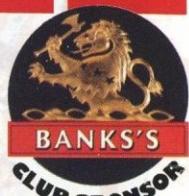




# WALSALL



## The Saddlers The Hatters

### Saddlers' News

**Visitors Review.**  
Luton Town's  
First visit to Bescot  
Their Best Years.  
Facts - 28 years  
since The Hatters'  
last visit in  
the League.

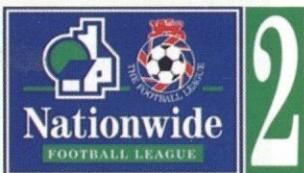
**The Division's Hot  
Shots.**

**FREE TODAY**  
The 6th issue of the  
Nationwide Review

**LUTON TOWN**  
Saturday  
12th April 1997  
Kick Off 3.00pm

Official Matchday PROGRAMME £1.50

**Today's Match Sponsor**  
**TRISTAR FORD**



**SAFETY NOTICE**  
**SAFETY OF SPORTS**  
**GROUND ACT**  
**1975 and 1987**

In the interests of spectator safety the following conditions apply at Bescot Stadium and must be observed at all times:

- \* Glasses, bottles, drink cans, canisters, knives, darts, tools, fireworks, cameras, flagposts or any other article likely to cause injury are not permitted to be brought into the stadium.
- \* Encroachment onto the playing area is forbidden.

Any spectator acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to arrest or ejection.

Close Circuit Television is in use and any spectator seen 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 over the Public Address system. Spectators must follow the instructions given, in a calm manner. You will be assisted by Stewards/Police Officers.

The Banks's Stand and an area of the H.L. Fellows Stand have been designated as NO SMOKING areas. Compliance with the NO SMOKING area signs is requested.

The conditions mentioned above are intended to improve your enjoyment of the game in a safe and secure environment.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**TO ALL**  
**SUPPORTERS**

Spectators are reminded that it is a criminal offence to run on the pitch, to use abusive language or threatening behaviour.

Bescot Stadium is covered by Close Circuit Television. Offenders will be identified and prosecuted. In addition, the Club will impose a life ban on anyone misbehaving, from attending matches at Bescot Stadium.

J.W.BONSER

# No Hiding Place Misbehave

**T**he vast majority of Saddlers fans are decent, well behaved people. They come along to Bescot Stadium, and travel to away matches, to support their team, to enjoy the atmosphere, and to socialise with fellow supporters.

It is through the tolerance, good humour, and fairmindedness of these fans that we are blessed with a lovely family matchday atmosphere at Bescot Stadium.

Like everything else that is valuable in life you always have to remain watchful and work hard to ensure that everything that has been achieved is not allowed to be undermined.

There are a few people who come to Bescot Stadium to cause trouble. They are not interested in supporting the team. In fact such people are happier when we lose because it gives them an excuse to behave badly.

It is this mindless minority who make life unpleasant for fellow supporters by abusive chanting, bad language, and racist comments often aimed at our own players.

They will not be tolerated and will be rooted out.

Through the use of CCTV cameras located inside and outside the stadium, an undercover operation in sensitive areas of the stadium, and information received from supporters, we shall

identify, arrest, eject, and where appropriate charge, those supporters whose behaviour is unacceptable to all decent people.

Walsall Football Club and West Midlands Police will work closely together to rid the Club of all those people whose behaviour spoils the enjoyment of

## LIFE BAN FOR SOCCER OFFENDER

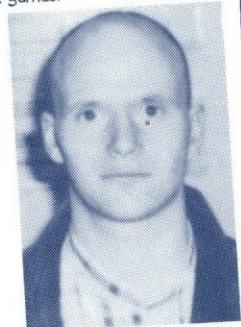
We again report that Walsall Football Club have received notification from West Midlands Police that Martin Harrison from Bloxwich was convicted at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court for two soccer related offences.

The incidents took place at The Gay Meadow during the Shrewsbury Town versus Walsall match on Friday 20th December 1996.

The Board of Directors have repeatedly emphasised their determination not to tolerate unacceptable behaviour by spectators attending Walsall F.C. games.

Following Mr. Harrison's conviction a life ban has been imposed on him from attending matches at Bescot Stadium. Moreover all Second Division clubs have been informed of this ban, and asked to enforce it at all Walsall F.C. away games. A photograph has been sent to all Clubs.

Mr Harrison has been notified in writing of the ban imposed on him.



# For Fans Who

others.

Already, a life ban has been imposed on Martin Harrison from Bloxwich. His photograph appears on this page. Two other supporters have also been given life bans, and their identity will be revealed at a later stage.

We expect decent behaviour from supporters at Bescot Stadium, and that also applies at away matches.

Supporters have been offered a great deal by the Walsall F.C. Away Travel Service this season. Low prices, free prize draw, and vouchers which offer a free journey on every fourth trip.

Again we will not let the poor behaviour of a few spoil it for others. That is why, Mr Taylor from Valley Road, Blakenall has been banned from travelling on our coaches. He was warned about not taking alcohol on the coach, and his general behaviour, but chose to ignore these warnings, so now he is banned.

We feel certain that the action the Club is taking, and will continue to take, has the backing of the vast majority of Walsall supporters, and will create a situation where anyone wishing to attend a match at Bescot Stadium will do so in the knowledge that they will be amongst civilised people whose sole aim is to support their team and to enjoy a game of football.

## NEXT at BESCOT

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO  
Saturday 26th April 1997 - Kick Off 3.00pm.

### BRENTFORD

Visitors for our last home game a fortnight today will be another club striving for automatic promotion as David Webb's Brentford strive to put the finishing touches to a successful but slightly inconsistent season which has seen them pick up 11 away wins. After finishing as low as 15th last season they have been top for most of this season, but have currently slipped to third after losing at home to current leaders Bury and drawing with Shrewsbury Town. Leading scorer is tall Carl Asaba with 22 goals in his first full season.

## FOOTBALL SHOP OFFERS APRIL HOLIDAY DEAL

Spend £50.00 in one transaction in The Football Shop in April, and you can have £50.00 off the price of a 7 day holiday in Pontins 1997 brochure.

The Football Shop, located at the entrance to the Bradford Street Arcade is open daily except Wednesdays, and The Football Shop at Bescot Stadium is open matchdays and every Sunday.

## BET ON TODAY'S GAME WITH SOUTH STAFFS POOLS

## MATCH SPONSORS Tristar Ford

A big thank you to Tristar Ford for sponsoring today's game.

Tristar Ford are located in Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, and are the town's main Ford dealer.

They have a superb showroom at their Wolverhampton Street premises, where you can inspect all the latest models from the Ford range, and a great selection of top quality used vehicles.

We are grateful to their support for our commercial activities, and hope that they have an enjoyable afternoon at Bescot Stadium.

## MATCHBALL SPONSORS SKY SPORTSWEAR

Sky Sportswear are a local company based in their Shaw Street premises.

They have supplied Walsall F.C. with all playing and training kit, as well as replica kits sold in The Football Shop, for the past two seasons.

We would like to thank Keith Wagg and Bob Runham for their support, and hope that they and their guests have an enjoyable afternoon at Bescot Stadium.

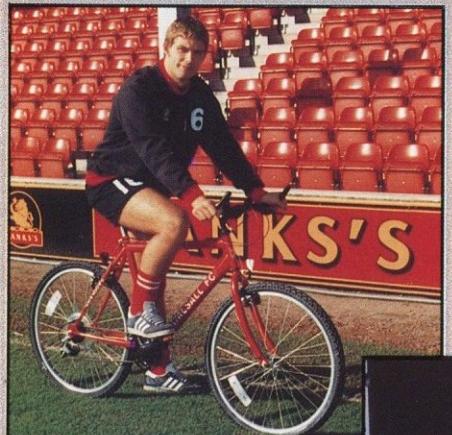
## FRONT COVER PICTURES:

Action at Luton. John Hodge takes on the Hatters defence, Kyle Lightbourne gets 'ahead', Kevin Wilson keeping a close watch, Adrian Viveash and the 'Hatters' Marvin Johnson. Kyle Lightbourne upfront against Burnley.

THE

# FOOTBALL

SHOP



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Best price in Walsall  
or we will refund  
the difference.

(with proof of purchase)

## Join the Saddlers Saving Scheme

Put as much or as  
little away to save  
for those larger  
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### OPENING TIMES TOWN

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Sun 10am - 4pm

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of Embroidered  
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# CHRIS NICHOLL

The two away matches this week against Wrexham and Bury were always going to be tough fixtures, and they were not made any easier by some unusual refereeing decisions in both games.

We were certainly made to suffer, firstly at Wrexham, when two rather obscure penalty decisions were given against us, and then at Bury, when Kevin Wilson was sent off for the first time in his career which has seen him play over 600 League games.

These decisions were enough to test the character of any team, but to our credit in both games we displayed a tremendous team spirit and will to win.

At Wrexham we achieved a fully deserved victory, whilst at Bury we suffered a 1-2 reverse, but emerged from that game with a lot of credit for a fighting display, which contained lots of good football, and despite having only 10 men, finished the game much the stronger team, leaving 'table topping' Bury hanging desperately on to their lead.

In fact it has been noticeable in recent matches how we always seem to finish the stronger team. The last 15 minutes of a game are the ultimate test of fitness, and our goal record during this period in recent matches has been very good, and something for the players to take pride.

I am pleased to report that all our long term injured players are now moving back towards full fitness. By now Charlie Ntamark and Darren Bradley will have played at least part of a match, and they can be expected to be pushing for a First Team recall.

Also, Paul Mountford and Ray Daniel should now be back in full training. This is crucial. If we are to finish the season with a really big push for a promotion 'play-off' place then it is vital that all our players are fit and able to make a contribution to the overall team effort.

If all our players are fit and available for selection this is a good omen. The task then is for me to make sure that I pick the right one's!

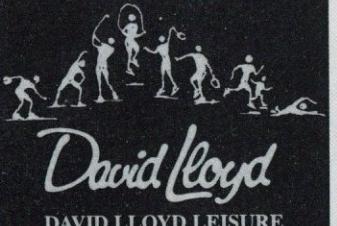
A warm welcome to Lenny Lawrence and his Luton Town team. This is another very tough game against a good team. They defeated us at Luton too easily for my liking, after we had opened the game in fine style. We are a much better team now, and will prove more formidable opponents today.

Lenny Lawrence has always been a keen student of the game, and you can bet that his team today will play with style and be interesting to watch.

This is a very big game for us. Make sure that you give the lads your full support. Enjoy the game.

Thank you for your support.  
**Chris Nicholl**

SADDLERS' HOTLINE - LISTEN TO CHRIS NICHOLL - 0891 555 800



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# SADDLERS' news

## 50/50 MATCHDAY DRAW NEWS

Details of the 50/50 Draw at the match versus Chesterfield on Tuesday 1st April are as follows:

1st Prize: £213.77.  
Winning No. 0492.  
Winner: Mr. Ryder, Lichfield.  
2nd Prize: £25.00.  
Winning No. 1802.  
Winner: Mr. Radford, West Wycombe, Kent.  
3rd Prize: £25.00.  
Winning No. 0648.  
Winner: P. Jones, Rushall.

The Competition continues today. Tickets, at 50 pence each, will be on sale inside and outside the stadium. The result will be announced at half time, and winnings can be claimed from the Reception Office immediately after today's game.

## PONTINS CUP SEMI-FINAL DATE

Walsall's Pontins League Cup Semi-Final encounter with Stoke City has been arranged for Thursday 17th April at the Victoria Ground (7.00pm).

In order to accommodate this game Walsall's Pontins League match versus Bury, scheduled for Wednesday 16th April, has been brought forward 48 hours to Monday 14th April at

WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.  
Bescot Crescent, Walsall WS1 4SA  
Telephone 01922 22791  
Fax 01922 613202

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Team Manager: C Nicholl

Youth Development Officer & Youth Team Manager:  
E McManus

Youth Liaison Officer & Sports Complex Manager: B Jones

Physiotherapist: T Bradley

Stadium Manager: R Johnson

Stadium Safety Officer  
G Wilson

Community Liaison Officer & Family Co-ordinator: M Kearns

Club Doctors: P Bickley,  
M. Shalley

Club Chaplain: Rev M. Butt

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## Bescot Stadium (7.00pm).

## NEW DATE FOR VILLA PONTINS LEAGUE GAME

The Aston Villa versus Sheffield United Pontins League Division One game, postponed last Wednesday, will now be played at Bescot Stadium on Monday 21st April, kick off 7.00pm.

## Player of the Season?

Voting ends next Saturday 19th April.

Ballot papers are available today in the Football Shop, Reception Foyer at Bescot Stadium, Bescot Bar, and the Family Room.

The Awards, sponsored by the RAC, will be presented on the pitch prior to the match versus Brentford on Saturday 26th April.

## PHIL CHAPMAN

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Phil Chapman on 3rd April 1997.

Phil joined Walsall from Cannock Chase Colliery in September 1948 as a replacement for another prolific goalscorer Dave Massart, and was still on amateur forms when he made his debut against Reading that September and scored in our 2-0 win, which was the first of his 28 goals in the 1948-49 Season in his 33 games. He did in fact score in 8 successive games and in the following February and March got hat-tricks in successive games against Crystal Palace and Exeter City. His all action style made him a great favourite with Saddlers supporters.

Phil spent two and a half seasons with Walsall scoring 38 goals in 68 appearances. He was later released and moved to play for Weymouth in the then Southern League but after two seasons with them returned to Walsall and joined the Police Force and starred for them in the Walsall Police soccer team for several years before a broken ankle ended his career.

He retained his interest in the Saddlers for the rest of his life, and many times he has been 'on duty' at our games. That interest has been passed on to members of his family.

Phil is fondly remembered by Saddlers supporters of the post-war era, and we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and family.

The funeral service will be held in Yoxall Parish Church, Near Lichfield, at 11.00am, on Monday 14th April.

## PLAYER OF THE SEASON AWARDS

Have you voted for your Player of the Season and Young

## DATE FOR KIT AND SPONSORSHIP LAUNCH

Walsall F.C. will be revealing details of our shirt sponsors for the

# SADDLERS' news

1997/98 Season, and launching next season's kit, in a special launch ceremony at Bescot Stadium on Tuesday 22nd April.

## 'SADDLERS SOCCER SIXES' TOURNAMENT

Entries are invited from local companies and clubs for the 'Saddlers Soccer Sixes' to be played at Bescot Stadium on Friday 16th May, starting at 7.00pm.

The competition will be limited to 16 teams. Each team will be guaranteed a minimum 3 games, each of 10 minutes duration.

The event is sponsored by Sign Specialists Ltd who are providing a trophy for the winning team, as well as medals for the players of both finalists and Match Officials.

After the competition there will be a fabulous buffet, followed by a disco and late night bar in Stanleys Restaurant.

Entry fee is £250.00 per team, inclusive of buffet and entertainment.

Each team entered comprises 10 players i.e. team of 6 plus 4 substitutes, with substitutions being allowed at any time during matches.

Extra guests can be accommodated at £15.00 per person, which includes cost of buffet and disco.

If you would like more information and entry form for the Saddlers Soccer Sixes, telephone Walsall 22791 Extension 412.

It is a great chance to play on the pitch at Bescot Stadium and finish with a lovely social occasion.

## AWAYDAY AT PLYMOUTH

On Saturday 19th April we make one of our longest away trips of the season to glorious South Devon for a fixture against Plymouth Argyle.

The Walsall F.C. Away Travel Service will be running

coaches to the game, and this is a great opportunity for regular travellers to use their three vouchers to claim a 'free trip' to Plymouth.

Coach fare is £8.50.

Departure details are:

Bescot Stadium  
9.30am.  
Bridgeman Street  
9.35am.

Bloxwich High Street  
9.45am.

A reminder to fans travelling to Home Park that terrace accommodation only is available to visiting fans.

## 'KING JOHN' COMING TO BESCOT

Italian fans gave him the nickname Buon Gigante, or as we would say in English 'Gentle

# SADDLERS' news

## CHRIS MARSH'S TESTIMONIAL SEASON

Throughout this year many of Saddlers' supporters have attended the various events to make long serving Chris Marsh Testimonial Season a successful one.

Later this month the Golf Day will be held at Bloxwich Golf club with most of the Management and Players, together with a number of other 'Star' players from other clubs, both past and present in attendance.

However the long awaiting Testimonial game has now been announced. This will be against our local neighbours and Chris' 'other team!!!' (the one he supported as a youngster.... WEST BROMWICH ALBION). While the final date has yet to be confirmed it is almost certain that it will be played on Wednesday May 7th here at Bescot Stadium.

More information will be given in the next programme and also the local press.

It will be a great Family Night Out, so be sure to give it your FULL SUPPORT.

Many of you will have already purchased a copy of the Limited Edition Caricature of Chris. He has a few left which will now be sold at £1.00 each. These can be obtained from the Programme Shop or, if arrangements are possible prior to today's game, Chris will be available outside the main reception area to sign these personally for you.

Giant'.

He was the greatest of all Welsh footballers, former Leeds United, Juventus and Roma Star, John Charles.

John will be the guest speaker at our Sportsman's Evening at Stanleys Restaurant on Thursday 24th April.

Also on the bill will be another former Elland Road favourite, the man who was reputed to have the hardest shot in football, Peter Lorimer.

And to round the

evening off we have a super comedian to entertain you, Ronnie Stewart.

Tickets are now on sale at £25.00 each, inclusive of 5 course meal. They can be purchased from Bescot Stadium, or by telephone with credit card, on Walsall 22791 Extension 412.

Thank you for your support. Enjoy the game.

Roy Whalley

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

	HOME	AWAY
DIVISION TWO		
1897/98	5-0	0-6
1898/99	6-0	2-3
1899/00	7-3	0-4
DIVISION THE (SOUTH)		
1927/28	4-1	1-4
1928/29	0-0	1-3
1929/30	1-1	3-2
1930/31	0-1	0-0
1936/37	0-1	0-2
DIVISION TWO		
1961/62	2-0	0-2
1962/63	1-1	3-4
DIVISION THREE		
1963/64	4-0	0-1
1964/65	0-1	3-1
1967/68	2-0	0-1
1968/69	1-3	0-3
DIVISION TWO		
1996/97		1-3
FA CUP		
1948/49	Rd 4	0-4
FRIENDLY MATCH		
November 13th 1984.		
Walsall 2 Luton Town 3		

## A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR LUTON FANS

David Fleckney from Great Houghton, Northampton, will be here today supporting Luton Town, a club he has been following for 40 years. Already a member of the '92' Club he has already visited us at Bescot, but he is here today, like, we are sure a lot of 'Hatters' fans visiting Bescot Stadium with their team for the first time, as of course this is Luton Town's first-ever visit here.

It is in fact David's 100th different League ground he has visited following the 'Hatters' since 1965 when he first started following Luton Town's away games.....Enjoy the day, but we of course hope the Saddlers win!

## Paul Marston of the Birmingham Post, Evening Mail & Sports Argus looks at DIVISION TWO'S HIT MEN

Two of the best strikers in the Nationwide and Second Division are on opposing sides at Bescot Stadium today, and they are the cheapest men on the hit parade.

Walsall's popular front man, Kyle Lightbourne, joined the club after being given a free transfer by Scarborough and he is again the team's leading scorer with 22 goals.

Luton Town's super striker, Tony Thorpe, was snapped up by the Hatters when he was surprisingly released by Leicester City, and what a remarkable impact he has made at Kenil-

for Walsall with a magnificent strike that day, and most people at the match agreed the scoreline flattened Luton.

Since then Tony has gone all one way, grabbing no fewer than three hat-tricks and if you have seen some of his goals on TV you will agree that he has the razor-sharp reactions of a modern Jimmy Greaves in and around the box.

His most recent trio was in the 3-0 win at Rotherham United a week after Walsall won 2-1 at Millmoor. So Walsall defenders will have to keep a

close watch on him this afternoon.

Kyle, of course, has been helped the team become Walsall's top marksman for three successive seasons, and his big pal and fellow Bermudan International, Shaun Goater, has hit 21 goals for Bristol City.

Big Dele Adebola has bagged 15 for Crewe Alexandra and would have had more but for missing games through injury, and our other "neighbours", Shrewsbury Town, may well thank their survival in Division 2 to the 19 goals Ian Stevens has collected so far.

Second in the Division 2 sharpshooters' table is Burnley's Paul Barnes, a man Walsall tried to buy when he was with Stoke City.

After spells at York City

worth Road.

"TT" has banged in 30 goals, many of which have helped the team become favourites for automatic promotion back to the First Division.

And maybe Tony feels a bit of gratitude to Walsall for his success. He was switched from midfield to the attack when injuries meant Luton were desperate for strikers through injuries in their home game with the Saddlers on October 5th.

He responded to manager Lennie Lawrence's challenge by scoring the vital opening goal in that game, and the Hatters went on to win 3-1. Kyle Lightbourne was on target

and Birmingham City

"Barnesy" is playing a big part in the Clarets' promotion drive with 24 goals.

If Brentford arrest their

slide and win promotion, they will owe a debt of gratitude to Londoner Carl Asaba who sharpened the Bees' sting with 23 goals.

Nothing "Iffy" about

Gillingham's top-scorer. Iffy Onuora cost only £15,000 when signed from Mansfield, but he has had an excellent season with the promoted Gills, notching 21 goals.

Two forwards in the

leaders' chart started the

season with other clubs -

Phil Clarkson of Blackpool and David Reeves of Preston North End. Clarkson scored 16 for Scunthorpe United before moving to his present club for whom he has four goals, including one against Walsall.

Reeves had hit

the target four times for Carlisle United, and he has now added 13 for

Preston.

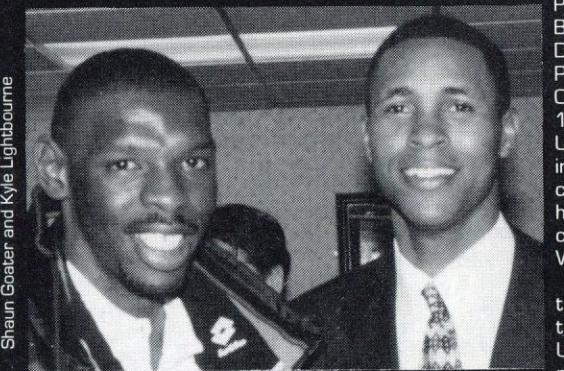
Blackpool actually have three men in the charts, the other two being Tony Ellis, 17, and James Quinn, 16.

Shaun was bought from

Rotherham for about £150,000, and it is an amazing coincidence that the two likely lads from sunny Bermuda should be so successful at the same level.

Ian almost moved to Ply-

mouth Argyle just before the deadline, but the deal fell through, much to the delight of the anxious Shrewsbury fans.



# Luton Town

THE HATTERS THE HATTERS THE HATTERS

visiting bescot visiting bescot visiting bescot

Luton Town have been rather infrequent visitors to Walsall over the years and

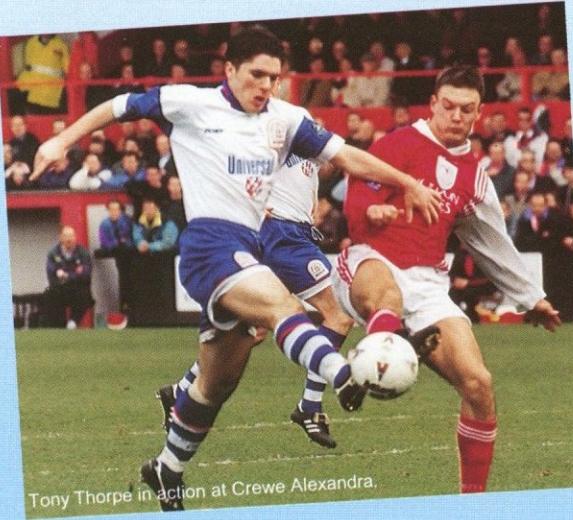
we can at least feel a little happier about the situation today when they come here with a prospect of promotion that we share than was the case in

1963 when they came at a similar stage of the season with both teams battling against relegation from the old Division Two. The game ended 1-1 on a

World War we played Luton Town in the old Second Division. Between the wars we played them in Division Three (South) and it was in the same



Back ROW: Jamie Woodsford (now with Cambridge United); Bontcho Guentchev; Kim Grant; Paul McLaren; Darren Patterson; Gary Simpson; John Taylor (no longer at the club); Ben Chereny.  
Middle Row: Clive Goodyear (Physio); David Oldfield; Des Linton (now at Peterborough United); 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 Davies (Captain); Lennie Lawrence (Manager); David Kohler (Chairman); Wayne Turner (First team Coach); Gary Waddock; Dwight Marshall; Richard Harvey.



Tony Thorpe in action at Crewe Alexandra.

very windy day and both teams ultimately went down.

We also recall an unhappy 4-0 F.A. Cup defeat at Luton Town in 1949 but Luton Town also brings us happier memories of players such as Bernard Streten, who played both in goal and in the forward line for us during the war and in goal for Luton Town after the war when he was capped for England.

Before the First

period that they got indelibly into the history books when Joe Payne got 10 goals in a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers. Then there was the interesting connection of Albert Turner who scored 14 goals in 33 League games for us before the war and his son Gordon Turner who scored 243 goals in 406 League games for Luton Town after the war. Then of course, Chris Nicholl was a key figure in their promotion side of 1970 before moving to Aston Villa in 1972.

# THE FACTS

## Walsall v Luton Town

### FIRST HOME GAME

January 8th, 1897 - Division Two  
Walsall 5 Luton Town 0

### MOST RECENT HOME GAME

September 30th, 1969 - Division Three  
Walsall 1 Luton Town 3

### BIGGEST WIN

February 18th, 1899 - Division Three  
Walsall 6 Luton Town 0

### HEAVIEST DEFEAT

February 5th, 1898 - Division Two  
Luton Town 6 Walsall 0

### BIGGEST HOME GATE

9,609 on Boxing Day 1962 to see Tommy Wilson get both our goals in a 2-0 win in Division Two.

### ODD FACT

We lost all three of our Second Division games at Kenilworth Road in the 1890's, conceding 13 goals in the process but won all three of the corresponding games at Hillary Street scoring no fewer than 18 goals.

In more recent times that busy little midfielder David Preece has played for us in the early 1980's before moving for a longer spell with Luton Town while our present day player Ray Daniel began his career with Luton Town in 1982/83.

Luton Town are of course one of the sides who have played in all four divisions of the Football League. They played in the top division from 1955-60, in 1964/65 and more recently from 1982 to 1992. Last season a four-season spell in what is now Division One ended in relegation.

### LAST SEASON

After finishing in sixteenth place in

1994/95 Luton Town lost the services of David Pleat when he moved to Sheffield Wednesday during the summer and Terry Westley the former club coach took over.

The season began badly, however, with only one win (against



Manager Lennie Lawrence

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

After three Anglo-Italian defeats Luton Town pulled off a shock 5-0 win over Ancona at the end of December, but only 2,091 were there to see it happen and a 7-1 F.A. Cup defeat at Grimsby Town on January 6th did nothing to suggest a happy new year for all at Kenilworth Road.

Then suddenly things changed and six wins and two draws in eight games lifted them to 17th place by the end of February. Just as suddenly a wheel came off the 'Hatters' cart however and seven games without a win put them in trouble again. At the beginning of April they won 2-0 at West Bromwich Albion and there were still eight games to go. Sadly only one of these was won and the season ended with the 'Hatters' seven points short of safety and three points behind Watford, the club next above them.

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

### THIS SEASON

In Division Two this season started badly

with three successive League defeats, but then came three successive wins over Rotherham United, Wycombe Wanderers and Gillingham and a fine Cola Coca Cup win over Premier League Derby County followed by a narrow 3-2 aggregate defeat by Gillingham. Meanwhile they had beaten us 3-1 at Kenilworth Road early in October as they got going on a 10 game unbeaten run that carried them into the top six by late November.

Defeats at Preston North End and Bournemouth were quickly put behind them as they put Torquay United and Boreham Wood out of the F.A. Cup before crashing out 6-2 at Bolton Wanderers in a third round replay.



Dwight Marshall

Crewe Alexandra and won at Burnley and Rotherham United and have beaten Brentford and drawn with Bristol City at Kenilworth Road. Tony Thorpe's hat-trick at Rotherham United last week took his season's tally to 32, a magnificent tally for someone who graduated from the Youth ranks and did not win a regular place until midway through last season.

### THE PLAYERS

#### GOALKEEPERS

##### KELVIN DAVIS

Kelvin 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. 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, but has been unable to break into the side this term.

##### 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. An ever-present to date this term.

#### DEFENDERS

##### RICHARD HARVEY

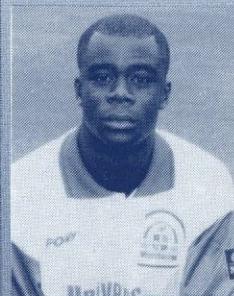
Richard resurrected his Town career in 1994/95 after two years plagued by injury. The former England youth international missed the entire 1993/94 season after a cruciate knee ligament operation, and it was January the following season before he made an appearance. He held the left back position for 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. The 1995/96 campaign, he had an extended run at right back after Christmas. Granted a benefit match in 1996. This season he has missed just one game to date.

##### MARVIN JOHNSON

Marvin made his Football



League debut against Wimbledon in 1988. Then in

# THE HATTERS best

### BEST EVER SEASON

Luton Town finished seventh in the old Division One in 1986/87 behind Everton, Liverpool, Tottenham, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wimbledon. Mike Newell and Brian Stein got 12 goals each and Mal Donaghy and Mike Newell played every game with goalkeeper Les Sealey missing only one.

### BEST EVER WIN

Luton Town beat Bristol Rovers 12-0 on April 13th, 1936 with no fewer than ten goals from Joe Payne and one each from George Martin and Joe Roberts.

### BEST EVER UNBEATEN RUN

Luton Town were unbeaten for 19 successive League games between January 13th and April 27th, 1968 in Division Four and just over a year later between April 7th and October 11th, 1969 in Division Three.

### BEST EVER GOAL TALLY

Gordon Turner scored 265 League and cup goals between 1949 and 1964.

### BEST EVER APPEARANCE TALLY

Bob Morton played in 550 League and cup games for Luton Town between 1948 and 1964.

### BEST EVER F.A. CUP SEASON

Luton Town reached the F.A. Cup finals in 1958/59, beating Leeds United, Leicester City, Ipswich Town, Blackpool and Norwich City before losing 2-1 at Nottingham Forest at Wembley.

### BEST EVER LEAGUE CUP SEASON

Luton Town won the League Cup in 1987/88, putting out Wigan Athletic, Coventry City, Bradford City and Oxford United before beating Arsenal 3-2 at Wembley.

### ONE OTHER REMARKABLE RECORD

Luton Town share with our next and final visitors of the season Brentford the distinction of having won the championships of Division Four, Division Three (South) and Division Two.

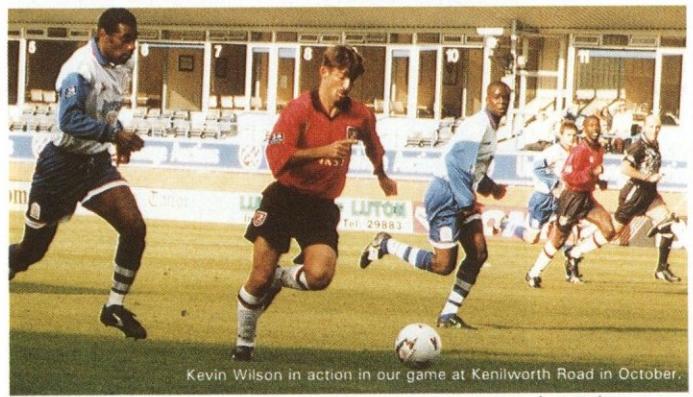
the 1994/95 season played at left back, but then switched to the centre of defence to form a reliable partnership with Trevor Peake. He was again a consistent performer in 1995/96 at centre back, alongside Steve Davis for the most part, and Darren

Patterson, and this term he has missed just two games.

##### TREVOR PEAKE

Trevor, who is also the player coach for the reserve side, started his League career at Lincoln City in 1979, before moving on to Coventry City in 1983. He enjoyed eight full

continued over two more pages...



Kevin Wilson in action in our game at Kenilworth Road in October.

his Luton Town debut aged just 16 in the Anglo-Italian Cup match in Cesena. This season he has made just 1 substitute appearance

**MIDFIELD**  
**PAUL SHOWLER**  
Signed in August 1996, from Bradford City where he played under 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 the Luton

seasons at Highfield Road, winning an F.A. Cup winners' medal in 1987 as the Sky Blues beat 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, and signed a further one year deal in the summer of 1995. Prior to this season Trevor made 178 League + 23 cup appearances.

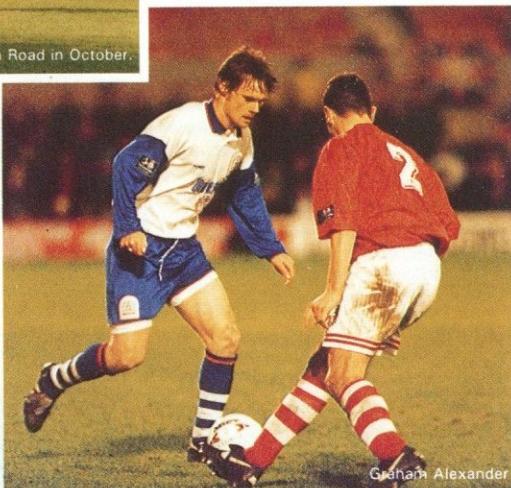
**MITCHELL THOMAS**  
The former England Under-21 international made over 100 appearances for Luton Town before moving to Spurs, shortly after David Pleat, in 1986. He played in the 1987 F.A. Cup Final, and later moved to West Ham United. He was on loan at Luton Town in the 1993/94 season before a permanent free transfer move, and 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. He has missed only 5 games this season to date.

**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. 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 and joined Palace for £250,000 in 1992. Prior to this season Darren made 23 League + 3 cup appearances and this season has made just 11 more.

**MATTHEW UPSON**  
Matthew made



Graham Alexander

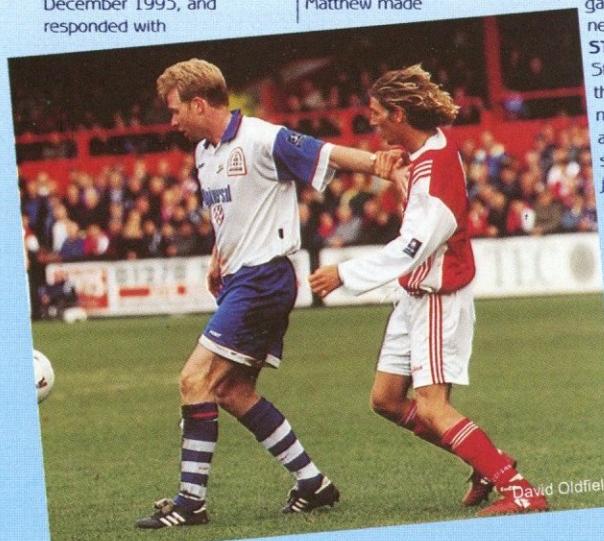
**GRAHAM ALEXANDER**  
Graham joined the Hatters in July 1995, for a fee in the region of £100,000 with further payments depending on appearances. Prior to this season Graham made 37 League + 5 cup appearances and scored 1 goal and this term has, prior to this week's games made 48 more and netted 2 goals.

**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 was captain of Burnley during their rise up the League into Division One. Prior to this season Steve made 36 League + 6 cup appearances and scored 2 goals, and has added 47 more prior to last Saturday

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 injury in that season and 1995/96 have been against him. He played for Wales in Albania in November 1995. Had a trial period at Crystal Palace in summer 1996, but they



STEVE DAVIS



David Oldfield



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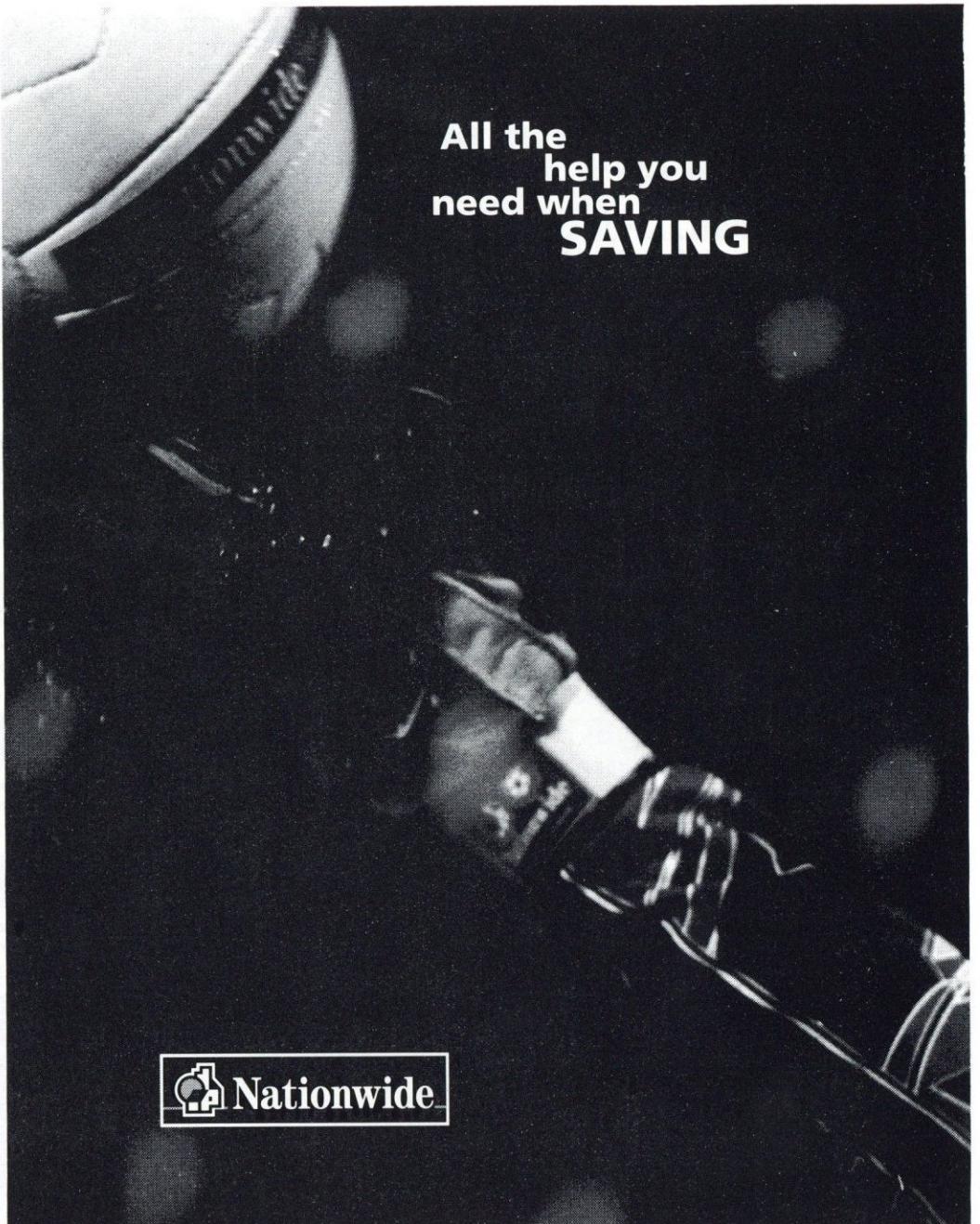
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decided against a deal. Prior to this season Ceri made 139 League + 18 cup appearances and scored 13 League + 1 cup goal, and this term has made a further 43 appearances and netted 6 goals.

#### 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, and 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. This season he has made 6 + 11 more appearances.

#### AARON SKETON

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 injuries restricted his opportunities. His wretched luck with injuries continued in 1995/96. Prior to this season Aaron made 5 League + 2 cup appearances and this season has only made 5+1 more.

#### 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 FA 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 and this season he has 37 + 3 appearances and scored 30 goals before his mid-week outing on Tuesday.

#### 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 FA Cup Final against Spurs in 1982, and the subsequent replay. That was followed by a spell in Belgium with Charleroi 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.

Prior to this season Gary made 76 League + 8 cup appearances and scored 1 goal and this season he has made 37 + 1 appearances and scored 5 goals.

**DWIGHT MARSHALL**  
Dwight signed in the summer of 1994 from Plymouth Argyle for £150,000, after scoring 14 goals 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.

**SEAN EVERE**  
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. Sean made 4 appearances to date.

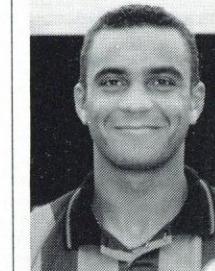
**DAVID OLDFIELD**  
David returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 1995, six years after leaving Luton Town. He started his career with the Hatters, progressing through the junior ranks to a two-goal senior debut in a 2-1 Simod Cup win at Everton in February 1988. Australian-born Oldfield, who played 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 and this season he has made 30 + 8 appearances and netted 8 goals.

#### 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 and this season 14 + 15 appearances and scored 5 goals.

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appearances and scored 6 League + 4 cup goals and this season he has made 30 + 8 appearances and netted 8 goals.

#### 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 and this season he has made 20 + 16 appearances and netted once.

#### ANDREW FOTIADIS

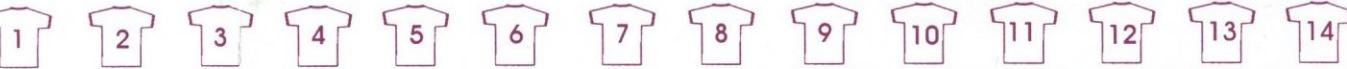
Andrew joined the Hatters full-time last summer after completing his A levels at school. He had been a regular with the youth and reserve side and also had won England caps at Schoolboy, under-15 and under-18 levels. He netted his first League goal against us in the Hatters 3-1 win in October after coming on as substitute. He has now made 5 full appearances and 10 as substitute.

#### GAVIN McGOWAN

Currently on loan from Arsenal where last season he made 4 appearances in the midfield. He joined Arsenal as a trainee and made his debut for Luton in their 2-0 win at Burnley at Easter.

#### ANDY KIWOMYA

Another player who is on loan to the Hatters having joined them from Bradford City and he also made his Luton debut at Burnley at Easter. 29-year-old Andy started as a trainee at Barnsley and moved to Sheffield Wednesday and Dundee before retiring due to injury, but then came back to join Rotherham United,



## NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bury	40	21	10	9	58	36	73
Luton Town	40	19	12	9	65	41	69
Brentford	40	18	14	8	54	38	68
Stockport	38	18	12	8	51	36	66
Crewe	40	20	5	15	50	42	65
Burnley	41	18	9	14	63	44	63
Watford	40	15	18	7	39	28	63
Bristol City	41	17	10	14	59	47	61
Walsall	41	17	10	14	50	45	61
Millwall	42	16	12	14	50	50	60
Wrexham	40	14	17	9	45	43	59
Blackpool	40	14	14	12	50	41	56
Chesterfield	39	14	14	11	36	34	56
Gillingham	40	15	9	16	49	54	54
Bournemouth	42	14	12	16	38	41	54
Bristol Rovers	42	14	11	17	43	44	53
Preston	42	15	7	20	44	53	52
Plymouth	41	11	16	14	43	53	49
York City	41	12	12	17	43	58	48
Shrewsbury	42	11	13	18	49	67	46
Wycombe	41	12	9	20	40	52	45
Peterborough	42	9	14	19	52	71	41
Rotherham	42	6	13	23	34	63	31
Notts County	41	6	13	22	29	53	31

## DIVISION TWO GATES

	Highest	Lowest	Ave
Bristol City	18674	7028	10295
Burnley	16186	7903	10238
Preston North End	14826	7004	9302
Watford	14107	6139	8074
Millwall Athletic	9731	5202	7768
Plymouth Argyle	9645	4237	6539
Gillingham	9305	3575	6255
Stockport County	8650	3446	6056
Luton Town	8585	4401	6034
Brentford	8679	3675	5894
Bristol Rovers	8078	4123	5562
Peterborough	7011	2975	5084
Wycombe	6471	3438	5058
Blackpool	8017	2690	4885
Bournemouth	8201	2500	4466
Notts County	6879	3127	4331
Chesterfield	6733	2085	4280
Bury	7557	2690	4218
Wrexham	6947	1002	4005
Crewe Alexandra	6734	3125	3890
Walsall	6336	2659	3749
York City	5958	2136	3311
Shrewsbury Town	4462	1610	3010
Rotherham United	4652	2133	2880



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PLAYER	FLA	FLG	FACA	FACG	OCA	OCG	TA	TG	PLAYER	FLA	FLG	FACA	FACG	OCA	OCG	TA	TG	PLAYER	FLA	FLG	FACA	FACG	OCA	OCG	TA	TG	
Blake	30+4	4	1	-	2	-	32+5	4	Keister	62+25	2	8+2	-	2+2	-	72+29	2	Roper	7+8	-	1	-	1	-	9+8	-	
Bradley	64+4	1	5	2	7	-	78+4	3	Lightbourne	154+7	62	15+2	9	15	8	184+9	82	Ryder	75+12	5	8	-	8+2	-	91+14	5	
Butler	39+31	8	-	2+5	2	4+3	2	45+39	12	Marsh	233+34	21	24+1	3	29+3	4	286+38	28	Thomas	14+4	-	2+1	-	-	-	16+5	-
Daniel	31+4	-	-	3	-	5	-	39+4	-	Mountfield	67	2	5	-	5	-	78	1	Viveash	73	7	8	1	6	1	87	10
Beckford	+3	-	-	-	-	-	-	+3	-	Ntamark	254+18	13	21	-	33+2	2	309+20	14	Walker	93+1	-	10	-	8	-	110+1	-
Evans	120+5	-	9	-	13+1	1	142+6	1	Platt	+5	2	-	-	-+1	-	+6	2	Watson	18+12	5	+1	-	1	-	19+14	5	
Hodge	28+5	2	3	-	+1	-	35+6	2	Ricketts	2+9	2	-	-	-+1	-	2+10	2	Wilson	123+1	38	13	7	14	5	150+1	50	
Keates	1+1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1+1	-	Rogers	43+10	-	5+2	-	9	-	57+12	-	Wood	69	-	7	-	7	-	86	-

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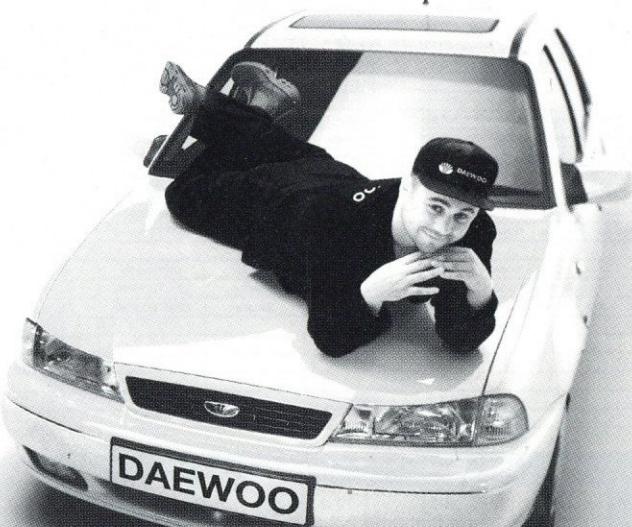
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# Nationwide Action

geoff allman looks at this week's results

**D**espite dubious refereeing decisions we have stayed in playoff contention after our last two tough away games. After failing to win any of our last four home games we pulled off a magnificent win at Wrexham where we had won only three times in 25 previous visits and took our record to three wins in 4 away games since the beginning of March. Sadly the sending off of Kevin Wilson echoed the same fate of John Keister here in September when the reaction of Bury players also seemed to influence the referee's decision and contributed to our 2-1 defeat which underlined the fact that despite the promotion-winning draw there two years ago Gigg Lane has not been a lucky ground for us over the years. We have won just four times in 20 visits and have lost 2-1 no fewer than five times.

As promotion issues remain open one relegation issue has been settled with Rotherham United now certain to go down to Division Three after their fifth defeat in a row 1-0 at Wrexham on Tuesday with Karl Connolly

getting his twelfth goal of the season as Wrexham kept alive an outside chance of getting into the playoffs. Some Wrexham fans seem to have given up hope however as Tuesday's gate of just 2,002 was their lowest of the season.

York City are now feeling safer after Tuesday's 1-0 win over Peterborough United ended their recent run of five games without a win. Gary Bull getting the winner with only his third goal of the season.

Things are now looking rather bleak for Barry Fry's boys after only one win in their last seven games, particularly as Wycombe Wanderers picked up a point in a 0-0 draw at today's visitors' Luton Town. Oddly enough though Wycombe have picked up only two points in their last

five away games these have been obtained at promotion-seeking Brentford and Luton who are now in second place in the table after three wins and three draws in their last six games. While Brentford

are not looking as good also, as they fought out a hard 0-0 draw with Shrewsbury Town who are in great need of the points to stay in the division.

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four games though they did pick up a point on Tuesday in a goalless draw at Chesterfield, who have tuned up for their F.A. Cup semi-final with four successive draws in Division Two.

Since winning at Luton Town on March 8th, Millwall have failed to win any of their last eight games and Tuesday's 1-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers seems to have ended any lingering hopes of a playoff place. Rovers have now just about removed any relegation fear with four wins in their last six games.

Meanwhile two teams cock-a-hoop at the moment are Wigan Athletic and Fulham who both clinched promotion from Division Three on Tuesday with a 1-0 win over Colchester United and a goalless draw at Mansfield Town respectively though Carlisle, who have picked up only two points from their last five games and lost 2-1 at Darlington on Tuesday still need another win to make certain of their Second Division place. Just a few weeks ago they looked certain not only of promotion but also of the Third Division Championship.

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# PREMIER

## SADDLERS

from Don Martin, Michael Cheadle & David Irvine.

### WALSALL 2 WEST BROMWICH ALBION 2

Melville Midland Youth League  
Saturday 8th March 1997

Walsall and Albion shared the points in a 2-2 draw played at Aston University Recreation Grounds. Walsall started off looking the better team, after 5 minutes a good run by Gadsby ended with the Albion keeper safely clutching a good cross. Walsall should have scored after 12 minutes Moore dragging his shot wide, following an exchange of passes between Davies and Sutton. The Saddlers took the lead on 16 minutes, following a corner, Perry's header at the far post, was eventually scrambled into the net from close range by Davies. The game then became a midfield struggle for both teams, highlighted by Cooper's 30 yard drive which just cleared the crossbar.

Albion equalised on 31 minutes, when Cunningham unmarked at the far post flicked in a low cross from the right. Danny Jones then shot over the bar from a good position inside the area.

The second half opened with Albion dominating the midfield, but without creating any clear chances. Walsall kept battling on, and were rewarded after 61 minutes, when Sutton was sent clear his shot was blocked by the keeper, but Southwick netted the rebound from the edge of the penalty area. Walsall began to take charge of the match, but still few chances were being created, Sutton just failing to reach a long through ball, and Sutton again, fired just wide after good work by Cooper. Albion's equaliser came seven minutes from time when substitute Tower scored from close range after Walsall failed to clear the ball from their penalty box.

**WALSALL:** Naisbitt; Gadsby; Ulfing; Davies; Perry; Darren Jones (Wood 60); Cooper; Danks; Sutton; Danny Jones (Southwick 60); Moore (Lydon 88).

### WALSALL 5 SHREWSBURY TOWN 0

Melville Midland Youth League  
Saturday 22nd March 1997

Walsall got off to the best possible start in the opening minutes of the game when a shot from outside the penalty area by Tom Davies found the back of the net. Walsall were dominating the early stages of the match, and were unlucky not to increase their lead after 13 minutes when a cross shot from Sutton was just wide of the goal. Five minutes later Walsall should have increased their lead when following a good interchange of passes, Moore was clear of the defence only to shoot wide. After 20 minutes a Shrewsbury effort was saved at the near post by Naisbitt, Walsall broke immediately, Wood creating space on the left, passed to Sutton, whose cross was then fired over the bar by Danny Jones.

Walsall went 2-0 ahead after 26 minutes, Gadsby long throw was flicked on at the near post, for Danny Jones to shoot home just inside the post. Walsall were totally in control, and 5 minutes later made it 3-0, Shrewsbury yet again being caught in possession in midfield, the ball being put through to Danny Jones who raced through, beat a defender, rounded the keeper and slotted the ball home.

Shrewsbury started the second half much better, and almost scored after 28 minutes following a right wing cross, but Perry cleared off the line, Walsall broke away immediately, with Moore, but his shot ended wide of the goal, after 57 minutes only a superb one handed save by Naisbitt prevented Shrewsbury from pulling a goal back, as Shrewsbury began to get their game together. However after 65 minutes Danny Jones completed his hat-trick from

the penalty spot. After Danks had been felled in the area Walsall then took total command, with shots from Danny Jones and Danks bringing good saves from the Shrewsbury keeper, who also kept out two well struck shots from Southwick. Walsall made it 5-0 a minute from time, when Cooper collected the ball in midfield, fed Southwick inside the area, whose superb turn and cross shot ended up inside the far post.

An excellent performance from the Walsall Youth. The only blemish being a booking for Darren Jones, also an encouraging performance from Ben Davies younger brother of established Youth team player Tom.

**WALSALL:** Naisbitt; Gadsby; Wood; Tom Davies (Davies 56); Perry (Ulfing 65); Darren Jones; Cooper; Danny Jones; Sutton (Southwick 65); Ben Davies; Moore.

### ROTHERHAM UNITED 1 WALSALL 2

Nationwide League Division Two  
Saturday 29th March 1997

The Saddlers picked up three points after this easy win at relegation-threatened Rotherham United.

The home side looked dangerous in the early exchanges as they pushed forward looking for an early goal, but when they did manage to penetrate the Walsall defence, their finishing was poor.

The Saddlers took the lead in the 24th minute when John Hodge's free kick was not held by goalkeeper Kevin Pillington, the ball falling to Kyle Lightbourne who volleyed home.

Sloppy defending almost led to a Rotherham equaliser in the 31st minute when Mark Drue was left unmarked six yards from goal. However, he was unable to connect with Robert McKenzie's excellent cross.

Walsall increased their lead two minutes later when Hodge's cross was headed back by Adrian Viveash at the far post. Martin Butler's header was then cleared off the line and Lightbourne headed against the bar as United's defence failed to clear the ball. With Lightbourne appealing to the referee that the ball had crossed the line, Viveash smashed it into the net.

The Millers started the second half well looking to pull an early goal back, but the Saddlers defence cleared from Drue, who was running through him.

With Walsall sitting back protecting their lead, United began to have more of the play. However a combination of atrocious passing and awful shooting meant that James Walker was not required to make a save until the 83rd minute when Andy Hayward's shot tested him.

United scored a consolation goal in the final minute when Hayward was left free to beat Walker. **ROTHERHAM UNITED:** Pilkington; McKenzie; Roscoe; Bain; Breckin; Dillon; Hayward; Berry (Landon 61); Drue (Richardson 61); McDougald; Garner (Hurst 61).

**WALSALL:** Walker; Blake; Evans; Viveash; Butler; Mountfield (Roper 84); Watson; Keister; Lightbourne; Wilson (Beckford 77); Hodge. Subs: (not used): Rogers.

Scorers: 0-1 Lightbourne (24) 0-2 Viveash (33)  
1-2 Hayward (90).

Attendance: 2,428

Referee: J. Robinson - Hull.

### WALSALL 1 CHESTERFIELD 1

Nationwide League Division Two

Tuesday 1st April 1997

The Saddlers struggled for a point against F.A. Cup semi-finals, Chesterfield, here at Bescot.

In a poor first half, Walsall rarely threatened the visitors goal after the Spireites had taken a 7th minute lead through Andy Morris, who was left free in the penalty area to beat James Walker.

The Saddlers showed more urgency after the break and pushed forward looking for an equaliser. This deservedly came in the 72nd minute when after Andy Watson had seen his shot come back off the bar, Mark Blake scrambled the ball home in the goalmouth muddle that followed.

Although pushing forward in the latter stages looking for a winner, they failed to break through the stubborn Chesterfield defence, as they dropped another two points at home.

However, with other teams in the promotion race also dropping vital points on this evening, they did not fall any further behind.

**WALSALL:** Walker; Blake; Evans (Beckford 76); Viveash; Butler; Roper; Watson; Keister; Lightbourne; Wilson; Hodge. Subs: (not used): Ryder, Marsh.

**CHESTERFIELD:** Mercer; Hewitt; Jules; Patterson; Williams; Dyche; Ebdon; Davies; Morris; Howard; Beaumont. Subs: (not used): Allison; Dunn; Mason. Scorers: 0-1 Morris (7). 1-1 Blake (72). Attendance: 3,784.

Referee: Paul Taylor - Cheshunt

### WREXHAM 1 WALSALL 2

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 5th April 1997

A vital victory and three very valuable points from this all action encounter at the Racecourse Ground. It avenged our home defeat earlier in the season and keeps us in touch with the chasing group for a play-off spot. After a hectic opening Saddlers settled down to play some neat football, with John Hodge in particular posing a constant threat to the home defence. We took the lead in the 15th minute, after good approach work from Hodge, Keister laid off a neat ball to Kyle Lightbourne who slotted home his 21st goal of the season. Wrexham hit back and mounted a series of attacks on our goalmouth and in one attack referee Scott Mathieson ruled Gary Bennett had been fouled and awarded a penalty.

James Walker however made a brilliant one handed save from Bennett's kick to thwart the Wrexham striker.

Playing against a strong wind in the second half we increased our lead to 2-0 in the 73rd minute when Mark Blake sent an inch perfect right foot cross over for Andy Watson to head home powerfully to send the Saddlers fans into raptures. The drama did not end there when the linesman ruled that James Walker had held back Karl Connolly when he went to recover a cross and once again referee Mathieson gave a penalty. This time Connolly scored, but the Saddlers back four led by Viveash and Roper, who were both outstanding, held out for a vital victory.

**WALSALL:** Walker; Blake; Evans; Viveash; Roper; Butler; Watson; Keister; Lightbourne; Wilson; Hodge. Subs: Beckford for Wilson (90); Ryder & Ntmark (both not used); Rogers.

**WREXHAM:** Marriott; McGregor; Jones; Phillips; Hunnes; Carey; Bennett; Russell; Connolly; Chalk; Brammer. Subs: Cross for Bennett (64); Skinner for Russell (59); Ridder (not used).

Goals: 1-0 Lightbourne (15).

2-0 Watson (73). 2-1 Connolly (86, pen).

Attendance: 3,266.

Referee: Mr. S. W. Mathieson - Stockport, Cheshire.



Action with Chesterfield on a dark night.

Top to bottom: Mark Blake nets our goal. Martin Butler goes close and Adrian Viveash also gets up well looking for a goal.

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### Soccer across Europe with Neil Morris

**T**oday we catch upon the news from the Easter period around the Continent. I must say I was pleased to see no other countries followed the UK's example of playing games on Good Friday, which as a Christian I consider inappropriate for football. Am I the only one to feel this way?

In the Bundesliga a 63,000 sell-out crowd saw Bayern Munich maintain their title challenge with a 1-0 win against Werder Bremen. The home side scored after just 15 seconds (the quickest ever Bundesliga goal) through Alexander Zickler. Fellow hopefuls Bayer Leverkusen defeated Schalke 2-0 at home - 24,000 saw Kirsten and Meizer hit the net in this game.

Meanwhile Leverkusen have pulled out of a deal to sell Brazilian midfielder Paulo Sergio to AS Roma following FIFA's decision to allow all out of contract foreign players to move between E.U. clubs without transfer fees. The clubs have agreed a fee of around \$4 million but under the new ruling no payment would be required. Instead Roma have made an offer for another Brazilian midfielder - Sao Paulo's Denilson. They have offered \$7 million and according to President, Francesco Senoi, are prepared to increase it. Senoi also stated that with great players it didn't matter who coached the team, a statement that was seen to the the President distancing himself from his Argentine coach Carlos Bianchi.

Giantkillers Creteil and Clermont-Ferrand both fell at the Quarter Final stage of the French Cup. Creteil were beaten 3-1 at home by Guingamp while Clermont went down 2-1 at home to Nice. In the other games Montpellier won 2-1 at Bordeaux in the only all First Division clash while Second Division Laval beat Troyes 1-0 at home.

A Swiss referee had to have medical treatment after being hit on the head by a chair at the end of a cup tie. Home fans at the ground of Second Division Wil were annoyed when FIFA referee Serge Muhmenthaler denied their side a penalty during a 3-2 defeat against First Division Lausanne. The unfortunate official had to leave the field with police protection, but at least he didn't have Danny Baker to contend with as well!

German national coach Berti Vogts has blasted big salaries being paid to average players. He also said that senior players were not doing enough to help their younger team mates.

Finally, Barcelona's ace Renaldo has said that he will talk to any club making an offer for his services. He has been linked to Manchester United but Lazio remain favourite for his signature. Renaldo is upset by Barca's failure to agree a new contract but he has stated that if they match other offers he receives he will stay in Catalonia.

In their Easter game Barcelona drew 1-1 at Valencia, their equaliser coming from a mistake by goalkeeper Zubizarreta which allowed Renaldo the chance to score.



**W**hat an excellent win at Wrexham the lads returned home with on Saturday. They are a good side and we were definitely due a result at the Racecourse. The Saddlers also had to contend with two penalties being awarded to the Welshmen - one being missed and one being scored. That doesn't happen too often either. Great save from 'Wheacker' to keep out Gary Bennett's spot-kick, though.

Whilst we were beating Wrexham, our visitors today were convincingly thrashing struggling Rotherham United 3-0. The Hatters dangerman is Tony Thorpe who bagged a hat-trick at Millmoor and took his tally to 30 for the season. Our defenders will have to mark him very closely to make sure he doesn't dent our play-off hopes.

I personally felt our play-off chance had gone when we failed to beat rivals Chesterfield at Bescot. Luckily the other results went our way and we're still in contention although we lost on Tuesday at Bury. I feel really sorry for Kevin Wilson who had not been sent off before in his career for what was, in my mind, no more than a normal tackle.

Former Saddlers and Albion boss Alan Buckley was at our match with the Spireites. It was nice to have a chat with him at half-time too. His son Adam was with him - I remember vividly watching him when he was a toddler kicking the ball on the Fellows Park pitch! He's a teenager now of course.

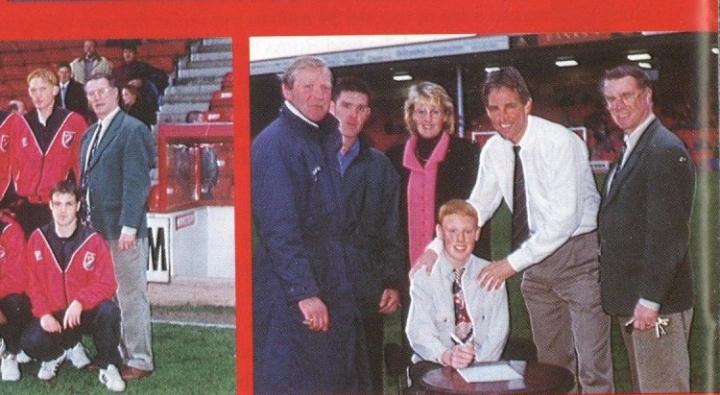
Good luck Walsall.  
**Bianca Middleton.**



John Hodge being presented with his Man of the Match Award by Dave McQueen and his young daughter.



Man of the match against Chesterfield John Hodge with the Match Sponsors, Cox, McQueen, Howard & Tain, together with their guests and below with the Ball Boys who are from Boley Park FC, Lichfield, and are sponsored by Cox, McQueen, Howard & Tain.



The Walsall Youth team who took part in the successful Easter Tournament in Holland in which Michael Ricketts was voted the player of the competition. Below John Hodge with the guest of the Matchball Sponsor, Banks's Brewery, after the game with Chesterfield.



Signing on is the latest Walsall FC recruit, Richard Teesdale, with his mom and dad, Chris Nicholl, Eric McManus and Bill Jones, before the game with Chesterfield, and below, Jimmy Walker with two birthday boys, Alan Penny and Christopher Rowe.



# match results RESERVE & YOUTH

from Bill Jones.

## PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

### AUGUST

Wed - 21 Lincoln City	4-1
Wed - 28 Chester City	2-1

### SEPTEMBER

Wed - 4 Chesterfield	2-0
Wed - 11 Wigan Athletic	2-2
Wed - 18 Bury	1-1

### OCTOBER

Wed - 9 Scarborough	1-1
Wed - 23 Darlington	4-1

### NOVEMBER

Tues - 5 Doncaster Rovers	1-1
Wed - 13 Scunthorpe United	1-2
Wed - 27 Rochdale	0-1

### JANUARY

Wed - 15 Derby County LC	1-0
Wed - 29 Notts County	3-0

### FEBRUARY

Wed - 5 Darlington	4-1
Wed - 12 Leicester City LC	0-2

### MARCH

Wed - 5 Scunthorpe United	0-0
Wed - 12 Scarborough	1-2
Wed - 19 Rochdale	0-0
Wed - 26 Lincoln City	1-1

### APRIL

Wed - 2 Chester City	3-0
Wed - 9 Chesterfield	1-0
Wed - 16 Bury	H
Wed - 23 Wigan Athletic	H
Mon - 28 Doncaster Rovers	A

## PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rochdale	16	13	3	0	32	9	42
Lincoln City	17	9	6	2	27	17	33
WALSALL	17	7	7	3	28	15	28
Doncaster	17	7	4	6	32	28	25
Bury	17	6	6	5	19	19	24
Chesterfield	15	6	2	7	18	23	20
Darlington	16	4	5	7	21	31	17
Chester City	17	5	3	5	22	27	15
Scarborough	18	4	3	11	18	29	15
Wigan Ath	15	4	3	8	19	27	15
Scunthorpe	17	3	4	10	21	32	13

YOUNG SADDLERS DO SO WELL IN THE  
R.C.H. INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TOURNAMENT  
March 28-31st 1997

### Day One.

The reason for the tour is to give boys experience against continental opposition also to register their reaction of the pressure of a tough four day programme. Important if they are to be good professionals. In a very demanding programme our boys opened the tournament with a match against one of the teams from Jaran Shotoko and soon settled down taking the lead when Paul Moore slotted home after a good right wing cross. Goal number two soon followed, Danny Jones scoring from close range. Michael Ricketts hit the woodwork on two occasions but to Shotoko's credit they came back to score a fine goal with 10 minutes remaining. Walsall ran out winners 2-1.

### Day Two

Day Two saw us up against two Dutch teams. First we played Haarley FC, after taking a two goal lead through Peter Sutton and Michael Ricketts we discovered what Dutch football is all about. We relaxed and this let Haarlem back into the game scoring two good goals to level the game, but to their credit the Saddlers stormed back and Paul Moore rounded off a four man move to score the winning goal, score 3-2.

Two hours later saw our lads produce their best football so far when they beat Telstar 1-0 with a great Paul Davis goal. It was a good day for 16 year old debutant Adam Bower who played with good composure looking a good prospect for the future. Michael Ricketts provided the team with some powerful runs always looking dangerous, keeping Telstar on their toes. All in all a good day for the Saddlers reaching the semi-final.

### Day Three

We were matched against the Belgian side Eendracht. The game proved to be a very tight encounter. Both teams played good fast football with chances hard to come by. Mark Perry and Matt Gadsby looked solid at the back whilst keeper Danny Naisbitt was in fine form, Peter Sutton and Michael Ricketts kept the Belgium defender on their toes. However with the scores level after extra time a penalty shoot-out was the order of the day.

Peter Sutton, Michael Ricketts, Mark Perry, Matt Southwick and Steven Ulfig all scored from the spot, whilst keeper Naisbitt saved Eendracht four spot kicks putting the Saddlers through to the Final.

### Day Four - Final.

Our opponents were the Dutch Premier League side Utrecht who proved to be very strong opposition. Winning the toss they kicked with a strong wind. Our boys did not do themselves justice looking tired after travelling and three days of football. The Dutch boys used the wind to their advantage and after 40 minutes struck a brilliant 30 yard goal. This took the Saddlers by surprise who soon found themselves two down with yet another 25 yard wonder strike. Two down at half time. The second half was evenly contested with a tired looking Walsall side losing the final 2-0. The presentation followed. The Saddlers received their runners-up prize award and Michael Ricketts was voted player of the tournament, as we see from the picture on the opposite page. Bill Jones.

## MIDLAND MELVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE

### AUGUST

10 - Derby County	1-2
17 - GRIMSBY TOWN	0-2
24 - Leicester City	0-3
31 - LINCOLN CITY	3-3

### SEPTEMBER

7 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN	2-1
14 - Wolves	1-5

21 - NOTTINGHAM FOREST	1-4
28 - Peterborough United	1-1

### OCTOBER

5 - Aston Villa	2-0
12 - Shrewsbury Town LC Rd2	0-0
19 - Shrewsbury Town	2-0
26 - STOKE CITY	2-4

### NOVEMBER

2 - WOLVES	3-7
9 - West Bromwich Albion	5-1
16 - Mansfield LC Rd3	1-2
23 - Birmingham City	1-1
30 - NOTTS COUNTY	2-2

### DECEMBER

7 - DERBY COUNTY	3-0
21 - LEICESTER CITY	2-5
JANUARY	
18 - Grimsby Town	0-2
25 - Nottingham Forest	2-2

### FEBRUARY

1 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED	0-1
8 - Port Vale	2-1
15 - Stoke City	1-0
22 - Mansfield Town	3-1
MARCH	

### 8 - WEST BROMWICH ALBION

15 - BIRMINGHAM CITY	2-1
22 - SHREWSBURY TOWN	5-0
29 - Coventry City	A
APRIL	

5 - COVENTRY CITY	2-2
7 - Lincoln City	4-2
12 - Notts County	H
19 - PORT VALE	H
26 - ASTON VILLA	H

MAY	
3 - Northampton Town	A

## MIDLAND MELVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE As at 26th March 1997

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wolves	25	18	3	4	66	23	57
Leicester	26	15	4	7	56	32	49
Notts Forest	24	14	6	4	48	23	48
Aston Villa	25	15	3	7	45	26	48
Notts County	22	15	3	4	53	37	48
Birmingham	24	14	4	6	42	24	46
Stoke City	27	12	4	11	50	31	40
Port Vale	24	12	2	10	41	30	38
Coventry	23	10	6	7	33	31	36
Walsall	25	10	6	3	46	46	46
Peterborough	28	10	2	16	38	55	32
Grimsby	24	8	5	11	24	33	29
W.B.A	35	9	2	14	31	47	29
Derby County	25	8	4	13	36	39	28
Lincoln City	25	7	3	15	24	49	24
Northampton	28	6	4	18	29	57	22
Shrewsbury	26	5	2	19	36	66	17
Mansfield	24	3	6	15	21	43	15

# Tipping the balance.



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# 30, 20 & 10 YEARS AGO BACK IN TIME FATHER DAVIS

30 years ago

Having gained a fine 2-0 win over leaders QPR in midweek we pulled off another outstanding result on April 15th, 1967 when winning 2-0 at sixth place Middlesbrough in Division Three.

Playing in all white shirts after the referee had held up the kick-off by demanding a change, we struggled in the first half and were indebted for one goal-line clearance from Ken Hill after Eric Gates had drawn Keith Ball out of position. Then after the break we took the lead with a typical Colin Taylor goal as he dispossessed Don Masson and fired home a tremendous 30-yarder. Six minutes from the end Alan Baker made the game safe, slipping the ball home after Mick Evans had put him through in a counter attack after surviving further heavy pressure.

**MIDDLESBROUGH:** Whigham; Hickton; Butler; Mason; Gates; Jones; Chadwick; Horsfield; O'Rourke; Lawson; Downing.  
**WALSALL:** Ball; Hill; Evans; Simpson; Bennett; Atthey; Jackson; Baker; Kirby; McMorran; Taylor.  
Attendance: 18,090.

Attendance: 16,050.  
We were now ninth in Division Three while Luton Town, who were in the lower half of Division Four, beat Barrow 3-1 with two goals from Ray Whittaker and one from Keith Allan. On the same day Scotland beat England 3-2 at Wembley with Denis Law, Bobby Lennox and Jim McCalliog getting their goals and Jack Charlton and Geoff Hurst replying.

20 YEARS AGO

We struggled in the early stages of our home game against Third Division leaders Brighton & Hove Albion on April 16th, 1977 with Mick Bates and Brian Taylor both injured in the first quarter of an hour and Nick Attthey booked. We had several narrow escapes as we strove to extend our unbeaten run under Dave Mackay to nine games and on one occasion Dave Serella appeared to handle in the

penalty area, but we rode our luck and with just two minutes to go Gary Shelton had a shot blocked and the ball rebounded to Nick Atthey, who banged home the winner.

**WALSALL:** Kearns; Taylor (Shelton); Atthey; Hynd; Serella; Robinson; Dennehy; Bates; Andrews; Buckley; Birch.

**BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION:** Steele; Tiler; Cattlin; Horton; Rollings; Cross; Fell; Ward; Mellor (Morgan); Piper; O'Sullivan. Attendance: 7,591.

We were now 16th in Division Three while Luton Town were sixth in Division Two after a 4-2 defeat at Cardiff City, Ron Fletcher and Brian Chambers getting their goals.

At The Hawthorns West Bromwich Albion, who were seventh in the old Division One, lost 2-0 to Manchester City after having Bryan Robson carried off with a broken leg for the third time in his career.

10 years ago

April 18th, 1987 saw us beating promotion-chasing Gillingham 1-0 at Fellows Park. We kept visiting goalkeeper Phil Kite busy in a goalless first half when Tony Cascarino at times posed threats to our defence, then in the 56th minute Nicky Cross, who hadn't scored in nine games was sent away on the right by Trevor Christie. With everyone waiting for a centre to David Kelly, Nicky let fly and the ball skidded into the far corner of the net as Kite came out.

**WALSALL:** Barber, Dornan, Taylor, Shakespeare; Forbes, Hart; Childs; Cross; Kelly, Christie, Hawker.

**GILLINGHAM:** Kite; Haylock; Pearce; Berry; Weatherly; Jacobs; Pritchard; Shearer; Geroni, Elsey (Lovell); Casciarino.

Attendance: 5,109.  
We were now sixth in Division Three while Luton Town were as high as fourth in the old Division One after beating Coventry City 2-0 with goals from Brian Stein and Mike Newell at Kenilworth Road. Third place Spurs beat Charlton Athletic 1-0 at White Hart Lane with Ray Clemence playing his 1,099th game to beat Pat Jennings' appearance record.

We kicked off the new season with one newcomer, Mick Bates from Leeds United, in midfield and he helped us to 1-0 wins over Shrewsbury Town in both legs of our first round League Cup tie and a goalless draw at Sheffield Wednesday in our opening League game.

We then went out of the League Cup 4-2 to Nottingham Forest in front of an 8,431 Fellows Park gate and none of our opening six League games were won. Wins over Northampton Town and Port Vale were then followed by a 7-0 hammering at Brighton & Hove Albion, but despite indifferent League form we proved ourselves a different team when it came to F.A. Cup ties.

A goalless draw at home to Bradford City was followed by a 2-0 replay win at Valley Parade and then after two draws against Chesterfield we won through in a second round second replay at Derby County with Bernie Wright getting the winner and Mick Kearns playing the game of his life in goal just four days before Christmas.

This earned us a third round tie at Old Trafford for the second time in three seasons. This time we lost 1-0 but our share in the gate of 48,870 [over 5,000 more than two years earlier] came in handy. A fortnight later we gained our biggest win of the season up to then, 5-1 against Sheffield Wednesday with Bernie Wright getting two of the goals. Sadly these were the last goals scored for us by Bernie, who was sold to Bradford City a fortnight later. Doug Fraser had done some good things during his time as our manager but this wasn't one of them. Bernie had been a most popular and wholehearted player, a great battler and a great crowdpleaser and at 24 there was still lots of good football in him. Fraser himself left a few weeks later and Dave Mackay took charge.

A 6-1 win over Reading with a hat-trick from Miah Dennehy eased our concern, but soon we were in the midst of a lean spell with just four wins in 14 games. Happily we ended the season on a high note, however, with a 2-2 draw at Grimsby Town, a 5-3 win at Peterborough United with Alan Birch getting a hat-trick and a 3-3 draw against Burnley.

Even so we finished no higher than 15th in Division Three, our lowest position for three seasons. Alan Buckley was again topscorer with 23 goals (compared with 35 in the previous season), but no-one else scored more than eight. Mick Kearns played in every game.

Geoff Allman

# CHARLIE BAMFORTH

## Ground & Chat

### HEROES & VILLAINS

**B**obby Moore was born 56 years ago today. There was a man who was a symbol for the better things in the game. Even an over-exaggerated late night drink in Blackpool failed to tarnish the image of a man who, rightly, became a national institution. If only the game today had ambassadors of Moore's eminence. There are a few, but sadly so many more 'heroes' are pedestalised on a platform of angst. And that goes for their clubs, too.

Is it a coincidence that the two clubs with which Bobby Moore was associated as a player fall into the category of 'loved and respected'? Most of us have our personal *bête noire* football clubs, the sides that it gives us enormous pleasure to see suffer. I wouldn't think that West Ham United and Fulham feature very highly on most people's lists.

As a kid it was always an enormous delight for me when West Ham United visited my club. On the one hand we had the thrill of seeing three World Cup stars playing, in the shape of Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters. Alongside them would be other talented and, sometimes, 'fun' people, such as Harry Redknapp, John Sissons, Brian Dear, Trevor Brooking, Clyde Best, Ronnie Boyce and, my special favourite, Billy Bonds. And behind them would be fallible folk, such as Bobby Ferguson, Alan Stephenson, John Cushley and Tommy Taylor, players who would confirm our pleasure in West Ham's visit by guaranteeing us a win.

It wasn't only West Ham that we relished for these reasons. Chelsea were always good for flair, but a

good stuffing, too.

We didn't see a lot of Fulham, who had fallen on hard times by the late sixties. But the Cottagers will always be the music hall team. Visions of Tommy Trinder and Tosh Chamberlain will forever mean Fulham. It's good to see them at the right end of Division Three.

Similar sentiments drive me to declare the fervent wish that The Hammers stay in the Premiership again. Sure, they are perennial strugglers and, yes, I recognise that, in 1977, there isn't terribly much Anglo-Saxon about them. But they remain a club established on proper principles and they deserve to survive.

The laws of neutrality should dictate that I don't declare a preference for those I would like to see 'fall by the Premiership wayside'. Why, my colleagues might even send me to Coventry were I to list the club that has long since overstayed its welcome in the top division! Suffice it to say, though, that it might do some of the high and mighty good to 'rough it' for a period amongst the proletariat. Might not an Everton, for example, come back a better-adjusted outfit if they were to hike around unfamiliar pastures for a bit?

Personally I do have an affinity for The Toffees, and it would give me far greater satisfaction to see some of the other long-standing big boys taken down a peg. No names, no pack drill. But Arsenal, for instance, though not this year, I guess.

You're right, I'm just getting bitter and twisted, driven to spite and envy. But that's not the only

reason I'd like to see a certain red-shirted Northern side downgraded. I just don't like them. Most other people don't either.

Is that because they have been successful, monotonously and self-centredly so, whereas we love West Ham because they are plucky strugglers who have, over the years, played football beautifully, with a smile, but with a defence like a sieve? And, for that reason, they have enjoyed little sustained glory?

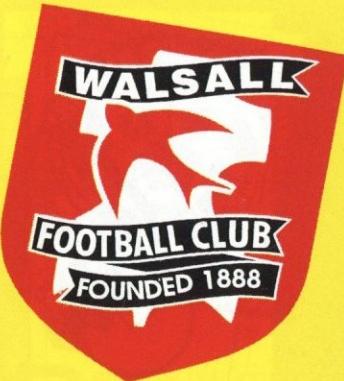
Last Sunday I was circumnavigating the ants-nest which is the M6 whilst tuned in to the Middlesbrough-Leicester Coca Cola Cup Final. As far as I am concerned these clubs represent a grey area in my sentimental reflexes. I have no particular feeling for either of them, one way or the other. What emotion, then, led me to find especial delight in the final outcome? Very little was keeping me awake at the wheel other than my contempt for the style of Alan Green. And then Middlesbrough scored. I had visions of Ravanelli with his jersey wrapped round his head charging in front of a succession of hideously expensive colleagues, who until recently thought that Teesside was a cut of beef. I pictured the ecstasy of the fans in red and the desperate misery of those in blue. And suddenly I felt passionate hatred for the northern club. So when Leicester equalised I shrieked with joy.

It was totally irrational. Bobby Moore would have been disgusted with me.

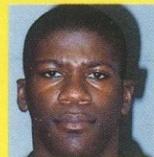
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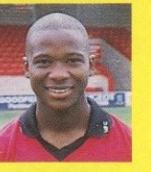
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Above John Hodge receives his  
Swifts Club, Banks's Man of  
the Match Award after the game  
- with Chesterfield and below  
Kyle Lightbourne with our mascot  
for that game, Tom Mandberg.



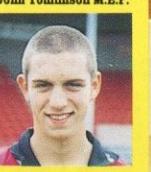
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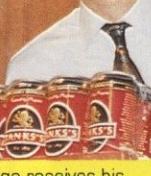


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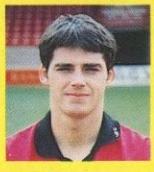
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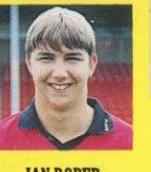
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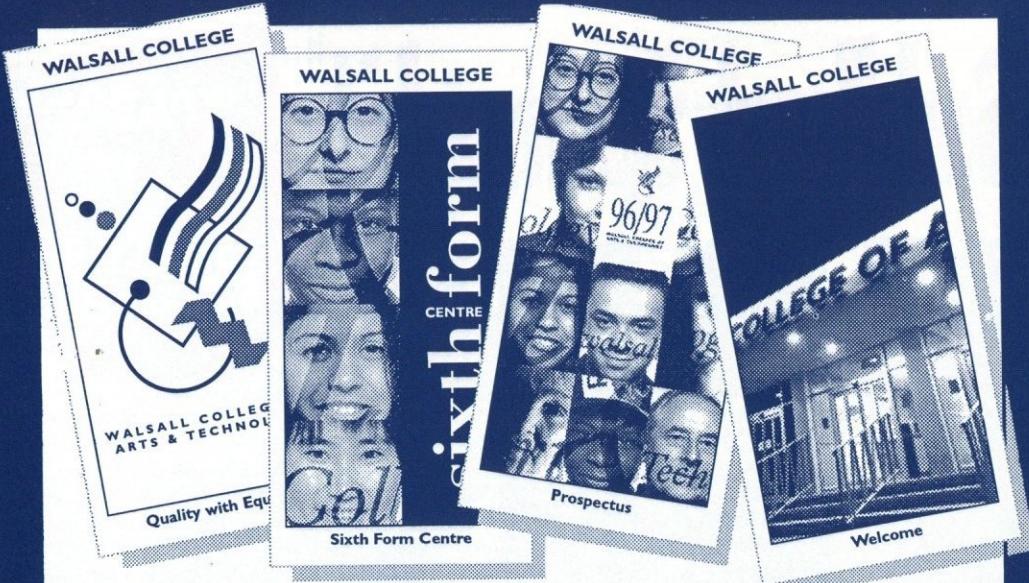


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Our first April 12th game was in 1895 when we crashed 6-1 in a Second Division game at Arsenal's Manor Road ground. Wilf Devey getting our goal. There was then a 14 year gap before Sid Francis got the only goal of a Birmingham League game against Stourbridge at Hillary Street.

Stourbridge were the opposition again at Hillary Street on April 12th, 1913 but this time we lost the Birmingham League game 2-1 with George James getting our goal. A heavier defeat awaited us at Birmingham on April 12th, 1915 when we crashed 6-0, again in the Birmingham

front of a 45,234 gate as they romped towards promotion.

And so to April 12th, 1952 and an Easter Saturday 3-0 win over Port Vale in Division Three (South) with two goals from Bill O'Neill and the other from Hugh Evans. Still in Division Three (South) Tony Richards got both goals in a 2-1 win over Norwich City on April 12th, 1955, which was Easter Tuesday, but just a year later we lost 3-2 to the same opposition at Norwich City with Jack Love and Ken Hodgkinson on the mark on April 12th, 1956.

In the last season of Division Three (South) we were held to a goalless draw by Aldershot at Fellows Park on

getting our goal in front of 17,233 at Leeds Road as the top two teams in the division battled it out.

April 12th, 1986 saw Richard O'Kelly, Nicky Cross, Phil Hawker and Steve Elliott on the mark in our 4-1 win over Gillingham at Fellows Park in Division Three and just a year later David Kelly and Trevor Christie were on the mark as we again won at Fellows Park in Division Three, this time against Chesterfield. Then on our last April 12th game before today we forced a goalless draw at Northampton Town on Easter Monday 1993 as we battled for a place in the renamed Division Three playoffs.

One of our former



During the past fortnight while the children have been on holiday from school, enjoying the Easter Holidays we have been holding our regular "Soccer Schools" throughout the area. We held two here at Bescot Stadium, one at Ridgeway School, Chasetown and one at a new venue for us Chads Moor Junior School at Cannock. All four "Soccer Schools" were very successful and attended by over two hundred children.

Another one of our successful activities is our birthday parties. During the past two weeks we have had no less than seven birthday parties for children here at Bescot. They are excellent value, you can provide your own food or have it provided for you at a very reasonable price. For more details contact me here at Bescot.

A warm welcome today to the Junior Supporters from Luton Town who are our guests today. They are coming along to take part with the Junior Saddlers at our Saturday Club and at half time we will once again be having a half time shoot-out.

Enjoy today's game and our half-time 'shoot-out'.

Mike Kearns.



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# on this day

League.

We suffered another heavy defeat, 4-0 at home to Tranmere Rovers in Division Three (North) on April 12th, 1924, but then after moving into Division Three (South) three years earlier we beat Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0 at Hillary Street on April 12th, 1930 with goals from Albert Walters and Johnny Eyres.

We didn't play on April 12th in any of the wartime seasons, but in the first season of 'normal' football we went down 3-0 at Cardiff City's Ninian Park on April 12th, 1947. This was just four days after we had won 8-0 at Northampton Town, but the Bluebirds beat us 3-0 in

April 12th, 1958, but two years later we romped home 4-2 at Oldham Athletic en route to the Fourth Division Championship with Colin Askey, Roy Faulkner and Colin Taylor (2) getting our goals. We then had to wait another 15 years before we played on April 12th again, being held to a goalless draw by Plymouth Argyle at Fellows Park in Division Three on April 12th, 1975 in front of a healthy late season gate of 7,404. Two years later another Third Division game ended goalless at Oxford United and in our Fourth Division promotion season we forced a 1-1 draw at Huddersfield Town on April 12th, 1980. Don Penn

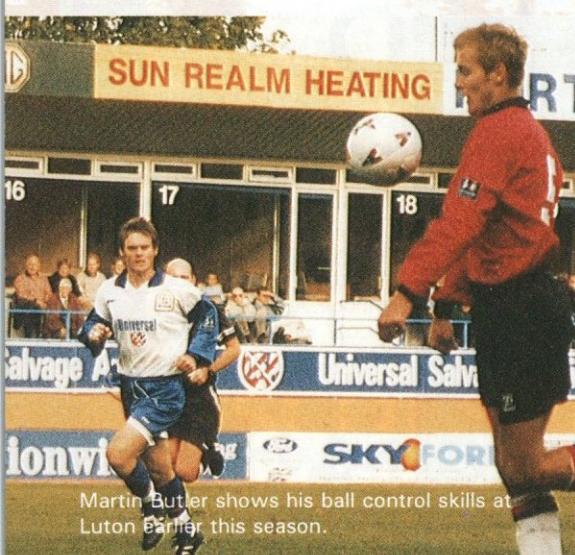
players Ally Brown celebrated his 46th birthday today. After distinguished service with Leicester City, West Bromwich Albion and Crystal Palace he had a very useful 1983/84 season with us, scoring 15 goals in 47 games, netting the matchwinner in our 2-1 Milk Cup win at Highbury. After just one season he moved to Port Vale and more recently he has been an Aldridge publican.

In the wider world former World Cup skipper Bobby Moore was born on April 12th, 1941. American President Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12th, 1945 and Russia's Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on April 12th.

## Check Team Check Team Check

- 1 James WALKER
- 2 Mark BLAKE
- 3 Ian ROPER
- 4 Adrian VIVEASH
- 5 Martin BUTLER
- 6 Derek MOUNTFIELD
- 7 Andy WATSON

- 8 John KEISTER
- 9 Kyle LIGHTBOURNE
- 10 Kevin WILSON
- 11 John HODGE
- 12
- 13
- 14



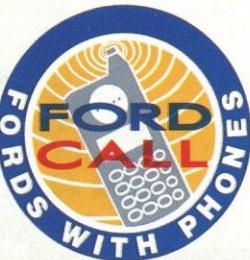
Martin Butler shows his ball control skills at Luton earlier this season.

## Check Team Check Team Check

- 1 Ian FEUER
- 2 Julian JAMES
- 3 Mitchell THOMAS
- 4 Gary WADDOCK
- 5 Steve DAVIS
- 6 Marvin JOHNSON
- 7 Ceri HUGHES

- 8 Graham ALEXANDER
- 9 David OLDFIELD
- 10 Tony THORPE
- 11 Paul MCLAREN

ANDY KIWOMYIA 1



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