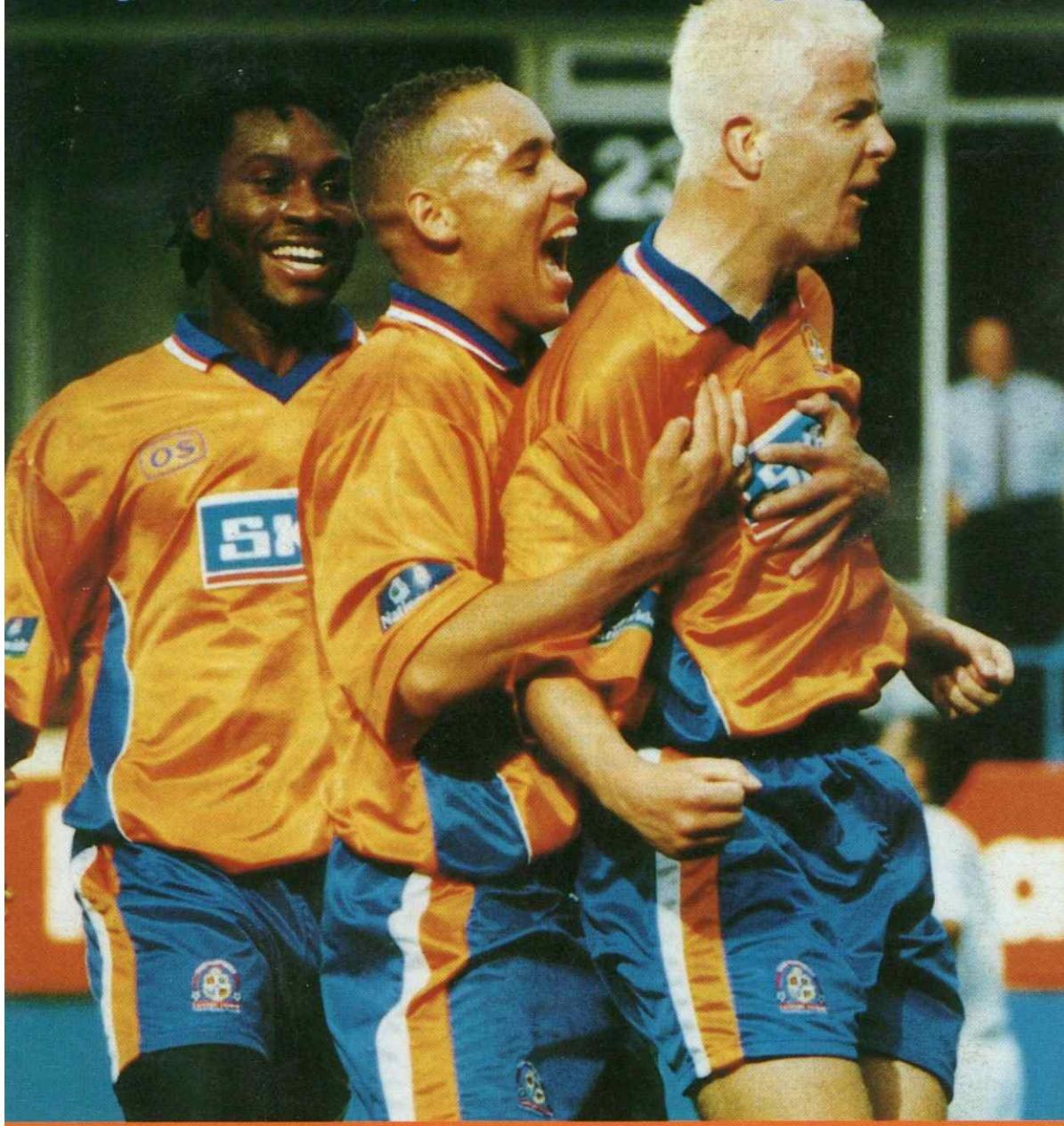


LUTON TOWN

Saturday, October 16, 1999, 3pm

Official Matchday Programme £2.00



v Gillingham



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Inside Forward

welcome to kenilworth road



THE UNCOMFORTABLE saga of Luton Town's receivership finally ended this week, with successful businessman Cliff Bassett taking over the majority shareholding previously owned by David Kohler and his family. The deal amounted to around £1million.

Today Mr Bassett invites all supporters, and the wider community in and around Luton, to join forces to realise his ambitions for the club.

This week's conclusion of the negotiations with Mr Kohler leave Mr Bassett, a 63-year-old grandfather and long-time Luton Town fan, as the majority shareholder in Luton Town, but he said: "I don't really want to be seen as the owner of the club. I don't really want to be chairman, and certainly I would never be a hands-on chairman working as a paid full-time chief executive.

"The original deal to bring the club out of receivership was agreed the night before this season started, and it has taken until now to sort out all the details. There were a lot of legalities and formalities to be taken care of, and it has not been easy.

"Now I need a little more time to think about where we go from here. But clearly there are two priorities: more funding, and a new stadium."

At present Mr Bassett, head of Universal Salvage Auctions, is one of three directors of the club, and

Nigel Terry and Chris Green are staying, having supported Mr Bassett throughout the wrangling of the past seven months. Their hope is that before long others will join the board, to share the work and, just as importantly, share the financial burden. Rod Fountain has joined the backroom team as a consultant on business development projects, and he and the board will look at ways of giving the club the firm financial foundation needed to build it up for greater success on the field.

When the club went into receivership, official figures showed that Mr Bassett was at that time owed £2.8million, and while unwilling to divulge details, he confirmed that the figure has increased since then.

But he said: "I am only one of many shareholders in this club and they are the owners. I want to see ownership spread as widely as possible, and not be in the hands of one man, me or anyone else. "I believe a good football team is an asset to any town, and on that score I agree with those who have been saying recently that Luton Town has to be involved with the community. Of course it does. But perhaps we as a club also have the right to say that the community should be involved with us. It has to be a two-way thing.

"If you are in business in Luton, you must be aware of how important the club is in promoting the town. So if the club is doing something for you and the community, how about you doing something for the club?"

The period of receivership threw up various names and business groupings said to be keen to take over Luton Town, and Mr Bassett hopes that all those involved will now come on board.

That includes FLAG, the supporters' organisation which had hoped to win major financial backing to take over the club. "I would be very happy to see FLAG involved," said Mr Bassett. "But the reality of the situation is that while I am happy for supporters to be part of the structure running the club, major finance has to be found.

"I am owed a lot of money, and I hope that eventually I will get it back under a structured scheme, but that is for the future. We have to address the short-term first, and I don't think anyone will be surprised to hear that while it is a very welcome boost to come out of receivership, we are still losing money. I expect it to take about three months to work out the situation, and the ways of dealing with the problems.

"Paramount is the need to get more finance in as quickly as possible. If someone like a Jack Walker



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

Front cover:

CELEBRATION:
Stuart Fraser has just scored his first ever league goal, in the win over Oxford and first to congratulate him are Liam George and Stuart Douglas.



came along, that would be wonderful. But I don't think that is going to happen, which is why we need a wider spread of owners prepared to put money in.

"Traditionally this club has sold players to stave off recurring financial problems, but that's the last thing I want to do at present. We have received offers recently, but they were turned down.

"I think the team we have is very exciting, and playing good football and anything is possible this season - even promotion. But we have already sold off more than enough players in the past 12 months, and unless there is a silly money offer that cannot be refused, I will want to see this team kept together for at least another three months, just to see what might be achieved.

"But we must have a realistic wages budget, and Lennie Lawrence is aware of that, hard though he tries to break it occasionally! He has been very supportive throughout the last few difficult months, and so have all the staff at Kenilworth Road, and the supporters generally. I am very grateful for that. "But future success depends on having a good team, and having a decent ground, and we are already working on plans for a new stadium. David Kohler's dream was to have an arena near junction 10 of the M1, and ours, without being so adventurous in terms of high technology, is for the same place.

"I think it can be achieved, and that prospect should be another reason for us to attract new investors into the club."

Mr Bassett's final thought for today's programme was to ensure that everyone who had rallied to the cause in recent months should know how much he appreciates their help.

And he does know what it is like on both sides of the fence - he first started supporting Luton more than 20 years ago, when he was running his own small business in Lyndhurst Road, not far from the ground.

As a Town fan, he was among those who were disenchanted when the David Evans board introduced the members-only scheme. He stopped watching for a long time, but came back when the boardroom regime changed.

So if, as it is said, there are thousands out there who turned their backs on Luton in recent years because they disagreed with the previous chairman, Mr Bassett would be delighted to see them follow his example of years ago, and return to the fold.

Brian Swain



Cliff Bassett

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New goalkeeper's replica kit

Race Winner

KF (U.K.) Limited - the world's leading manufacturer of rolling bearings, are pleased to announce that the inner of the SKF Balloon race was Dennis Brogan of Luton.

Dennis Brogan's balloon managed to reach as far as Ipswich where it was returned by Cleo Wright aged 12.

He has chosen to take his prize of a five-seater executive box for the Preston match on 23rd November.

Let's hope the Hatters can put on a great show for him!



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The Manager

Lennie Lawrence



THIS week's announcement that the club has come out of receivership was the best news we have heard in a very long time. It was what all the supporters and staff had been waiting for.

It ends one of the most difficult spells in the club's recent history, and having been involved in a similar situation at Charlton in the 80s I can safely say that the prolonged nature of this receivership, and the uncertainty surrounding the club, made life very difficult. It could have had serious, possibly fatal, consequences.

Fortunately, as at Charlton, everybody responded exceptionally well. The support, home and away, was excellent. Season ticket sales, even though the season itself was in doubt at the time, held up well in comparison with previous years as the real supporters showed their feelings. And the attitude and efforts of all the players and staff at Kenilworth Road was absolutely fantastic despite the uncertainty hanging over them. We are all delighted with the outcome.

I believe that Luton Town's salvation lies in three key areas: (1) Cliff Bassett needs to be at the helm - it is important to have a genuine supporter in charge; (2) First Division football must be achieved within the foreseeable future; (3) a new stadium is desperately needed. The end of receivership ushers in a new era, and those objectives can now be met.

It is ironic that Saturday's performance at Oldham, the last in receivership, was the worst we have seen at any time since the receivers came in, and indeed our worst Saturday performance since a 3-0 defeat at Chesterfield last season. That was the last time we let ourselves down badly, home or away.

Our record in receivership is interesting. It reads played 22, won 10, drawn 4 lost 8. And 34 points from 22 games is very close to the average that would clinch a play-off place. It illustrates the point I have made here before, about the way the players and everyone else rose to the challenge when beset by difficulties. And bear in mind that those figures were achieved despite losing important players like Steve Davis, Graham

Alexander and Sean Evers, followed by the summer departures of Kelvin Davis and Chris Willmott.

It is ironic today that we welcome Gillingham for our first game since coming out of receivership - they were our first Saturday visitors after the receivers moved in, and we were somewhat fortunate that day to get a 1-0 win. It was only a temporary set-back for Gillingham as they marched on to the play-offs and came within minutes of a Wembley victory which would have taken them to Division One.

After a slow start to this season they are now bang in form, and still have virtually all the players who took them to Wembley, so we know we face a tough test this afternoon. Mind you, I was not too downhearted to hear that Carl Asaba is on the injured list!

Our home form so far has been good, and it needs to be again today. For sure, we do not want to go down to our third consecutive defeat, and we don't expect to. Some would say we were unlucky to lose in the last minute at Oldham, but I am afraid it was a case of being punished for basic mistakes after failing to turn good first-half form into goals.

At Wigan we played well, and on that occasion we could come home truthfully feeling we had been a touch unlucky to get nothing from the game.

This week we have all been given a boost by the news that the club has new owners, and we are ready to kick on again. Many managers have said to me recently that it is difficult to win away games with very young teams. Perhaps that is so, but we must improve in that area, and at the same time ensure we maintain our unbeaten home record. Six points are at stake at Kenilworth Road today and on Tuesday night, and if we can pocket them, we will be well set to get the away form right again for next Saturday's game at Oxford.

I am sure you will, as always, keep up your support. It has been appreciated through the last difficult months, and today we all have reason to be optimistic about the future of Luton Town, on the field as well as off it. Enjoy the game.

Lennie Lawrence

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GOLDEN GAMBLE

WE HAVE always claimed our Golden Gamble is a pretty good flutter, and it certainly was for Rachel Burns when she came to the game against Oxford and went home richer by £436. That was the jackpot she won when Paul McLaren picked out her lucky number from the drum at half-time, under the scrutiny of Happy Harry.



Rachel, from Tamerton Close, Luton, bought one of the 872 tickets sold at the game at a pound each. The income is split 50-50 between Luton Town FC and the cash prize.

The draw is made at half-time, and the prize is paid out instantly, in ready cash. So far this season the Golden Gamble has paid out £2,578 to eight winners. To have a chance of being today's winner have a quid-a-go flutter with us. At the same time you will be helping the club, and your support is appreciated.

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Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson



LIKE everyone else with any feeling for Luton Town, the players were all well pleased with this week's biggest "result", the news that we were at long last out of receivership and we are glad to see Cliff Bassett take over because we know he is a real supporter, not just a businessman who wants to be involved in football. Most of us have known him for a long time, and because of the way he handled things receivership was not that big a problem for the players already on the staff. When it all happened Mr Bassett called a meeting of everyone at the club, and told us the score. We have all read about other clubs in financial trouble where players' wages have not been paid, but we knew from day one that was not going to happen here.

We knew where we stood, were told what was happening, and were kept informed all along. We very quickly realised that Mr Bassett was a man we could trust, and we are delighted at the way things have turned out.

We were not so pleased with life coming home from Oldham on Saturday. It was good to hear another good following from Luton, but we know we did not give those supporters the sort of second-half performance they deserved. I am sure they wonder what on earth happened for the game to change so dramatically. We outplayed Oldham for the first 45 minutes, and could easily have had two or three goals. Matty Taylor hit the post twice, and there were other chances.

During the interval we could hear Andy Ritchie sounding off to his team. By the end of 90 minutes it was the other manager having a bit of a go at his players, and we can hardly complain about that. It is difficult to analyse why we fell away so badly, but it was probably a combination of factors.

Oldham were bottom of the table, desperate to get a home win, and must have thought they were the luckiest team in the world not to be trailing by several goals at the interval.

There was no way I expected our performance to dip so badly, but it did, and the worrying things is that it was the second time. The difference at home to Oxford was that we had knocked in three goals, so Oxford had too much to do in the second half to save the game.

At Boundary Park we had failed to score while we were on top, and in the end we got punished for it.

Also, after the rollicking from their manager, Oldham were a different team after the break, certainly a lot better than their league table place suggested.

There was a question-mark over their first goal. We are still not sure if offside should have been given, and certainly the assistant referee was not in the right place to make a good judgement. It does not matter - the goal stood, and gave Oldham a lift. There is no point in grumbling about possible offside - some decisions you get, some you don't, and even though referees and assistants make mistakes sometimes, I haven't yet met the player who has never made one!

Much more worrying was the winning goal. Stuart Fraser was too headstrong with a tackle, and now knows it. He has to learn from that, and will. In our dressing room we don't believe in excusing mistakes just because players are young. If you are good enough for the first team, you have to be a good professional, whatever your age. And although we conceded a free kick in a dodgy area, we should still have been able to cope with it.

I was pleased for Neil Midgley to see him score his first league goal. He has settled in well, although he is rather quiet in the dressing room by our standards. I like his confidence and self-belief, and his goal will have done no harm on that score. He has a good touch, and looks the part. I hope he enjoys his time with us.

A goal or two this afternoon would be more than welcome, whoever scores it - as a team we take the blame collectively for performances, good or bad - you can be sure there is a determination amongst the players to do well against Gillingham. They were within minutes of promotion last season, but they seem to have got that disappointment out of their system, and are on a good run. We are in danger of being in a very bad run if we don't do the business today.

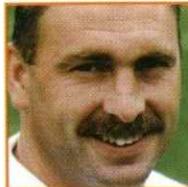
Hopefully we will be a lot better than we were a week ago - in both halves of the game! I can promise that we will certainly be trying, because we know that we have a good chance of getting back to the play-off places if we take full advantage of two consecutive home games on the trot. We didn't enjoy ourselves last week. Today, I hope all of us have good reason to celebrate a good result on the pitch to follow the one in the boardroom.

Marvin Johnson

For the latest ticket and travel information call the Luton Ticket Office on
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Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear



THE RESULT at Oldham on Saturday was a disappointment, but the moment that concerned me most was when Phil Gray limped off the field in his first league game back after injury. He had undergone a thorough "fitness test" by playing for 45 minutes for the reserves in midweek, and with no adverse reaction to that he was fit and raring to go at Boundary Park.

My first worry was that he might have pulled or strained the hamstring muscle again, even though I did not expect that to happen. Thankfully, we did not have to worry on that score, but the problem is still connected with the hamstring muscle. There is some damage to the nerve running through it. The muscle itself is OK, with a good range of movement and strength.

It is very hard to judge the extent of the problem. Gray was able to work hard in training this week, and had no problem. But just walking led to him catching the nerve, and it feels like a strain even though it is not.

The injury is fairly unusual, but I remember Graham Alexander and Scott Oakes both suffering something similar, and it took weeks to be sure they were fit again.

In Gray's case, it does not seem to be a massive problem, but as always we adopt a safety first approach, and at the time of writing these notes I was not too optimistic that he would be able to play in this afternoon's game. It was a case of wait and see, as it will be when we consider his fitness for Tuesday's match against Wycombe.

Thankfully, Gary Doherty and Liam George returned from their trip to Macedonia with the Irish under-21s in very good shape - makes a nice change!

Clive Goodyear

Andrew Fotiadis is on the mend after his knee injury. The supporting brace has been taken off and he is now jogging. But it will take time to build up to full fitness, and after a ligament injury like his it is a job that cannot be rushed.

Certainly his knee is now getting stronger, and we are working on building up his muscle strength. But at this stage he needs patience and more work to regain full fitness, and it will probably take up to another month before he is in full training.

Recovery time for Gavin McGowan may be a little less than that. A week at Lilleshall did him good, with new surroundings proving the old adage about a change being as good as a rest.

Having been injured since pre-season, he is keen to be fully involved again, and is working hard. He is progressing nicely, and perhaps in another two or three weeks he will be able to consider full training.

Landry Zahana-Oni resumed jogging this week, and it looks as though his cartilage operation has been successful, and I expect he and McGowan will be able to resume work with the first team squad training sessions at about the same time.

Finally, there was good news for reserve goalkeeper Daniel Tate, who had to leave the field with a shoulder injury during a game against Oxford. It was the same shoulder which caused him problems last season, when it needed surgery to clear up the injury. So it was a delight for us to discover this week that although the latest injury caused him plenty of pain at the time, it has turned out to be just heavy bruising, and I would hope he will be able to play again within a month.

Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery



I AM SURE that supporters will agree with me that the best news of this week was the announcement that Luton Town are now out of receivership.

It was a tremendous relief to the people working here, and I want to put on record my thanks to all the office staff for the way they have responded to the difficulties of recent months. I know the full extent of efforts made beyond the normal calls of duty, and the club is lucky to have employees who are also real supporters.

We did our very best to make it "business as usual" even though the circumstances were most certainly not usual, and we are glad that we have now pulled through, and are ready to look towards a brighter future for Luton Town.

Sadly, the news came too late for another real supporter, Mrs Barbara Tripp, who has just passed away. You might not know the name, but many supporters will have seen her at matches, always with a smile and a greeting for everyone, always willing to help, and often hiding her own personal sadness.

She was a regular supporter for 20 years or more, firstly with her husband, Stamford Tripp, who was a newsagent in Dunstable Road, not far from the ground.

Towards the end of his life he was confined to a wheelchair, but that did not stop him coming to support Luton Town - Barbara brought him in a wheelchair, and was often to be seen at the top of Kenilworth Road helping him and other disabled supporters using the dial-a-ride scheme.

She continued to help the disabled at Kenilworth Road after her husband died, and lots of people, like me, will remember her for her kindness. She helped

THERE may be a safety exercise in the ground at the end of today's match, and we ask all supporters for their patience and understanding if it causes some slight inconvenience. We will do what we can to keep it to a minimum, but the exercise is for the good of all of us. It is necessary under health and safety legislation, and the idea is to test our ability to clear the ground quickly and safely if some exits are out of action for any reason. So it is possible this afternoon that some supporters will be asked to use an exit different from the one they would like to use. If so, our apologies, but it is being done for very good reasons.

out when the Junior Hatters needed a hand, and news of her death was very sad for me and a lot of others who remembered a lovely lady. We will miss her.

I am sure she would have been supporting another good cause today, and if supporters are able to stay behind after the game to support a charity effort, there will be about 100 runners who will be grateful. They will be circling the pitch non-stop for an hour, starting at 5 pm, to raise money for MenCap. Each has paid an entrance fee and obtained sponsorship. They are supporting the Bedfordshire branch of MenCap, and supporters who stay behind to watch may like to know that we will be keeping the main stand refreshment bar open after the game. We have a different sort of entertainment at half-time this afternoon, when our good friends from WHOSH, who run an unofficial but entertaining Luton Town web site, taken on their opposite numbers from Gillingham in a penalty shoot-out competition. WHOSH stands for World Wide Hatters on the Super Highway, and their web site enables news from the club, and views of supporters, to be read all over the world.

Now that we are out of receivership, the club is going to run an official web site. It will take some time to set up, and we are determined to get it exactly right before we go on line, and we will give you more information about it as soon as it becomes available.

A more "old fashioned" but enjoyable way of keeping close to Luton Town is through the official supporters club, and you might be interested in the next meeting, a Fans Forum at which personalities from Kenilworth Road will put themselves up for fans to ask questions about various aspects.

It will be on Thursday November 11, in the Eric Morecambe Lounge, and the panel will include catering manager Fiona Wallace, commercial executive John Bailey, safety officer Geoff Lovell, and Marvin Johnson representing the playing side. It should be an interesting evening. It will start at 7.30 and admission will be £2 for Luton Town Supporters Club members, and £3 for others.

Finally today, don't forget that the draw for the FA Cup first round, in which we play a fortnight today, is being made live on Sky TV at 5.30. Two weeks is scarcely enough time to make all the necessary arrangements, and because of printing schedules we will not be able to publish details in Tuesday's programme. However, I hope that by then everything will be in place for the cup-tie, and there will be announcements about it on the PA system.

Cherry Newbery

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Tickets



Nationwide League
Division Two

**Luton Town v
Wycombe Wanderers**

**Tuesday October 19,
kick-off 7.45pm**

Tickets are on sale at normal league prices. Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.

Nationwide League Division Two

**Oxford United v
Luton Town**

**Saturday October 23,
kick-off 3pm**

Pay on the day only
Terracing £12 adults, £7 concessions (under-16s and over-65s)
Seating £15 adults, £10 concessions

FA Cup, First Round

The draw to decide our first match in this season's FA Cup will be made early this evening. The game will be played two weeks today, October 30. If details of ticket arrangements are known by then, announcements will be made over the public address system on Tuesday evening, when we are at home to Wycombe Wanderers.

Nationwide League
Division Two

Millwall v Luton Town

**Tuesday November 2,
kick-off 7.45pm**

Pay on the turnstiles only at the New Den, seating only in the North Stand upper tier. Adults £13, senior citizens £7, juniors £6.

Nationwide League
Division Two

Luton Town v Burnley

**Saturday November 6,
kick-off 3pm**

Tickets are on sale at discounted prices until October 23, and after that at normal league prices. But please see Tuesday's matchday magazine for a special offer through which season ticket holders can bring new supporters in for just £5. Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.

**SPECIAL OFFER TO SEASON
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Bring a new supporter for just £5. Subject to availability this offer is for all areas of the ground but tickets must be purchased before the close of business on Thursday November 4.

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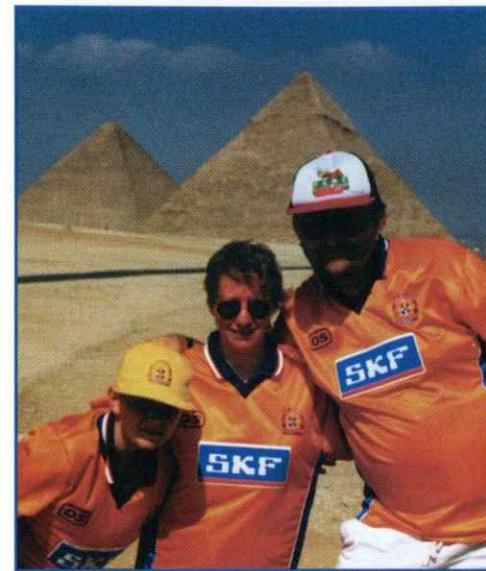
carrying the colours

THERE is obviously something about the mysterious pyramids that draws Town supporters to them. No sooner had we published a couple of pictures from Egypt in our last home programme, of Mick Murphy and his daughter, than a second photo dropped through the letter box, with a similar subject.

The three new Town strips pictured today are being sported in front of the pyramids at Giza by Russell and Jayne Bulkeley and their ten-year-old son Peter. They live at Walsall, but manage to attend most Town games, home and away. Mr Bulkeley admits to being a Londoner who started supporting the Town in 1968 just because they were all-conquering - running away with the Fourth Division championship. As a six-year-old, he says, he was just like the kids of today who follow Manchester United. But he at least went to see his favourites in action as soon as he was old enough.

He has stayed loyal to Luton ever since, although he moved to the West Midlands because that was where his wife came from. "She used to be an Aston Villa supporter, but I converted her, and she's a Town fanatic as well now," he said.

Son Peter always brings his lucky mascot to Town games - but ditches it, and chooses another, when we lose!



THE SIGN of the boater was a lucky omen for the Skinner family from Sandy when they went on holiday to France.

Howard Skinner explained: "The photo shows my ten-year-old son, Thomas, outside a restaurant we visited at Treguier, in Brittany. We thought it was a very appropriate place to eat, not only because the food was good, but also because it was called Le Canotier, which means straw hat, and reminded us of Luton."

The smart Town shirt modelled by Thomas is more often to be seen in the Kenilworth Road end, from where the family watch their favourite Hatters.



WE ARE always happy to publish interesting snaps of Town fans on their travels, no matter which kit supporters are showing off. If you would like to see your picture in the matchday magazine please send it, with a few details, to the matchday magazine editor at Luton Town FC. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back.

We are also interested in hearing about our very young fans sporting the Town's colours, and hope to have one or two of them in Tuesday evening's programme.

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..... **Hire Costs start from just £65**

We can also offer you a wide selection of catering to meet your requirements ranging from light buffets to four course silver-served meals.

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT)

Call the Commercial Department now to book your next function
01582 411622

Commercial

John Bailey



WE ARE delighted today to welcome a local company as our match sponsors, MacDonald Humfrey (Automation) Ltd, of Progress Way, Luton.

The company was formed in Luton from humble beginnings in 1988, and has since established itself to become one of the largest systems integrators in the country. Its headquarters is in Luton, but it also has a northern regional office in Chester.

The main business sectors for the company incorporate automotive, airports, process, warehousing and general industrial and commercial industries. Its blue chip clients include Vauxhall Motors, London Luton Airport, IBC Vehicles, the BMW group, Toyota, Jaguar Cars, Honda, Nissan, Tate & Lyle, Proctor & Gamble and Manchester Airport, to name but a few.

MacDonald Humfrey (Automation) are proud of their long association with the town of Luton, and look forward to the restoration of Luton Town FC into the top flight.

WE ALSO welcome, with their guests, Thomas Bros (Luton) Ltd, who are taking advantage of the facilities of the Millennium Suite. It used to be Club 82, and offers various packages which add a touch of luxury to watching football.

It is a new venture for Thomas Bros to support Luton Town in the Millennium Suite, but their green tipper lorries with the red strike have been a familiar sight around the Town for over 50 years.

Their guests include teams from local builders T. & E. Neville Ltd, and Jarvis Contracting Ltd., and a line-up from London-based Orbell Associations, quantity surveyors, and John Allen Structural Engineers, who have been pleased to be involved in local building projects recently.

TODAY'S matchball sponsor Sport First is the UK's fastest growing newspaper. The Sunday paper has been so successful that Sport First has launched a Saturday edition - Sport First on Saturday. Both papers are 48 pages, 35 of them dedicated to football with all the latest news on all clubs, previews, reports on all games and the famous Stat Attack section. Sport First, available every Saturday and Sunday for only 60p. Pick up your free copy after the game on the way out - a bit of a result really.

FINALLY, we would like to thank Morestaff, who have increased their advertising, and have become our latest Kenilworth Suite member. Morestaff are recruitment specialists based in Dunstable, with a proven track record supplying contract drivers as well as industrial and commercial staff for both the temporary and permanent markets.

John Bailey

Get on the Ball with Luton Town



Have you thought about being a match ball sponsor at a Hatters game?

It's a good deal, including four seats in the directors box, reserved parking, a four-course meal and various other delights, including a complimentary bar.

You will have the chance to meet the players, and go home with a match ball signed by them.

Interested?

Call the commercial department on Luton 411622 for more information.



Call the Commercial Department now to book your next function
01582 411622

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

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JOHN MOORE	Ian Smith

The sponsorship package includes:

- Publicity within the matchday programme for every league and club fixture for season 1999/2000.
- Invitation to a VIP day to one match during the season 1999/2000 along with other sponsors.*
- Presentation evening at the end of the season, to include wine reception, 3-course dinner, entertainment and the presentation by your sponsored player of his match shirt.*

For both the VIP day and presentation evening, this package includes yourself only, but additional tickets will be available at an extra cost of £45.00 (inc. VAT) for any guests you may wish to bring along. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

The Total Cost of the package is £400 (inc. VAT) per sponsorship for season 1999/2000.

Gills' Goals For & Against

GOALS SCORED	GOALS CONCEDED
0-15	0-15
15-30	15-30
30-45	30-45
45-60	45-60
60-75	60-75
75-90	75-90

Hatters v Gills

Gills' Criminals

Southall	Hessenthaler	McGlinchey	Omoyemi	Pennock	Saunders	Thomson
----------	--------------	------------	---------	---------	----------	---------

n.b League Details Only

Hatters' Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded

GOALS SCORED	GOALS CONCEDED
2	4
4	6
6	4
8	2

Gills' Roll Call

1	Vince Bartram
5	Barry Ashby
2	Mark Patterson
6	Guy Butters
3	Roland Edge
4	Paul Smith
7	Nicky Southall
8	Andy Hessenthaler
17	Adrian Pennock
24	Junior Lewis
15	Mark Saunders
12	Nayron Nosworthy
11	Bob Taylor
27	Andy Thomson
38	Emmanuel Omoyemi
16	John Hodge

Luton Town's Goals For & Against

GOALS SCORED	GOALS CONCEDED
1	1
1	3
6	3
3	1

MATCH

Matchmen of the Month

As last month, the award for September is tied...Burnley defender Mitchell Thomas and Cardiff midfielder Andy Legg are this month's star performers.

Team	Player	GP	SR	Ave
Blackpool	John Hills	4	1	7.25
Bournemouth	Claus Jorgensen	3	1	7.33
Brentford	Gavin Mahon	4	2	7.50
Bristol City	Gregg Goodridge	4	2	7.75
Bristol Rovers	Jason Roberts	4	3	7.75
Bury	Mitchell Thomas	4	3	8.00
Cambridge	Swales / Kenny	4	1	7.00
Cardiff	Arian Van Heusden	4	1	7.25
Chesterfield	Andy Legg	4	3	8.00
Colchester	Steve Blatherwick	4	1	7.25
Gillingham	Richard Wilkins	3	1	7.66
Leeds	Junior Lewis	4	2	7.75
Millwall	Ham George	4	2	7.75
Notts County	Tony Warner	3	1	7.66
Oldham	Derby / Richardson	4	1	7.00
Oxford	John Sheridan	4	2	7.25
Preston	Peter Fear	3	2	7.66
Reading	Mark Rankine	5	3	7.40
Scunthorpe	Darren Caskey	4	2	7.25
Stoke	Russ Wilcox	3	0	7.33
Wigan	Lightbourne / O'Connor	4	1	7.50
Wrexham	Stuart Barlow	3	0	7.66
Wycombe	Carey / Faulconbridge	4	1	7.25
	Sean Devine	3	0	7.33

Gillingham's Last Ten Years - The Complete Record

Div.	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99
4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
I	I	I	3	2	3	3	3	I	I	I
I	I	I	2	I	I	I	4	I	I	I
L.S.	Lovell	Lovell	Crown	Bir/Fir Antl	Forster	Pike	Fortune-West	Onuora	Akinbiyi	Asaba
Goals	16	19	22	6	18	13	12	21	21	20
Ave Att	3,837	3,507	3,185	3,305	3,139	3,206	7,204	6,033	6,464	6,748

Statistics compiled by FOOTBALL INFORMATION SERVICES Telephone: 0151-632 5679

Gillingham's Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded

GOALS SCORED	GOALS CONCEDED
0-15	0-15
15-30	15-30
30-45	30-45
45-60	45-60
60-75	60-75
75-90	75-90

Gills' Form Guide - Result, Points, Position

L	L	S	S	W	W	L	S	W	W
0	0	1	2	3	6	9	9	10	13
18	21	21	23	22	17	12	15	16	13
21	21	23	22	17	12	15	16	13	11

Form Guide shows results so far.
W = Won, L = Lost, S = Score Draw, D = No Score Draw.

Ground : Prestfield Stadium Capacity : 10,600 Year Formed : 1893 Record Defeat : 2-9 v Nottingham Forest, Division 3 (S), 1954-55 and Brian Yeo, 31, Division 4, 1973-74

Pitch Measurement : 114 x 75 Record League Win : 10-0 v Chesterfield, Division 3, 5 Sept 1987 Most Lge Goals : 90, Division 4, 1973-74

Record Attendance : 23,002 v QPR, FA Cup 3rd round, 10 Jan 1948 Record Cup Win : 10-1 v Gorleston, FA Cup 1st round, 16 Nov 1957 Most Lge Points : 83, Division 3, 1984-85 and Division 3, 1995-96

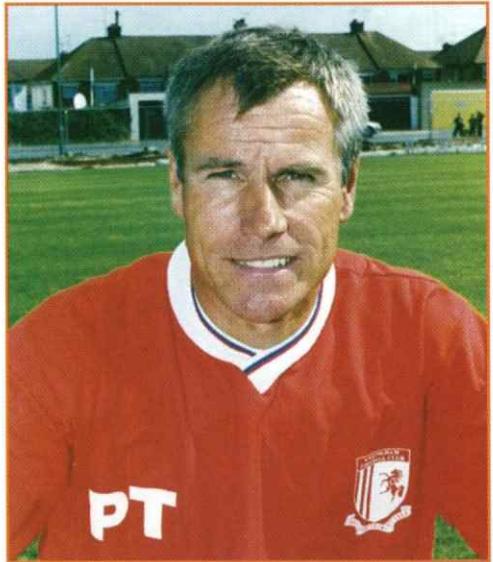
Record Receipts : £80,184 v Sheff Wed, 1997-98 Most Capped Player : Tony Cascino, 3 (78), Republic of Ireland

FA Cup 3rd round, 7 Jan 1995 Record League Win : 10-0 v Chesterfield, Division 3, 5 Sept 1987 Most Lge Appearances : John Simpson, 571, 1957-72

FA Cup 3rd round, 10 Jan 1948 Record Cup Win : 10-1 v Gorleston, FA Cup 1st round, 16 Nov 1957 Top League scorer in a season : Ernie Morgan, 31, Division 3 (S), 1954-55 and Brian Yeo, 31, Division 4, 1973-74

Today's Visitors

welcome to Gillingham



PETER TAYLOR
MANAGER

Appointed team boss in July after his highly successful three-year stint as England Under-21 manager.

His glittering career as a player, which earned him four full England caps, started with Southend (75 apps, 12 goals) then took in Crystal Palace (122/33), Tottenham (155/46) and Leyton Orient (56/11). He also had brief spells with Oldham and Exeter before serving a string of non-league clubs as player, coach and manager, highlighted by four successful seasons as player/boss of Dartford in the Southern League.

Returned to the Football League as assistant manager at Watford, then managed Southend and Dover before becoming England Under-21 chief in 1996.



GILLINGHAM SQUAD
SEASON 1999/2000



the players

BARRY ASHBY

Robust central defender secured from Brentford at the start of 1997-98 for a tribunal set fee of £140,000. Won an FA Youth Cup winners medal during his days as a trainee with Watford and went on to make 127 first-team appearances before transferring to Griffin Park in March 1994.

VINCE BARTRAM

Tall and agile goalkeeper who joined Bournemouth from Wolves in July 1991. He then figured in a £400,000 move to Arsenal three years later but found his opportunities limited at Highbury. Gillingham took over the remainder of his contract in March 1998 and he joined the club on a free transfer during the summer of that year.

STEVE BUTLER

Returned to the club from Peterborough as coach during the summer and was soon pressed into playing again. Gillingham originally paid £100,000 to sign him from Cambridge United in December 1995 which is much more than it would have been had he been taken on after pre-season trials in 1982 and 1983. Instead, he went on to serve Wokingham, Brentford, Maidstone United, Watford and Cambridge United (51 goals in 109 games) before coming back.

GUY BUTTERS

Former England Under-21 central defender who returned to action midway through last season after breaking his left leg in March 1998. Began his career as a Tottenham trainee and progressed to make 35 appearances in the top division. Transferred to Portsmouth (154 apps) for £375,000 in September 1990 and from there to Gillingham for £225,000 six years later.

ROLAND EDGE

Talented young central defender now knocking on the door of first-team opportunity again after missing a fair chunk of last season through injury. A product of the club's youth system, he became a full contract player during the summer of 1997.

ANDY HESSENTHALER

Joined the Gills from Watford for a then club record fee of £235,000 in August 1996 and was voted player of the year in his first season at Priestfield. A highly competitive midfielder, he made his name with Dartford and Dagenham Redbridge before linking up with Watford. Made more than 200 senior appearances in his five years at Vicarage Road.

JOHN HODGE

Tricky winger and a good crosser signed on a free transfer from Walsall, under the Bosman ruling, in July 1998. Progressed from non-league circles to make the grade with Exeter City (65 league apps, 10 goals) and then spent three seasons with Swansea (112/10) before moving on to Walsall in October 1996. Figured in 96 league and cup matches for the Saddlers, scoring 14 goals.

CHRISTIAN LEE

Tall, young striker acquired from Northampton Town during the summer. Previously with Doncaster Rovers, he shot to prominence by netting six goals in his first eight games for the Cobblers during the 1996-97 campaign.

JUNIOR LEWIS

Utility player capable of operating in three or four different positions who netted a stack of goals for Hendon last season. Started his career as a Fulham trainee and got to know Peter Taylor during their time together at

Today's Visitors

the players



ADRIAN PENNOCK

Dover. Attended pre-season trials at Priestfield and became one of Taylors first signings for Gillingham.

BRIAN McGLINCHEY

Young, attacking left back snapped up on a free transfer from Port Vale on the recommendation of former manager John Rudge during the close season. He learned his trade as a trainee with Manchester City.

BARRY MILLER

Right-sided defender and former Brentford apprentice who attracted plenty of interest from Football League clubs while playing for Farnborough Town last season. Negotiated a free transfer via a tribunal and signed for Gillingham after a successful summer trial.

NAYRON NOSWORTHY

Tough-tackling and hard-running midfield player of considerable potential. A product of the club's youth policy, he was offered a full contract midway through last season and has already made a favourable impression in his first-team outings.

MANNY OMOYINMI

Twenty-one year old striker on loan from West Ham. Scored in his first two games for the Gills against Oldham and Oxford. A highly rated player who featured in the same successful West Ham Youth sides as Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard.

ADRIAN PENNOCK

Born in Ipswich but started his career as a trainee with East Anglian rivals Norwich. Became a first-team regular in defence, or midfield, after transferring to Bournemouth and clocked up 136 games before sustaining a bad injury which kept him out for a year. Has made a full recovery since joining the Gills for £25,000 in October 1996.



PAUL SMITH

For all the latest news, views and interviews call

CLUBCALL - 09068 121 123

(Calls charged at 60p per minute at all times)

JAMES PINNOCK

Lively young striker who graduated to full professional status after finishing 1996-97 as top-scorer for the club's youth team. Limited first-team appearances so far, but was easily top marksman for the reserves last season.

MARK SAUNDERS

Goalscoring midfielder snapped up from Plymouth in June 1998. Shot to prominence after starring for Tiverton in the 1993 FA Vase final and became a full professional with Plymouth, netting 11 goals in 72 appearances.

PAUL SMITH

A consistent midfield performer of genuine all-around ability. Formerly with Southend, he went on to make over 150 appearances for Brentford from where he joined the Gills, for a tribunal set fee of £195,000, in July 1997. Has missed only a handful of matches since then and was voted 1997-98 player of the year.

NICKY SOUTHALL

Attacking and hard-shooting midfielder who scored on his league debut for Gillingham after being secured on a free transfer from Grimsby in December 1997. Born in the north-east, he learned his trade with Hartlepool (138 apps, 24 goals) before being sold to Grimsby for £70,000 in 1995.

ROBERT TAYLOR

Centre-forward signed from Brentford in a deal valued at £500,000 on the eve of last season. Took time to settle, but then proved his ability and was voted player of the year. Finished on 21 goals, including all five in Gillingham's 5-0 victory at Burnley. Started out with his home club Norwich as an apprentice, then served Birmingham City, Leyton Orient (84 first team apps, 21 goals) and Brentford (211/73).



JUNIOR LEWIS



ROBERT TAYLOR

Junior Hatters

welcome

WE ALL enjoyed our first trip to the magnificent new JJB stadium at Wigan, even if the result was not quite to our liking. Wigan very kindly allowed us to send our own mascot onto the pitch, and Chris Kelly was the lucky Junior Hatter whose name came out of the draw on the coach going to the game. He is pictured with the home club's mascot and skippers and match officials before the start of the match.

Chris lives at Gooseberry Hill, Luton, and plays football for Memorial Park. He likes swimming as well as watching the Town, and his favourite player is Matthew Spring.

Wigan also very kindly invited Happy Harry to join the trip, and like the rest of us he was given a very warm welcome, except that it rained hard when he was taking part in the penalty shoot-out contest and we were not so sure just how happy was Harry until we got him dried off.

Our 48-seat coach was full for the trip, but we did not have as much time at the new stadium as we had hoped because of a motorway hold-up in Staffordshire, but once we got to Wigan their officials were a credit to football and to the club. The vice-chairman of Wigan was on duty at the car park to make sure we found the right place to park, and to go into the ground. And what a ground! We came home dreaming that one day before too long Luton Town might have something similar!



For reasons beyond our control we will not be running trips to the next two away games in the league, at Oxford and Millwall, but we are waiting for this evening's FA Cup draw to see who we play in a fortnight's time. If we are away, and if it is possible to organise something at short notice, we will do so, and let you know via the public address system on Tuesday evening.

Information will be available through the ticket office, which can also tell you more about joining the Junior Hatters.

Membership entitles young supporters to come to our Saturday Club before home games, with plenty of entertainment, and a sausage and chips lunch, before the game. Fully supervised, it starts at Dallow Road Junior School at noon. The price is £5 for Junior Hatters who have season tickets, or £9 with a match ticket included.

For further information please contact the Luton Town ticket office on Luton 416976.



In the group picture Samuel, our Junior Hatters mascot, who comes from Kempston, is joined by 14-year-old Jeremy Cain, who was the commercial mascot, and comes from Bishops Stortford.



THIRTEEN-year-old Dean Smith is this afternoon's Junior Hatters mascot, which means he will see much more of what goes on during match day than he usually does when he comes to games with his dad and his sister.

He lives at Holroyd Crescent, Baldock and as well as watching football at Kenilworth Road he plays for Baldock Crusaders under-14 team. He also likes playing basketball.

His favourite player is Stuart Douglas, and today he will meet him face to face, and will join the players for the pre-match warm-up and for the toss of the coin.



We also have a ball boy and a ball girl today, Victoria Lines and Stuart Mayles



TOP HATTERS GALLERY

Autograph

Adam Locke

Born: Croydon, 20.8.70

Previous clubs: Crystal Palace, Southend, Colchester, Bristol City

Joined Luton Town: August 1999

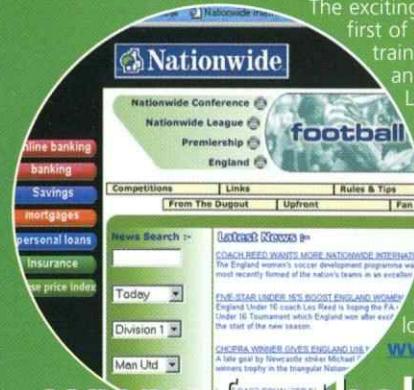
Luton debut: v Bristol Rovers (A), Worthington Cup

Luton Town record: 5 appearances, one goal.



Fans can have their say on footballNOW! - the new-look Nationwide soccer web site with up-to-the-minute news and features on England's European Championship campaign, the Premiership and all the big European competitions as well as the Nationwide Football League and the Nationwide Conference.

football NOW!



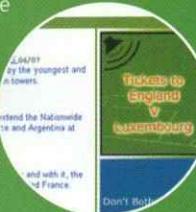
The exciting new format includes prize competitions - the first of which is for a trip for two to see England in training, a signed England shirt, a signed England ball and tickets for the Euro 2000 qualifier against Luxembourg - plus special offers on soccer merchandise and, from the autumn, an interactive Manager game in which fans across the nation will be invited to take part.

For all this plus the latest news on the international fortunes of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, domestic competitions such as the F.A Cup and Northern Ireland's Nationwide Gold Cup - and not forgetting Manchester United's participation in the World Club Championship - log on to footballNow! at

www.football.nationwide.co.uk

www.football.nationwide.co.uk

Central to the re-launch of the football site, will be fanFARE - a fans' forum aimed at giving supporters the chance to air their opinions, tell their silly soccer stories and ask key questions to the top names in the game.



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

Mitre >

The authority...

The Quality of the Football

Hatters Away

travel information

Oxford United v Luton Town

Saturday 23rd October, kick-off 3.00pm

AFTER Tuesday's home game with Wycombe, we are away to Oxford United on Saturday, one of the easiest trips of the season.

As usual the two regular coach services will be running, and if you pre-book you can leave your car at Maple Road, with security guards in attendance until the coaches get back. The cost is £3 per vehicle, but you must book in advance, through the club shop.

Town on Tour offers its best deals to Luton Town Supporters Club members, and their coaches will leave Maple Road at 12.30. The fare is £7.50 for adult members of LTSC, £6 for concessions, and £8.50 for all others. You can book at the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road after today's game, or through the club shop at other times. The Bobbers Travel Club, a members-only service, will have a coach leaving at Cranfield at 11 am, with various pick-up points on the way to Luton, and departure time from Kenilworth Road is 12 noon. You can also board near the Travel

Lodge Hotel, at the junction of Dunstable Road and the M1 motorway. The fare is £6.50 adults, and £5.50 for junior and senior citizens and tickets can be bought at the Bobbers Travel Club kiosk in Kenilworth Road after today's game.

DIY Travellers

YOU can drive to Oxford in just over an hour, despite the cross-country route being the shortest. Some like the M1, M25 and M40, but our man prefers the scenic trip, which passes more interesting buildings. Leave Luton on the A505, through Dunstable, and follow the signs to Aylesbury. There pick up the A418 and go beyond Thame to join the A40, which is signposted to Oxford. On the outskirts of Oxford you come to the Headington roundabout, with the ring road running left and right. Go straight ahead at the roundabout, and you are in London Road, and in just under a mile you will see the ground on your right. **Mileage from Luton: 47.**

Hatters Roll-Call Season 1999/2000

	APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets)			GOALS		
	League	WC	Total	League	WC	Total
Nathan Abbey	11	2	13	0	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	0(1)	2	2(1)	0	0	0
Gary Doherty	9	0(2)	9(2)	0	1	1
Stuart Douglas	7(3)	2	9(3)	0	0	0
Andrew Fotiadis	6	0(2)	6(2)	2	0	2
Stuart Fraser	11	1	13	1	0	1
Phil Gray	6	2	8	1	0	1
Liam George	9	0(1)	9(1)	6	0	6
Marvin Johnson	11	0	11	0	0	0
Tresor Kandol	1(2)	1	2(2)	0	1	1
Adam Locke	4	1	5	1	0	1
Michael McIndoe	1(7)	2	3(7)	0	0	0
Ray McKinnon	0(3)	1	1(3)	0	0	0
Paul McLaren	9	1	10	0	0	0
Neil Midgley	1(2)	0	1(2)	1	0	1
Efetobore Sodje	1(2)	1	2(2)	0	0	0
Matthew Spring	11	1	12	2	0	2
Matthew Taylor	11	1	12	1	0	1
Julian Watts	11	2	13	0	0	0
Alan White	1	2	3	0	0	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	0	0

Blast from the Past

Roger Wash

Luton Town v Gillingham



The summer of 1968 was an especially good time to be a Luton Town supporter. Just promoted as runaway Division Four champions, with a seemingly bottomless pit of money to spend and a marvellous blend of youth and experience in the side there was only one way forward-up!

Big money, by previous Luton standards, was paid out to attract Mike Harrison from Plymouth, Laurie Sheffield from Oldham, Brian Lewis from Coventry and George Potter from Forfar. On top of this a large sum was spent on ground improvements and when it was all totted up cheques to the value of £90,000 had been signed.

The money seemed well spent when the previous season's Division Three champions, Oxford, were seen off 3-0 at Kenilworth Road in a friendly to be followed up by a 2-2 draw at Norwich. Friendlies were one thing though, and we all looked forward to the opening league game of the campaign, at home to Oldham.

On a brilliantly sunny day, the Latics were no match for a rampant Town and when the final whistle sounded on a 4-0 victory the players trooped off to a standing ovation. A 3-0 thumping of local rivals Watford then followed in the League Cup and, although the Hatters had to battle for a point in a 0-0 draw at Barrow in the next game, the football world was beginning to sit up and take notice of a Luton side that had slipped from the top flight to the basement in five short years but was now surely on the way back.

Tommy Docherty's fancied Rotherham were then seen off 3-1 at Kenilworth Road with golden boy Bruce Rioch setting up the victory with two long range left foot rockets in the first fifteen minutes. Even more spectacular was

the 80 yard run by Rioch to open the scoring in the 5-1 home thrashing of Barnsley on the following Wednesday evening with the Town consolidating their top spot in the division with another display of scintillating football.

Over 1,000 Luton supporters made the trip to Gillingham for the next game to see whether the Town could maintain their unbeaten start to the campaign. Full-back Fred Jardine and winger Mike Harrison had both pulled muscles during the hammering of Barnsley and failed to pass fitness tests, leaving the way clear for a rare appearance at the back for Bill McDerment. An even rarer outing was given to winger John Ryan, who had not appeared in the first team since the previous March after he failed to live up to his early form following his transfer from non-League Wigan in October 1967.

Gillingham had not started the season well and had only one win to their credit by the time they came up against the Hatters but were heartened by the return after injury of Mel Machin (now boss at Bournemouth).

The Gills Brian Yeo went close in the opening seconds before the Town had time to settle but once they had found their feet the game stepped up a gear and it was no surprise when Brian Lewis shot the Hatters into the lead after only five minutes. Receiving an accurate Rioch pass in his stride Lewis smacked the ball into the roof of the net with great power leaving goalkeeper Derek Bellotti clutching thin air.

Tony Read in the Luton goal did not have a serious shot to save during the first thirty minutes but then had to dive smartly to stop a fierce drive from Derek Woodley. Soon after, the Gills went even closer when ex-Hatter Gordon Riddick glanced a header wide of the post when it looked easier to score.

Stung by this close escape the Town upped the pace again and went further ahead when Sheffield netted his first goal for the club. Taking advantage of hesitation in the Gillingham



Two goal hero, Brian Lewis.

defence

he was first to a soft centre from Town full-back, Max Dougan, to loft the ball over Bellotti's head.

Unfortunately the two goal cushion did not last long as within two minutes the Gills had pulled a goal back when Bill Williams stabbed home from close range after Read inexplicably failed to hold a high cross.

Having gained some confidence to their storming finish to the first half the Gills started the second period on the attack and it was not long before they won a penalty when defender Terry Simpson was upended in the box by Alan Slough. The Luton players appealed in vain for an offside decision immediately before the penalty, but Read put an end to all the arguments when he made a brilliant diving save to Machin's spot kick pushing the ball around the post. "I usually hit penalties hard but this time I tried to place it", said the distraught defender afterwards.

With Gillingham laying siege on the Luton goal in search of the equaliser the Town were dealt a blow when skipper Terry Branston aggravated an injury sustained in the first half following a foul by Riddick and had to leave the field to be replaced by John Moore.

Just as the Town defence seemed likely to crack up stepped Lewis to make the game safe. A mistake in midfield by Simpson allowed Moore to send a clever ball through to Lewis who scampered around two players in a 45 yard run before changing feet and hammering in a low shot.

The Town were happy to soak up the pressure after this as the

forwards became increasingly frustrated and resorted to throwing in high balls which were gobbled up by Moore and Slough. Their frustration came to the boil in the final minute when John Meredith ran 15 yards to shoulder charge Lewis who was standing on the ball by the corner flag to waste time. The Gills defender then kicked the ball at Lewis who went down as if shot. The referee surveyed the scene and blew the final whistle before beating a hasty retreat!

Luton: Read, Dougan, McDerment, Allen, Branston (Moore), Slough, Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, French.

Gillingham: Bellotti, Simpson, Green, Machin, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith.

Community & Schools Programme

ntl: Schools Visit Project reaches 7,000 kids



Yes that is the amazing total we have reached so far this year - 7,000 youngsters from around Beds & Herts.

As many schools have now experienced, our NTL Schools Visit Project jointly funded by NTL and Sportsmatch, aims to provide curriculum time PE and football coaching in schools to youngsters of all abilities. With future visits planned for lots of schools in and around Luton and Dunstable as well as the rest of Beds & Herts we have set ourselves a target of 10,000 children for 1999 - not a bad way to enter the millenium!

If you would like to help us reach our target or would like further information about the project, it could be easier - just give us a ring at the Club on 01582 411622 and we will do our best to arrange a visit or answer any questions you may have.



Under 9's Six-a-Side Football Tournament



Pictured are Dunstable Tigers and Bushmead Rovers who won through to play the final of our Under 10's football tournament on the pitch prior to our home game with Oxford.

Teams from all over Luton and Dunstable entered the tournament held at Barnfield College and on the day it produced a closely fought final which Dunstable Tigers won 2-0.

Marsh Farm Football Tournament

Over the last twelve weeks our Community and Schools coaches have spent their Friday evenings coaching over 100 youngsters from the Marsh Farm Estate on Lea Manor Sports Centre's astro turf pitch.

The coaching course finished with a finals tournament and winners and runners up together with individual awards are pictured being presented with their trophies on the pitch during the half time break at our last home game with Oxford.

We were pleased to invite all of the youngsters to the game along with the Marsh Farm Sports and Social Group who organised the SRB funding for the project together with Luton Borough Council. Pictured presenting the trophies

are Council Leader Bill McKenzie, Tony Banerji, Vice Chair, Leisure and Cultural Services, Dave Magill, Chair, Youth and Community Development Committee and Sid Knight, Chair, Economic Development.

As a Club we were delighted to work so successfully with a local community group in partnership with Luton Borough Council and we hope to continue our relationship with the youngsters from the estate through local schools who will be receiving visits through our NTL sponsored project. Any other local groups or schools who feel we can help or who would like us to visit are invited to contact our Community & Schools Department at the Club - we will always try to help.



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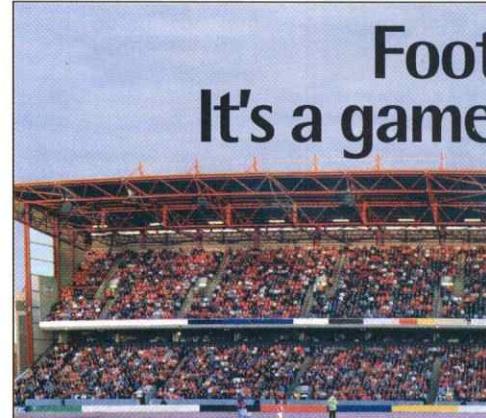
AN INCREASE in unacceptable behaviour in the stadium, particularly obscene chanting, has been apparent in recent matches.

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Hatters On Card

Alan Robinson

IT IS always sad when a footballer is forced to retire owing to injury, especially when the player concerned has been a long-serving and loyal clubman.

Earlier this season Julian James had to accept that his playing career was over, despite a brave bid to overcome a badly-broken leg sustained in the Town's defeat at Bristol Rovers in April 1998.

Ten years ago James was part of the Town's First Division squad which featured prominently on various trading card issues of that era.

One such set came from Panini. They were well known for their football stickers, but for the 1991/92 season opted for larger-sized cards instead. The series ran to over 400 subjects, including around a dozen Hatters, with James pictured on card No. 112.

The reverse of the card informs us that Julian was born in Tring on July 23, 1970, and was a product of Luton's youth policy. He joined us as a 16-year-old apprentice in 1986.

James made his first team debut via the subs' bench in a 1-1 draw at Southampton at the end of a hectic 1987/88 season, and a full debut in the Littlewoods Cup at Leeds in the following November when he performed brilliantly in a 2-0 victory before being sent off in the closing minutes for an alleged professional foul. Even the home supporters and officials thought it was a poor decision by referee Neil Midgley.

It was not until January 1990 that James established himself in the side, enjoying an unbroken run in the number five shirt until the end of that season. That led to his inclusion in the England under-21 squad for the mini World Cup that summer.

Although he could do a good job as a central defender, and even had the odd outing in midfield, it was at full-back where James made the majority of his 281 league appearances for Luton.

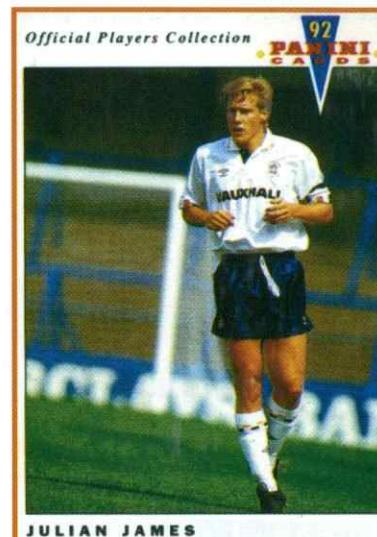
He popped up with the odd goal as well - one gave us all hope in a vital last-day fixture at Notts County which we had to win to stay up. However, his 18th-minute effort was not enough. A 2-1 defeat meant we had gone through the whole season without an away win, and we missed out on the first season of the Premier League.

Another memorable goal from "Jules" came against West Bromwich Albion in a 3-2 victory in May 1994, which ensured a happier outcome in our bid for Second Division survival. Earlier that season James had been an ever-present in an FA Cup run which culminated in a Wembley appearance against Chelsea in the semi-final.

During the 1996/97 season that so nearly ended in promotion, James was particularly consistent, missing only two league matches, through suspension.

Although quiet and unassuming off the pitch, James was always a totally-committed player on it, and his energy, bravery and determination will be sadly missed at Kenilworth Road. We all wish him the very best for the future after what has obviously been a very difficult time for him.

Like most of the trading cards from that era, these examples from Panini were produced by the million, so the likes of James, Ceri Hughes, Kingsley Black, Graham Rodger, Mark Pembridge, John Dreyer and so on are still easily obtainable from card fairs and dealers for a few pence each.



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Action Replay

Luton Town 4 Oxford United 2 (HT 3-0)

Brian Swain reports

THE BIGGEST League attendance of the season enjoyed another goal-feast as the Town responded once more to the manager's plea to make Kenilworth Road a fortress this season to provide the platform for a genuine promotion challenge.

Oxford were all but swept away in the first half, when top quality passing and attacking made the team that beat Everton three days previously look a shambles.

With Adam Locke, on his home league debut, distributing the ball from midfield with astonishing accuracy, we were three up at the interval, and wondering if the final tally might be double that.

But Oxford, having been anonymous until then, were galvanised by Malcolm Shotton's angry half-time volley, and for 20 minutes the visitors produced the sort of form that had been too good for Premiership Everton. They pulled back the deficit to just one goal before the Town steadied, and then killed them off with a late clincher by Locke.

Liam George, full of confident trickery and enthusiasm, deserved his two goals, and Stuart Fraser enjoyed a moment to remember when he used his head, in all senses of the expression, to score the first league goal of his career.

Neil Midgley, on his league debut after joining on loan from Ipswich, took time to settle, but there was not a weak link in the Town side, and despite Oxford's 20-minute burst at the start of the second half, both managers agreed that on the day the result was right.

Shotton grumbled that his team turned up expecting the divine right to victory after their performance at Goodison. We could have told him it's rarely like that - and how nice for us that this time the curse of the cup worked in our favour, having wrecked us so often last season.

"Oxford didn't start until we were three up," said Lennie Lawrence.

Shortage of space in today's programme means that the report and pictures from the Oldham game have had to be held over until Tuesday.

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Fraser, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George, Locke, Douglas, Spring, Midgley (McIndoe 66 mins), Taylor. Unused subs: Sodje, Kandol, Scarlett, Tate.

Booked: Julian Watts, 19 mins, miss-timed tackle on Matt Murphy.

Oxford: Arendse, Robinson, Powell, Fear, Beauchamp, Davis, Lewis (Cook 60 mins), Murphy, Tait (Lilley 28 mins), Anthrobus, Folland (Watson 60 mins). Unused subs McGowan, Lundin.

Booked: Micky Lewis, 32 mins, foul on Liam George.

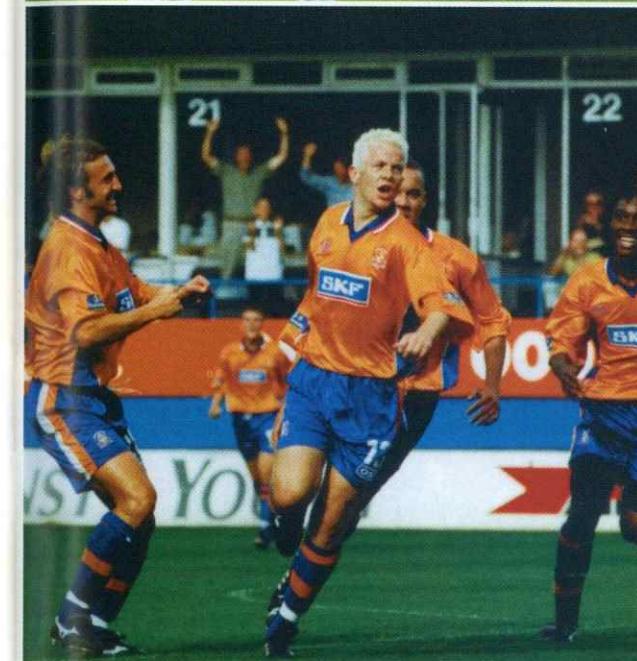
The goals: 1-0 12 mins - Liam George, precise left foot drive into the bottom corner after taking a short pass from Stuart Fraser on the edge of the box, and skipping past an attempted tackle by Steve Davis; 2-0 21 mins - Stuart Fraser's first league goal, carefully sending a looping header over the keeper and two defenders after the ball bounced clear when Andre Arendse failed with a rash attempt to win the ball on the edge of the box, under pressure from Stuart Douglas, from Marvin Johnson's lob; 3-0 45 mins - Liam George again, rolling the ball into an empty net, with Oxford complaining that Matthew Spring was offside when he accelerated down the middle to collect Stuart Douglas's headed pass before drawing the keeper and presenting the open goal to George; 3-1 59 mins - Paul Powell, pure fluke, left wing diagonal cross deflecting off Fraser and over Nathan Abbey and into the net off the inside of the far post; 3-2 65 mins - Derek Lilley header, unmarked on the far post to meet a cross from Oxford's left by Jamie Cook; 4-2 88 mins - Adam Locke, careful low drive from a rebound, and from about 35 yards after Spring put Douglas away for a shot which was parried by the goalkeeper.

Referee: Steve Baines, Chesterfield

Attendance: 6,102, highest of the season so far, including 745 supporting Oxford.

► **EASY-PEASY:** Liam George walks the ball into an empty net to make it 3-0 after Matthew Spring sliced open the Oxford rearguard.

▼ **CONTRASTING EMOTIONS:** The visiting defenders can hardly believe that the Town have finished them off with Adam Locke's first goal for the club, but he, Michael McIndoe and the fans are enjoying the moment.



● **BOX OFFICE SUCCESS:** All round delight, on the pitch and off it in the executive boxes, as Stuart Fraser prepares to celebrate his first league goal.

● **DRIVING FORCE:** Matthew Taylor in attacking mode, with two men trying to stop him.

Action Replay

Wigan 1 Luton Town 0 (HT 0-0)

Brian Swain reports

NOT for the first time this season, the Town came away from Wigan with praise but no points as the worrying lack of penetration in away games struck again.

Another big Town following, nearly a thousand, did their best to raise the team, and you could not fault the players for lack of effort and professionalism, but in the end well-heeled Wigan shaded a contest between two teams who kicked off in the top four of the Second Division.

Home boss John Benson admitted: "Luton were the better side in the first half. The tactics were spot-on, and they were well organised. They have good young players, and they are a credit to the work of Lennie Lawrence."

It was nice to hear, as it was at Brentford when Ron Noades was equally generous about another losing performance by the Town.

It might have been different on a wet and cold afternoon in the sparkling new JJB Stadium if an offside flag had not waved as Gary Doherty's storming performance included a glancing header into the net in the 39th minute. He rose perfectly to meet a free kick from the right by Matthew Taylor after Stuart Fraser had been tripped by Kevin Sharp. A hair's breadth decision by the assistant ref ruled it out for offside against Liam George.

With Fraser raiding on the right and Taylor on the left, the Town threatened often enough, without finding another chink.

Wigan were never allowed to look champions-elect, despite their expensively-assembled squad, but they created more chances and Nathan Abbey made two excellent saves in quick succession to deny Sharp and Stuart Balmer midway through the first half.

Most of the first 45 minutes was stalemate, but Wigan took off the hapless Sharp for the second half, and Roberto Martinez replaced him to add a little more variety to their attacking play.

The pressure grew as Wigan's muscle was used to good effect, and one of several good

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Fraser, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, Locke (Midgley 77 mins), McLaren (McIndoe 73 mins), Spring, Taylor, Douglas, George. Unused subs: White, Sodje, Ward.

Booked: Stuart Douglas, 84 mins, foul on Arjan de Zeeuw.

Wigan: Carroll, Bradshaw, Sharp (Martinez HT), Balmer, de Zeeuw, Kilford, O'Neill, Sheridan, Haworth, Liddell, Barlow. Unused subs Griffiths, Lee, Jones, Stillie.

Booked: no-one.

The goal: Stuart Barlow, close range drive after a 75th-minute bout of head tennis in the Town's penalty area.

Referee: Mike Pike, Barrow.

Attendance: 6,866 including 985 Town supporters.

crosses brought the goal that proved decisive. The second of two clearance headers by Doherty was headed back into the danger area by Ian Kilford to give Stuart Barlow a brief but telling view of goal. The former Everton man, the Second Division's leading scorer, snapped up his tenth goal of the season, and for all the Town's valiant efforts after that it was hard to see where a reply might come from.

But they certainly never looked like being stuffed by a team that went into the game unbeaten. The return of Paul McLaren stiffened midfield to an extent where Wigan were looking decidedly frustrated for a long time.

Lennie Lawrence said: "I am disappointed with the result, but satisfied with the performance. We put in everything we had, but we didn't quite have enough to get a goal. And I will be very surprised indeed if Wigan are not in the top two at the end of the season. Not many teams will come here and win."



● CROWDED OUT: Gary Doherty outnumbered by defenders as he joins the attack for a set piece.



● LEGGING IT: Stuart Fraser takes on his man.



● MY BALL: Roy Carroll gathers under pressure from Liam George.

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The RESERVES

Trevor Hartley and John Moore



Luton Town 5 Wycombe Wdrs 2

PHIL Gray made a 45-minute appearance to prove his fitness after injury before playing for the first team at Oldham, but young striker Tresor Kandol grabbed the limelight in our first win of the season in the Avon Insurance Combination, scoring four goals.

Three were top quality finishes, and a team including three trialists put in a good hard-working performance, with Kandol's sharpness the welcome final flourish.

Andre Scarlett did well in a right wing-back slot, while Michael McIndoe put in a disciplined performance in a midfield where Wycombe opted for man to man marking.

Kandol gave us the lead with a tremendous drive into the top corner, but Scott Ward conceded a penalty from which Wycombe equalised.

An own goal restored the lead, the ball being deflected into the opposite corner by a defender after James Ayres shot for goal, and it was 3-1 at half-time, with Kandol netting a good header from a cross by Scarlett.

Gray was subbed at the end of the first half, and replaced by a Portuguese trialist, Gleison Antunes, but he too was subbed after 20 minutes.

A defensive error allowed Wycombe to pull the score

back to 3-2, but Kandol quickly replied, going in bravely for a close-range goal from a corner by Mark Graham, a trialist who has been released by QPR. Kandol's fourth was another class finish, a powerful cross-shot after he was sent clear by a through ball by Alan White.

We have decided to release two of the trialists, Graham and Ahmet Brkovic, a Croatian who was on the books of Dubrovnik.

Luton Town: Ward, Scarlett, Stirling, Ayres, White, Boyce, Gray (Antunes HT, replaced by Jerry 65 mins), Graham, Kandol, McIndoe, Brkovic (Moran 88 mins). Unused subs: Mansell, Wraith.

Oxford Utd 4 Luton Town 2

WITH three more trialists in the side - 24 players used in our first four games! - we played our part in a good game at Oxford, but it was marred by defeat, an injury and a disputed penalty.

We scored an early goal through Moses Jerry after good work by Ahmet Brkovic. The other trialists were Mark Graham and Alan Jack, of Benburgh, Glasgow. Four minutes after the goal, our keeper, Daniel Tate, challenged an attacker for the ball, and the ref gave them a penalty. It was dubious, to say the least, and Tate came off worst, suffering a bad shoulder injury. Oxford equalised from the spot, and the goalkeeper had to be subbed shortly afterwards as the pain in his shoulder increased.

Oxford played well, but after they had gone 3-1 up Tresor Kandol put us back into it before a late Oxford strike dashed our hopes of a point.

Luton Town: Tate (Ward 25 mins), Boyce, Stirling, Jerry, White, Sodje, Scarlett (Jack HT), Graham, Kandol, McIndoe, Brkovic. Unused subs: Mansell, Moran, Ayres.

WE WERE away to Brighton on Wednesday and there will be a full report in the programme on Tuesday evening. Our next home game, after a trip to Bristol Rovers on October 27, is against Norwich on November 3.

Reserve team appearances, including as sub: Kandol 5, Boyce 5, Scarlett 5, Ayres 4, Tate 4, Sodje 4, Stirling 4, White 3, Jerry 3, Locke 3, McIndoe 3, O'Connor 3, Pearson 2, Davis 2, Ward 2, Graham 2, Brkovic 2, Hunt 1, Zahana-Oni 1, Bowes 1, O'Brien 1, Ryan 1, Moran 1, Jack 1, Gray 1, Antunes 1, McKinnon 1

Goals: Kandol 6, Jerry 1, OG 1.



Youth Soccer

Paul Lowe



Luton Town 3 Northampton Town 1

AFTER taking a hammering at Wolves, we made team changes and looked for the right response from players, and got it with a dominant display for a well-deserved victory.

Tresor Kandol was released from the first team squad to return to our attack, and his ability to hold the ball helped our performance.

Schoolboy Marcus Jeffrey played up front with TK, and enjoyed the moment when he scored his first-ever goal for us in the 14th minute. A long throw by Jude Stirling enabled us to switch play quickly from one side of the field to the other, with the ball going from Lee Mansell to John Carroll. His long-range left foot shot was blocked by the goalkeeper, with Jeffrey picking up the rebound. In midfield we gave a trial to James Oughan, from Stevenage, and he did well enough to earn another game or two on a day when we dominated the match and were rarely in trouble defensively.

Duane Clarke went on as a 55th-minute sub for Jeffrey, who was tiring, and within minutes he bundled his way through to make it 2-0.

We made a double substitution on 75 minutes, and Rene Barrieau had not been on long before he too had a decisive impact. He made a determined run to the by-

Football League Youth Alliance South Central Conference

Results and Fixtures

			HOME	AWAY
AUG	Sat 14	Walsall	H 0-0	
	Sat 21	West Brom	H 2-1 (Kandol 2)	
	Sat 28	Cambridge Utd	A 1-4 (Ayres)	
SEPT	Sat 4	Notts Co	H 2-1 (Ayres, Stirling pen)	
	Sat 18	Oxford Utd	H 1-1 (Jerry)	
	Sat 25	Wolves	A 0-5	
OCT	Sat 2	Northampton	H 3-1 (Jeffrey, Clarke, Stirling)	
	Sat 16	Shrewsbury	A	
	Wed 20	Sutton Utd	H (FAYC)	
	Sat 23	Southend	A (FLYAC)	
NOV	Sat 6	Cambridge Utd	H (FLYAC)	
	Sat 13	Barnet	A (FLYAC)	
	Sat 20	Colchester	H (FLYAC)	
	Sat 27	Notts Co	A	
DEC	Sat 11	Oxford Utd	A	
	Sat 18	Wolves	H	
JAN	Sat 8	Shrewsbury	H	
	Sat 15	Northampton	A	
	Sat 22	Walsall	A	
	Sat 29	Cup rd 2		
FEB	Sat 5	West Brom	A	
	Sat 12	Cambridge Utd	H	
MAR	Wed 1	Cup quarter-final		
	Wed 22	Cup semi-final		
APRIL	Sun 16	Cup final		

South Central Conference League Table

	HOME	AWAY	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	7	4	0	0	14	0	1	0	2	4	6	15		
Wolves	6	3	1	0	9	1	1	0	1	3	4	13		
Oxford	7	2	1	0	8	5	1	1	2	2	7	11		
Luton Town	7	3	2	0	8	3	0	0	2	1	9	11		
Walsall	7	2	0	0	5	1	1	1	3	6	10	10		
Cambridge	7	2	1	1	7	4	0	2	1	3	4	9		
Notts Co	7	1	0	2	4	4	1	1	2	2	4	7		
Northampton	7	0	1	2	5	8	2	0	2	6	10	7		
Shrewsbury	7	0	1	2	2	5	0	2	2	4	8	3		

Available soon from the Club Shop -
New home replica kit

Avon Insurance Combination Results and Fixtures			
AUG	Wed 18	Bristol City	H 1-3 (Kandol)
SEPT	Wed 1	Portsmouth	A 0-1
	Wed 8	Swindon	H 0-1
	Tue 28	Oxford	A 2-4 (Jerry, Kandol)
OCT	Wed 6	Wycombe	H 5-2 (Kandol 4, OG)
	Wed 13	Brighton	A 7pm
	Wed 27	Bristol Rov	A 7pm
NOV	Wed 3	Norwich	H 2pm
	Wed 17	Ipswich	A 2pm
DEC	Wed 1	Colchester	H 2pm
	Wed 8	Southend	A 7.45pm
	Wed 22	Peterborough	H 2pm
JAN	Wed 12	Cambridge Utd	A 2pm
	Wed 19	Northampton	H 2pm
FEB	Wed 2	QPR	H 2pm
	Wed 9	Barnet	A 2pm
	Wed 23	Millwall	H 2pm
MAR	Wed 1	L. Orient	A 2pm
	Wed 15	Fulham	A 2pm
	Wed 29	Gillingham	H 2pm
APRIL	Wed 5	Bournemouth	H 2pm

Current form guide - the last six Division 2 games.

Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sequence	Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sequence
Stoke	5	1	0	12	5	16	WWWDWW	Bristol City	2	2	2	7	7	8	LLDWDW
Gillingham	4	1	1	13	7	13	WWDLWW	Luton	2	1	3	9	9	7	LLWLWD
Bristol Rovers	4	1	1	12	7	13	DWWLWL	Oldham	2	1	3	9	9	7	WLWLWL
Wycombe	4	1	1	11	7	13	WWWLWL	Scunthorpe	2	1	3	4	6	7	LLDWLW
Brentford	3	3	0	12	7	12	DWDWDW	Reading	1	2	3	9	13	5	LLDWLD
Notts County	4	0	2	11	9	12	WWLLWW	Cardiff	1	2	3	7	10	5	DLLDWL
Wigan	3	3	0	10	4	12	WDDWDW	Chesterfield	1	2	3	2	4	5	DLDLLW
Bournemouth	3	2	1	7	4	11	WDDWLW	Wrexham	1	1	4	9	16	4	LDLWLW
Millwall	3	2	1	7	5	11	WLWWDW	Colchester	1	1	4	7	14	4	DLLLLW
Preston	3	2	1	7	5	11	WWWDWL	Oxford	1	1	4	7	10	4	LWLLLD
Burnley	2	3	1	8	5	9	LDDWDW	Cambridge	0	2	4	7	12	2	LLLDLW
Bury	2	2	2	8	9	8	LWDWL	Blackpool	0	2	4	5	12	2	DLLLLW

When Clubs have scored goals... and conceded them

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90			0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
0	4	3	3	1	4	1	Bournemouth	1	3	2	2	2	2	1
2	1	2	0	0	6		Blackpool	1	2	4	2	4	7	
2	2	3	2	4	3		Brentford	1	1	1	2	1	1	
0	1	1	2	2	7		Bristol City	2	2	2	1	2	4	
0	4	3	3	4	2		Bristol Rovers	2	1	0	1	3	2	
1	1	6	2	2	1		Burnley	0	2	2	1	1	2	
3	2	0	6	4	3		Bury	1	0	3	2	3	7	
1	1	2	5	4	2		Cambridge United	2	4	0	7	2	6	
1	1	2	3	3	3		Cardiff City	1	3	2	3	3	4	
0	1	0	3	3	1		Chesterfield	1	1	2	3	2	1	
0	0	1	1	1	5		Colchester United	3	3	2	5	3	5	
2	3	2	2	5	4		Gillingham	0	0	1	3	5	5	
3	2	1	3	1	5		Luton Town	0	1	0	3	5	4	
0	1	1	2	3	5		Millwall	0	2	1	4	4	1	
2	1	6	2	3	4		Notts County	0	0	0	4	2	4	
1	0	0	1	4	3		Oldham Athletic	2	2	3	0	4	3	
1	2	1	2	5	2		Oxford United	2	3	2	3	3	3	
0	2	3	2	5	2		Preston North End	1	1	2	3	3	3	
1	2	0	4	3	5		Reading	1	1	5	5	4	6	
0	2	0	3	1	2		Scunthorpe United	1	2	3	4	1	4	
1	3	0	5	1	8		Stoke City	1	2	0	3	0	6	
3	2	1	5	3	4		Wigan Athletic	0	2	0	1	1	4	
2	1	1	4	2	5		Wrexham	3	3	5	3	3	3	
2	3	4	2	1	4		Wycombe Wanderers	2	1	1	2	3	3	

Nationwide Division Two Leading Goalscorers 1999-00

	Player	Lge	Gls	Lge	Cup	Tot
14	Stuart Barlow	8	2	10		
12	Jason Roberts	6	3	9		
10	Martin Butler	6	3	9		
8	David Reeves	7	2	9		
6	Bob Taylor	8	1	9		
4	Jamie Cureton	7	1	8		
2	Andy Payton	8	0	8		
0	Ian Lawson	7	1	8		
14	Mark Stallard	8	0	8		
12	Matt Murphy	5	3	8		
10	Simon Haworth	5	3	8		
8	Sean Devine	7	1	8		
6	Mark Stein	4	2	6		
5	Jonathan Macken	5	1	6		
4	Craig Faulconbridge	6	0	6		
3	Brett Ormerod	5	0	5		
2	Jason Bowen	3	2	5		
1	Kevin Nugent	4	1	5		
0	Liam George	5	0	5		
14	Mark Allott	4	1	5		
12	Darren Caskey	3	2	5		
10	Peter Thorne	4	1	5		
8	Jermaine McSporran	3	2	5		

1999-00 Attendances

(Bands behind represent average attendance as percentage of ground capacity)
 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30%

Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sequence	Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sequence
Bristol City	2	2	2	7	7	8	LLDWDW	Luton	2	1	3	9	9	7	LLWLWD
Oldham	2	1	3	9	9	7	WLDLWL	Scunthorpe	2	1	3	4	6	7	LLDWLW
Reading	1	2	3	9	13	5	LLDWLD	Cardiff	1	2	3	7	10	5	DLLDWL
Cardiff	1	2	3	2	4	5	DLDLLW	Chesterfield	1	2	3	2	4	5	DLLLLW
Wrexham	1	1	4	9	16	4	LDLWLW	Colchester	1	1	4	7	14	4	DLLLLW
Colchester	1	1	4	7	14	4	DLLLLW	Oxford	1	1	4	7	10	4	LWLLLD
Oxford	1	1	4	7	10	4	LWLLLD	Cambridge	0	2	4	7	12	2	LLLDLW
Cambridge	0	2	4	5	12	2	LLLDLW	Blackpool	0	2	4	5	12	2	DLLLLW

2nd Division Scene

Brian Swain

OUR CHERISHED unbeaten home record needs to be extended this afternoon if we are to stand a chance of returning to the Second Division's play-off zone. Defeat at Oldham dropped us to tenth place, our lowest of the season so far, while today's visitors were moving up to 11th with a cracking win over Wrexham.

Bob Taylor netted a hat-trick in five second-half minutes as Wrexham were crushed 5-1 at Priestfield. Bottom but one in late August, after a stuttering start to the season, Gillingham looked as though they still had a hang-over after losing in the play-off final to Manchester City at Wembley last May. But they come to Luton today on the back of a run of one defeat in their last nine league outings, and they have not lost an away match in the league since the opening day of the season, at Bury. We are one of eight teams defending unbeaten home records. There were ten a week ago, but Bury crashed 3-1 to Notts County, the division's best away team on current form, while Burnley went down in the weekend's biggest shock. Their game was on Sunday, at home to struggling Scunthorpe, and they needed a win to go second in the table, behind Bristol Rovers. But our old friend Guy Ipoua, who had a brief trial with us in pre-season, embarrassed Steve Davis and co by scoring twice in a 2-1 victory. Unlucky Davis hit the bar with an early header, and was outpaced by Ipoua for the winner.

Bristol Rovers were held to a 1-1 home draw by Cardiff, enabling Notts County to cut the lead to three points, with a game in hand. Stoke City have staged one of the great revivals of the season so far. They were 19th in late August, but are now third. Gary Megson was the division's manager of the month for a September record of played four won three, lost one and on Saturday they enjoyed their third consecutive victory, 2-1 at home to Reading despite having Kyle Lightbourne sent off for two yellow card offences. Wigan, scheduled to entertain Bournemouth, had a day off because of international calls, and although they dropped to fourth place games in hand would take them back to the top if they turned them into full points.

Wycombe Wanderers, who come to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday evening, are beginning to look a good side under Lawrie Sanchez. Sean Devine continued to repay his £500,000 transfer fee with his eighth goal of the season in the 1-0 home win over Cambridge United. It was their third consecutive victory and

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The Second Division

	HOME				AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rov	11	4	2	0	9	4	3	0	2	7	5	23
Notts Co	10	2	1	1	5	3	4	1	1	13	7	20
Stoke	11	3	2	1	9	6	3	0	2	9	6	20
Wigan	9	4	1	0	10	3	1	3	0	8	5	19
Burnley	11	4	1	1	11	6	1	3	1	2	2	19
Wycombe	11	3	2	1	11	7	2	2	1	5	5	19
Preston	11	3	1	2	6	8	2	3	0	9	6	19
Brentford	9	4	1	0	10	3	0	4	0	6	6	17
Bournemouth	10	4	1	0	11	3	1	1	3	4	8	17
Luton Town	11	4	1	0	12	6	1	1	4	3	7	17
Gillingham	11	3	1	2	11	7	1	3	1	7	7	16
Bury	11	4	1	1	15	10	0	3	2	3	6	16
Wrexham	11	3	0	2	8	7	1	2	3	7	13	14
Millwall	9	2	0	2	7	5	1	2	2	5	7	13
Bristol City	10	2	3	0	9	4	1	0				

date	opposition	result	scorers	league place	attn.	team	substitutes									
AUGUST																
Sat 7	Notts Co	A	0-0	—	6,141	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Johnson	Douglas	McLaren	Gray	Spring	McIndoe	Taylor
Tue 10	WC1 (1) Bristol Rov	H	0-2	—	2,984	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Boyce	Douglas	McLaren	Gray	Spring	McIndoe	Taylor
Sat 14	Blackpool	H	3-2 (George 2, Spring)	7	5,176	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Douglas	Spring	Fotiadi	Taylor
Sat 21	Reading	A	2-1 (Fotiadi, George)	3	8,741	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadi	Taylor
Wed 25	WC1 (2) Bristol Rov	A	2-2 (Kandol, Doherty)	3	4,414	Abbey	Locke	Sodje	Boyce	White	Watts	Gray	McKinnon	Douglas	McIndoe	Kandol
Sat 28	Cardiff	H	1-0 (Gray)	2	5,374	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadi	Taylor
Tues 31	Bournemouth	A	0-1	2	4,797	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadi	Taylor
SEPT																
Sat 4	Bury	H	1-1 (Fotiadi)	5	4,633	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadi	Taylor
Sat 11	Wrexham	H	3-1 (Taylor, Spring, George)	3	5,121	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Douglas	Spring	Fotiadi	Taylor
Sat 18	Brentford	A	0-2	5	7,039	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Douglas	Spring	Kandol	Taylor
Sat 25	Oxford Utd	H	4-2 (George 2, Fraser, Locke)	3	6,102	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	Midgley	Taylor
OCTOBER																
Sat 2	Wigan	A	0-1	8	6,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor
Sat 9	Oldham	A	1-2 (Midgley)	10	4,532	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	Gray	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor
Sat 16	Gillingham	H	3pm													
Tue 19	Wycombe	H	7.45pm													
Sat 23	Oxford Utd	A	3pm													
Sat 30	FA Cup 1		3pm													
NOVEMBER																
Tue 2	Millwall	A	7.45pm													
Sat 6	Burnley	H	3pm													
Sat 13	Cambridge Utd	A	3pm													
Sat 20	FA Cup 2		3pm													
Tue 23	Preston	H	7.45pm													
Sat 27	Bristol Rov	A	3pm													
DECEMBER																
Sat 4	Notts County	H	3pm													
Tue 7	AWS 1		7.45pm													
Sat 11	Stoke City OR FA Cup 3	H	3pm													
Fri 17	Colchester	A	7.45pm													
Sun 26	Chesterfield	H	3pm													
Tue 28	Bristol City	A	7.45pm													
JANUARY 2000																
Mon 3	Scunthorpe	H	3pm													
Sat 8	Stoke OR FA Cup 4	A	3pm													
Tue 11	AWS 2		7.45pm													
Sat 15	Blackpool	A	3pm													
Sat 22	Reading	H	3pm													
Tue 25	AWS 3		7.45pm													
Sat 29	Cardiff OR FA Cup 5	A	3pm													
FEBRUARY																
Sat 5	Bournemouth	H	3pm													
Sat 12	Bury	A	3pm													
Tue 15	AWS Semi		7.45pm													
Sat 19	Bristol Rov OR FA Cup 6	H	3pm													
Sat 26	Brentford	H	3pm													
Tue 29	AWS area final (1)		7.45pm													
MARCH																
Sat 4	Wrexham	A	3pm													
Tue 7	Burnley	A	7.45pm													
Sat 11	Millwall	H	3pm													
Tue 14	AWS area final (2)		7.45pm													
Sat 18	Preston	A	3pm													
Tue 21	Cambridge Utd	H	7.45pm													
Sat 25	Chesterfield	A	3pm													
APRIL																
Sat 1	Colchester OR AWS Final	H	3pm													
Sat 8	Scunthorpe	A	3pm													
Sun 9	FA Cup semi-final		3pm													
Sat 15	Bristol City	H	3pm													
Sat 22	Gillingham	A	3pm													
Mon 24	Wigan	H	3pm													
Sat 29	Wycombe	A	pm													
Sat 6	Oldham	H	3pm													

The FA Cup final will be on May 20

Today's Referee

THE ROAD to Luton Town, and a host of other league grounds in the country, started for today's referee in local Sunday league soccer in Lancashire. All referees start at the bottom, and for Edward Wolstenholme from Blackburn, our referee this afternoon, that meant when he was in his early twenties, in the Preston Sunday League. Within three years he was promoted to Class One, and he is now in his eighth season as a Football League referee, having moved up via the West Lancs, Cheshire and North West Counties Leagues.

Married, with two teen-age children, he is a fitter by trade, and became a Football League ref in 1992 after being a linesman and a panel league ref before that.

The job has taken him abroad - he was a linesman in a European Championship match between Italy and Hungary - as well as to big matches in this country. He was in charge of the Division One play-off final at Wembley in 1998.

Outside of football, he enjoys swimming, athletics and music.

TODAY'S QUESTION

We went to Wembley in 1994 to play Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-final. But who did we beat, in an exciting quarter-final replay at Kenilworth Road to get there?

Travelling fans

OURS	THEIRS
Notts County	240
Reading	464
Bristol Rovers (WC)	992
Blackpool	134
Chesterfield	665
Wigan	1,704
Brentford	985
Oldham	451
TOTAL SO FAR	2,946
AVERAGE491

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Today's Teams



Luton Town

NATHAN ABBEY	1
STUART FRASER	13
JULIAN WATTS	40
GARY DOHERTY	12
MARVIN JOHNSON	6
LIAM GEORGE	11
ADAM LOCKE	28
STUART DOUGLAS	9
MATTHEW SPRING	4
NEIL MIDGLEY	30
MATTHEW TAYLOR	15

Substitutes

EMMERSOON BOYCE	17
EFETOBOR SODJE	3
ANDRE SCARLETT	21
MICHAEL McINDOE	10
DANIEL TATE (GK)	22

V



Gillingham

1	VINCE BARTRAM
4	PAUL SMITH
5	BARRY ASHBY
6	GUY BUTTERS
8	ANDY HESSENTHALER
11	ROBERT TAYLOR
15	MARK SAUNDERS
17	ADRIAN PENNOCK
24	JUNIOR LEWIS
27	ANDY THOMSON
25	BRIAN McGLINCHEY

Substitutes

3	ROLAND EDGE
12	NAYRON NOSWORTHY
16	JOHN HODGE
38	MANNY OMOYINMI
21	CHARLIE MITTEN (GK)

Today's Officials

Referee: Edward Wolstenholme, Blackburn.

Assistants: B. Curson, Hinckley (red flag)

I. G. Williamson, Reading (yellow and red flag)

Reserve official: R. G. Payne, Ampthill

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