



Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Saturday 12 September 1998
 Kick Off 3.00pm
 Official matchday programme. Price £1.80



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Inside Forward

welcome to kenilworth road

Luton Town Football Club

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Champions 1936-37

Division 4
Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Programme

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Brian Swain

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Home Counties Newspapers

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

AFTER Press speculation about the future of Steve Davis, it is only right supporters should know that his future is very much with Luton Town.

The story started in Burnley in the summer, when Chris Waddle had vacated the manager's chair after his one not very successful season in charge.

The Press there naturally wanted to know what new manager Stan Ternent planned to do to revive Turf Moor fortunes. "Bring in new players" was the bottom line. "We could do with Steve Davis," was the obvious rejoinder from a



**MICHAEL
McINDOE**

journalist. Ternent agreed, but said that when he made an enquiry of Luton he was told Davis was not for sale, so that was an end to it.

But, of course, it was not for the Press and eventually the story had Luton Town turning down a bid. Not true, says Lennie Lawrence - no offer came in. And it would take a huge sum to prise away one of our best assets. "He's the best centre-back in this division," said the boss.

"Speculation about players and transfers is inevitable, and in that sense we have become a fashionable little club. People are taking notice of the good players we have here.

"You can't say no-one is ever going because this is Luton Town, but I have no intention of selling anyone in the next few months. This team can only get better - we have

something good here and I don't want to spoil it."

Davis is committed to Luton Town on paper and by inclination. Twelve months ago he signed an extension to his contract, which now runs to the year 2000.

A north-easterner, he naturally has affection for Burnley, who gave him his chance after Southampton allowed him to leave. Davis played more than 200 games for Burnley before deciding it was time to move on three years ago. Terry Westley did us a huge favour by signing him, with a tribunal putting the fee at £750,000.

Said Davis: "I am a Luton player, and will stay one. Of course I would like to play in the First Division, or higher - and hopefully I will, with Luton. We're going well, playing with confidence, and I think this team is capable of winning promotion."

BRIAN Reid, making his debut for Burnley against the Town last week after being signed from Glasgow Rangers, was baffled when our supporters called him rude names over the incident in which Stuart Douglas was wrestled to the ground with the ref not seeing the foul the way we did.

The Pressbox was saved from an embarrassing blunder as Reid's English debut was studied: a Burnley journalist was able to tell us that the bloke we thought was Reid, wearing No. 4 and the captain's armband, was in fact Chris Brass. Burnley got the numbers wrong on the sheet that is given to the Press and to our PA announcer: Reid was down at No. 4, but wore No. 6.

CONGRATULATIONS to Stuart Fraser, who had his first taste of league action in our defence against Carlisle on the final day of last season. He has been called up by Scotland for their under-18 friendly against France on Wednesday, and we hear he has every chance of a cap.

WHEN John Moore stands near the dug-out urging on the team to ever-greater



Front Cover:
RISING STAR:
Michael McIndoe, still only 18, who has swiftly settled into League football in his first year as a full professional - he impressed on his full debut against Burnley, and played well again at Wrexham on Tuesday.

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effort, he might be forgiven (if he was that sort of bloke) for taking extra pride in the composition of our present first team squad.

He has never mentioned it, but he was the coach who took our then youth team to the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup 18 months ago.

He was never a one to worry about boys winning medals - he was pleased for them of course, but never forgot that being in a youth team was about learning even more than winning.

But his work with that squad is paying handsome dividends now, and Matthew Spring, the latest to emerge, is just one of the boys grateful for that youth team grounding.



**MATTHEW
SPRING**

The youth squad of a couple of years ago included Spring, Stuart Douglas, Sean Evers, Andrew Fotiadis and Liam George.

Asked to meet the Press after his top quality display against Burnley last week, Spring showed he can handle himself off the field as well as on it.

He gave a sensible interview, with honest answers to questions, and agreed that he seemed to be getting into the swing of things nicely now he has won his chance in the first team.

His earlier memories are a reminder that football can be unkind as well as a real pleasure: he had the bad luck to be called up for his debut as a sub at Bristol City last

season, when a squad decimated by injuries was thrashed 3-0 and glad not to concede twice as many.

Then his full debut ended in a harsh red card, against Plymouth just over a year ago, when even the Plymouth manager protested to the referee that it was a 50/50 tackle, and a yellow card offence at the most.

Now Spring is enjoying his football, and surely due to net his first league goal after going close so many times, particularly with the rasping drive which hit the Burnley crossbar last week.

And the midfielder is grateful for the fact that he is one of several to emerge together from John Moore's successful youth side of two years ago. "Because we were in that side together, we understand each other, and that helps us all," he said.

Youth football is notorious for its high failure rate, so everyone at Kenilworth Road was pleased to hear that Robert Kean, who was in the same intake as Spring, has won a contract in the Conference, with Stevenage.

He too made his Town debut as a sub at Bristol City last season, but never got into the league squad again. He was given a free transfer a few months later.



**STUART
FRASER**

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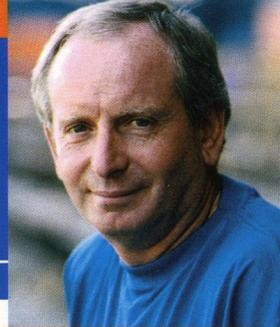
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PONY™



Lennie Lawrence

from the manager's chair



GAMES are coming thick and fast as the programme calls for us to play twice a week until the end of the month, and while we are doing well that's something to enjoy.

We're still only six weeks into the season, but today we are playing our tenth match, the start of another spell of three in eight days. When you get good results being busy is no problem, and for us it has been satisfying to see young players respond to the challenge. Football might be a beautiful game, but our last two matches, against Burnley and Wrexham, were both physically demanding, and I felt we passed the test on each occasion.

I would think our first-half display a week ago was the best attacking football seen on this ground for many a long day, and it should have been rewarded by two or three goals. When we made the breakthrough, the sheer power and physical strength of Burnley came to the fore. It was all hands to the pumps and Kelvin Davis made a top class save to prevent an equaliser, but it would have been a travesty if we had not won. It was a hard old game, and you always wonder how

much a match like that takes out of players. My concern was that it might have been too draining before the trip to Wrexham, particularly as they are a very useful side on their day.

But all our fears were allayed by another good performance on

Tuesday, against a team who did as well against us as any other side we have met this season. They set us a few problems, but we coped, and Wrexham also knew that they had been well tested by the final whistle. It was a good football match, a good advertisement for the Second Division, and the draw was a fair result. And it was very pleasing to see that we were still strong in the last 10 minutes.

We dropped a place in the table, but a win today would keep us in the top three. By the same token, in a very tight table, Bristol Rovers will be keen to win to close the gap, and I haven't forgotten that they did the double over us last season, when they only just missed the play-offs.

I believe, however, that we are a better team than we were a year ago. We finished last season well, and have carried that over into this campaign, and younger players have benefited from experience. We are stronger mentally, which is important, and are looking much more difficult to beat at home. That is the key to doing well: I fancy us against anyone away, but a run of home victories is what really sets you up. So we need another today.

On Tuesday we will be the underdogs at Ipswich, in the Worthington Cup, but we will not be afraid to play our normal game and look for a surprise win. It will be interesting to see how we compare with one of the better teams in the division we want to play in next season.

Beating Oxford in the first round was one test passed with honours. Ipswich are probably a better team than Oxford, so to win again would be very encouraging, a real confirmation of our promotion credentials. We think we can go to Portman Road and upset the applecart. We will enjoy it if we do, but it will not deflect us from the main target, which is to get back into the First Division.

Our aim is to mount a play-off challenge, and we know that on our day we can beat anyone.

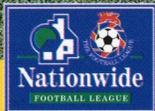
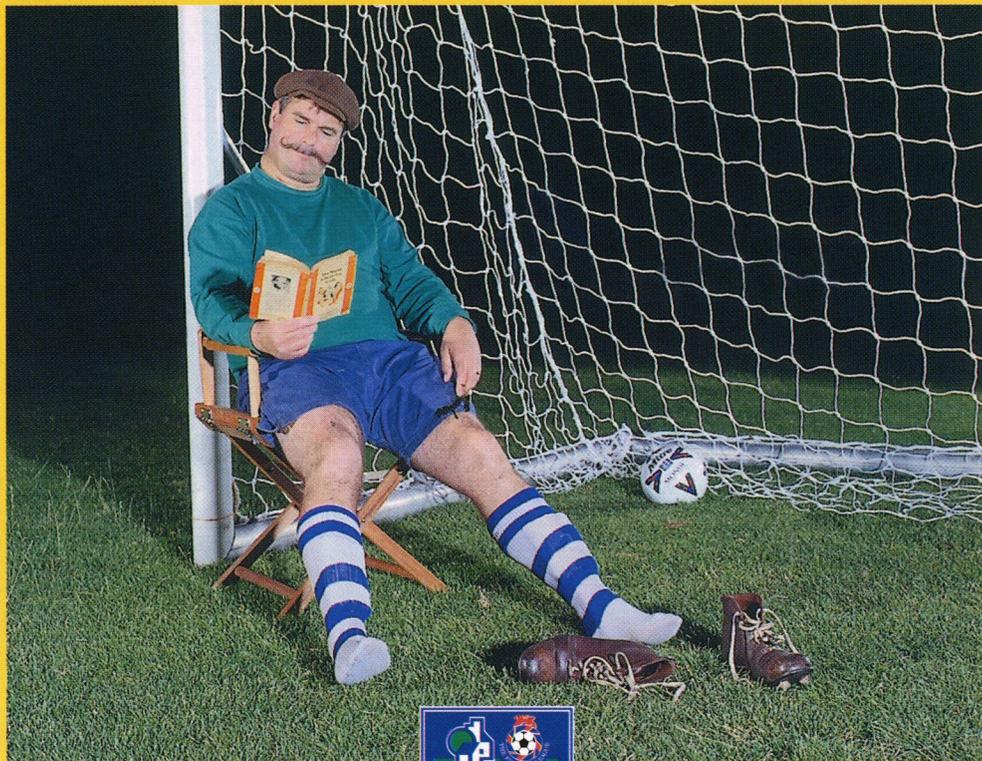
So far, so good, has to be the verdict on the first six weeks of the season. There is a long way to go yet, but given decent luck with injuries, we can be a very capable side.

Clubs like Fulham, Stoke and Manchester City might have more resources in financial terms - if they lose a player or two they can go out and buy replacements. We lose a player, and a young boy goes in. But how well our young boys are doing!

A good victory today would confirm we are on the right lines, and I hope it comes with entertaining football as well. We want to please our supporters, and as always I hope the fans will play their part. So enjoy the game, and give us all the backing you can. We might just be going places this season.

Lennie Lawrence

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Steve Davis
captain's log



It's certainly a while since we've been second as it was after last Saturday or third in the league as it stands now. Can we now maintain our good start to the season?

I don't see any reason why not, the big key to our form is confidence. To get a win in an opening day was vital and things have gradually improved from there (except Reading!) I thought our first half against Colchester was the best we'd played for some time, but I don't think Burnley knew what had hit them last week! The only worrying thing is that we again went in at half time 0-0. Nether the less we eventually came away with all three points thanks to Stuart's predatory finish!

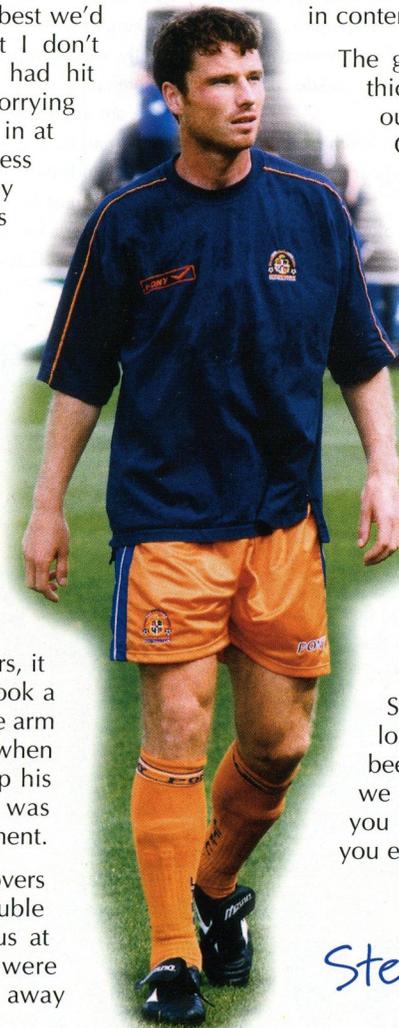
Wrexham was a different game: they caused us a few problems, especially in the first half, but overall I think we could well have won the game. If we collect all three points this afternoon, the Wrexham point will be one gained as opposed to two lost. Well done to 'Spider' (that's Ray McKinnon) for his first goal in Luton colours, it was a nice chip that only took a slight deflection. He put one arm up claiming a corner, then when it went in he quickly put up his other arm. To say he was pleased was an understatement.

Today we face Bristol Rovers who last year did the double over us, they pummelled us at home 5-2 and we were unfortunate not to come away

with a point at their ground. Like I said about Burnley, we're also due a victory against Bristol, They have won our last three meetings, so hopefully we can turn the tables round and keep ourselves in contention at the top.

The games are certainly coming thick and fast, with today being our tenth already this season. Our fitness seems to be spot on so far and with the weather beginning to change, fitness will become an important factor as the grounds become heavier. It's certainly an advantage having so many young pups in the team, they seem to be able to run all day. There's a lot to be said also for this pasta and water were all taking. The only trouble is you spend half the night going to the toilet!!

The noise you all made last Saturday was certainly the loudest Kenilworth Road has been for a while, so hopefully we can produce the goods and you produce the noise! Hope you enjoy the game.



Steve Davis

Cherry Newbery

club secretary



This week's results have ensured that the Kenilworth Road offices are full of very happy people, players and staff alike.

And I am not only thinking of the league games against Burnely and Wrexham, but of the match here on Monday evening, when our youth team beat Swindon to go through to the second round of the Southern Junior Floodlit cup.

The draw for the second round has been made, and we will have a local derby, at home to Northampton. The tie has to be played before the end of November, and as soon as match arrangements are made I will publish them.

I said in this column last week that the youth team is well worth supporting, and it was good to hear a crowd getting behind the lads against Swindon.

Everyone agreed it was very good value for money, and supporters might like to be reminded that there are even better deals for youth team matches in the South East Counties League - you can watch them for free! And that's to see a team which went top of the league last week.

We use the Luton Rugby Club ground at Newlands Road, and league matches are normally played on Saturday mornings, with an 11am kick-off.

The next home game for the youth team is in a fortnight, on September 26, against Gillingham.

Cup ties always seem to generate a little more interest than the more routine league matches, and don't forget that for the second leg of the Worthington Cup, at home to Ipswich, seats are now on general sale. Season ticket holders had until yesterday to claim their seats, and any left unclaimed became available today.

But please note, because the ticket office is very busy on match days in the hour before kick-off, Worthington Cup tickets will not be on sale between 2 and 3 pm today, but you can buy them after the game. The match is to be played on Tuesday September 22 (7.45).

For the first leg, at Portman Road on Tuesday, you can buy tickets after today's match is over, or pay on the night at Ipswich - see the ticket news page for full details. With the team doing so well there are signs that support is inching up, and supporters can help themselves as well as us if they take advantage of offers for early booking of seats.

Finally, we are approaching the time of year when pitch maintenance needs more work, so can I ask again if there are any volunteers out there prepared to help the club for an hour or so after home matches.

Our groundsman needs a little help on the essential work that must be done shortly after games end, and if you can offer a hand it will be appreciated. Please phone the club on Luton 411622 and ask to speak to Richard Bird

Cherry Newbery

Are you a spot-on Family?

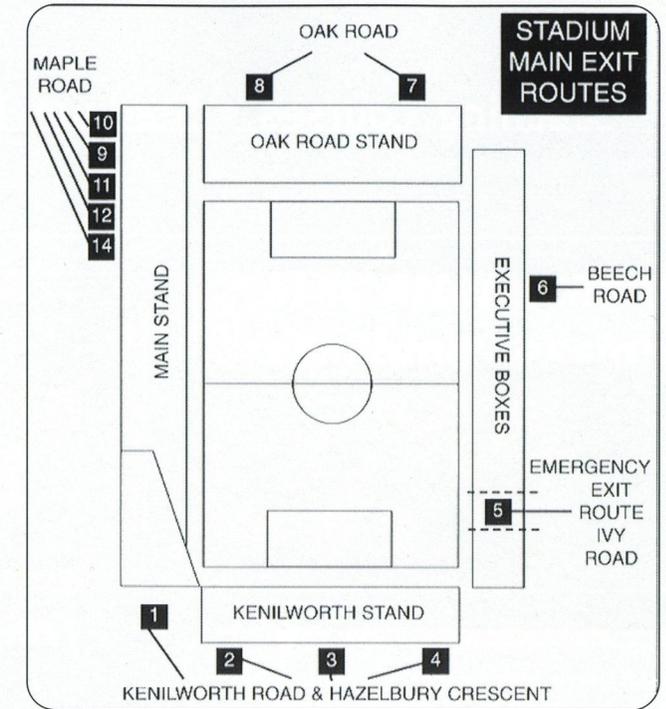
Always looking for ways to keep the entertainment going during the half-time interval, we are thinking of running a fathers-and-son penalty competition at future home games. We will provide a goalkeeper, and each father and son will take three penalties against him. So if you fancy scoring a goal at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

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.



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Free Coaching Day

Last Monday almost 100 youngsters turned up at our Community & Schools coaching camp held at Barnfield College to enjoy the last day of their school holiday.

The entire day was free for all the children who attended and was sponsored by Chris Kenningham at Luton Car Sales and supported by The Leader and a big thanks to them for making this possible and for creating such a popular event.

It was a great way to end our summer and now that everyone is back to school our regular term time coaching sessions are up and running - see opposite for further details.



Half Time Shoot Out

Luton 4 Leighton Buzzard 5

Last weeks half time shoot out involved youngsters from our coaching courses with Leighton Buzzard turning out narrow winners over Luton who scored two late goals to set up an exciting finish. Both teams received advice from first teamers Mitchell Thomas and Alan White on their visits to our coaching courses - but it was Leighton Buzzard who went home with the Mars Bars!

The boys who took part were:

LUTON

In goal	Christopher O'Neill	age 10
	David McLelland	age 6
	Aaron Coleman	age 9
	Seamus Sam	age 9
	James Sebborn	age 12
	Steven Miller	age 13

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

In goal	Alistair Framp	age 10
	Jamie Bather	age 6
	Lee Sharp	age 7
	Gregory Driscoll	age 10
	Ben Barrett	age 13
	Nicky Soper	age 13



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



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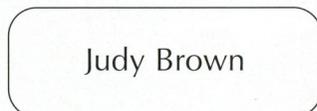
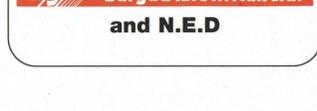
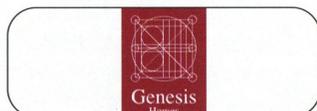
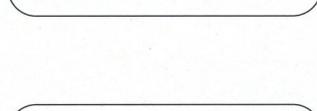
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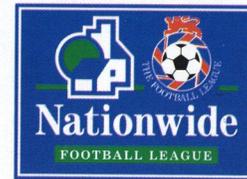
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Luton Town 1 Burnley 0



THERE WAS only one goal in it, and on another day we might have paid for not scoring more, but both managers agreed that the Town deserved their third straight win against a side which had beaten us on its three

previous visits.

Burnley were given the run-around in the

first half, rescued by the crossbar twice, and finally hit by the overdue goal two minutes after the interval.

It took a wonderful save five minutes from time by Kelvin Davis to secure the win and our third clean sheet in six league fixtures.

Michael McIndoe, still only 18, made his debut on the left of midfield in place of injured Liam George, and was rightly given an ovation when he was subbed by Mitchell Thomas with nine minutes to go. The player-coach was one of eight in the 14-man squad who had come through from the youth team ranks into the Town's league side.

Stuart Douglas was the first to suffer from the bar at the Oak Road end, smashing a volley onto the underside from a swift break and cross by Sean Evers after only eight minutes. Then a corner by Ray McKinnon was headed back by Steve Davis and Phil Gray rolled the ball invitingly into the path of Matthew Spring. From just over 20 yards he let fly with a drive which slammed back off the bar with Gavin Ward, once with Lennie Lawrence at Bradford, beaten all ends up.

Steve Davis won the Pressbox man of the match nomination by a mile, reminding Burnley of what they lost when he left Turf Moor three years ago - a towering defender, and a more than useful attacker.

Davis got in the header from a McKinnon corner which Ward parried for Douglas to poach a close-range winner.

Burnley only stirred themselves after that, and Peter Swan's late header was brilliantly tipped onto the bar by Kelvin Davis, with Steve Davis inevitably the man on hand to complete the clearance. "It would have been a travesty if we had not won," said the Town manager. "But I

was getting a little nervous at half-time, when we had given our best attacking display for some considerable while but had nothing to show for it.

"Douglas deserved his goal - it would have been a super one if he had scored with the shot that hit the bar."

Burnley's Stan Ternent admitted he was much relieved to get to half-time on level terms. "We had to weather a storm," he said. "I suppose we could have got something out of the game - that save by the Luton keeper was fantastic. But I have to admit that overall Luton deserved to win."

The Match Details

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Steve Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 73 mins), Gray, McIndoe (Thomas 81 mins). Unused sub: Bacque.

Booked: Marvin Johnson, 16 mins, and Gavin McGowan, 89, both for fouls.

Burnley: Ward, Robertson, Armstrong, Reid, Swan, Brass, Little, Jepson, Cooke, Payton, Paul Smith. Subs, all unused: Carr-Lawton, Carl Smith, Scott.

Booked: Paul Smith 6 mins, Gordon Armstrong, 66 mins, Ronnie Jepson 68 mins, for fouls on, respectively, Sean Evers, Phil Gray and Kelvin Davis.

The goal: Ray McKinnon's 47th-minute corner from the right met by Steve Davis's thundering header, too hot for the keeper to hold and Stuart Douglas reacted quickest to net his second goal of the season from close range.

Referee: Ken Leach, Wolverhampton

Attendance: 5,554, highest of the season so far.

Action Replay

Luton Town 1 Burnley 0



THE WINNER: Stuart Douglas is airborne and three Burnley defenders and the goalkeeper are powerless to prevent his second goal of the season.



ACTION MAN: Sean Evers in full flight against Burnley.

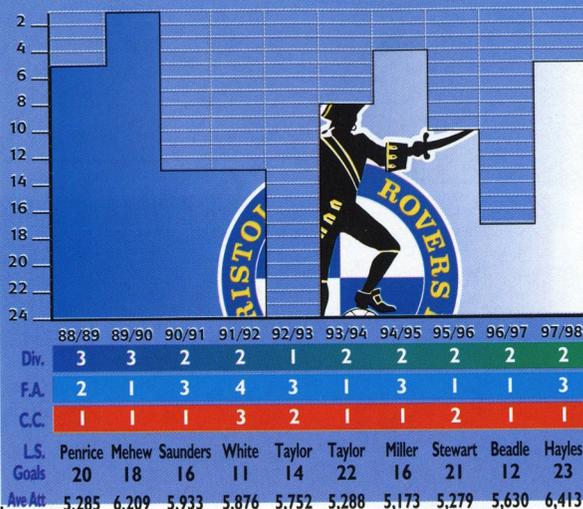


JUMPING TO IT: Phil Gray spearheading a Town attack against Burnley.

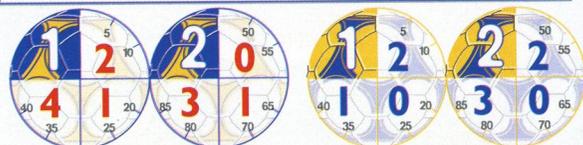


ACTION MAN: Michael McIndoe looks every inch a wing wizard during his impressive debut on Saturday.

Pirates' last ten years - the full record



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



PIRATES PERPETRATORS

- Hayles...2
- Roberts...2
- Andreasson...1
- Challis...1
- Cureton...1
- Ipoua...1
- Leoni...1
- Weaker...1
- Trees...1

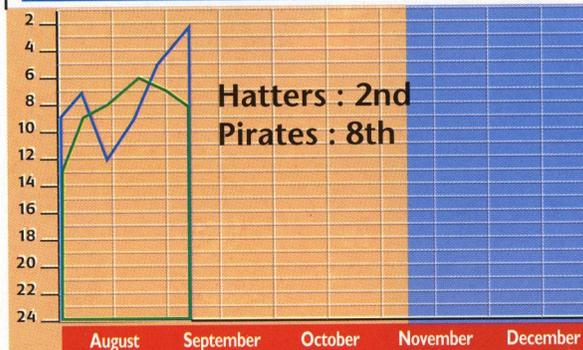


HATTERS HARD MEN

- McGowan 4
- George...2
- Johnson...2
- Davis S...1
- Evers...1
- Gray...1
- McKinnon 1



League Positions throughout the season



Hatters : 2nd
Pirates : 8th

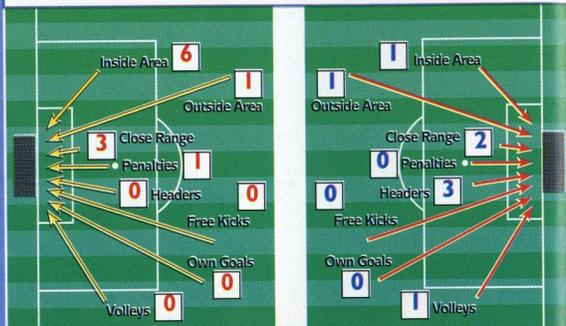
When The Hatters have scored goals... and conceded them



Who's played for Bristol Rovers this season...

Player	Pos	Lge	Lge	Age	Ht	Weight	Prev. Club	Int.		
		Apps		Gls						
Jamie Cureton	M	6	2	23	5	10	10	Norwich	Eng Yth	
Steve Foster	D	6		23	6	1	12	0	Woking	
Barry Hayles	F	6	5	26	5	9	13	0	Stevenage	
Ian Holloway	M	6		35	5	7	10	0	QPR	
Robert Trees	M	6		20	5	10	11	0	Man Utd	
Jason Roberts	F	5(1)	1	20	6	1	11	0	Wolves	
Lee Jones	G	5		28	6	3	14	0	Swansea	
Michael Meaker	M	5	1	27	5	11	12	0	Reading	Wales U21
Trevor Challis	D	4		22	5	8	11	0	QPR	Eng U21
Stephane Leoni	D	4		22	5	9	11	0	Metz	France U21
Andrew Tillson	D	3	1	32	6	2	12	0	QPR	
Luke Basford	D	2(1)		18	5	6	8	0		
Marcus Andreasson	M	2		20	6	4	12	0	Osters IF	
Lee Zabek	M	2		19	6	0	12	0		
Guy Ipoua	F	1(4)	1	22	6	2	11	0	Novelda	
Mark Smith	D	1(1)		18	5	11	11	0		
Andy Collett	G	1		24	6	0	12	0	Middlesbrough	
Josh Low	F	1		18	6	0	11	0		
Gary Penrice	M	(2)		34	5	8	11	0	Watford	

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



Hatters v Pirates

FORM GUIDE	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Sequence
Luton Town	4	1	1	8	5	13	WWWLDW
Bristol Rovers	2	3	1	11	8	9	DDWDWL

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

How Luton have scored goals... and conceded them



Bristol Rovers

welcome to today's visitors



IAN HOLLOWAY: PLAYER/MANAGER

Now in his third spell with the club he joined as a youngster, Ian is arguably, one of the most popular players ever to wear Rovers colours. Made his debut in April 1981, with a substitute appearance against Wrexham. Left to join Wimbledon for a £335,000 fee in July 1985 and nine months later

moved on to Brentford, who paid £25,000 to secure his signature. Had a loan spell at Torquay before Gerry Francis brought him back to the club in August 1987. It proved to be a shrewd move by Francis, as he built a promotion winning side around the influential midfielder. The play-off was reached in 1988/89 and one year later, Rovers clinched the Third Division Championship and reached Wembley for the first time, losing to Tranmere in the Leyland Daf Cup.

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

GARY PENRICE: PLAYER/COACH

Joined Rovers as a part-time professional in 1983 and made his first team debut in a Freight Rover Trophy tie against Swansea in January 1985. Gerry Francis handed the young midfielder a striking role alongside Devon White in 1987 and in two seasons, Gary scored 38 goals in 89 league games.

He joined Watford in November 1989 and moved to Aston Villa for a £1m fee in March 1991. Just 7 months later, though, he was on the move again, to Q.P.R., where he linked up again with Gerry Francis and his former Rovers team mate Ian Holloway. Had a further stint with Watford before rejoining Rovers in the summer of 1997. Made an immediate impact on his return, both on the style of play and the players around him. He featured in 40 league games and towards the end of the campaign, took on additional duties as player/coach.

A very talented all round footballer, his experience in the top flight and his affection for the club will undoubtedly help him in his new role. He's not planning to quit playing just yet, though, and will undoubtedly be a key figure in Rovers midfield again this season.



THE BRISTOL ROVERS SQUAD 1998-99

ANDY COLLETT

Middlesbrough born Andy signed schoolboy forms for his home town club and graduated through the ranks to earn his first professional contract. Played two league games in Boro's first team, but Bryan Robson's purchase of Alan Miller restricted his chances of a regular first team place. Joined Rovers on loan in the Autumn of 1994 and made five appearances before returning to the North East. Made a permanent move to the club on transfer deadline day 1994, though had to wait for an extended run in the first team until the 1995/6 season.

LEE JONES

Lee joined Swansea as a youngster, but was released before making a first team appearance. He played in Welsh non-league football before rejoining The Swans from AFC Rhondda. Understudied the experience Roger Freestone at The Vetch, which meant that first team opportunities were limited. Spent a month on loan with Rovers before joining on a permanent basis on 6 March 1998. Made his debut, against Northampton Town, just 24 hours later and ended the season as the club's first choice keeper. An imposing figure who commands his area well, Lee shows a great desire to learn and is an impressive shot stopper who distributes the ball well.

DAVE PRITCHARD

Began his career with West Bromwich Albion and made his league debut against Stockport in September 1991. Made a further four appearances before being released in 1992. Joined Vauxhall Conference side Telford United, but was signed by Rovers for a fee of £20,000 in February 1994. Quickly made the right-back position his own and became a firm favourite with Rovers supporters. He ended last season with 126 league appearances to his name in Rovers colours and he will be seeking to add to that tally this time round.

STEPHANE LEON

Twenty two year old full-back, who's agent brought him to Rovers attention during the summer of 1998. He joined on trial before signing non-contract forms. Made his senior debut when coming on as a substitute in the second leg of the Worthington Cup Tie against Leyton Orient and made his league debut, against Gillingham just four days later.

Born in Metz, previously spent his entire career with his hometown club and has a number of French U-21 caps to his name. Can also play midfield, he appears to have settled into the squad with ease and signed a two year full-time contract at the end of August.

ANDY TILLSON

Andy joined Rovers in November for a Club record fee of £370,000. He played for Kettering Town in the Vauxhall Conference before joining Grimsby in July 1998, making his League debut against Cambridge United one month later. Two and a half years and one hundred and five league appearances later, he signed for QPR for a fee of £500,00.

However, first team opportunities were limited at Loftus Road and at the start of the 1992-93 season, having

made 29 appearances for Rangers, he returned to Grimsby for a four match loan spell. He began his Rovers career in a 1-5 defeat at Wolves, but a few weeks later skippered the side for the first time in a 4-0 win over Bristol City. A club captain who leads by example, the proudest moment of his career was leading Rovers out at Wembley for the 1995 play-off final. His form, at the heart of Rovers defence during the past few seasons, has been outstanding, and he is certainly one of the best central defenders in the second division. He is both comfortable and elegant on the ball, strong in the tackle, and a commanding figure in the air. Had made 191 League appearances for Rovers by the end of last season.

TOM WHITE

Joined the club as a 14 year old, played in the youth team whilst still at school and had a four match run in the first team during his first year as a professional, making his debut at Bradford City in February 1995. A succession of injury problems restricted Tom's progress during the course of the next eighteen months and it was only after surgery on his thigh muscles that he was able to force himself back into the reckoning for a first team place. When the opportunity rose, in January 1997, he seized it with both hands and turned in a succession of consistent displays at the heart of defence, which earned him a new contract at the end of that season.



STEPHEN FOSTER

Mansfield born Stephen joined his hometown club as a schoolboy and gained his first professional contract after his two years as a trainee. Made his league debut against Scunthorpe in August 1993, the first of 5 appearances during the 1993/94 season. On leaving Mansfield, he teamed up with former Stags boss George Foster at Telford United and gained a reputation as one of the finest central defenders in the Vauxhall Conference. Joined Woking in October 1996 for a fee of £9,000 and scored his first goal for them in a drawn FA Cup Tie with Millwall. His final appearance for the non-league outfit was at Wembley in May 1997, in the FA Umbro Trophy Final against Dagenham and Redbridge, when he picked up a winners medal as Woking won 1-0 in front of a crowd of over 24,000.

MARK SMITH

A local youngster, whose consistent displays as a central defender in the youth and reserve teams over the course of the last two seasons, earned him a one year professional contract last summer. Made his senior debut in last season's Auto Windscreens Tie against Cambridge United. Although he has, to date, played most of his football in a central defensive role, there are those within the club who feel that his exceptional pace and marking ability are more suited to the role of full back. Mark himself appears comfortable in either role and looks to have a bright future ahead of him.



TREVOR CHALLIS

Graduated through the ranks with QPR and signed his first professional contract in July 1994, making his senior debut against Coventry in November of that year. His performances, during an impressive, though short first team spell in 1995/96 earned him a call up for England U21 side for the tournament in May 1996 and he won two caps, playing against Angola and Portugal. Suffered a serious injury at the beginning of the 1996/97 season and on his return to full fitness, was unable to reclaim a first team spot. Having known Ian Holloway from his time with rangers, Trevor a tough tackling left back, who reads the game well, welcomed the opportunity of signing for Rovers in July 1998 and is looking forward to establishing himself as a first team regular.

ROBERT TREES

Released by Manchester United in the summer of 1997, Rob played in a reserve match for Rovers prior to the end of the 1996/97 season. Although he didn't earn a contract then, he obviously impressed Rovers management team, who monitored his progress last season as he turned out for Conference side Stalybridge Celtic, who offered him a contract which remained unsigned, and Witton Albion.

A tenacious, tough tackling right back who also enjoys playing in a right wing role, Rob will be looking forward for his first taste of league football this season.

MICHAEL MEAKER

Michael joined QPR as a youngster and made his senior debut in the autumn of 1990. He scored once in 34 league appearances whilst at Loftus Road and also made 4 appearances for Plymouth Argyle during a loan spell at Home Park. He moved to Reading in the summer of 1995 and was valued at £250,000 in an exchange deal with Simon Osborne. A winger, who likes to cut inside his opposing full-back, he was released by the Berkshire Club last summer, but his former QPR team mates, Ian Holloway and Gary Penrice persuaded him to sign a three year deal with Rovers and are convinced they have brought a quality player to the club. Holder of Welsh U-21 caps, Michael will be hoping his career move will increase his chances of further international recognition.

JAMIE CURETON

A Bristolian who, as a schoolboy, was on Southampton's books, before a switch to Norwich and the opportunity of becoming a trainee at Carrow Road. After earning his first professional contract, made his league debut, as a substitute, against Everton in November 1994 and scored his first goal for the club one month later, against Chelsea. Spent a brief spell on loan at Bournemouth and featured in 5 league games before returning to East Anglia. Joined rovers, initially on loan, in September 1996 and made his debut at Home Park, Plymouth. The loan spell proved to be highly successful and 4 goals in 6 appearances led to the move being made permanent,

with a £250,00 fee changing hands. Although operating in a slighter deeper role last season, Jamie still finished with 14 goals. An exciting player, who enjoys taking on opponents as well as hitting the back of the net, he has been a regular in the side since his move back to this hometown club.

GUY IPOUA

Twenty two year old striker for The Cameroon, who has played for Atletico Madrid, Eciga and Novelda. Signed for Rovers, initially on a trial basis, the day before the start of the current season and made his debut when coming on as a substitute at Burnley the following day. An aggressive front runner, who uses his physique to his advantage. Guy is one of the most powerful headers of a ball and gives his manager increased options of changing the shape of the team, whilst the game is in progress.

Looking forward to his first season in English League Football.

Signed a one year full-time contract at the end of August.

JASON ROBERTS

His birth certificate says his surname is Robert, but Jason has added the 'S' preferring not to have two Christian Names. Signed for Wolves in a £250,000 deal in the Autumn of 1997, from non league Hayes, this tall, pacy striker found there was strong competition for places at Molineux and before the seasons end he spent loan spells at Torquay and Bristol City. However he cut his loan period at Ashton gate short in order to further his international career with Grenada, for whom he had gained 3 caps at the start of the current season. Joined Rovers just two days prior to the start of the season and made his debut on the opening day of the campaign, at Burnley. A front runner with an exceptional turn of pace, he likes the ball played to his feet and is adept at turning his marker. A proven goalscorer, he will be hoping to find the target on a regular basis, with Rovers this season.

BARRY HAYLES

Manager Ian Holloway signed Barry Hayles from Stevenage Borough in the summer of 1996. As recently as 1993, Barry was playing Spartan league football for Willesden Hawkeye. A consistent goalscorer during his time with the Conference outfit, he also played for the England Semi-Professional side and was voted Vauxhall Conference Player of the Year. Barry made his transition from non-league football to the full time demands of the professional game seem effortless. He scored his first goal on the opening day of last season and had 26 goals to his name by the end of the campaign. He was a constant thorn in the side of opposing defences and was often marked by two or even three defenders. A player who takes everything in his stride, he is still learning his trade, but this speedy striker, who can't seem to stop scoring certainly made a big impression during his first season in league football. Popular with fans and team mates alike, he was the unanimous choice of the supporters as 'Player of the Season' and will be a key member of this season's side.

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Hatters Chatter

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 Mad as a Hatter	 Mick Garbutt Virgin Records	 Mad as a Hatter	 Rob Stringer Epic Records	 Paul Deason	

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 Ogdén'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.

THE WHOLE world is the Luton Town fan's oyster and once again during the summer our supporters were to be found in all sorts of unlikely places.

Our thanks go to those who added Luton Town FC to their mailing lists of folks back home to receive holiday postcards. The matchday magazine editor welcomes other contributions, but please note that we may not always be able to return the pictures.

France 98 was a big draw for soccer fans from every continent, and naturally the influx included a fair smattering of Luton Town fans.

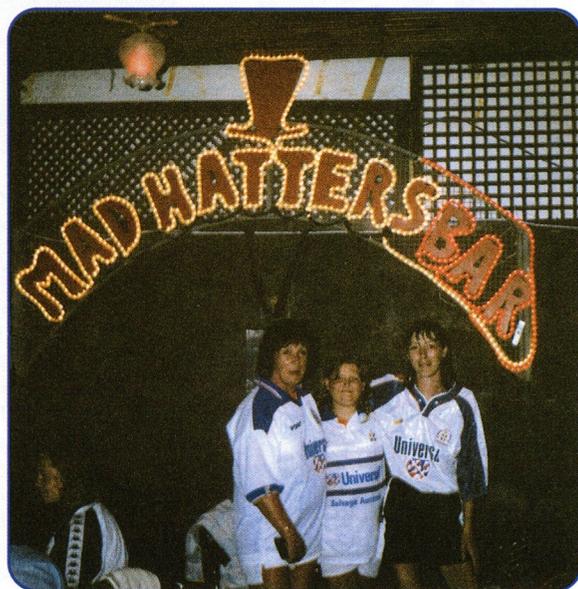
On the right Daniel Musson and Matthew Jennison are pictured outside Le Stade Velodrome. They have every reason to look happy: Daniel, nearest the camera in the yellow Luton Town shirt, and his friend have just seen England beat Tunisia 2-0.

The photograph below is a little fuzzy, but we had to agree with Lyn Ball that it is worth a little local publicity.

Mrs Ball was on holiday in Turkey with her daughter Alison and granddaughter Loren when they were taken aback by this sign over a bar.

All keen Town fans, they needed no second bidding to give it a try.

"We could not believe it when we found the Mad Hatters Bar, but we made it our watering hole for the whole of our holiday," said Mrs Ball.



THE matchday magazine editor is keen to give Luton Town fans a good read, and to include what the customers want. Any comments, complaints or suggestions will be taken on board. Write to him at Luton Town Football Club, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW



CONGRATULATIONS on the fine presentation of the new programme, which fully justifies the price charged.

But I would like to make one suggestion regarding the reserve and youth team section. Would it be possible for the full reserve and youth team line-ups to be printed with the match report? A number of people who sit in close proximity to me at home matches would also like to see this feature added, as many supporters are unable to attend reserve and youth fixtures, but would like to know who is competing in Luton Town's second XI. An appearances column may be appropriate, although I understand that space is limited.

Would it also be possible in a future programme to print a full list of players retained by the club for the 1998/99 season? I am sure many supporters would be interested to see which players in last year's youth team received professional contracts (ie who is Lee Lough?) These additions would make the programme a huge success.

Michael Grange
Oliver Street
Ampthill

Points taken, Mr Grange. Several other supporters asked for team line-ups, and they are now appearing. A full list of the club's playing staff would take up too much space, but if you check the first team appearance chart and follow the reserve and youth team line-ups, they will all be mentioned before too long. Lee Lough, by the way, is a 19-year-old midfielder, who played for Ashford Town last season. He is one of 30 full professionals under contract. We have eight second-year YTS lads and six first-year boys.-Editor.

I AM trying to get hold of some programmes involving your club. I wonder if you could help me by putting a message in your matchday programme.

The programmes I am trying to obtain are for Luton v Leeds 1958/59 and 1958/59 (FA Cup), 1960/61, 1962/63 and Leeds v Luton 1960/61.

Damon Hitchen
15 Lilac Street
Lee Mount
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX3 5BT

I AM writing concerning our new matchday programme. I think it is the best we have ever issued, and compared to other 'lesser' club programmes the price of £1.80 is very reasonable. Some at £2 can be read in about two minutes, but ours is quite a read.

If we don't get a top award for our publication this season, then I can't wait to see the better ones. But the main reason I am writing is to see if I can offer a couple of ideas for future issues. As a collector of Luton programmes I was wondering if you would be writing any pages on aspects of this hobby.

Up until a couple of seasons ago you used to publish letters from Luton supporters which, more often than not, were from programme collectors seeking or selling programmes.

I think we should do something along these lines again. Surely I am not the only Luton programme collector, so a small piece in the programme each week would help fellow collectors keep in touch with each other, to offer help and advice on missing programmes etc.

I would be willing to put my name and address in the programme to start with, so any collectors could contact me with any ideas, help, or advice, especially as there are certain programmes that are extremely hard to obtain.

To carry out this service, you don't necessarily have to run a letters page. It could be a Collectors Corner to list names and addresses of collectors. Or a letters page would help people to state their specific areas of interest in collecting or selling programmes.

D. James
52 Stapleford Road
Luton LU2 8AX

Mr James's letter had to be cut drastically because of space limitations. If there is a demand we will willingly run a Collectors Corner - drop us a line at the Football Club, and we'll do the rest. But please try to be brief.

And finally, by pure co-incidence, the following letter arrived this week. If you can help, please contact Mr Hitchen direct.

Your views and opinions are always welcome. Please send to Brian Swain, Programme Editor, Luton Town Football Club, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW



Phil Gray

Born: Belfast, 2.10.68

Previous clubs: Tottenham, Luton, Sunderland Nancy, Fortuna Sittard

Joined Luton Town: September 1997, for the second time.

Luton debut: West Ham (a) 17.8.91. Second 'debut' Wrexham (A) 20.9.97

Luton record since re-joining: 22 appearances + 4 as sub, four goals



Top Hatters Gallery

Phil Gray

Autograph

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From an alternator to a bodyshell, we supply recycled mechanical and body parts for all Rovers.

It happened on this day

by Roger Wash

September 12th 1959. Fulham 4 Luton Town 2.

After all the furore of the previous campaign, when the Town reached the F.A.Cup final, new manager Syd Owen realised he had a big job to do. Firstly there was no longer a Syd Owen at centre half and the majority of the remainder of the side were growing long in the tooth together.

The season had opened with three draws and three defeats and by the time of the visit to newly promoted Fulham, a long hard winter was already being predicted.

A sun soaked crowd of 30012 gathered at Craven Cottage to see Graham Leggat, who had been a Town target before his move to Fulham, give the home side the lead after nine minutes. The Hatters then gained an unexpected equaliser when Cottagers goalkeeper, Tony Macedo, apparently a £70000 target for Real Madrid, dropped the ball after a challenge from Allan Brown, leaving Billy Bingham with a simple opportunity.

Stung by this setback, Fulham stepped up a gear and Leggat regained the lead just before the interval. The killer third goal came when Fulham forward, John Doherty, shoulder charged Luton goalkeeper Ron Baynham, and the ball, over the line. The score was allowed to stand as Baynham had both feet on the floor when he was charged! Jimmy Hill netted a fourth before Bingham struck a late consolation, leaving manager Owen with plenty of problems.

September 12th 1970. Leicester City 1 Luton Town 0.

After a slow start to the club's return to the old Division Two, following promotion at the end of 1969/70, the Town had won two home games in quick succession and were in buoyant mood for the trip to Leicester. The Foxes were one of the promotion favourites, but the Town were not overawed and

an entertaining game developed on a saturated pitch following torrential morning rain.

With neither side giving any quarter the game seemed to be drifting to a draw when a downward header from Don Givens bounced up and hit a post. Almost immediately Rodney Fern, later to play for the Town, got round the back of the Luton defence and centred for Alastair Brown who fired in with the aid of a deflection.

Afterwards, a disappointed Luton skipper, Mike Keen, summed it up by saying, 'I think this match showed us that there is not a lot to fear in the Second Division.'

September 12th 1987 Luton Town 2 Everton 1

The Town had bounced back to winning ways with a thumping 5-2 victory at Oxford the previous week, which set them up for a visit from the reigning champions Everton.

The Toffees did not like the Hatter's artificial surface and had lost on their two previous visits to Kenilworth Road, but they took the lead after only four minutes. Mal Donaghy misjudged a long cross and his glancing header could only be pushed out by goalkeeper Les Sealey to Neil Pointon who gleefully rammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Everton boss, Colin Harvey, had instructed his players to keep a close watch on Hatters striker Mick Harford. He was not watched closely enough, however, as his nod down after 18

minutes was smacked home by Brian Stein for the equaliser.

It was Harford again who was instrumental in setting up the winner, just after the interval, when he pressurised Pat van den Hauwe into heading the ball into the path of Ricky Hill who clipped it home.

The Town's season had now well and truly taken off.



Danny Wilson on the ball against Everton's Peter Reid, with Rob Johnson in support.

Into the Archives a blast from the past courtesy of Roger Wash

It hardly seems possible that it is thirty years ago that the Town embarked on their first season back in the old Third Division after suffering three seasons in the doldrums in the football basement. Winning the championship of Division Four, the previous campaign, in some style the club was in no mood to stand still.

Boosted by the wealth of directors Tony Hunt and Reggie Burr, who were owners of the Vehicle and General Insurance Group, manager Allan Brown was ordered to scour the country to strengthen the side in a bid for further promotion.

It was a great time to be a Luton Town supporter with news almost daily of arrivals at Kenilworth Road. Brown brought in former England Under 23 international winger Mike Harrison from Blackburn for £7000, inside-forward Brian Lewis from Coventry for £18000 and striker Laurie Sheffield from Oldham for £10000.

With all the additional money spent on improving the ground it was calculated that the Town had invested over £90000 that summer which to a club like Luton, never among the wealthiest, represented a vast amount.

The new season opened with a visit from Oldham, and a crowd of 14747 gathered at Kenilworth Road on a hot day to see the Town start with style. Harrison opened the scoring from the spot after a foul on Lewis and Keith Allen then eased the Town into a comfortable interval lead with a shot from the edge of the area. Full back Fred Jardine smacked in a rare goal on the hour before Lewis added a

deserved fourth just before the end. New supporter, Eric Morecambe, was greatly impressed and bought a club tie to wear on television!

Watford were then thumped 3-0 at Kenilworth Road in a League Cup tie in front of the first home crowd over 20000 since 1962, and after a fighting scoreless draw at Barrow came the visit of relegated Rotherham to Luton.

This time it was the turn of 'golden boy' Bruce Rioch to show what he could do when he thundered in two left foot shots from distance as the Hatters won comfortably 3-1. This performance was obviously logged by Millers manager Tommy Docherty as he was to come back for Rioch in the following summer to take him to his new club, Aston Villa.

For now though, Rioch was ours and in the following mid week he opened the scoring after beating four men in an eighty yard run as Barnsley were seen off 5-1 in another unstoppable display. 'Rioch for England' chanted the Oak Road choir, little knowing that he would eventually throw in his lot with Scotland, his father's birthplace.

Next up was a trip to Gillingham where the Town strolled into a two goal lead before they were rudely awakened when the Gills pulled one back through Bill Williams. A penalty awarded for a foul by Alan Slough seemed to have put the home side in line for a point they did not deserve. A diving penalty save from Mel Machin's spot kick by Tony Read, however, fired up the Town and Lewis went on to knock in a third to keep up the Town's unbeaten run.



Max Dougan stands guard as Tony Read safely gathers the ball from Rotherham's Dave Watson (August 1968)

Brighton were seen off in the League Cup after a replay to keep the crowd in a buoyant mood, followed up by a hard earned point at Orient. Tranmere were the next sacrificial lambs to visit Kenilworth Road and were comfortably beaten in a game ruined by a waterlogged pitch.

By now, with the Town unbeaten, and clear at the top of the table the euphoria surrounding the club was akin to an F.A.Cup run. A massive crowd, for Division Three standards, of 19315 turned up for a mid-week game against a Mansfield side that was also challenging strongly at the top.

The game got off to a sensational start when, after only three minutes, a tremendous tussle in the Mansfield goalmouth, when at least five shots were blocked, suddenly turned nasty. With players swinging at each other and Alan Slough lying poleaxed in the back of the net the referee immediately ordered off Bruce Rioch.

The crowd went wild, to add to the intense

atmosphere, and willed the players on. Cold with anger, and ably led by skipper Terry Branston, the team knuckled down and when a penalty was awarded for a foul the crowd almost sucked Harrison's spot kick into the net.

In the second period the Stags came more into the game and levelled the score before the referee, seemingly in an attempt to even things up, sent of Mansfield's Phil Waller for an innocuous foul on Lewis.

The Town now saw their chance and gained a second wind with goals from Sheffield and Lewis putting them in the driving seat. Then came the most fantastic goal of a fantastic evening when winger Graham French, picking up the ball in his own area, loped the length of the field, beating player after player, before planting the ball past Dave Hollins in the Mansfield goal.

Is it really thirty years ago-seems like only yesterday!

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Junior Hatters

welcome

A WARM welcome to all Junior Hatters attending today's match, particularly those who joined us this morning for the first Saturday Club of the season.

We hope both teams enjoyed the football in the match between the Junior Hatters and the Juniors from Bristol Rovers.

Our next Saturday club will be in a fortnight, September 26, when we will be visited by the juniors from Walsall.

Before that we are looking forward to next

Saturday's away trip to Blackpool. 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

JAMES McCARTHY

TODAY'S Junior Hatters mascot is 12-year-old James McCarthy, who likes playing football as well as watching Luton Town.

He goes to Brewers Hill Middle School in Dunstable, and his favourite player is Steve Davis.

James plays football for Dunstable Colts, and also likes cricket and rugby.

The Junior Hatters acting as ballboys today are Gregg Cooper and Mark Hartley, both from Luton.



A DAY TO REMEMBER: Sarah Kennard was the Junior Hatters mascot when we played Colchester, and is pictured meeting the team captains and match officials as they gathered for the toss-up.

TOWN TEASER

WE HAVE had some good managers at Luton Town over the years, including one who took us to promotion into the old First Division in the 1970s. He was manager from 1972 until 1978.

Who was he?

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

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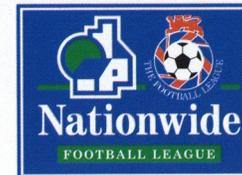
TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE

THREE times a linesman at Wembley, Brian Coddington is the man in the middle today. A local government officer from Sheffield, he took up the whistle in parks football in South Yorkshire 27 years ago, and progressed via refereeing in the Unibond Northern Premier League. He was appointed a Football League linesman in 1987, and then to the referees' list two years ago.

He ran the line in the Auto Windscreens Shield final at Wembley in 1995, and returned twice more in 1996, for the Coca Cola Cup final and the First Division play-off final.

He lists his hobbies as most sports and 'trying to fathom out computers.'

*OUR apologies to supporters for having the wrong name in this spot last week - Mike Pierce of Portsmouth was due to take charge of the game against Burnley, but was injured in midweek. The replacement, named after the matchday magazine went to press, was Ken Leach, a policeman from Wolverhampton.



Wrexham 1 Luton Town 1

TWO evenly-matched teams gave a sparse crowd at The Racecourse Ground on Tuesday a game that had flashes of high drama and plenty of good passing.

Ray McKinnon scored his first goal in English league football, but when it looked as though that opener would give the Town control Wrexham raised their game, drew level and competed fiercely for the rest of the match.

Each side had occasional chances to snatch victory, but both managers were content with the final result.

Wrexham's Brian Flynn was pleased because he thought the Town looked a very good side, and he felt it was a home point earned rather than two lost.

The Town kept the team that had beaten Burnley, and there was much pleasure for the away fans, a tenth of the attendance, in the way 18-year-old Michael McIndoe got through only the second league game of his career, three days after his debut.

A lot of the football was played at very quick pace, with the midfield full of industry and sometimes forced to be too helter-skelter to be effective.

Wrexham had the first chance, when Kelvin Davis flapped at a cross, but Gareth Owen got his shot hopelessly out of focus and scooped the ball gently back to a relieved goalkeeper.

And Davis more than made amends with a flying save when Owen did get it right with a rasping drive.

The Town also had their moments, and after Phil Gray went close with a header a corner led to the opening goal. Wrexham half-cleared their lines, Matthew Spring pushed the ball back into the danger area and although Stuart Douglas miscued his shot the ball dropped nicely for McKinnon to force it home from a narrow angle in the inside-right position.

It was a lead the Town deserved at the time, but Wrexham never looked beaten, although they were a touch lucky when they equalised four minutes before the break.

Kelvin Davis raced out of his goal, as he does so

often as an auxiliary sweeper, to deal with a through-ball by Dave Brammer. Under pressure from Owen, Davis got in the block, but could not hold the ball and Craig Skinner pounced before the goalkeeper could recover.

In a second half of flowing football, two good teams just about cancelled each other out, with both attacks looking menacing but for the most part matched by determined defences.

On corners the Town were 12-5 winners, and one brought the closest second-half call for Wrexham. Once more the lively Spring was patrolling the edge of the box as a poor clearance reached him, and from his cross McKinnon forced Mark Cartwright into an acrobatic save.

Luton hearts were in mouths with 20 minutes to go, when Brammer got half a yard clear of Steve Davis. The skipper tripped him and the home crowd roared for a penalty and a red card. It was a close call: the yellow card was right, but referee Andrew Hall of Birmingham put us half out of our misery by giving the free kick a foot outside the box. The defence stood up strongly as the free kick was touched off to Brammer: he shot at a wall that, like the rest of the Town's performance at Wrexham, was strong and resolute.

Lennie Lawrence is still looking for his first win as Town manager against Wrexham, but there was no disappointment about Tuesday's draw.

"That was a fair result," he said. "That's the best any team has played against us this season, including Reading, who beat us."

"Wrexham deserved a goal for the number of balls they got into our box, the same as we did for doing the same to them."

He admitted that the Davis trip on Brammer had made him nervous for a few seconds, but was sure the ref got it right with the yellow card."

The Town, he said, had done a good job of work. "I would have been ecstatic to have got three points from that. But I can't see too many teams coming here and winning."

Last Season
 The Nationwide Football
 League saw an Increase in
 Attendance of 13.5%;
 Why...?



The authority.

The Quality of the Football

Image by Empics 0115 840 444. Digital Artwork by SentryBox 01895 251 220

Action Replay

Wrexham 1 Luton Town 1



NOT THIS TIME: Having scored his first goal for the Town in the first half at Wrexham (see below), Ray McKinnon went close again in the second, but this header produced a brilliant save by Mark Cartwright.

THE MATCH DETAILS

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Bacque 72 mins), Gray (Thomas 56 mins), McIndoe. **Unused subs:** Thomas, Cox.

Booked: Stuart Douglas, 43 mins, Steve Davis, 70, both for fouls.

Wrexham: Cartwright; McGregor, Ridler, Humes, Brace; Skinner (Rishworth 78 mins), Owen, Brammer, Russell; Spink, Connolly. **Unused sub:** Hardy.

Booked: Dave Ridler, foul on Michael McIndoe.

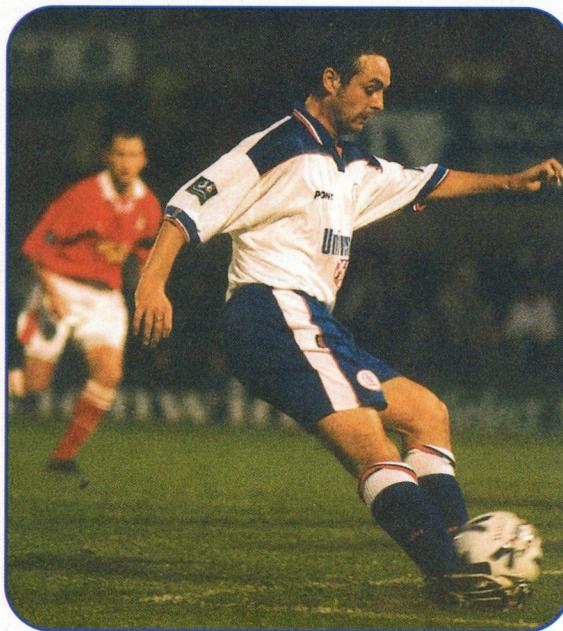
The goals: 0-1 35 minutes: Ray McKinnon, from a miscue by Stuart Douglas; 1-1 41 minutes: Craig Skinner, after Kelvin Davis blocked a through-ball but could not hold on.

Referee: Andrew Hall, Birmingham

Attendance: 2,951, including 290 from Luton.

Report by Brian Swain.

Pictures: Gareth Owen



ON OUR WAY: Ray McKinnon perfectly poised to score his first goal in the Football League, to put us ahead at Wrexham on Tuesday.



CLOSE QUARTERS: Stuart Douglas leads a Town attack at The Racecourse, with Steve Davis well upfield in support.



DEADLY DUO: Steve Davis leads this time, with Stuart Douglas in close attendance

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Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 19th September 1998,
Kick off 3.00pm
Blackpool v Luton Town



Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 26th September 1998,
kick off 3.00pm
Luton Town v Walsall



This match is pay on the day only for Luton
supporters

Tickets are now on sale at normal League
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Terracing £10.00 Adults
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Normal guesting facilities apply



Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 3rd October 1998, Kick off 3.00pm
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This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters

Terracing £10.00 Adults
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Worthington Cup 2nd Round, 1st Leg
Tuesday 15th September 1998,
kick off 7.45pm
Ipswich Town v Luton Town



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Prices **Adults** **Concessions**

Worthington Cup 2nd Round, 2nd Leg
Tuesday 22nd September 1998,
kick off 7.45pm
Luton Town v Ipswich Town

Main Stand		
Block A-E	£14	£7
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Block G	£ 8	£5

General Sale
Tickets are now available and on sale after
today's match.

Main Enclosure		
Block C-G	£10	£5
Restricted View Block A,B,H & J	£ 7	£5

Tickets can be purchased by calling
personally at the ticket office or by post,
enclosing either a cheque payable to Luton

Kenilworth Stand	£10	£5
New Stand	£14	£7

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.

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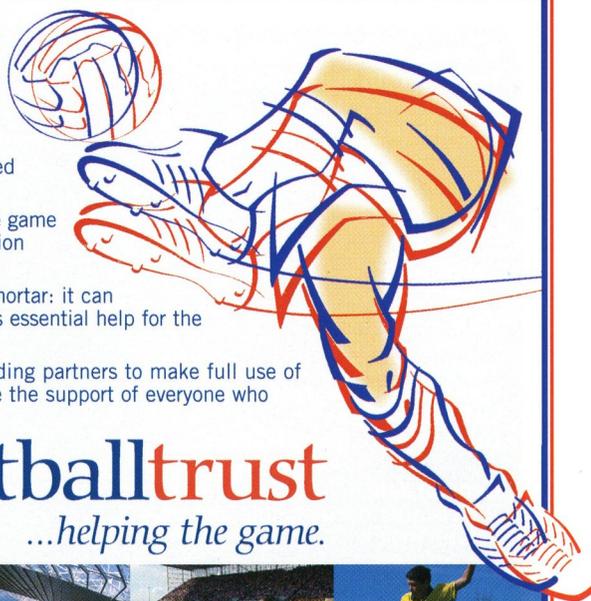
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

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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Clive Goodyear

from the treatment room



WHILE the treatment room is not as hectic now as it was a year ago, we have suffered a blow with the news that Liam George's broken leg is going to take longer to heal than we had hoped.

It's very bad luck for a player who was just making an impact in the first team, but thankfully he is young enough and fit enough to get over it with no lasting damage to himself, or his football prospects.

You will recall that he suffered a broken leg at Wigan. A week ago the signs were that it was not too bad, and we hoped surgery would not be needed. Sadly for Liam, and for the club, that was not the case. A specialist diagnosed ligament damage as well as a fractured bone, and Liam had to have an operation. It was to pin the bone, repair the ligament damage, and re-align the ankle joint.

The operation went well, and Liam is now at home resting, with his leg in plaster. We will have him back on duty in a week or so, doing bits and pieces on general fitness, but the plaster will have to stay on for six weeks and I think it will then be a six-month programme to regain full fitness. We all feel for Liam - he is a chirpy sort of character, and he must be feeling low at the moment. But he still has a good long future in front of him, and he will overcome this setback.

He might like to look at Paul Showler, who has had a terrible year with injuries, but has worked through the bad times and is ready to enjoy some much-needed good times again. We were giving him a run-out for part of a friendly last week, and if all goes well I hope to have him ready for a competitive match return on Wednesday, in the reserves against Reading in the Avon Combination at Kenilworth Road. Fully fit again, he needs match practice to complete his rehabilitation, but it's good to see him finally clear of problems.

Our other first-team casualties, Julian James and Paul McLaren are both making good progress.

Julian is still some way off full recovery from his broken leg, but Paul can start to think about playing again in a few weeks. His knee

ligament injury is healing, and the knee joint has settled down nicely. He was able to start light jogging exercises this week, and the next step is to work on strengthening the joint after the lay-off.

Clive Goodyear

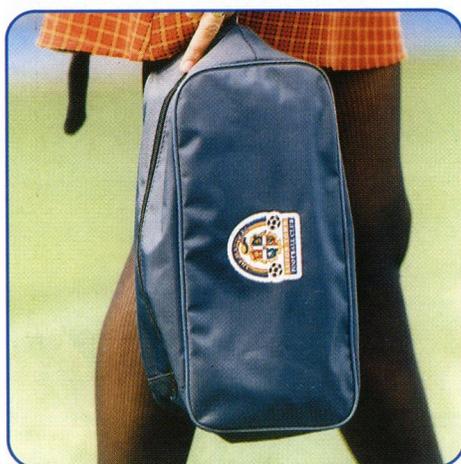


ALL AGES AND SIZES: The matchday magazine inevitably devotes much space to the first team, but treatment and fitness are just as important to the junior sides, and the physio is responsible for looking after all the playing staff. Youth team goalkeeper Scott Ward is the recipient of Clive Goodyear's ultra-sound treatment for a wrist injury.

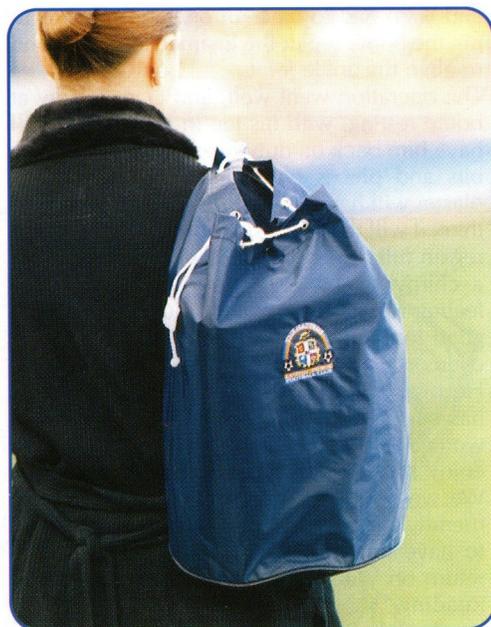
HATTERS SHOP

Back to school

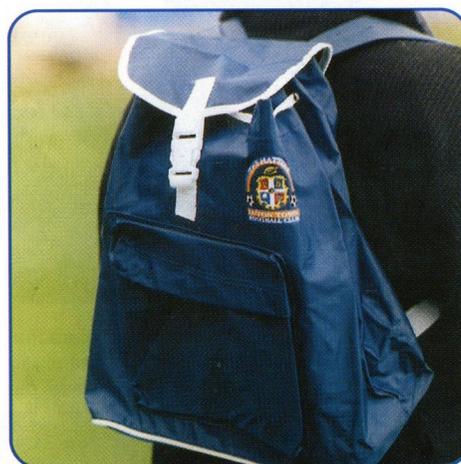
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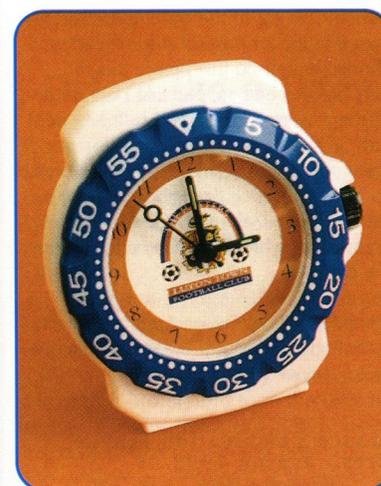
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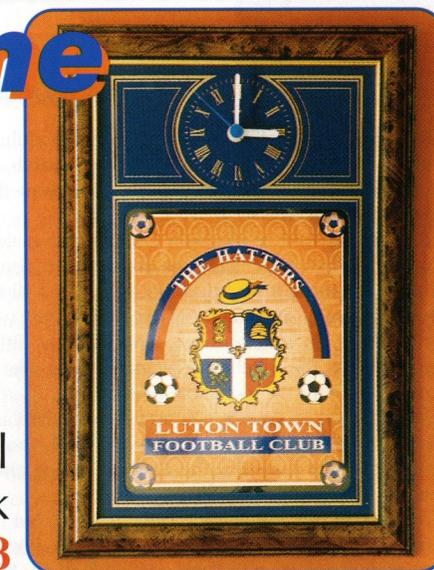
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John Moore & Trevor Hartley

reserves



Portsmouth 2 Luton Town 3

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 play 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 Insurance 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	3-2
Wed 16		Reading	H	2.00pm
Wed 23		Swindon Town	A	
Wed 30		Charlton Athletic	H	2.00pm
Wed 7	October	Millwall	H	2.00pm
Wed 14		Gillingham	A	
Wed 28		Brentford	A	
Wed 04	November	Crystal Palace	H	2.00pm
Thur 19		Norwich City	A	
Wed 25		Ipswich Town	H	2.00pm
Tues 01	December	West Ham United	A	
Mon 07		Arsenal	A	
Mon 14		Colchester United	H	7.00pm
Mon 21		Tottenham Hotspur	H	7.00pm
Mon 04	January	Chelsea	A	
Mon 11		Wimbledon	H	7.00pm
Wed 20		Southampton	A	
Mon 01	February	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H	7.00pm
Wed 10		Fulham	A	
Mon 22		Barnet	H	7.00pm
Wed 10	March	Queens Park Rangers	A	
Wed 17		Wycombe Wanderers	H	2.00pm
Wed 31		Watford	A	
Wed 07	April	Oxford	H	2.00pm
Thur 15		Northampton Town	A	
Wed 21		Peterborough United	H	2.00pm

Paul Lowe

youth

South East Counties League:

TWO GOOD results in three days have seen the youth team edge to the top of the South East Counties League table, on goal difference, and go through to the second round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. Very pleasing, especially with two more clean sheets, but it has to be said that we did not play as well as we can in either game.

Oxford Utd 0 Luton Town 3

THE RESULT on Saturday in the South East Counties League flattered us a little, with Tresor Kandol completing a hat-trick with two goals in the last ten minutes.

Overall, despite our warnings against it, some players seemed to have their minds on Monday's cup-tie.

But we did well, against a table-topping side which was more aggressive and physical than we usually see from Oxford.

We weathered an early storm, and kept trying to play our football, and took the lead in the last minute of the first half. Jerome Thomas won the ball on the edge of Oxford's penalty area and fed Kandol, and the goalkeeper, brought him down - a needless foul because TK had been forced wide. He got up to convert the penalty.

Oxford came at us in the second half, playing direct football. But the defence held firm, and Daniel Tate, who had made a crucial early save, was never in real difficulty. Jude Stirling, James Ayres, Matthew Taylor and Darren Howe were superb in front of him.

With ten minutes to go TK headed his second goal from a far post corner by Delroy McKoy, and in the final minute a long throw by Stirling was flicked on by Darren Howe for Kandol to convert another header.

Luton Town: Tate, Stirling, Taylor, Jerry, Ayres, Howe, McKoy, Minton, Kandol, Akurang (Tyson 80 mins), Thomas (Dollin 75 mins)

Luton Town 2 Swindon 0

MONDAY'S cup-tie needed a lot of application and effort to beat a visiting team which had more possession than we did, but was not allowed to hurt us too much.

Nerves might have been a reason for our

performance being below what we are seeking - you always want to win, and also to play well.

For most of our team it was the first time they had played on the main pitch, which made it a big occasion.

We played a little too deep, and didn't keep possession long enough because the passing was below par. But the result was well deserved, and once more the back four played well.

Clifford Akurang (20 mins) and Delroy McKoy (71) scored the goals.

Jerome Thomas, taken to hospital after being cynically shoved into the barrier wall, is thankfully not too badly hurt - bruised wrist and back, but no bones broken.

Luton Town: Tate, Stirling, Taylor, Jerry, Ayres, Howe, McKoy, Minton, Kandol, Akurang (Tyson 83 mins), Thomas (Dollin 75 mins)

South East Counties League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Town	5	3	1	1	12	7	10
Brighton	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Bournemouth	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Oxford	5	3	1	1	7	6	10
L. Orient	5	2	2	1	10	8	8
Wycombe	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Reading	5	2	2	1	9	8	8
Portsmouth	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Swindon	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Brentford	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Cambridge	5	1	3	1	9	11	6
Southend	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Bristol Rov	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Gillingham	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Barnet	5	1	0	4	2	6	3
Colchester	5	0	1	4	2	7	1



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
3	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	Bournemouth	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
4	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	Blackpool	3	2	2	0	0	1	2	0
0	5	1	0	0	1	4	0	Bristol Rovers	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	Burnley	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	0
1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	Chesterfield	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	Colchester United	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	Gillingham	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	Lincoln City	2	4	0	1	0	0	2	0
1	1	0	1	1	0	4	0	Luton Town	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Macclesfield Town	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0
2	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	Manchester City	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Millwall	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	Northampton Town	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	Notts County	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	Oldham Athletic	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
4	3	1	2	0	0	5	0	Preston North End	1	2	1	0	0	2	4	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	Reading	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	1
3	3	2	0	0	2	4	0	Stoke City	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	Walsall	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	Wigan Athletic	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	0
0	0	2	2	0	1	2	1	Wrexham	3	1	0	2	0	1	2	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Wycombe Wanderers	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	1
0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	York City	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	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	11	2	17
Gillingham	10	2	16
Lincoln City	16	0	16
Luton Town	12	1	15
Wrexham	12	1	15
Chesterfield	11	1	14
Burnley	13	0	13
Manchester City	10	1	13
Wigan Athletic	13	0	13
Blackpool	12	0	12
Northampton Town	9	1	12
Preston North End	6	2	12
Wycombe Wanderers	11	0	11
Millwall	9	0	9
Stoke City	7	0	7
Colchester United	5	0	5
Macclesfield Town	5	0	5
York City	5	0	5
AFC Bournemouth	4	0	4
Notts County	4	0	4
Oldham Athletic	4	0	4
Reading	4	0	4
Fulham	3	0	3
Walsall	3	0	3

1998-99 Season Division Two Campaign Records

Highest/Lowest Gates	Oldham 1-3 Notts County 8-Aug
32,134 Man City v Blackpool 8-Aug	Wigan 1-3 Luton 31-Aug
2,634 York v Gillingham 15-Aug	Lincoln 1-3 Oldham 5-Sep
Highest Aggregate Scores	Consecutive Wins
Preston 3-4 Stoke 29-Aug	Stoke 6
Lincoln 3-4 Preston 29-Aug	Games Unbeaten
Biggest Home Win	Stoke 6
Gillingham 4-0 Wrexham 1-Sep	Consecutive Defeats
Biggest Away Win	Macclesfield 2
Wrexham 2-4 Colchester 15-Aug	Games without a Win
Northampton 1-3 Stoke 8-Aug	Macclesfield, Northampton 6
	Consecutive Defeats
	Wycombe 4
	Games without a Win
	Macclesfield, Northampton 6

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

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins	Stoke 6
Games Unbeaten	Stoke 6
Consecutive Defeats	Macclesfield 2
Games without a Win	Macclesfield, Northampton 6

Div. 2 Stat Attack

Stats as at Tuesday, 8th September

Division Two Statistics, Club by Club

see key above	PU	GF	GA	CS	LP	HP	Leading Scorer	Lge	WC	Tot
Bournemouth	16	8	4	3	6	2	Stein	2	1	3
Blackpool	21	8	10	1	23	11	Clarkson	3	0	3
Bristol Rovers	19	11	8	1	13	6	Hayles	5	1	6
Burnley	27	5	8	0	20	7	Cooke/Payton	2/2	1/1	3
Chesterfield	15	3	5	3	20	10	Holland	1	2	3
Colchester United	19	7	7	1	12	2	Gregory D	1	2	3
Fulham	16	6	1	4	8	1	Lehmann	2	1	3
Gillingham	20	7	5	2	22	12	Hessenthaler	2	0	2
Lincoln City	15	5	9	3	21	14	Battersby	2	1	3
Luton Town	19	8	5	3	12	2	Davis S	3	0	3
Macclesfield Town	17	1	6	2	24	20	Wood	1	1	2
Manchester City	18	7	5	2	14	1	Goater	4	2	6
Millwall	21	4	6	2	11	5	Shaw	2	1	3
Northampton Town	20	3	7	2	22	14	Heggs/Corazzin	0/2	2/0	2
Notts County	22	7	6	1	13	5	Hendon	3	0	3
Oldham Athletic	16	7	10	1	21	14	Allott	2	1	3
Preston North End	17	15	10	2	7	3	Nogan	4	0	4
Reading	24	4	8	1	22	15	Brebner	1	1	2
Stoke City	18	14	4	4	4	1	Kavanagh/Crowe	4/5	1/0	5
Walsall	19	7	5	2	11	3	Rammell	2	1	3
Wigan Athletic	17	7	8	2	23	16	Barlow	5	0	5
Wrexham	18	8	9	3	10	2	Connolly	2	1	3
Wycombe Wanderers	20	3	9	0	24	19	Read	1	1	2
York City	19	6	6	2	24	8	Thompson	3	1	4

Div. 2 Attendance Details

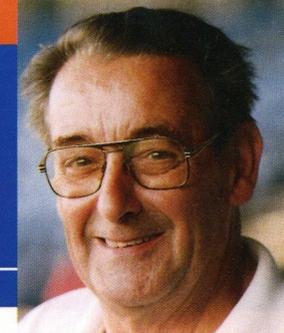
Club	Highest	Lowest	Average
Man City	32,134	24,291	28,034
Reading	18,108	18,108	18,108
Stoke	13,981	12,306	13,243
Fulham	14,284	12,107	13,196
Burnley	11,781	8,526	10,007
Preston	11,587	8,656	9,831
Bristol Rovers	7,529	6,140	6,790
Millwall	7,492	5,997	6,745
Notts County	10,316	4,445	6,674
Bournemouth	6,956	5,573	6,438
Northampton	6,661	5,964	6,255
Gillingham	5,712	4,896	5,319
Luton	5,554	5,005	5,317
Colchester	6,377	4,042	5,049
Oldham	5,709	4,548	5,000
Wycombe	5,252	4,102	4,557
Walsall	4,599	4,360	4,480
Chesterfield	5,426	3,766	4,446
Wrexham	6,671	3,384	4,437
Blackpool	5,258	3,994	4,423
Wigan	4,853	3,778	4,305
Lincoln	4,130	3,224	3,570
Macclesfield	3,933	2,794	3,292
York	2,775	2,634	2,703

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



Brian Swain

second division scene



NEARLY nine years ago a 19-year-old striker was given his debut for the Town at Anfield. It was Jim Ryan's first match as manager, and curly-haired Kurt Nogan enjoyed a dream start to his professional career - he scored in front of a stunned Spion Kop to put us 2-1 up against Liverpool, in a game which eventually finished 2-2.

Nogan played 32 more league games for us, but scored only twice and David Pleat unloaded him. He went to Brighton on a free transfer, then to Burnley for £250,000 and on to Preston for £150,000 18 months ago.

And the boy who got the elbow from Luton Town was the man who on Tuesday night knocked us out of second place in the league table.

He netted his fifth goal of the season, and it was enough to give Preston victory at Wycombe and overtake us on goal difference in a table which shows Stoke on top with 18 points, followed by Preston, Luton and Fulham, all with 14.

Fulham, though, have a game in hand, at home to struggling Wycombe. The match was scheduled for last Saturday, but was postponed because Fulham had players on international duty.

The day off meant that as we went into second place Fulham dropped to fifth, but the rest did them no harm - on Tuesday they ended Stoke's 100 per cent starting burst. After six wins on the trot, Stoke lost at Craven Cottage, to a goal by Rufus Brevett.

Bournemouth, second in the table a week ago, lost their unbeaten run, beaten 2-0 at Stoke on Saturday and 2-1 at Maine Road on Tuesday.

After a poor start to the season, City seem to be getting their act together - turned over 3-0 at Fulham in mid-August, they have since played four matches without defeat, to rise into the play-off frame, and with a game in hand on everyone above them bar Fulham.

Blackpool, our next league opponents, have been climbing up the table steadily since a 3-0 bashing at Wigan three weeks ago knocked them down to 17th place.

Four games without defeat, including home wins over Northampton on Saturday and Notts County on Tuesday, pushed them up to seventh.

Today's visitors are becoming the treble chance specialists, drawing their last three games, 1-1 at Wycombe, 2-2 at home to Preston and 0-0 at home to Chesterfield on Tuesday.

Barry Hayles, formerly of Stevenage, got one of the goals against Preston, and is Bristol Rovers' leading scorer, with five. Jamie Cureton has three, including a penalty.

At the wrong end of the table, Macclesfield had cause to celebrate on Tuesday night. At the seventh attempt, they finally won a Second Division match for the first time in their history, 2-1 at Oldham. On Saturday they were beaten 2-1 at Wrexham, but that ended a run of five matches without a goal.

Wycombe are looking desperate already, the only team in the division without a win. Beaten by Nogan's goal at Adams Park on Tuesday, they have only one point from their first six league games.

Today's other Nationwide League Second Division fixtures:

- Bournemouth v Wigan
- Burnley v Wycombe
- Chesterfield v Walsall
- Colchester v Gillingham
- Lincoln v Blackpool
- Macclesfield v Manchester City
- Northampton v Oldham
- Notts County v Fulham
- Preston v Reading
- Stoke v Millwall
- York v Wrexham

Statistics

fixtures, results, appearances, goalscorers

Date	Competition	Home Team	Time	Result	Goalscorers	Attendance	Referee	Notes
Sat 08	AUGUST	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	A 3.00pm	1-0	(S. Davis)	5,252	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUES 11	WC1(1)	OXFORD UNITED	H 7.45pm	2-3	(Alexander 2p)	3,165	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 15		PRESTON NORTH END	H 3.00pm	1-1	(Marshall)	5,392	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 18	WC1(2)	OXFORD UNITED	A 7.45pm	3-1	(Gray, Evers, McLaren)	5,099	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 22		READING	A 3.00pm	0-3		18,108	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 29		COLCHESTER UNITED	H 3.00pm	2-0	(Cavis, Douglas)	5,005	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
MON 31		WIGAN ATHLETIC	A 3.00pm	3-1	(S. Davis, Evers, Gray)	3,778	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 05	SEPTEMBER	BURNLEY	H 3.00pm	1-0	(Douglas)	5,554	Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 08		WREXHAM	A 7.45pm	1-1	(McKinnon)	2,951	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
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					
		WIGAN ATHLETIC	H 3.00pm					
	or FA CUP (R4)							
WED 27	WC SF(1)							
SAT 30		A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	H 3.00pm					
SAT 06	FEBRUARY	BURNLEY	A 3.00pm					
SAT 13		WREXHAM	H 3.00pm					
	or FA CUP (R5)							
WED 17	WC SF(2) or AWS SF							
SAT 20		BRISTOL ROVERS	A 3.00pm					
SAT 27		BLACKPOOL	H 3.00pm					
SAT 06	MARCH	WALSALL	A 3.00pm					
	or FA CUP (R6)							
TUES 09		FULHAM	H 7.45pm					
	or AWS (AF1)							
SAT 13		STOKE CITY	H 3.00pm					
WED 17	AWS (AF2)							
SAT 20		CHESTERFIELD	A 3.00pm					
SUN 21	WC FINAL							
SAT 27		GILLINGHAM	H 3.00pm					
SAT 03	APRIL	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A 3.00pm					
TUES 06		YORK CITY	H 7.45pm					
SAT 10		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	A 3.00pm					
SUN 11	FA CUP SF							
WED 14		MANCHESTER CITY	A 7.45pm					
SAT 17		LINCOLN CITY	H 3.00pm					
SUN 18	AWS FINAL							
SAT 24		NOTTS COUNTY	A 3.00pm					
SAT 01	MAY	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H 3.00pm					
SAT 08		MILLWALL	A 3.00pm					
SAT 22	FA CUP FINAL							

Today's Sponsors

WE WELCOME today two companies who have supported us before by sponsoring matches. The Whitbread Beer Company are here for the second week running, and we hope they and their guests enjoy themselves as much as they did last week. It is also a welcome back for Danisco Flexible, who sponsored our game against Bristol Rovers last year. The company is one of Europe's leading producers of individually-designed flexible packaging materials. Their packaging is sold into the meet, cheese, coffee and sandwich industries, and for some non-food applications where a high barrier is required. The group has a number of production sites across Europe, and has a UK sales and distribution centre in Milton Keynes. As a football club, our aim is always to ensure our sponsors have value for money. We have packages to suit all budgets, and will willingly tailor a deal to suit your requirements. For further information, please contact the Commercial Department, on Luton 411622.

Golden Gamble



GREGORY Clarke was the Town fan who had most to cheer about as we beat Burnley. He is pictured with Tanny Abbey, who pulled out Mr Clarke's lucky number in the Golden Gamble competition. The prize was £460. We still need more Golden Gamble ticket sellers: if you are interested please contact the Commercial Department, phone Luton 411622.

Player	Appearances	Goals	Notes				
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	Substitutes
S. Davis	Johnson	McGowan	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	George for Bacque 71; McGowan for Marshall 81. Unused: White
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	McLaren for Thomas 30; George for Marshall 71; McIndoe for Gray 78. Unused: Abbey, White
S. Davis	Johnson	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	McLaren for McKinnon 69; George for Bacqué 69; White for McGowan 85.
S. Davis	White	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	Douglas for George 84; George for Marshall 69; McKinnon for Marshall 90. Unused: White, Abbey, Bacqué.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	McKinnon for Marshall 10; George for McLaren 15; Thomas for Douglas 62.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	George	Thomas for Gray 56; Fotiadis for Douglas 72; Bacque for George 79.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	McIndoe for George 45; Bacque for Douglas 72; Unused: Thomas
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Fotiadis for Douglas 73 Thomas for McIndoe 81. Unused: Bacque.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Bacque for Douglas 72. Unused: Thomas Cox

TRAVEL

THE TOWN are on their travels twice before we play at Kenilworth Road again, with Portman Road staging a Worthington Cup-tie on Tuesday, followed by a league visit to Blackpool next Saturday.

Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club are both running coaches to each game - check their kiosks today for details. For Ipswich, Town on Tour depart from Maple Road at 4.30, and the Bobbers leave Cranfield at 3.15 and Luton an hour later. Town on Tour have added an additional pick-up point for journeys north, starting with the Blackpool trip - fans can board at Milton Keynes Coachway, close to junction 14 of the M1. If you are driving to the games, the Ipswich journey can be a little gruelling in late afternoon. Depending on your start point, some like to use M1 south, M25 east, leaving at junction 28, then all the way up the A12, skirting Chelmsford and Colchester. On the edge of Ipswich on this road watch for a big roundabout, by Tesco's and take the second exit onto the A1214 London Road. After 2.5 miles, watch for a right turn, signposted

to the football ground. If you get lost, look for signs to the railway station - the ground is close by. The cross-country route is shorter in miles, nearly 100 each way, but can be slow. Leave Luton on the A505 through Hitchin, and to Baldock. There turn right onto the old A1 briefly, then left onto the A507, signposted towards Buntingford, where you turn right onto the A10 to Puckeridge. There turn left on the A120 and stay on that past Bishops Stortford and Braintree, and you will eventually join the A12. To find the ground, follow the directions given above. Blackpool next Saturday will be busy because the illuminations draw in thousands of cars and day-trippers. From Luton head north up the M1, then on to the M6. Go beyond Manchester, and leave at junction 32, onto the M55. Leave M55 at junction 4 and join the A583, signposted to Blackpool. After 1.8 miles on Preston New Road, signposted to town centre and the tower, go through two sets of lights and you are in Park Road. You should then soon see a left turn, with directions to the football ground and promenade. If you get lost, head for the south shore area and you are not far away. Mileage: 220.

Hatters Roll-Call 1998/99

Player	Appearances				Total	Goals				Total
	League	WC	FAC	AWS		League	WC	FAC	AWS	
Alexander	7	2	0	0	9	0	2p	0	0	2p
Bacqué	2 (3)	1	0	0	3 (3)	0	0	0	0	0
K. Davis	7	2	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
S. Davis	7	2	0	0	9	3	0	0	0	3
Douglas	5	1	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	2
Evers	7	2	0	0	9	1	1	0	0	2
Fotiadis	0 (2)	0	0	0	0 (2)	0	0	0	0	0
Gray	7	2	0	0	9	1	1	0	0	2
George	2 (3)	0 (2)	0	0	2 (5)	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	6	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
McGowan	6 (1)	2	0	0	8 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
McIndoe	2 (1)	0 (1)	0	0	2 (2)	0	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	6 (1)	0 (1)	0	0	6 (2)	1	0	0	0	1
McLaren	1	1 (1)	0	0	2 (1)	0	1	0	0	1
Spring	7	2	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	1 (3)	1	0	0	2 (3)	0	0	0	0	0
White	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0



Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Kelvin Davis	1.	1. Andy Collett
Graham Alexander	2.	2. Stephane Leoni
Gavin McGowan	3.	3. Luke Basford
Matthew Spring	4.	4. Gary Penrice
Steve Davis	5.	5. Steve Foster
Alan White	6.	6. Andy Tillson
Ray McKinnon	7.	7. Robert Tree
Sean Evers	8.	8. Michael Meaker
Stuart Douglas	9.	9. Guy Ipoua
Phil Gray	10.	10. Jamie Cureton
Michael McIndoe	11.	11. Barry Hayles
Andrew Fotiadis	12.	12. Jason Roberts
Herve Bacque	13.	13. Mark Smith
Mitchell Thomas	14.	14. Jamie Shore

Referee: Brian Coddington, Sheffield

Assistants: M. E. Bishop, Southfleet (yellow flag)

R. G. James, Milton Keynes (yellow & red flag)

Reserve official: F. J. Fender, Milton Keynes



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