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Official matchday programme

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FOOTBALL CLUB**

2

v BRISTOL ROVERS

Nationwide League Div Two - Saturday, December 20, 1997 - Kick-Off 3pm



From the manager's chair

LAST Saturday's result against Chesterfield saw us extend our unbeaten run away from home, in a game which we controlled for most of the time.

We restricted Chesterfield to two or three clear cut chances, and created three or four good ones of our own, and the only disappointment was our failure to score the goal.

I feel certain that had we managed to take even one of the chances we created, we would have won 1-0 against a team who were fourth in the league at the time of the game, although to be fair to Chesterfield their recent home performances have left something to be desired.

We were solid and professional, and did everything but win the game.

The last home match against Gillingham seems a long time ago now, and although we found ourselves in a customary situation of being a goal behind with half an hour to go, this time we managed to stage a spirited rally which earned a point - and I felt we were only narrowly denied a victory.

Again in fairness, Gillingham's results have not been inspired in the last few weeks, but more so at home rather than away in their case.

Today we turn our attentions to Bristol Rovers, and welcome their players, supporters and officials to Kenilworth Road.

When I saw Rovers beat Gillingham about three weeks



with **LENNIE
LAWRENCE**

ago, they looked an excellent footballing outfit, with a good cutting edge, and thoroughly deserved their victory.

Since then they seem to have walked under several ladders, and have lost at Wigan in a now infamous game where they had four players sent off, and then lost 4-0 at home last Friday to an in-form Grimsby Town team.

Much has been made of the wisdom or otherwise of the sendings off in that game at Wigan, and the fact that they will subsequently be without those four players today.

Nevertheless, the four that will replace them will want to do their best for Bristol Rovers and themselves, to try and establish a place in the first team.

Whilst it certainly isn't any harder than it would normally have been, there is no reason to suppose that Bristol Rovers will not be as committed to

their cause as would normally be the case.

Obviously we are in dire need of three points, and this presents us with as reasonable an opportunity as we are going to get.

If we were able to then follow up with victory here next Friday against Northampton, then we would be well and truly on the road to recovery.

Much has been said about the performance of the players in recent weeks, and of the manager, but any team that can show the skill and commitment we have shown in recent away games should not have their desire called into question.

What we obviously need to do is transfer that to home games - starting today.

There will be one or two changes to the team this afternoon in order to give us a better attacking balance, and of course there is one changed forced upon us through injury.

Julian James suffered a medial knee ligament injury in the first five minutes at Chesterfield, and will not return to first-team action for at least six to eight weeks.

This is a blow to Julian and to the team, as he was finding his best form.

Darren Patterson will return in his place after various injuries, and it is up to him to make the position his own in Julian's absence.

Elsewhere on the injury front, Marvin Johnson and Phil Gray have returned from Lilleshall and should be able



to rejoin training at the end of next week.

Hopefully they can both play in a reserve match in the first week of January.

Paul Showler is also back in training, and hopefully by the second Saturday in January we should have a full squad to

select from - Julian James apart.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish all supporters and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you on Boxing Day.

ABOVE: Stuart Douglas evades the tackle of Chesterfield's Mark Williams (5) during last week's 0-0 draw at Saltergate. More action on pages 16 and 17.

see every goal

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Gillian Michael B.Sc. (Hons)
S.R.Ch.

Wanderer

Small back at Bolton

DEFENDER Bryan Small has returned to Bolton Wanderers at the end of a three-month loan spell.

The former Aston Villa and England Under-21 fullback played a total of 15 league games, but a permanent deal to keep him at Kenilworth Road wasn't able to be finalised.

His departure coincided with Mitchell Thomas' return to fitness, but with a fresh injury to right-back Julian James.

Lennie Lawrence will doubtless have covered all the permutations on the previous pages, and there's a full injury round-up on page 29.

Meanwhile it's a belated welcome to another loan signing Chris Allen, who made his debut at York after signing for a month from Nottingham Forest.

Supporters might be interested to know that Matt Bryant, the Gillingham player who was sent off in the closing stages of our last home match, has had his red card reduced to a booking by the referee.

Paul Taylor viewed a video of the match, and agreed to change his initial verdict.

Congratulations to the youth team on their progress to the third round of the FA Youth Cup.

Match details can be found on pages 32 and 33, with details of the

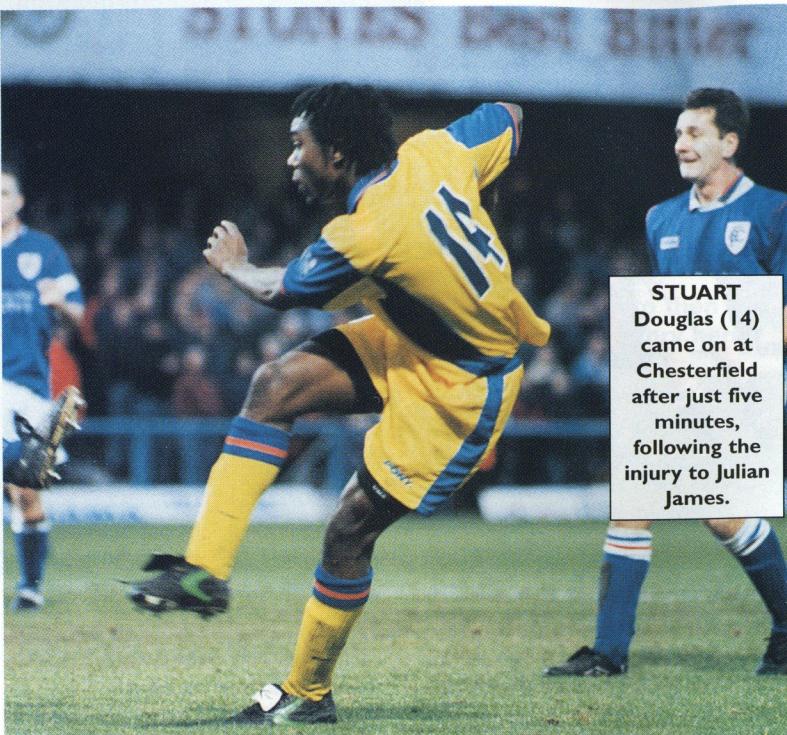
SAFETY NOTE

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

It is the policy of the Chairman and Directors to ensure that the conditions set out in the General Safety Certificate, issued under Safety at Sports Ground Act 1975 are fully complied with.

It is the club's policy to provide at any activity sufficient and competent staff and management systems to ensure as far as humanly possible, for the safe admission, accommodation, and exiting of spectators attending the stadium. These systems will be subject to continual monitoring, testing and updating where necessary.

In the interests of public safety, the safety authority (Beds County Council) have imposed a NO SMOKING restriction in and beneath our main stand. Your co-operation is appreciated.



STUART Douglas (14) came on at Chesterfield after just five minutes, following the injury to Julian James.

forthcoming game against Tottenham hopefully confirmed on page 8.

page 390 on Ceefax - the BBC's teletext service, where there is now a local sports section featured.

It's local in so much that it's the Look East region, but news is fed to the main Ceefax office via local radio stations on the overall BBC computer, so any item featured on BBC Three Counties should find its way onto Ceefax.

Finally, a reminder that Christmas print deadlines mean that some information in today's, and indeed Boxing Day's, match programme may not be as up-to-date as usual.

Apologies for any inconvenience. - SIMON OXLEY.

The Football League have also asked us to point supporters in the direction of

FRONT COVER: Mitchell Thomas returned to the Luton starting line-up last Saturday at Chesterfield, after a three-month absence through injury.

(Picture: GARETH OWEN).

LUTON TOWN FC MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club.

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STEVO

Club Captain's Corner with STEVE DAVIS



LEFT: Steve Davis gets the above the Gillingham defence to head the opener in the 2-2 draw against the Kent side in our last game at Kenilworth Road.

Training just recently has been very hard work, the pitches are beginning to get heavy and due to us having no midweek games the 'lung buster' running sessions have been quite frequent. Some of the lads can handle the running no problem. Whitey can run all day, as can David Oldfield. Yours truly however can do it, but carrying 14 stone around can be hard work can't it Macca!!

It has been well documented about all the changes that have taken place just recently at the club.

I would like to say on behalf of all the lads, "Good luck" to Wayne Turner who left a couple of weeks ago. The ultimate enthusiast, Wayne loved coaching and has played a big part in the development of a lot of the young lads at the club, notably Tony Thorpe.

I'm sure he'll get fixed up sooner rather than later and will be a great asset to someone's club.

In the meantime, Trevor and the Gaffer have taken training and the new ideas have been refreshing, and John Moore's experience has been invaluable.

A change at a club usually occurs when things aren't going too well, and Wayne's departure has given everyone a kick up the backside, and made people think what we are doing just isn't good enough.

It's unfortunate that someone had to be sacrificed to make us realise.

Last, but by no means least, from all the playing staff, we hope you have a good Christmas and New Year, with nine points and no headaches!

FOR THE LATEST NEWS - CLUBCALL 0891 121 123

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times

FIRSTLY an apology to all supporters in the enclosure that their seats were not wiped dry before the last home match. Apologies for any discomfort and inconvenience caused.

Now on to fixture news. We have agreed to change our Avon Insurance Combination game with Oxford from Wednesday, March 25, to Tuesday, March 24, kick-off 7.15pm, with the venue now the Manor Ground.

Another Combination change is for our home match with Tottenham which has changed to Wednesday, January 7, kick-off 7pm. The venue remains Hitchin Town, and our thanks to all at Top Field for agreeing to that change.

The Times FA Youth Cup third round match against Tottenham will take place here at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday, January 14, kick-off 7pm.

Admission will be £3.50 for adults, and £1 concessions, with the main stand and enclosure open. It will be pay on the night only.

We have received several enquiries relating to the kick-off time of our match with Northampton on Boxing Day, which is 3pm rather than 11.30am which has been the case for

GROUNDSTAFF REQUIRED
The LTFC groundsman requires additional help at home team matches. Anyone over 16 who is interested should contact the Club Secretary on (01582) 411622.

From the secretary's chair



with **CHERRY
NEWBERY**

home matches in recent seasons.

This appears to be a case of not being able to please all the people all the time, as previously we have received requests for Christmas matches not to be in the morning!

There is a collection around the

HELP FOR HAPPY HARRY
Our club mascot Happy Harry requires an assistant for matchday work, and anyone interested should contact the Club Secretary on (01582) 411622.

ground today in aid of the Mayor of Luton's Christmas Appeal.

I am delighted to advise you that we have been able to obtain funding to purchase a new system for the blind and deaf to receive commentary of the matches, and all we need now is a match commentator. If you feel you can help, please contact me at the club. Experience is not essential.

Finally, it is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of Cyril Waller, a loyal supporter, who worked for many years as an Executive Steward at the club. All at Luton Town extend sympathies to his family and friends at this time.

DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

Calling all doctors! (Medical that is) We need additional doctors to be on standby on a matchday. If you can help contact the Club Secretary on (01582) 411622.

TOWN TEASER

Former Town midfielder Chris Kamara is now manager at Bradford City. David Pleat signed him for the Hatters in 1991, but from which club?

Listen out for the PA announcer asking this question this afternoon.

Bobbers Travel Club - Coach Travel 1997/98

Date	Destination	Adult	Child/OAP	Depart Cranfield	Depart Luton
Sun Dec 28	Millwall	£6.00	£5.00	11.00am	12 noon
Sat Jan 3	Southend	£7.00	£5.50	10.30am	11.30am
Sat Jan 17	Oldham Athletic	£12.00	£10.00	8.30am	9.30am
Sat Feb 7	Wrexham	£11.00	£9.00	9.00am	10.00am

Coaches from Cranfield pick up additionally at the following places: Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and opposite the Luton Gateway Hotel. All coaches then depart from the junction of Hazelbury Crescent and Kenilworth Road.

To book: 1) From the ticket kiosk in the Kenilworth Road turnstiles. See BTC co-ordinator Paul Deason before any Saturday 1st team home match between 2.15 and 2.45pm. (NB No bookings taken at midweek matches). 2) On the return journey from the previous away game. 3) Telephone Paul Deason on Bedford 01234 750996. Membership of the Bobbers Travel Club is £1 for adults and 50p for children/OAPs.

Luton Town v Northampton Town

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
Friday, December 26, 1997, kick-off 3pm

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

Millwall v Luton Town

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
Sunday, December 28, 1997, kick-off 3pm

Pay on the day only at the New Den.
Covered seats for visiting supporters, behind one goal.
Prices: £10 for adults and £6 for juniors and senior citizens.

Southend United v Luton Town

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
Saturday, January 3, 1998, kick-off 3pm

North Bank Family Stand
Tickets for this area can only be purchased up until Wednesday, December 31, 1997, at 4pm, from the ticket office in Kenilworth Road. Tickets for the Family Stand will not be on sale on the day at Southend.

Prices: £8.00 for adults, and £4.00 for juniors and senior citizens.
Tickets in the Family Stand can only be purchased by adults or senior citizens accompanying juniors from the same family.

North Bank Stand - covered seats behind the goal

Pay on the day only.
Price: £10 - no concessions.

(The LTFC ticket office will be open on Saturday, January 3, 1998 for the sale of other match tickets between 10am and 1pm).

Luton Town v Brentford

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD - SECOND ROUND
Tuesday, January 6, 1998, kick-off 7.45pm

Unreserved seating. Pay on the turnstiles on the night. Cash only.

Prices: £5.00 for adults.
£1.00 for Juniors/Senior Citizens.

Please note the only areas that will be open will be the Main Stand, Main Stand Enclosure, and the Kenilworth Lower Tier.

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 10am to 4pm. Fridays: 10am to 6pm.
Saturday (matchdays): 9am to 3pm, and 4.45 to 5.15pm.

Saturday (non-matchday): Subject to change, please contact ticket office on 416976.

**NB: OPENING HOURS FROM DECEMBER 1ST TO 24TH ARE AS FOLLOWS: MONDAY TO THURSDAY: 10AM TO 5PM.
FRIDAYS: 10AM TO 6PM. SATURDAY (matchdays): AS NORMAL. SATURDAY (non-matchday): 10AM TO 5PM.**

For bookings, membership and enquiries, ring the ticket office direct on (01582) 416976.

Supporters wishing to order by credit card can do so by using the 24-hour credit card hotline on (01582) 730748.

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SOUTHEND UNITED
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Exit M25 at junction 29 (s/p Romford, Basildon, Southend A127). At motorway roundabout turn left (s/p Basildon, Southend A127) onto the A127. Carry straight on for 20 miles, passing The Bell pub on the LHS, then a KFC restaurant. At next roundabout, turn right (s/p Town Centre A127) into Victoria Avenue, and Roots Hall is on the RHS after 0.6 miles. NB: The Fish House, on the corner of East Street and Victoria Avenue, is one of the most highly recommended chip shops in the Nationwide League!

Editor's note: Directions courtesy of FOOTBALL FAN'S GUIDE, an excellent publication with directions to, and full details of, every ground in the Premiership and Football League. Copies of this seasonally updated book are available in the club shop.

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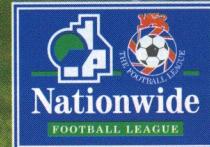
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Hatters draw Brentford in Auto Winds'ns Rd 2

LUTON Town have been drawn at home to fellow Division Two side Brentford in the second round of the Auto Windscreens Shield.

Both sides received a bye to the second round stage, with matches to be played in the week commencing January 5, 1998.

Among the first round losers were Division Two leaders Watford, with a very much under-strength Hornets side going down 1-0 at Fulham.

Brentford have already visited Kenilworth Road this season in the league, losing 2-0 to goals from Graham Alexander and Tony Thorpe in October.

But since that visit, they have had a change of manager, with former Fulham

boss Micky Adams taking over at Griffin Park following the departure of Eddie May and Clive Walker.

Luton have never gone beyond round two of this competition, having gone out to Northampton at this stage in our first ever appearance in the competition last season.

The Hatters beat Leyton Orient 2-1 in the first round, before going down 1-0 to a last minute goal from Matthew Rush at the Sixfields Stadium.

See page 9 for full ticket details for the second round tie at home to Brentford.

Full second round draw:

Southern section:

Fulham v Wycombe Wanderers

LUTON TOWN v Brentford
Walsall v Brighton
Bournemouth v Leyton Orient
Swansea v Peterborough
Northampton v Torquay
Bristol City v Millwall
Exeter v Bristol Rovers

Northern section:
Blackpool v York City
Grimsby v Hull City
Mansfield v Wrexham
Wigan v Rotherham
Carlisle v Rochdale
Burnley v Notts County
Macclesfield v Preston
Hartlepool v Scunthorpe

This is the fourth season that Auto Windscreens, the UK's leading automotive vehicle glazing company, have sponsored the competition, and their commitment to the development of league football in Divisions Two and Three has been demonstrated by agreeing to invest over £1 million through to the year 2000.

The format once again involves a northern and southern section, with the first round involving 32 clubs, and the remaining 16 receiving a bye into the second round.

The second round, area quarter-final, and area semi-finals follow, with the area finals played over two legs on a home and away basis.

The competition final is at Wembley on Sunday, April 19, 1998.



ABOVE: Tony Thorpe is pictured during October's 2-0 league victory over Brentford at Kenilworth Road. Thorpe netted Luton's second goal, after Graham Alexander had given the Hatters a first-half lead.

Many thanks for the large number of photographs which show you the supporters proudly displaying the Luton colours in various parts of the world. (There will be a prize for the most obscure, or any with celebrities in!) Please keep sending them!

This feature will resume in the New Year. Photos should be sent to: The Programme Editor, c/o Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW.

Requests for penpals, programme swaps etc. can also be forwarded. (NB Please enclose SAE for return of photos).

FOR THE LATEST NEWS - CLUBCALL 0891 121 123

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times



Back row: I to r: Peter Beadle, Andy Collett, Andy Tillson, Shane Higgs. Second row from back: Jon French, Matthew Hayfield, Jason Perry, Brian Gayle (no longer at the club), Steve Foster, Julian Alsop. Third row: John Trollope (Centre of Excellence Director), Phil Kite (Physio), Lee Zabel, Barry Hayles, Dave Pritchard, Tom White, Matthew Lockwood, Graeme Power, Lee Martin, Justin Skinner, Rod Wesson (Director of Youth). Front row: Roy Dolling (Youth Development Manager), Steve Parmenter, Josh Low, Phil Bater (First Team Coach), Ian Holloway (Player/Manager), Tom Ramasut, Jamie Cureton, Gary Penrice, Frankie Bennett, Ray Kendall (Kit Manager).



ABOVE: Steve Parmenter

Grounds for concern, as Rovers dream of new home

FOR over half a century now, Bristol Rovers have been a club without a ground of their own. They had played at five different venues before the purchase of Eastville and in 1932 the directors granted a 21-year lease to the Bristol Greyhound Racing Association to operate race meetings twice a week at the stadium.

In March 1940, with the club's financial position in a precarious state, Eastville was sold to the greyhound company for £12,000, a decision which, with the benefit of hindsight has cost the club dearly.

In 1980, the south stand at the ground was destroyed by fire and six years later, faced with mounting debts and an increase in the rental for Eastville, Rovers moved to

Bath to share Twerton Park with the Vauxhall Conference side. During 10 years in exile, the club worked desperately hard to find a new site for a ground back in Bristol, without success.

However, a move back to their home city was achieved in August 1996, when Rovers entered into another ground-sharing agreement, this time with Bristol Rugby Club at The Memorial Ground.

Although a 25-year lease has been signed with the rugby club, Rovers are still actively pursuing the dream of moving to a purpose-built stadium of their own.

Though that will not be realised until the 21st century, the club, for the present, are glad to be back home and are looking to increase their support.

SPOTLIGHT ON TODAY'S VISITORS

Rovers players received red cards.

TOM WHITE - Joined the club as a 14-year-old, playing in the youth team whilst still at school. Made his league debut in 1995, but suffered with injury before claiming a first-team place in the centre of defence in the second half of last season.

LEE MARTIN - Former Manchester United and Celtic defender, who scored the winner for United in the 1990 FA Cup Final replay against Crystal Palace. Has recently returned from a loan spell at Huddersfield.

GRAEME POWER - Former England schoolboy and youth international who joined the club from QPR. Still recovering from a dislocated shoulder suffered on the opening day of the season.

STEPHEN FOSTER - Formerly with Mansfield, Telford and Woking, he joined Rovers from the latter just days after playing in the FA Trophy Final in May 1997, when Woking beat Dagenham 1-0.

JASON PERRY - Full and Under-21 international for Wales, who signed for Rovers in the summer. Made 283 league appearances in ten years at Cardiff, but as one of the 'Wigan Four' will be suspended this afternoon.

JOSH LOW - Another product of the Rovers youth set-up, he has been with the club since the age of 12. Made a brief debut as a last minute sub on the final day of the 1995/96 season, but suffered a knee injury last season that sidelined him for three months. Welsh youth international, but is another ruled out by suspension today.

MATTHEW LOCKWOOD - One of three former QPR players recruited by Ian Holloway in the summer of 1996, he enjoyed a successful first season at Rovers in midfield. Played 39 times in the league last term, usually in central midfield, but also on the left and at left back.

(Continued on page 14).

ANDY COLLETT - Middlesbrough-born goalkeeper who signed schoolboy forms for his hometown club, but found first-team opportunities limited in the north-east. Joined Rovers on loan in 1994 and made a permanent move on deadline day 1995. Missed only two games last season and was voted Player of the Year by the Rovers supporters.

SHANE HIGGS - Goalkeeper who signed professional for the club in 1995. Made his Rovers league debut in November 1996, and also enjoyed a spell on loan at York in the 95/96 season.

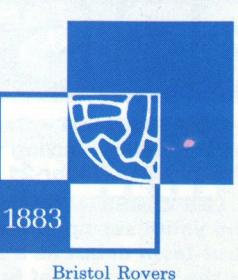
DAVID PRITCHARD - Defender who began his career with West Brom, making his league debut in September 1991. Was released a year later and joined Vauxhall Conference side Telford United, but was signed by Rovers for £20,000 in February 1994. Has returned to first team action after a lengthy absence with a serious knee injury, but is likely to be one of several players suspended today following a sending off at Wigan.

ANDY TILLSON - Centre-half who joined Rovers in November 1992 for a club record fee of £370,000 from QPR. He played for Kettering in the Conference before joining Grimsby in 1988, signing for QPR two years later for £500,000. First-team opportunities were limited at Loftus Road, and although he began his Rovers career in a 5-1 defeat at Wolves, a few weeks later he skippered the side for the first time in a 4-0 win over neighbours Bristol City. Another likely to be suspended following the game at Wigan when four



LEFT: Former Gillingham, Spurs and Watford striker Peter Beadle.

See page 20 for Bristol Rovers stats for the current season.....



Bristol Rovers

TOM RAMASUT - Cardiff-born midfielder who joined Rovers from Norwich, having won international honours for Wales from Under-15 to Under-21 level. Joined Rovers in September 1996.

LEE ZABEK - The latest recruit to the professional ranks from the youth set-up. Signed professional in July, having made his first-team debut as a second-half substitute, against Rotherham, in the final game of last season.

JONATHAN FRENCH - Former youth team captain who signed professional in July 1995, and skippered the reserve side for much of last season. Also played for Conference side Bath City during a two-month loan spell last term, and has played as a central defender, in midfield and up front.

GARY PENRICE - Joined Rovers in 1983, and made his first-team debut in 1985. Joined Watford in November 1989, and moved to Aston Villa for £1 million in March 1991. Just seven months later he was on the move again, to QPR, where he played alongside Ian Holloway, and had a further stint at Watford before rejoining Rovers in the summer of 1997.

MATTHEW HAYFIELD - With Chelsea as a schoolboy, before being taken on as a trainee by Rovers in July 1992. Made his league debut in 1995, but suffered two knee injuries, returning to first-team duty in November last year.

JUSTIN SKINNER - Joined Rovers from Fulham for a then record fee of £130,000 in August 1991. Made his Rovers debut against Newcastle, and earned himself a unique place in the club's history by becoming the club's first player to score on his league debut as a substitute. Has recently returned from a loan spell at Walsall.

JAMIE CURETON - Formerly with Norwich, and initially joined Rovers on loan in September 1996. Four goals in six appearances led to a permanent £250,000 transfer, and was voted Young Player of the Year by the Rovers supporters.

STEVE PARMENTER - Also signed from QPR by Ian Holloway in the summer of 1996, he had played for Cambridge and Ipswich as a schoolboy, before serving his apprenticeship at Southend. First-team opportunities were limited at Loftus Road despite eight goals in 16 reserve appearances, and he made his Rovers debut in a Coca-Cola Cup tie at Luton in August 1996. Established himself in the first-team in the latter stages of the 96/97 campaign.

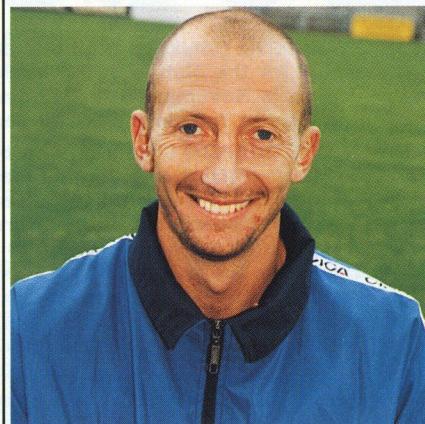
PETER BEADLE - Joined Rovers from Watford for £50,000 in November 1995, having started his career at Gillingham. From Kent he made a dream move to Tottenham, but unable to break into the first-team at White Hart Lane he had loan spells at Bournemouth and Southend, before a permanent move to Vicarage Road.

FRANKIE BENNETT - Joined Southampton from Halesowen in 1993, and after a loan spell at Shrewsbury he joined Rovers in 1996. A knee operation kept him out of contention until March 1997.

JULIAN ALSOP - Joined Rovers from Halesowen Town in February 1996, making his league debut against Luton. Six foot, four inch tall centre-forward, who won a regular starting place at the end of last season.

BARRY HAYLES - Former Stevenage striker who joined Rovers in the summer in a deal worth over £200,000. Played for the England semi-professional XI whilst at Broadhall Way, and scored 20 goals in the Conference last season despite a number of injuries. Speedy striker who has been a regular scorer so far this term.

MEET THE MANAGER



Now in his third spell with the club he joined as a youngster, IAN HOLLOWAY is, arguably, one of the most popular players ever to wear Rovers colours.

He made his debut in April 1981, with a substitute appearance against Wrexham, left to join Wimbledon for a £35,000 fee in July 1985, and nine months later moved on to Brentford who paid £25,000 to secure his signature.

He had a loan spell at Torquay before Gerry Francis brought him back to the club in August 1987, and it proved a shrewd move by Francis as he built a promotion-winning side around the influential midfielder.

The play-off final was reached in 1988/89 and one year later, Rovers clinched the third division championship and reached Wembley for the first time, losing to Tranmere in the Leyland Daf Cup.

When Francis left to take charge at QPR in 1991, one of his first signings for the London side was Holloway, who cost them a fee of £230,000. Ian went on to play 147 league games at the highest level, before being given the opportunity to rejoin Rovers as player/manager in May 1996, following the departure of John Ward.

Former Rovers player PHIL BATER is the club's first team coach. He first joined Rovers as an apprentice in 1973 and made his league debut a year later.

He moved to Wrexham in 1981, but rejoined Rovers two years later, and had made 310 league appearances in his two spells with the club before moving on to Brentford in June 1986. Initially returned, via local football, as a coach at the club's Centre of Excellence, and took on the first team role in March 1996.

Former Rovers goalkeeper PHIL KITE completes the backroom line-up. He is now the club physio, and combines that role with goalkeeping coach at the Centre of Excellence.

He is still registered as a player in case of emergencies.

The Hatters and The Pirates.....

TODAY we meet up with yet another club who have been regular opponents since the formation of Football League Division Three in 1920.

Rovers scored an early double over the Town, in our first season together, winning 2-1 at Kenilworth Road and 5-0 at Eastville before following it up with another pair of victories in the next campaign.

We finally broke our duck when Sid Reid scored the only goal of the game in the win at Kenilworth Road in 1922/23.

Things then started to go our way and we went eight seasons unbeaten at Eastville before going down 5-1 in 1930/31 and during the same period and, indeed, leading up to our eventual promotion in 1937, we remained unbeaten at Kenilworth Road recording eight victories along the way.

Among those twelve victories was the biggest in the club's history when Rovers were seen off 12-0 on Easter Monday 1936.

Much has been written about the game, with Joe Payne scoring ten goals in his first outing at centre forward for the club, the controversy over one of the goals and the sheer number of people professing to have seen the game when the recorded attendance was 'only' 14,296! Pity poor Rovers goalkeeper, John Ellis, who apparently played a blinder.

Paths did not cross from 1937 until Rovers promotion to the old Division Two in 1953, and in our first meeting for 16 years an Eastville crowd of 20,021 was treated to a goal feast with Jesse Pye, with two, and Bert Mitchell scoring in a 3-3 draw.

In the following campaign 30,623 were present at Eastville to see the Town go down 3-2 in a game that saw Terry Kelly make his debut. We gained our revenge later in the season when Charlie Watkins, making his farewell Town appearance before emigrating, scored both goals in a 2-0 win to virtually seal our promotion to the top flight.

Following our relegation from the old Division One five years later we met up again with the Pirates winning the game at Kenilworth Road 4-2 after being two goals down, but losing out 4-1 at Eastville where Seamus Dunne made his final appearance for the Town.

Rovers suffered relegation at the end of the next campaign with their 2-0 defeat at Kenilworth Road late on confirming the demotion.

We followed them at the end of 1962/63 and in the next season we completed the double, winning 4-2 at Kenilworth Road with John O'Rourke hitting a hat trick, and 2-1 at Eastville where O'Rourke scored both Town goals.

We were relegated to the old Division Four in 1965, met up with Rovers again three years later before leaving them behind only for them to catch up again in



ABOVE: Dwight Marshall in action during last season's home win over Rovers.

by ROGER WASH

1975 for a six season spell. This latest spell was highlighted by an amazing finale to a game at Kenilworth Road over Easter 1976 when, with the game petering out to a dull 1-1 draw a young Ricky Hill was introduced to the Town fans as a substitute making his debut.

With his first touch he set up Brian Chambers for a goal to put us into the lead, and with his second nonchalantly stroked the ball home to put the game beyond doubt. He then turned to walk back to the centre circle, almost in embarrassment, but was quickly submerged by his team mates. A star was born!

During the period leading up to Rovers' relegation in 1981 highlights included a virtually flawless performance in a 3-1 home win in 1979/80, and a hat-trick from Brian Stein in a 4-2 victory at Eastville during the following campaign.

We then had to wait until 1992/93 before meeting up again but the two games during that campaign were instantly forgettable with a dull 1-1 home draw following a lacklustre 2-0 defeat on our only league trip to Twerton Park.

Last season saw a late Tony Thorpe penalty secure all three points in a 2-1 home win, while at the Memorial Ground we went down 3-2 with Gary Waddock scoring a rare goal against one of his former clubs, after another Thorpe penalty had given us a 1-0 lead.



ACTION STATIONS

Chesterfield 0 Luton Town 0

Saturday, December 13, 1997 - Nationwide League Division Two
Attendance: 4,358 *Pictures by Gareth Owen*

Pictures by Gareth Owen



David Oldfield takes the ball round Chesterfield keeper Billy Mercer, just before half-time, with Stuart Douglas going close from the resulting cross.

Mitchell Thomas, back in the team after injury, gets the better of the Spireites' Jamie Hewitt (2).

Stuart Douglas heads for goal from a second-half corner, and (inset) beats keeper Mercer, only for the shot to be cleared off the line.

On-loan Chris Allen challenges for possession at Saltergate.



It's.. TRIVIA TIME

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HALF TIME QUIZ

1. In which year was the offside law introduced?
2. Against which country did Denis Law make his Scotland debut?
3. From which club did Manchester United sign Peter Schmeichel?
4. Who finished third in the 1994 World Cup?
5. Which was the last British club to play in the World Club Championship?
6. In which year did Trevor Francis join Italian club, Sampdoria?
7. How much did Leeds United pay for Eric Cantona in 1992?
8. Which then third division club beat Arsenal in the 1969 League Cup Final?
9. Brazilians, Juninho, Emerson and -----, played for Middlesbrough last season, name the missing player?
10. When was the Charity Shield first played at Wembley?

Norm & Ec

by Norman Hood



HALF TIME QUIZ: 1. 1925; 2. Holland; 3. Norway; 4. Sweden; 5. Liverpool; 6. 1982; 7. £900,000; 8. Swindon Town; 9. Branford; 10. 1974.
WHAT A JUMBLE: Chris Farclough, Mark Bright, Ian Wright, Roy Aitken, Nobby Stiles, Robert Baggs, Mark Draper, Archie Gemmill and Tony Yeboah.
WHOSE CRESTS? Oxford United, Millwall and Nottingham Forest.
IDENTIKIT: Efan Ekioku, Henning Berg and Savio Milosevic.
HUG HRS CALORIFIC: Peter Utley, Roy Aitken, Nobby Stiles, Robert Baggs, Mark Draper, Archie Gemmill and

ANSWERS

This page is sponsored by the LTFC Community and Schools Programme - See pages 32 and 33 for more details

LUTON TOWN F.C. COACHING COURSES

Luton News LEADER 01582 411622 DUNSTABLE GAZETTE Observer



whose crests?

Name the three club crests featured in this montage

IDENTIKIT
Name the three players in this patchwork pic



HUG HRS CALORIFIC

MR KITH GRAB
ORIENT YAK
NIBBLES TOYS
WHAT A JUMBLE!
Unscramble the names of these ten players.
B ROBOT GEORGIA
CRIME MEGILLAH
VERVE STENTOR
DARKER PRAM
HYENA BOOTY



Today's mascot



This afternoon's Junior Hatters mascot is JOE ODDY, who attends Sellingcourt School, and plays for the school team. His favourite Luton player is Ian Feuer, and his other hobbies are cricket and fishing. Today's ballboys are STUART GRAY and LIAM SMITH.

DON'T FORGET TO POP INTO THE CLUB SHOP FOR A WHOLE RANGE OF GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS!

JUNIOR HATTERS NEWS

Happy Christmas to all Junior Hatters

A WARM welcome to Kenilworth Road to all Junior Hatters, for our final home game before Christmas. Thanks to everyone who attended the Junior Hatters Christmas Party on Monday evening, and look out for pictures from the party in our next home programme when we entertain Northampton on Boxing Day.

We would like to thank the following for their kind donations for the Christmas party: Luton Town Supporters Club, Hallmarks Coaches, Pepe's Fishbar, Seamounts Coaches, Co-operative Social Club, Asda - Wigmore Lane - Luton, GSB Tyre Services, Russell Cook, Eureka Newsagents.

Once again this season we are organising a number of special events for you, as well as trips to watch the Hatters away from home, and the popular Saturday Club for home matches.

The last Saturday Club before Christmas takes place prior to this afternoon's game, and there's the usual pre-match fun and games, with lunch, and a ticket for the match. A warm welcome to Bristol Rovers' Junior Pirates who have joined us for the Saturday Club today.

We have been on our travels to recent away games, with trips to York and Chesterfield, with a visit to Millwall planned for Sunday, December 28. At Chesterfield we played the Chesterfield Juniors in the morning, prior to lunch and then going on to watch the game in the afternoon.

For the game against Millwall we have been invited to join their juniors to watch the pantomime 'Babes in the Wood' which will be performed by a professional troupe, before going to watch the match. Tickets are £12 for adults and £10 for Junior Hatters, which includes coach fare and match ticket.



LEFT: Our Junior Hatters mascot for the home match against Gillingham was 12-year-old Jamie Dennis. He is pictured with the match officials and team captains prior to kick-off.



RIGHT: Lee Barker was our mascot for last Saturday's match against Chesterfield at Saltergate.

Hatters



v Pirates

1883

Who has played for Rovers

	A	G	C	Previous Clubs
Barry Hayles	22	9	3	Stevenage
17/5/72	5	2	1	
Gary Penrice	22	5	3	Watford QPR Villa
23/3/64	5	1		
Andy Collett	21	2		Middlesbrough
28/10/73	5			
Andy Tillison	21	1	(1)	QPR Grimsby
30/6/66	5			Kettering
Ian Holloway	16(3)	5		QPR Brentford Torquay
12/3/63	3	1		(L) Wimbledon
Jason Perry	16(1)	6(1)		Cardiff
2/4/70	Wales	4	2	
Brian Gayle	16	3(1)		Rotherham Exeter
6/3/65	2			Sheff Utd Ipswich
Jamie Cureton	15(4)	3	2	Wimbledon
28/8/75	Eng Yth	2		Norwich Bournemouth
Peter Beadle	14(4)	5	5	(L) Watford Tottenham
13/5/72		3(1)	1	Southend (L) Bournemouth (L)
				Gillingham

David Pritchard 14 3(1) Telford West Brom

27/5/72 4 2 QPR

Matt Lockwood 11 2 QPR

17/10/76 3(1) 1

Julian Alsop 10(6) 1 2 Halesowen

28/5/73 3 2

Tom White 9(1) 1

26/1/76 3 2

Steve Foster 8(2) 1 Woking

3/12/74 2 2

Tom Ramasut 7(5) 2 Norwich

30/8/77 Wales U21

Joshua Low 5(2) 1(1)

15/2/79 2(1)

Matt Hayfield 5 1

8/8/75 3

Frank Bennett 4(4) 1 Southampton

3/1/69 1(1) Shrewsbury (L)

John French 2(1)

25/9/76 2(2)

Steve Parmenter 1(3) QPR

22/1/77 Luke Basford 1

6/1/80 Shane Higgs 1

13/5/77 Graeme Power 1

7/3/77 Eng Yth 1

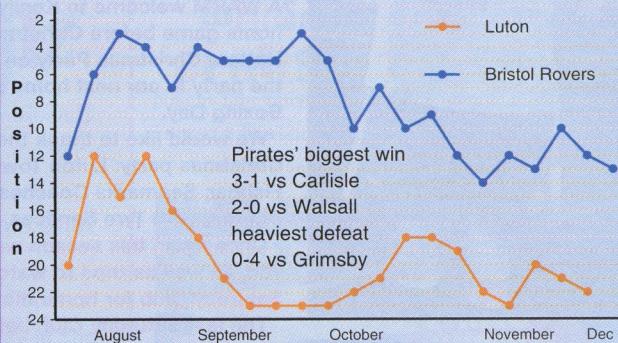
Lee Zabek 1(1)

13/10/78

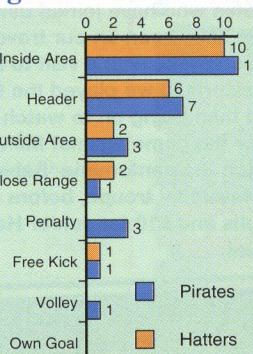
Compiled by
Football
Information
Services
Tel : 0151-
632-5679

Key : A=Appearances (Sub) C=Cautions (Sent Off) G=Goals
Cup details in italics

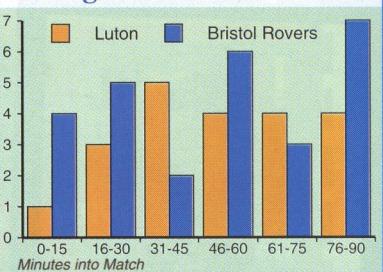
league positions so far this season



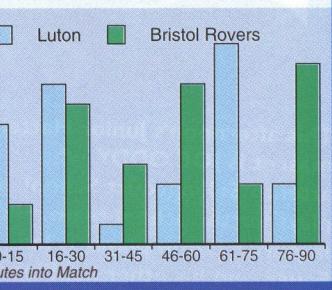
goals - how scored



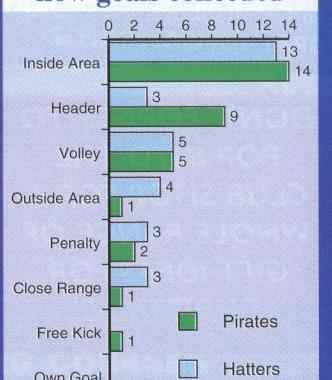
when goals have been scored



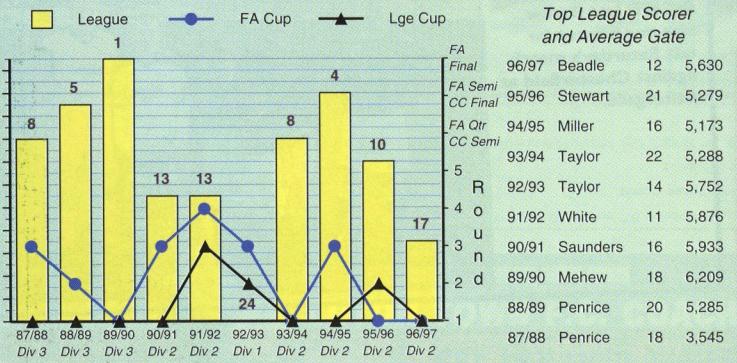
.. and when conceded



how goals conceded



Bristol Rovers' 10 year league and cup record



THE HATTERS



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ROVER METROS

96 (P) Rover 100 Knightsbridge SE 3dr, Dark Blue met, s/roof, 7,300 m.....£5,450

ROVERS

96 (P) Rover 214 L 5dr. Dark grey met, s/roof, PAS, 2,000 m.....£9,995

97 (P) Rover 214 5dr, Silver, dark grey interior, 3,100 m.....£9,495

97 (R) Rover 214 5dr, hatch, mid blue, del. mileage.....£9,495

96 (P) Rover 618 Si 4dr, Black, beige interior, elec s/roof, elec front win, PAS, 8,300 m.....£10,995

95 (N) Rover 416i 5dr, Turquoise met, s/roof, 15,100 m.....£8,995

96 (N) Rover 414 Si 5dr, Dark Grey met, s/roof, elec. win, 8,000 m.....£8,995

95 (N) Rover 416i 5dr, Turquoise met, s/roof, 15,100 m.....£8,995

96 (N) Rover 414 Si 5dr, Dark Grey met, s/roof, elec. win, 8,000 m.....£8,995

4x4s

96 (P) Range Rover 4.6 HSF 5dr. Dark green met, brown leather, climate control, cruise control, sunroof, e/windows, etc, 12,000 m.....£39,995

97 (R) Land Rover Discovery V8 LS 5dr, Bright Red, elec win, alloys, roof bars, delivery mileage.....£23,995

93 (L) Range Rover Vogue SE 5dr, Auto, Olive Green met, s/roof, a/c, leather interior, elec win, 42,500 m.....£17,995

95 (N) Land Rover Discovery V8 Auto, Dark Green met, elec win, 28,000 m.....£17,995

96 (P) Land Rover Discovery 5dr Man TD. Dark green silver met, elec windows, 2,100 miles.....£18,995

94 (M) Rover Vogue TD 5dr Man. Bronze met, s/roof, bull bars, tow bar, 38,000 m.....£18,995

96 (N) Subaru Impreza 2.0 4WD Turbo 5dr. Dark green met, elec windows, alloy wheels, PAS, c/locking, 6,800 m.....£16,250

FORDS

93 (K) Ford Mondeo 1.6 LX 5dr, Dark Blue, s/roof, elec. front win with only 35,200 m.....£6,250

94 (M) Ford Mondeo 2.0 Si 16V 5dr, Dark Green met, s/roof, alloys, boot spoiler, 53,000 m.....£7,994

96 (N) Ford Mondeo GLX TD 5dr, Dark Blue met, s/roof, elec front win, 12,000 m.....£9,995

95 (N) Ford Galaxy GLX 7 seat, Silver met, s/roof, 23,000 m.....£10,250

976 (R) Ford Fiesta 1.3 LX 5dr Man Hatch. Dark Red met, s/roof, elec f/windows, del mileage only.....£8,995

96 (N) Ford Mondeo LX 16V 5dr. Dark green met, s/roof, elec f/windows, 18,200 m.....£8,995

97 (P) Ford Mondeo 2.4 24v 4dr Man. Dark green met, e/sunroof, elec f/windows, boot spoiler, 6,000 m.....£10,995

98 (M) Mondeo 1.8 LX 16V 5dr Man Hatch. Silver met, s/roof, elec f/windows, tow bar, 37,000 m.....£9,995

96 (P) Rover 416i Saloon 3dr Man. Dark red met, s/roof, front elec windows, c/locking, 8,000 m.....£10,450

96 (N) Rover 420 GSi Tourer 5dr Estate Man. BRG, s/roof, alloy wheels, elec windows, half black leather, 15,700 m.....£11,495

97 (P) Rover 416 16V Tourer Auto. Dark green met, grey leather, alloys, air cond, s/roof, 6,000 m.....£12,995

96 (P) Rover 620 3d 4dr DSL. Bright red, s/roof, elec/win, 10,000 m.....£11,450

DAEWOO

96 (P) Daewoo Espero 2.0 Cdxi. Mauve grey metallic, elec s/roof, a/c, 12,000 m.....£8,995

96 (P) Daewoo Nexia 1.5 GLXi 5dr, Auto, Bright Red, a/c, PAS, s/roof £8,995

96 (P) Nexia 1.5 GL Xi 5dr, Cashmere beige, 9,859 m.....£8,495

OTHER QUALITY MAKES

93 (K) Renault Espace V6 3.0, Dark Red met, a/c twin s/roof, 7 seats, alloys, 58,000 m.....£12,995

96 (N) Daihatsu 1.3 GLXi 5dr Man. Lilac met, p/steering, c/locking, 7,000 m.....£7,950

95 (M) BMW 316i 5dr Man. White, s/roof, elec front win, FSH, 1 owner, 86,000 m.....£9,450

92 (J) Mercedes 5500 4dr Saloon. Gold met, beige leather interior, climate control, cruise control, elec seats, windows and s/roof, alloy wheels, 67,000 m.....£27,995

93 (K) Peugeot 106 Roland Garros 1.4 3dr, Dark Green met, half cream leather, alloys, s/roof, c/lock, elec win, 24,000 m.....£5,995

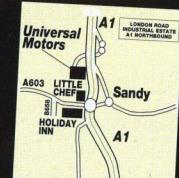
98 (M) Mondeo 1.8 LX 16V 5dr Man Hatch. Silver met, s/roof, elec f/windows, tow bar, 37,000 m.....£9,995

96 (P) Typical Finance Example

Cash price	£8,450.00
Deposit	£845.00
1 month (inc. admin fee) at.....	£253.29
47 months	£193.29
Total amount payable.....	£10,182.92

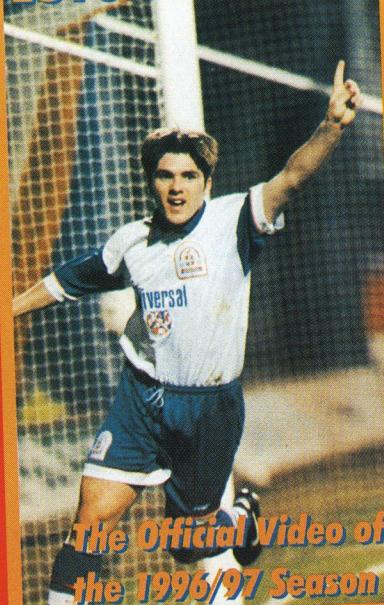
Finance subject to status written details on request

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LUTON TOWN FC



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IAN FEUER

Date of Birth: 20.5.71

Previous Clubs: West Ham, Peterborough (loan)

Joined Luton: December 1995 (£580,000 from West Ham - following three-month loan)

Ian signed for the Hatters from West Ham in December 1995, for a fee which could rise to £580,000 depending on appearances. The 6ft 7ins American arrived at Luton in September, and spent three months on loan. Was Luton's Player of the Year for the 95/96 season.

At West Ham 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 debut wasn't his league debut though, as he was on loan at Peterborough in 1994/95, playing 16 games in Division Two. Spotted by West Ham playing in Belgium, although he actually signed from Los Angeles Salsa.

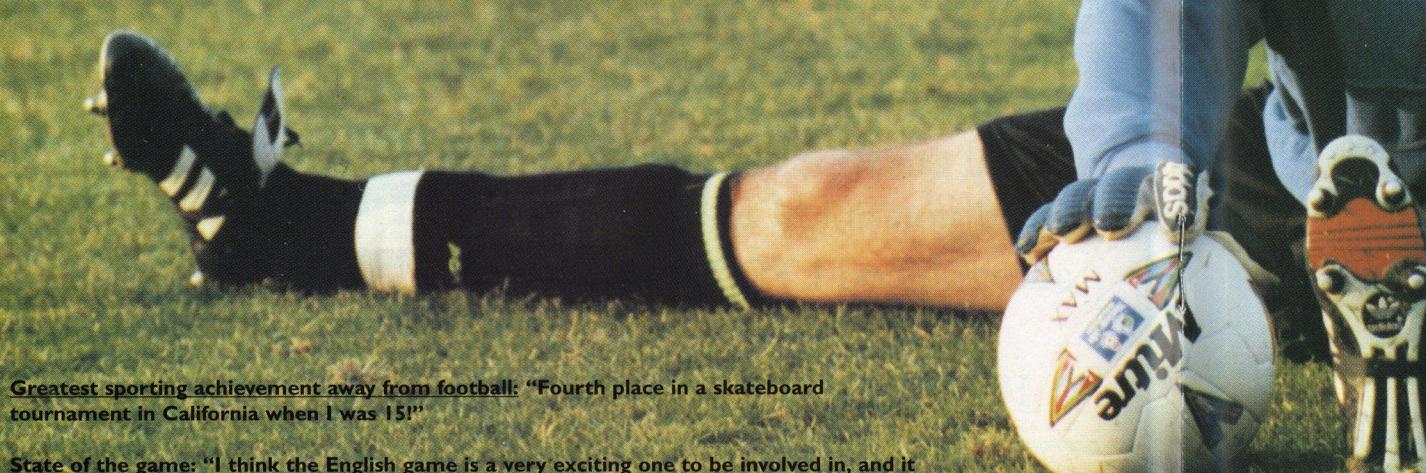
Regular for the Hatters in 96/97, but suffered a serious shoulder injury in August 1997.

Most memorable game: "For Luton last season's game at Gillingham stands out, when I saved a penalty in the last minute and we won 2-1. I would also have to mention playing for the USA in the 1992 Olympics against Italy at the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona, and playing for Los Angeles Salsa in the semi-finals of the US Championships. We won in a penalty shoot-out after I saved four out of five!"

Game I'd prefer to forget: "The play-offs in England last season against Crewe, and also my FA Cup debut at Grimsby - enough said! Also the final of the above US Championships when we led 1-0 only to concede an injury-time equaliser, and then lose in extra-time."

Which present-day player do you admire most? "Alan Shearer is a star player who still seems to keep his feet on the ground, and keeping working hard. Away from football my favourite sportsman would be basketball's Michael Jordan."

Premiership 'Dream Team': Peter Schmeichel; Gary Neville, Gary Pallister, Tony Adams, Julian Dicks; David Beckham, David Batty, Roy Keane, Ruud Gullitt; Ian Wright, Alan Shearer.



Greatest sporting achievement away from football: "Fourth place in a skateboard tournament in California when I was 15!"

State of the game: "I think the English game is a very exciting one to be involved in, and it would be nice to build a career in this country. As far as football as a whole is concerned, I think decisions from TV replays will come into the game - there is too much pressure for one man to make every decision, and as for rule changes..... leave the goalkeepers alone!"

Player Profile

Autograph



LTFC Community & Schools Noticeboard



Boost for DADDS



FOOTBALL Development Officer Dean Rastrick is pictured (above and right) making a presentation of a signed football to DADDS - Dunstable and District Disabled Sports, including youngsters from Weatherfield School.

Their sports include wheelchair football, swimming, football, basketball and putting, and over 60 people



regularly take part in the sessions at the Dunstable Leisure Centre.

The signed football will be included in a Christmas raffle to be drawn on Saturday, January 10, at the Dunstable Victoria Club. On this day DADDS are holding a 12-hour sponsored music and dance marathon to raise funds.



LTFC Stadium Tours

WE can't quite offer this sort of view of Kenilworth Road, but we can organise a tour of the stadium for your school or youth group.

Our stadium tours are aimed at school parties, youth teams, youth clubs, cub or scout groups.

There's the opportunity to visit the changing rooms, walk down the tunnel, and see behind-the-scenes at a Football League club.

The cost is £2.50 per person, and for more details please contact the Community and Schools Department.



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Contact Football Development Officer DEAN RASTRICK for any information regarding our Community and Schools Programme, on (01582) 411622.



CHRISTMAS COACHING COURSES

Courses for boys and girls aged 6 to 13 years..... Qualified LTFC coaches, supervised by Dean Rastrick (LTFC Development Officer)..... 10am to 2pm daily (except Dunstable which will run from 10am to 3pm)..... Please bring trainers as all courses will be indoor.....

All courses will cost £8 per day..... One and two-day courses.....
To book a place - CONTACT THE COMMUNITY & SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT on (01582) 411622

LUTON - Luton Regional Sports Centre, Stopsley
1) Friday, December 19 - Coaching
2) Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 - Coaching
3) Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30 - Coaching/Goalkeepers
4) Monday, January 5 and Tuesday, January 6 - Coaching/Strikers

DUNSTABLE - Dunstable Leisure Centre
1) Monday, December 22 and Monday, December 29 - Coaching

BLETCHELEY, MILTON KEYNES
- Bletchley Leisure Centre
1) Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 - Coaching

2) Monday, January 5 - Goalkeepers

LEIGHTON BUZZARD - Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre
1) Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 - Coaching
2) Monday, January 5 - Coaching

HOUGHTON REGIS - Houghton Regis Sports Centre
1) Tuesday, December 30 - Coaching



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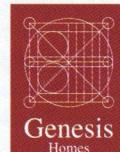
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INJURY UPDATE

Knee injury rules out Town fullback James

JULIAN JAMES faces a number of weeks on the sidelines after suffering a knee injury in the opening minutes of last Saturday's game against Chesterfield at Salfordgate.

Julian suffered medial ligament damage in his right knee - a similar injury to that which has kept Marvin Johnson out for some time.

Julian went for a scan to determine the full extent of the injury on Wednesday, and at the time of writing we were awaiting the results. But he is likely to be ruled out for six to eight weeks.

MARVIN JOHNSON himself has spent two weeks at Lilleshall recovering from his injury, and is now working on general fitness with a view to returning in the New Year.

PHIL GRAY has also been at Lilleshall, suffering from a back injury, and like Marvin is working at regaining full fitness.

There's better news of DARREN PATTERSON who played a full game for the reserves this week following his ankle and calf injuries.

RICHARD HARVEY was also in reserve action having recovered from a calf problem, and DWIGHT MARSHALL is back in training after a similar injury. Also back in full training is PAUL SHOWLER.

CHRIS WILLMOTT has now played a number of reserves games following his cruciate operation, with broken leg victim STEVE AUGUSTINE now starting early mobility exercises.

The break in fixtures after the match against Gillingham gave a number of players a chance to get over minor knocks, and came at the right time for ALAN WHITE who needed stitches in a cut on his cheekbone suffered against the Gills.



LEFT: Steve Augustine - recovering after a broken leg.



RIGHT: Mitchell Thomas - back in the first team last Saturday.



LEFT: Julian James - suffered a knee injury in the opening minutes at Chesterfield, which will sideline him for several weeks.

with CLIVE
GOODYEAR

Win tickets for YOUR junior team

FOR the third season in succession, the Loyal Luton Supporters Club are once again sponsoring the Young Team of the Month Award.

Having received a grant from NatWest Bank as part of the bank's Community Action Scheme, and through monies raised through the year, the supporters, in conjunction with Luton Town FC, have again funded the award.

The award is run on a monthly self-nomination basis, and is open to all teams, boys and girls, under the age of 16. Winners receive 15 tickets (13 children and two adults) for a chosen Luton home match.

Previous winners have included successful regional champions through to teams who have won their first point after two years of playing.

Anyone wanting to nominate their local youth, school, cubs or girls team, should send a letter to Simon Oxley, c/o LTFC, briefly explaining why they deserve to win one of the monthly awards. And remember, you only need to make one nomination. All remaining letters will be considered throughout the rest of the season.

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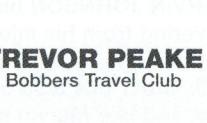
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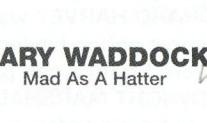
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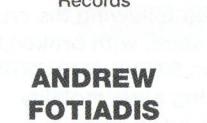
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LAST SATURDAY'S DIVISION TWO ROUND-UP

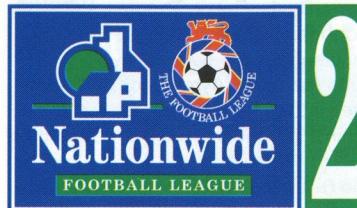
Honours even as top two battle out a 1-1 draw

BERMUDA international Shaun Goater scored his 14th goal of the season as **Bristol City** boss John Ward almost put one over on his old mentor Graham Taylor in last Saturday's top-of-the-table clash at Vicarage Road.

Watford and City finished level at 1-1 after Gifton Noel-Williams hit a late equaliser, but with the chasing pack all slipping up, City were left with a 12-point cushion to the third-placed club. Watford remained four points clear of City at the top.

Ward and Taylor, partners at Watford in Taylor's last spell there, and at Aston Villa, remain great friends.

Taylor said: "John is his own man now



and he has proved himself to be an able manager.

"There is a lot of talk about the influx of foreign managers and how English coaches are not getting the chances unless they are big names.

"Well, John has got the opportunity now, with an ambitious young

chairman, to go all the way at City. "If City had beaten us, I think I would have charged John and his wife for bed and breakfast at our house but, as we got the point, I will let them off."

At the bottom of the table, basement side **Carlisle** scored a shock 2-0 home win over big-spending **Fulham**, with two goals from Ian Stevens.

Fulham manager Ray Wilkins defended his club's on-the-field investment.

Wilkins said: "The new stand at Carlisle cost millions but we prefer to put that on the football field.

"If I was a supporter I would sooner see a football side on the pitch and sit in a rickety old stand.

"I just hope we are good enough to do both and take on the second phase of developing a new stadium, but against Carlisle we didn't play well as a unit."

Former Spurs and Leeds star David Kerslake made his debut for **Wycombe** on loan from Ipswich, as **Wanderers** beat **Oldham** 2-1 at Adams Park. Striker Keith Scott put Wycombe ahead with his eighth goal of the season. Stuart Barlow levelled, but Steve McGavin grabbed a late winner.

York returned to winning ways with a 1-0 home win over **Wrexham**, as skipper Tony Barras headed in a 62nd minute free-kick from Paul Stephenson. Young striker Jon Macken, formerly with Manchester United, took his chance after being called up for **Preston** at home to **Northampton**.

Macken has been in the reserves for the last two months after his summer arrival from Old Trafford, but was called up by manager Gary Peters when leading scorer Lee Ashcroft was injured. Macken responded with the winner after 56 minutes, in a 1-0 victory for the Lancashire side.

Millwall suffered their third successive league defeat with a 3-0 reverse at **Plymouth**. Simon Collins, Chris Billy and Carlo Corazzin were the scorers.

Defender Paul Watson made his debut for **Brentford** in a 3-1 home win over **Blackpool**, just 24 hours after a £55,000 move from Fulham.

Watson, bought by former Fulham boss Micky Adams, made a winning start after Blackpool had two players sent off. Referee Andy Hall, at 28 the Football League's youngest, dismissed Chris Malkin and Ben Dixon for second bookable offences after the break.

At that stage it was 1-1 with Andy Preece having put Blackpool ahead and Robert Taylor equalising. After the dismissals, former Spurs youngster Leon Townley netted twice to secure the Bees' first win under Adams.

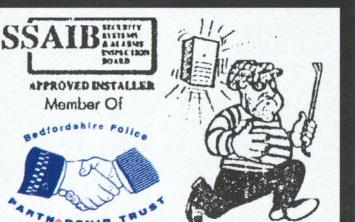
Walsall's French striker Roger Boli hit his 17th of the season in the 2-1 win over **Bournemouth**, and David Lee and Graeme Jones were the scorers as **Wigan** won 2-0 at Chris Waddle's **Burnley**.

Southend had gone out of the FA Cup with two players sent off at Fulham, and were then rocked by the news that midfielder Mike Marsh, 27, has been forced to retire with a persistent knee injury! But two injury-time goals gave them something to cheer with a 2-1 win at **Gillingham**. - **Simon Oxley**.

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RESERVES AND YOUTH ROUND-UP



Wed Aug 13	OXFORD UTD	drew 1-1
Thu Aug 21	Queens Park R	drew 1-1
Thu Aug 28	MILLWALL	won 3-1
Wed Sep 10	Tottenham	lost 3-0
Wed Sep 17	CRYSTAL PAL	lost 2-0
Wed Sep 24	WATFORD	won 3-1
Wed Oct 15	CHARLTON	lost 4-1
Mon Oct 20	Chelsea	drew 0-0
Mon Oct 27	Norwich City	lost 1-0
Wed Nov 5	Wimbledon	lost 2-0
Mon Nov 10	IPSWICH T	lost 3-0
Wed Nov 19	Southampton	drew 1-1
Mon Nov 24	Arsenal	lost 4-1
Thu Dec 4	Millwall	won 3-0
Mon Dec 8	SWINDON T	won 6-0
Tue Dec 16	Crystal Palace	2pm
Tue Dec 23	WEST HAM	2pm
Wed Jan 7	TOTTENHAM	7pm*
Tue Jan 13	West Ham	7.30pm
Wed Jan 21	Watford	7.30pm
Mon Jan 26	BRIGHTON	7pm*
Wed Feb 4	Charlton	2pm
Mon Feb 9	PORTSMOUTH	7pm*
Mon Feb 16	ARSENAL	7pm*
Wed Feb 25	QPR	2pm
Wed Mar 4	WIMBLEDON	2pm
Wed Mar 11	NORWICH	2pm
Mon Mar 16	Swindon	7.15pm
Tue Mar 24	Oxford	7.15pm
Wed Apr 1	SOUTHAMPTON	2pm
Wed Apr 8	Portsmouth	7pm
Wed Apr 15	Ipswich Town	7pm
Wed Apr 22	CHELSEA	2pm
TBA	Brighton	

Games in CAPITALS denotes home fixture. Home matches played at Kenilworth Road will kick-off at 2pm. * Denotes home match to be played at Hitchin, kick-off 7pm.

THE Town's reserve side has returned to winning ways, with wins over Millwall and Swindon.

The 3-0 win at the New Den came on December 4, with Stuart Douglas returning after injury to net two goals, with Liam George adding number three.

Team: Davis, Evers, Thomas, Willmott, Omogbehin, Davies, George, Kean, Douglas, Fotiadis, Sweeney.

Subs not used: Ayres, McKoy, Peake. The Hatters hit Swindon for six at Hitchin's Top Field ground on December 8.

The 6-0 win saw Andrew Fotiadis and Liam George both score twice, with Stuart Douglas and Matthew Spring also on the scoresheet.

Team: Abbey, Evers, Thomas, Willmott, Omogbehin, Davies, George, Kean, Douglas, Fotiadis, Spring.

Subs not used: Sweeney, Boyce, Lawes.

There have been a number of changes to the reserve team fixture list.

The home match against West Ham is to be played on Tuesday, December 23, with a 2pm kick-off at Kenilworth Road.

The away match against Swindon will now be played on Monday, March 16, kick-off 7.15pm.

We have also agreed to change our Combination match with Oxford from Wednesday, March 25 to Tuesday, March 24, with a 7.15pm kick-off, and that match will now be played at the Manor Ground.

And the home match with Tottenham

has now changed to Wednesday, January 7, with a 7pm kick-off - with the venue remaining Hitchin Town FC.

The youth team have maintained their top of the league position, have progressed in the South East Counties League Cup, and have made a splendid start to their Times FA Youth Cup campaign with a 4-0 win at Coventry.

The League Cup progress came courtesy of a 4-2 win over Swindon.

Team: Tate, Lawes, Fraser, Clarke, Howe, Boyce, Scarlett, Cox, Kandol, McIndoe, Jerry.

Subs: Akurang, Ayres, McKoy. That was followed by a 1-1 league

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

	P	W	D	L	E	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	11	5	1	44	11	38
Tottenham	17	11	4	2	36	18	37
Charlton	14	9	3	2	33	11	30
Southampton	16	7	6	3	30	17	27
C Palace	15	9	0	6	26	22	27
Norwich	18	6	8	4	19	20	26
Wimbledon	16	7	4	5	22	13	25
Millwall	16	6	4	6	15	22	22
Portsmouth	16	5	5	6	20	18	20
Oxford	16	5	5	6	21	33	20
QPR	17	5	4	8	23	24	19
Ipwich	15	4	6	5	23	27	18
Watford	16	4	5	7	15	28	17
LUTON	15	4	4	7	20	24	16
Chelsea	18	3	6	9	23	35	15
Swindon	16	4	2	10	20	32	14
West Ham	15	4	2	9	17	31	14
Brighton	13	1	3	9	12	33	6

League table up to and including 11.12.97

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION 1997/98 APPS & SCORERS (8/12/97)

	APPS	G		APPS	G
Nathan ABBEY	10		Haraldar INGOLFSSON	1	
Ian JONES	8		Marvin JOHNSON	2	
Richard HARVEY	9		Dwight MARSHALL	3	
Sean EVERES	12		Ian FEUER	2	
Gary DOHERTY	10	3	Steve AUGUSTINE	2 (1)	
Emerson BOYCE	6 (2)		Simon DAVIES	6	
Robert KEAN	14 (1)		Andrew FOTIADIS	4	2
Matthew SPRING	6 (3)	1	Stuart DOUGLAS	3 (1)	1
Andrew BARR	6	4	Mitchell THOMAS	5	
Liam GEORGE	7 (1)	5	Darren PATTERSON	2	
Terry SWEENEY	8 (1)		Phil GRAY	1	
Andre SCARLETT	(5)		Delroy MCKOY	1	
Michael McINDOE	2 (3)		Chris WILLMOTT	2 (2)	
Stuart FRASER	7 (3)		Tresor KANDOL	(1)	
Daniel TATE	1		Kelvin DAVIS	2	
Gavin McGOWAN	3	1	Steve DAVIS	1	1
Paul SHOWLER	2				
Alan WHITE	2				
Russell LAWES	3 (2)				
Colin OMBOGBEHIN	6				
S QUINN	2				
Trevor PEAKE	2 (1)				
Richard CLARKE	1 (2)				
M BLOCK					

draw at Bournemouth on November 29, when Jimmy Cox netted the Luton goal.

Team: Tate, Boyce, Ayres, Howe (Moran), Fraser, Scarlett, Clarke, McIndoe, Jerry (Harrington), Akurang (McKoy), Cox.

Following their semi-final place last season, the youth team made a cracking start to this season's FA Youth Cup campaign with a 4-0 second round win at Coventry.

They were 3-0 in front at half-time with goals from Gary Doherty, Michael McIndoe and Emerson Boyce, with Matthew Spring adding number four in the 90th minute.

Team: Tate, Lawes, Fraser, Spring, Clarke, Boyce, Scarlett, Cox, Doherty, McIndoe, Moses.

Subs not used: Kandol, Ayres, McKoy.

In round three, Luton will be at home to Tottenham, an at the time of writing no date had been confirmed. Please see page 8 for possible confirmation.

The youth team have since recorded a draw and a win from two league matches against Bristol Rovers.

The 2-2 draw came at home, with Gary Doherty netting both goals.

Team: Tate, Fraser, Stirling (Boyce), Clarke, Ayres, Scarlett, Akurang (Kandol), Doherty, McIndoe, McKoy.

Sub not used: Jerry.

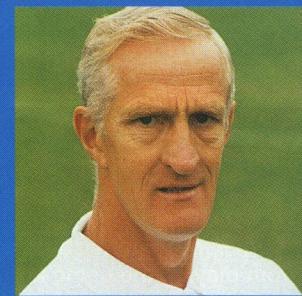
Last Saturday, saw a 1-0 away win, with Andre Scarlett scoring the only goal.

Team: Tate, Lawes, Fraser, Spring, Boyce, Ayres, Scarlett, Clarke, Kandol (Akurang), Doherty, Jerry.

Subs not used: Howe, McKoy.



with **TREVOR PEAKE**



and **JOHN MOORE**

South East Counties League, and League Cup; FA Youth Cup; Southern Jnr Floodlit Cup; and Eastern Jnr Cup

Sat Aug 9	WYCOMBE W	lost 1-0	Sat Dec 6	BRISTOL ROVERS	drew 2-2
Sat Aug 16	Reading	won 6-0	Sat Dec 13	Bristol Rovers	won 1-0
Tue Aug 19	Ipswich (SJFC Pre)	won 1-0	Sat Dec 20	Wycombe W	
Sat Aug 23	Swindon Town	won 4-2	Sat Jan 10	SWINDON TOWN	11am
Sat Aug 30	OXFORD UTD	won 5-1	Sat Jan 17	OxfordUnited	
Fri Sep 5	Barnet	won 4-2	Sat Jan 24	BARNET	11am
Tue Sep 9	C PALACE (SJFC1)	lost 1-0	Sat Jan 31	Brighton	
Sat Sep 13	Southend (SECLC1)	won 1-0	Sat Feb 7	BRISTOL CITY	11am
Sat Sep 20	BRIGHTON	won 8-1	Sat Feb 14	Brentford	
Sat Sep 27	Bristol City	drew 2-2	Sat Feb 21	SOUTHAMPTON	11am
Sat Oct 4	BRENTFORD	lost 1-0	Sat Feb 28	Tottenham	
Sat Oct 11	Southampton	won 3-2	Sat Mar 14	Wimbledon	
Sat Oct 18	Arsenal (SECLC2)	won 2-0	Sat Mar 21	Colchester	
Sat Oct 25	TOTTENHAM	won 1-0	Sat Mar 28	BOURNEMOUTH	11am
Sat Nov 1	READING	won 4-2	Sat Apr 4	WIMBLEDON	11am
Sat Nov 15	COLCHESTER	won 3-2			
Sat Nov 22	SWINDON (SECLC3)	won 4-2			
Sat Nov 29	Bournemouth	drew 1-1			
Wed Dec 3	Coventry (FAYC2)	won 4-0			

Games in caps denote HOME matches. Home league matches at Luton Rugby Club.

	P	W	D	L	E	A	Pts
LUTON TOWN	14	9	3	2	43	19	30
Brentford	15	7	6	2	29	17	27
Bristol City	13	8	3	2	26	17	27
Oxford	15	8	1	6	34	38	25
Southampton	14	7	2	5	33	23	23
Wycombe	13	5	5	3	21	13	20
Swindon	13	6	2	5	25	21	20
Colchester	15	5	5	5	24	24	20
Tottenham	15	6	2	7	21	28	20
Barnet	16	5	4	7	28	32	19
Wimbledon	13	5	3	5	27	29	18
Bristol R	15	3	4	8	30	36	13
Reading	13	3	4	6	19	26	13
Brighton	13	2	3	8	16	35	9
Bournemouth	15	1	5	9	20	38	8

League table as at December 6, 1997

	LGE APPS	G	CUP APPS	G
Daniel TATE	15		6	
Russell LAWES	10 (1)		6	
Stuart FRASER	10	1	6	
Matthew SPRING	6	4	4	1
Emerson BOYCE	9 (3)	3	4	1
James AYRES	11		1	
Andre SCARLETT	15	5	5	
Clifford AKURANG	6 (2)	3	2 (1)	1
Gary DOHERTY	4 (1)	3	2	1
Richard CLARKE	14 (1)		6	
Delroy MCKOY	7 (4)	1	2 (1)	2
Darren HOWE	5 (1)		2 (1)	
C DREW	(1)			
Michael McINDOE	12 (1)	3	6	1
Jimmy COX	9	6	5	
Tresor KAND				

Where are they now?



by ROGER
WASH

DURING this series of interviews with former players we have seen, in the most part, the player concerned enjoying a reasonable living from playing the game and able to take part in normal activities following retirement.

We focus this week on a player who had to retire from the game at the age of 26 and, nearly forty years later, still suffers from the legacy of his injuries.

Les Spencer was born in Manchester in September 1936, and turned out in local amateur football in Wythenshawe, combining playing with a job in a newspaper office.

One of his duties was paying the newspaper reporters and after constant pestering from Les one of the sports reporters eventually recommended him to Harry Catterick, then manager at

Rochdale, who invited him to a trial at Spotland.

"I played five times for the 'A' team, then had nine reserve outings before making my debut at home to Chester on 5th April 1958," he recalled.

"For the next two years I was virtually ever present playing firstly in the old Division Three (North), then in Division Three when clubs were split up in the summer of 1958 and then, following relegation, Division Four!"

Les was joint top scorer for Rochdale in 1958/59 with eight, and finished with nine in the following season playing in a side that included a mixture of elderly pro's on their way out and youngsters not quite ready for first team duty.

"The game at the lower levels was quite tough and intimidation was often used to unsettle the youngsters. I remember playing against Manchester United in a Lancs Senior Cup game on a waterlogged pitch and Stan Crowther, a seasoned old pro brought in by United as a stop gap following

the Munich disaster, asked me deadpan whether I could swim. I must say I kept away from him during the game."

Les caught the eye of Town scout George Martin while playing for Rochdale at Watford towards the end of the 1959/60 season, and on returning from his honeymoon that summer found a letter on his doormat asking him to report to Kenilworth Road for transfer talks. Les signed immediately, with the transfer being negotiated by Town Secretary Phil Coley as we were managerless at the time, and £4000 changed hands between the clubs. Shortly after Les signed for the Town we appointed Sam Bartram as manager, replacing Syd Owen who had left following our relegation at the end of the previous campaign.

From our conversation it became

apparent that Les did not really rate Bartram although he did feel that the Town side of the time, that was shortly to plummet down through the divisions, had the wrong balance of old and young players even before the new manager started.

"I made my debut for Luton in October 1960 in a home game against Bristol Rovers which we won 4-2 after being 2-0 down, and played a total of seven games leading up to Christmas including a 6-1 thrashing of Middlesbrough when we were four up at half time.

"In that match it was rumoured that Brian Clough had to be forced out for the second period as he was so disgusted by his team's performance.

"Before that particular game Sam Bartram came over to me in the changing room to give me a pep talk which consisted of telling me that I was up against Mick McNeill who was an international!"

After a promising start to his Kenilworth Road career Les then started to suffer from boils as well as



ABOVE: Les Spencer lines up for the Town's team photograph for the 1960/61 season. He is second left, in the third row from the back.

a pain in the groin. The normal treatment for this involved sessions under the heat lamp which in hindsight was the worst possible remedy as Les was suffering from an abscess in the hip joint which quickly turned to septicaemia.

Les then spent 18 months in a hip spiker, which meant plaster from neck to ankle and an abrupt end to his playing career.

"When my contract came to an end I decided to return to Manchester, but as I was still in plaster I had to be taken back up north lying down in a transit van as I could not sit up.

"The club organised a testimonial game for both

myself and David Brogan, whose career was ended by a badly broken leg, against an 'International Club X1' but on the night of the game it tipped down with rain thus cutting the attendance.

"I think that David and I shared £161 being the proceeds of the match."

Les returned to the newspaper office from where he started and an artificial hip joint, shortened leg and curvature of the spine later he still looks out for the Town's results and keeps in touch with a couple of his old Kenilworth Road team mates.

5 YEARS AGO

19/12/92: The Town drew 0-0 at home to Sunderland in front of a bored crowd of 8,286. At that stage in the season we had only one home win to our credit.

10 YEARS AGO

18/12/87: We slipped down to tenth position in the old Division One following a 2-2 draw with Southampton at Kenilworth Road. Mick Harford and Darren McDonough were the Luton scorers.

15 YEARS AGO

18/12/82: We slumped to our worst defeat of the season going down 5-0 to a Terry Curran inspired Everton at Goodison Park, before a crowd of 41,986.

20 YEARS AGO

17/12/77: It was now two months without a home win following a 1-1 draw with Mansfield, who were enjoying their only season in the old Division Two. Ron Fletcher was on target to spare our blushes.



Substitute Mitchell Thomas sees his injury-time effort go over the bar in the 2-2 draw against Gillingham.

Graham Alexander tries to force a late winner for the Hatters.

Tony Thorpe fires in his 11th goal of the season to level the scores, after Ade Akinbiyi's brace had put the visitors in front.

Let's dance! Don't expect to see them on 'Come Dancing', but messrs Davis and McLaren celebrate the former's opening goal.



ACTION STATIONS



Luton Town 2 Gillingham 2

(Davis, Thorpe)

(Akinbiyi 2)

Tuesday, December 2, 1997 - Nationwide League Division Two

Attendance: 4,408

Pictures by Gareth Owen



20% off your
Gas bill

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
MATCHES IN NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
DIVISION TWO

Friday, December 19

Fulham v Burnley
Oldham v Walsall
Southend v York

Saturday, December 20

Bournemouth v Watford
Blackpool v Preston
Bristol City v Chesterfield
Grimsby v Carlisle
LUTON v Bristol Rovers
Millwall v Wycombe
Northampton v Plymouth
Wigan v Brentford
Wrexham v Gillingham

Friday, December 26

Bournemouth v Gillingham
Brentford v Southend
Bristol City v Millwall
Burnley v Chesterfield
Carlisle v Blackpool
LUTON v Northampton
Plymouth v Fulham
Preston v Oldham
Walsall v Bristol Rovers
Wrexham v Wigan
Wycombe v Watford
York v Grimsby

Sunday, December 28

Blackpool v Wrexham
Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth
Chesterfield v York
Fulham v Bristol City
Grimsby v Preston
Millwall v LUTON TOWN
Northampton v Walsall
Oldham v Burnley
Southend v Wycombe
Watford v Plymouth
Wigan v Carlisle

Monday, December 29

Gillingham v Brentford

Saturday, January 3 (subject to cancellation due to FA3)

Blackpool v Bristol City
Chesterfield v Brentford
Gillingham v Burnley
Grimsby v Plymouth
Millwall v Preston
Northampton v Wycombe
Southend v LUTON TOWN
Watford v Carlisle

"We must improve our product" - Chairman

FOOTBALL League chairman David Sheepshanks has stressed the need for change to keep clubs financially secure and maintain the interest of fans.

Mr Sheepshanks was among the 72 Nationwide League chairmen meeting in London last week to consider changes in the structure of the competition.

You may remember that we detailed the thoughts of the Town chairman David Kohler in a previous matchday programme earlier this season, and Mr Kohler, a member of the league's working party, has been at the forefront of discussions into possible changes.

The most radical of four proposals was a plan for a 12-club Super league for Nationwide teams, and Mr Sheepshanks, also chairman of Division One club Ipswich, explained the need to discuss change.

"Fifty-seven out of 72 clubs were losing money last year, that's the strongest reason," he said.

"Clearly we have to tackle that problem and improve the product and the excitement.

"We need to become more commercially led and need to become more responsive to the interests of fans.

"One of our challenges is to popularise the live experience and, while there is increasing opportunities for armchair viewers, we need to present the Football League in a guise which will work well for all our clubs."

Mr Sheepshanks though stressed that nothing is going to be decided in the immediate future.

"We are allowing a lot of time for discussion among the clubs, and any

idea that receives a broad consensus of support will be taken forward for voting at an EGM."

Two separate working parties have been preparing proposals to present to the clubs before next year's 100th anniversary of the formation of the world's original league football competition.

The first deals with an overhaul of the existing rule book to simplify regulations, and the second concerns the shake-up of the current league structure of three divisions of 24 clubs.

The league's working party has come up with four alternatives:

1) Three divisions of 20, 26 and 26 clubs respectively with increased promotion and relegation between the divisions.

2) Four divisions of either 18 or 20 clubs with increased promotion and relegation. Eight clubs would be co-opted from the Vauxhall Conference to make up the numbers.

3) Six divisions of 12 clubs with increased promotion and relegation.

4) The creation of a Football League Super League of 12 clubs with two divisions of 24 and another division of 12.

Keeping the current structure of three divisions of 24 clubs is also on the table. Among other points raised was the option of a radical change to the awarding of points, with an incentive for teams to lead at half-time, with extra points to clubs who win by large margins. Penalty shoot-outs could determine drawn games.

The chairmen meet again next month, but no votes will be taken until February's EGM.

The chairman meet again next month, but no votes will be taken until February's EGM.

League's early warning procedure

WITH the winter weather yet to cause any major disruption, the Football League have once again set out their early warning procedure for the inspection of pitches.

In an effort to prevent unnecessary inconvenience to the travelling clubs and their supporters, League clubs are instructed to liaise closely to ascertain the travelling arrangements of the visitors.

Home clubs are also asked to contact the

match referee for his travel details and any plans to stay overnight in order that he can be reached at short notice.

Clubs can also request referees to travel the day before the match if an early pitch inspection is necessary. In the event that the match referee is unable to travel early to the ground, the Football League would call in a local official to advise them on the condition of the playing surface.



Division 2 Stats

the 97/98 season

Compiled by Football Information Services Tel : 0151-632-5679

how teams have scored

see key below	Hd	CR	Ob	V	FK	P	Ib	OG	mins into match	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
Bournemouth	5	2	2	6	1	2	6	0	Bournemouth	2	2	4	2	7	7
Blackpool	7	6	3	6	0	1	7	0	Blackpool	3	2	7	4	5	9
Brentford	4	4	3	2	0	2	9	0	Brentford	4	1	4	3	3	9
Bristol City	7	5	3	3	2	5	13	1	Bristol City	3	6	9	9	7	5
Bristol Rovers	7	1	3	1	1	3	11	0	Bristol Rovers	4	5	2	6	3	7
Burnley	7	7	2	3	0	1	3	0	Burnley	4	6	0	3	6	4
Carlisle	5	4	4	2	0	3	8	0	Carlisle	4	3	3	4	3	9
Chesterfield	6	5	1	2	0	2	6	0	Chesterfield	3	0	4	6	2	7
Fulham	5	4	1	2	0	0	9	3	Fulham	4	1	4	6	4	5
Gillingham	3	2	2	1	0	4	15	0	Gillingham	2	1	5	7	4	8
Grimsby	4	5	1	4	2	4	7	0	Grimsby	3	6	2	3	6	7
Luton	6	2	2	0	1	0	10	0	Luton	1	3	5	4	4	4
Millwall	7	4	5	1	1	0	8	1	Millwall	3	2	2	4	10	6
Northampton	3	2	1	5	0	3	9	0	Northampton	5	2	6	6	2	2
Oldham	8	8	2	8	0	1	9	1	Oldham	5	6	5	9	7	5
Plymouth	7	5	4	2	0	2	7	0	Plymouth	3	5	7	5	3	4
Preston	6	4	4	3	1	1	8	1	Preston	3	4	2	7	8	4
Southend	1	3	5	4	0	1	8	1	Southend	5	8	4	1	2	3
Walsall	5	3	3	5	0	1	7	0	Walsall	1	5	2	1	6	9
Watford	7	1	5	3	1	2	18	0	Watford	8	3	5	5	10	6
Wigan	10	5	4	3	0	2	6	0	Wigan	5	5	3	3	6	8
Wrexham	5	4	2	1	1	2	12	0	Wrexham	4	4	3	4	8	4
Wycombe	3	4	4	4	0	3	11	1	Wycombe	8	2	3	7	7	3
York	4	1	8	1	1	2	10	0	York	2	2	2	5	8	8

when teams have scored

see key below	Hd	CR	Ob	V	FK	P	Ib	OG	mins into match	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	
Bournemouth	1	6	3	1	0	2	9	1	Bournemouth	2	2	4	2	7	7	
Blackpool	10	8	2	1	0	3	11	0	Blackpool	3	9	5	4	0	0	
Brentford	3	9	5	4	0	0	13	1	Brentford	2	3	2	3	0	1	
Bristol City	2	3	2	3	0	1	6	1	Bristol City	9	1	1	5	1	2	
Bristol Rovers	9	1	1	5	1	2	14	0	Bristol Rovers	10	3	6	2	2	8	
Carlisle	10	7	6	2	2	8	0	0	Carlisle	4	7	6	2	2	8	
Chesterfield	4	3	3	4	0	1	2	0	Chesterfield	4	3	3	4	0	1	
Fulham	9	4	4	1	0	2	5	0	Fulham	3	4	3	3	1	5	
Gillingham	3	4	3	3	1	0	15	0	Gillingham	2	4	1	3	0	8	
Grimsby	2	4	1	3	0	0	8	0	Grimsby	3	5	4	2	0	5	
Luton	3	5	2	8	3	2	15	1	Luton	3	5	4	5	0	3	
Millwall	5	0	5	3	0	2	9	0	Millwall	5	0	5	3	0	2	
Northampton	3	5	0	2	0	6	0	6	0	Northampton	3	5	0	2	0	6
Oldham	7	4	3	3	0	3	8	1	Oldham	7	4	3	3	0	3	
Plymouth	3	2	5	2	0	7	3	0	Plymouth	3	2	5	3	2	8	
Preston	3	5	4	2	0	1	10	0	Preston	3	5	4	2	0	5	
Southend	5	3	2	8	3	2	15	1	Southend	5	3	2	8	3	2	
Walsall	3	5	4	0	1	1	2	0	Walsall	3	5	4	0	1	11	
Watford	4	2	1	1	0	1	6	0	Watford	4	2	1	1	0	6	
Wigan	9	2	2	3	0	5	0	12	0	Wigan	9	2	2	3	0	5
Wrexham	5	1	3	5	1	2	7	0	Wrexham	5	1	3	5	1	2	
Wycombe	13	5	4	2	0	4	6	0	Wycombe	13	5	4	2	0	4	
York	6	2	1	2	0	1	12	0	York	6	2	1	2	0	1	

.. and how conceded

see key below	Hd	CR	Ob	V	FK	P	Ib	OG	mins into match	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
Bournemouth	1	6	3	1	0	2	9	1	Bournemouth	2	2	4	2	7	7
Blackpool	10	8	2	1	0	3	11	0	Blackpool	3	9	5	4	0	0
Brentford	3	9	5	4	0	0	13	1	Brentford	2	3	2	3	0	1
Bristol City	2	3	2	3	0	1	6	1	Bristol City	9	1	1	5	1	2
Bristol Rovers	9	1	1	5	1	2	14	0	Bristol Rovers	10	3	6	2	2	8
Carlisle	10	7	6	2	2	8	0	0	Carlisle	4	7	6	2	2	8
Chesterfield	4	3	3	4</											

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10am to 4pm

(10am to 5pm - Dec 1 to 23)

EVENING MATCHDAYS

10am to 10pm

SATURDAYS - MATCHDAYS

10am-3pm & 4.45-5.15pm

- non matchdays 9am until
coaches leave for away game



A 1. Harry Hatter Scarf £ 4.75
2. Bar Stripe Scarf £ 5.75
3. Jumbo Scarf £12.50
4. Come on you Hatters £ 5.75
5. Fleck Scarf £ 5.75

B 1. Crest Bronx Hat £ 6.99
Royal, Navy, Black

2. Bronx Hat £ 4.99
Royal, Navy, Black

3. Childs Bronx Hat £ 4.50
Grey

4. Hatters Bronx Hat £ 4.99
Grey, Blue/White

C 1. Mens Gloves £ 4.25
2. Childrens, Youths Gloves £ 3.25

D Base Ball Hats

1. Royal Hat £ 8.50

2. Yellow Hat £ 8.50

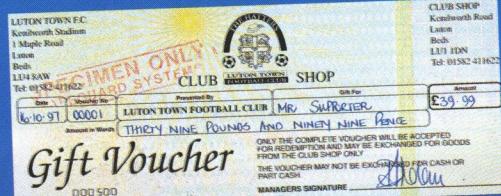
3. White Hat £ 8.50

4. Org/Blue Hat £ 9.99

5. Pinstripe Hat £ 4.99



Just the ticket for Christmas...



Available
now at
the Club
Shop!

LTFC KIT PRICES 1997/98

GET YER KIT ON!

NOW AVAILABLE..... FULL COLOUR
1998 LTFC CALENDAR - ONLY £4.99
PLUS..... NEW MERCHANDISE CATALOGUE
WITH ALL YOUR GIFT IDEAS.....

FOR THE STARS OF
TODAY AND
TOMORROW....

HOME SHIRTS
SB, B, LB - £29.99. Youths - £34.99
S, M, L, XL, XXL - £39.99

HOME SHORTS
SB, B, LB - £15.99. Youths, S, M - £19.99
L, XL, XXL - £19.99

HOME SOCKS
MB, LB - £7.99. Mens - £9.99
Home long sleeved shirts
(from Oct 97)
S, M, L - £42.99. XL, XXL - £42.99



AWAY SHIRTS
SB, B, LB - £29.99. Youths - £34.99
S, M, L, XL, XXL - £38.99

AWAY SHORTS
SB, B, LB - £15.99. Youths, S, M - £19.99
L, XL, XXL - £19.99
AWAY SOCKS
MB, LB - £5.99. Mens - £7.99



HATTERS SHOP

FOR THE LATEST NEWS - CLUBCALL 0891 121 123
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times

THIS afternoon we welcome joint match sponsors - Danisco Flexible and Shepherd Builders.

DANISCO FLEXIBLE is one of Europe's leading producers of individually designed flexible packaging materials.

Their packaging is sold into the meat, cheese, coffee and sandwich industries and for some non-food applications where a high barrier is required.

The group has a number of production sites across Europe, and has a UK sales and distribution centre in Milton Keynes.

SHEPHERD BUILDERS (FLAMSTEAD) LTD is a family run business now in its 40th successful year.

They are members of the National Registered Builders Association, Master Builders Federation and Guild of Master Craftsmen.

They have a staff of approximately 25 skilled and fully qualified craftsmen covering the complete spectrum of the building trade.

They undertake all domestic and

COMMERCIAL NEWS



with **KATHY LEATHER**

commercial works, and specialise in refurbishment and extension of listed buildings. They can offer craftsmanship, safety, speed and efficiency at competitive prices.

This afternoon's matchball sponsors are KEITH AND RICHARD HARVEY. Keith Harvey operates the family haulage business in Sandy, Bedfordshire, and he and Richard are regular and valued supporters of the club.

A warm welcome to Town supporter RONALD SEAL who is a guest in the Joe Payne Lounge this afternoon, celebrating his 65th birthday. Wife Jean sends her love and best wishes, as Ronald watches the club he has supported for over 50 years.

If you or your company would like details of match or matchball sponsorship, please contact the Commercial department on (01582) 411622. We have packages to suit all budgets, and a

variety of ways in which your company can get involved with Luton Town.

**Don't forget the Luton Town PRIZELINE
0930 55 50 50**

(Calls cost 50p per minute at all times)

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OF LONDON

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AND RELIABLE
TAILORS IN
LUTON

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LADIES AND GENTS
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TEL: (01582) 424687

The Definitive Luton Town F.C. By Steve Bailey, Brian Ellis and Alan Shury.

When 'The Luton Town Story' was published to co-incide with the club's Centenary in 1985 it had originally been planned to include full statistics thus providing a complete record of the Hatters' history.

Unfortunately, John Smith, the club's Chief Executive at the time felt that reams of statistics would hinder the sale of the book and would only authorise a 'halfway house' version which subsequently left Town supporters thirsting for more.

Now finally a complete record style book has been published as Volume 10 in a series commissioned by the Association of Football Statisticians.

The book contains, in 102 A4 pages, a complete record of every first team game played by the Town including team line-ups, goalscorers and attendances as well as a potted early history. Also included is a list of all first team players showing dates of birth, previous and next club and total Luton appearances.

An essential buy from the Club Shop at £7.99 and the perfect excuse to ignore everything going on around you over the Christmas period!

Roger Wash.



Caught.
Ball watching!

The official ball supplier to:



Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

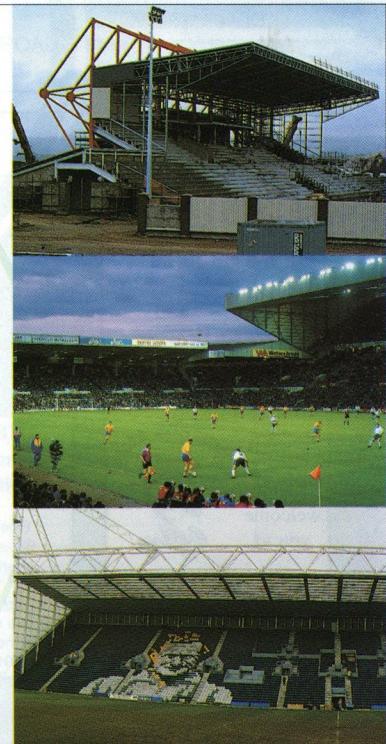
Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

These funds will be in addition to income derived from the football pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, and will enable the Trust to complete its Taylor task, carry on its essential safety work and continue to grant aid football at every level. The Government's commitment to the Trust has the support of everyone who cares about our national game.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB



OVER THE BAR!

Drink a toast to the Hatters in the following pubs...

Kim and Chris welcome you to
THE WHEATSHEAF

Traditional country pub serving
snacks and real ales.

Large garden, children
welcome.

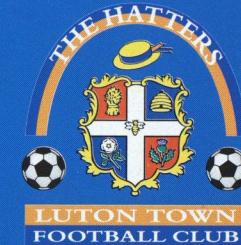
15 High Street, Flitwick.
Tele: (01525) 712574.

KINGSWAY ARMS
Kingsway, Luton
(01582) 584581

Home of the Loyal Luton
Supporters Club.
Disco music 1pm to 2.30pm, and
5pm to 7.30pm on matchdays,
everybody welcome.
Cheap draught lager and beer
available. Large car park.
Prop: Ian Robinson
Tele: 01582 29912.

THE SOMERSET TAVERN

Good food and fine
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Quiz nights and
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Crawley Grn Rd, Luton.
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Kevin and Hayley welcome all
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Fine traditional ales
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live music evenings
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THE BREWERY TAP
22 Park Street, Luton
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Disco on Thurs, Fri,
Sat and Sun nights



Carol and John Brennan
welcome you to
THE FARMERS BOY
Common Road, Kensworth

Real ales
(CAMRA 'Good Beer
Guide')
Traditional Sunday lunches
£4.75 per person
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THE BEDFORDSHIRE YEOMAN

Just a two-minute walk from
the ground. Food available
on matchdays. Supporters
welcome.

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(01582) 30469

IT COULD BE YOU!

We can win three points today....

YOU could win up to £2,000 in
cash in the LTFC Golden Gamble!

Each ticket costs just £1, with half
the money collected going to the
winning ticket holder, in our
half-time draw made on the pitch.



PLUS win £25,000 in our Premier Instant ticket on sale at
half-time..... Money from these tickets helps YOUR club, and
supports charities for children with special needs

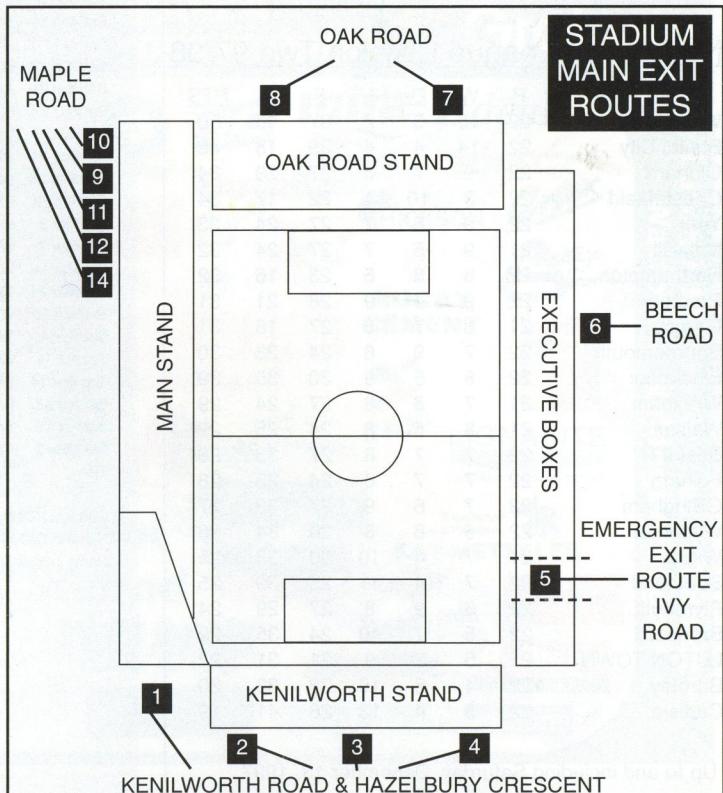
LTFC EVACUATION PROCEDURE

IN the event of any emergencies at Luton
Town Football Club, the emergency services
and the club have agreed on an evacuation
policy which is designed to:

- Ensure the safe and controlled
evacuation of the ground.
- Ensure the dispersal of the crowd from
the area to allow the emergency services to
carry out their tasks.

In the event on an evacuation of all or part
of the stadium, you will receive instructions
over the public address system on how you
should leave the stadium. Stewards will
direct you to the nearest exit. It may be that
your normal exit route will not be available.
On leaving the stadium, you will find some
roads closed to pedestrian traffic, to enable
swift and unobstructed arrival of the
emergency services.

Please leave the area of the ground as
quickly as possible by the route directed.
Your co-operation will be most appreciated.
GEOFF LOVELL, Safety Manager.



TEAM Statistics

LUTON TOWN 1997/98

PLAYER (figure in bracket = sub app.)	LGE APPS	LGE GLS	CUP APPS	CUP GLS	LTF career apps (league & cup, incl subs & goals, as at start 97/98)
Nathan ABBEY			1		
Graham ALEXANDER	15	4	3		101 3g
Chris ALLEN	3				
Simon DAVIES	8 (4)	1	3 (2)		
Kelvin DAVIS	14				21 0g
Steve DAVIS	16	2	4	1	100 11g
Andy DIBBLE	1		2		
Gary DOHERTY	1 (3)		(1)		
Stuart DOUGLAS	4 (7)	1	3 (1)	1	20 1g
Sean EVERS	2 (4)		2		4 0g
Ian FEUER	6		2		98 0g
Andrew FOTIADIS	2 (3)		1		23 3g
Liam GEORGE	1		(2)		
Phil GRAY	8	1	1		67 26
Richard HARVEY	3 (1)		3 (1)		181 5g
Julian JAMES	15 (1)		2		309 14g
Marvin JOHNSON	10 (1)		3		289 6g
Robert KEAN	(1)				
Dwight MARSHALL	7 (4)	1	2		115 33g
Gavin McGOWAN	6 (2)				2 0g
Paul MCLAREN	19 (2)		5		44 1g
David OLDFIELD	20	2	5		125 21g
Darren PATTERSON			(1)		42 0g
Trevor PEAKE	(1)				201 0g
Paul SHOWLER	(1)				33 6g
Bryan SMALL	15				
Matthew SPRING	3 (2)				
Mitchell THOMAS	5 (1)		2		273 5g
Tony THORPE	17 (1)	8	3 (1)	3	110 41g
Gary WADDOCK	19 (1)		5		133 3g
Alan WHITE	11	1	2		

Nationwide League Division Two 97/98

	P	W	D	L	E	A	PTS
Watford	22	15	5	2	37	15	50
Bristol City	22	14	4	4	39	18	46
Oldham	22	9	7	6	37	29	34
Chesterfield	22	8	10	4	22	17	34
York	22	9	6	7	27	24	33
Millwall	21	9	5	7	27	24	32
Northampton	22	8	8	6	23	16	32
Preston	22	9	4	9	28	21	31
Grimsby	21	8	7	6	27	18	31
Bournemouth	22	7	9	6	24	23	30
Blackpool	22	8	5	9	30	35	29
Wrexham	21	7	8	6	27	24	29
Walsall	21	8	5	8	24	25	29
Bristol R	22	7	7	8	27	33	28
Fulham	22	7	7	8	24	25	28
Gillingham	22	7	6	9	27	32	27
Wycombe	22	6	8	8	30	34	26
Wigan	21	7	4	10	30	33	25
Southend	22	7	4	11	23	39	25
Plymouth	22	5	9	8	27	29	24
Brentford	22	5	7	10	24	35	22
LUTON TOWN	21	5	7	9	21	31	22
Burnley	22	4	8	10	23	33	20
Carlisle	22	5	4	13	26	41	19

Up to and including Saturday, December 13, 1997

1997/98 See page 39 for Division Two stats

DATE	OPPONENTS	F-A	ATT	POS	GK	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sat Aug 9	Blackpool	0-1	6,547	-	Feuer	McGowan	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	McLaren	Alexander	Oldfield	Thorpe	(Davies)	(Douglas)	Evers	Harvey
Tue Aug 12	Colchester Utd CCC1 (1)	1-0	2,840	-	Feuer	Douglas	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	McLaren	Alexander	Oldfield	THORPE	Davies	Kean	(Harvey)	Evers
Mon Aug 18	SOUTHEND UTD	1-0	5,140	12	Feuer	James	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	Davies	Alexander	(Fotiadi)	(Thorpe)	Marshall	(DOUGLAS)	(McLaren)	Harvey
Sat Aug 23	Fulham	0-0	8,142	15	K.Davis	James	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	(Davies)	(Alexander)	Oldfield	(Douglas)	Marshall	(McGowan)	(Harvey)	(McLaren)
Tue Aug 26	COLCHESTER UTD CCC1 (2)	1-1	2,816	-	Abbey	James	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	(Davies)	McLaren	Oldfield	THORPE	Marshall	(Douglas)	Showler	Evers
Sat Aug 30	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	1-1	5,404	12	K.Davis	(James)	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	(Davies)	McLaren	Oldfield	THORPE	(Marshall)	(Douglas)	(Showler)	(McGowan)
Tue Sep 2	MILLWALL	0-2	5,781	15	K.Davis	James	McGowan	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	McLaren	(Alexander)	Oldfield	Thorpe	(Marshall)	(Douglas)	(Doherty)	(Evers)
Tue Sep 9	Northampton Town	0-1	7,246	18	K. Davis	McGowan	Small	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	McLaren	(Evers)	Oldfield	Douglas	(Marshall)	Peake	(Davies)	(Doherty)
Sat Sep 13	AFC Bournemouth	1-1	4,561	21	K. Davis	McGowan	Small	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	(Davies)	McLaren	Oldfield	(Douglas)	MARSHALL	(Evers)	Peake	(Doherty)
Tue Sep 16	WEST BROM CCC2 (1)	1-1	3,437	-	Dibble	Alexander	Harvey	Waddock	S.Davis	(Johnson)	(Evers)	McLaren	Oldfield	DOUGLAS	Marshall	Doherty	(Davies)	(George)
Sat Sep 20	WREXHAM	2-5	5,241	23	Dibble	McGowan	(Harvey)	(Waddock)	S.DAVIS	Small	GRAY	McLaren	Oldfield	Douglas	(Marshall)	(Thorpe)	(Evers)	(Peake)
Tue Sep 23	West Brom CCC2 (2)	2-4	7,227	-	Dibble	Evers	Harvey	Waddock	S.DAVIS	White	Gray	McLaren	Oldfield	(Douglas)	(Davies)	(THORPE)	Doherty	(George)
Sat Sep 27	Bristol City	0-3	8,509	23	K. Davis	Evers	Harvey	(Waddock)	Small	White	Davies	McLaren	Oldfield	Thorpe	(George)	(Kean)	(Spring)	Omogbehin
Sat Oct 4	WATFORD	0-4	9,041	23	K. Davis	(McGowan)	Harvey	Waddock	Small	White	Gray	McLaren	Oldfield	Thorpe	(Davies)	(Douglas)	Spring	James
Sat Oct 11	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	3-0	4,931	23	K. Davis	Alexander	Small	Waddock	James	White	Spring	McLaren	Oldfield	(THORPE 2)	(Doherty)	(DAVIES)	Harvey	(Evers)
Sat Oct 18	Wigan Athletic	1-1	4,466	22	K. Davis	James	Small	(Spring)	S.Davis	White	(Gray)	McLaren	OLDFIELD	Thorpe	Alexander	(Davies)	Doherty	(Marshall)
Tue Oct 21	Carlisle United	1-0	4,341	21	K. Davis	James	Small	(Spring)	S.Davis	WHITE	(Gray)	McLaren	Oldfield	Thorpe	Alexander	Davies	(Waddock)	(Marshall)
Sat Oct 25	BRENTFORD	2-0	5,972	18	K. Davis	(James)	Small	Waddock	S.Davis	White	Gray	McLaren	Oldfield	(THORPE)ALEXANDER	(Johnson)	Davies	(Marshall)	
Sat Nov 1	Wycombe Wanderers	2-2	6,219	18	K. Davis	James	Small	Waddock	S.Davis	Johnson	Gray	McLaren	OLDFIELD	THORPE	Alexander	Davies	Fotiadi	White
Tue Nov 4	BURNLEY	2-3	5,315	19	K. Davis	James	Small	(Waddock)	S.Davis	Johnson	Gray	McLaren	Oldfield	ThorpeALEXANDER 2	Davies	(Fotiadi)	White	
Sat Nov 8	PRESTON NORTH END	1-3	5,767	22	K. Davis	James	(Small)	(Waddock)	White	Johnson	(Gray)	McLaren	Oldfield	THORPE	Alexander	(Davies)	(Fotiadi)	(Marshall)
Sat Nov 15	TORQUAY UNITED FAC1	0-1	3,446	-	Feuer	James	(Harvey)	(Waddock)	White	(Spring)	Fotiadi	McLaren	Oldfield	Thorpe	Alexander	(Davies)	(Patterson)	(Doherty)
Sat Nov 22	WALSALL	0-1	4,726	23	Feuer	James	Small	(Waddock)	White	(Davies)	Fotiadi	McLaren	Oldfield	Thorpe	Alexander	(Spring)	(Douglas)	Harvey
Sat Nov 29	York City	2-1	3,636	20	Feuer	James	Small	Waddock	S.Davis	White	Allen	McLaren	Oldfield	THORPE ALEXANDER	Davies	Fotiadi	Thomas	
Tue Dec 2	GILLINGHAM	2-2	4,408	21	Feuer	James	Small	(Waddock)	S.DAVIS	(White)	Allen	McLaren	Oldfield	THORPE	Alexander	Davies	(Fotiadi)	(Thomas)
Sat Dec 13	Chesterfield	0-0	4,358	22	Feuer	(James)	Thomas	Waddock	S.Davis	White	Allen	McLaren	Oldfield	Thorpe	Alexander	Davies	Fotiadi	(Douglas)

 **Graham** CHILTERN AREA
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Team Check



Luton Town V Bristol R

Ian FEUER	1	Andy COLLETT
Julian JAMES	2	Dave PRITCHARD
Mitchell THOMAS	3	Luke BASFORD
Gary WADDOCK	4	Gary PENRICE
Steve DAVIS	5	Tom WHITE
Alan WHITE	6	Andy TILLSON
Chris ALLEN	7	Josh LOW
Paul McLAREN	8	Matthew HAYFIELD
David OLDFIELD	9	Peter BEADLE
Tony THORPE	10	Matthew LOCKWOOD
Graham ALEXANDER	11	Barry HAYLES
	12	
	13	
	14	

Today's Officials

Today's referee is
DAVID ORR
from Iver, Bucks.

Mr Orr is a Civil Engineer,
and is making his second
visit of the season to
Kenilworth Road, having
refereed the second leg of
our Coca-Cola Cup tie
against Colchester back in
August.

C.J. Hills



T.P.
Howes



4th official: L. Holgate

Next match at Kenilworth Road

The next visitors to
Kenilworth Road are
NORTHAMPTON,
in Nationwide League
Division Two.
This game is on
Boxing Day - Friday,
December 26 - kick-off
is at 3pm. See page 9
for ticket details



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