

LUTON TOWN

Tuesday, August 10, 1999, 7.45pm

Official Matchday Programme £1.50



v Bristol Rovers

SKF

Sponsors of Luton Town F.C.



welcome to kenilworth road



A NEW era has begun for Luton Town - and Cliff Bassett, long-time supporter and now the majority shareholder, invites all who have any sort of love for the club to join in to help the new management achieve its ambitions.

It took five months to get the club out of receivership, and eventually deadlines set by the Football League, and the threat to throw us out, helped to bring sometimes bitter negotiations to a conclusion. The deal was done a few minutes before the latest deadline, late on Friday night, and there was an immediate response from fans, with more than 1,500 making the trip to Meadow Lane. They made it a party before and after the match, and unfurled a banner at the game to make it clear that they were glad to see the changes in the boardroom. Pleasant though the euphoria was - and Mr Bassett shared the feeling at Nottingham - he has two main messages tonight for all supporters: Give us solid backing - but understand that there is a lot to do, so be patient. He will not talk publicly about the boardroom feud which led to receivership, but wants to look to the future, and to be positive about it. For the short-term, there will be discussions with Lennie Lawrence about the squad. Then comes the longer-term need to safeguard the future, and that includes a new stadium. It was common knowledge that one of the sticking

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



Front cover:

Looking ahead to the new season: skipper Marvin Johnson, now our longest-serving player (but keen to say not the oldest!) believes we are in for a good season with the end of the receivership saga.

points in the discussions between David Kohler on one side, and the three other directors on the other, was Mr Kohler's wish to retain rights to the stadium development, with Luton Town rent-free tenants. That project has been scrapped, with part of the deal a payment to Mr Kohler for his services on the development scheme. Mr Bassett wants to see a new ground, but owned by the football club. It should also have community involvement - perhaps with Luton University and Luton Borough Council, who have offered £50,000 for such an arrangement. Technically, Luton Town is still in receivership. The formalities will take a week or two, with August 20 pencilled in as the date for final signatures to ratify the agreement.

Mr Bassett has put together a take-over as a package including other investors, and first steps have already been taken to put right some of the damage inflicted in the summer, when the manager was restricted in his ability to sign new players.

Said Mr Bassett: "Our first job is to address the immediate situation, to get a good team together, and strengthen the squad if needed. We have to look at the financing, and sort out a corporate structure. We want to get the whole of the local community involved. People talk about the town needing a good football club. It does. Lots of people talked about being willing to invest. I know some said they would not be interested until changes were made within the board. "Well, the change is being made, and I hope we get a good response. Supporters made their views known, as they have a right to do, but that's in the past. Now, I want to be positive about the future. If you want a good football club in Luton, turn up at Kenilworth Road and show it. Directors and investors have their parts to play, but just as importantly we need good crowds."

"There used to be an advert claiming that the future is orange. It is for Luton Town - with a bit of blue added! My aim is to make the future brighter, and I believe it can be."

Mr Bassett is under pressure from his fellow directors to soften his line on the chairmanship. "I don't really want that job," he said. "Certainly I would not expect to be in an office at the club day in, day out. I might realistically, as majority shareholder, have to become a reluctant chairman for a time, but part of the re-structuring of the club will consider that matter."

"To be honest, I hardly knew where I was at over the weekend after a long and difficult period. It was a relief to get it settled, in time to enjoy the match at Notts County. And the minute that game ended, I started looking forward to Tuesday night!"

Brian Swain

Lennie Lawrence



IT IS A pleasure this evening to welcome Bristol Rovers and their supporters to Kenilworth Road for the first cup-tie of the season. The Worthington Cup is a competition in which we have done quite well in recent years, culminating with last season's run to the quarter-finals. It was not only enjoyable, but also brought in some much-needed finance, and hopefully we can embark on a similar run tonight. But we will not under-estimate Rovers - last season they finished just one place and two points behind us in the league, and in Jamie Cureton, the Second Division's top scorer last year, and Jason Roberts they have a very effective attacking partnership. We will have to work to keep them quiet, and do the business at the other end of the pitch - if we can, we want to take a lead to Bristol for the second leg.

In our first match of the season, at Notts County, we saw enough to give us encouragement. It was a classic opening-day Second Division fixture - fast and furious, and fiercely competitive. Neither side was allowed to create too much in the way of clear chances, and we defended resolutely and deserved our clean sheet.

We were delighted with our support - to have over 1,500 Luton fans there, out of a crowd of around 6,000, was remarkable, and they out-shouted the home supporters throughout the game. The players respond to that - good backing makes a big difference.

At the time of writing it seemed that there would not be too many changes in the side for tonight's game, but I was hoping that yesterday I might have been able to add one or two bodies to our squad, probably to go on the bench.

We have already welcomed in Julian Watts, who is on loan from Bristol City, and now that the receivership is about to be put behind us, his future is one of several we have under consideration. We need reinforcements after the summer departures, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who left for their services to the club.

Mitchell Thomas received a very good offer from Burnley, and after much soul-searching decided to take it, and he goes with our best wishes. He gave sterling service to Luton Town in two spells with the club, and no-one blamed him for accepting a deal at Turf Moor which was much better than we could offer in receivership.

Others who left included Paul Showler, who had terrible luck with injuries after we signed him. I also thought that I might be saying farewell to Ray McKinnon, who was out of contract at the end of last season, and one of many facing tricky career decisions. The situation was not helped by the club being in receivership, with considerable financial restraints. Now the doubts are over, I am making efforts to sign him again.

For Chris Willmott and Kelvin Davis it was a case of them wanting to leave to further their careers at Wimbledon. Chris Willmott was out of contract and free to sign for any other club, and elected to leave. Kelvin Davis's departure was more surprising, but the final increased offer was realistic and acceptable for a Second Division player, and he wanted to go, to join a Premiership squad.

We wish them well, and hopefully the sale of Kelvin Davis went some way towards our long-awaited escape from receivership.

As you know, the deal was struck after a lot of negotiations, at the last minute on Friday. The Football League had set a deadline, and although we were always confident that we would continue playing league football this season, we were also aware that the league had the legal right to decide otherwise. That put on pressure to conclude an agreement, and we are all delighted that a deal was done to end the five months of uncertainty. Now we will work to ensure that the agreement heralds a new era, bringing the success and stability we all want.

We don't kid ourselves it is going to be easy, but in a sense we have wiped the slate clean, and we are all ready to get cracking to try to meet the aspirations of everyone.

That includes supporters, and having already said what a difference they made at Meadow Lane, Luton Town needs more of the same - perhaps much more! - in the weeks and months that lie ahead. We sensed a good atmosphere among the Luton supporters at Nottingham, and if we carry that through to the league programme we might surprise a few pundits who don't rate our chances too highly.

So enjoy the game tonight, be ready to be patient, especially with young players, and do your best to encourage the team, and to encourage more people to come to games. Luton needs a good football club - if we all get together, we have a chance of delivering. The old cliché is true - it has to be teamwork on and off the field.

Lennie Lawrence

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In association with Luton Town Football Club

Photography exhibition The Homes of Football

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*'a real
must
for any
football
fan'*

Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery



WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road for the new season, and thanks for coming to support the club. After much hard work by many people through the summer, we are all looking forward to the real business,

and hopefully a good run in the Worthington Cup.

You will notice a few changes around the ground if this is your first visit since last season. Work to comply with more rigorous safety regulations has been done in the main stand blocks F and G and enclosure blocks H and J, and our thanks go to supporters for their tolerance when they found their preferred seats were not available for tonight's game, but things will be back to normal for Saturday's league match with Blackpool.

The biggest difference to the ground is at the front of the main stand, near the half-way line, with the removal of the old dug-outs, and their replacement by two new ones on the other side of the ground.

Looking from the enclosure, it already seems hard to believe that the old one was sited there for so many years. It had to be moved, to accommodate the extra number of substitutes, and we took advantage of the situation to help ourselves and supporters.

The change has given dramatically improved views of the pitch for a lot of people, and that improvement has been enhanced still further by the re-siting of a TV camera position.

An enlarged dug-out on the main stand side would have taken out a lot of seats, and we were fortunate that we were able to fit in the smart new ones on the opposite side. It was a tight fit, but they were custom-made to slot into the space available, and first reactions from the pre-season friendlies were favourable on all counts, from managers and supporters alike. And when the weather is kind, the new dug-outs will be in the sunshine instead of in perpetual shadow.

As a postscript on that subject, would the gentleman who badgered me constantly to ask for the old dug-out seats make contact once more, and he can have them.

You will read from the manger's column

elsewhere in this magazine that it has been a busy last week at Kenilworth Road as paperwork had to be processed for our new signings, and although our League programme will always be top priority we, perhaps more than most clubs, know the importance of doing well at all levels. Our reserve and youth teams both have very different fixture lists this season, and full details will be included in future programmes.

The Avon Insurance Combination has been completely re-shaped after Premiership clubs withdrew their teams to play in their own competition. Our first reserves match will be played next Wednesday, August 18, at home to Bristol City. Kick-off at Kenilworth Road will be at 2 pm, and admission is free to season ticket holders. Prices for others are £2, or £1 for concessions.

Our youth team will play in the new Football League Youth Alliance, and while we look forward to that, we are sorry to see the demise of the South East Counties League. We were champions of that league last season, and look forward to doing well in the new Alliance. It brings in a lot of new fixtures, and will include more travelling than previously. Next Saturday, the boys are at home to Walsall at Luton Rugby Football Club, at Newlands Road, with an 11 am kick-off.

Our second home game in the Nationwide League will be against Cardiff City on August 28, and please note that this has been designated an **ALL-TICKET** match, for **ALL** supporters, including our own. We are sorry if it is a little inconvenient, but I imagine our fans will understand that in view of the large numbers of visiting supporters expected to travel, it was a decision we had to make for the well-being of everyone. It means that on that day there will be no cash turnstiles open, and please take note that the ticket office will not be open that day until after the match.

Before then, of course, we have the first home game in the Nationwide Second Division, against Blackpool on Saturday, and we look forward to seeing you all at Kenilworth Road for that match. And, if possible, please bring a friend - we need all the support we can get!

Cherry Newbery

For all the latest news, views and interviews call

CLUBCALL - 09068 121 123

(Calls charged at 50p per minute at all times)

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



Tickets



Nationwide League Division Two

Luton Town v Blackpool

Saturday August 14, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices, with normal guesting facilities. Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.

Nationwide League Division Two

Reading v Luton Town

Saturday August 21, kick-off 3pm

Tickets can be purchased now from the ticket office in Kenilworth Road, until 4pm on Friday 20th August, or they can be bought on the day at Reading from the South Stand ticket office.

Advanced tickets: £12 adults,
£7 concessions (under-16s and over-60s)
On the day: £14 adults, £8 concessions.

Worthington Cup First Round Second Leg

Bristol Rovers v Luton Town

Wednesday August 25, kick-off 7.45pm

This match is pay on the night only and terracing only. £8 adults, £4 concessions (under-16s and over-65s)

Nationwide League Division Two

Luton Town v Cardiff City

Saturday August 28, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for all supporters.

No tickets will be available on the day of the game, and no cash turnstiles will be open. Tickets are now on sale, at the discounted price for LTFC members.

It has never been easier to attend matches at Kenilworth Road, with cash turnstiles available on the day, except for all-ticket matches.

Season Tickets for 1999/2000

OUR home season in the Nationwide Second Division kicks off two weeks today, and it is still not too late to grab a bargain - a price reduction if you buy a season ticket.

Prices have been pegged to last year's levels, and as well as saving money the purchase of a season ticket brings other advantages. The all-in price covers all 23 home league games, and the table on the right shows the savings.

Season ticket holders are guaranteed their chosen seats at all league fixtures, and have priority purchase rights for all cup matches.

They also get a 10 per cent discount on the full price of merchandise in the club shop, on production of their season tickets, and free admission to all home reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road.

So think about it: save yourself a few bob and at the same time help the club in its fight for survival. And if you worry about the club being in receivership, have no fears: your money is safely banked, and frozen in the account. Out of the total paid in for season tickets, if we are still in receivership we will take out one twenty-third share per match, leaving the rest in a special trust account.

LOCATION	SEASON TICKET PRICE	
	Adults	Juniors/ Concessions
Main stand A-E	£333	£172
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£391	£196
Main stand F	£262	£125
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£311	£161
Main stand G	£172	£115
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£207	£144
Main stand Enclosure C-G	£262	£125
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£311	£161
Enclosure Restricted view Blocks A,B,H & J	£172	£115
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£196	£144
Kenilworth Upper and Lower tiers	£262	£125
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£311	£161
New Stand	£333	£172
Cost of same seat x23 matchdays	£391	£196

Concessions apply to senior citizens aged 60 by August 1, 1999, juniors under 16 on that date, and to students in full-time education on production of student identification.

HATTERS SHOP

NEW HOME REPLIC KIT



Shirts

SB, MB, LB £29.99

Youths £34.99

S, M, L, XL £39.99

XXL, XXXL

Shorts

SB, MB, LB £15.99

Y, S, M, L, £19.99

XL, XXL



Socks

SB, MB, LB £7.99

Mens £9.99



Please call the Club Shop to check availability of sizes. We will be happy to take your order.



AVAILABLE NOW IN THE CLUB SHOP



Blast FROM THE Past

Roger Wash

Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Tonight's clash with the Pirates will be the third time the two sides have been paired together in the competition (in its various guises) and will echo the two legged affair that took place three years ago, again in the first round.

The Town had just suffered relegation to Division Two and the supporters hopes of a quick return were soon knocked back when Burnley pulled off a surprise 2-1 win at Kenilworth Road in the league.

The players had a speedy chance to make amends when Rovers visited Kenilworth Road in the Coca-Cola Cup in the following mid-week, but the supporters remained to be convinced that the opening day defeat was a fluke. This resulted in a crowd of only 2,643 turning up, the lowest at Kenilworth Road for a League or Cup game since before the War.

Those that did bother to attend, however, were treated to an end to end attacking contest which finished with the Town emphatic victors. Rovers played their part and went close when Ian Holloway saw his shot tipped onto the bar by Hatters goalkeeper Ian Feuer and then appealed in vain when Mitchell Thomas appeared to handle in the area.

The opening goal came the Town's way, though, when Kim Grant was upended in the area when clean through. The resultant penalty was tucked away by Tony Thorpe in first half stoppage time.

The Hatters went further ahead after 55 minutes when Billy Clark, who had conceded the penalty, and goalkeeper

Andy Collett both missed a through ball and collided leaving Grant with a simple opportunity.

The goal of the game came a minute later when Thorpe put over an inch perfect cross for David Oldfield to dive and head home spectacularly. The evening was soured a little when ex-Pirate Gary Waddock was sent off just before the end for a second bookable offence but surely the Town could not throw away a three goal advantage!

At half time in the second leg the Hatters were two goals down against a rampant Rovers side and only desperate defending had kept the score at that level. Pirates winger Lee Archer had given Julian James a torrid time, setting up Andy Gurney for the opener and then adding a second himself.

Luton manager Lennie Lawrence had to change things at half time in an effort to take some pressure off his beleaguered defence which had been pushed back time and time again. He withdrew Bontcho Guentchev into mid-field and brought on Andrew Fotiadis in place of Paul Showler.

It was Fotiadis who effectively killed off the tie just after the hour mark when his clever through pass was picked up by Oldfield who beat a defender and the goalkeeper in a run which saw him shoot home into an empty net. With the Town 4-2 in the lead on aggregate the players were finally able to take control of the game and force Rovers into more and more desperate long range shooting which was capably taken care of by Feuer and his defenders.

Amazingly, this was the first time the Town had progressed beyond the opening round in the competition since 1989!



David Oldfield scores the Town's decisive third goal against the Pirates at Kenilworth Road in 1996.

Tonight's Visitors

welcome to Bristol Rovers

LEE JONES

Goalkeeper

Joined Rovers in March 1998 and ended the 1997/98 season as first choice keeper.

IAN HOLLOWAY

Player/Manager

Ian is now in his third spell with his hometown club, having made his senior debut back in April 1981. Played for Wimbledon and Brentford before returning to Rovers in summer 1987 and then rejoining manager Gerry Francis at QPR in 1991.

Ian went on to make 147 appearances at the highest level before being given the opportunity to rejoin Rovers, as player/manager, in May 1996.

GARY PENRICE

Player/Coach

Gary is now back at the club where his career began. He first signed for Rovers, as a part-time professional, in 1983. Played for Watford, Aston Villa, QPR, and Watford again before rejoining Rovers in the summer of 1997.

FRANKIE BENNETT

Forward

Frankie signed for Southampton in February 1993. Made 19 league appearances for The Saints before a loan spell at Shrewsbury. An impressive display against Rovers led to him signing for them shortly afterwards.

TREVOR CHALLIS

Defender

Spent two years with Arsenal before signing forms for QPR. Was also at the FA School of Excellence for two years and made 12 appearances for England at U-16 level before returning to Loftus Road as a

trainee. Signed a pro contract in July 1994 and a brief run in the team earned him two U-21 caps. A former colleague of Ian Holloway at QPR, Trevor signed for Rovers in July 1998.

JAMIE CURETON

Forward

A Bristolian, he joined Norwich as a trainee and graduated to the pro ranks at Carrow Road. Returned to Bristol to sign for Rovers in September 1996 for £250,000.

He was the Second Division's top scorer last season with 29 goals.

NATHAN ELLINGTON

Forward

The then 17-year-old signed for Rovers in February 1999 and scored a spectacular first league goal against Luton.

STEPHEN FOSTER

Defender

Signed for Rovers from Woking at the start of the 1997/98 campaign. Missed only two games last season and captained the side in a number of matches.

DAVID HILLIER

Midfield

Broke into Arsenal's first team during 1990/91, when he won a First Division Championship medal.

In 1996 he moved to Portsmouth for £250,000.

Although a regular in the side during his first two seasons at Fratton Park, found himself confined to the role of substitute for much of the first half of last season, and followed former Pompey team mates Andy Thomson and Robbie Pethick to The Memorial Stadium, in February 1998.

Ground
The Memorial
Stadium

Manager
Ian Holloway



RONNIE MAUGE

Midfield

Fulham gave Ronnie his first taste of league football. He has since made over 100 league appearances for Bury, and more recently, Plymouth Argyle. He was released last summer and signed a two year deal with Rovers in July.

ROBBIE PETHICK

Defender

Served his apprenticeship with Plymouth, but was released without being offered a pro contract. For the next five years, played non-league football before Jim Smith signed him for Portsmouth in October 1993. Made some 200 first team appearances, but found himself out of favour midway through last season and eventually followed his former Pompey team mate, Andy Thomson, to Rovers in February.

DAVID PRITCHARD

Defender

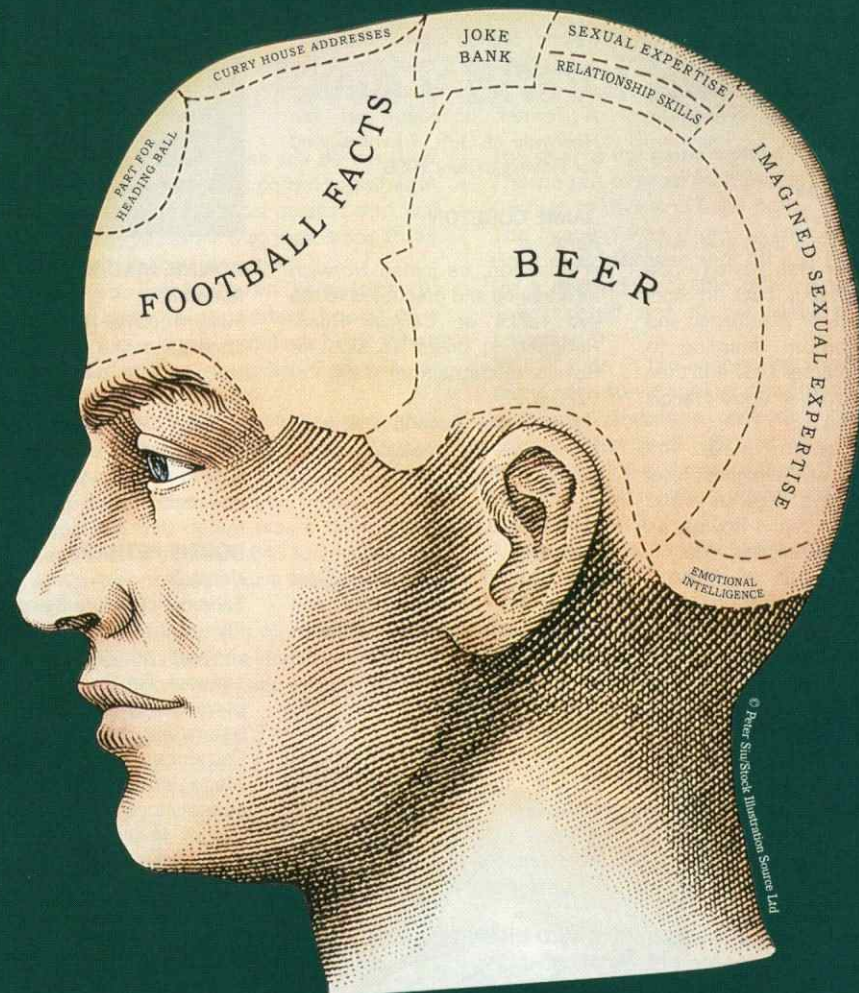
Joined Rovers for a £20,000 fee, from Telford United, in February 1994. Holds a Welsh international B cap but missed a large part of last season through injury.

JASON ROBERTS

Forward

Joined Wolves for £250,000 from non-league Hayes in the Autumn of 1997, but went on loan to Torquay and Bristol City before joining Rovers two days before the start of last season.

THE WORTHINGTON CUP SERIES. Fig. 1
The brain of a man.



FOOTBALL AND BEER. The Cup and Worthington Creamflow. It could just be the most perfect match ever. And the good news is Worthington is putting as much effort into supporting fans as the Cup by giving away lots of free tickets as prizes, so that more fans get to see great football. Has there ever been a more perfect match?

Worthington
cup
IT'S A FAN THING

50p OFF



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Dear Customer,
This coupon entitles you to 50p off a pack (4 x 400ml) of Worthington Creamflow Bitter. Only one coupon may be used towards your purchase, it may not be used to gain a saving on any other product. No change will be given. Coupon only valid to those aged 18 or over. Coupon value: 50p, promoter: Bass Brewers Ltd, 137 High Street, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1JZ.
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Coupon redeemable at:
THRESHER WINE SHOP,
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Dear Retailer,
Thank you for honouring this coupon. Bass Take Home will refund you the 50p plus the normal handling allowance provided you have accepted it against a 4 pack (4 x 400ml) of Worthington Creamflow Bitter. Bass Take Home reserve the right to refuse redemption of defaced or damaged coupons or those which have not been validly redeemed.
Coupons should be sent to:
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VALID UNTIL 31st DECEMBER 1999
NCH CODE: 925220748
BAR CODE: 9905023951607

Commercial

John Bailey



LIKE everyone else around Kenilworth Road, the commercial department is glad to see the start of a new football season, and we look forward to meeting old and new friends alike.

Our department has had a very busy summer, and despite little difficulties off the field it has been gratifying to see how much deep loyalty there is in Luton for the town's football team.

Uncertainty and receivership was bound to have an effect on our efforts to draw in sponsorship and advertising, but the depth of support, from all manner of individuals and organisations, has been very encouraging.

The shirt sponsorship agreement with SKF (U.K.) Ltd was the biggest boost we received during a difficult summer, and it has co-incided with a new strip for the first team. Sales of replica kits have been excellent, and we thank all supporters who have helped the club through their purchases at the club shop.

We need backing from local businesses, and you do not have to be on a par with the big internationals like SKF - whatever sort of budget you have for such things as corporate hospitality and advertising I am sure we can come up with a package that will be of mutual benefit to you and us.

We still have some executive boxes available on a match-by-match basis, and as well as offering a way of watching football in luxury they come with packages at all sorts of prices, starting from as little as £29.50 per seat.

Our sponsorship lounges, on the other side of the ground, are also very popular, and places there are from £55 per person, which includes excellent food and a complimentary bar before and after the match.

There are plenty of other ways you can help the club, and we are happy to talk to anyone about them. For instance, we can offer adverts in the very popular matchday programme, which enables you to reach a targeted audience.

We still have some vacancies on our kit sponsors deal - at £400 for the season you can support your favourite club personality. Your name will appear in every league programme next to the picture of your choice, and at the end of the season all kit sponsors attend a reception at the club and receive signed shirts. Each sponsor is also invited to a game during

the season as a guest of the club, with the choice of game depending on the luck of a draw.

There are plenty of other sponsorship packages on offer, to suit all budgets. Give me a call in the commercial department on Luton 411622, and we will try our best to please.

John Bailey

GOLDEN GAMBLE

THE Golden Gamble draw will again be a feature of home games this season, and we started the ball rolling at the friendly with Crystal Palace. As last year, the deal is for proceeds to be split 50/50 - half the day's takings go to the buyer of the lucky ticket, and the other half to club funds.



Desmond Procter, from Salisbury Road, Luton, was the first winner of the millennium season, and is pictured collecting his £100 prize at the Palace game. The draw is made at half-time, and the cash is presented there and then. There has to be a winner at every game, and at £1 a ticket we think the Golden Gamble is a real bargain. As crowds get bigger for the "real season" the jackpot is likely to rise dramatically - it topped £500 in readies several times last season.

To advertise in this matchday programme call the Commercial Department on
01582 411622

WIN WORTHINGTON CUP TICKETS
or a Worthington Gift Pack



The Next Round's... ...On Us

To celebrate the launch of this season's Worthington Cup, Worthington want to be sure everyone's a winner. So, even if your team doesn't make it through the First Round of the competition, you can still be a winner with Worthington.

Simply answer the question below and you could either win tickets for the next round of the Worthington Cup or a case of Worthington Creamflow.

Q Who said before his 1998/99 Worthington Cup Quarter Final match "The only time we normally reach Europe is by ferry to get some duty free."

A. Harry Redknapp B. Joe Kinnear C. Sir Alex Ferguson

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

**CALL NOW ON 0171- 898 3376
THE PRIZES**

One pair of tickets is available for BOTH legs of ALL 25 Second Round Worthington Cup fixtures - that's 50 fans winning a total of 100 tickets.

Prize winners who'd prefer a beer can claim a case of Worthington Creamflow.

(Calls should cost no more than 25p). Please give us your name, age, address, daytime telephone number and the team you support.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 1.) All entrants must be over 18 2.) All competition entries must be received by 31/08/99 3.) A total of 100 winners will be drawn at random 4.) Each winner can only claim one prize 5.) The first randomly drawn name will get the first choice of prize and so on until the 100th winner 6.) Choice of prize depends on availability 7.) Editor's decision is final.



IT'S A FAN THING

Hatters Chatter

the big kick-off

PLEASED to take a point from our first league game of the season, at Meadow Lane - a report and pictures will be in Saturday's matchday magazine - Lennie Lawrence was busy yesterday trying to make up for lost time after the unreal circumstances forced upon him this summer by receivership. Financial reasons dictated that players should leave, with or without fees. The boss trawled through the Football League's 600-name list of free transfers for possible recruits, and his major move was to agree a one-year contract with 26-year-old defender Efetobore Sodje, who had turned down a new deal with relegated Macclesfield. But the receiver blocked it, saying it should be a matter for new owners. If Sodje does come in, the delay will cost him games: he has a three-match suspension starting immediately after he signs, and had thought it would be served in eight days, starting at Meadow Lane. Now, it might take three weeks to dispose of. Three players have been signed on month-long contracts - Tanny Abbey, whose summer move to Antwerp fell down, and two more young prospects,

striker Ryan Davis, ex Sheffield Wednesday, and midfielder David Pearson, formerly with Coventry. To plug the gap in central defence, Julian Watts, 28, one of many players surplus to requirements at Bristol City, and a good mate of Tony Thorpe, has signed on a month's loan, and made an impressive Town debut at Nottingham. A Sheffield boy, he achieved an ambition when Trevor Francis bought him for Hillsborough, only for new manager David Pleat to arrive from Luton and shift him out to Leicester. Watts joined Bristol City as a Bosman last summer, but once more the manager who bought him, John Ward this time, was elbowed shortly afterwards, and if he gets the chance Watts is ready to try again at Kenilworth Road.

Other transfer moves were being made yesterday, and we hope on Saturday to have more space to report on them.

● The second leg of tonight's cup-tie, originally scheduled for Tuesday August 24, has been switched to the following evening, to avoid a clash with a Bristol City match.

Fixtures

AUGUST

Sat 7	Notts County	A	0-0
Tue 10	Bristol Rov	WC1 (1)	H 7.45pm
Sat 14	Blackpool	H	3.00pm
Sat 21	Reading	A	3.00pm
Wed 25	Bristol Rov	WC1 (2)	A 7.45pm
Sat 28	Cardiff	H	3.00pm
Mon 30	Bournemouth	A	3.00pm

SEPTEMBER

Sat 4	Bury	H	3.00pm
Sat 11	Wrexham	H	3.00pm
Tue 14	WC 2 (1)		7.45pm
Sat 18	Brentford	A	3.00pm
Tue 21	WC 2 (2)		7.45pm
Sat 25	Oxford Utd	H	3.00pm

OCTOBER

Sat 2	Wigan	A	3.00pm
Sat 9	Oldham	A	3.00pm
Tue 12	WC 3		7.45pm
Sat 16	Gillingham	H	3.00pm
Tue 19	Wycombe	H	7.45pm
Sat 23	Oxford Utd	A	3.00pm
Sat 30	FA Cup 1		3.00pm

NOVEMBER

Tue 2	Millwall	A	7.45pm
Sat 6	Burnley	H	3.00pm
Sat 13	Cambridge Utd	A	3.00pm
Sat 20	FA Cup 2		3.00pm

Tue 23	Preston	H	7.45pm
Sat 27	Bristol Rov	A	3.00pm
Tue 30	WC 4		7.45pm

DECEMBER

Sat 4	Notts County	H	3.00pm
Tue 7	AWS 1		7.45pm
Sat 11	Stoke City	H	3.00pm
OR	FA Cup 3		3.00pm
Tue 14	WC 5		
Fri 17	Colchester	A	7.45pm
Sun 26	Chesterfield	H	3.00pm
Tue 28	Bristol City	A	7.45pm

JANUARY 2000

Mon 3	Scunthorpe	H	3.00pm
Sat 8	Stoke	A	3.00pm
OR	FA Cup 4		3.00pm
Tue 11	AWS 2		7.45pm
OR	WC semi (1)		7.45pm
Sat 15	Blackpool	A	3.00pm
Sat 22	Reading	H	3.00pm
Tue 25	AWS 3		7.45pm
OR	WC semi (2)		7.45pm
Sat 29	Cardiff	A	3.00pm
OR	FA Cup 5		3.00pm

FEBRUARY

Sat 5	Bournemouth	H	3.00pm
Sat 12	Bury	A	3.00pm
Tue 15	AWS Semi		7.45pm

Sat 19	Bristol Rovers	H	3.00pm
OR	FA Cup 6		3.00pm
Sat 26	Brentford	H	3.00pm
Sun 27	WC Final		3.00pm
Tue 29	AWS area final (1)		7.45pm

MARCH

Sat 4	Wrexham	A	3.00pm
Tue 7	Burnley	A	7.45pm
Sat 11	Millwall	H	3.00pm
Tue 14	AWS area final (2)		7.45pm
Sat 18	Preston	A	3.00pm
Tue 21	Cambridge Utd	H	7.45pm
Sat 25	Chesterfield	A	3.00pm

APRIL

Sat 1	Colchester	H	3.00pm
OR	AWS Final		3.00pm
Sat 8	Scunthorpe	A	3.00pm
Sun 9	FA Cup semi-final		3.00pm
Sat 15	Bristol City	H	3.00pm
Sat 22	Gillingham	A	3.00pm
Mon 24	Wigan	H	3.00pm
Sat 29	Wycombe	A	3.00pm

MAY

Sat 6	Oldham	H	3.00pm
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For the latest ticket and travel information call the Luton Ticket Office on
01582 416976

Tonight's Teams



Luton Town

TANNY ABBEY	1
STUART FRASER	13
JULIAN WATTS	40
ALAN WHITE	5
MARVIN JOHNSON	6
PHIL GRAY	7
PAUL McLAREN	8
STUART DOUGLAS	9
MATTHEW SPRING	4
MICHAEL McINDOE	10
MATTHEW TAYLOR	15

Substitutes

EMMERSON BOYCE	17
LIAM GEORGE	11
ANDRE SCARLETT	21
LANDRY ZAHANA-ONI	16
DANIEL TATE (GK)	22

V



Bristol Rovers

1	LEE JONES
2	DAVID PRITCHARD
3	TREVOR CHALLIS
4	STEPHEN FOSTER
5	ANDY THOMSON
6	ANDY TILSON
7	RONNIE MAUGE
8	DAVID HILLIER
12	ROBBIE PETHICK
10	JAMIE CURETON
11	JASON ROBERTS

Substitutes

19	FRANKIE BENNETT
18	NATHAN ELLINGTON
27	IAN HOLLOWAY
28	GARY PENRICE
25	RAY JOHNSTON (GK)

Tonight's Officials

Referee: Peter Jones, Loughborough

Assistants: P. Vosper, London (yellow flag)

A J. Webb, Winnersh (yellow and red flag)

Reserve official: S. J. Gadsden, Oakley.