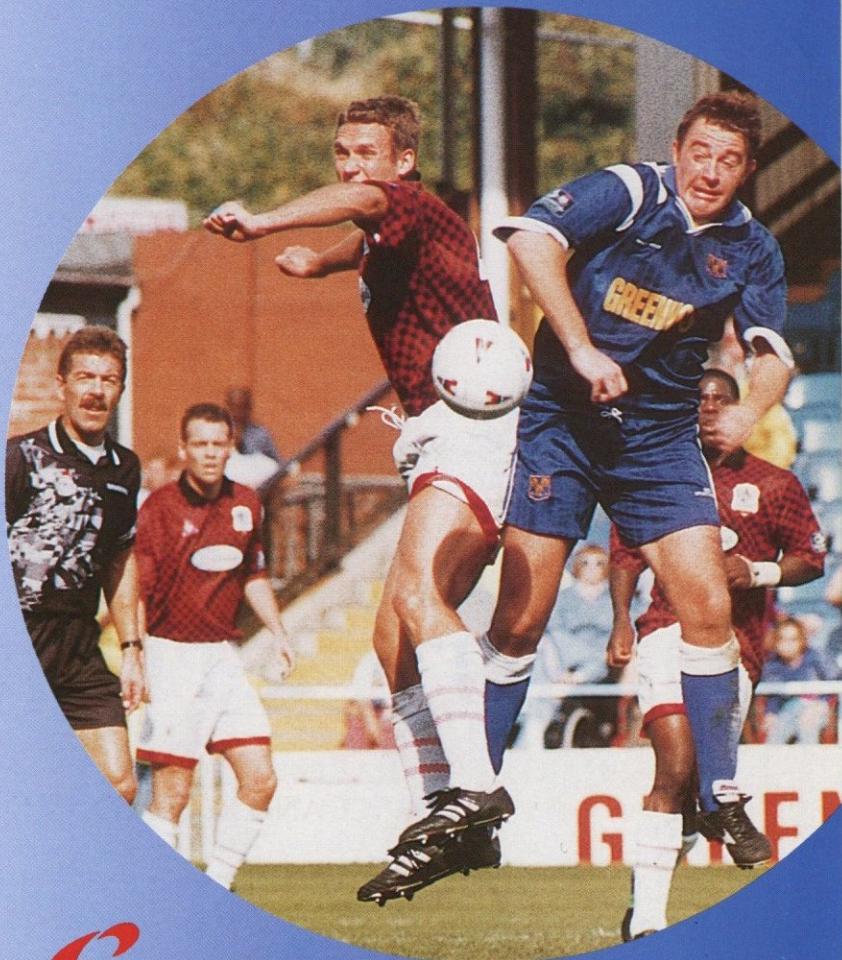
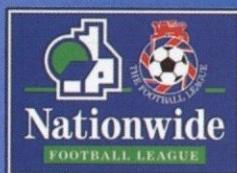


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up front with FRED DAVIES

It's good to be back at the Gay Meadow today following two tough away games at Chesterfield and Wrexham which both disappointingly resulted in narrow 2-1 defeats.

I felt we deserved some reward from both matches, especially at the Racecourse Ground on Tuesday when I couldn't in any way shape or form fault the commitment of our lads.

They gave everything and looked set to come away with at least the point they deserved until Wrexham conjured up a late winner to leave us empty handed.

I really felt for the lads that they had played so well, yet come away with nothing to show for their efforts. I changed the system about and I thought it worked reasonably well. I knew that Wrexham were a hard working side having watched them play twice recently, but we more than matched them in the commitment stakes and played some nice football when we could.

The bright spot of the night was of course Paul Evans' brilliant equaliser. He seems to save most of his better goals for Wrexham having scored a fine winner there a couple of years ago. Everyone at the Club knows just what a great shot Paul has on him and it's great that his long range shots in recent games against Watford and Wrexham have flown in so spectacularly.

I was disappointed with the two goals we conceded. They were two bad goals to give away but I can't be critical of Benny Gall who knows better than anyone he could have done better on both occasions. Benny is still firmly in credit, he has done very well for us this season and has already helped us collect a number of points with fine saves.

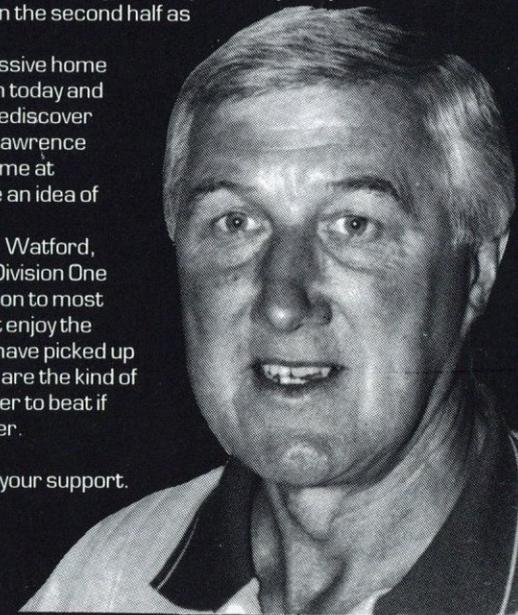
Even after falling behind we could still have earned a draw, but Ian Stevens was out of luck as his header was magnificently saved by Andy Marriott, as had been the case earlier in the second half as well.

We now have two successive home games against Luton Town today and Gillingham on Tuesday to rediscover the winning habit. Lennie Lawrence was in the stand for our game at Chesterfield so he will have an idea of what we are about.

Just like our last visitors, Watford, Luton are just down from Division One and have managed to hold on to most of their players. They didn't enjoy the best of starts, but results have picked up in recent weeks and Luton are the kind of side I feel will become harder to beat if they put a good run together.

As ever many thanks for your support.

Best Wishes.
Fred Davies



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TEAM CHECK

SHREWSBURY TOWN

- 1 Benny GALL
- 2 Kevin SEABURY
- 3 Thomas NIELSEN
- 4 Mark TAYLOR
- 5 Dean SPINK
- 6 Richard SCOTT
- 7 Darren ROWBOTHAM
- 8 Ian STEVENS
- 9 Steve ANTHROBUS
- 10 Paul EVANS
- 11 Austin BERKLEY
- 12
- 13
- 14

OUR MASCOTS TODAY

We have two mascots for today's game. Andrew Leath who is 11 years old and attends Mary Webb School, Pontesbury. He plays in the school football team and his favourite player is Ian Stevens, and Matthew Davies who is 8 years old and attends Holy Cross County Primary School. He plays on the left wing at the Belle Vue soccer centre and his favourite player is Austin Berkley. We hope that you both enjoy the afternoon.



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LUTON TOWN

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- 2 Julian JAMES
- 3 Mitchell THOMAS
- 4 Gary WADDOCK
- 5 Steve DAVIS
- 6 Marvin JOHNSON
- 7 Ceri HUGHES
- 8 Graham ALEXANDER
- 9 Tony THORPE
- 10 Andrew FOTIADIS
- 11 Bontcho GUENTCHEV
- 12 PAUL SHOWLER
- 13
- 14

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE - R. POULAIN

We welcome as our referee for this afternoon's game Richard Poulain from Huddersfield. A contract and private hire driver he commenced refereeing in Dagenham in 1971 moving to Yorkshire three years later and progressed to the Football League in 1986. He is secretary of his local cricket club and also Emley AFC in the Unibond League

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J.J. ASHMAN - Red & Yellow Trim Flag
K.R. INGRAM - Yellow Trim Flag
Reserve Official: J.O'MALLEY

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This Week's Soccer

WITH TWO IN MIND

Paul Evans' magnificent matchwinner against Watford in our last home games was his first goal since netting at Fulham in the F.A. Cup in January and it extended our excellent home record against them over the years with 13 wins and 10 draws in 25 games. This win ended Watford's remarkable away record of five successive away wins going back to the end of last season but they quickly got back on track on Saturday when they won 2-1 at York City with the home side's former Walsall striker Neil Tolson's run of five goals in successive games coming to an end.

Our former player, Mark Williams' got a tremendous matchwinner for Chesterfield late in the game against us last week and it was also his first goal of the season and kept his side in the promotion hunt. They then drew 1-1 with Bristol City on Saturday to stay in fourth place despite the fact that in 11 games they have scored only nine goals, the second lowest tally in the Division.

Then on Tuesday night, when Paul Evans got another tremendous goal within seconds of Wrexham taking the lead, it seemed that the match would remain all-square, but once again a late goal gave the Welsh side all the points when we played so well and could have well returned with the points ourselves.

Until Tuesday night, Notts County, who after reaching the playoffs last season had failed to score in six of their first ten games this season. On Saturday they went down 1-0 at Wycombe Wanderers, who have now won

both their games since dismissing manager Alan Smith, who had seen them fail to win any of their first nine games, but then in Tuesday evening's game Notts County made up for some of that lost time by visiting Peterborough United and running out 3-1 winners with Gary Martindale scoring against his former club.

But talking of Peterborough, the most spectacular win on Saturday was Peterborough United's 4-3 success at Preston North End. After scoring first Barry Fry's lads were 3-1 down after conceding three goals in six minutes early in the second half. They then roared back to win 4-3. Goals certainly seem to follow Barry Fry around and 'Posh' have already scored 21 and conceded 17 this season.

One of Barry's former players Paul Barnes who had a fine scoring record with both his former clubs getting 76 in 148 games for York City and 7 in 15 games for Birmingham City opened his Burnley account in most spectacular manner on Saturday with all five goals in their 5-2 win over Stockport County for whom former Wolves man Andy Mutch got the 129th goal of his career and Brett Angell (now in his second spell with them the 103rd).

Leading scorer in Division Three this season is Brentford's 23 year old striker Carl Asaba, who had netted only five League and cup goals before this season. He took his season's tally to 11 with two of the goals in his side's 4-2 win over Rotherham United that maintained their lead at the top to five points. This was a real top v

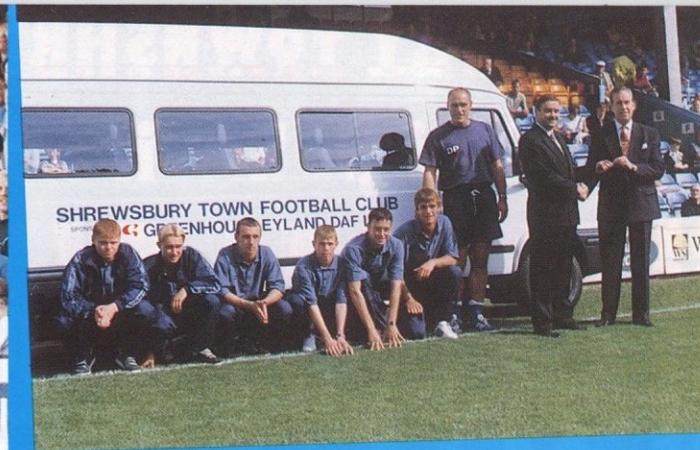
bottom clash with Rotherham United now at the foot of the table with just five points. This was their second successive 4-2 defeat and their one consolation is that former Oxford United striker Mark Druce has now scored in each of their last three games.

A dour Lancashire derby at Bury on Saturday ended with Blackpool going down to an 87th minute goal from Gordon Armstrong who came from Sunderland during the summer. This was 'Pool's third successive defeat while Bury are now back on track in third place after a fluctuating season so far in which they won their first four games, failed to win any of their next four and then won the last two.

Saturday's 3-1 defeat of Walsall confirmed that Luton Town's Kenilworth Road is just about the Saddlers' unhappiest ground to visit as they have lost on twelve of their fifteen visits there over the years and have conceded 39 goals in the process while scoring 14. Visiting us today, Luton Town seem to have got the measure of Second Division football in recent weeks as after losing three of their first four games they have now won four and drawn one of their last six.

Talking about stop start Carlisle United are now top of Division Three after promotion two seasons ago and relegation last season. They were held to a 1-1 draw at Brunton Park on Saturday by Mansfield Town, who have scored seven goals in their last four games after failing to score in 8 of their first 9 games this season.

Geoff Allman.



An increase in Sponsorship of the Town took place before the game with Bury when (above) the keys of a new LDV Mini Bus were handed over to our Chairman Rowland Wycherley from Kevin Comerford from Greenhouse Leyland Daf, and below we see the signing of a two year sponsorship with Bass, Mitchells & Butlers with Mr Wycherley pictured together with Derek Longstaff and Bob Stevenson from Bass, Mitchells & Butlers, and Mike Thomas our Commercial Manager.



Below we see track suits being presented by Jack Wilson of Telford College for the use of our School of Excellence on Thursday evenings. Pictured left are (top) Steve Anthrobus taking on a Bury defender. Middle: Town's wall fails to prevent Bury scoring and - below: Darren Rowbotham working his way around the Bury defence.



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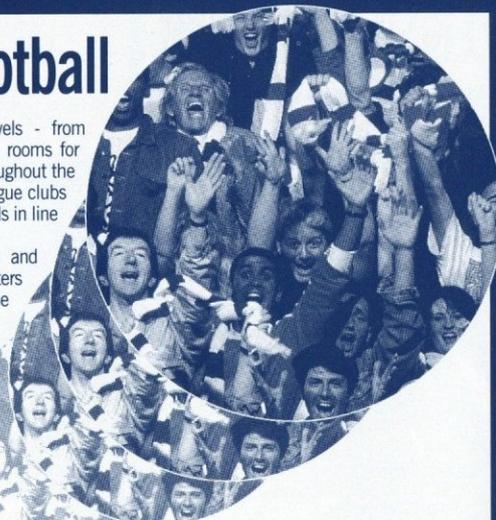
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VISITING GAY MEADOW

LUTON TOWN



Today we welcome back to the Gay Meadow a Luton Town team who have just slipped into Division

and relegation having at various times played in all four divisions of the Football League.

LAST SEASON

After finishing in sixteenth place in

club coach took over. The season began badly however with only one win in their first nine games, a League Cup defeat by Bournemouth and an

by the beginning of December Lennie Lawrence was brought in as manager.

After three Anglo-Italian defeats Luton Town pulled off a



Back row - left to right: Jamie Woodsford, Bontcho Guentchev, Kim Grant, Paul McLaren, Darren Patterson, Gary Simpson, John Taylor, Ben Chenery.
Middle row: Clive Goodyear (Physio), David Oldfield, des Linton, Marvin Johnson, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Graham Alexander, Aaron Skelton, Trevor Peake (Reserve Team Player/Coach)
Front row: Julian James, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis, Lennie Lawrence (Manager), David Kohler (Chairman), Wayne Thomas (First Team Coach), Gary Waddock, Dwight Marshall, Richard Harvey.

Two and are currently level on points with us as they strive for a quick return to Division One. They do of course know a great deal about promotion

1994/95 Luton Town lost the services of David Pleat who took over at Sheffield Wednesday during the summer and Terry Westley the former

Anglo-Italian Cup defeat by Perugia 4-1 at Kenilworth Road. By the end of September Luton Town were bottom of Division One and with only four wins

shock 5-0 win over Ancons at the end of December but only 2,091 were there to see it happen and a 7-1 FA Cup defeat at Grimsby Town did nothing to

raise fans' optimism. Then suddenly things began to go well and six wins and two draws in the course of eight games lifted them to 17th place by late February.

Then things went wrong again with seven games without a win and though they won 2-0 at West Bromwich Albion at the beginning of April only one of the remaining eight games was won and Luton Town ended up at the bottom of the table seven points short of safety and three behind neighbours Watford, the club next above them.

Dwight Marshall topscored with 13 goals while Bontcho Guentchev got 11. In an unsettled side goalkeeper Ian Feuer, defender Graham Alexander and fellow defender Steve Davis were the only players to appear in 35 or more games.

THIS SEASON

So far this season Luton Town have pulled back from a bad start in which they lost at home to Burnley (1-2) and at Brentford (2-3) and Bristol City (0-5). They have put Bristol Rovers (3-0) at home, and Derby County (3-2 on aggregate) out of the Coca Cola Cup to earn

a third round tie at Wimbledon and they have just won four home games out of five beating Rotherham United (1-0), Gillingham (2-1), Blackpool (1-0) and Walsall (3-1) but losing to Chesterfield (0-1). On their travels they have recently beaten Wycombe Wanderers (1-0) and drawn at Bury (0-0). Leading scorers so far are Tony Thorpe with five and former Charlton Athletic man Kim Grant with three goals.

We've Met Before
SHREWSBURY v LUTON TOWN

	Home	Away			
DIVISION THREE					
1962/63	1-0	0-2			
1963/64	0-2	7-2			
1968/69	3-1	1-2			
1969/70	5-1	2-2			
DIVISION TWO					
1979/80	1-2	0-0			
1980/81	0-1	1-1			
1981/82	2-2	1-4			
P W D L F A					
HOME	7	3	1	312	9
AWAY	7	1	3	312	13

The teams for the last game here on December 5th 1981 was:

Shrewsbury: Wardle; MacLaren; Johnson; Cross; Griffin; Keay; Tong; Dungworth; Atkins; McNally; Bates.
Luton Town: Judge; Stephens; Aizlewood; Horton; Goodyear; Doaghy; Hill (Antic); Stein; White; Fucillo; Moss.
Scorers: Dungworth and Atkins for Shrewsbury, White and Doaghy for Luton. Attendance: 5,259.

Luton's History

- 1885 Founded.
- 1891 Turned professional.
- 1894 Joined Southern League First Division.
- 1896 Joined newly-formed United League.
- 1897 Finished runners-up to Millwall in United League. Joined Second Division of the Football League.
- 1900 Finished next to bottom of the Second Division. Rejoined Southern League.
- 1905 Moved to present ground at Kenilworth Road.
- 1912 Relegated to Southern League Second Division.
- 1914 Promoted to Southern League First Division. Beat Great Yarmouth 15-0 in fourth qualifying round of FA Cup.
- 1933 Beat Spurs in fourth round of FA Cup and reached last eight for the first time.
- 1936 Beat Bristol Rovers 12-0 in Division Three (South). Runners-up to Coventry City in Division Three (South).
- 1937 Topped Division Three (South) with 55 goals from Joe Payne. Promoted to Division Two.
- 1939 Were top of Division Two when war broke out and League programme was abandoned.
- 1952 Reached sixth round of FA Cup, losing 3-2 to Arsenal.
- 1955 Promoted to Division One.
- 1958 Finished eighth in Division One.
- 1959 Lost to Nottingham Forest in final of FA Cup.
- 1960 Relegated to Division Two.
- 1963 Relegated to Division Three.
- 1965 Relegated to Division Four.
- 1968 Promoted to Division Three.
- 1970 Promoted to Division Two.
- 1974 Promoted to Division One.
- 1975 Relegated to Division Two.
- 1982 Promoted to Division One.
- 1988 Beat Arsenal 3-2 in final of League Cup. Lost 4-1 to Reading in final of Simod Cup.
- 1989 Lost 3-1 to Nottingham Forest in final of the League Cup.
- 1992 Relegated to Division Two in year that it was changed to Division One.
- 1996 Relegated to Division Two.

Who's who at Kenilworth Road

GOALKEEPERS

KELVIN DAVIS
Kelvin is a highly-rated keeper who made his League debut for the Hatters on the final day of the 1993/94 season in a 2-2 draw at Stoke. He spent a month on loan at Torquay United in September/October 1994, before winning a place in the Luton Town starting line-up in March. With Juergen Sommer on international duty, Kelvin made his home debut in the televised 'derby' with Watford, saving a penalty in the 1-1 draw. He kept his place until the end of the season, and also won two England youth caps. He was selected for the England Under-21 squad for the Toulon Tournament in June 1995. Signed new four year contract in June 1995, and was again in England Under-21 squad throughout the 1995/96 season. Prior to this season Kelvin made 16 league + 4 cup appearances for Luton Town.

IAN FEUER
Ian signed for the Hatters from West Ham United in December 1995, for a fee which could rise to £580,000 depending on appearances. The 6ft 7 inches American arrived at Luton Town in September, and spent three months on loan. Was Luton's Player of the Year for the 1995/96 season. At West Ham United he was understudy to Ludek Miklosko, but never played a first team game, and due to restrictions on overseas players was kept off the bench by Les Sealey. His Luton Town debut wasn't his league debut though, as he was on loan at Peterborough United in 1994/95, playing 16 games in Division Two. Spotted by West Ham United playing in Belgium, although he actually signed from Los Angeles Salsa. Prior to this season Ian made 38 League + 1 cup appearance for Luton Town.

DEFENDERS
RICHARD HARVEY
Richard resurrected his Town career in 1994/95 after two years plagued by injury. The former England youth international missed the entire 1993/94 season after a cruciate knee ligament operation, and made his first appearance of the following campaign at Barnsley in January. His appearance at home to Watford in March 1995 was his first at Kenilworth Road for three years, and he held the left back position for the remainder of the season. A regular on the left side of defence/midfield for the first half of the season, he lost his place to

Mitchell Thomas after the arrival of Lennie Lawrence as manager. Prior to this season Richard made 153 League and 26 cup appearances scoring 4 league + 1 cup goal for Luton Town.

JULIAN JAMES
Julian joined Luton Town as a trainee, and was introduced to First Division football in 1988, but was sent off on his full debut in a Littlewoods Cup win at Leeds United in November of that year. A former England Under-21 international, he was a regular at left-back in the 1993/94 season, but made the right back position his own in 1994/95 with a string of consistent displays which earned him the Player of the Year award from the Loyal Luton Supporters Club. Was in and out of the side at the start of the 1995/96 campaign, before an extended run at right back after Christmas. He was granted a benefit match in 1996. Prior to last season Julian made 214 League + 39 cup appearances and scored 12 league goals for Luton Town.

MARVIN JOHNSON
Marvin made his Football League debut against Wimbledon in 1988, and quickly established himself as a versatile defender. Started the 1994/95 season at left back, but then switched to the centre of defence to form a reliable partnership with Trevor Peake. Marvin was one of only three players to play in every first team match in 1994/95 season, and he was again a consistent performer in 1995/96 at centre back, alongside Steve Davis for the most part, and Darren Patterson. Prior to this season Marvin has made 201 League appearances + 33 cup appearances and scored 4 League + 1 cup goal for Luton Town.

DES LINTON
Des signed for Luton Town from Leicester City in October 1991, along with Scott Oakes, as part of the deal which took midfielder Steve Thompson to Filbert Street. He was a regular at right back during the 1993/94 season, but the 1994/95 campaign was dogged by a series of injuries. He played briefly in a midfield role, but returned at right back in the final matches of the season. 1995/96 campaign also disrupted by injury. Prior to this season Des made 76 League appearances + 17 cup appearances and scored 1 League goal for Luton Town.

TREVOR PEAKE

Trevor started his League career at Lincoln City in 1979, before moving on to Coventry City in 1983. He enjoyed eight full seasons at Highfield Road, winning an F.A. Cup winners' medal in 1987 as the Sky Blues beat David Pleat's Tottenham 3-2 at Wembley. Trevor joined Luton Town for £100,000 in August 1991, and signed a new one year contract in the summer of 1994. For the first time in his career he maintained an ever-present record throughout the season, and signed a further one year deal in the summer of 1995, and was appointed reserve team coach during the 1995/96 season. Prior to this season Trevor made 178 League + 23 cup appearances.

MITCHELL THOMAS
The former England Under-21 international made over 100 appearances for Luton Town before moving to Spurs, shortly after David Pleat, in 1986. He played in the 1987 F.A. Cup Final, and later moved to West Ham United. He was on loan at Luton Town in the 1993/94 season before a permanent free transfer move, and after missing the start of the season through suspension was a regular at left back in the 1994/95 campaign. Recalled by new manager Lennie Lawrence in December 1995, and responded with an ever-present record until the end of the season. Prior to this season Mitchell made 189 League + 31 cup appearances and scored 2 League goals for Luton Town.

GARY SIMPSON
Promising centre-half who signed a professional contract in July 1994, and then signed for a further year in the summer of 1995 after some impressive displays for the Town's reserve side. Played on loan at non-league Aylesbury at the start of the 1995/96 season, and made his first team debut in the Anglo-Italian Cup, as substitute in Cesena in November. Made his League debut on loan at Fulham in 1996. Prior to this season Gary made 1 cup appearances for Luton Town.

BEN CHENERY
Youth team right back who made his first team debut in the F.A. Cup third round replay win at Bristol Rovers in January 1995. With Julian James still suspended, Signed a professional contract in the spring of 1995, and made his League debut

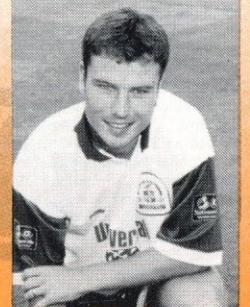
but at the end of the 1995/96 season at home to Port Vale. Prior to this season Ben made 2 League + 1 cup appearance for Luton Town.

DARREN PATTERSON
Darren signed for the Hatters in August 1995 from Crystal Palace for £150,000, a fee which could rise to over £200,000 based on appearances. The Northern Ireland international started his League career with Wigan Athletic joining Palace for £250,000 in 1992. An achilles injury ruled him out of the first two months of the season, and kept him out of Northern Ireland's final European Championship qualifying matches. Made his first Luton Town appearance in the Anglo-Italian cup defeat in Cesena in November, and returned to the Northern Ireland squad at the end of the season. Prior to this season Darren made 23 League + 3 cup appearances for Luton Town.

MATTHEW UPSON
Matthew made his Luton Town debut aged just 16 in the Anglo-Italian Cup match in Cesena.

GRAHAM ALEXANDER
Graham joined the Hatters in July 1995, and was Terry Westley's first signing for a fee in the region of £100,000 with further payments depending on appearances. Prior to this season Graham made 37 League + 5 cup appearances and scored 1 goal for Luton Town.

STEVE DAVIS
Steve joined the Hatters in the



summer of 1995 after making over 160 League appearances for Burnley, scoring 22 goals. He joined the Turf Moor side in August 1991 for £60,000 from Southampton, after loans spells at Burnley and Notts County. He captained Burnley during their rise up the League into Division One, and played in both their victories over Luton Town in the 1994/95 season. Was a

Who's Who at Kenilworth Road

commanding figure for the Hatters in 1995/96 but again suffered the agony of relegation as Luton Town, like Burnley the previous season, dropped out of Division One. Prior to this season Steve made 36 League and 6 cup appearances and scored 2 goals for Luton Town.

MIDFIELD

PAUL SHOWLER

Signed in August 1996, from Bradford City where he played under the current Luton Town boss Lennie Lawrence. Played non-league football for Altrincham and Barnet, with League appearances for the latter following their promotion from the Conference.

CERI HUGHES

Ceri was a regular in three Luton Town midfield in the 1993/94 season, and his performance earned a call-up to the full Welsh side. He made his Luton Town debut at Aston Villa in 1990, and has also represented his country at youth and Under-21 levels. Scored seven goals in the 1993/94 season, but damaged knee ligaments against Grimsby Town in November 1994 and was ruled out for the rest of the campaign after just eight League starts. Made his comeback against Norwich City on the opening day of the 1995/96 season, but suspension and injury plagued his 1995/96 campaign. Played for Wales in Albania in November 1995. Had a trial period at Crystal Palace in summer 1996, but they decided against a deal. Prior to this season Ceri made 139 League + 18 cup appearances and scored 13 League + 1 cup goal for Luton Town.

PAUL McLAREN

Paul made his debut in the Town first team on the final day of the 1993/94 season, coming on as a substitute at Stoke City. He joined the Hatters from school, and is an England youth international. Started as a centre half, but spent much of the 1994/95 season in the reserves in centre midfield. Made his full debut at Tranmere Rovers in October 1995, and then played in the Anglo-Italian Cup game in Genoa. Prior to this season Paul made 13 League + 4 cup appearances and scored 1 League + 1 cup goal.

AARON SKELTON

Aaron signed professional forms for the Hatters in December 1992, and was drafted into the first team squad on a number of occasions in 1992/93. But his progress was halted in 1993/94 with a serious thigh injury, and he had to wait until the opening day of the 1994/95 season to make his full League debut, at home to West Bromwich Albion. Injuries again restricted his opportunities, and he started only

two League games that season, although he finished the campaign in the reserves operating at centre back. His wretched luck with injuries continued in 1995/96. Prior to this season Aaron made 5 League + 2 cup appearances for Luton Town.

TONY THORPE

Tony made an immediate impact in the Luton Town side when he scored for the Hatters on his full debut at Newcastle United, in the fourth round of the F.A. Cup in January 1994. He joined the club at the start of the 1992/93 season, following a spell at Leicester City. He was restricted to just five substitute appearances during the 1994/95 campaign. Scored Luton Town's winning goal at Southend United in August 1995 - the Hatters' first win of the season, and their first under Terry Westley. Signed a new contract in the summer of 1996. Prior to this season Tony made 51 League + 9 cup appearances and scored 8 League + 2 cup goals for Luton Town.

GARY WADDOCK

Gary completed a free transfer move from Bristol Rovers in December 1994, after a three month loan spell at Kenilworth Road. Started his career with QPR making over 200 appearances, including an F.A. Cup Final against Spurs in 1982, and the subsequent replay. That was followed by a spell in Belgium with Charleroi as Gary recovered from a serious knee injury, and he also had spells at Millwall, QPR again, and Swindon Town, before moving to Bristol. Gary missed only one game, through suspension, after joining the Hatters in 1994/95, and scored his first goal for the Luton Town on the final day of the season. His consistent displays in 1995/96 were rewarded with the Players' Player of the Year Trophy. Prior to this season Gary made 76 League + 8 cup appearances and scored 1 goal for Luton Town.

SEAN EVERS

Sean made his first team debut in the Anglo-Italian cup match against Perugia in September, making his League debut in the final home match of the season. Prior to this season Sean made 2 appearances for Luton Town.

DAVID OLDFIELD

David returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 1995, six years after leaving Luton Town. He started his career with the Hatters, progressing through the junior ranks to a two-goal senior debut in a 2-1 Simod Cup win at Everton in February 1988. He also scored on his full League debut in a 2-1 home win over Watford in May 1988, and went on to make 29 League appearances for the Hatters, scoring



four goals. Australian-born Oldfield, who played for England Under-21s, joined Manchester City for £600,000 in March 1989, before moving on to Leicester City. Prior to this season David made 63 League + 15 cup appearances and scored 6 League + 4 cup goals for Luton Town.

FORWARDS

KIM GRANT

Signed from Charlton Athletic,



where he had made his debut under Lennie Lawrence, for £250,000 in March 1996, and scored on his debut against Ipswich Town. Was selected for the Ghanaian national squad in the summer of 1996, playing against Egypt and Denmark. Prior to this season Kim made 10 League appearances and scored 3 goals for Luton Town.

DWIGHT MARSHALL

Dwight signed in the summer of 1994 from Plymouth Argyle for £150,000, after scoring 14 goals for Peter Shilton's side the previous season - his third campaign at Home Park after playing non-league football with Grays Athletic. Started well for Luton Town, with two goals in the 5-1 win over Middlesbrough in October, and despite being troubled by a shin injury late in the season he finished as the Hatters' leading scorer with 13 goals in League and cup. He suffered a broken leg in February, ruling him out for the rest of the season. Prior to this season Dwight made 71 League + 12 cup appearances and scored 20 League + 6 cup goals for Luton Town.

JOHN TAYLOR

John joined Luton Town on dead-

line day in March 1995, for £200,000 from Bradford City. He started his career at Colchester United, but was later snapped up by Cambridge United from non-league Sudbury. He scored 46 goals in 160 appearances for Cambridge before a move to Bristol Rovers where he netted 44 goals in 95 appearances. The centre forward had scored 13 goals for Bradford before his move to Luton Town, and he added three goals for the Hatters before the end of the season after making his debut on March 26th against Watford. Struggled with a back injury at the start of the 1995/96 season, and had an operation in October, ruling him out until Christmas. Prior to this season John made 37 League + 3 cup appearances and scored 3 League + 1 cup goals.

STUART DOUGLAS

After an impressive scoring record in youth and reserve team football, Stuart made his first team debut, as a second year trainee, against Oldham Athletic in November 1995, and scored after 41 minutes. Prior to this season Stuart made 8 League + 1 cup appearance and scored 1 League goal for Luton Town.

JAMIE WOODSFORD

Jamie made his first team debut coming on as a substitute in the 1-0 win at Port Vale in September 1994, but had to wait until the final day of the season for his full debut in the 3-2 home defeat by Stoke City. A regular scorer in youth and reserve team football, he was included in the England Under-18 squad, making his debut as a substitute in the 0-0 draw with Latvia in November 1994. Made his second full league appearance in the home defeat by West Bromwich Albion in October 1995, but went on loan to Portadown in Northern Ireland in 1996. Prior to this season Jamie made 10 League + 2 cup appearances for Luton Town.

BONTCHO GUENTCHEV

The Bulgarian international signed for the Hatters after being released by Ipswich Town. The 31 year old striker, who played in the 1994 World Cup Finals in the USA when Bulgaria reached the semi-finals, had been at Ipswich Town for three seasons playing 58 games in the Premier League. He arrived on a free transfer after being released by the Portman Road club, but his wife's employment at the Bulgarian embassy now means he is free to continue playing in the UK. Scored vital goals for the Hatters in 1995/96 and played for Bulgaria in the 1996 European Championships. Prior to this season Bontcho made 35 League + 6 cup appearances and scored 9 League + 2 cup goals for Luton Town.

What if the wedding of a close relative coincided with the divisional play-off final?



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<http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

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VISITING GAY MEADOW

Junior Blues & Family Enclosure

SPONSORED BY HAWKSTONE PARK



Welcome to all the Junior Blues and Family Enclosure members here at the 'Meadow' for today's game against Luton Town.

We would also like to welcome The Luton Town Junior Supporters Club who are joining us to watch the match today.

Saturday Morning News

Throughout the season on Saturday mornings of home matches there will be football activities at Belle Vue Youth Club in Rocke Street. It costs £1.00 to join in and starts at 10.30am finishing at 1.30pm. The next being on Saturday 16th October. Supervision of youngsters will end at Rocke Street at 1.30pm and parents must arrange to collect their children at that time.

Membership

The Junior Blues now have over 90 members but more are welcome.

Benefits of membership include:-

- * A Discount at the Club Shop.
- * Trips to away games involving Pre-match entertainment when available and combined coach travel and match ticket price.
- * A Christmas card and signed photograph of your favourite player.

* Various social events with Town players in attendance. Membership costs £5.00 per family (to include one child) and £1.00 each additional child. Forms are available from the club office or from your family co-ordinator Trish Oakley who can usually be found in the Family Enclosure on match days.

Away Travel

The next away trip planned by the Junior Blues is to Preston on Saturday 19th of October. Bookings are being taken by Bev Dulsion who can be contacted on 01743 36732. The cost is £9.00 and the departure time is not yet known.

McDonalds

We would like to welcome McDonalds into the Family Stand for today's match. They will be giving away hats, balloons and free meal vouchers. Three families are also joining us in the Family



McDonald's Prize winners at a previous game.

Stand today courtesy of

McDonalds by winning lucky seat numbers at the Watford game. Thankyou to McDonalds for their involvement at the Watford match.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Gareth Davies - 2nd October 1996.

Best Wishes and enjoy the match.

Russell Taylor and the Junior Blues Committee.

SHREWSBURY TOWN v GILLINGHAM

Tuesday Next - October 15th

Kick Off 7.30pm.

TWO QUID A KID

In Association with McDonalds

Under-16's ONLY - £2 Admission to Terraces

(TURNSTILE 7)

Membership Cards Not Required

Lots of Surprises!



SUPPORT THE TOWN

around the meadow

Away Travel with: Chris Smith

- Preston North End - Saturday
- 19th October 1996
- Coaches depart:
- Wem 10.00am
- Gay Meadow 10.30am.
- Bucks Head 10.45am.
- Bookings by seeing Chris
- Smith after today's match outside the Club Shop or by telephoning Chris as soon as possible on Telford (01952) 604742.
- Don't forget all coaches are stewarded, discounts for Travel Club Members, Juniors & OAP's.
- No alcohol allowed on coaches.
- Bring your unwanted football programmes and secure reductions in your coach fare.

Programmes from Chris Smith

SHREWSBURY PROGRAMME FAIR

Don't forget this annual event at the Telepost Social Club, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury on Sunday 24th November 1996. 11.00am until 2.00pm. Admission Free.

Thousands of programmes available from all leading clubs. **THE PROGRAMME CABIN** Call at the Cabin today for all your Town home and away programmes, most games available from 1966 onwards right up to the present day.

Hundreds of other items in stock, Manchester United, Liverpool, Chelsea etc.

A SAD LOSS TO ALL AT GAY MEADOW OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of Sandra Payne, wife of Ian who is one of our agents and a loyal and enthusiastic supporter. Sandra often travelled with Ian to away games.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ian and young children Hannah and David. Sandra will be sadly missed.

It is also with deep regret we announce the death of Mr. Dave Lewis of Much Wenlock, who passed away on the 5th September 1996. Dave was a staunch and ardent life long supporter of the Town. He was a very keen and enthusiastic Agent selling Bingo and Lottery tickets on behalf of the Club for over 30 years, and very well known in his part of Shropshire. His contribution to the Club will be sadly missed. Our condolences to all Mr. Lewis's family.

Thank You - But Regretfully we now have enough Mascots until the end of the season.

Ann Ralphs.

Supporters Club News

Just a reminder that the next open meeting of the Supporters Club is on Monday November 11th at 8.00pm in the Players Bar.

The evening will take the form of a General Knowledge quiz. Teams of 4 may be entered at a cost of £4.00 per team.

We all hope as many teams as possible will enter and it is also hoped that the Club Staff will also enter a team.

Ann Ralphs

AWAY SUPPORTERS ADMISSION PRICES

Preston North End

Terrace only: Adults £8.50.
Children & OAPs £5.00.

Peterborough United

Seating: Adults £9.00. Concessions £4.50.
Standing: Adults £7.00. Concessions £3.50.

Notts County

Seating only in the Kop Stand. Pay at turnstiles £10.00 No Concessions.

Today we welcome Mr. Ernest Phillips and members of his family. Mr. Phillips recently celebrated his seventieth birthday and has been a life-long supporter of the Club, attending all League and reserve team matches. In recognition of Mr. Phillips stalwart support he is attending the game as our guest. We hope that Mr. Phillips and his family have an enjoyable afternoon.

70th Birthday Guest

TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS TOWNFACTS

NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Brentford	11	8	3	0	25	12	27
Watford	11	7	1	3	12	9	22
Bury	11	6	3	2	15	9	21
Chesterfield	11	6	2	3	9	8	20
Crewe Alexandra	11	6	1	4	16	13	19
Wrexham	10	5	4	1	14	10	19
Millwall	11	5	3	3	20	15	18
Bristol Rovers	11	5	3	3	12	9	18
Burnley	11	5	1	5	17	15	16
Shrewsbury Town	11	4	4	3	12	12	16
Luton Town	10	5	1	4	11	13	16
Peterborough United	11	3	6	2	22	20	15
Bristol City	11	4	2	5	20	18	14
Stockport County	11	4	2	5	14	17	14
Gillingham	11	4	2	5	12	13	14
Plymouth Argyle	11	3	4	4	14	17	13
Notts County	11	3	3	5	9	10	12
Blackpool	11	3	3	5	9	12	12
Walsall	11	3	2	6	12	17	11
York City	11	2	4	5	15	18	10
Wycombe Wanderers	11	2	4	5	13	17	10
Preston North End	11	3	1	7	11	15	10
Bournemouth	11	3	1	7	9	13	10
Rotherham United	11	1	2	8	12	23	5

OPPONENTS

- AUGUST**
 18-WYCOMBE WANDERERS
 21-TRANMERE ROVERSCCC
 24-Rotherham
 27-Burnley
 31-BRENTFORD
- SEPTEMBER**
 4-Tranmere Rovers CCC
 7-York City
 10-BRISTOL CITY
 14-BURY
 21-Blackpool
 28-WATFORD
- OCTOBER**
 1-Chesterfield
 8-Wrexham
 12-LUTON TOWN
 15-GILLINGHAM
 19-Preston North End
 26-CREWE ALEXANDRA
 29-Peterborough United
- NOVEMBER**
 2-Notts County
 9-BRISTOL ROVERS
 16-FA Cup Round 1
 20-Millwall
 23-STOCKPORT COUNTY
 27-CCC Round 4
 30-Crewe Alexandra
- DECEMBER**
 3-BOURNEMOUTH
 7-FA Cup Round 2
 14-Plymouth Argyle
 20-WALSALL K.O.7.45pm
 26-Bristol City
 28-YORK CITY
- JANUARY**
 1-BLACKPOOL
 4-Bury (FA Cup Rd3)
 8-CCC Round 5
 11-Watford
 18-CHESTERFIELD
 25-PETERBOROUGH UNITED
- FEBRUARY**
 1-Bristol Rovers
 8-NOTTS COUNTY
 15-Stockport County (FAC5)
 22-MILLWALL
- MARCH**
 1-Bournemouth
 8-Walsall (FAC5)
 12-CCCSemi-Final
 15-PLYMOUTH ARGYLE
 22-ROTHERHAM UNITED
 29-Wycombe Wanderers
- APRIL**
 1-BURNLEY
 5-Brentford
 12-WREXHAM (FAC S/F)
 19-Luton Town
 26-PRESTON NORTH END
- MAY**
 3-Gillingham
 17-FA Cup Final

S	LP	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1-1		3440	Gall	Whiston	Taylor L	Taylor M	Spink	Scott	Currie*	STEVENS	Anthrobus	Walton	Berkeley	Rowbotham	Edwards	Seabury*	HOME
0-2		2875	Gall	Whiston**	Taylor L	Taylor M	Spink	Scott	Currie*	Stevens	Anthrobus	Walton	Nielsen	Rowbotham+	Seabury**	Berkeley*	HOME
2-1	8	3037	Gall	Taylor L	Nielsen	Taylor M*	Spink	Scott	Seabury	STEVENS 2	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley	Rowbotham*	Cope	Currie	AWAY
3-1	3	9072	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Taylor L	TAYLOR M	SCOTT	Rowbotham	STEVENS	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley*	Currie*	Edwards	Cope	AWAY
0-3	6	3530	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Taylor L	Taylor L	SCOTT	Rowbotham	Stevens	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley	Spink	Currie	Cope	HOME
1-1		3028	Gall	Seabury	Taylor L	Taylor M	Spink	Scott*	ROWBOTHAM	Stevens	Anthrobus	Evans**	Berkeley+	Currie**	Nielsen*	Dempsey+	AWAY
0-0	7	2911	Gall	Seabury	Taylor L	Taylor M	Spink	Scott	Rowbotham	Stevens	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley	Currie	Dempsey	Nielsen	AWAY
1-0	7	2502	Gall	Seabury	Taylor L*	Taylor M	Spink	Scott	Nielsen	STEVENS	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley	Rowbotham*	Currie	Dempsey	HOME
1-1	8	3238	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Taylor M	Spink	Scott*	ROWBOTHAM	Stevens	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley	Taylor L	Currie	Dempsey*	HOME
1-1	8	4452	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Taylor M*	Spink	Scott	Rowbotham	STEVENS	Anthrobus	Evans	Berkeley	Taylor L	Currie	Dempsey*	AWAY
1-0	5	3655	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Currie	Spink	Scott	Rowbotham	Stevens	Anthrobus	EVANS	Berkeley	Taylor L	Ward	Dempsey	HOME
1-2	8	3299	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Dempsey	Spink	Scott	Rowbotham	Stevens	Anthrobus	Evans*	Berkeley**	Taylor L**	Walton	Currie*	o.g. AWAY
1-2	10	5031	Gall	Seabury	Nielsen	Taylor M	Spink	Scott	Rowbotham	Stevens	Anthrobus*	EVANS	Dempsey	Berkeley*	Walton	Currie	AWAY

TOWN LEAGUE APPEARANCES & GOALS

PLAYER	1996/97		Total for Town		
	APP	G	T/APP	T/G	
Steve Athrobus	11(1)	-	37(12)	10	AWAY HOME
Austin Berkeley	10(1)	-	46(3)	1	AWAY HOME
James Cope	(1)	-	(2)	-	AWAY HOME
Darren Currie	2(3)	-	28(7)	4	AWAY
Mark Dempsey	2(3)	-	19(14)	2	HOME
Paul Edwards	-	-	146	-	AWAY HOME
Paul Evans	10	2	77(18)	10	AWAY HOME
Benny Gall	11	-	11	-	HOME
Thomas Nielsen	9	-	9	-	AWAY
Darren Rowbotham	8(3)	1	28(9)	9	AWAY HOME HOME
Ian Reed	-	-	10(5)	2	HOME
Richard Scott	11	1	54(1)	8	AWAY HOME
Kevin Seabury	10(1)	-	63(13)	-	AWAY HOME
Dean Spink	9(1)	-	214(28)	48	AWAY
Ian Stevens	11	6	64(17)	26	AWAY
Lee Taylor	6(1)	-	6(1)	-	HOME HOME
Mark Taylor	9	1	222	15	AWAY
David Walton	1	-	99	8	HOME AWAY
Nick Ward	-	-	-	-	HOME AWAY
Peter Whiston	1	-	29	2	HOME
Shaun Wray	-	-	(3)	-	AWAY



Caught.
Ball watching!

The official ball supplier to:



NEXT AT THE MEADOW

<p>Tuesday Next 15th October Nationwide League Division Two GILLINGHAM Kick Off 7.30pm.</p>	<p>Wednesday 16th October Pontins League Two YORK CITY Kick Off 7.00pm</p>	<p>Wednesday 23rd October Pontins League Two MANSFIELD TOWN Kick Off 7.00pm</p>
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DIVISION TWO GATES

	Highest	Lowest	Average
Burnley	13599	9072	10382
Millwall	9537	7881	9118
Preston North End	9752	7608	8900
Watford	12007	7208	8499
Plymouth Argyle	9209	4929	7945
Bristol City	9387	6276	7424
Gillingham	7217	4920	5972
Bristol Rovers	6380	5008	5713
Wrexham	5299	2401	5711
Brentford	6137	5243	5576
Peterborough United	6357	5580	5498
Blackpool	6014	4452	5125
Luton Town	6484	4547	5117
Stockport County	6049	3446	4819
Notts County	6879	3660	4766
Wycombe Wanderers	6471	3438	4648
Bury	7557	3373	4586
Chesterfield	4438	3299	4411
Bournemouth	7672	2747	4325
Crewe Alexandra	4469	3655	4029
York City	5232	2804	3472
Shrewsbury Town	3655	2502	3273
Walsall	4040	2659	3241
Rotherham United	3037	2546	2817

SAFETY NOTICE

In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at Gay Meadow and must be observed at all times: glasses, bottles, drink cans, canisters, air horns, knives, darts, tools, fireworks, cameras, poles or any other article likely to cause injury or compromise public safety are not permitted to be brought into the ground.

in an emergency. The obstruction of gangways, access ways, exits and entrances, stairways and like places is strictly forbidden. The consumption of intoxicating liquors is permitted only in the places authorised in accordance with the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985. Sitting on the perimeter wall is forbidden at all times. Any person acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to arrest. Closed circuit television is in use and any spectator found to be acting in a disorderly manner is likely to

be arrested or ejected from the ground. In the event of an emergency, instructions will be given via the public address system. Spectators must follow the instructions given. First Aid and Medical facilities are provided at the Station End of the ground. In the event of medical attention being required, the assistance of a steward should be sought. Spectators are asked to comply with requests made by the stewards. Your co-operation in ensuring that these conditions are met would be appreciated. To comply with the Safety Certificate, exit gates cannot be opened until the final whistle. Spectators

wishing to leave the stadium, other than from the Riverside/Wakeman Terraces who may leave by the turnstile close to Exit Gate A, should approach a steward for assistance. The Car Park will be closed five minutes before the final whistle to allow spectators on foot to leave the stadium first. Vehicles will leave the car park when spectators on foot have dispersed. In the event of a match being abandoned before half-time, supporters will be admitted to the re-arranged game at reduced admission charges.

M.Ashton - Operational Manager.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, you will hear a Police message over the Public Address System. This will be preceded by a loud Klaxon sound. Please remain where you are and listen carefully to the Police message. Comply immediately if it affects your area. Stewards and Police Officers will direct you to safe areas. Above all, REMAIN CALM and DO NOT MOVE until the announcement concerns your area of the ground.

SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 and 1987

The following are offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991 and are strictly forbidden:-
 * the throwing of any object within the Ground;
 * the use of foul and abusive language, obscene chanting or racial abuse towards any person;
 * unauthorised entry onto the Field of Play, except

in reserve

PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

August		
Tues	29 Barnsley	2-1
September		
Wed	18 Manchester City	1-2
Wed	25 Wrexham	1-5
October		
Wed	2 Burnley	1-1
Wed	9 Hull City	A
Wed	16 York City	H
Wed	23 Mansfield Town	H
November		
Tues	5 Grimsby Town	A
Wed	13 Bradford City	H
Wed	27 Stockport County	H
December		
Wed	4 Carlisle United	A
Wed	18 York City	A
January		
Wed	8 Wrexham	H
Tues	21 Manchester City	A
February		
Mon	3 Mansfield Town	A
Wed	12 Rotherham United	H
Wed	19 Grimsby Town	H
Tues	25 Bradford City	A
March		
Wed	5 Carlisle United	H
Wed	19 Stockport County	A
Tues	25 Rotherham United	A
April		
Wed	2 Barnsley	H
Wed	16 Hull City	H
Wed	30 Burnley	A

Kick Off 7.00pm.

PLAYER PROFILE

meet PAUL BERRY

Born: Nuneaton.

Date of Birth: 8th January 1996

Favourite team: Coventry City.

Favourite Player: David Seaman.

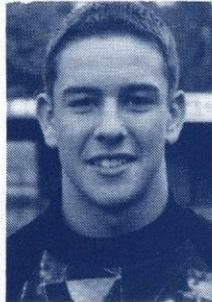
Other Clubs: Stoke City, Coventry City.

Represented: Warwickshire.

School: Alderman Smith.

Nicknames: 'Lurch', 'Dale' Winton.

A gentle giant, Paul is at last showing us what a good keeper he is. A very good shot stopper who has improved all aspects of his game this season. Unlucky to break a finger and miss all our early games, now fully fit and our results have improved since his return. Not the normal eccentric nut case you usually find between the posts, but showing determination and self belief that was lacking last season. Paul's pastimes include golf which he is very useful at, and writing short stories or notes, which he has difficulty in hiding from the other boys, much to his embarrassment.



WREXHAM 5 SHREWSBURY 1

Pontins League Division Two - Wednesday 25th September 1996

It was a bad, sad night across the Welsh border, as Town succumbed to their worst Pontins League defeat to date, ironically against the side that had also produced the reserves' last heavy defeat, a 0-6 scoreline in their penultimate game in the old Midland Senior League, on May 8th, 1995, against who else but the 'auld enemy', Wrexham.

Town remained loyal to eight of the eleven who started the previous week in the 2-1 home defeat by Manchester City, also introducing at centre half, Azeer Akinbolu, an unused substitute seven days earlier.

Shrewsbury had only Darren Currie's first half strike to comfort them at the interval as the 'Robins' sped into a commanding 3-1 lead.

Worse was to follow during the second half as Everton's triallist keeper, James Spear was beaten on two further occasions to bring the Welshmen's score up to a nap hand.

The introduction of both Nick Ward and Birmingham City man, Steve Round, failed to produce any further goals for Shrewsbury despite several valiant efforts, however Wrexham also failed to increase their advantage.

Initial fears that midfielder Ian Reed had suffered a broken toe in the match proved to be wrong, thus easing mounting injury problems slightly.

SHREWSBURY TOWN; Spare; Green; L.Taylor; Mbua (Round); Akinbolu; Reed; Wray; Currie; Hawkes (Ward); Cope; Dempsey. Other sub: (unused): Ashton.

PONTINS LEAGUE APPEARANCES

Upto and including 25th September 1996.

J.Cope 1 + 1s; D.Currie 3; M.Dempsey 3; P.Edwards 1; A.Green 1;

I.Reed 3; L.Taylor 2; N.Ward 0 = 3s; S.Wray 2 + 1s.

These are the only appearances that have been made by players currently on the Town's books. The other 21 positions over the three games played, have been occupied by triallists.

with our YOUTH

In the last issue I signed off with two titles that might be used to describe our following fixture v Wolves - "Apocalypse Now", and "Escape to Victory".

At halftime v Wolves, the last title was very apt indeed as it was the most one-sided 45 minutes I've seen since we went to Preston in the Third Division 3 years ago - a very painful memory indeed. Playing against a very strong wind we were encamped in our half for probably 43 of those minutes, the other 2 minutes we got into their half only due to the fact that we had to kick off 5 times!! What do you say at half time in such circumstances? We made a couple of substitutes - gave everybody a specific task and told them to play for their pride. This they did and the final score of 5-0 was a minor achievement in a hard working second half.

Wolves were probably as good a team, with some superb individuals, as we have played for along time. When we talked to their staff afterwards they agreed it was their strongest youth side for years. They get their boys from all over Great Britain and many of their better players have this year come from Ireland. Their star player, Keane - no relation to Roy but a spitting image of him - was magnificent. They somehow managed to entice him, under severe competition from the big north east clubs. A name to look out for, I sat and had an in depth look at various aspects of training, both physical and technical and decided to work differently with the boys in the week before we faced Coventry. We spent long hours on simple passing drills and kept training to a very low key indeed. Thursday was spent on practising set plays and getting them right. We travelled to Coventry on Friday with the promise of a long weekend off if we performed well. After a chat we left the captain, Paul Hill to have the final say in the dressing room before the game.

Again a very windy day, we decided we'd kick with the wind if we won the toss and play lots of diagonal balls. This worked a treat, with David Jackson hitting a great diagonal pass in the first minute putting Stuart Corns in 1 v 1 with the goalkeeper, who clattered Stuart to give us a penalty. Up stepped "ice man" Craig Tate to slot it in and give us a great start. Looking solid at the back and working hard for each other we coped with anything they could throw at us. After 20 minutes another diagonal ball from "Jacko" forced a corner. Yesterday's set piece came to work perfectly with John Newman and Michael Dignam doing their stuff to leave Craig Pountney with a simple tap in at the far post. With the boys gaining in confidence we started to knock the ball about well at times and from one such move we saw Tony Briscoe go on a great run and his quality cross was side footed home in style by that man Pountney again. 3-0 up at half time, we sat the boys down and went through our plans to play against the strong wind. They carried these out to perfection and from another set piece, a free kick by John Newman found Paul Hill free to head goal number four. We survived a few scares but managed a clean sheet and outplayed, and more importantly outought Coventry in every department. A great team effort got the result but a special mention must go to Paul Berry - a "Coventry" supporter who was a tower of strength in goal that day.

If anyone knows the title of a film that would do justice to such a superb victory then please write and let me know.....

Superstitious!!! Who me??

As some of you may have read in the local newspapers, I was the reason for the teams excellent start to the season. With Richard living in Derby it made sense that he should go on the first away trip of the season to Rotherham as it's only a short trip up the M1.

After such a great result, I refused to go to any away games until we lost, that run coming to an end at Chesterfield. Prior to the Watford game I realised that I'd seen all our matches at home other than Bristol City. Hence I got the gaffer to send me to Stockport for the afternoon and low and behold we won only our second home game of the season: coincidence? - surely not!! With these notes due for the Luton game I'm sure I'll be elsewhere today, ensuring another home victory.

My superstitious nature started in my first season as a footballer with West Bromwich Albion. Drawn against Coventry in our F.A. Youth Cup tie, I thought I'd treat myself to a new shirt. We won the game 3-0, I scored twice, so when the next round draw was made I went out and bought an other new item of clothing to wear. Again it worked, as it did in every round, seeing us win the cup against Wolves. The following season I followed the same routine until we drew Palace away in the 5th round. For some reason I didn't go shopping and we lost 3-0. I was to blame and ever since I've been bitten by that superstitious "bug"!!

People may think I'm puddled but there are plenty of footballers with similar and even sillier little superstitions.

Hopefully you will not be seeing me at the Meadow this season as it will mean a long run of victories.

Kevin Summerfield.

MELVILLE MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE

AUGUST

10	Leicester City -postponed	A
17	Lincoln City	0-1
24	Mansfield TownLCRd1	2-6
31	Northampton Town	3-4

SEPTEMBER

6	Nottingham Forest	1-1
14	Peterborough United	3-2
21	Port Vale	1-6
28	Wolves	0-5

OCTOBER

5	Coventry City	4-0
12	Walsall (Purity Youth LC 2)	H
19	Walsall	H
26	West Bromwich Albion	A

NOVEMBER

2	Aston Villa	H
9	Birmingham City	A
16	Purity Youth LC Rd 3	
23	Derby County	A

DECEMBER

7	Leicester City	H
14	Lincoln City	A
21	Mansfield Town	H

JANUARY

4	Northampton Town	H
11	Notts County	H
18	Purity Youth LC S/F	
25	Port Vale	A

FEBRUARY

1	Wolves	A
8	Stoke City	H
15	West Bromwich Albion	H
22	Notts County	A

MARCH

1	Aston Villa	A
8	Birmingham City	H
15	Derby County	H
22	Walsall	A
29	Grimsby Town	A

APRIL

5	Grimsby Town	H
12	Peterborough United	A
19	Stoke City	A
26	Coventry City	H

MAY

3	Nottingham Forest	A
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Matches are played at the London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury, kick off 10.45pm.

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FANSCENE

STRANGE AND TRUE

Did you know that the most ever used net in the history of football was in a Macedonian League game where one side beat their opponents 134-1. They won their League on goal difference by hitting the back of the net on average every 40.6 seconds!

During the game in 1960 the Danish referee was about to blast for full time when his false teeth fell out. During the time it took for him to put them back the one side equalised. Would you believe the goal was disallowed.

ALSO STRANGER BUT TRUE

Some grounds are built on very strange sites. Here are a few of them: Villa Park (Aston Villa) - Amusement Park. The Dell (Southampton) Duckpond. Upton Park (West Ham) - Cabbage Patch. Pittodine (Aberdeen) - Dung Heap. Perhaps the later fans are justified in saying the game stinks.

WHAT'S IN A GAME?

Many people play many different sports or games. For those of you thinking of taking one up, here is my rundown on the pain or gain factor of a few of them.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

After 2 minutes you need an iron lung and a new set of legs. Not for the couch potato.

BADMINTON

After one hour the effects are as above. One consolation is that it's damn good fun if you play against the right person. (Preferably another nutcase).

CRICKET

Can cause people to question your sex if you get hit in the box once too often. The upside is a few pints in the pavilion afterwards.

GOLF

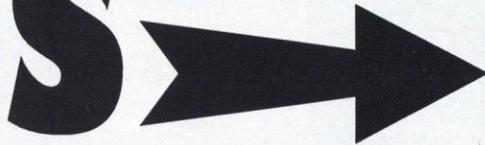
Great exercise for those who cannot break into a run.

Has been known to reduce grown men to tears as no two rounds are ever the same.

Up side - great for those who enjoy nature walks. Whether you'll find your lost ball again, is debatable, but like I said great for nature walks.

The Insider.

SNAPPED - LUCKY YOU



Are you the lucky child circled in this photograph? If so please identify yourself at the Commercial Office. You and an Adult will receive complementary tickets for the next Home game, plus a surprise gift for you. A GOOD REASON FOR BUYING A PROGRAMME - YOU MIGHT BE A WINNER



SOCCER BOOKS

GARRY NELSON:
LEFT FOOT FORWARD
(Headline Publishing 1996, £5.99)

Labelled 'A Year in the Life of a Journeyman footballer' this attractively priced 375 page paperback is just that, charting the 1994/95 season when Garry in his 34th year took his career tally of League and cup games past the 600 mark while with Charlton Athletic, his fifth League club.

It was a season in which he got nine goals in 30 games in a season punctuated by injury and tells of his hopes and fears, the weekly anxiety as to whether he would be in the team, his training course for a business career when very soon he would be hanging up his boots and the way the season all revolved on an FA Cuptie at Old Trafford when Charlton Athletic failed to grasp the chance to beat a 10-man United after Peter Schmeichel had been sent off.

Garry expresses his pride at appearing on the same match programme as Ryan Giggs and Co and his continuous battle as PFA representative for players to seek to hold clubs to contracts, when, for instance, the latter who had not retained a young Irish player tried to overlook the clause that promised him three journeys to Ireland at the club's expense.

Now a player-coach at improving Torquay United Garry wins much sympathy in this down to earth little book and in these days of overpaid Premier League players one is delighted to read this genuine professional on a modest wage testifying 'I retain total confidence in the longterm future of what, because it is so simple in concept and difficult to execute, is 'the beautiful game'' a game unsurpassed in its ability to captivate.

Reviewed by Geoff Allman.

Days of Olde

TOWN'S HISTORY

Part 61 - Season 1954/55



After four years in the Football League, and an average finishing

position of just 21st, Town began to ring in the changes for the start of 1954/55 season.

The most obvious alteration came, as is so often the case, at managerial level with the appointment of Walter Rowley as replacement for Sammy Crooks. Crooks' four year reign came to an end on June 21st, 1954, the day that Rowley took charge of team affairs.

Whereas Crooks had relied on experienced players to build his squad, ex-Middlesbrough boss Rowley, who himself was not far from retirement age when appointed, was more in favour of giving young players a chance.

One of his first signings for Town would be Ray Russell, a 22 year old who had spent six months with West Bromwich Albion, before switching to Burton Albion where he was a prolific marksman, hitting 74 goals for the club over a two year period, prior to his National Service.

Another who would become a Shrewsbury stalwart was a twenty year old full-back named Joe

Maloney, who would go on to serve the club for some six seasons, clocking up over 200 Football League appearances along the way.

Rowley was to prove himself a very capable manager and the first in a long line of Town manager's who were under no illusion when they took the job of being able to indulge in a mass spending spree to acquire a winning team.

That winning team, or at least that winning formula, certainly took some finding in the opening stages of the season.

An opening day defeat by the seaside in sunny Southend was followed by the club's first point of the campaign up the road at Brentford. Ray Russell's first half goal on his Town debut was augmented by a Brian Loughnane strike during the second half to secure the point.

It was Loughnane with three goals in as many games who topped the Town scoring charts after four matches, but still no win was forthcoming, nor would it be in the trip to Gillingham just five days later. The trip to Kent also provided a little piece of Town history, albeit slightly

controversial, with certain newspaper reports crediting Town's third and final goal in the three-all draw that day as an own goal by "Gills". Ayres. Not so according to Town's number six that day, Joe Maloney, who claims to this day that he in fact got the final touch, not surprising when it was to be the one and only League goal he ever scored!

It was not until mid-September, and in front of the smallest attendance of the season to date, that Town eventually got off the mark with their first win, Brighton being the visitors for the Gay Meadow clash that ended 3-0 in Town's favour.

By Christmas 1954 Town had amassed just five League wins and six draws from twenty three matches, and attendances had fallen dramatically to around the 5,000 mark as disgruntled fans demonstrated with their feet, and stayed away.

To add insult to injury Town had also been dumped ignominiously out of the FA Cup at the first attempt by fellow Midlanders Walsall at Fellows Park by five goals to two in front of over 18,000 spectators, an attendance miraculously -

in view of recent attendance figures - almost mirrored when Walsall were the visitors in the final match of 1954, for a game that again ended all square at two-all on December 27th. The spirit of Xmas perhaps responsible for pricking supporters consciences.

Two wins in each of the opening two months of the New Year gave renewed optimism for the remainder of the season, and by the time Easter 1955 approached, Town were beginning to climb the table.

A late surge that combined a seven match close to the season with just one defeat and a season's best run of three straight wins, was culminated on the final day with the best League win to that date, a 7-0 demolition of Swindon when Ray Weigh hit four goals - again the best to that date at League level - to give the club it's best finishing position of 16th.

Follow that with eleven goals in two games to retain the Shropshire Senior Cup, and Town supporters were already enthusing about what may be to come in 1955/56. *Kevin Davies*

CLUB NEWS SHOP

PRICE LIST PRICE LIST PRICE LIST

We are delighted with the response to our new Away Shirt and are pleased to say we have most sizes now in the shop.

Junior Goalkeepers Jumpers are very popular at the moment, we have available sizes 32" and 36" - *Ideal Christmas Presents.*

Mini Scarves and Shrewsbury Town Caps have just arrived and are in the shop today.

We hope that we will soon have a selection of Polo Shirts, Mini Pennants and Junior Shorts.

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HOME STRIP
 Junior Shorts - £7 : Junior Socks - £5
GOALKEEPERS JUMPERS
 Juniors Only - £17
RUNNING OUT TOPS
 Boys - 28" - £14 : Boys - 32" - £14
 Youth - £16 : Medium - £16 : Large - £16
BLUE POLO SHIRTS
 Boys - £16
 Medium, Large & Ex-Large - £20

Key Rings - £1.50
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MUGS - £3.00

Official Shrewsbury Town History Book - £14.95

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 Match Days: 9am until 3pm
 and after the match



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 in Blue - £1

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CAPS £5
MINI SCARVES - £3

A-Z Luton Town

A

A is for Alexander. Graham Alexander is a powerful right flank defender who came from Scunthorpe United two years ago.

B

B is for Allan Brown the former Blackpool and Scotland forward who managed Luton Town from 1966 to 1958 and took them on the first stage of their dramatic charge from Division Four to Division One.

C

C is for Chenery. Ben Chenery is a young defender who made his Luton Town debut near the end of last season and is comfortable either on the right flank or in the centre.

D

D is for Davis. Steve Davis made a big impact last season after moving from Burnley in July at a fee fixed by a tribunal at £750,000.

E

E is for Evers. Sean Evers made his debut in midfield last season when he was voted the club's 'Young Player of the Year'.

F

F is for Feuer. Ian Feuer is the 6ft 7 inches American goalkeeper who came from West Ham United a year ago to succeed Juergen Sommer who had moved to QPR. Ian was voted 'Player of the Year'.

G

G is for Guentchev. Bontcho Guentchev, the Bulgarian international is now in his second season with Luton Town after moving from Ipswich Town and has already scored this season against Gillingham.

H

H is for Hughes. Ceri Hughes is a battling midfielder, already capped several times by Wales and his powerful shooting has

already brought him a goal at Brentford this season.

I

I is for Imlach. Stuart Imlach was a lively winger who played over 450 League and cup games for a total of six different clubs in the 1950's and 1960's including a short spell with Luton Town in 1960 in between spells with Nottingham Forest and Coventry City.

J

J is for James. Julian James is a homegrown defender who has just completed ten years with Luton Town and has over 250 games behind him.

K

K is for Kenilworth Road, Luton Town's ground for almost a century and into which 30,069 packed to see Blackpool in a sixth round FACup-tie in 1959.

L

L is for Lennie Lawrence. Lennie came to Luton Town in December last year with a fine track record for making the best of things with clubs not overly blessed financially. In his playing days he served Croyden, Carshalton and Sutton and after a spell as Malcolm Allison's assistant at Plymouth Argyle and Colin Murphy's assistant at Lincoln City he joined Charlton Athletic in 1982 and managed them from 1983 to 1991, taking them into the old Division One and keeping them there until 1990. He moved to Middlesbrough in 1991 and experienced promotion to the Premier League and relegation and then managed Bradford City in 1994/95.

M

M is for McLaren. Paul McLaren is a teenage midfielder who made his debut for Luton Town last season and soon afterwards scored the

matchwinner against Tranmere Rovers.

N

N is for Mike Newall, the much-travelled striker currently seeking a move from Birmingham City. He scored 19 goals in 68 games for Luton between January 1986 and September 1987.

O

O is for Owen. Syd Owen was the stouthearted defender who played over 400 games for Luton Town and led them to the 1959 FA Cup final at the age of 37. He was also capped 3 times by England and after a short spell as manager had a highly successful 15 years as Don Revie's assistant at Leeds United in their glory days.

P

P is for Payne. Joe Payne got a record 10 goals in Luton Town's 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday 1936. He went on to score 83 goals in 72 games for them and had short spells with Chelsea before the war and West Ham United after it.

Q

Q is for Quickest. Luton Town's quickest goal of last season was scored by Dwight Marshall in the very first minute of their game against Derby County at Kenilworth Road just over a year ago on September 2nd, 1995. He got another in the fifth minute of the game at Reading a week later.

R

R is for Ryan. Winger Jimmy Ryan played nearly 200 games for Luton Town in the 1970's and had a short spell as manager in 1990/91.

S

S is for Showler. Paul Showler is equally happy in midfield or attack and top-scored for Bradford City last

season. He has been figuring as substitute for Luton Town recently.

T

T is for Thorpe. Tony Thorpe is a speedy attacking midfielder who is currently Luton Town's leading scorer this season.

U

U is for Upson. Matthew Upson played for Luton Town against Cesana last season and became Luton Town's second youngest player ever being 16 years 7 months.

V

V is for Jack Vinnall who played for Norwich City just before the war and for Walsall during the war. Later he moved into midfield and served Worcester for many years.

W

W is for Waddock. Gary Waddock the former QPR and Eire midfielder was voted 'Player of the Year' last season by his team mates at the age of 34.

X

X is for Xmas Day. Luton Town's last Xmas Day game was in 1957 when they lost a First Division game 3-0 at Old Trafford but then won their return game on Boxing Day with Allan Brown and John Groves on the mark.

Y

Y is for George Yardley the prolific striker who had only one game for Luton Town in 1966 but went on to average more than one goal every two games in his four years with Tranmere Rovers.

Z

Z is the letter that Luton Town have yet to use in their list of players, but with so many unpronounceable names coming into the Football League it can't be long delayed.

charlie bamforth sidelines on the cup trail

two rounds away from round 1 of the FA Cup

We stride our way through this season's FA Cup - and last time out it was a Mr Stride's two goals that saw Burton Albion through to the Third Qualifying Round at the expense of Stocksbridge Park Steels. Eton Park reverberated (sort of) to the sound of 680 souls and their beloved Brewers march on.

This time they'll have to travel, indeed they'll have to pack a change of clothing. For Burton will be meeting Southport, relative aristocrats in their old gold who are rooting for past glories. The Haig Avenue men are at exactly halfway in this season's Vauxhall Conference, but they are within striking distance of the top. Last week they narrowly lost at leaders Stevenage, but it would only take Borough's bubble to burst for the likes of the Sandgrounders to take advantage.

A great many people would be delighted to see Southport rediscover their roots. Speaking as a Wiganer, I'll admit to real regret that the Lat-

ics' accession to League status in 1978 was at Southport's expense. The Seasiders hadn't even finished bottom of the pile the previous season, a 'distinction' claimed by Rochdale who earned 7 fewer points at a time when it was only two points for a win. But in those days the bottom four clubs had to apply for re-election. Rochdale were making their third such application, 22nd place York City their fifth. One place above were Hartlepool, who were going cap-in-hand for the ninth time. For Southport they had been thus embarrassed six times. Fair play would surely have consigned Hartlepool to the 'wilderness', but they polled 33 votes at the cafe Royal that June day in 1978. Perhaps other Fourth Division chairman enjoyed their trips to the Minster, for York attracted 49 votes. Rochdale certainly isn't so pretty, but still they pulled 39 votes. It was Southport who found themselves relatively friendless, with 26 votes, exactly the same as Wigan Ath-

letic. Bath City were only three votes behind - how history might have been different! On a second vote Wigan got the nod by 29 votes to 20. Southport were out.

It's been a struggle ever since for them - and a little over fifteen years ago they were just an Extraordinary General Meeting away from extinction - but at last there seems to be strong rays of light at the end of the tunnel. (One might have said that the tide had turned, but the sea is a blessed long way away in this neck of the woods!)

These days the show is orchestrated by Steve Joel and he can call upon some real class, including his assistant manager Peter Davenport, once of Manchester United but, rather more successfully, Nottingham Forest. Once again, Haig Avenue is buzzing and bright. Burton beware.

These days, of course, we don't have anything so sordid as re-election. No, there's an altogether fairer way of deciding matters: if you

finish at the foot of the Football league you're on your bike, to be replaced by the champions of the Vauxhall Conference. In theory. As we all know, the aspirations of Stevenage last year and Macclesfield and Kidderminster before them were scuppered by ground grading regulations.

We all appreciate the need for safety and comfort in our stadia. Indeed many non-league clubs are working hard to develop their grounds. Substantial support is coming from sources such as pools revenue. Long may that continue - but it's not enough. A mechanism to siphon off some of the wealth circulating amongst the 'rich men in their palaces' would help. 10% of gate revenue for attendances in excess of 15,000 should crack it. Moneys to be distributed between Vauxhall Conference clubs in direct proportion to the amount of work which needs to be carried out for the ground to achieve League quality.

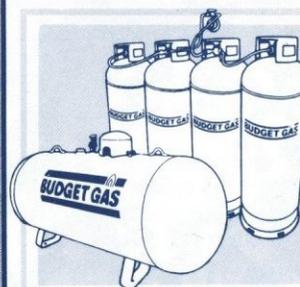
Charlie Bamforth

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Steve Anthrobus gets up well in a late attack at Chesterfield and (insert), Austin Berkley takes on Mark Williams. Below: Richard Scott in action against Bury.



TOWN

rewirewind

from Kevin Davies

SHREWSBURY TOWN 1 WATFORD 0

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 28th September 1996

Shrewsbury extended their unbeaten run to six games with their twelfth home victory over Watford at League level in twenty five games, and with a goal worthy of any previous win!

The visitors too were bidding for something special at the outset, a club record sixth away win on the bounce, and indeed looked like achieving something early on before Steve Anthrobus's timely header cleared a Palmer effort, only for White to put over from the resulting corner.

Stevens, Rowbotham and Berkley all contrived at various stages to cause problems for the 'Homets' defence before Evans tried his luck with a 25 yarder that strayed just wide.

Benny Gall, who had come in for some rough treatment from the visiting forwards was called upon to make a superb save from Mooney that enabled both sides to retire at the interval with their goals intact.

Devon White should have given his side the lead in the 59th minute but totally miskicked, sub David Connolly hitting the foot of the Town post after receiving the loose ball.

It was down to Welsh under-21 international Evans to unlock the treasure trove that was the three points on offer, with a superlative strike in the 78th minute, crashing a 30 yard volley past keeper Kevin Miller in off the underside of

the crossbar.

Another workmanlike performance earning Town victory and denying Watford, who are still looking to break the Meadow hoodoo, that has seen them win here just twice in 45 years.

SHREWSBURY TOWN; Gall; Seabury; Nielson; Currie; Spink; Scott; Rowbotham; Stevens; Anthrobus; Evans; Berkley. Subs: (unused): L.Taylor; Ward; Dempsey.

WATFORD; Miller; Gibbs; Ludden; Johnson; Millen; Palmer; Bazeley; Noel-Williams; White; Penrice; Mooney. Subs: Talboys; D.Ward; Connolly.

CHESTERFIELD 2 SHREWSBURY TOWN 1

Nationwide League Division Two
Tuesday 1st October 1996

In theory it had to happen sometime, yet Town's defeat at Chesterfield that ended their unbeaten away record this season,

GILLINGHAM
Next Tuesday
Under-16's
Admission
£2.00 ONLY

seemed a little harsh given their overall display.

It was Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury, thrice Shrewsbury during a first half as the visitors played the home side off the pitch for the greater part, with superb passing movement and a seemingly better understanding of each other's play.

Darren Rowbotham was unable to untangle the ball from beneath

his feet after Mark Dempsey set up an early Town raid, however was instrumental in Town's 34th minute goal.

When Ian Stevens returned Sean Dyche's half clearance back to Rowbotham, the Welshman's shot appeared to be going just wide of the mark before striking the luckless Dyche on the head and entering the net.

Chesterfield came out after the interval in more determined mood and began to peg Town into their own half with greater efficiency.

With just 20 minutes remaining ex-Townie, 'Bomber' Williams, got his third effort of the night firmly on target after twice earlier trying to find his range. The third time lucky syndrome paid hefty dividends when a half-cleared effort fell to Williams, who from some 25 yards thundered a missile-like strike past Benny Gall.

Now with extra incentive, Chesterfield went for the jugular, and it was left to the otherwise quiet Tony Lormor to deliver the coup-de-grace with yet another net-buster.

Despite Ian Stevens going close to an equaliser almost immediately with a header, Town were left pointless from their travels for the first time this term.

SHREWSBURY TOWN; Gall; Seabury; Nielson; Dempsey; Spink; Scott; Rowbotham; Stevens; Anthrobus; Evans (Currie); Berkley (L.Taylor). Other sub: (unused) Walton.
CHESTERFIELD; Leaning; Hewitt; Williams; Dyche; Rogers; Gaughart; Lormor; Curtis; Jules; Howard; Beaumont (Law). Subs: (unused) Perkins; Lomas.

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30, 20 & 10 years ago Yesteryear

30 YEARS AGO

We pulled off a brave 2-2 draw at Swindon Town on October 8th, 1966 to keep us just above midtable in Division Three. Willie Penman gave the home side a 27-minute lead and just before halftime our goalkeeper Alan Boswell, who had had a brilliant first half, was injured when diving at Penman's feet. We resumed with Tony Gregory in goal, but Frank Clarke equalised after Trevor Meredith had slipped an offside trap and though Willie Penman put the home side ahead again Peter Dolby headed home a Lewis Thom cross to bring us level again.

SWINDON TOWN; Hicks; Dawson; Trollope; Morgan; Nurse; Harland; Penman; Brown; Lawton; Smart; Rogers.

SHREWSBURY TOWN; Boswell (Gregory); Wright; Fellows; Hemsley; Wood; Brodie; Meredith; Dolby; Clarke; Boardman; Thom.

Attendance: 7,985.

On the same day Luton Town crashed 4-1 at Southport in Division Four with Bruce Rioch getting their goal and they were now only six places off the bottom. In the old Division One Spurs and Stoke City both won away to hold on to the top two places and two teams in the lower half of the table both did well with Aston Villa beating Leeds United 3-0 and West Bromwich Albion pulling back from a two goal deficit at Sunderland to draw 2-2, Albion's side including no fewer than five teenagers.

20 YEARS AGO

We were again playing at Swindon Town on October 9th, 1976 but this time we went down 1-0, this being only our second defeat of the season as Wrexham beat Lincoln City 3-0 to move above us at the top. We had most of the play in the first half but almost fell behind when Howard Goddard nearly scored in a breakaway. After the break Swindon Town gradually became more dominant and just as it seemed we were in line for a goalless draw Colin Prohett snatched an 89th minute winner.

SWINDON TOWN; Allan; McLaughlin; Taylor; Stroud; Burrows; Prohett; Moss; O'Brien; Syrett; McHale; Goddard.

SHREWSBURY TOWN; Mulhearn; King; Leonard; Turner; Griffin; Atkins; Irvine; Hornsby; Kearney; Bates; Maguire (Haywood).

Attendance: 9,017.

Luton Town meanwhile beat Hereford United 2-0 with goals from Jimmy Husband and Paul Futcher and they were now twelfth in Division Two. Middlesbrough beat Norwich City 1-0 to take over from Manchester City at the top of Division One and a so-called friendly game between Aston Villa and Glasgow Rangers was abandoned after a pitch invasion early in the second half with the home side leading 2-0.

10 YEARS AGO

Just a week after beating Grimsby Town 4-1 here we crashed to a 4-0 defeat at Millwall on October 11th, 1986 and so slipped to nineteenth place in the old Division Two. The home side led 3-0 at the interval with Mike Marks (2) and Les Briley on the mark and Marks completed his hat-trick after the break.

MILLWALL; Horne; Stephens; Coleman; Briley; Walker; McLeary; Byrne; Mehmet; Sheringham; Marks; Salman.

SHREWSBURY TOWN; Perks; Williams; Johnson; Daley; Pearson; Green; McNally; Hackett; Waller; Robinson; Tester.

Attendance: 3,123.

On the same day Luton Town followed up a goalless draw at Tottenham Hotspur a week earlier with a similar scoreline against Norwich City at Kenilworth Road and they were now eleventh in Division One. This point enabled Norwich City to take over from Nottingham Forest at the top of the table and it is interesting to see Manchester United as low as twentieth in the table even after beating Sheffield Wednesday 3-1 with Peter Davenport (2) and Norman Whiteside. Watford were sixteenth in the table after having goalkeeper Tony Coton sent off for disputing a penalty in a 3-1 defeat at Highbury.

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the last word

Uhe Premier League hasn't consistently come up with the sort of spellbinding football and ninety minute excitement that was promised by its advocates when it first hived itself off as far as possible from the rest of the Football League. On value for money pound for pound many would agree that it has not often provided better value than that in the lower divisions at half the price.

Just occasionally however a game stands out and has even the many sceptics of the Premier League talking. Just such a game was the recent Newcastle United v Aston Villa seven-goal clash. This had just about everything with Villa coming back strongly after their disappointing exit from Europe less than a week earlier and with ten men pulling back from 3-1 and 4-2 deficits to miss out on a

point only by an offside decision which video evidence indicated was an inaccurate one.

The game however also raises issues far removed from the elite atmosphere of the Premier League. Like many teams today from Leagues Premier, Nationwide and of the Doc Martens variety teams are regularly being reduced to ten men or less by literal interpretations of the rules of the game. In the game's early days a sending off was rare, its sole object being to remove from the action a player who by his rash tactics was proving a danger to life and limb of other players. Fair enough. Now the players removed have in some cases merely handled the ball twice, mistimed a tackle, sworn or sought to attract a referee's attention rather impolitely.

How serious a problem this is

may be taken two ways. On the one hand it can be argued that fans, particularly those who have paid extortionate prices for admission, are being robbed of a game between two equal sides. On the other hand many teams have proved that playing with ten men does not always have an adverse effect on the result. Villa were not the first team to seem to play better with ten men than eleven, spurred on by the desire to counteract what they felt to be a harsh sending off of Keith Draper.

At a recent game in this division a player was dismissed for a tackle in which he had clearly played the ball first and the crowd who cheered him off in sympathy then got behind the team to a greater extent and spurred them on from to score again and run out easy winners.

Geoff Allman.

SPORTS & GAMES

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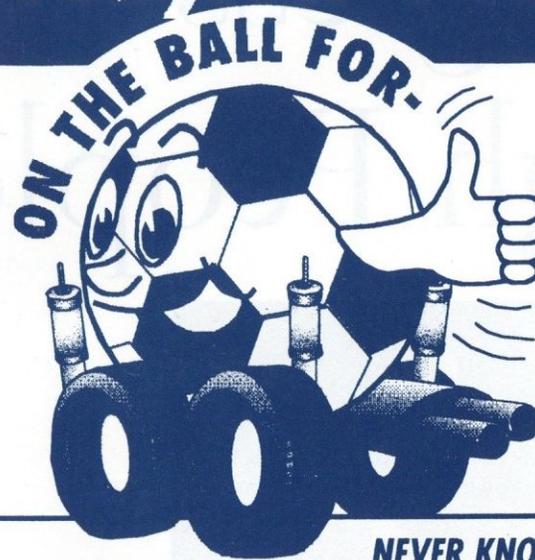
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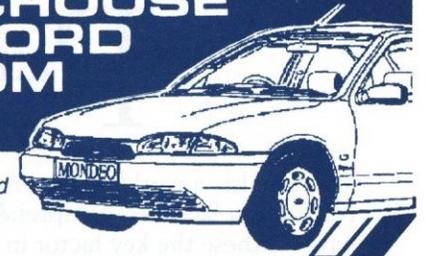
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