

Luton Town

v Colchester United



Saturday 29 August 1998

Kick Off 3.00pm

Official matchday programme. Price £1.80



2



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Inside Forward

welcome to kenilworth road



THE DOME - IT WILL HAPPEN

By Town Chairman David Kohler

SUPPORTERS who listened to local radio and TV last week, on the day the Kohlerdome planning enquiry result was announced, can be forgiven for being depressed at what they heard.

Those who had opposed the project were claiming victory, saying that the planning application had been turned down.

What a load of garbage! Someone should apologise to the people of Luton for the misinformation given out. I don't suppose those responsible will say sorry for giving out such a blatant misrepresentation of the facts, but it made me very, very angry. It is only right supporters should know the truth.

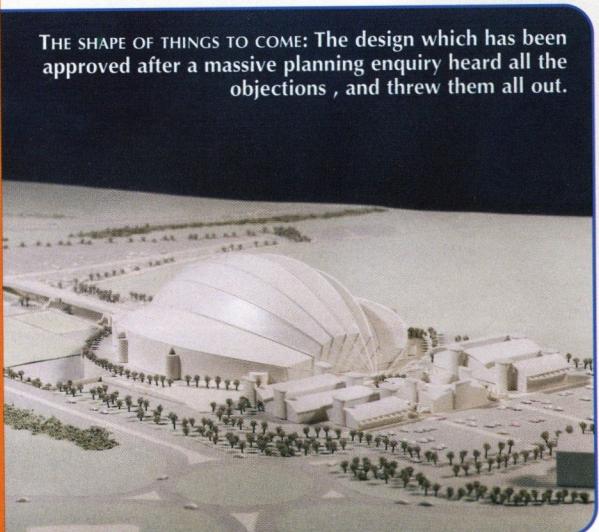
First and foremost, we have NOT been refused the outline planning consent we sought.

Those who made that claim obviously did not read the facts before shooting their mouths off. So let me put the record straight, and assure you, our supporters, and the public at large, that I have little doubt the new ground that the vast majority of people want will be built.

The opposition tried to put up good reasons for the application to be turned down. And every single argument put forward by the objectors was rejected by the inspector who conducted the enquiry.

The people of Caddington, Slip End and London Road ought to be delighted with the news: their fears and worries were very carefully considered at the enquiry, and the inspector decided, and the Secretary of State agreed, that their fears were unfounded. Copies of the relevant documents are available in our main reception office at Maple Road for any supporter who wants to read them.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME: The design which has been approved after a massive planning enquiry heard all the objections, and threw them all out.



The facts, in official black and white, are these: the Secretary of State was completely satisfied that there is a need and local desire for the new arena: our application conforms to planning policies. The inspector had no doubt that the application should be approved.

However the Secretary of State now wishes us to address the issue of road access. When the inspector gave his verdict the then government was ready to widen the M1 to four lanes each way through Bedfordshire. He gave his decision in the light of that knowledge.



Front Cover:
CLASSY CONFRONTATION:
Gavin McGowan and
Ray Houghton
tussle for
possession at
Reading, the first
match in the
Berkshire club's
new stadium.

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48. The Teams

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Bsc (Hons) FRICS

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Since then there has been a change of government and the new policy requires further study prior to a decision on the proposed motorway widening.

So John Prescott, the Secretary of State, wants to give more thought to the application, and we have taken up his invitation to make further submissions.

I have had meetings with our planning professionals and Luton Borough Council, who have been and are very supportive. Both local MPs are also giving us unequivocal support. We will amend our outline application to show a stadium of 12,000 seats, not the 20,000 as originally considered. That will generate little more traffic than we currently have here at Kenilworth Road.



FANS HAVE THEIR SAY: Banners at Reading on Saturday make it clear our supporters want to see the new stadium.

The seats will be a patented design, in blocks of 500 which fold away and can be stored to allow the various uses to which the arena can be put. This will enable us to increase our proposed capacity.

Traffic management will be carefully thought out and once we have demonstrated that there are no problems with 12,000 seats, we can move up to 13,000, unlike Reading, who went straight in for 25,000. Eventually it could well become 20,000 - but only if it works on road safety and planning grounds. I am certain it will. To sum up, our team of legal experts led by Margaret Casely-Hayford from Denton Hall, David Keirle our architect from KSS Sport and Leisure Design and traffic experts from Pell Frishman did a fantastic job at the public enquiry.

Any fan who takes the trouble to read the inspector's conclusions will see, once their insomnia has been cured, that the enquiry accepted all our proposals and arguments, and recommended the scheme to go ahead.

The Secretary of State agreed with all the recommendations, and only because he moved the goalposts there is yet one small hurdle to clear before we cross the finishing line.

I have been asked in Press interviews about us moving to Milton Keynes, or somewhere else, if we are turned down. I am extremely confident we will have a new home near junction 10 of the motorway.

It's the right scheme in the right place, as agreed by the inspector and the Secretary of State. It's what the Borough council and the vast majority of the public want. So forget the ramblings of those NIMBYs who have had all their fears considered and dismissed by the inspector and the Secretary of State.

Finally, thank you for all your continued support over this project, and for many expressions of encouragement I have received.

"If you will it, it is no dream"

IT WILL HAPPEN

David Kohler

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Champions 1967-68

Official 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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PONY™

Lennie Lawrence

from the manager's chair



After our contrasting fortunes since we last played at Kenilworth Road, I want first to look back to what might seem to be our worst away performance for many a long day, when we were beaten 3-0 at Reading.

It sounds like a real beating, but I think that those who supported us so well at the Madejski Stadium will confirm that it most definitely was not. I can still hardly believe that result – I spoke to several neutrals who watched the game and thought it should have been 8-3 to us.

Should have been... there's the problem. We had gone to Reading to spoil their opening-day party, and we were up for it. It was a big occasion, with all the entertainment and excitement of the first match in a magnificent ground, but we showed no sign of nerves. A 15 minute delay before the start was not helpful, and then in the first 15 minutes we conceded a scrappy goal and lost Dwight Marshall and Paul McLaren through injuries. It was then that I began to think that perhaps it was not going to be our day.

The most disappointing thing was not that we conceded three goals, but that we failed to score one of our own. Their keeper had to make more saves than Kelvin Davis, and we got the ball into their box far more times than they got it into ours. So I look to see why that did not bring goals. I suspect a lack of anticipation is a major reason, and that is a little worrying, but not an insoluble problem.

We sent Steve Davis upfield into attack much earlier than usual. I know that always excites our supporters, but the longer he spends upfield the more chance there is of conceding goals at our end, and that is what happened at Reading.

So in all the circumstances, the first league defeat of the season was disappointing, but not dispiriting. Overall, the team performance was not that much short of the excellent display at Oxford.

Today, as we welcome Colchester to Kenilworth Road, we are poised to go up, or down. We need to win to get back on track, knowing that Colchester will be a difficult nut to crack. They were unlucky to lose to Fulham, and they buried Wrexham away, so we need to be at our best.

I want to see four more points in the bag by Monday night, as we come home from Wigan, and we are capable of that. We are making scoring chances, and that is pleasing. But we did not take them at Reading, and that has to be put right.

Perhaps we are getting into the "rotate a striker" scenario. Certainly I am always ready to change a team to improve it. Look at Stuart Douglas's performances in away games, for instance. He is very effective when the opposition is pushing up, as home teams usually do. Reading knew it, from watching us at Oxford, and they countered it by defending deep. Phil Gray has a lovely ability to hold the ball and take weight off others. Hervé Bacqué has a talent for doing things in the box if he is given the right service. Liam George has the pace and enthusiasm to frighten defenders and Andrew Fotiadis is knocking on the door looking for his chance to get back into the side.

Long before the season is over, we will probably need all of them, and more. But first, we need to improve our first-month platform, which means a first home win of the season today. We'll be doing our best, and supporters can help by getting behind us. And I hope we all enjoy the game.

Lennie Lawrence

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Steve Davis captain's log

We have experienced the highs and lows of football since I last wrote. Trailing 3 v 2 from the first leg we still went to Oxford believing we could get a result, and thankfully we did just that.

Even after going a goal down we were playing in such a way that every time we went forward I thought we would get at least an attempt on goal. To score three away from home at a First Division club is no mean feat but for Paul McLaren to score as well, it's the stuff dreams are made of!!

It was good to see Tippy score his first of the season too, centre forwards need goals which in turn breed confidence. I think we are now seeing the real Phil Gray and hopefully his injuries from last season are well behind him.

Now we will face Ipswich in the next round and although they are a division above us, as were Oxford, I think we have a good chance of making further progress, and I am glad we are away in the first leg.

With all the hype surrounding the game with Reading, we were desperate to try and spoil the party. Unfortunately it didn't turn out that way. I think we were the better team and certainly created more chances throughout the match than they did, but with a combination of poor finishing (myself included) and good goalkeeping we couldn't score.

We will certainly play a lot worse than that and win the game (our game with Carlisle the final day of last season springs to mind) so our confidence hasn't been dented too much, but we need to get a few more wins under our belts.

Today we face Colchester, who have a couple of ex Luton lads, Greenie and Skelts, so they are going to be keen to do well although Skelts is currently injured. They've had a great

start to the season and by all accounts were unlucky against Fulham last week, so we'll have our hands full. A win would see us leap frog Colchester which would then set us up to try and cement a place in the top six after our trip to Wigan.

Unfortunately after our game with Reading we picked up a couple of injuries. Dwight's isn't as bad as first feared but Macca could be out with his knee for a while. It's a blow to him as he had done well at Oxford after regaining his place and obviously capped his display with a goal. The celebrations left a lot to be desired, but I suppose if you don't score many you don't know what to do!

Wouldn't it be nice to be opening the Kholerdomo today, after the events of last week? We will one day! Enjoy the game and hopefully a few goals!

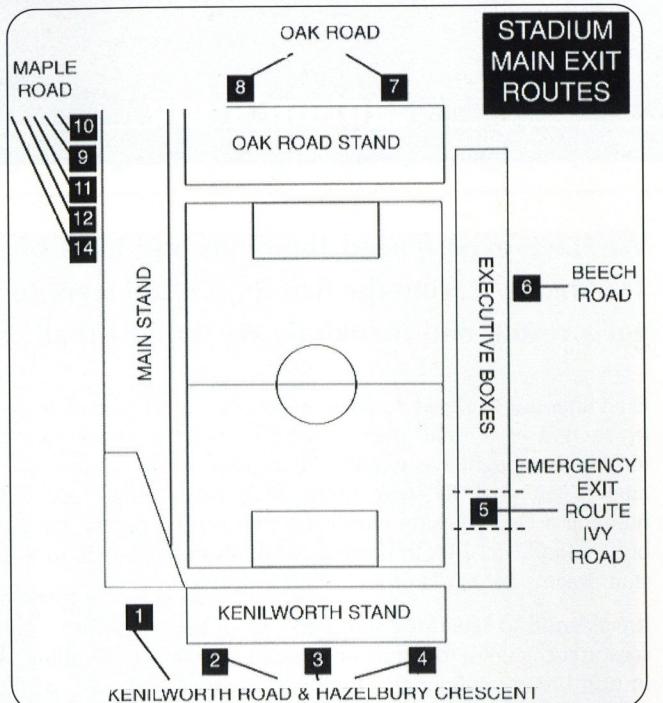
Steve Davis

Evacuation Procedure

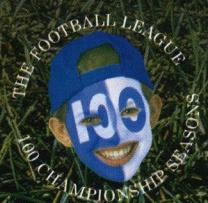
In the event of any emergencies at Luton Town Football Club, the emergency services and the club have agreed on an evacuation policy which is designed to: a) Ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd. b) ensure the dispersal of the crowd from the area to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks.

In the event of 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.



**Nationwide Building Society
would like to wish all clubs
success in this 1998/99
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Cherry Newbery



After the victory over Oxford in the Worthington Cup first round we have been drawn against another First Division side, Ipswich Town, in the second.

The first leg will be at Ipswich and the second at Kenilworth Road, and full details of dates and ticket arrangements are on page 46 of this programme.

The club is involved in other various cup competitions, and details of two involving our youth and reserve sides have now been finalised.

The youth team's first cup-tie of the season will be at Kenilworth Road on Monday week, September 7, kick-off 7pm. We will be at home in the first round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup to Swindon. Admission will be £3 for adults and £1.50 for junior and senior citizens. Entry will be via Kenilworth Road only.

The draw has also been made for the Bedfordshire Senior Cup, and the first round gives us an away tie just up the road – against Brache Sparta on Wednesday October 21 (7.30). The Brache Sparta ground is at Foxdell, at the top end of Dallow Road, and the best way to approach it by car is via the A505 relief road, leaving at the Chaul End Lane junction.

As a club we have always tried to help local charity good causes, and today there will be a bucket collection for Kids in Action. I am sure supporters will give generously – they always do – and this is a very worthwhile cause. Kids in Action is a children's charity which provides disabled and disadvantaged children with the chance to take up sporting activities. Eighteen months ago Kids in Action established a youth club at Houghton Regis. It operates fortnightly and is proving to be a great success. Parent participation is important, but as with everything else it all costs money, so any donation you can make will be appreciated. And if you want to

know more about Kids in Action, the charity is based at 2a Regent Street, Dunstable, and the phone and fax number is 01582 477762.

And finally: I know some supporters who went to Reading were upset when they could not get in to see the game because they had not bought tickets in advance. Sorry – but I did try to warn you. As this column pointed out at our last game, Reading were adamant that it was all-ticket, and it was. For the record, Reading make the same stipulation for their own fans too – there is no cash admission on turnstiles at the Madejski Stadium.

Cherry Newbery

MATCHDAY CATERING STAFF REQUIRED

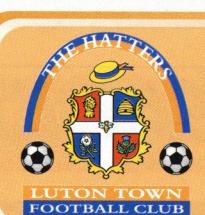
Please contact

Fiona Wallace, Catering Manager

Phone: Luton (01582) 411622

Are you a spot-on Family?

Always looking for ways to keep the entertainment going during the half-time interval, we are thinking of running a fathers-and-son penalty competition at future home games. We will provide a goalkeeper, and each father and son will take three penalties against him. So if you fancy scoring a goal at Kenilworth Road, write to Cherry Newbery, at Luton Town.



0891 121 123

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times

Community & Schools Programme

Coaching Courses • Stadium Tours • School Visits



Summer of '98

Our Community and Schools Department have been out and about across the region during the summer holidays organising coaching sessions and trips for hundreds of youngsters.

Courses have already been held all over Luton, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Harpenden, Eddlesborough and Biggleswade with some of the courses including a trip to Wembley Stadium. Amongst all the faces are Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson, Phil Gray and Kelvin Davis who have visited our courses to present prizes.

With only one week of the summer holidays to go next week will be your last chance to join us for some expert coaching in Luton and Leighton Buzzard - see opposite page for further information.



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10.00am to 2.30pm every day
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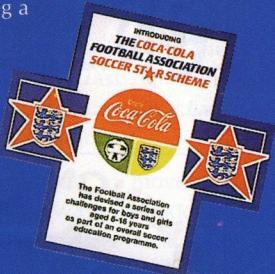
Leighton Buzzard - FA Soccer Stars/Coaching

Linslade Middle School, Mentmore Road
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10.00am to 2.30pm every day
Cost £36.00



Take your first steps to becoming a Soccer star with the Football Associations Official six point coaching skills test - running, turning, heading, shooting, dribbling and speed.

To register a place starting next Tuesday simply ring our Community & Schools Department on 0958 438322.



Birthday Boys!

Just a few of the birthday parties and surprise visits for some of our regular footballers to our Coaching Courses. Daniel Margott and friends from Lawrence at Kenilworth Road but were soon sent for an early bath and Darren Pullen, Ben Cornfield, Louis Farrell and Jack Bottomley from Leighton Buzzard all celebrated birthdays with Kelvin Davis and members of our coaching staff.



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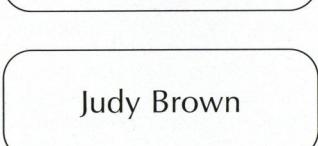
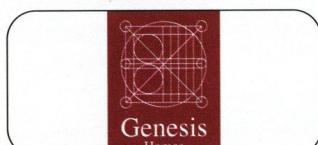
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Club 82

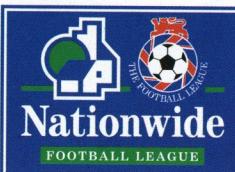
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Action Replay

Reading 3 Luton Town 0



Plans to wreck the party at Reading, on the day the new Madejski Stadium staged its first match, came to grief with three setbacks in the first quarter of an hour - two players taken off injured, and a goal conceded.

Two more Reading goals in the second half, both on the break interruptions to a lot of Town attacking, made it our worst away defeat since an injury-ravaged side went down by the same margin at Bristol City last September.

That result was a fair reflection on the game: Saturday's was not. The ball saw much more of Reading's penalty area than ours, but we could not find the final touch. In the crucial areas, the bounces and deflections went Reading's way.

After two league defeats Reading were bound to be up for it, and the atmosphere stoked up as the opening day party got underway, complete with a brass band, balloons and skydivers. The attendance was surprisingly short of the 25,000 capacity. You wouldn't have thought so before and after the game, with traffic gridlocked because the new access road to the impressive stadium is behind schedule.

New manager Tommy Burns had been able to spend £1.1million on players to improve a relegated side, and the £158,000 laid out for Liberian international forward Mass Sarr looked a real bargain. He was real class, with pace, trickery and an eye for goal. But he was kept off the scoresheet and the final three-goal deficit is a harsh measure of how well the Town played.

Marvin Johnson was a late withdraw with a thigh strain, and Alan White came in to partner Steve Davis, and played well enough for the skipper to be released in the latter stages to try to boost the attack.

Dwight Marshall limped off with a hamstring

strain after ten minutes, to be replaced by Ray McKinnon. Four minutes later, the Town failed to deal with the first corner of the game, and the ball dropped kindly for Grant Brebner to score on his home debut after a £300,000 move from Manchester United. Four minutes after that came another blow, when Paul McLaren was hurt going into a tackle and stretchered off. Liam George, a very promising attacker, had to go on and play in midfield.

Phil Gray and Stuart Douglas were the preferred front men, until the last half-hour when Mitchell Thomas came back after a two game absence as sub for Douglas.

That enabled Gavin McGowan to move up into a midfield which was always as good as Reading's, with George going into attack.

Steve Davis underlined his versatility by becoming as dangerous as a forward as he is dependable as a defender.

But while our chances - and we created more than Reading - dropped inches in the opposition's favour, three of theirs hit the target.

We had gone close to equalising several times when we were hit by Reading's second goal. And to give credit where due, it was a blisteringly quick counter-attack, built by quality passing, that ended with Jim McIntyre's clinical finish.

At two down, six minutes after the interval, teams might be forgiven for thinking that professional opponents will not let you come back. But the town still attacked sharply, letting us down only by the mixture of bad luck and imperfect final effort.

Continued on page 14

Action Replay

Reading 3 Luton Town 0



HAIR-RAISING: Liam George in full flow at the Madejski Stadium, where he went on as sub after Paul McLaren was injured early in the first half.

The third goal was another taken on the break, with Reading sub Robert Fleck the beneficiary after the Town's all-out attacking provided the

home side with the springboard to complete their day of celebration.

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Steve Davis, White, McLaren (George 15 mins), Evers, Douglas (Thomas, 62 mins), Gray, Marshall (McKinnon 10 mins).

Booked: Gray 30 mins, Evers 44, McGowan 75, George 80, all for fouls.

Reading: Van der Kwaak, Bernal (Booty 41 mins), Gray, Brebner, Primus, Kromheer, Houghton, Lasker, McIntyre (Fleck 62 mins), Reilly, Sarr (Williams 68 mins).

Booked: Elroy Kromheer, 55 mins, shirt-tugging to hold back Sean Evers.

Goals: 1-0 10 mins: Grant Brebner shot after the ball dropped kindly to him following a corner; 2-0 51 mins: Jim McIntyre from a superb pass by Mass Sarr as the Town were caught on the break; 3-0 83 mins: Robert Fleck, so alone he looked offside, on the end of another Reading counter-attack.

Referee: Robert Styles, Waterlooville.

Attendance: 18,108, including 1,758 Town fans, for the first-ever match at a new stadium near a motorway that had no problems getting planning permission.

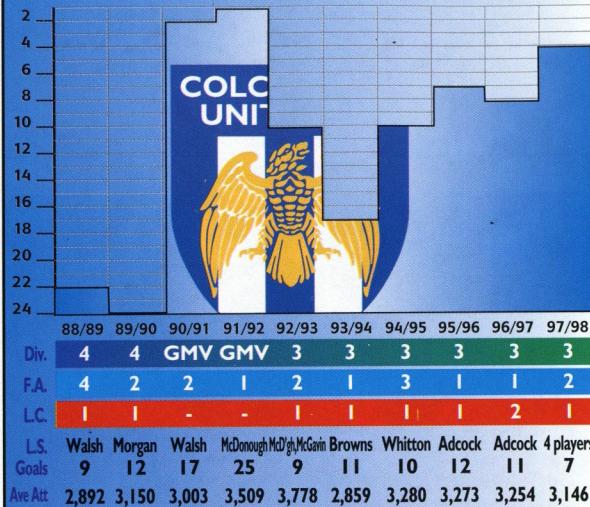


CLOSE CALL: Skipper Steve Davis is up at the sharp end, heading for goal as the Town put pressure on Reading.

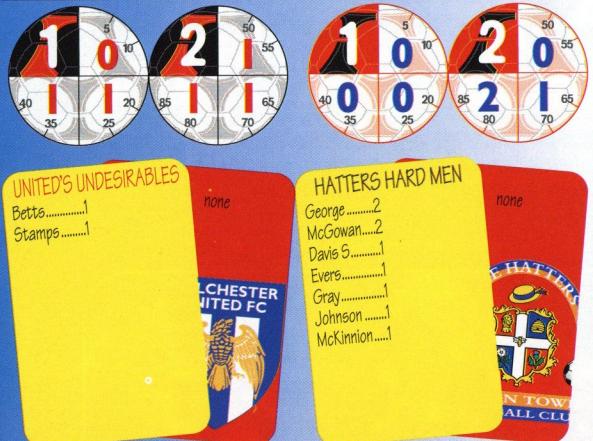


RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: Liam George in aerial combat against Elroy Kromheer.

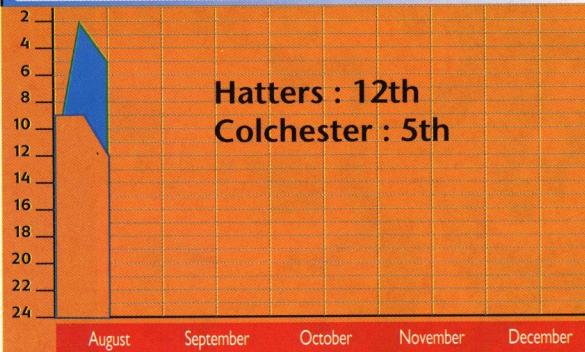
Colchester United's last ten years - the full record



When The U's have scored goals... and conceded them



Form comparison throughout the season



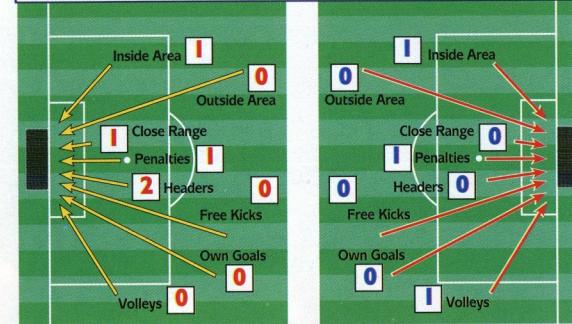
When The Hatters have scored goals... and conceded them



Who's played for The U's this season...

Player	Pos	Lge	Age	Ht	Weight	Prev. Club	Int.
	Apps	Gls					
Paul Abrahams	F	3	24	5	10	11	00
Paul Buckle	M	3	27	5	9	11	07
Carl Emberson	G	3	25	6	2	14	05
David Greene	M	3	24	6	3	14	02
David Gregory	M	3	28	5	11	12	03
Mark Sale	F	3	26	6	5	14	07
Scott Stamps	D	3	23	5	9	11	07
Geraint Williams	M	3	36	5	7	12	06
Neil Gregory	F	2(1)	25	6	0	12	03
Simon Betts	D	2	25	5	6	11	06
Richard Wilkins	M	2	33	6	0	11	08
Joe Dunne	D	1(2)	25	5	9	11	06
Nicky Haydon	M	1(1)	20	5	9	11	07
Tony Lock	F	1	21	5	10	12	08
Tony Adcock	F	(2)	35	5	11	11	05
Karl Duguid	M	(1)	20	5	11	11	00
Steve Forbes	M	(1)	22	6	1	13	03
Ian Wiles	D	(1)	18	6	0	11	00

How The U's have scored goals... and conceded them

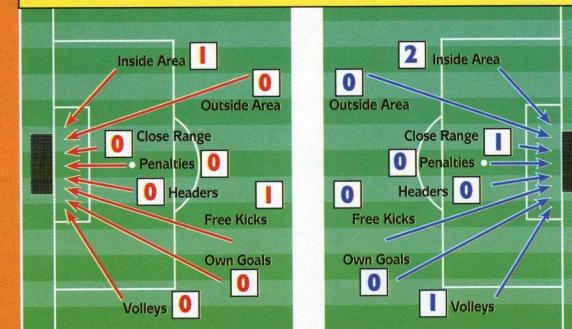


Hatters v The U's

FORM GUIDE	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Sequence
Luton Town	2	0	1	2	4	4	LDW
Colchester United	2	0	1	5	3	6	LWV

Statistics compiled by Football Information Services Telephone: 0151-632 5679

How Luton have scored goals... and conceded them



Colchester United

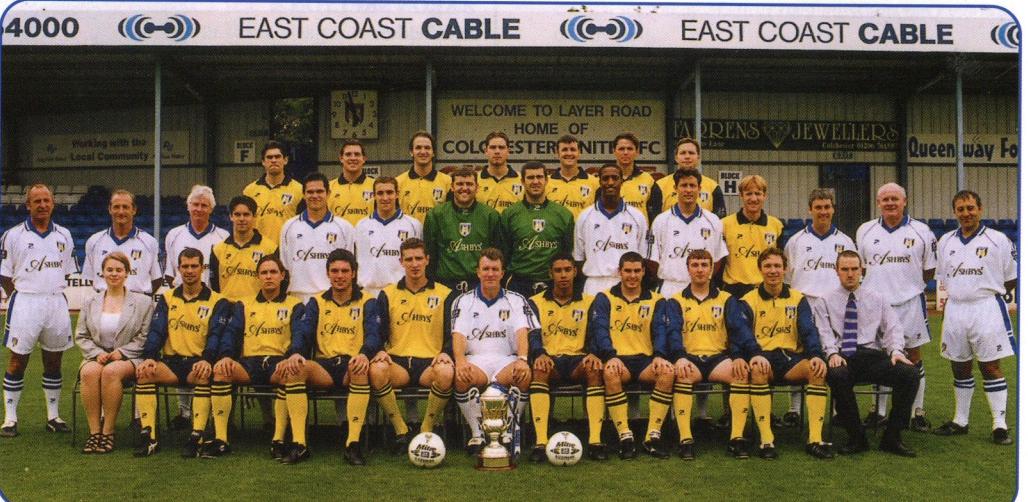
welcome to today's visitors

THE MANAGER – STEVE WIGNALL

When Steve Wignall took charge of Colchester United in January 1995, following the departure of George Burley to Ipswich, no-one could have foreseen the success that was to follow. Working on a shoestring budget, he has guided The U's to two play-off semi-finals, the 1997 Auto Windspeed Shield Final and last season to the Nationwide League Division Two, via the Play-Offs at Wembley Stadium.

Steve played over 700 games for Aldershot, Brentford, Colchester and Doncaster Rovers, before taking The Shots to two successive championships as Manager.

In his spare time he can be found at the local karaoke shows impersonating 70's legend Alvin Stardust.



BACK ROW (left to right): Paul Abrahams, Tony Lock, Karl Duguid, Joel Rogers, David Gregory, Neil Gregory, Geraint Williams.

MIDDLE ROW: Adrian Webster (Youth Development Officer), Micky Cook (Youth Team Manager), Brian Owen (Physio), Simon Betts, Aaron Skelton, Ian Wiles, Carl Emberson, Tamar Fernandes, Steve Forbes, Richard Wilkins, Tony Adcock, Steve Bradshaw (F.I.Com), Paul Dyer (Reserve Team Manager), Geoff Harrop (Youth Development Officer).

FRONT ROW: Sponsor, Joe Dunne, Paul Buckle, David Greene, Mark Sale, Steve Wignall (Manager), David Rainford, Nicky Haydon, Ian Hathaway, Scott Stamps, Sponsor.

STEVE WHITTON - Assistant manager

Steve's career saw him play at the top level with Birmingham, Sheffield Wednesday, Ipswich Town and his boyhood heroes West Ham United before finishing his playing days at Layer Road where a series of recurring injuries helped him to decide to call it a day early in 1998.

For the past two years he has worked alongside Steve Wignall and has played a major part in the U's recent success.

CARL EMBERSON - Keeper

Twenty-five year old Carl, was the only player ever-present for The U's last season and was the 'man of the match' against Torquay in the Division Three Play-Off Final.

TAMER FERNANDES - Keeper

Tamer joined The U's from Brentford in the early part of 1998 but, as yet, has not made his League debut in United's colours. Had an operation on his knee during the closed season, but is now fighting to take the Number One slot from Carl Emberson.

SIMON BETTS - Defender

Having spent the majority of the 1997/98 season on the transfer-list, Simon signed a new contract with The U's during the closed season. After a disappointing 1996/97 season, where injuries took their toll, Betsy made the Number Three shirt his own towards the latter part of the season.

JOSEPH DUNNE - Defender

Another player that spent half of last term on the transfer list and also signed a new contract during the closed season. Signed from Gillingham, Dublin born Joe plays the game with a steely determination and has a never say die attitude.

DAVID GREENE - Defender

Signed from Luton for £30,000 at the start of the 1996/97 season and has represented Eire at Under 21 level. Has added goalscoring to his defensive duties and scored one of the goals that took The U's to Wembley last season.

NICKY HAYDON - Defender/Midfielder

Twenty year old Nicky is a product of The U's excellent

Youth Development, having signed Pro forms at 17. Made a number of first team appearances last season, but was unable to establish himself in the side, although he has a bright future.

SCOTT STAMPS - Defender

Scott arrived at Layer Road in 1997 from Torquay and became known for his attacking qualities from the left sided positions.

Unfortunately an injury sustained at Barnet in January meant that he missed the final months of the season and, for the season year running, playing at Wembley.

RICHARD WILKINS - Defender/Midfield - Captain

Captain Wilko won no less than four 'Player of the Year' Awards last season and had the honour of lifting the Cup at Wembley in May. Produced some magnificent performances in midfield and in the sweepers role throughout last seasons successful promotion campaign.

AARON SKELTON - Midfielder

Aaron joined Colchester United in 1997 from Luton Town and became an instant hit with U's fans with his long range shots, which resulted in some of the best goals seen at Layer Road for years.



PAUL BUCKLE - Midfielder

Having missed out on Wembley in the Auto Windscreen Shield Final in 1997 through suspension, Bucks finally fulfilled a life-time ambition when he played in the Play-Off Final last season. A tireless worker in midfield, he can normally be found snapping at the heels of his opponents before starting yet another attack.

Paul also played for Torquay, Exeter and Brentford, but is now in his third year with The U's.

DAVID GREGORY - Midfielder/Defender

Scored the vital goal in the Play-Off semi's that took Colchester United into the final in May. David also scored from the spot at Wembley to ensure that The

U's would be playing in Division Two this season. That Wembley goal made Gregors The U's top scorer last season. A remarkable achievement as he spent most of the year in defense.

IAN HATHAWAY - Midfielder

Hathers failed to establish himself in the side following his move to Colchester United from Torquay at the start of last campaign.

Scorer of some spectacular goals for the Reserves and is almost certainly the most skilful player at the club.

STEVE FORBES - Midfielder

Forbsey has recently signed an extension to his contract that has made him a U's player into the new millennium.

He joined The U's from Millwall and is now a regular in the side. A player with tremendous potential and has the ability to become a match winner.

DAVID RAINFORD - Midfielder

The second member of the 'Spice Boys', 19 year old David is in his second year as a Pro, following his progress from the Youth Team. Has yet to make a first team appearance, although he has been an unused substitute on a couple of occasions.

PAUL ABRAHAMS - Midfielder/Attacker

Another product of the Youth Team, Abes re-joined The U's in 1996 following a short spell at Brentford. Scorer of some great goals for The U's including the Golden Goal in the Auto Windscreen Shield semi-final in 1997.



KARL DUGUID - Forward

'Ginger Spice' is another product of the youth system. His tremendous pace troubles the best of defences and has the knack of scoring important goals when required.

TONY LOCK - Forward

Tony possesses one of best left foots at the club and scored a number of very late goals last season to help

secure some vital League points. After a successful period in the youth team.

Lockey picked up a serious knee injury, but is now gaining the experience needed at League level.

NEIL GREGORY - Forward

Neil signed from Ipswich before last seasons transfer deadline, for a club record of £50,000 having been on loan previously.

Neil is a proven goalscorer and his experience will be invaluable this season.

TONY ADCOCK - Forward

Tads is the most experienced player at Layer Road having played at the top level for Manchester City amongst many others including Luton. He is very close to becoming The U's all time top goalscorer, although injury forced him out of the picture towards the end of last season.

MARK SALE - Forward

You can bet that Mark will be amongst the top scorers this season — Mark certainly will, in fact he'll bet on anything.

At 6ft 5 ins, he is one of the tallest players in the League, however he is as comfortable on the ground as he is in the air. One of the unsung heroes of the last campaign, but is certainly very popular at Layer Road and at the local night-clubs.

JOEL ROGERS - Forward

Prolific goalscorer Joel, is currently on a three-month contract having spent the last two years as a Y.T. He scored over 50 goals in Reserve and Youth Team football last season.

IAN WILES - Defender

Ian has come on leaps and bounds over the last year with some outstanding performances, as a Y.T., for the Reserves last season. Was rewarded with a one-year contract and is now hoping to make his mark this season.

GERAINT WILLIAMS - Midfielder

Signed in the closed season from Ipswich Town to add experience in Division Two. Played at the highest level with Derby County and Bristol Rovers, at 36 years of age, he has been there, seen and done it.



Action Replay

Oxford United 1 Luton Town 3 (aggregate 4-5)



Trailing from the first leg, to a team with three away goals in the bank, the Town should have been well on their way out of the Worthington Cup when they fell further behind after only 23 minutes at Oxford.

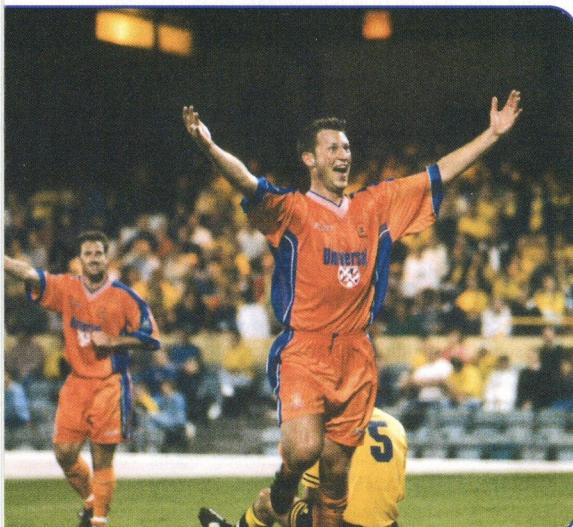
Or at least, that was what the home fans thought as the First Division side went into a 4-2 overall lead.

But they had not bargained for the Town's expertise in away games, and a thrilling recovery made a mockery of the difference in divisions.

Oxford were outclassed after the interval, becoming more and more desperate in their attacks, and decidedly fragile when they were caught on the break.

Hervé Bacqué was rested to allow Stuart Douglas to make his first appearance of the season as Phil Gray's partner. Paul McLaren returned to a midfield where he now has more competition for his place.

Both did well, but it was a night when every



THE WINNER: Paul McLaren acknowledges the roar of delight to greet his first goal of the season, to make it 3-1 on the night and 5-4 on aggregate.

member of the side buckled down to do a job, and teamwork rightly triumphed. The unanimous view of the Pressbox was that the Town did the job in every department, from a solid defence, and inventive midfield and the ability to create and take chances.

Sean Evers, 90 minutes of unbounded energy, was the best midfielder on view, helping to create one goal and scoring the second. Matthew Spring showed every sign of matching Evers's progress of the past few months, and Gavin McGowan, emergency left back again, settled into the role with far more assurance than he had shown at home to Preston. Mitchell Thomas, in the dug-out as player-coach on his enforced rest for football because of injury, was one of the first to congratulate his deputy for a spirited performance.

The oddity is that once more the Town fell behind before they really got into their stride but what a gallop they raised after the early reverse.

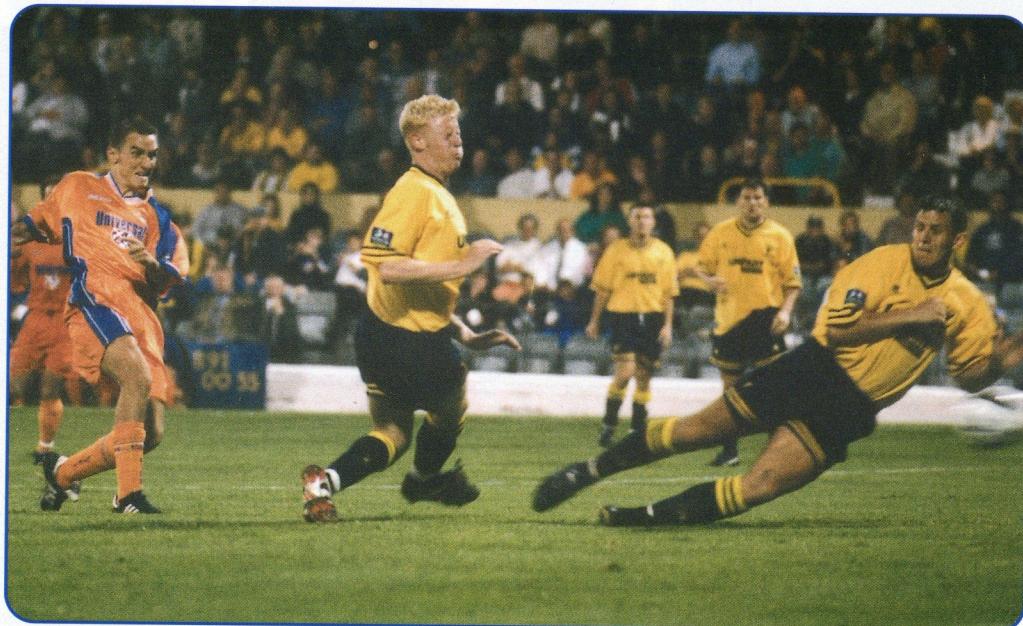
Lennie Lawrence has said it was a case of being at the bottom of a hill trying to get up when Oxford snatched the 3-2 win in the first leg. "Concede the first goal, and it will be a mountain," he added.

We did, Phil Whelan heading home because the defence failed to deal with the first corner of the match. But from then on it was the Town who scaled the peaks of intensity, eventually running Oxford ragged. Phil Gray's first goal of the season meant that the daunting aggregate deficit of 4-2 lasted only seven minutes. Evers levelled it two minutes after the

Continued on page 22

Action Replay

Oxford United 1 Luton Town 3 (aggregate 4-5)

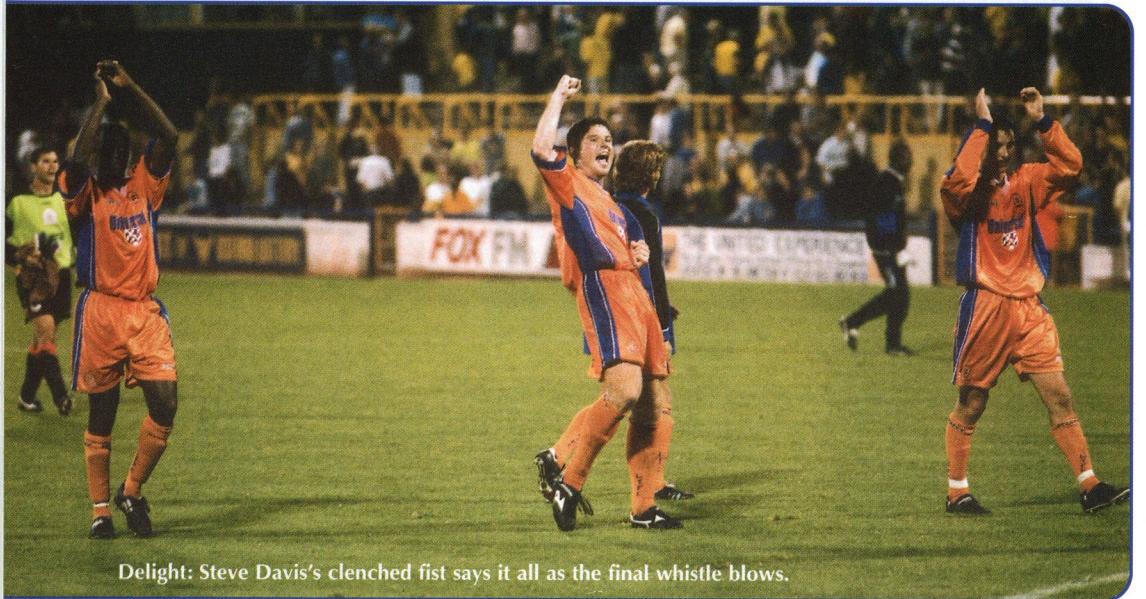


LEVELLER: Sean Evers shoots the goal that made it 4-4, with the Oxford defence all over the place – mainly on their backsides!



Action Replay

Oxford United 1 Luton Town 3 (aggregate 4-5)



Delight: Steve Davis's clenched fist says it all as the final whistle blows.

break, and after Joey Beauchamp hit the bar with a 20-yard free kick McLaren got the winner, with 21 minutes to go.

Oxford tried to stage a grandstand finish, and

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, McLaren, Evers, Douglas (George 84 mins), Gray, Marshall (McKinnon 89 mins). Unused subs: White, Abbey, Bacqué.

Booked: Marvin Johnson, 58 mins, foul on Windass.

Oxford: Whitehead, Robinson, Marsh, Smith, Whelan, Gilchrist, Banger (Hill 63 mins), Windass, Thomson (Cook 80 mins), Murphy (Weatherstone 51 mins), Beauchamp.

Booked: Les Robinson, 27 mins, foul on McGowan; Nicky Banger, 32 mins, diving to try to con a penalty out of Spring.

Town fans had to suffer four minutes of stoppage time, but the Town's grip was so complete that long before the end home fans were jeering their also rans

Goals: 1-0 23 mins: Phil Whelan close range header after a corner was knocked back across goal; 1-1 36 mins: Phil Gray shooting in after Steve Davis released Sean Evers to charge down the right and deliver a scorching low cross; 1-2 47 mins: Evers thumping drive from a lay-off by Gavin McGowan; 1-3 69 mins: Paul McLaren, shooting through a defence in disarray after a cross by Graham Alexander and a parried header by Stuart Douglas.

Referee: Clive Wilkes, Corse, Gloucester.

Attendance: 5,099, 478 of them in the away enclosure.



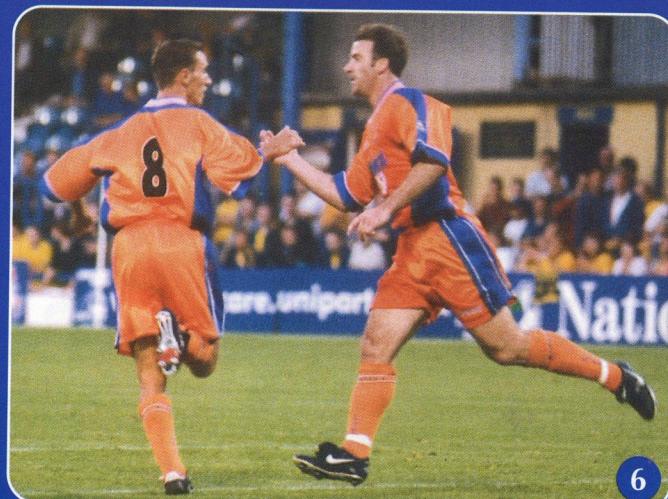
Oxford United 1
Luton Town 3
(aggregate 4-5)

5 REVIVAL STARTS: Phil Gray's first goal of the season has pulled it back to 4-3 to Oxford.

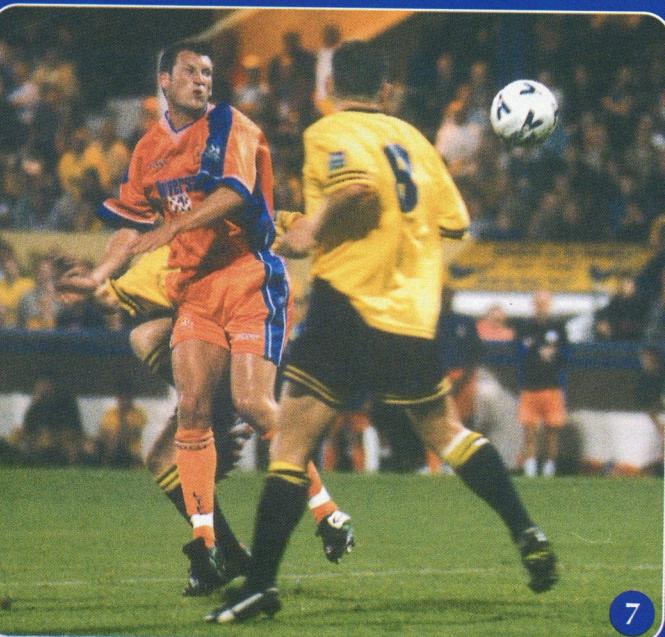
6 THANKS, PAL: Sean Evers and Gray enjoy the moment.

7 PRESSURE: Paul McLaren ensures the midfield keeps up in close support of the attack.

8 HAPPY BOSS: Lennie Lawrence goes on TV to pay tribute to a wonderful team effort that turned a 4-2 deficit into a memorable victory.



6



7



8

Luton Town Football Club

1998/99



BACK ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT: Dwight Marshall, Terry Sweeney, Richard Clarke, Mathew Spring, Emerson Boyce, Steve Augustine, Gavin McGowan, Russel Lawes, Stuart Fraser, Stuart Douglas, Jimmy Cox, Michael McIndoe, Andre Scarlett.
MIDDLE ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT: Clive Goodyear (Physio), Paul Lowe (Youth Team Coach), Cherry Newberry (Club Secretary), Andrew Fotiadis, Simon Davies, Paul Showler, Gary Doherty, Alan White, Kelvin Davis, Nathanael Abbey, Julian James, Chris Willmott, Paul McLaren, Graham Alexander, Lee Lough, Les Shannon (Scout), Mandy Malins (Fitness Trainer), John Moore (Reserve Coach).
FRONT ROW: Left to Right: Liam George, Phil Gray, Steve Davis, Chris Green (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Nigel Terry (Director), Mitchell Thomas, Marvin Johnson, Sean Evers.
INSET: LEFT: Hervé Bacqué; RIGHT: Ray McKinnon who signed contracts after the photograph was taken.



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It happened on this day

by Roger Wash

August 29th 1956

Wolves 5 Luton Town 4

The Hatters had beaten Wolves narrowly at Kenilworth Road the week before in a hard fought game, and a crowd of 46,781 turned out at Molineux for the return to see if revenge could be taken.

Little did the supporters know what was in store when the Town took a swift two-goal lead through Mike Cullen and Gordon Turner before the game was ten minutes old. Wolves roared back to score three goals in twelve minutes to turn the game on its head before Turner launched himself at a Cullen cross to head in to level the score.

Amazingly the goalscoring was not yet over, with Wolves banging in two more efforts to lead 5-3 at the break and give the crowd chance to take a breather.

Turner completed his hat-trick on 65 minutes and the Town hammered away at the Wolves defence for the remainder of the game without luck.

At the end, the players trooped off to a standing ovation and one veteran scribe, Desmond Hackett, was moved to say that it was the greatest game he had ever seen!

August 29th 1970

Birmingham 1 Luton Town 1

Following promotion to the old Division Two the Town had not started the new season particularly well and had only one point to show from their first two games.

Birmingham, at St Andrews, was seen to be the toughest test so far but the Town started brightly and a smart move ended with Matt Tees hitting a shot against the post to silence the big crowd.

It was the Blues, though, who opened the scoring when Geoff Vowden ambled on to a pass from John Vincent and suddenly unleashed a fierce 25 yard shot past the bemused Tony Read in the Luton goal.

The Town did not let this set back upset them and had more than their fair share of the rest of the

game without being able to put the ball into the back of the net. With only eight minutes left a cross from the right was smacked into the net by Roger Hoy, but the referee had already blown for a foul on Malcolm Macdonald who was being held by a Birmingham defender.

Amidst a chorus of boos and whistles Macdonald calmly stroked the ball home from the spot to earn a valuable point.

August 29th 1981

Luton Town 3 Charlton 0

The Hatters opened their Division Two campaign against newly promoted Charlton who had six new recruits on duty for the first time.

It was, however, the Town's new signing Brian Horton who stole the show with a display of forceful tackling and clever use of the ball that turned the game into a walkover.

A Horton corner was met with a flying header from Mal Donaghy to open the scoring with Don McAllister lobbing his own goalkeeper shortly afterwards for a spectacular own goal.

Steve White banged in the third on the hour after latching on to a ball threaded through by Horton and the Town then sat back on their lead for the remainder of the match as Charlton chased shadows. The nearest the Valiants came to scoring was when future Hatter, Paul Walsh, hit a post in a rare attack.



Charlton goalkeeper John Philips looks bemused as Steve White knocks in the Town's third goal – August 1981.

Intg.the archives

a blast from the past courtesy of Roger Wash

Colchester United entered the Football League as recently as 1950, but our paths have not crossed very often since apart from a spell in the mid-1960's when we were at the lowest ebb in our history.

Our first league meeting was in January 1964 when, following relegation from Division Two the previous season, only one win from the last eleven games meant we were rock bottom at the new level. Relegation to the old Division Four beckoned and manager Bill Harvey was realistic when he pointed out that this was a 'must win' game against comfortably placed Colchester.

The message seemed to percolate through to the players with the Hatters taking the lead after seven minutes when Harry Walden fired home. Unfortunately the Town were knocked back when Bobby Hunt equalised for Colchester with a soft goal and heads dropped.

It was left to the youthful exuberance of teenager John O'Rourke to save the day when, with his back to the goal, he flicked the ball past Bedford-born Percy Ames in the Colchester goal with only eleven minutes left. Veteran marksman, Gordon Turner, netted a third from the spot just before the end after O'Rourke had been pulled down in the area.

The return was played in mid-April with the Hatters still deep in the relegation mire. A last fling of the dice had, however, seen the Town win their last four games with O'Rourke, now making a real name for himself, netting eight times.

O'Rourke who had been discarded by Chelsea the previous December had now rattled in an amazing 18 goals in 19 games since his introduction to the side at Christmas. He had been instrumental in the club's fight to

avoid the drop and was lively at Layer Road although his goal after 66 minutes was hotly disputed.

After future Hatter Billy Stark went close for Colchester the ball was thumped clear to O'Rourke who was loitering near the half way line. He immediately set off and rounded a defender before scoring with a low shot. The Colchester players, led by skipper Duncan Forbes, charged over and rounded on the linesman for his failure to flag O'Rourke offside but the goal was allowed to stand.

Colchester, fuelled by the injustice of it all, levelled through Martyn King eight minutes later but the Town were able to hang on for a valuable point in the battle against relegation which was eventually won.

In the following campaign Colchester were the first visitors to Kenilworth Road. On the opening day John O'Rourke had badly injured an ankle at Griffin Park after a bad tackle by Brentford's Peter Gelson and as such was missing for the visit of the 'U's. Taking his place in the forward line was new signing from Nottingham Forest, David Pleat, who actually signed just over half an hour before the kick-off.

Pleat made a sparkling debut and twice went close in the opening minutes before Tom McKechnie opened the scoring, taking advantage of a slip by a Colchester defender to net with ease. Colchester, however, fought back and as the game swung one way and then the other Billy Stark levelled for the away side after a catalogue of errors left him with a simple opportunity to side foot home.

The Town came out far more determined in the second period and an accurate centre from winger, Ray Whittaker, left McKechnie with time and space to lash the ball home

from close range. With Pleat still having a field day even though two defenders were assigned to him, it came as no surprise that the extra space in the Colchester defence was exploited with Gordon Riddick making the points safe ten minutes from the end.

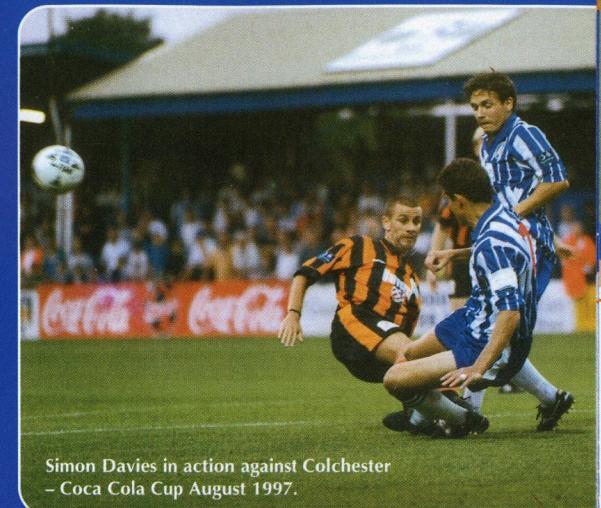
The return was played five days later with Colchester out to avenge their earlier defeat and anxious to put on a show for their own supporters after losing 0-1 at home on the opening day. The Town forward line always caused problems for the Colchester rearguard and it was no shock when Ray Whittaker opened the scoring on 23 minutes after Colchester winger, Barry Aitchison, gave the ball away.

Colchester tried to make a fight of it in the second period but they were always held at arms length by the Luton defence in which Gordon Fincham was outstanding.

Both teams were relegated at the end of the campaign and met up in 1965/66 for the last pair of clashes for over 32 years. The two clubs had enjoyed a successful season and by Easter 1966 Colchester stood in top place while the Hatters were seventh although with three games in hand on the teams above them.

The Town visited Colchester on Good Friday where a crowd of 10200 gathered, which has only been beaten once in the league since. The start of the match was delayed after a large hole suddenly appeared in the Luton goalmouth which took some time to fill!

Dick Edwards fired the Town into a deserved interval lead and when Whittaker converted a penalty soon after the break, after he was brought down by Duncan Forbes, an impor-



Simon Davies in action against Colchester – Coca Cola Cup August 1997.

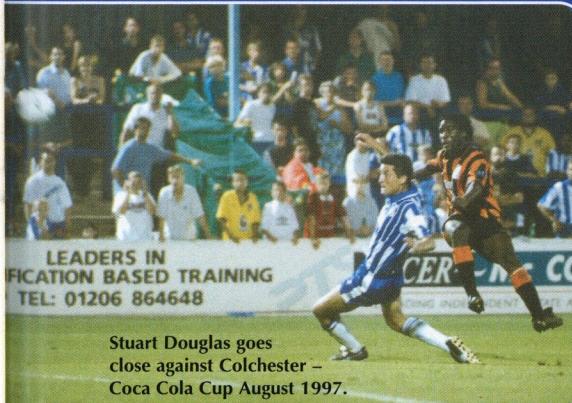
tant victory was on the cards. With John Moore effectively covering Colchester dangerman, and ex-Hatter, Ted Phillips the Town became over confident with the result that sloppy play allowed Reg Stratton to reduce the deficit after the ball rebounded off Riddick.

With only two minutes to go Stratton beat the Luton offside trap and raced through to send in a mishit shot that seemed to bounce over the hands of the diving Luton goalkeeper, George Ramage, for the equaliser.

The return on Easter Monday was played in front of another large crowd with 15309 turning up at Kenilworth Road. This time Colchester took the lead when, after only 90 seconds, the normally dependable Matt Woods missed a through ball leaving Stratton with an easy chance.

The Town thundered into attack and put the Colchester defence under considerable pressure for the remainder of the game. The chances of salvaging something from the match seemed to diminish when O'Rourke took a nasty kick on the foot and became a limping passenger on the wing with the substitute already on the pitch.

With only eight minutes to play Riddick, who had moved to centre forward after O'Rourke's injury, headed in a cross from substitute McKechnie to bring the house down. The dropping of points, especially the one at Layer Road, was reflected upon when Colchester pipped the Town to promotion at the season's end on goal average!



Stuart Douglas goes close against Colchester – Coca Cola Cup August 1997.

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Commercial



In the picture, with Marvin Johnson and Steve Davis, are Paula Stoughton of the NBS, holding the cake, with Emma in red and Lisa in blue.

WE TALK perhaps too easily about footballers giving blood, and of course they do sometimes. But the world would be a poorer place if thousands of ordinary men and women were not blood donors, and Luton Town was delighted to support the tenth anniversary of the Luton Blood Donor Centre. The club and the National Blood Service joined forces in a cake creation competition for children.

Emma Wyatt and Lisa Bowkett, of Warden Hill Junior school, were the winners and enjoyed meeting Town stars when the club hosted the official cake-cutting ceremony. And the cake was delicious. Emma's mother Karen, a regular blood donor was among the guests. So was Lisa's mother Christine, and she enjoyed the occasion even more - she was recent recipient, having required four pints of blood. "Had it not been for the blood service I wouldn't be here to see this day," she said.

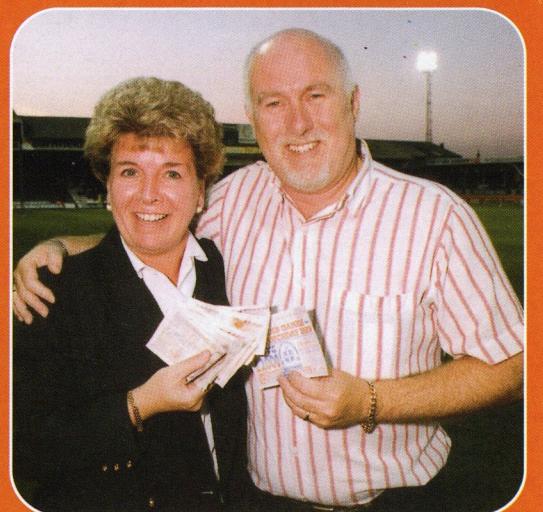
Golden Gamble

The broad smile on the face of Denis O'Donoghue will be mirrored by one lucky supporter at every first team match at Kenilworth Road this season.

He is pictured receiving his winnings at the Oxford game when his lucky number came up on the Golden Gamble.

Tickets are a £1 each, and sales benefit the club: half the cash goes to the holder of the lucky number drawn out at half time, and the other half goes to Luton Town FC.

Ticket sellers are on duty all round the ground, but we need more. If you are interested in helping yourself and the club by becoming a Golden Gamble ticket seller, please contact the commercial department.



Junior Hatters welcome

David Peters



He lives in St. Peter Port, Guernsey, but David Peters, who will be six in a few weeks time, is very much a Luton Town supporter, and for an early birthday treat his dad John has brought him to Kenilworth Road today.

Mr Peters is a long-time Luton Town supporter, and the proud father took care to ensure that his new son would follow in his footsteps - David was just six weeks old when he paid his first visit to Kenilworth Road. We were home to Grimsby, and were beaten 4-1. David watched from the comfort of the Club 82 lounge, and his mother assures us that he asked after the game "Is it always this good, Dad !?"

We hope it's a lot better today, and that the Peters family enjoy their return.



DAY TO REMEMBER

Mascots Tim Owen and Carl Ibbeson tread the hallowed turf at Kenilworth Road, meeting the skippers and officials before kick-off at the game against Preston.

Mitchell Thomas

player interview



Mitchell Thomas, now our senior professional as well as player-coach, is likely to be back in action today after his enforced rest.

But he admits it's not Gavin McGowan's fault - the ex-Arsenal man kept the veteran out of the starting line-up at Reading after a wonderful performance in the Worthington Cup triumph at Oxford.

"Mitch" will be 34 in a month's time, but while coaching beckons when he has to retire from playing, he is still officially "90 per cent a player, 10 per cent a coach."

Long acknowledged as the best left back on the books, he was sidelined by a Football League regulation which rightly takes a safety-first view of head injuries. He was knocked out briefly playing in the first leg of the Worthington Cup game against Oxford, and was not allowed to play a competitive match for at least ten days.

That meant he could be in line for a return at Reading - but at Oxford, a few days previously, Gavin McGowan was just one of many who played faultlessly at the Manor Ground, and deservedly kept his place for the trip to the Madejski Stadium.

But Thomas, of course, did get on as a sub, after injuries to Paul McLaren and Dwight Marshall forced a re-shuffle of the side. There was no rancour from Thomas when Lennie Lawrence broke the news to him that he was not be recalled at Reading.

"I shouted myself hoarse from the dug-out at Oxford," said the lanky defender. "But I didn't mind being hoarse because I was absolutely delighted for the lads.

"I knew we were capable of playing that well and it was a tremendous performance by the whole team. Gavin McGowan did tremendously well at left back so I didn't really mind sitting it out. It's very much a team game.

With the youngish team we have now there is so much hope for the future: we have some tremendous young players and perhaps it will take a season, or a season and a half, for them to fulfil their potential.

"We have the likes of Matthew Spring, Sean Evers, Stuart Douglas and other young players who can achieve great things."

Coming soon - this great new book on the Hatters

- Q. Which Hatters game kicked off with the opposition fielding only ten men?
- A. In the match at Reading in 1970 the home side's goalkeeper, Steve Death, was delayed in traffic and came running on to the field two minutes after kick-off.
- Q. Before last Saturday the Town had only won once away on the opening day since the War. Where and when?
- A. West Ham in 1980.

These are two of the countless fascinating facts to be found in Roger Wash's monumental book, which covers the period from 1967 to 1998.

The book will include a match report of every game from that Division Four championship winning season until the present, together with full statistical information such as away teams, goal times and referees, a full review of each season, photographs and much more. From Keith Allen to Rory Allen! You can now subscribe to this 350 page hardback, to be published in October.

Your name will appear in the book alongside your choice of favourite Luton player. Postage is free to subscribers (U.K. only). Send a) your name and address, b) the name of your favourite player, together with a cheque or postal order for £16.99 to Desert Island Books (Luton), 89 Park Street, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7PD. Also enclose a SAE if a receipt is required. Closing date for subscriptions: Friday 4th September 1998.

Roger Wash writes: 'Ever since the club's Centenary history 'The Luton Town Story' went out of print in 1985 there has been a constant queue of enquiries asking for a follow up. Rather than re-write the club's early history it was decided to look at the modern era, with 1967 being a good starting off point as it coincides with the Hatters winning the Division Four championship. I would guess that around 80% of Luton supporters have watched their first match over the intervening 31 years and can therefore readily relate to the period. Also, quite a lot has happened since 'The Luton Town Story' was published! The book looks in depth at the period since 1967 with the first half in words and photographs and in the second, full statistical information including a match report of every game.'

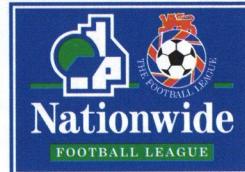
'Supporters will be able to dip into the book and recall past games and personalities. It will also be interesting to find out whether they saw the same match I did!'

Last Season
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The Quality of the Football

For the Record

Luton Town 1 Preston North End 1



For the second time in consecutive matches, the Town picked themselves up after the interval, having been second best in the first, to earn the point which was the least they deserved from the first home league game of the season.

The big talking point was the 74th-minute sending-off of Michael Appleton for a dreadful two-footed jump at Dwight Marshall.

Preston boss David Moyes led the unanimous view that referee Steve Bennett had no choice, and passed on the player's apologies to Marshall, and to his own team for his moment of madness.

Oddly enough, the interruption for the red card and for treatment to Marshall seemed to benefit Preston. The Town lost the momentum that had been building up nicely, and as always happens ten men worked that little bit harder. Preston's depleted team held out too easily for home fans' comfort, and Lennie Lawrence admitted it was a little worrying that four goals in the first three games had not included one from open play.

He added that perhaps Hervé Bacqué and Phil Gray needed time to settle in as the new season's strike force... "but we need goals."

Preston looked a classy side in the first half,

without producing too much front-line threat, but a series of quick accurate passes led to Jon Macken stroking them into a 41st minute lead.

The Town looked a different team after the break, raising the attacking tempo and taking charge just as much as Preston had done before the interval.

The equaliser by Marshall followed a free kick by Graham Alexander, and the Preston manager admitted the Town should have had a penalty five minutes later, when Gary Parkinson used a hand to block a cross by Gavin McGowan, who had settled in after the interval, having looked a touch uncomfortable for a time as a right-footed deputy for injured left back Mitchell Thomas.

Each goalkeeper had one top class save to make in the second half, with Bacqué's glancing header worth his first English goal until Teuvo Moilanen's finger-tips intervened. But in stoppage time, we might have lost, with Mark Rankine's thundering 25-yarder bringing the best out of Kelvin Davis.

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan (White 85 mins), Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (McLaren 69 mins), Evers, Bacqué (George 69 mins), Gray, Marshall.

Booked: McKinnon, McGowan, Steve Davis, Johnson, all for fouls.

Preston: Moilanen, Parkinson, Ludden, Murdoch, Jackson, Gregan, Appleton, Rankine, Nogan, Macken (Cartwright 74 mins), Eyres. Unused subs Hot, McKennie.

Booked: Murdoch, foul on Gray.

Sent Off: Michael Appleton, serious foul play, a flying two footed challenge on Marshall.

Goals: 0-1 41 mins: Jon Macken, passing the ball into the net after playing a one-two with Appleton; 1-1 54 mins: Dwight Marshall poacher's strike, after Steve Davis and Sean Evers worked the ball into the danger area from a free kick by Graham Alexander.

Referee: Steve Bennett, Orpington.

Attendance: 5,392

Words by Brian Swain, pictures by Gareth Owen.



IN THE THICK OF IT: Phil Gray gets at the Preston defence.



EMERGING TALENT: Matthew Spring on the attack.





Over the bar!

Tickets and travel news

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Tickets

Nationwide League Division Two
Monday 31st August 1998,
kick off 3.00pm
Wigan Athletic v Luton Town



This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters

Terracing	£7.50	Adults
	£4.00	Juniors/senior citizens
Seating	£10.00	Adults
	£6.00	Juniors/senior citizens

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 5th September 1998,
kick off 3.00pm
Luton Town v Burnley



Tickets are now on sale at normal prices
Normal guesting facilities apply.

Nationwide League Division Two
Tuesday 8th September 1998,
kick off 7.30pm
Wrexham v Luton Town



This match is pay on the night only for Luton supporters

Terracing	£9.00	Adults
	£5.00	Juniors/senior citizens
Seating	£12.00	Adults
	£7.00	Juniors/senior citizens

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 12th September 1998,
kick off 3.00pm
Luton Town v Bristol Rovers



Tickets are now on sale at the discounted prices
Normal guesting facilities apply

Travel

**The Road to Wigan Pier
(and to Springfield Park)**

IF YOU are planning to see the Town play at Wigan on Monday (3pm), the Bobbers Travel Club and Luton Town Supporters Club are both running coach trips - check at the kiosks today for further information.

If you intend to drive, the journey is easy, but boring, being motorway nearly all the way - and don't forget to allow time for bank holiday traffic. Fortunately, the heaviest Blackpool surge of day-trippers should have gone by the time Town fans are that far up the M6.

Those who think Wigan Pier was no more than an invention by George Orwell might find it interesting to visit the place and discover it really

does exist. The canny folk of Wigan have cashed in on their only possible tourist attraction, and have turned Wigan Pier into a nice little visitor centre.

The route from Luton:
Head northwards up the M1, and then onto the M6. Leave at junction 25, signposted to Wigan on the A49. Follow the signs for just under two miles towards the town centre, and at somewhat complicated junction watch for a turn towards A49 Preston, into Robin Park Road. After a mile and a half, and after passing the Martland Mill industrial estate, turn right at the forth set of traffic lights, signposted towards the town centre, into Woodhouse Lane. After just about a mile on this road, Springfield Road, you will see the ground on your left- turn left at the traffic lights. Mileage from Luton:190.

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Today's referee is one of the most experienced in the country – when **Roger Furnandiz** of Doncaster reported back for duty at the start of this season he had already refereed more than 450 Premiership and Football League matches. A technical sales manager, he took up the whistle in his early twenties, 23 years ago, on his local parks in the Doncaster area. He became a Football League linesman in 1985 and joined the League referees panel four years later. Golf and cricket are his hobbies, and he is also vice-chairman of the Doncaster Referees' Society.



The Football Trust has been providing support for football throughout the UK for 22 years.

A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

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Clive Goodyear



It was obviously bad news when we lost two players to injuries in the first 15 minutes or so in the game at Reading.

But there has been some consolation this week for Paul McLaren and Dwight Marshall – they have seen specialists who have confirmed that for both it's not as bad as it might have been. Paul went down in a 50/50 challenge for the ball, and we knew immediately it was a potentially serious

injury. When I went out to give him treatment on the pitch I soon knew that was the end of the game for him, because it was certain he had sustained a medial knee ligament injury. The fear in such cases is whether the cruciate ligament has also suffered. If so that can be very serious. Not so many years ago it could end playing careers, although nowadays players can come back from cruciate problems – our own Rob Johnson some years ago was one who did, and perhaps a little more famously so did Paul Gascoigne.

Thankfully for Paul McLaren, and for the club, a scan has shown that the cruciate is OK, and the damage to the medial ligament is not as bad as we first feared.

He is having to wear a knee brace for a week or so, to stop sideways movement of the knee joint. Time is the great healer and our first thoughts are that it will be about six weeks before Paul can play again.



Paul McLaren



Marvin Johnson

Meanwhile, he is working to maintain general fitness, in the gym and on the trusty exercise bike.

When Dwight Marshall had to come off at Reading he and I thought he had probably pulled a hamstring. This was what it felt like to him, but again a scan gave us some good news.

The hamstring was not pulled totally, just strained. He has some scar tissue in that area, and when it breaks down, as it did at Reading, it feels just like a tear.

Fortunately it was not, and hopefully Dwight can be competing for his first team place again in a couple of weeks.

Marvin Johnson was left out of the team at Reading after we gave him a fitness test on Saturday morning. He had picked up a groin strain in training two days before the game – nothing serious, but nothing on which you would want to take a risk.

By Saturday morning he was close to full fitness, but not quite close enough to justify taking a chance. But he has been training this week, stepping it up gently, and there is every chance he will be fit for today.

And finally, on the good news front: Paul Showler resumed training on Wednesday, and we all hope this really is the end of his injury nightmare. He has had terrible luck, but has worked hard to beat the odds, and it is good to see him clear of injury at long last.



Dwight Marshall

Clive Goodyear

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2. Drill Top, Brushed Cotton

SB, LB ~~£27.99~~ **£19.99**

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From now until the 13th September ALL stocks of Club Shop souvenirs will be reduced by

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Training Kit Offer

3. Run Out Top,

Fleece Sweat Shirt

SB, LB ~~£29.99~~ **£19.99**

Y, S, XXL ~~£39.99~~ **£25.99**



From Saturday 29th August until stocks clear all Pony Training Kit available in the Club Shop will be reduced in price. Sizing is limited on this range and normal season tickets discount does not apply.



John Moore reserves



Luton Town 1 Kuwait XI 1

With no Avon Insurance League fixture last week, we were delighted to have a game with the Kuwaiti national squad at Kenilworth Road.

The best training methods possible can do only so much towards preparing for games – there is no substitute for match fitness, and early in the season coaches are always keen to see teams play with real sharpness.

Kuwait certainly provided good opposition. They were a good side, and played with a style we do not meet very often.

They made it a difficult game for us, but I hope all our players who took part learned something from the match.

On the day we didn't do as well as we would have hoped, but it was a very good experience for our youngsters who are still in a learning process, part of their education.

We went ahead with a stunning own goal, when a Kuwaiti full-back met a cross by Emmerson Boyce with a header into the top corner. The second-half equaliser was the least the Kuwaitis deserved, but we worked hard defensively, and Tanny Abbey made one or two very good saves.

Jimmy Cox was lively in attack – he has plenty of



Get stuck in: Michael McIndoe in action against Kuwait.

energy, and he is a dribbler who might worry a few defences.

On the left of midfield we had Kofi Nyamah, who has been released by Stoke. He is a natural left-footer, which makes him something of a rarity at Kenilworth Road, and he did well enough to earn a month's contract, an opportunity for him to prove that he can make the grade.

In central defence we gave a trial to Ouandie Lowe, who was in the Jamaican squad for the World Cup in the summer.

His agent tells us several clubs are interested, and the asking price apparently starts at £500,000. We had to tell him that sorry, we were not interested, especially at that sort of money.

The reserves drew 2-2 at Cambridge on Wednesday, but because of shortage of space the report has had to be held over, and will appear in next week's matchday magazine.

Avon Combination League Fixtures - Season 1998/99				
Wed 12	August	Brighton & Hove	H	4-1
Wed 26		Cambridge United	A	2-2
Wed 12	September	Portsmouth	A	
Wed 16		Reading	H	2.00pm
Wed 23		Swindon Town	A	
Wed 30		Charlton Athletic	H	2.00pm
Wed 7	October	Millwall	H	2.00pm
Wed 14		Gillingham	A	
Wed 28		Brentford	A	
Wed 04	November	Crystal Palace	H	2.00pm
Thur 19		Norwich City	A	
Wed 25		Ipswich Town	H	2.00pm
Tues 01	December	West Ham United	A	
Mon 07		Arsenal	A	
Mon 14		Colchester United	H	7.00pm
Mon 21		Tottenham Hotspur	H	7.00pm
Mon 04	January	Chelsea	A	
Mon 11		Wimbledon	H	7.00pm
Wed 20		Southampton	A	
Mon 01	February	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H	7.00pm
Wed 10		Fulham	A	
Mon 22		Barnet	H	7.00pm
Wed 10	March	Queens Park Rangers	A	
Wed 17		Wycombe Wanderers	H	2.00pm
Wed 31		Watford	A	
Wed 07	April	Oxford	H	2.00pm
Thur 15		Northampton Town	A	
Wed 21		Peterborough United	H	2.00pm

Paul Lowe youth



Luton Town 4 Bournemouth 2

In keeping with the belief that things we and players learn are more important than results, we included 16-year-old schoolboy James Dollin in the side for our second match in the South East Counties League.

And the right back from Kingsbury had a very good game in his debut at this level, helping us to a deserved victory.

Two more goals by Tresor Kandol maintained his good run of scoring form, and Cliff Akurang added another to his tally.

There was a lot of satisfaction when Joe Harrington put us ahead after only a couple of minutes. He plays on the right side of midfield, and on the training ground we have been working on his game moving forward. It paid off, with Joe getting to the far post to shoot us into the lead from a left wing cross by trailist Jermaine Hammond.

We then conceded two goals to remind us that you cannot afford to relax in defence.

Our equaliser, ten minutes into the second half, was a header by Tresor, from a long throw by Jude Stirling. Another header, this time by Clifford, put us ahead for the second time after 60 minutes, and five minutes later Tresor showed he can be pretty good on the ground as well as in the air, going round the goalkeeper to score after being put through for a one-on-one.

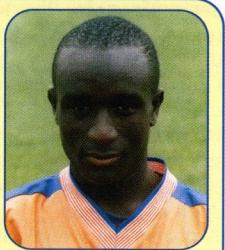
Brighton 0 Luton Town 0

We didn't quite do enough in the home team's penalty area to get the win we deserved on the run of play at Brighton, but there were plenty of encouraging features, and it was a team performance that pleased.

Having conceded six goals in our first two league matches it was good to keep a clean sheet, and it was well-deserved.

Mathew Taylor, a left back who has just joined us as a YTS boy, had his first full 90 minutes of league action and came through well.

We also had a schoolboy in midfield, Jerome Thomas from Wealdstone, and although he is only 15 he did very well.



* Apologies are due to two players over a picture and caption mix-up in the last matchday magazine. To put the record straight, Tresor Kandol is on the left. Jerry Moses, another second-year YTS boy, was the player whose picture appeared with the incorrect identification.

Critical Research –

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Luton Town Youth Team



Critical Research Ltd are delighted to be sponsors of the youth team. A locally based company, CR is one of the leading telephone market research agencies in the country.

Established in 1990, Critical work with clients in most sectors of industry and commerce, assisting companies develop and test-market new products, evaluate advertising campaigns, establish customer satisfaction measures, monitor customer loyalty programmes, and investigate customer options.

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As an employer of many young people - as part of our growing telephone interviewing teams we are keen to support youth - and as long-standing supporters of Luton Town, we are delighted to be the main sponsors of the ever-successful youth team. For the future of Luton Town, the youth team is crucial to the success of the club - we wish them continuing and growing success.

WELCOME BACK: It's not unusual to meet old friends in football during a season, but today there are likely to be four members of the Colchester party returning to one of their former clubs.

Brian Owen, for one, will know his way around the dressing room area. The Colchester physio did a similar job for us in David Pleat's second spell as manager.

A decent left winger as a player – he turned out for our Hertfordshire rivals in the 60s – Owen was Town physio for 18 months, until December 1992. A qualified coach, he left to become assistant manager to Ian Atkins at Cambridge, having previously worked with him when they were both at Colchester.

Cambridge sacked the duo after relegation five years ago, so Atkins presumably enjoys today's Nationwide Football League standings, leading Northampton in Division Two while Cambridge languish in the Third Division.

Three of our former players are in the Colchester squad: Tony Adcock, David Greene and Aaron Skelton.

Adcock, now 35, came from Peterborough for £10,000 four years ago, with a tremendous record as a goalscorer with six previous clubs. We never saw him at his best, and his one season here, bedeviled by injuries, saw him make only three appearances, all as a sub, before he went back to Colchester, his first club.

David Greene is likely to enjoy playing at Kenilworth Road more than most visitors; he signed for the Town as a schoolboy, and made his league debut for us five years ago, but despite being a regular in the Irish youth and then under-21 sides, he was never able to win a regular place at Kenilworth Road, and settled for Colchester two years ago, after being loaned out to Layer Road and to Brentford at a time when he and many supporters thought he might be capable of doing a job for us.

For Aaron Skelton, playing football for anyone is a bonus. Born at Welwyn, and with us from his school days, he was real class as a young defender. At 19 he was promoted to the first team squad, only to suffer a severe muscle injury in training on a pre-season trip to Scotland.

He battled back to make his debut for us at West Brom on the first day of the 1994/95 season, only to suffer more serious injuries. His first season so

full of promise was lost to a back problem, and no sooner had he got over that than he was hit by a cruciate ligament injury. That wiped out another season and all of us who remember the cultured defender in our youth and reserve teams are delighted to see how well he has done since moving to Colchester a year ago.

THEY'RE EXPECTING a full house at the next function of the Luton Town Supporters Club. Lennie Lawrence is the guest speaker, and on past experience he is well worth listening to, and also willing to listen to fans and try to deal with their questions.

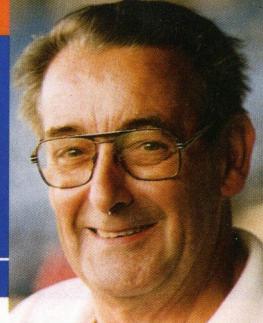
It's on Thursday week, September 10, in the Eric Morecambe lounge at 7.30. The entrance is in Maple Road, and secure car parking is provided. Admission is £2 to LTSC members, and tickets are on sale today, at the Supporters Club kiosk before and after the game. If there are any left they will be on offer, again to LTSC members, before kick-off when we play Burnley next Saturday. Naturally, if you are not already a member you're welcome to join and thus qualify for a £2 ticket to hear the manager. Chairman David Kohler is lined up as a guest speaker later in the season. If there are any tickets for Lennie's night left after 3pm next Saturday they will be on sale to non-members of the Supporters Club at £3 each.

THE SUPPORTER whose Lada caused a fair amount of chaos on the roads around the ground on the night of the Oxford match is dreading reading his name here. His car broke down near the Hazelbury Crescent car park entrance, and no amount of straining and heaving from an ever-growing body of frustrated drivers would shift it. So the car park was out of use for some time before kick-off, and scores of supporters had to plough through heavy traffic to find alternative parking.

By the time the RAC had rescued the car and got it and its mortified owner back to his home at Wheathampstead, he had missed the match. He claims the Lada had never let him down before. It has now been repaired but he took no chances today, or for the Preston game – he came on the bus! And he cadged a lift with another fan to get to Reading. If he had taken the Lada to Reading we would probably still be there now, waiting to get out of the car park!

Brian Swain

second division scene



The first meaningful league table of the season mirrors our average start in terms of results: one win, one draw and one defeat leaves us in 12th place, but level on points with seventh-placed Preston. Goals scored is the Nationwide League's method of deciding priority between teams of equal points standing, not goals difference, which is the Premiership's way of deciding.

Today's visitors Colchester shared out third-match woe, suffering their first defeat of the season. But it was at home to Fulham, and only by a single, late goal.

And they come to Kenilworth Road with a reminder that they can do the business away from home: their only away day in the Second Division so far saw them canter to a 4-2 victory at Wrexham a fortnight ago. But they did lose 2-0 at Bournemouth in the Worthington Cup first leg, and just failed to turn that around with a 3-2 victory in the second leg at home.

Losing to Fulham is hardly a disgrace: Kevin Keegan's expensively-assembled squad is one of only three with 100 per cent records after the first three league matches of the season. Stoke City, desperate to return at the first attempt after relegation, lead the table on goals scored after maintaining their perfect start with a 4-3 win at Preston.

The early surprise packets are Bournemouth, the other 100 per-centers, who saw off Millwall 3-0 at Dean Court. A similar scoreline at Springfield Park is a reminder we will not have it easy against Wigan on Monday. Blackpool were Saturday's victims as Wigan collected their first points of the season. That's a pleasure still awaited by Wycombe, the only team in the division still without a point. Walsall followed our example by winning at Adams Park, to the considerable relief of new manager Ray Graydon.

Incredibly, although they are fourth in the table, Andy Rammell's strike at Wycombe was the only goal scored by the Saddlers in four attempts: an own goal gave them an opening

day win at Gillingham and they followed up with two consecutive 0-0 draws at home, to QPR in the Worthington Cup and Northampton in the league. And their opener at Wycombe was another OG!

Nicky Mohan's consolation goal for Wycombe was the first Walsall had conceded in the league this season, but Fulham boast an even better defensive record, as the only team in the division yet to concede a league goal.

Stoke's is the best attack, with nine goals so far putting them on top of the table.

The worst attack seems to be Macclesfield's: they are the only Second Division side still waiting to score a league goal. Lincoln, Chesterfield and Gillingham are the other shot-shy sides, with only one goal to show for their first 270 minutes of league soccer.

Nationwide Division Two

	Home						Away					
	P	W	L	D	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
Stoke City	3	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	7	4	9
Bournemouth	3	2	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	2	1	9
Fulham	3	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	2	0	9
Walsall	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	7
Colchester United	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	2	6
Millwall	3	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	6
Preston North End	3	1	0	1	6	4	0	1	0	1	1	4
Bristol Rovers	3	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	2	4
Notts County	3	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Wrexham	3	1	0	1	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	4
Manchester City	3	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
Luton Town	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	4
York City	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	4
Lincoln City	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Reading	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	7	3
Wigan Athletic	3	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Blackpool	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	6	3
Oldham Athletic	3	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	1	0	3	3
Burnley	3	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	3
Chesterfield	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	3
Northampton Town	3	0	1	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	2
Gillingham	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
Macclesfield	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
Wycombe Wand.	3	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	0

Statistics

fixtures, results, appearances, goalscorers

Cup Ticket Details

For the first leg at Ipswich on Tuesday September 15 (7.45) prices are £12 for adults, £9 for senior citizens and £4 for juniors. Tickets can be purchased from the Luton Town ticket office, or supporters can pay on the night at Portman Road.

The second leg will be played at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday September 22 (7.45).

Season ticket holders' priority purchase period is until Friday September 11 to claim their seats. Cup voucher A applies. Season ticket holders may also purchase guest tickets at the same time. Members may purchase seats not held by season ticket holders.

General sale: all remaining tickets will be available from Saturday September 12 before the home match with Bristol Rovers until 2pm, and then after the match.

Tickets can be purchased personally at the ticket office, or by post enclosing either a cheque payable to Luton Town FC, or by credit card, giving the number and its expiry date, and a stamped addressed envelope. Phone bookings can be made to 01582 416976 during normal office hours.

PRICES		Adults	Concessions
Main stand	Block A-E	£14	£7
	Block F	£10	£5
	Block G	£8	£5
Enclosure	Blocks C-G	£10	£5
Restricted view	Blocks A, B, H & J	£7	£5
Kenilworth stand		£10	£5
New stand		£14	£7

Town Teaser

Which former Luton Town favourite appeared for the USA in this year's World Cup?

Listen for the PA announcer to repeat this question this afternoon – you can win a prize if you know the answer!

S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	<i>Substitutes</i>
S. Davis	Johnson	McGowan	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	George for Bacqué 71; McGowan for Marshall 81. Unused: White
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	McLaren for Thomas 30; George for Marshall 71; McIndoe for Gray 78. Unused: Abbey, White
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	McLaren for McKinnon 69; George for Bacqué 69; White for McGowan 85.
S. Davis	Johnson	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	Douglas for George 84; George for Marshall 69; McKinnon for Marshall 90. Unused: White, Abbey, Bacqué.
S. Davis	White	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	McKinnon for Marshall 10; George for McLaren 15; Thomas for Douglas 62.

News

Worthington Cup – Ipswich Next

Both Managers gave a welcome to the news that the second round of the Worthington Cup will see the Town take on First Division Ipswich, with the first leg at Portman Road.

And Town fans with happy memories of Wembley 1988 will hope it is an omen that only once before have we met Ipswich in the League Cup... and we beat them on our way to winning the Littlewoods Cup.

"It's a good draw as far as I am concerned," said Lennie Lawrence. "Ipswich have some good players, and were in the promotion play-offs last season. It will be interesting to compare, for instance, Richard Wright, their goalkeeper, with Kelvin Davis. They were both in the England under-21 squad.

"Being away for the first leg is OK by me, although I don't think it makes an awful lot of difference."

If Ipswich will be the bookies' favourites to beat the Town, manager George Burley has already warned his players and fans that it won't be easy.

and fans that it won't be easy. Ipswich have made a slow start to their league campaign, after two consecutive seasons in which they were tantalisingly close to returning to the Premiership.

Their three matches to date have all been 0-0 draws, but in

Hatters Roll-Call 1998/99

	Appearances					Goals				
	League	WC	FAC	AWS	Total	League	WC	FAC	AWS	Total
Alexander	3	2	0	0	5	0	2p	0	0	2p
Bacqué	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
K. Davis	3	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
S. Davis	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
Douglas	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Evers	3	2	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	1
Gray	3	2	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	1
George	0 (3)	0 (2)	0	0	0 (5)	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
McGowan	2 (1)	2	0	0	4 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	2 (1)	0 (1)	0	0	2 (2)	0	0	0	0	0
McLaren	1	1 (1)	0	0	2 (1)	0	1	0	0	1
McIndoe	0	0 (1)	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Spring	3	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	1 (1)	1	0	0	2 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
White	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0



The Teams

Luton Town v Colchester United

Kelvin Davis	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Carl Emberson
Graham Alexander	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Joe Dunne
Mitchell Thomas	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Scott Stamps
Matthew Spring	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Geraint Williams
Steve Davis	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	David Greene
Marvin Johnson	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Paul Buckle
Ray McKinnon	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Richard Wilkins
Sean Evers	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	David Gregory
Stuart Douglas	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Mark Sale
Phil Gray	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Neil Gregory
Gavin McGowan	11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Paul Abrahams
Liam George	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Steve Forbes
Hervé Bacqué	13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Nicky Haydon
Alan White	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Tony Adcock

Referee: Roger Furnandiz, Doncaster

Assistants: A. H. Wilkins, Longfield (yellow flag)

P. S. Barston, Loughborough (yellow/red flag)

Reserve Official: M. P. Griffiths, Cambridge



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