

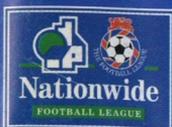


Luton Town v Burnley

Saturday 05 September 1998

Kick Off 3.00pm

Official matchday programme. Price £1.80



2



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Inside
FORWARD
welcome to kenilworth road

**Luton Town
Football Club**

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Finalists 1987-88

Division 2
Champions 1981-82

Division 3 (S)
Champions 1936-37

Division 4
Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Programme

Editor
Brian Swain

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Wolff Evans

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Security Printers

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Gareth Owen
Home Counties Newspapers

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

VICTORY at Wigan on Monday chalked up another notch in our best start to a season for nearly three decades. But we still have a little way to go to match the club records today's team looks more and more capable of.

Twice we have gone 19 games without defeat - once in the spring of 1968, and then again the following year, although that second sequence was broken by the close season.

Roger Wash, the club's statistician, got the books out to confirm that our best-ever start was in 1969, when we did not lose a game between the first day and mid-October, when we were beaten 2-0 in a Third Division match at Doncaster. We were on our way to promotion at the time, to the Second Division, or the First as it is today. Fans saw us go 13 games without defeat, having gone unbeaten for six at the tail end of the previous campaign. That early-season surge saw only four draws. One was at Kenilworth Road against Halifax, and their centre-half, Chris Nicholl, had a cracking game against Malcolm Macdonald. Town boss Alec Stock liked him so much he bought him the next day. The £20,000 outlay became £90,000 income three years later when Nicholl moved to Aston Villa.



SMILERS:
Ray McKinnon and referee's assistant A. H. Wilkins prove that players and officials can share the pleasure of the game together.

Our recent success as an away team prompted us to check the archives on that score as well. The club record away run is five consecutive victories, but again it was spread over two seasons: we won at Bolton on the final day of the 1980/81 season, and kicked off the following promotion campaign with four away wins on the trot, including the famous first-ever League game on plastic, at QPR. Bolton, Leicester and Orient were the other victims as the record was set by a team spearheaded by Brian Stein and Steve White. And it included Clive Goodyear, now our physio.

ALL the old calls for consistency by referees resurfaced on Monday after we saw Scott Green escape with a yellow card two days after Marvin Johnson got a red. Marvin's sin was to pull down Neil Gregory of Colchester, and Lennie Lawrence had no complaints. You often see yellow cards for that sort of offence, he said, but the referee applied the letter of the law.

At Wigan Green was booked for a tackle on Liam George on the edge of the penalty area. Obviously the player did not intend serious harm, but it left George with a broken leg. The Town manager said: "Marvin Johnson's red card was for a foul 40 yards from goal. The foul on George was much closer to goal. For one to be red and one yellow is a nonsense."

Johnson will be suspended for one match, the punishment for denying an opponent a goal-scoring opportunity, and will miss next Saturday's game at home to Bristol Rovers.



Front Cover:
WONDERFUL WIGAN - WE LOVE IT!
STEVE DAVIS,
MATTHEW SPRING,
KELVIN DAVIS AND
STUART DOUGLAS
CELEBRATE AFTER
MONDAY'S VICTORY AT
SPRINGFIELD PARK.

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Luckless Simon Davies, however, sent off in a reserve game last week, is suspended for three games, for violent conduct (See page 42). Mind you, the manager says he is lucky: he gets no pay while he is suspended, but because of midweek games that is only a week's money docked, not two.

DOUBLE congratulations

are due to centre-half Gary Doherty, who is back to his best in the reserves after getting over an ear infection picked up in Cyprus. He was there in the summer helping the Republic of Ireland to win the UEFA youth championship.

And this week he has been called up again for his country's youth team for a friendly against England.

That news came through as he was accepting a new contract. It underlines Lennie Lawrence's determination to hang on to the best young talent in the club, and also makes sound financial sense.

At the moment the Bosman ruling is restricted to players over 24: anyone younger is not entitled to a free transfer at the end of a contract.

But on the Continent, Bosman applies to all players, whatever their age, and Lennie Lawrence figures that will become the case in this country as well. So it makes sense for clubs who have to sell to safeguard their assets.

And yes, for the record, although he has looked good as a striker, and indeed appeared in attack for our first team as a sub, Doherty is now looking more and more settled as a classy centre-half.

WHAT a difference a goal makes! Stuart Douglas popped one in against Colchester on Saturday just in time to postpone an early trudge back to the dug-out. Down to ten men, we were being held by Colchester, and Douglas's number was all but up as Lennie Lawrence decided to make a substitution. "I thought he was dipping, and when you have ten men that puts an extra burden on the front two," said the boss.

The fourth official was rummaging in the bag to find the No. 9 board so that Andrew Fotiadis could be sent on - and while that was going on Douglas got on the end of a move created by Sean Evers and scored his first league goal for a year. So he earned a ten-minute reprieve, and kept his place in the side at Wigan.

"I could see the subs warming up," he said. "But I didn't want to come off so I was pretty pleased to score. I thought I was doing OK, and with so much competition in the squad now, you know you have got to keep working hard to stay in the team."

JUST IN CASE... Those who like to take holidays at the end of the season, to take in the bank holiday in late May might care to plan for a bit of a detour: we might just be at Wembley on Sunday May 30.

That is the date announced by the Football League for the Second Division play-off final at Wembley. The top two teams in the division win automatic promotion, and in the play-off semi-finals sixth is at home to third and fifth at home to fourth on Sunday May 16, eight days after the end of the regular league season. The second legs are on the following Wednesday.



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Bsc (Hons) FRICS

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Youth Coach
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Club Coach
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PONY™

Lennie Lawrence

from the manager's chair



BEFORE the season started I had Wigan marked down as a top ten team. They have invested in players, and are a good side. But we made them look anything but on Monday, and our win was earned on merit.

It was a pity that injury to Liam George marred the occasion, and I had my own thoughts about referees and consistency which I gather are reported elsewhere in this magazine.

But to look on the positive aspects the biggest thing about Monday's performance was that we produced it in our second game in three days. And, of course, after we had played with only ten men for the last half-hour of the Colchester game, only 48 hours earlier. We finished both games far stronger than our opponents, and that is very pleasing.

Most games this season have seen us facing setbacks, and it is good to see us passing the test of character that they posed - two down at home to Oxford and drew 2-2; 1-4 down on aggregate in the second leg and won 5-4; down to ten men against Colchester and won comfortably after the red card. And at Wigan we were hit by an equaliser that could have given the home side the boost they needed. Except that we found another gear, and won easily.

Three wins out of the first five games is very good going, and another today would make it an excellent start to the season.

But in welcoming Burnley and their supporters, I am well aware that they pose a considerable challenge. It's about time we beat them here at Kenilworth Road - Burnley have won both times on their visits since I became manager, although we have taken four points out of six on trips to Turf Moor.

I was surprised how close they were to the

bottom of the table last season, and I think that this afternoon we will have to be ready for anything.

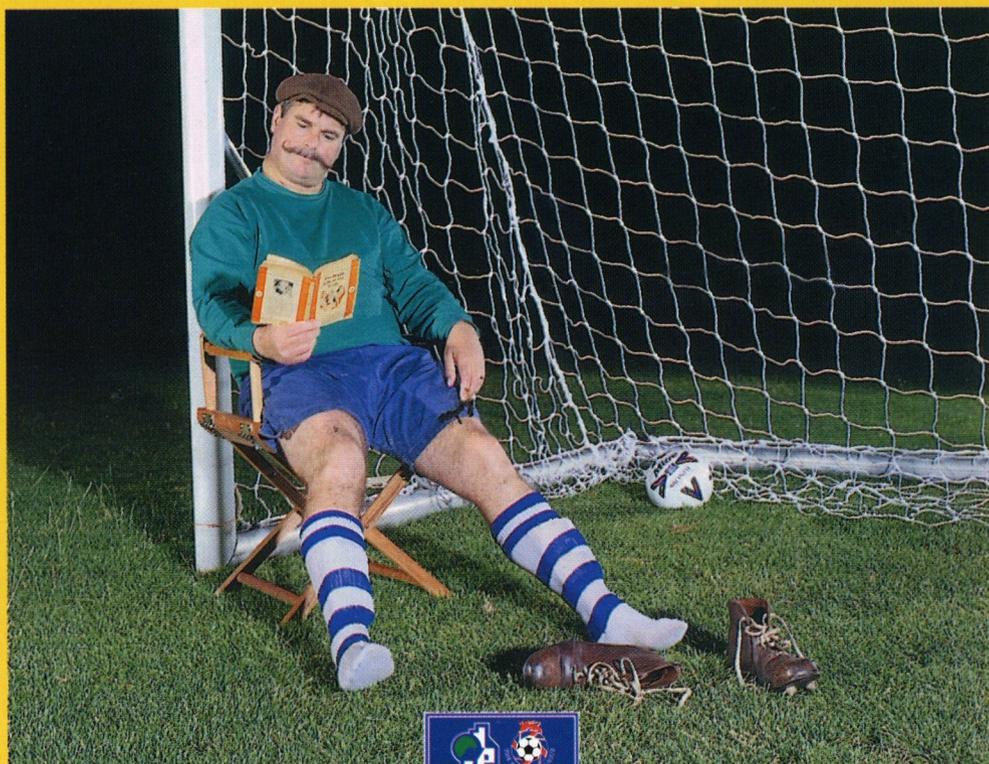
They will be in confident mood after a good win over Millwall on Tuesday, and in Andy Cooke and Andy Payton they have a dangerous pair of attackers, certainly better than the average in this league. We will have to make sure that we force Burnley to spend more time defending than attacking! On Tuesday we go to Wrexham, where a continuation of our good away form will be needed. We have made progress in our ability to perform on opponents' grounds - it's just about a year ago we were beaten 3-0 at Bristol City on a day when we were decimated by injuries. But until the trip to Reading a couple of weeks ago, where a 3-0 defeat was very harsh, we had not been beaten away by more than the odd goal. That is the sort of consistency we must maintain if we are to be serious challengers for honours.

Plus, of course, good home results. We have a month of Saturday home games in September, including a very attractive cup-tie against Ipswich.

To be successful, you must take a good proportion of the home points on offer, and from what I have seen recently we are well capable of that. So, give us a shout today, and get behind the team, and I hope we all have a performance, and a result, to enjoy.

Lennie Lawrence

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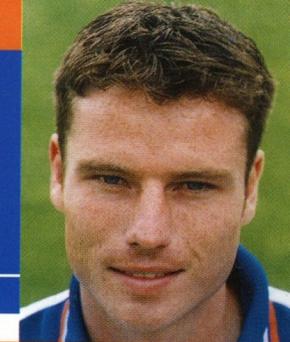
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Steve Davis

captain's log



Well it turned out to be a very tiring but very enjoyable Bank Holiday, with six points safely in the bag!

Firstly, we beat Colchester who sat deep and it wasn't until Marv was sent off that they put us under any sort of pressure. We got through that patch and I think deservedly won.

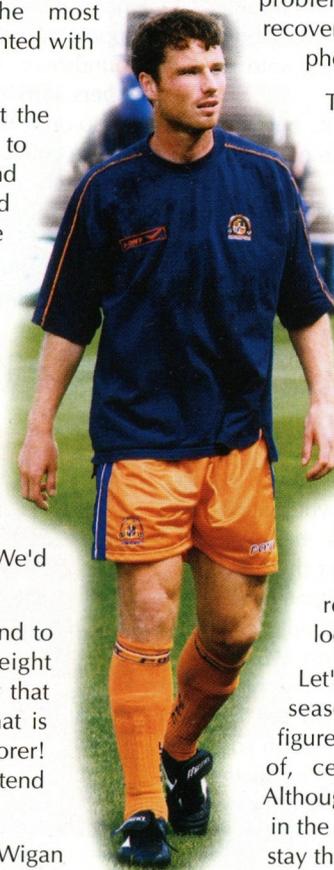
Obviously the result is the most important thing but I was delighted with the way we started the game.

Usually we start a bit slow but the gaffer and John said we had to really get up a head of steam and take the game to them, and although we didn't score we gave them a few problems and we've now got to try and do the same to every team who comes to Kenilworth Road. Well done to Stuart for notching his first of the season, he'd said all week he was going to score, but despite his Alan Shearer like goalscoring record, no-one would put any money on him! We'd better start taking notice now!

I was delighted to get the second to seal the game with only eight minutes left and then to follow that up with the first at Wigan. What is happening, a centre half, top scorer! My nose is in front now and I intend to stay there!

I didn't feel that the result at Wigan was in any danger even after they had equalised. We seemed, like at Oxford, to be able to get ourselves into goalscoring opportunites at will and once again to score three away from home is a great bonus.

Unfortunately, the result was marred by Liam George's injury. He was playing with loads of confidence and certainly causing Scott Green, who is an experienced player, a lot of problems. We wish him a speedy recovery, but you're still fined for your phone at the dinner table!!



Today of course we welcome Burnley. I think everyone knows how I feel about this club, but it's about time we beat them here at Kenilworth.

They've taken all three points on their previous three visits, so hopefully, if the law of averages are anything to go by, it's our turn to come out on top.

I still keep in touch with people in Burnley and get the local papers sent down and certainly this week's have made interesting reading and after their result in mid-week they'll be looking to get on a little bit of a run.

Let's hope today our good start to the season continues, to have double figures pointwise at this stage is unheard of, certainly in my time at Luton. Although it is obviously very early, we're in the right half of the league and aim to stay there, I don't see any reason why we should'nt, so get behind the lads again as you all have an importantly part to play as well.

Steve Davis

Cherry Newbery

club secretary



FOOTBALL clubs are always busy places, and we will have a little extra to do at present with our two Worthington Cup games with Ipswich being added to midweek League games.

Cup tickets are selling well, but please don't forget that the season ticket holders priority purchase period runs out next Friday September 11.

On the subject of the Worthington Cup, thank-you to everyone who took the trouble to write in when I asked for views about tickets for early round games being sold as unreserved seats.

Most supporters seemed to like it, but it is something we would do only in an early cup match early in the season.

And with the team doing well, now might be the right time to remind supporters that you can pre-book tickets, and hopefully get the seats you want. If you leave it until the last minute, you are likely to find the best seats have already been taken.

Tickets go on sale a month before games, and you can book by phone, with a credit card, and the ticket office stays open until 6pm on Fridays. If ticket orders are received by Wednesday we post them, but if you cannot book until Thursday or Friday before a Saturday game they will be left at the ticket office collection point, which is situated next to the ticket office in Kenilworth Road.

Our second cup-tie of the season will be staged at Kenilworth Road on Monday, and if you have not yet had a chance to see our youth team in action, they are well worth your support. We are at home to Swindon in the first round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. Kick-off is at 7pm and admission will be £3

for adults and £1.50 for senior and junior citizens.

We will be using only the main stand and enclosure, and entry will be via Kenilworth Road only.

Finally, if you are ever in the ground after most supporters have gone home, you will see groundsman Richard Bird and a group of helpers working on the pitch: replacing divots and so on. His team is made up of volunteers, and we could do with a few more.

The pitch is certainly looking very good, thanks to Richard, Ken and their crew. If you can help please telephone Richard here at the club.

Enjoy the game.

Cherry Newbery

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.

David Kohler



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Community & Schools Programme

Coaching Courses • Stadium Tours • School Visits

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Back to school on Tuesday!

Our Community & Schools Department have now completed a very busy summer holiday programme of coaching courses and a big thank you to the hundreds who have trained with us we hope you have had as much fun as we have!

Pictured with all of the youngsters from Edlesborough, Luton and Dunstable are Gavin McGowan, Tanny Abbey at the goalies course, Paul Showler, Marvin Johnson and Phil Gray.

With everyone back to school next Tuesday our after schools coaching sessions will be taking place as well as a great days FREE coaching taking place this Monday - see opposite page for further information.



LTFC After-schools coaching sessions



Come and join us at our regular weekly term time coaching sessions at the following locations.

Courses for youngsters aged 6 to 13 years cost £2.00 per session and are suitable for all abilities and involve technique training and small sided games.

LUTON

Every Tuesday: Luton Regional Sports Centre, Stopsley; 4 - 5pm

Every Thursday: Hillborough Junior School; 4 - 5pm

Every Friday: Sacred Heart Junior School; 4 - 5pm

Every Saturday; Beds FA Playing Fields (next to Tesco) 10.00 - 11.00 am

Every Saturday; Someries Junior School, Wigmore; 9.30 - 10.30 am

Every Sunday; Barnfield College, New Bedford Rd; 10.00 - 12.00 noon

DUNSTABLE

Every Thursday; Dunstable Leisure Centre; 4.30 - 5.30pm

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Every Monday; Linslade Middle School; 4.30 - 6.30pm

Half time shoot out

LUTON V LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Today's half time shoot out involves youngsters selected from our coaching courses held last week in Luton and Leighton Buzzard. Whilst we are sure the youngsters will enjoy the thrill of competing on the pitch our coaching course regulars might be interested to know that quite a few Mars Bars have been wagered on the outcome!

Free days coaching

WITH THE HATTERS THIS MONDAY!

With the support of The Leader and Luton Car Sales our Community & Schools Programme are offering every youngster between the ages of 6 to 13 the opportunity of a free days coaching with us. The coaching will take place at Barnfield College on Monday, the last day of the summer holidays, and for further information you should see this weeks Leader.



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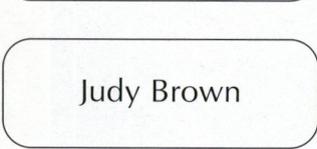
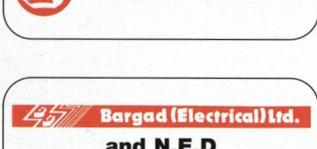
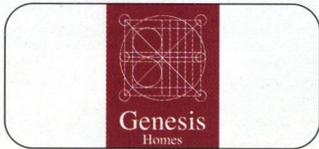
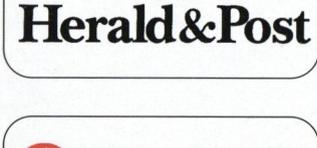
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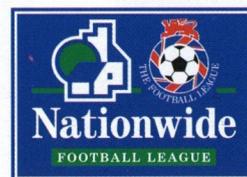
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Luton Town 2 Colchester United 0

Action Replay



ONE OF football's oldest mysteries surfaced again at Kenilworth Road: how can ten men turn it on and do better than they had done as a full 11-man team?

Preston were the beneficiaries at the previous home game, when they were beginning to get the run-around by the Town, only to steady the ship and hold on comfortably for a draw after Michael Appleton was sent off.

Against Colchester the Town were looking good, without finding the goals, against a team that seemed to be concentrating almost exclusively on defending deep and hoping for a breakaway success.

But once Marvin Johnson had been sent off, eight minutes after the interval, Colchester were left without a hope.

The ten men tore into them, and rightly gained the first home victory of the season with goals by Stuart Douglas, eight minutes after the red card, and Steve Davis, eight minutes before the end.

Luckless Johnson got into difficulties when he stumbled as Colchester launched a counter-attack with a long ball down the middle. Neil Gregory was about to embark on a run for goal, and Johnson continued his tumble to ensure that Gregory fell over as well.

Referee Roger Furnandiz decided it was an offence to deny an opponent a scoring opportunity, and that was that.

"I've seen yellow cards given for that sort of thing, but the referee applied the letter of the law," said Town manager Lennie Lawrence. "We can't have any complaints about it."

Colchester manager Steve Wignall agreed, but thought it had done his side no favours. He reckoned that it came at a time when his side was just getting on top, but they were then the victims of the classic case of ten men doing the business that 11 had failed to achieve.

He's entitled to his view, but it didn't look like that through Luton Town eyes.

The Town had to make two changes from the side beaten at Reading, with Ray McKinnon and Liam George coming in for injured Paul McLaren and Dwight Marshall.

George believes his best position is as an out and out striker, but he showed a lovely willingness and ability to work on the left wing, and his pace and durability was always a major threat to a not very adventurous Colchester team.

The Town's attacking strength was aided considerably by the display of Gavin McGowan at left back. He got the job in an emergency, when Mitchell Thomas was injured, but has now done well enough to keep the player-coach out of the team on merit.

Stuart Douglas partnered Phil Gray up front, and the exuberance of youth was a potentially damaging foil to Gray's experience and ability to hold up the ball.

But the goals would not come, with McGowan, Matthew Spring, Johnson and Steve Davis all going close, but not quite close enough.

The breakthrough might have come in the final minute of the first half, when Carl Emberson found a shot by Matthew Spring too hot to hold.

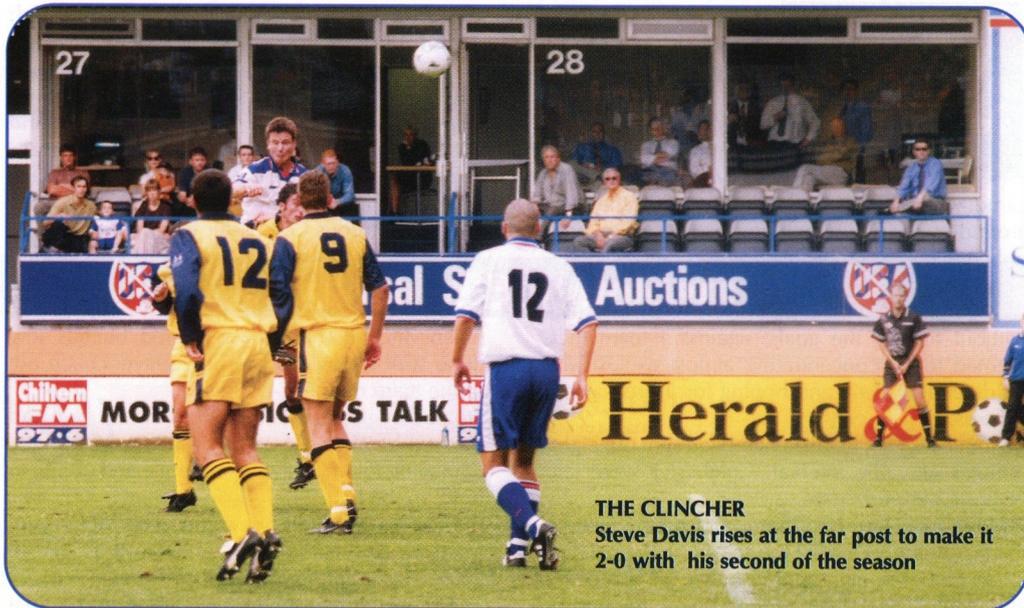
LUCKY ESCAPE: Carl Emberson grabs the ball as a Town attack comes to nought in the final minute of the first half. David Greene, once a Luton player, is the Colchester defender flat on his back.



Continued on page 14

Action Replay

Luton Town 2 Colchester United 0



THE CLINCHER
Steve Davis rises at the far post to make it 2-0 with his second of the season

Gray got to the rebound first, but could not lift the ball over the goalkeeper's grounded body. Colchester threatened rarely, but David Greene, who began his career with us, went up for a 50th-minute corner and Kelvin Davis had to leap high to finger-tip the header over the bar.

Then came the red card for Johnson, forcing the Town into a 4-3-2 formation which put an extra burden on the front pair.

Wanting to add Thomas's experience to the defence, Lawrence was ready to send him on in place of Douglas. But the young striker got the message, and gave us the lead with a side-footed drive hit with the aplomb of a veteran, completing a move that owed much to the strength and pace of Sean Evers.

Douglas should have had another goal soon afterwards, but put his shot wide of the far post after beating Green to a long pass by McGowan. By then Thomas had been sent on, in place of Gray, with Andrew Fotiadis and Herve Bacque also getting their chances, as replacements for Douglas and George.

Mark Sale made a hash of a golden chance to equalise after he had muscled through the middle, leaving his manager to claim that it might have been a different game if he had scored.

At 6ft 5ins Sale is thought to be the second-tallest outfield player in English league football, but he

was never allowed to look larger than life against Steve Davis.

And the skipper underlined the point, giving a lesson to Sale in the art of putting away chances, burying a far post header from a left wing corner won by Bacque.

THE MATCH DETAILS

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 72 mins), Gray (Thomas 56 mins), George (Bacque 79 mins).

Sent off: Marvin Johnson, 53 minutes, for pulling down Neil Gregory, with the ref ruling it was a foul to deny Gregory a scoring opportunity.

Colchester Utd: Emberson, Dunne (Forbes 64 mins), Stamps (Haydon HT), Williams, Greene, Buckle, Wilkins, David Gregory, Sale, Neil Gregory (Duiguid 74 mins), Abrahams.

Booked: No-one.

The goals: 1-0 62 mins: Stuart Douglas with a perfectly-placed side-footed drive into the bottom corner, from a chance created by Sean Evers; 2-0 82 mins: Steve Davis powerful far post header from a corner by Ray McKinnon.

Referee: Roger Fumandiz, Doncaster

Attendance: 5,005.

Report by Brian Swain. Pictures: Gareth Owen

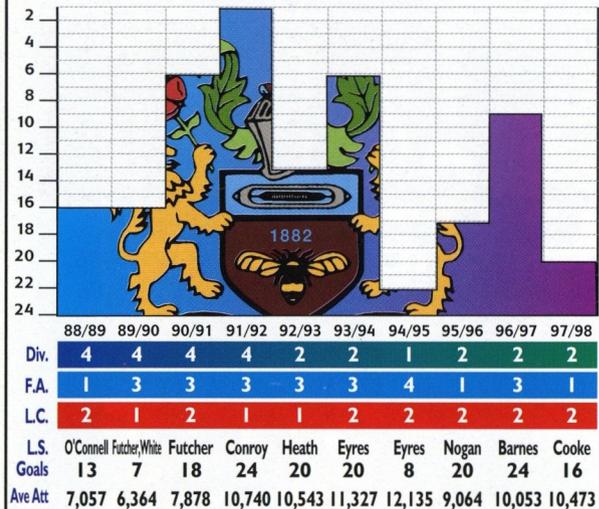


ON OUR WAY
Stuart Douglas pounces after good work by Sean Evers to give ten men the lead against Colchester.



MIXED EMOTIONS: Fans in the hospitality boxes are obviously Luton Town supporters, showing their pleasure as they see Douglas's shot hit the net. Liam George is the other Town player sharing Douglas's delight, but Colchester goalkeeper Carl Emberson is clearly not quite so happy with it all.

Burnley's last ten years - the full record



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



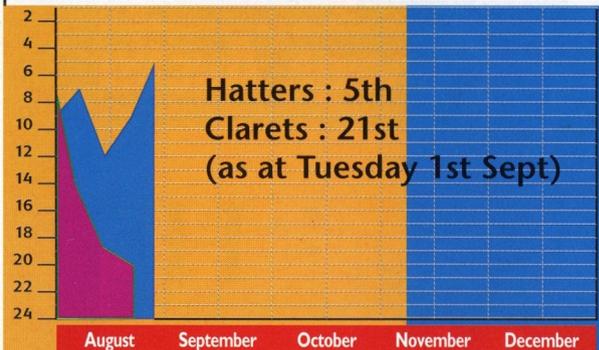
CLARETS CRIMINALS

Cooke.....2
Blatherwick.1
Brass.....1
Heywood...1
Howey.....1
Moore.....1
Payton.....1
Scott.....1

HATTERS HARD MEN

McGowan...3
George.....2
Davis S...1
Evers.....1
Gray.....1
Johnson...1
McKinnion.1

League Positions throughout the season



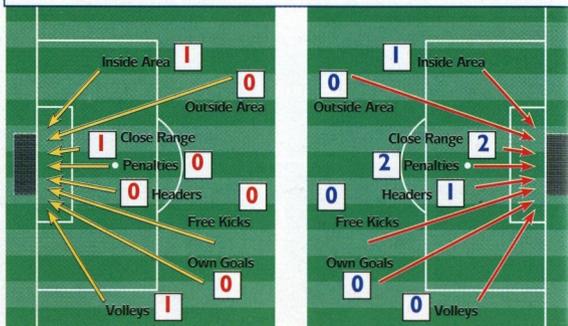
When The Hatters have scored goals... and conceded them



Who's played for Burnley this season...

Player	Pos	Lge	Lge	Age	Ht	Weight	Prev. Club	Int.
		Apps		Gls				
Chris Brass	D	4		23	59	12	Torquay	
Andy Payton	F	4	2	30	59	11	Huddersfield	
Paul Smith	F	4		22	60	13	03	
Neil Moore	D	3	1	25	61	12	Norwich	
Steve Blatherwick	D	3		24	61	15	00	Forest
Andy Cooke	F	3		24	51	12	08	Newtown
Lee Howey	F	3		29	62	13	08	Sunderland
Glen Little	M	3		22	63	13	00	Glentoran
Gavin Ward	G	3		28	62	12	12	Bolton
Carl Smith	M	2	1	19	58	11	00	
Steve Morgan	D	2		29	60	11	00	Wigan
Michael Williams	F	2		28	51	11	04	Sheff Wed
Ronnie Jepson	F	1	2	35	61	13	05	Oldham
Gordon Armstrong	M	1	1	31	60	12	11	Bury
Colin Carr-Lawton	F	1		19	51	10	17	
Mark Ford	M	1		22	57	10	08	Leeds
Peter Swan	F	1		31	62	14	12	Bury
Paul Weller	M	1		23	58	11	02	
Mark Winstanley	D	1		30	61	12	08	Bolton
Philip Eastwood	F	1		20	51	10	02	
Matt Heywood	D	1		19	62	-	-	
Mark Robertson	M	1		21	58	11	0	Marconi Fairfield Austr Yth
Christopher Scott	D	1		18	60	-	-	
Kevin Henderson	F			24	63	12	08	Morpeth
Tony Parkes	G			35	51	10	05	Doncaster

How The Clarets have scored goals... and conceded them



Hatters v Clarets

FORM GUIDE	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Sequence
Luton Town	3	1	1	7	5	10	WWLDW
Burnley	1	0	3	3	6	3	LLW

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

How Luton have scored goals... and conceded them



Burnley

welcome to today's visitors



Stan Ternant was appointed as manager of Burnley Football Club in the summer and set about the task of rebuilding things at Turf Moor. A Geordie, Stan started his football career at Turf Moor.

He may not have had the chance to play too much first team football with the Clarets, but the skills

His great successes have been at his most recent club.

Ternant, with the help of Sam Ellis, guided Bury to promotion from the Third Division, the Second Division title and then First Division consolidation. The pair decided to join the Clarets in the summer and brought with them a formidable backroom team which also includes former Clarets Jimmy Robson and Mick Docherty.

Ellis was a considerable presence on a football field and earned a hard-hitting reputation throughout his career.

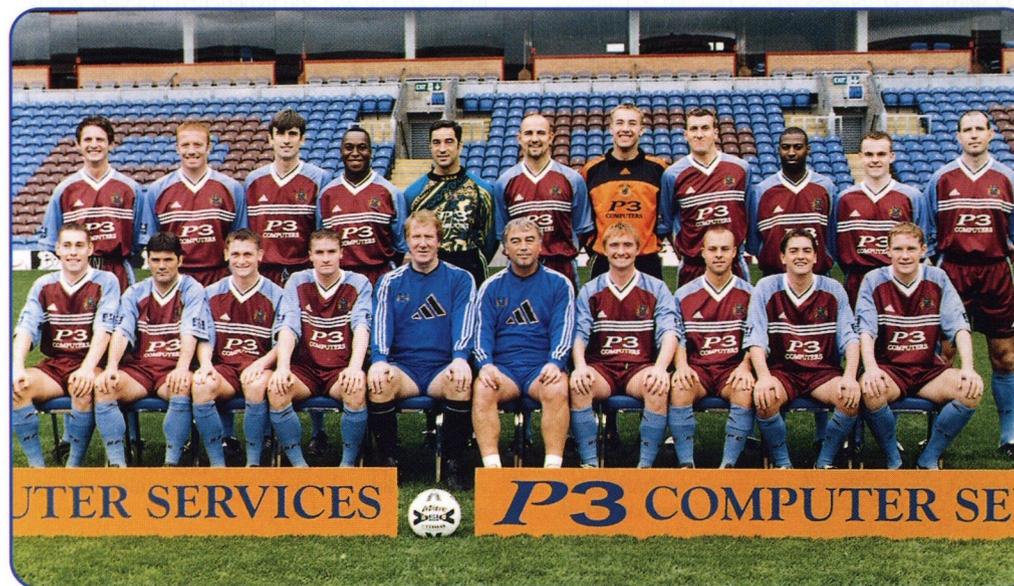
That has been transferred into his coaching career and he has worked effectively with Ternant for the last four years.

Robson was a First Division champion with the Clarets in 1960 and played European Football with the club.

Docherty was captain of the youth team that won the FA Youth Cup in 1968, won the Second Division title with the club in 1973 and has worked as a coach and a manager at a variety of clubs since then.

he learned under the likes of Harry Potts and Jimmy Armfield have helped his managerial career flourish. Ternant spent most of his career at Carlisle United and helped them reach the top flight in the mid-1980s.

In the time since then he has worked with Armfield as a coach at Leeds and Sunderland, been a manager in his own right at Hull and Blackpool and then spent time coaching at Chelsea.



BACK ROW (left to right): Neil Moore, Ronnie Jepson, Mark Winstanley, Steve Morgan, Tony Parks, Steve Blatherwick, Craig Mawson, Glen Little, Michael Williams, Mark Robertson, Lee Howey.

FRONT ROW: Kevin Henderson, Andy Payton, Colin Carr-Lawton, Andy Cooke, Sam Ellis (Assistant Manager), Stan Ternant (Manager), Chris Brass, Carl Smith, Mark Ford, Paul Smith.

Burnley pen pics

TONY PARKS - GOALKEEPER

Tony starts the season as the first-choice goalkeeper after the sale of Marion Beresford to Middlesbrough late last season, and the departure of Chris Woods in the summer. But Tony brings pedigree with him after helping win the UEFA Cup for Tottenham Hotspur in 1984 with his penalty saves. He has also played for Oxford, Gillingham, Brentford, Fulham, West Ham, Stoke, Falkirk and Blackpool in a distinguished career. The 35-year-old was also the subject of an offer from Wycombe Wanderers over the summer, but chose to stay at Turf Moor.

CRAIG MAWSON - GOALKEEPER

Craig is a superb shot-stopper with excellent reflexes and looks to have a bright future in the game. Came through the ranks from Youth Training at Turf Moor.

PAUL SMITH - FORWARD

Will be looking forward to this season after his injury problems allowed him only 8 games last season and will hopefully fulfill his tremendous potential.

ANDY COOKE - FORWARD

A good centre forward who is making a big name for himself in the Second Division. Teamed up with Andy Payton towards the end of last season scoring several memorable goals.

COLIN CARR-LAWTON - FORWARD

The Geordie striker is a second year pro. Has already made his first team debut in his first season. Was a regular member of the Pontins League Division 2 winners last season.

PHIL EASTWOOD - FORWARD

Striker keen to make a name in the professional ranks after impressing as a youth. Netted the winner in the 1995 FA Youth Cup Final against Manchester City.

ANDY PAYTON - FORWARD

Boyhood Burnley fan who finally came home after a distinguished and goal-laden career at Hull, Middlesbrough, Glasgow Celtic, Barnsley and Huddersfield. Payton has scored goals consistently at First Division level, and in the Scottish Premier Division, where he scored the winner in an Old Firm derby at Parkhead in March 1993. Released by Burnley as a schoolboy in 1984, Payton finally realised his dream of scoring for the Clarets on his home debut against Southend.

KEVIN HENDERSON - FORWARD

The talented young striker was signed from Northern League Morpeth Town last season after impressing on trial at the Club. Prolific in the Northern League, Henderson hit a superb first senior goal for the Clarets in the Auto Windscreens Shield against Carlisle in February. He will be back hoping to break into the first team on a more regular basis this season.

RONNIE JEPSON FORWARD

Ronnie is a face Burnley fans are glad to see on their side - rather than against them.

He scored goals for Preston - a hat trick on his debut - Exeter, Bury and Oldham against Burnley, and was a constant thorn in their side. After he was released by Oldham in the summer, he was picked up by Stan Ternent - who was his boss at Bury - and he will add experience to a very young side.



PAUL WELLER - MIDFIELDER

A player in Ray Houghton mould, Weller has the ability to provide and score goals, and his jinking runs down the right have caused several Second Division defences problems.

GLEN LITTLE - MIDFIELDER

Right-sided midfielder signed from Glentoran for £100,000. He impressed in his first team appearances, and the former Crystal Palace youngster appears to be another one for the future.

MARK FORD - MIDFIELDER

England under 21 skipper, Ford had made a half-century of Premiership appearances for Leeds United before signing for Burnley in a £275,000 deal. Skipper of Leeds' 1993 FA Youth Cup winning side, Ford is a very intelligent and aggressive midfield player.

PAUL GRAHAM - MIDFIELDER

A fierce competitor, Paul is also in his first year as a professional after coming through the ranks. A strong tackler, he also scored a couple of goals for the reserves as they won the Pontins League Second Division title.

MARK ROBERTSON - MIDFIELDER

A 20-year-old Australian youth international, Robertson is a versatile player capable of playing along the backline or in midfield. The youngster, who played for Marconi Fairfield in his home country, starred for Australia in the world youth cup in Malaysia in June 1997, and comes highly rated. He had a trial at Glasgow Rangers before arriving at Turf Moor and earning a two year contract.

CHRIS BRASS DEFENDER/ MIDFIELDER

Brass is one of the Nationwide League's most promising young defenders and looks set for a future at higher level. Has previously been called up into the standby pool of players for the League's Under 21 Inter-League clash.



MARK WINSTANLEY - DEFENDER

£150,000 close-season signing from Bolton in the summer of 1994, Winstanley's pace and aerial ability at the back have been a real asset to the Clarets.

GARETH WEST - DEFENDER

Injury trouble marred West's first year as a professional, but he is hoping to impress after his recovery. A tall centre back, West is good in the air and strong in the tackle.

STEVE BLATHERWICK - DEFENDER

£150,000 close-season signing from Nottingham Forest. The centre half has the motto, "They shall not pass". Willing to put his head where it hurts, his competitiveness will be a real asset. With 12 Premiership appearances, Blatherwick could have signed a new three-year deal at the City Ground, but chose to move to Turf Moor in a real coup for Burnley.

LEE HOWEY - DEFENDER

28-year-old converted centre half, who started out as a forward. A strong and committed player, Howey can organise well - or trouble as a striker. Howey moved for £200,000 from Sunderland shortly after the start of the 1997/98 season. Spent five years at Roker Park after playing for the

Belgian side AC Hemptinne. Younger brother Steve plays for Newcastle.

NEIL MOORE - DEFENDER

The former Everton man was without a Club after being released by Norwich in the summer of 1997 as he looked for a move back to the North West. When called upon against Stoke and Preston, he was the pick of the Burnley players, catching the eye with his intelligent defending and link play.

CHRIS SCOTT - DEFENDER

Young Chris follows in the footsteps of father Derek uncle David Miller and Grandfather Brian Miller by becoming a professional at Burnley. A strong centre half, he is in his first year as a full-time Claret, and looks to have a bright future. Former manager Chris Waddle described him as being a very mature player for his age.

MATTHEW HEYWOOD - DEFENDER

A tall centre half, Matthew has shown a lot of promise as a trainee, and earned a professional contract at the end of last season. Very strong in the air, Matthew is also comfortable with the ball at his feet.

MICHAEL DEVENNEY - DEFENDER

Michael can play down the left as a full back or winger. The youngster covers a lot of ground and impressed for the youth team and reserves last season before earning a professional contract.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS UTILITY

The versatile Williams signed from Sheffield Wednesday on a free transfer. The 27-year-old signed for Wednesday from Maltby Miners Welfare in 1991 and made his debut in the 1992 UEFA Cup first round second leg against Spora Luxembourg. However, made just 31 league appearances over five seasons before joining the Clarets. Capable of playing midfield, as a winger or wingback.





WHILE we wait for the final verdict on the club's plans for a new stadium near junction 10 on the M1, the local Press is still receiving letters from folks with axes to grind for and against the project.

We reported in last week's matchday magazine that local politicians, including our MPs, were backing the Kohlerdome project.

Until now, there has been rather skimpy coverage of the official statements of Luton Borough Council, but we think supporters should know just how keen the Town Hall is for the new stadium to go ahead. Council welcomes interim decision on Kohlerdome was the heading above the official statement issued on behalf of Luton Borough Council.

Compelling need

The statement noted that the planning enquiry inspector saw a "compelling need" for the development, and he recognised the council's wish to regenerate the Bury Park area, which will be possible once the football club has moved to a new home.

The Council statement says: "The Council led a high-profile consultation in 1995, soliciting views from residents. The vast majority supported the proposals for a large multi-purpose stadium.

"Some concerns from local residents were received, and these views received a voice at the public enquiry that followed the Council's unanimous decision to approve the application.

REGENERATION SITE: Our home since 1905, cramped and hemmed in by housing and roads, is seen by the Borough Council as a perfect opportunity to put fresh life into the Bury Park area.

"All of the issues raised by the objectors at the enquiry have been considered and ruled out by both the inspector and Secretary of State. However, the Secretary of State believes that his own decision to reconsider M1 widening raises questions about the motorway's present ability to accommodate traffic from the Kohlerdome. This is the issue that now needs to be addressed."

CLlr Tim Hoyle, Chair of Planning, said that the decision handed down by Whitehall completely vindicated the public enquiry process which had successfully addressed the issues raised by all parties.

He added: "At the time of the enquiry, everybody believed that the M1 would be widened. The recent decision to reconsider the principle of widening means that this one issue needs to be looked at again."

"As a council we have already supported the principle of a stadium on that land. We recognise the benefits to the town. We are hopeful that David Kohler will see his way clear to agreeing to conditions that would mean the development can be accommodated with the M1 as it is.

Conditions agreed

"At the public enquiry he agreed to suggested conditions that events attracting more than 12,000 people need written permission, or that weekday events should only be held after certain rush-hour traffic times. It is possible that guarantees like this might persuade the Secretary of State to approve the development."

And while David Kohler finalises his submissions to Whitehall, the Council is still giving its full support. It's statement said: "Luton Borough Council will be making a submission to the Secretary of State, drawing attention to changes that have occurred since the public enquiry closed."



REMEMBER the days when smoking was not regarded with the anti-social stigma that makes nicotine addicts less than universally popular?

It may be hard for today's generation to believe, but once upon a time almost every adult in the land - and not a few children! - smoked cigarettes.

And as the tobacco companies competed for trade, they looked for gimmicks to attract customers to their brands.

And they soon discovered that an effective marketing tool was to start offering little gifts that would encourage smokers to stick with the same brand.

Cigarette cards made their appearance towards the end of the last century, and it was not long before sets of cards devoted entirely to football were issued.

They have become a fascination for Luton Town fan Alan Robinson, who lives at Westoning, and today we feature the first in a series about his big collection.

One of the first sets of 'fag cards' to feature the Town came out in 1906, from the Bristol-based firm

of Ogden's. The series was labelled 'Football Club Colours' and initially was made up of 50 cards. Another was added to include the touring New Zealand rugby team - in those days both soccer and rugby teams were included in football sets.

Luton appeared at No. 17 and were one of several Southern League clubs featured, including Northampton Town, Queens Park Rangers and a club from Hertfordshire.

The Town were shown in the light blue shirts they favoured at that time. A couple of years later a dark blue V was added.

As the players used to illustrate the colours were not named it is not certain if the pictures were based on actual individuals.

One thing is sure: it is not the great Bob Hawkes, as the same firm issued a set of 'Famous Footballers' a year later and he was included. But his picture looked quite different from the one seen in the card reproduced here.

The reverse of the card was printed in blue and gave a short thumb-nail sketch of the history of the club. The Town finished fourth in the Southern League's Division One at the end of that 1905/6 season.

As you might expect, this set is becoming increasingly rare to find complete. It is possible, however, to find odd cards at the numerous specialised fairs which are held up and down the country. Expect to pay around £2 for a good example of the Luton card.

Hard bargain for strikers!

FANCY a sports car that is something out of the ordinary?

If you are a Football League striker you can have one for free... so long as your talents are also a bit out of the ordinary.

Mazda, official cars of the Football League, are offering an MX-5 sports car as the prize in a competition to encourage goals.

But it will take some winning: it will be awarded to any Nationwide Football League player who scores 30 goals by Christmas Day.

There is another MX-5 on offer to any player who hits 45 goals in the season.

To be fair to the 'Mazda Marksman' initiative, there are worthwhile prizes which will be handed out each month by the motor company.

Charity cash

The Mazda Centenary Goal Challenge Trophy, plus a prize of £500, will go to the Nationwide Football League club which scores the most goals in each month from August to April.

The cash is to be donated to a charity of the winning manager's choice. Goals scored in the League, Worthington Cup and FA Cup will all count.

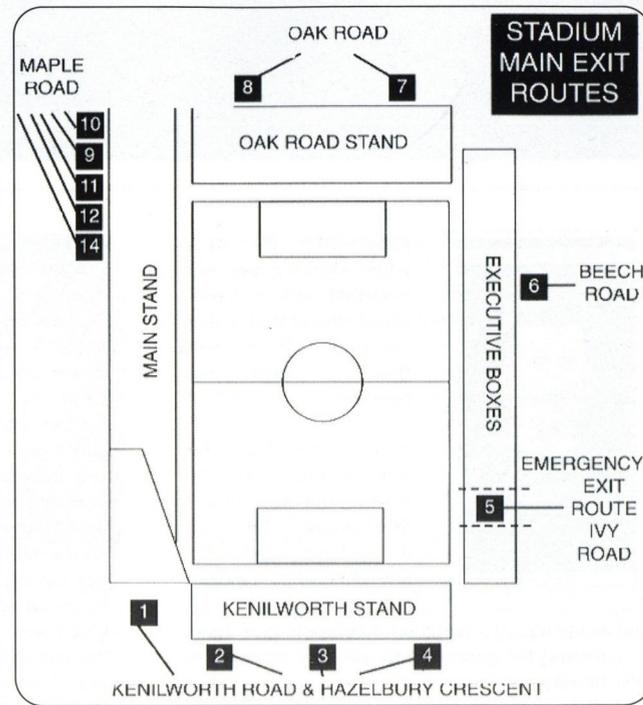
Richard Scudamore, Chief Executive of the Football League said he welcomed the award scheme as great news for fans, because it was an added incentive for players and teams to score even more goals.

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.



hatters chatter

AFTER years in which Luton Town fans were starved of books about their favourite club, the fourth in little over 12 months is about to be published.

Roger Wash, the club's historian and statistician, is putting the finishing touches to a definitive history of Luton Town over the past three decades, and it is sure to be essential reading for the true Hatters fan.

Meanwhile, Tim Kingston, a fan but obviously not quite an anorak, has brought out a supporters' diary of his experiences following the Town - and sometimes not - last season.

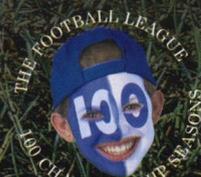
Hoping to see the new dome near the motorway before too long, he has called it Kenilworth Sunset? and many supporters will identify with him as he recounts his feelings and experiences of following the Town. Often amusing, sometimes a little self-indulgent, it's not just about the football, but about the strange way of life some of us get into because of our love for the Town.

It's also bravely honest at times: what a brave author it is prepared to put down in black and white the little fiddle he and his mates got up to by pretending to be students to get cut-price season tickets!

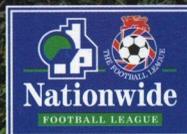
And there is a reminder of how football ought to remember it's major supporters, when Tim discloses why he missed the rousing Coca-Cola Cup game at Derby last season. The second leg was bound to be the real match but Derby County charged £18 for away supporters, which priced it beyond the reach of Tim and many others. But at least his book is good value. It is published by The Book Castle, and is available at £8.99 from the club shop and other book stores. It's a lot better than the last supporter's book I read!-BS



**Nationwide Building Society
would like to wish all clubs
success in this 1998/99
centenary season of
The Football League**



OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



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!

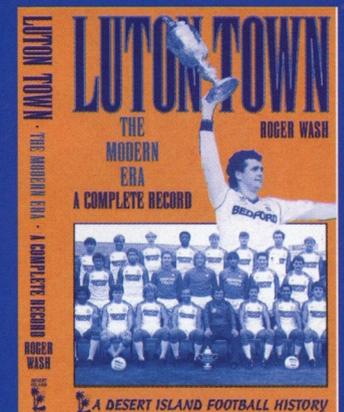
Roger Wash writes: 'Ever since the club's Centenary history 'The Luton Town Story' went out of print in 1985 there has been a constant queue of enquiries asking for a follow up.

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!





Gavin McCowan

Born: Camberwell, South London, 16.1.76

Previous club: Arsenal

Joined Luton Town: Summer 1998 after two loan spells

Luton debut: Burnley (A) 23.3.97

Luton record to the start of this season: 8 appearances + 2 as sub



Top Hatters Gallery

Autograph

Gavin McCowan

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It happened on this day

by Roger Wash

5th September 1964. Oldham 0 Luton Town 2

After the problems of the previous campaign when relegation was only prevented by a last gasp run of good results the Town seemed to have started as they left off. A fine mid week win at Colchester meant that the Town were still unbeaten away from Kenilworth Road, with their next task a visit to struggling Oldham who had only one win under their belts so far.

Despite a lot of pressure the Latics were unable to break through the Luton rearguard with veteran ex-England goalkeeper, Ron Baynham, in brilliant form. After making two point blank saves from Oldham centre forward Jimmy Harris, Baynham punted the ball upfield where John Reid shot from 20 yards completely deceiving the Oldham goalkeeper, Johnny Bolland, who dived the wrong way.

In the second half Baynham again stood defiant against frantic attacking before Town winger, David Pleat, managed to break out and cross for Reid to stab home his second after the goalkeeper pushed the ball out to him.

5th September 1972. Birmingham 1 Luton Town 1

Birmingham had stormed to promotion to the old Division One at the end of 1971/72 and were odds on favourites to see off the Town in this early season League Cup clash at St Andrews.

It was, however, the Town who opened the brighter side and took a deserved lead in the eighth minute when Bobby Thomson, skipper for the night against his old club, sent winger John Aston scampering away. Aston was obstructed on the edge of the box and his indirect free kick was floated onto the head of Peter Anderson who made no mistake.

The Blues were booed off at the interval for their scrappy display and hardly looked any better in the second period before they were handed a lifeline with a fluke goal. Rodney Fern, attempting to send Jim Ryan away, only succeeded in kicking the ball against the wingers backside. The loose ball was picked up by Blues Gary Pendrey who swiftly transferred it to Bob Latchford who blasted home.

There were no further scares as the Town decided to hold on for the draw and take the tie back to Kenilworth Road.

5th September 1987. Oxford 2 Luton Town 5

The Hatters had made their worst start to a campaign for 52 years with no victories to show from the first five games. Manager Ray Harford decided to revert back to the tried and trusted 4-3-3 formation in an attempt to arrest the slide and was immediately rewarded with a display of cavalier football that swept Oxford aside.

Oxford had held the 'Indian sign' over the Town since their promotion to the top flight two years before, winning three and drawing one of the games played and another victory was predicted after the Hatters poor start to the campaign.

With a full squad to choose from for the first time that season Ray Harford was able to bring back namesake Mick and he led the line superbly as the Town ripped into Oxford from the start.

Goals flew in from all angles with five different players getting their name on the scoresheet but a diving header from Emeka Nwajiobi was probably the pick of the bunch. That particular effort made the score 3-1 and after that the Oxford players seemed to throw in the towel much to the disgust of their manager Maurice Evans.

The Hatters season was now well and truly kick-started!



Emeka Nwajiobi dives to head in the Town's third goal at Oxford in 1987

Into the archives

a blast from the past courtesy of Roger Wash

It is now over 100 years since we first met today's opponents in the Football League. In 1897/98 we were enjoying our first season in Division Two following a successful application to join the so-called 'big boys'. The Clarets, meanwhile, were desperately fighting to win back the top flight place they had lost at the end of the previous campaign.

The game at Turf Moor in November 1897 was reported as being one-sided with the league leaders thrashing the Town 4-0 with two goals coming in each half. Although we defended 'stoutly' we were apparently weak in front of goal.

In the return we pulled off one of the shocks of the day in seeing off the runaway leaders 2-0 with goals from Donaldson and Gallacher to clinch our eighth successive home win at 'fortress' Dunstable Road.

Burnley only lost twice that season and won the championship of the division while we finished in a creditable mid-table position. Due to travelling costs associated with competing in a northern based league we resigned and rejoined the Southern League in 1900. It was to be many years before paths crossed again with the Clarets.

Much water had flowed under the bridge before we next met up again, in Division Two in 1937. Burnley had won the Division One championship and the F.A.Cup in the intervening years but had been out of the top flight since 1930. We had enjoyed twenty years in the Southern League before becoming founder members of Football League Division Three which we eventually left in 1937 after winning the championship.

In 1937/38 both sides were successful on their own ground with full back Tom Mackey scoring twice in our 3-1 home win. Nothing unusual in that, you may ask, but Mackey had played over

200 first team games for the Town and rarely ventured over the half way line and had never remotely looked like scoring before. Having achieved his objective he retired at the end of the campaign and joined the coaching staff.

Burnley won promotion in 1947 and it was to be another eight years before we joined them in Division One. The Clarets certainly had the upper hand following our reunion, winning three of the first four games, but the boot was on the other foot when we achieved the double in 1957/58.

Two goals from ace marksman Gordon Turner set up a 3-2 victory at Kenilworth Road in October 1957, followed by our first ever victory at Turf Moor with Turner again on the scoresheet. More was to follow as Burnley were thrashed 6-2 at Kenilworth Road in 1958/59 but this time Turner was not playing leaving Allan Brown to take the plaudits with a hat trick.

The Town had decided to stick with the team that had been successful in the F.A.Cup which meant no place for Turner. The supporters were not happy but the big win over Burnley certainly went some way towards convincing them that perhaps this was the strongest combination.

After we suffered relegation in 1960, the year that Burnley won the league championship, we had to wait until 1971/72 before renewing acquaintances. Honours were even that season with each side successful on their own ground but in the following campaign came probably the most exciting game between the two sides.

A crowd of 12197 and millions more on 'Match of the Day' witnessed a 2-2 draw that could have gone either way up to the final whistle. John Aston, with a penalty, and Vic Halom netted for the Town with Leighton James hammering home both for the Clarets.



Phil Gray tussles with the Burnley defence during the clash at Kenilworth Road last season.

Burnley were promoted at the end of that season but we followed a year later only to suffer two defeats on the way to a swift return to Division Two. Leighton James was heard to comment that he thought our defence was 'the worst I have ever played against' but the Clarets conceded more goals when they were relegated in 1976.

We then enjoyed four seasons together before Burnley suffered further relegation in 1980. We achieved the double again in 1976/77 with a young Ricky Hill one of the scorers at Turf Moor but the Clarets returned the compliment in the following campaign.

In 1978/79 we were suffering a torrid time as the season drew to a close. We had suffered four straight defeats prior to Burnley's visit to Kenilworth Road in early April 1979. In a 'do or die' effort we managed to upset the formbook by winning 4-1 with future Claret, Steve Taylor,

netting his only goal for the Hatters during his short stay here.

In more recent times we clashed briefly when Burnley had one season in Division One in 1994/95. Skipped by Steve Davis the Clarets managed to win both games but he will not need reminding that he almost scored a spectacular own goal at Kenilworth Road with a sliced clearance!

Since meeting up in Division Two, Burnley have won here on each occasion while we remain undefeated at Turf Moor. Last season's clashes saw Graham Alexander blast the Town into a 2-1 lead at Kenilworth Road only for defensive errors gifting the points to the Clarets. At Turf Moor we had most of the play, but only an unlikely stooping header from full-back Mitchell Thomas earned us a share of the spoils.



Graham Alexander looks a bit pleased after scoring against Burnley last season

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Junior Hatters

welcome

ACTION MAN:

Part of the Reading v Luton competition on the day the Madejski Stadium was opened. Liam Murphy is the Junior Hatter giving away height and age in the relay race at the interval, but still giving it some wellie!



Daniel Cloke

Today's mascot is nine-year-old Daniel Cloke, whose favourite players are Graham Alexander and Steve Davis. Daniel comes to Town matches with his dad, and goes to Wheatfield School, St. Ives. He plays for St. Ives Rangers under-10s, and as well as football he likes swimming, reading and drawing.

Today's ballboys are Harry Vernon from Mulsoe, in Buckinghamshire, and David Tisdall, from Margate.



A WARM welcome to all Junior Hatters attending today's match. We hope you are enjoying the season so far.

The Junior Hatters Saturday Club starts again next Saturday, when we will be joined by Bristol Rovers Juniors for a game of football and lunch.

We took a coach full of Junior Hatters to the new Madejski Stadium at Reading, where we took part in a half-time relay race.

The next away trip will be to Blackpool in a fortnight's time, and there we will be taking part in an American-style penalty shoot-out at half-time.

The price for the Saturday Club is £5 for season ticket holders, which includes a sausage and chips lunch, with a drink, and £9 for non season ticket holders.

The trip to Blackpool will cost £12 for adults and £10 for juniors. For further information, or to place a booking, ring the ticket office on Luton 416976



MAKING HISTORY: Surdar Ismail was the Luton Town mascot, pictured before kick-off, when the first-ever Football League match was played at the Madejski Stadium, Reading.

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

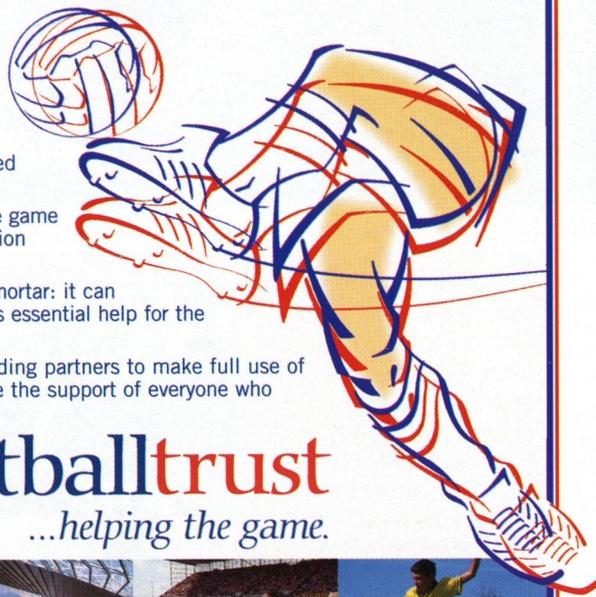
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

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.

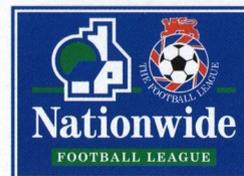
The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

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...helping the game.



Action Replay

Wigan Athletic 1 Luton Town 3



YOUNG IN years they may be, but the Town side at Wigan showed remarkable maturity in earning the second away win of the season.

It came at some cost, with striker Liam George being stretchered off with a broken leg just before the interval, when the Town were leading by a single goal.

A sloppy equaliser was conceded 17 minutes into the second half,

and those who have followed the Town for a long time might have feared the worst as Wigan, quick and direct but with not a lot of real football about them, started to grow in confidence.

Then it was that Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson, Graham Alexander and Gavin McGowan showed that wise old heads - in style in this context - showed that this season the occasional setback need not be a disaster.

Two goals in two minutes were the perfect answers to a Wigan game that owed more to honest endeavour and booted hopeful balls than it did to flair and thoughtfulness. They had one brief spell, leading up to the equaliser, when they looked capable of matching the Town, but the Wigan goal served only to make the Town more determined to give nothing more away. The midfield men were comprehensive winners of the contest in that department, and Phil Gray worked his socks off to take the brunt of Wigan's tough defending, and well deserved his goal that clinched the points ten minutes from time.

The Town kept the team which had disposed of Colchester 48 hours earlier, and Gray and Stuart Douglas showed every sign of settling into a useful attacking partnership.

At 20, Douglas is still learning, but his goal against Colchester proved that he can do a job for us, and like Sean Evers and Matthew Spring, reminded us that this team is capable of getting better still.

The mix of youth and experience looked about right, and there was a reminder that more youthful players are waiting in the wings when Michael McIndoe went on as second-half sub for George. He looked a natural on the left wing, and appreciated the solid base for his work provided by, among others, Ray McKinnon.

In the end, Wigan were lucky not to suffer a real pasting, because apart from their one brief revival spell, they were second-best throughout.

So much so that there was sometimes a danger of

doing too much attacking and being caught on the break. Gray and Steve Davis had fired early half-chances just wide before Wigan's first threat, a counter-attack which gave their best player, Stuart Barlow, a brief sight of goal. But before he could pull the trigger the Town skipper got back to make a vital block-tackle. He did it again moments later to deny Paul Warne, deputy for injured striker Graeme Jones.

George was threatening to run Wigan's left flank ragged, and after he whipped in an angled shot which missed the far post by inches, the deadlock was broken by a sustained burst of sharp attacking. Evers and Gray combined to set up Douglas for a shot which brought a good save from the keeper, but from the corner Steve Davis found plenty of room and time to lash in a right-footed shot from barely ten yards.

George's injury, in the closing seconds of the half,

TAKE THAT: Sean Evers blasts in his second goal of the season, to regain the lead for us at Springfield Park.



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Continued on page 34

Action Replay

Wigan Athletic 1 Luton Town 2



THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER... Well, it is now, because Phil Gray has just netted the clincher, and sub Herve Bacque is a much happier man than the two Wigan defenders left on the deck by Gray's turn.



NOT THIS TIME: Wigan keeper Roy Carroll happy to hang on to the ball as Sean Evers waits to pounce on any fumble.



CLOSE THING: Stuart Douglas goes for goal at Wigan.

was the result of a foul by Scott Green, provoking a debate about how lucky the Wigan man was to escape with a yellow card. two days after Johnson saw red for an offence much further from goal. (See inside forward, page 2).

The only blot on a very good display by the Town was the static non-defending shown for the Wigan equaliser Carl Bradshaw launched a long, high free kick into the box and Barlow got on to the end of it unchallenged, and netted with a deft flick. It was beautifully taken, but even he must have been surprised to be given so much space and time by a defence which otherwise looked pretty tight.

The travelling fans fretted and worried about the chances of Wigan building on that, but the Town closed things down and looked very comfortable defending well and breaking out with pace.

Gray laid off a simple but effective ball from Alexander's pass to provide Evers with the chance to blast in the second goal after 78 minutes, and two minutes later Gray got the goal his hard work deserved with a neat turn and shot. ~It was poetic justice: the move started from a free kick by McKinnon given for a foul by Barlow on McIndoe for which the Wigan man was cautioned.

Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Bacque 72 mins), Gray (Thomas 56 mins), George (McIndoe at half-time). Unused sub: Thomas.

Booked: Gavin McGowan, 39 mins, foul on Roberto Martinez.

Wigan Ath: Carroll, Green, Bradshaw, Griffiths, McGibbon, Rogers, Lee, Martinez (Sharp 56 mins), Warne (Lowe 81 mins) Killford, Barlow. Unused sub (lucky man!) Fitzhenry.

Booked: Scott Green, 44 mins, for a foul on Liam George that looked a red card offence to many of us; Stuart Barlow, 79 mins, foul on Michael McIndoe; Ian Killford, 83 mins, foul on Sean Evers.

The goals: 0-1 41 minutes: Steve Davis shot from a corner into the heart of the penalty area by Graham Alexander; 1-1 62 minutes: Stuart Barlow, neat flick to meet a long free kick; 1-2 78 minutes: Sean Evers, with another net-burster from a clever lay-off by Phil Gray; 1-3 80 minutes: Phil Gray, baffling his marker with a turn and right foot shot between the keeper and his near post, after an incisive pass to Gray by Michael McIndoe.

Referee: Bill Burns, Scarborough.

Attendance: 3,778, including 484 from Luton.

THE MATCH DETAILS

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan,

Report by Brian Swain. Pictures: Gareth Owen

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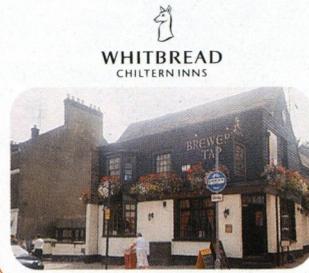
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and Worthington Cup news

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Wrexham v Luton Town



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Saturday 12th September 1998,
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Luton Town v Bristol Rovers



This match is pay on the night only for
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Worthington Cup 2nd Round, 1st Leg
Tuesday 15th September 1998,
kick off 7.45pm
Ipswich Town v Luton Town

Luton supporters can purchase tickets either
from the Club Ticket Office or pay on the
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Adults £12
Senior Citizen £ 9
Junior £ 4

General Sale
All remaining tickets will be available from
Saturday 12th September. (Before home
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Tickets can be purchased by calling
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By telephone on 01582 416976

Worthington Cup 2nd Round, 2nd Leg
Tuesday 22nd September 1998,
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Luton Town v Ipswich Town

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Block C-G	£10	£5
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New Stand	£14	£7

Exiled Clarets

Like most clubs, Burnley have fans all over the country, and two supporters' clubs ask us to remind all Burnley exiles of their existence.

The Burnley London Supporters Club says it has a world-wide membership, and provides cheap travel to games, a bi-monthly magazine and regular sports and social activities. The membership secretary is Joanne Pilkington, 53 Austins Mead, Bovington, Herts HP3 0LH.

The South West Clarets, formed a year ago, and with a membership of more than 100, says it is for Burnley fans living anywhere south of Birmingham.

Further information is available from Phil Hardaker on 01935 814059.

E-mail: SWC@Sherborne.net,

web site <http://www.sherborne.net.uk>.

Mr Hardaker, of Midsomer Norton, Bath, added in his letter: "Best wishes for the season, especially Steve Davis."

Town Teaser

WE HAD a Canadian playing for us five years ago. He failed to hold down a regular place in the team, but he scored on his debut for the Town, at Crystal Palace in November 1993. Who was he?

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

Club Policy

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 practical, 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 the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, 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 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, Bedfordshire County Council, have imposed a NO SMOKING restriction in and beneath the main stand. Your co-operation is appreciated.

TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Two appearances at Wembley are on the CV of today's referee, Mick Pierce of Portsmouth, to prove he is one of the best in the business.

Like many who have reached the top, he started at the bottom, just over 30 years ago in local parks soccer at Portsmouth.

He became a Football League linesman in 1982, and has been the man in the middle for the past ten seasons.

He ran the line in the 1988 FA cup final, when Clive Goodyear was in the Wimbledon side which beat Liverpool, and last season Mr Pierce, a fleet administrator, refereed the Auto Windscreens Shield final.



Clive Goodyear

from the treatment room



NOT SO long ago we were congratulating ourselves on our ability to stave off minor injury worries. It's changed a little in the last week or two! The latest blow is to Liam George. His second start of the season, at Wigan on Monday, will be his last for six to eight weeks.

But as with some of the others who have been hurt in the early days of the season, he might take some slight consolation in knowing that it could have been worse.

He has broken his fibula, the outer and thinner of the two bones running from the knee to the ankle. Fortunately it is not a weight-bearing bone, and fractures like this one heal much quicker than if it had been the tibia. Julian James, you may recall, broke both.

Liam's leg has been put in plaster, and he was seeing a specialist in the middle of this week. He will decide if surgery is needed, but we have every reason to hope that will not be necessary.

As with all injuries like this, time is the major healing ingredient, and Liam's age and standard of general fitness will help him. It normally takes about six weeks for the bone to heal up, and once that process has been completed we can think about giving him work to regain full fitness, probably another fortnight or so.

Our other injury worry from the weekend is over Ray McKinnon, who collected a groin strain at Wigan, but he has been responding well to treatment and I am optimistic we will be able to pass him as fit to face Burnley this afternoon, if selected.

Our youth players seem to have got a bug: half a dozen have been suffering flu symptoms, and the major response to that was to tell them to stay away!

It is easily treated, but we take no chances with an illness which can spread very quickly. So the lads affected were 'sent to Coventry' until they got over it. Stay at home and keep it to yourself is the philosophy.

Dwight Marshall continues to make rapid progress towards a full recovery from the strain that has kept him out of the first team since he was hurt at Reading a fortnight ago. He has been working hard, and he and I hope he can be training again very shortly. He might even have made it by yesterday. The idea is to do everything, but at about three-quarter pace to start with, and then build it up over a couple of weeks.

By working in the gym, Dwight has maintained a good level of general fitness, and he might just be available for selection again in a fortnight.

Paul McLaren, hurt in the same game, is still wearing a knee brace while his ligament injury heals. It is purely to stop the joint moving sideways, but he is all right for straight bending, so we gave him a trip on the exercise bike for the first time early this week. There was no adverse reaction, which is good news, but Paul has got to be patient. He is some weeks away from being able to train fully again.

Clive Goodyear

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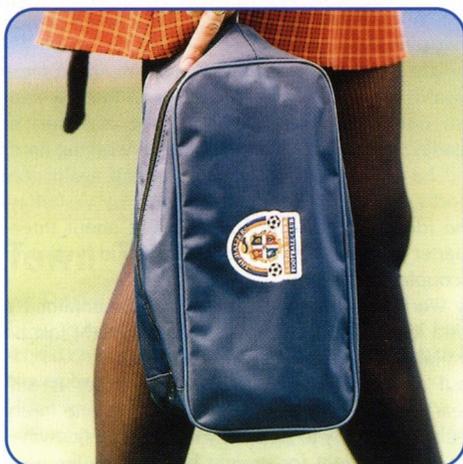
UNLUCKY BREAK: Liam George, too quick off the mark for Wigan's Scott Green, falls awkwardly in the accident that left him with a broken bone in his leg.



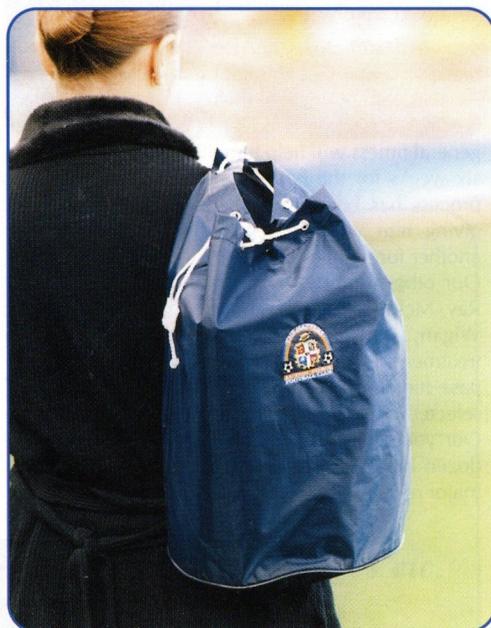
HATTERS SHOP

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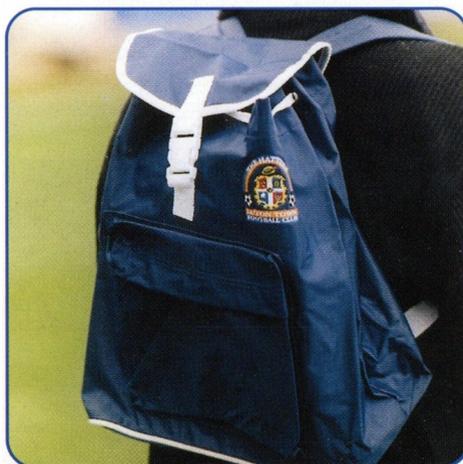
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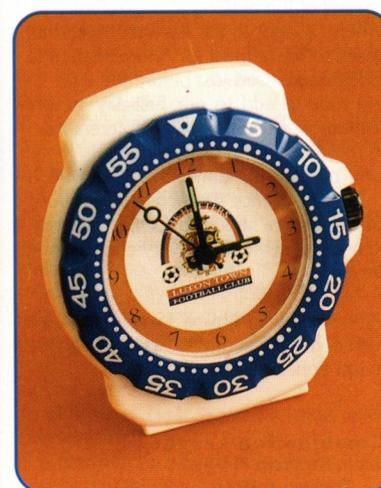
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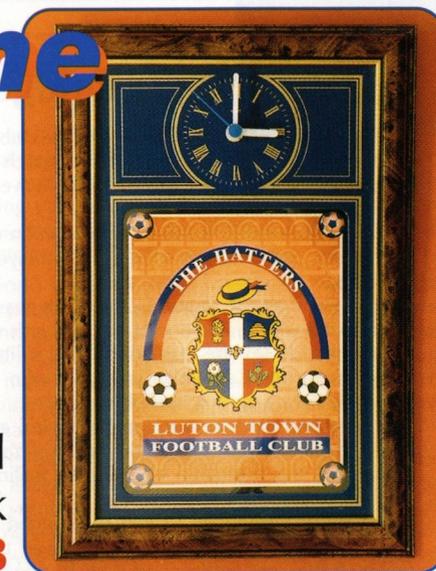
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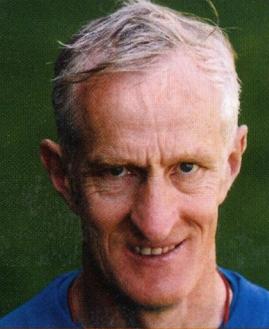
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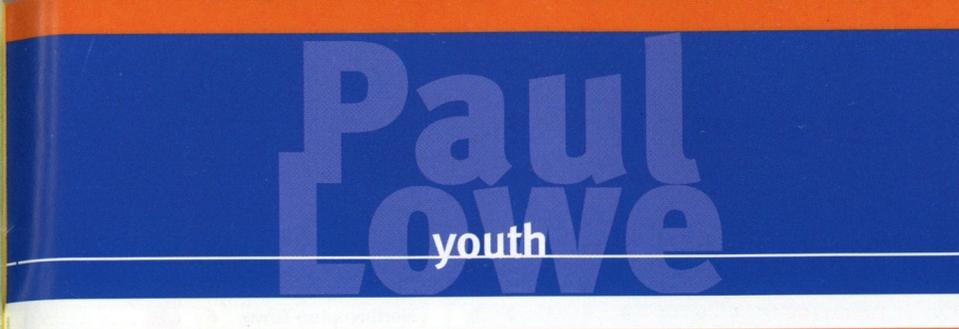
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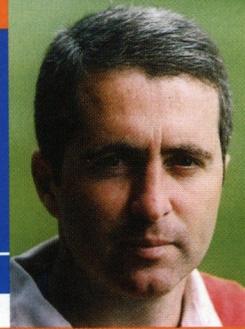
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John Moore & Trevor Hartley reserves



Paul Lowe youth



Cambridge Utd 2 Luton Town 1

IT WAS a bad week for red cards for the club: Marvin Johnson's in the Second Division match against Colchester was the third we had seen waved at our players in four days.

Our first two were in the Avon Combination match at the Abbey Stadium, in which three players were dismissed.

That might make it sound as though it was a dirty game, but it wasn't, and one of our red cards was very unfortunate, to say the least. And I had a little bit of sympathy for the Cambridge youngster who, like our Lee Lough, went for two bookable offences.

Our other red card went to Simon Davies, and I am afraid we cannot condone his offence, well though we understand the frustration he must be feeling about how his career is going at present.

The pitch at Cambridge looked really good, but the grass on it was too long, and that slowed the game down. It was not really conducive to good passing football. It stopped us playing at the speed we are capable of, and we never really found the pace of the game.

Lough was sent off for missing two tackles by a couple of inches at the most. I thought he was a bit unlucky on the second one particularly, because we thought he got the ball. If he missed, it was by an inch at the most.

But the referee gives it as he sees it, and all players, especially young ones, have to learn to live with the officials' decisions.

Lough might have been trying too hard: we have signed him on a short-term contract from Ashford Town, so naturally he wants to impress. But it is a big step up from non-league football to full-time training, and at this stage he is bound to find it a bit of a strain. Simon Davies will be fined by the club for his sending-off. A kid robbed him, and he lashed out, so he had to go.

The Cambridge red card was for two yellow card offences, and a perfect illustration of the need to avoid unnecessary bookings. The player was cautioned in the first half for kicking the ball away, which is a pretty innocuous offence. Then he was in a spot of bother when Jimmy Cox beat him to the ball on the edge of the box. He caught the player instead of the ball, was booked again, and that was the end of his match.

I expect that John Taylor, who was in charge of the Cambridge team, will remind the boy that the first booking was silly, and eventually cost him dear.

The draw was a fair reflection on the game: we didn't quite do enough to deserve to win.

We had Andrew Fotiadis and Herve Bacque up front, and Herve should have had at least one goal, when he put a near-post header wide of the far post.

All the goals came in the second half, with Cambridge taking the lead and then being pegged back when Stuart Fraser rounded off a rehearsed corner ploy with a nice strike into the far corner of the net.

We went 2-1 up when Cox got to the by-line, tricked an opponent, and crossed to the far post for Andre Scarlett to head in, but Cambridge equalised just before the end.

It would have been nice to add to our first-day victory over Brighton, but there were some useful pointers from the game.

We were particularly pleased for Chris Willmott, who is back in action after a long absence through serious injury. He played in central defence alongside Gary Doherty, and looked back to his best, which was very encouraging for him, and for the club.

LUTON TOWN: Abbey, Boyce, Fraser, Lough, Doherty, Willmott, Scarlett, Fotiadis (Sweeney 60 mins), Bacque (Cox 60 mins), Davies, Lopez (Lawes 70 mins)

Avon Combination League Fixtures - Season 1998/99

Wed 12	August	Brighton & Hove	H	4-1
Wed 26		Cambridge United	A	2-2
Wed 2	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

South East Counties League: Luton Town 3 Bristol Rovers 1

THE preparations for our latest league fixture could have been a little discouraging.

Moses Jerry went down with flu, so we brought in schoolboy Jerome Thomas to play in central midfield - and he took his chance with both feet, scoring to give us an early lead.

It was part of a confident first-half performance in which our goal was rarely threatened, with the whole team doing well. I would think Rovers would have been happy to contain the half-time deficit to one goal, but we did not even give them that satisfaction.

In the last minute of the half Jude Stirling combined with Tresor Kandol and scored with a terrific shot from the edge of the box.

But then we lost our way a bit, and we made a poor start to the second half. We came under a lot of pressure, and it was no real surprise when we conceded a goal after 65 minutes. Nathan Tyson, a trialist from Reading, was sent on as substitute to play on the left of midfield, and just like Thomas he grabbed his opportunity.

As we came up to the last 20 minutes we were having to work hard in defence, but we broke away to score completely against the run of play.

Kandol broke clear down the right, and set up Tyson for a calm finish.

It was a psychological blow for Bristol, and in the end we deserved to take the points.

Luton Town: Tate, Stirling, Taylor, Thomas, Ayres, Howe, McKoy, Minton, Kandol, Akurang, Hammond (Tyson 50 mins). Unused subs: Moran, Mortara.

Cup-tie on Monday

OUR home fixtures in the League are played at Luton Rugby Club, at Newlands Road, normally on Saturday mornings with an 11am kick-off. Spectators are welcome to come and see the future of Luton Town in action, and admission is free. The lads were away to Oxford United this morning, but on Monday they have a taste of Kenilworth Road action, in their first cup-tie of the season.

We have been drawn at home to Swindon Town in the first round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. Kick-off is at 7 pm and admission will be £3 for adults, and £1.50 for junior and senior citizens. Please note that the only entrance open will be at Kenilworth Road, giving access to the main stand and enclosure.

It's back to South East Counties League action on Saturday, with a visit by Reading's youth team to Newlands Road.

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.

In the world of sport Critical have been involved with media, public relations and sports organisers in investigating the needs of fans, their views and opinions. We have worked with the FA, the Football League, many professional football clubs, organisers of events such as the Atlanta Olympics, the forthcoming Sydney games, and many other sporting bodies.

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.

South East Counties League Fixtures - Season 1998/99

Sat 08	August	Brentford	A	2-4
Sat 15		AFC Bournemouth	H	4-2
Sat 22		Brighton & Hove Albion	A	0-0
Sat 29		Bristol Rovers	H	3-1
Sat 05	September	Oxford United	A	
Sat 12		Reading	H	
Sat 19		Wycombe Wanderers	A	
Sat 26		Gillingham	H	
Sat 03	October	Leyton Orient	A	
Sat 10		Portsmouth	H	
Sat 17		Cambridge United	A	
Sat 24		Colchester United	H	
Sat 31		Southend United	H	
Sat 07	November	Swindon	A	
Sat 14		Barnet	H	
Sat 21		AFC Bournemouth	A	
Sat 28		Brighton & Hove Albion	H	
Sat 05	December	Barnet	A	
Sat 12		Brentford	H	
Sat 02	January	Bristol Rovers	A	
Sat 09		Oxford United	H	
Sat 16		Reading	A	
Sat 23		Wycombe Wanderers	H	
Sat 30		Gillingham	A	
Sat 06	February	Leyton Orient	H	
Sat 13		Portsmouth	A	
Sat 20		Cambridge United	H	
Sat 27		Colchester United	A	
Sat 06	March	Southend United	A	
Sat 13		Swindon Town	H	



Critical Research - Main Sponsors of Luton Town Youth Team

How Clubs have scored goals... and conceded them

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	see key below	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG
2	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	Bournemouth	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	0
3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	Blackpool	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	3	2	0	0	1	3	0	Bristol Rovers	0	3	2	0	0	1	3	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	Burnley	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	Chesterfield	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	Colchester United	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	Fulham	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	Gillingham	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	Lincoln City	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	Luton Town	1	0	0	1	1	0	4	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Macclesfield Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	Manchester City	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Millwall	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	Northampton Town	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	Notts County	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	Oldham Athletic	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2	3	1	2	0	0	5	0	Preston North End	2	3	1	2	0	0	5	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	Reading	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
3	1	1	1	0	2	4	0	Stoke City	3	1	1	1	0	2	4	0
1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	Walsall	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	Wigan Athletic	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	Wrexham	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Wycombe Wanderers	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	York City	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0

Key: H = Header; CR = Close Range; OB = Outside Box; V = Volley; FK = Free Kick; P = Penalty; IB = Inside Box; OG = Own Goal

Yellow & Red Cards

Club	Yellow	Red	Pts
Bristol Rovers	9	2	15
Chesterfield	10	1	13
Lincoln City	13	0	13
Luton Town	10	1	13
Gillingham	6	2	12
Manchester City	8	1	11
Burnley	9	0	9
Millwall	9	0	9
Northampton Town	6	1	9
Preston North End	3	2	9
Wigan Athletic	9	0	9
Wrexham	9	0	9
Stoke City	8	0	8
Wycombe Wanderers	8	0	8
Blackpool	7	0	7
Macclesfield Town	5	0	5
Notts County	5	0	5
Oldham Athletic	4	0	4
Reading	4	0	4
York City	4	0	4
AFC Bournemouth	3	0	3
Colchester United	3	0	3
Fulham	3	0	3
Walsall	2	0	2

1998-99 Season Division Two Campaign Records

Highest/Lowest Gates 32,134 Man City v Blackpool 8-Aug 2,634 York v Gillingham 15-Aug	Oldham 1-3 Notts County 8-Aug Wigan 1-3 Luton 31-Aug	Consecutive Wins Stoke 5
Highest Aggregate Scores Preston 3-4 Stoke 22-Aug Lincoln 3-4 Preston 29-Aug	Consecutive Wins Stoke 5	Games Unbeaten Bournemouth, Fulham, Stoke 5
Biggest Home Win Gillingham 4-0 Wrexham 1-Sept	Games Unbeaten Bournemouth, Fulham, Stoke 5	Consecutive Defeats Colchester 3
Biggest Away Win Wrexham 2-4 Colchester 15-Aug Northampton 1-3 Stoke 8-Aug	Consecutive Defeats Wycombe 4	Games without a Win Macclesfield, Northampton, Wycombe 5

Key: PU = Players Used; GF = Goals For; GA = Goals Against; CS = Clean Sheets; LP = Lowest position; HP = Highest Position

Division Two Statistics, Club by Club

see key above	PU	GF	GA	CS	LP	HP	Leading Scorer	Lge	WC	Tot
Bournemouth	16	7	1	3	6	2	Stein	2	1	3
Blackpool	18	5	8	1	23	13	Bent/Conroy	1/1	1/1	2
Bristol Rovers	17	9	6	1	13	6	Hayles	4	1	5
Burnley	26	3	6	0	20	7	Cooke/Payton	2/2	1/1	3
Chesterfield	15	2	5	2	20	12	Holland/Reeves	0/1	2/1	2
Colchester United	18	5	6	1	12	2	Gregory D	1	2	3
Fulham	16	6	1	4	8	1	Lehmann	2	1	3
Gillingham	17	3	4	1	22	16	Hessenthaler	2	0	2
Lincoln City	15	4	6	3	21	14	Battersby	2	1	3
Luton Town	19	7	5	2	12	5	Davis S	3	0	3
Macclesfield Town	17	0	4	2	24	20	McDonald/Askey/Wood	0/0/0	1/1/1	1
Manchester City	16	4	4	2	14	1	Goater	2	2	4
Millwall	19	3	4	2	10	5	Shaw	2	1	3
Northampton Town	19	2	5	2	22	14	Heggs	0	2	2
Notts County	20	7	5	1	13	5	Hendon	3	0	3
Oldham Athletic	16	4	9	1	21	15	Allott	1	1	2
Preston North End	16	13	8	2	7	3	Nogan	4	0	4
Reading	24	4	8	1	22	15	Brebner	1	1	2
Stoke City	17	12	4	3	4	1	Kavanagh	4	1	5
Walsall	18	6	2	2	11	3	Wrack/Rammell	2/1	0/1	2
Wigan Athletic	16	6	8	1	23	16	Barlow	4	0	3
Wrexham	17	6	4	3	10	2	Connolly	2	1	3
Wycombe Wanderers	18	3	9	0	24	19	Read	1	1	2
York City	19	5	4	2	24	8	Thompson	2	1	3

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins Stoke 5	Games Unbeaten Bournemouth, Fulham, Stoke 5
Consecutive Defeats Colchester 3	Games without a Win Macclesfield, Northampton, Wycombe 5

Div. 2 Stat Attack

Div. 2 Attendance Details

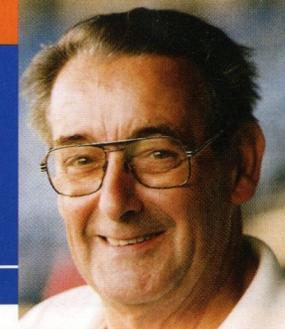
Club	Highest	Lowest	Average
Bournemouth	32,134	27,677	29,906
Blackpool	18,108	18,108	18,108
Bristol Rovers	14,284	12,107	13,196
Burnley	13,981	12,306	13,144
Chesterfield	11,781	8,526	10,007
Colchester	11,587	8,656	9,831
Fulham	10,316	5,261	7,789
Gillingham	7,529	6,140	6,835
Lincoln	7,492	5,997	6,745
Luton	6,956	5,573	6,438
Macclesfield	6,661	6,141	6,255
Man City	5,712	4,896	5,319
Millwall	5,392	5,005	5,199
Northampton	6,377	4,042	5,049
Notts County	5,709	4,548	5,000
Oldham	6,671	3,534	4,787
Preston	5,426	4,145	4,786
Reading	5,258	3,994	4,626
Stoke	5,252	4,102	4,557
Walsall	4,599	4,360	4,480
Wigan	4,853	4,285	4,305
Wrexham	4,130	3,355	3,743
Wycombe	3,933	2,794	3,292
York	2,775	2,634	2,705

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



Brian Swain

second division scene



THE BANK holiday weekend saw only two clubs in the Second Division collect maximum points: Luton Town and Stoke City. And only two teams lost both weekend matches - the two we beat, Colchester and Wigan.

The net result for us was a rise of seven places in the table, fifth by Monday night after rising to ninth on Saturday.

We might have been knocked back a notch on Wednesday, but Walsall, level on points but below on goals scored, came a cropper at Maine Road, where they were beaten 3-1.

We are still at the stage of the season where one or two good results can make a massive difference to league table standings: today's visitors were 20th on Saturday night after losing at Walsall, but shot up to 14th on Monday, thanks to a 2-1 home win over Millwall.

Stoke City's double delight became a treble later in the week when manager Brian Little, struggling rotten at Aston Villa 12 months ago, was named Second Division manager of the month. Stoke are the only team in the country with a 100 per cent record as they strive to bounce back into Division One at the first attempt.

Fulham were leading the chasing bunch on Monday evening, after their second draw of the weekend, 1-1 at Oldham. But up popped Mark Stein on Tuesday with the equaliser at home to Blackpool which enabled Bournemouth to regain second place.

Preston are proving to be surprise packets - 15th last season, they spent nothing on players in the summer, and sold Lee Ashcroft to Grimsby for £500,000. But if you want to see goals, Preston seem to be the team to watch. They were in a seven-goal match on Saturday for the second time in a row. They were beaten 4-3 at home by Stoke, and then won 4-3 at Lincoln, with Kurt Nogan netting three times in the two games. Chesterfield, on Monday, were unwilling to be in that sort of cavalier game, but were seen off 2-0 at Deepdale.

While Preston kept their brass in their pocket, Gillingham have quietly been spending some of the £1.2million they received from Bristol City in the summer for Ade Akinbiyi.

Carl Asaba from Reading and Bob Taylor from Brentford cost them a total of £1.1million, and their weekend's work saw them jump from 22nd in the table to 12th, thanks to a 2-2 draw at Blackpool and a 4-0 home romp against Wrexham, our opponents at The Racecourse on Tuesday.

We are having Wrexham watched this afternoon, at home to Macclesfield, and the formbook suggests a home banker - Macclesfield are finding it hard after winning promotion, and have not even scored a goal in their last five outings. But two draws from the first five matches of the season keeps them off bottom place, although Wycombe, the team below them, had some slight cause for celebration on Monday: Dannie Bulman, a £10,000 buy from Ashford, earned them their first point of the season with a 90th-minute equaliser at home to Bristol Rovers.

Today's other Second Division fixtures:

- Blackpool v Northampton
- Bristol Rov v Preston
- Chesterfield v Gillingham
- Lincoln v Oldham
- Notts County v Wigan
- Stoke v Bournemouth
- Walsall v Reading
- Wrexham v Macclesfield
- York v Colchester

Nationwide Division Two

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke City	5	5	0	0	12	4	15
Bournemouth	5	3	2	0	7	1	10
Fulham	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Preston North End	5	3	1	1	13	8	10
Luton Town	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Walsall	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Bristol Rovers	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Manchester City	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Notts County	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Wrexham	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
York City	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Millwall	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
Gillingham	5	1	3	1	7	4	6
Colchester United	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Burnley	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
Chesterfield	5	2	0	3	2	5	6
Blackpool	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Lincoln City	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Oldham Athletic	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
Wigan Athletic	5	1	0	4	6	8	3
Reading	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Northampton Town	5	0	3	2	2	5	3
Macclesfield	5	0	2	3	0	4	2
Wycombe Wand.	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

Statistics

fixtures, results, appearances, goalscorers

Date	Competition	Opposition	Result	Time	Goals	Assists	Appearances	Goalscorers
Sat 08	AUGUST	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	A	3.00pm	1-0	(S. Davis)	5,252	K. Davis
TUES 11	WC1(1)	OXFORD UNITED	H	7.45pm	2-3	(Alexander 2p)	3,165	K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas
SAT 15		PRESTON NORTH END	H	3.00pm	1-1	(Marshall)	5,392	K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan
TUES 18	WC1(2)	OXFORD UNITED	A	7.45pm	3-1	(Gray, Evers, McLaren)	5,099	K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan
SAT 22		READING	A	3.00pm	0-3		18,108	K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan
SAT 29		COLCHESTER UNITED	H	3.00pm	2-0	(Cavis, Douglas)	5,005	K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan
MON 31		WIGAN ATHLETIC	A	3.00pm	3-1	(S. Davis, Evers, Gray)	3,778	K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan
SAT 05	SEPTEMBER	BURNLEY	H	3.00pm				
TUES 08		WREXHAM	A	7.45pm				
SAT 12		BRISTOL ROVERS	H	3.00pm				
TUES 15		IPSWICH TOWN WC2(1)	A	7.45pm				
SAT 19		BLACKPOOL	A	3.00pm				
TUES 22		IPSWICH TOWN WC2(2)	H	7.45pm				
SAT 26		WALSALL	H	3.00pm				
SAT 03	OCTOBER	FULHAM	A	3.00pm				
SAT 10		YORK CITY	A	3.00pm				
SAT 17		OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	3.00pm				
TUES 27	WC3							
TUES 20		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	7.45pm				
SAT 24		GILLINGHAM	A	3.00pm				
SAT 31		CHESTERFIELD	H	3.00pm				
SAT 07	NOVEMBER	STOKE CITY	A	3.00pm				
TUES 10		NOTTS COUNTY	H	7.45pm				
TUES 10	WC4							
SAT 14	FACUP(R1)							
SAT 21		LINCOLN CITY	A	3.00pm				
SAT 28		MANCHESTER CITY	H	3.00pm				
TUES 01	DECEMBER							
SAT 05	FA CUP (R2)							
TUES 08	AWS(1)							
SAT 12		MACCLESFIELD TOWN	A	3.00pm				
SAT 19		MILLWALL	H	3.00pm				
SAT 26		READING	H	12 noon				
MON 28		A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	A	3.00pm				
SAT 02	JANUARY	COLCHESTER UNITED	A	3.00pm				
TUES 05	or FA CUP (R3)							
SAT 09	AWS(2)							
SAT 16	1999	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	3.00pm				
SAT 23		PRESTON NORTH END	A	3.00pm				
SAT 23		WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	3.00pm				
WED 27	or FA CUP (R4)							
SAT 30	WC SF(1)							
SAT 06	FEBRUARY	A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	H	3.00pm				
SAT 13		BURNLEY	A	3.00pm				
SAT 13		WREXHAM	H	3.00pm				
WED 17	or FA CUP (R5)							
SAT 20	WC SF(2) or AWS SF							
SAT 27		BRISTOL ROVERS	A	3.00pm				
SAT 06		BLACKPOOL	H	3.00pm				
SAT 06		WALSALL	A	3.00pm				
TUES 09	MARCH	FULHAM	H	7.45pm				
SAT 13	or FA CUP (R6)							
WED 17	or AWS (AF1)							
SAT 20	AWS (AF2)	STOKE CITY	H	3.00pm				
SUN 21	WC FINAL							
SAT 27		CHESTERFIELD	A	3.00pm				
SAT 03	APRIL	GILLINGHAM	H	3.00pm				
TUES 06		OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A	3.00pm				
SAT 10		YORK CITY	H	7.45pm				
SUN 11		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	A	3.00pm				
WED 14	FA CUP SF							
SAT 17		MANCHESTER CITY	A	7.45pm				
SUN 18		LINCOLN CITY	H	3.00pm				
SAT 24	AWS FINAL							
SAT 01	MAY	NOTTS COUNTY	A	3.00pm				
SAT 08		MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H	3.00pm				
SAT 22	FA CUP FINAL	MILLWALL	A	3.00pm				

Golden Gamble

REGULAR supporter Raymond Horsell went home with his wallet bulging when he came to watch us play Colchester last week. His was the lucky number pulled out by Paul McLaren in the Golden Gamble competition, and Raymond won £470. Tickets are £1 each, and the draw benefits the club, because half the income is paid out to the winner and the other half is for club funds. We still need more Golden Gamble ticket sellers: if you are interested please contact the Commercial Department, phone Luton 411622.



Player	Appearances	Goals
S. Davis	5	2
S. Davis	2 (2)	1
S. Davis	5	2
S. Davis	5	2
S. Davis	3	1
S. Davis	5	2
S. Davis	0 (1)	0
S. Davis	5	2
S. Davis	2 (3)	0 (2)
S. Davis	4	2
S. Davis	3	2
S. Davis	4 (1)	2
S. Davis	4 (1)	0 (1)
S. Davis	1	1 (1)
S. Davis	0 (1)	0 (1)
S. Davis	5	2
S. Davis	1 (2)	1
S. Davis	1 (1)	0

Substitutes

Player	Appearances	Goals
Johnson	5	2
Johnson	2 (2)	1
Johnson	5	2
Johnson	5	2
Johnson	3	1
Johnson	5	2
Johnson	0 (1)	0
Johnson	5	2
Johnson	2 (3)	0 (2)
Johnson	4	2
Johnson	3	2
Johnson	4 (1)	2
Johnson	4 (1)	0 (1)
Johnson	1	1 (1)
Johnson	0 (1)	0 (1)
Johnson	5	2
Johnson	1 (2)	1
Johnson	1 (1)	0

Today's Sponsors

WE GIVE a very warm welcome this afternoon to our match sponsors, The Whitbread Beer Company, and thank them for their support. Whitbread has had a long association with the Luton community, and with Luton Town FC, and we hope their guests have a very enjoyable afternoon. We have various forms of sponsorship available, to suit all requirements and at varying prices. There are packages to suit all budgets. The Commercial Department is always willing to discuss things with you, to talk about how you and your company can get involved with Luton Town. For full details, or to arrange a visit, please contact the Commercial Department on Luton 411622.

GOLDEN MATCH

LONG-TIME Town fan Fred Hines, of Dunstable Road, Luton, is celebrating the best match of his life. Yesterday he and Peg notched up 50 years of married life and we send them both our warmest congratulations.

Hatters Roll-Call 1998/99

Player	Appearances			Total	Goals			Total
	League	WC	FAC		League	WC	AWS	
Alexander	5	2	0	7	0	2p	0	2p
Bacqué	2 (2)	1	0	3 (2)	0	0	0	0
K. Davis	5	2	0	7	0	0	0	0
S. Davis	5	2	0	7	3	0	0	3
Douglas	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	1
Evers	5	2	0	7	1	1	0	2
Fotiadis	0 (1)	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0
Gray	5	2	0	7	1	1	0	2
George	2 (3)	0 (2)	0	2 (5)	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	2	0	6	0	0	0	0
Marshall	3	2	0	5	1	0	0	1
McGowan	4 (1)	2	0	6 (1)	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	4 (1)	0 (1)	0	4 (2)	0	0	0	0
McLaren	1	1 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	1	0	1
McIndoe	0 (1)	0 (1)	0	0 (2)	0	0	0	0
Spring	5	2	0	7	0	0	0	0
Thomas	1 (2)	1	0	2 (2)	0	0	0	0
White	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0

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The Teams

Luton Town v Burnley



Kelvin Davis	1	1	Gavin Ward
Graham Alexander	2	2	Neil Moore
Gavin McGowan	3	3	Gordon Armstrong
Matthew Spring	4	4	Carl Smith
Steve Davis	5	5	Peter Swan
Marvin Johnson	6	6	Chris Brass
Ray McKinnon	7	7	Glen Little
Sean Evers	8	8	Mark Robertson
Stuart Douglas	9	9	Andy Cooke
Phil Gray	10	10	Andy Payton
Michael McIndoe	11	11	Paul Smith
Andrew Fotiadis	12	12	Colin Carr-Lawton
Hervé Bacqué	13	13	Chris Scott
Mitchell Thomas	14	14	Matthew Heywood

Referee: Mike Pierce, Portsmouth

Assistants: K. Merchant, Ewell (yellow flag)

K. Woolmer, Northampton (yellow & red flag)

Reserve official: S. J. Gadsen, Oakley



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