

LUTON TOWN

Friday, November 19, 1999, 8pm

Official Matchday Magazine £2.00



v Lincoln City

SKF

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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor
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Gareth Owen

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



Front cover:
PUT IT HERE: Liam George demanding a pass to feet during the victory over Burnley, with former Town skipper Steve Davis behind him. It was not a particularly happy return for Davis on his first appearance back at Kenilworth Road - see pages 36 & 37.



THE FUTURE of Efe Sodje, who signed for us at the start of the season after declining new terms at Macclesfield, could be decided next week. He has been hit by a combination of circumstances which have prevented him becoming a regular in our starting line-up. When he came to Kenilworth Road he was seen as the likely partner of Marvin Johnson in the centre of defence, but at the start of the season he had to serve a three-game suspension. Gary Doherty was used to plug the gap and has done so well that he has been ever-present since.

At 27 Sodje needs and deserves something better than reserve team football, and Lennie Lawrence has agreed that once tonight's cup-tie is out of the way he will consider offers for the player.

Stevenage, where he played before joining Macclesfield, have gone public with their interest, but the Town expect Sodje to be able to stay in the league. Rushden and Diamonds, favourites for the Nationwide Conference championship, are also keen, but the last we heard was that Cambridge United might be the most likely destination if the player decides to leave.

CONGRATULATIONS to tonight's visitors for collecting their first award of the season. John Reames has been named Nationwide Division Three manager of the month for October. The Imps went through the month undefeated, taking 13 points out of 15.

Mr Reames is a new breed of manager - he is also the club chairman. And those who think directors know nowt about football might note that the Sincil Bank supremo is the second chairman to take a manager of the month award this season - Ron Noades of Brentford picked up the Second Division accolade earlier this season.

The Second Division October manager of the month was David Moyes, of Preston North End, who come to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday evening. Preston climbed into the promotion frame by going through the month unbeaten in five league outings. They also gave Arsenal plenty of trouble at Highbury before being edged out of the Worthington Cup 2-1, and in the FA Cup first round went to the Memorial Ground to pull off a 1-0 victory over Bristol Rovers.

IF TONIGHT'S match is drawn, the replay will be on Tuesday week, November 30, at Sincil Bank, kick-off 7.45pm. Check with the Bobbers Travel Club and Town on Tour for their provisional arrangements for coach trips to Lincoln. The Town on Tour kiosk will be manned after this evening's match, and for the Bobbers contact Paul Deason on 01234 750996.

AN ODDITY in the Second Division fixture list could mean the postponement of both of our league games against Stoke. If we win tonight, the third round is on December 11, the day Stoke are due at Kenilworth Road in the league. And if we get through to the fourth round, that is to be played on January 8, and would replace our game at the Britannia Stadium.

THE CLUB would like to thank John Chatterley, a member of the Century Club, for all his help in our accounts department during the transition period between financial controllers. Many thanks to John, and welcome to Mr Bill Thompson, who started with the club officially as financial controller on November 15.

For all the latest news, views and interviews call

CLUBCALL - 09068 121 123

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

A CHANGE in kick-off time means that we will be able to get home a little earlier to prepare for the new millennium after our last game of the old one. We wrap up 1999's fixtures with a trip to Ashton Gate on December 28, and the kick-off has been brought forward to 3pm instead of the 7.45 originally scheduled.

IT TOOK us a long time, but the national media and the Football League statisticians now agree that Liam George has scored 11 goals this season, and not ten. The missing goal was our first of the season, in the 21st minute against Blackpool. Matthew Spring's vicious inswinging near-post corner caused panic in the Seasiders' defence, and the ball went in off goalkeeper Phil Barnes. Own goal by the keeper was the instant judgement in the Pressbox at the time, and that was the information flashed to the wire services.

After the game, Barnes was delighted to agree with the Town verdict that it was a header by George. It was the young striker's first-ever league goal, and the wire services were asked that night to amend their records.

This week, we received a letter from a supporter complaining that all the statistics publications still showed George with one less goal than the true figure. We had another word with the sports agencies, including the Football Information Service, who provide stats charts for our programme, and at last the record has been put right. Mr Barnes of Blackpool is likely to be pleased about it as well, although on the day he reckoned it was Clarke Carlisle's own goal!

ONE OF the most popular events in the Luton Town Supporters Club fixture-list has now been finalised. The annual Christmas fun quiz, in which Town players join fans for a good night out, will be held on Monday December 6 in the Eric Morecambe Suit, with a 7.30 kick-off.

It always sells out, and is admission by ticket only. Until Tuesday night, after the Preston game, tickets are available only to LTSC members, and can be bought after tonight's match at the Supporters Club kiosk in Kenilworth Road. The cost is £3, and if there are any tickets left after Tuesday they go on general sale at £4 each. Get your money down early if you want to be there!

Speaking of Christmas, all supporters are invited to attend the third annual Christmas carol service at Luton Parish Church on December 15. It is being supported by players and staff of the club, and the guest speaker is to be the chaplain of a Premiership club. We have been promised that he is not from a team in Hertfordshire!

One other reminder: the open meeting organised by FLAG is to be held on Thursday, at the Kent Social and Sports Club. All are welcome, but you need a ticket to gain admission. They can be obtained from the Luton Town Supporters Club kiosk in Kenilworth Road this evening, or from the FLAG office at 83a George Street, Luton.

THE CLUB is looking for additions to one of its most important behind-the-scenes "teams" - the landladies who look after young players, offering them a home from home after they join us and have to move from their familiar surroundings.

The Town have long been lucky in having a collection of real gems as landladies - Matthew Upson, for instance, liked his digs at Bushmead so much that after he signed for Arsenal, and became a very wealthy young man, he stayed on for another 12 months.

Homes are wanted for boys between 16 and 18, reasonably close to the centre of Luton, and needless to say the boys pay the going rate. If you can help, please phone youth coach Paul Lowe on Luton 411622.

Brian Swain

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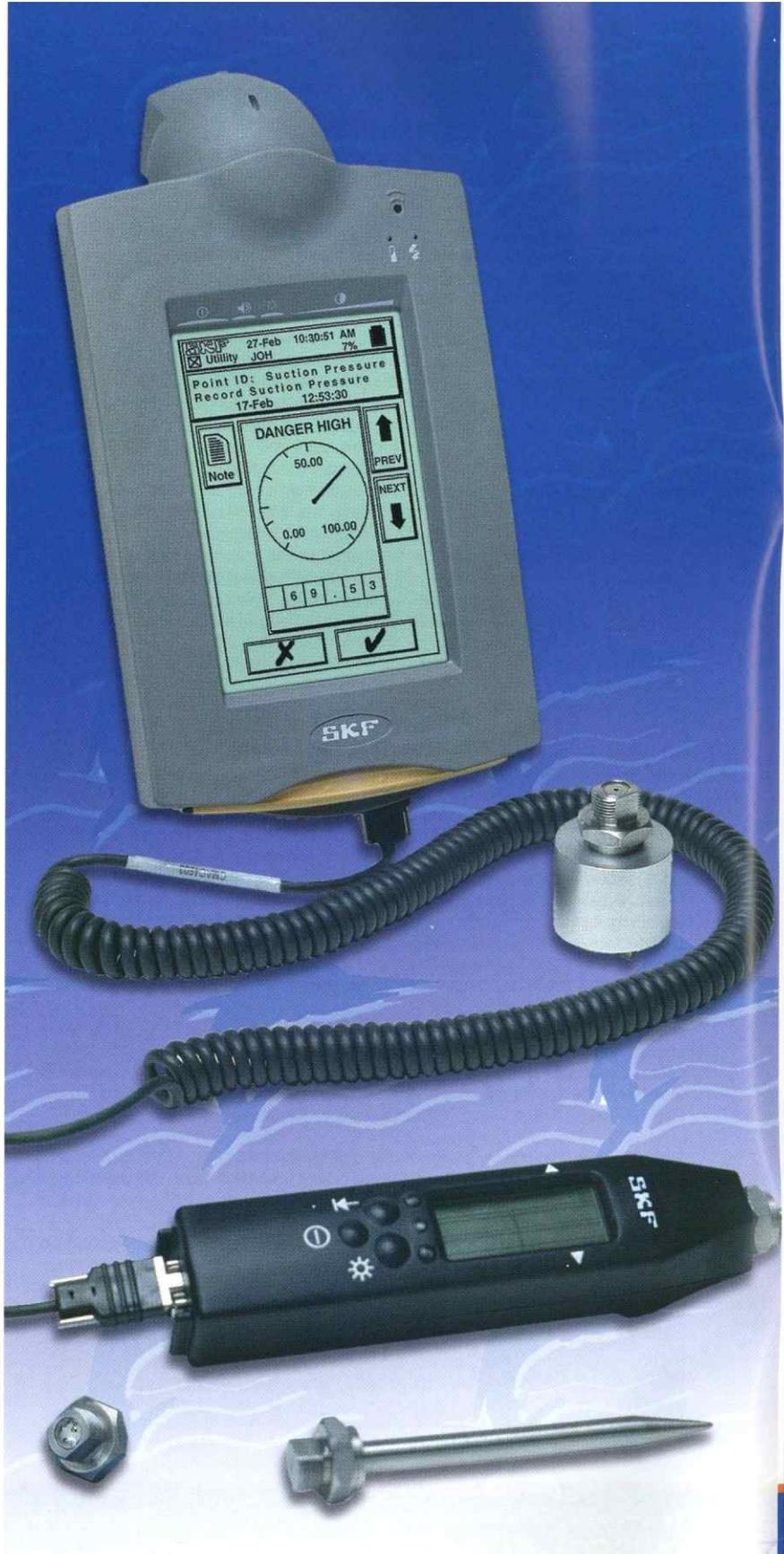
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The Manager

Lennie Lawrence



IT'S TRADITIONAL to offer a friendly welcome to the opposing team and its supporters, but this evening it is a particular pleasure to have Lincoln City as our visitors for a rather special game.

The FA Cup always adds a little more spice to football, and there is an extra incentive for both teams tonight because of the live TV coverage. It gives us a chance to show a wider audience what our young team is capable of, and I am sure the Lincoln players will be equally keen to put on a show.

Last season's league results, when we drew at Sincil Bank and were beaten on our own pitch, are a harsh reminder that we can take nothing for granted - many of the players in those games will be playing again tonight, and in cup-ties league positions count for nothing.

Lincoln might well be pleased to be underdogs, and playing away. If either team is under any sort of the pressure of expectation, it is ours rather than theirs.

I was assistant to Colin Murphy at Lincoln from 1979 to 1982, so I have first-hand knowledge of the sort of players Lincoln can unearth. Two who spring to mind from my days there were Mick Harford and Trevor Peake, and Luton supporters will know what good players they were.

Apart from a bad reverse at Mansfield, Lincoln are having a decent season, and their recent form has been good.

Anything is possible in the cup, but we know we have an excellent chance of reaching the third round, and we must make home advantage count.

If we maintain our home form, we will be all right, but I have no doubt Lincoln will make us work for a result. We got it about right in the game against Burnley, but we will have to do much better tonight than we did last Friday at Cambridge.

Strangely, having watched the video of the game, our overall show was not as bad as 3-1 sounds. We were in control for the opening

stages until a debatable free kick was given against us. It led to a goal, and poor defending at the set piece was very disappointing. As so often, goals change games, and give credit to Cambridge for getting at us. The game was turned on its head for the next ten or 15 minutes.

Four or five times we were guilty of bad defending. Normally, at this level, that would mean you would concede one goal, perhaps two. At Cambridge it was three, on a night when they had only five chances in the 90 minutes.

At the other end Gary Doherty's header bounced off the ground and over the bar, and Matthew Taylor hit a post with a tremendous free kick, and on the night we had enough of the ball to get something out of the game. But nothing went right for us where it matters most, in both penalty areas, and we paid for our lapses in defence.

The players know it was not good enough, and we must take action to put the away form right if we are to maintain a realistic play-off challenge. For all sorts of reasons, this club has to aim at a return to the First Division as quickly as possible, irrespective of how well we do in the FA Cup.

In the overall strategy, a good cup run would be a very nice bonus, and the extra money would be useful, but make no mistake, promotion is a far more important objective.

So in a way tonight's game is a bit of a diversion, between two teams who might be more evenly-matched than you might think. For sure, we both want to win - and both have a chance.

I hope we have a good night of football entertainment, and that at the end of it all the Luton supporters in the ground will go home saying they were glad they came.

And, please, try and come back on Tuesday, because our next two league games, at home to Preston and away to Bristol Rovers, could well give us real pointers as to where we are going this season. Hopefully, towards the top of the table, and tonight, into the third round of the cup.

Lennie Lawrence

For all the latest news, views and interviews call
CLUBCALL - 09068 121 123

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

Hatters Roll-Call Season 1999/2000

	APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets)				GOALS			
	League	FAC	WC	Total	League	FAC	WC	Total
Nathan Abbey	17	1	2	20	0	0	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	3(1)	0(1)	2	5(2)	0	0	0	0
Gary Doherty	15	1	0(2)	16(2)	0	0	1	1
Stuart Douglas	13(3)	1	2	16(3)	2	0	0	2
Andrew Fotiadis	6	0	0(2)	6(2)	2	0	0	2
Stuart Fraser	14	1	1	16	1	0	0	1
Phil Gray	6	1	2	9	1	1	0	2
Liam George	15	1	0(1)	16(1)	10(1p)	1	0	11(1p)
Marvin Johnson	17	1	0	18	0	0	0	0
Tresor Kandol	1(3)	0	1	2(3)	0	0	1	1
Adam Locke	4(4)	0	1	5(4)	1	0	0	1
Michael McIndoe	1(13)	0(1)	2	3(14)	0	0	0	0
Ray McKinnon	0(3)	0	1	1(3)	0	0	0	0
Paul McLaren	15	1	1	17	0	0	0	0
Neil Midgley	7(2)	0	0	7(2)	3	0	0	3
Efetobore Sodje	1(3)	0	1	2(3)	0	0	0	0
Matthew Spring	17	1	1	19	2	1	0	3
Matthew Taylor	17	1	1	19	1	1	0	2
Julian Watts	17	1	2	20	0	0	0	0
Alan White	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	0(1)	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0



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We also visit students in year 9 upwards in local schools and colleges. So the next time the team visits your school or college take the opportunity to get invaluable advice and guidance through group sessions and individual interviews.

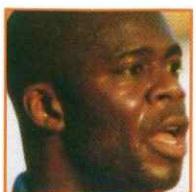
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Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson



WE HAVE been trying hard to solve a mystery this week, after the game at Cambridge. How could the team that played so well to beat Burnley perform so badly six days later?

The Burnley match was a cracking game to play in, and I gather it was pretty good to watch too. We deserved to win, although Stevo and Mitch thought Burnley could easily have got a draw. But they did not begrudge us our success.

Then we were second best at Cambridge, and it was a very depressed dressing room that tried to work out why we had failed to produce anything like our best form.

We let ourselves down, and it must also have spoiled the night for the big following from Luton. And while I accept they had every reason to have a moan from the terraces, I have to say that some of the personal abuse directed at some players was out of order.

We deserved criticism on the night. Personally I can shrug off the occasional over the top abuse. But I worry for our younger players when they are singled out by a small minority for abuse that does no credit to so-called supporters. It was personal, crude and disgusting four-letter language, and I cannot imagine how the culprits thought that was going to help the team.

Fans want their team to win, but I can promise you that players are even hungrier for success. It matters more to us and our families than it does to the most fervent supporter. I can take stick from the terraces because I have learned to live with it, and it is not a regular problem. But I worry about the effect it can have on inexperienced teenagers. They are lads learning their trade, doing a man's job to the best of their ability, and this season the boys have done us proud. We won't win every game, but we will keep trying, and I am glad the vast majority of supporters understand that. Slagging off 17 and 18-year-olds can do more harm than good. Have your shout, by all means, but please think about the effect it can have on young lads - and on their families in the stands.

We have spent a lot of time this week talking about the difference between home and away results. The perfect formula for promotion used to be win at home, and draw away. We've just about got the first half of the recipe right, but we have to get the second part sorted out rapidly.

Perhaps we are too cavalier in our approach to away games. More caution and a greater emphasis on defence might be called for. We tend to go into every game trying to win, rather than trying not to lose. Perhaps that must change for some away matches.

We got it about right at Oxford, when we adapted to the home team's pressure and then hit them on the break. At Cambridge, our passing was not good enough to mount good counter-attacks, and we paid the price. Cambridge deserve some credit: they raised their game, while ours dipped.

This evening, the feeling of frustration and annoyance can be channelled to good effect. The form book says that a Second Division club, unbeaten at home, should be able to see off a mid-table Third Division team. So it should, but we need no reminders of how often the FA Cup can see the form book turned inside out. We suffered last season, when Hull knocked us out on our own pitch, so we are well aware that Lincoln must not be treated lightly. They will remember beating us here in the league last season, and perhaps they will have an extra confidence in their step after reading their scout's reports on our performance at Cambridge. We have a point to prove after that display, and we are in the right frame of mind to bounce back.

We want to be in the draw for the third round with the big clubs, and if we get there we have a slight difference of opinion in the dressing room about who we want next. I have been fortunate enough to play for Luton on all the big grounds in this country, when we were in the old First Division, and if we win today my wish for the next round would be one of the big clubs at home. But some of the boys want a taste of the "glamour" grounds, and would like the chance to play at Anfield or Highbury, or somewhere similar.

The craziest thing about the draw will be that a second-round loser goes into it, and that makes no sense at all to me. It is even possible that if we beat Lincoln this evening, we could play them again in the third round. Crackers, isn't it? I thought Manchester United should have taken part, even if they fielded a youth team for the third round, but once it was accepted they were out of the cup, one team in the third round should have a bye to the fourth. It is not right that you can be knocked out of the cup in the second round, and still play in the third.

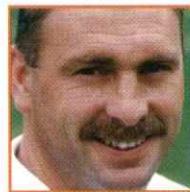
All we know is that we are very determined to set the record straight tonight after the Cambridge game, and go into the third round on merit.

Marvin Johnson

For the latest ticket and travel information call the Luton Ticket Office on
01582 416976

Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear



IT HAS been good news almost all the way this week as the treatment room has seen a succession of players making encouraging progress after injuries.

For a start, I was able to confirm that Stuart Fraser was fully fit again, and ready to be recalled, if selected, for the first team for tonight's cup-tie. You may recall that the wing-back suffered a gashed thigh during the match against Kingstonian three weeks ago. The wound needed 11 stitches, and it was one of those injuries that could not be hurried - nature needed time to complete the healing process, with a little medical help.

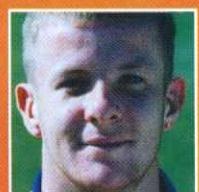
If you try to play again too soon there is a danger you can re-open the wound, and we would not take any risks on that score. Fraser was able to continue training, so general fitness was not a problem.

More good news is that four players with longer-term injuries are now well on the way back.

Phil Gray, who has had a niggling hamstring problem, might be able to play again in a couple of weeks or so. He has just had a second scan on the injury, and results of that were due yesterday. My hope was that it would confirm that the healing process has continued well following the previous scan a fortnight ago.

He has been able to do some training, and if the muscle area has healed up completely he can step it up. He is already able to kick a ball, and do some running, but it has been a frustrating problem - twice it has struck in first team games, and each time it was one particular movement that caused it.

Clive Goodyear



Stuart
Fraser



Phil
Gray



Andrew
Fotiadis



Gavin
McGowan



Landry
Zahana-Oni

Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery



KENILWORTH Road has been a hive of activity this week as the army of technicians from Sky TV install their equipment for tonight's cup-tie. It has been a pleasure to have them with us, and I trust everyone in the ground and in the television audience has a game well worth watching.

It is, of course, Friday night football for the second consecutive week, and we have had phone calls from supporters who were unhappy at some of the arrangements at Cambridge.

There were 2,152 supporters in the away end, and a few dozen unable to get in, and understandably those denied admission were annoyed, and I have taken up their complaints with Cambridge United. The first problem was in preparation for the match, because Bedfordshire Police estimated that no more than 1,500 would go to the game to support Luton.

Cambridge made their arrangements accordingly, and in the event had difficulty coping, especially when the main surge of away support arrived at the ground too close to kick-off time.

When the game started, at 7.45, the turnstile count in the away end was 1,261 spectators. Another 891 got in after kick-off.

The turnstiles had difficulty coping with those numbers in a short time, and although the ground was not full to capacity the police took a decision, on safety grounds, to order all turnstiles to close, leaving some supporters locked out. The police feared that Luton supporters at the tail end of the queues would try their luck at other turnstiles, and undermine the normal segregation procedures. So the closure of turnstiles affect all parts of the ground, with some Cambridge fans also being locked out.

I realise that if you were one of them you had some reason to be upset. I can promise that no football club, especially ones like us and Cambridge, willingly turns away supporters - we need every penny we can get.

I think that at Cambridge the home club was caught unawares by a set of unusual circumstances, and it underlines the point we make often enough in our matchday magazines: it helps everyone, yourself included, to arrive at the ground early. I had suggested before the match that Cambridge should make it all-ticket for Luton supporters. If that advice had been taken, it would have prevented the problems some of you had last Friday.

I have also had complaints from Luton supporters who went to the previous away match, at Millwall. They were kept inside the ground after the match for what seemed like an unjustified length of time, and again I took up the complaints with the club secretary at Millwall, and with their safety officer, Ken Chapman.

It turns out that our supporters suffered because of a rogue element among Millwall supporters. That evening the police received a series of anonymous and unpleasant phone calls suggesting that trouble was being planned. On the night police were also called away to answer a number of hoax 999 calls.

The suspicion is that the culprits were testing out the police system to deal with potential trouble - Millwall are at home to Cardiff on December 4, and I hear special arrangements will be put in hand for that game. Meanwhile, the Millwall safety officer apologises to Luton Town supporters who were the innocents who suffered inconvenience at The Den through no fault of their own.

While we are on the subject of apologies, there is one due from Luton Town - to people with tickets for the Kenilworth lower tier for the Burnley match who found a turnstile closed suddenly before they had gained admission. Unfortunately the turnstile operator was taken ill, but it must have been annoying for those waiting with tickets.

We apologise, and we have learned the lesson - we now have a contingency plan for if it ever happens again. I am pleased to report that the operator is well again, and like all of us very much looking forward to tonight's game.

Cherry Newbery

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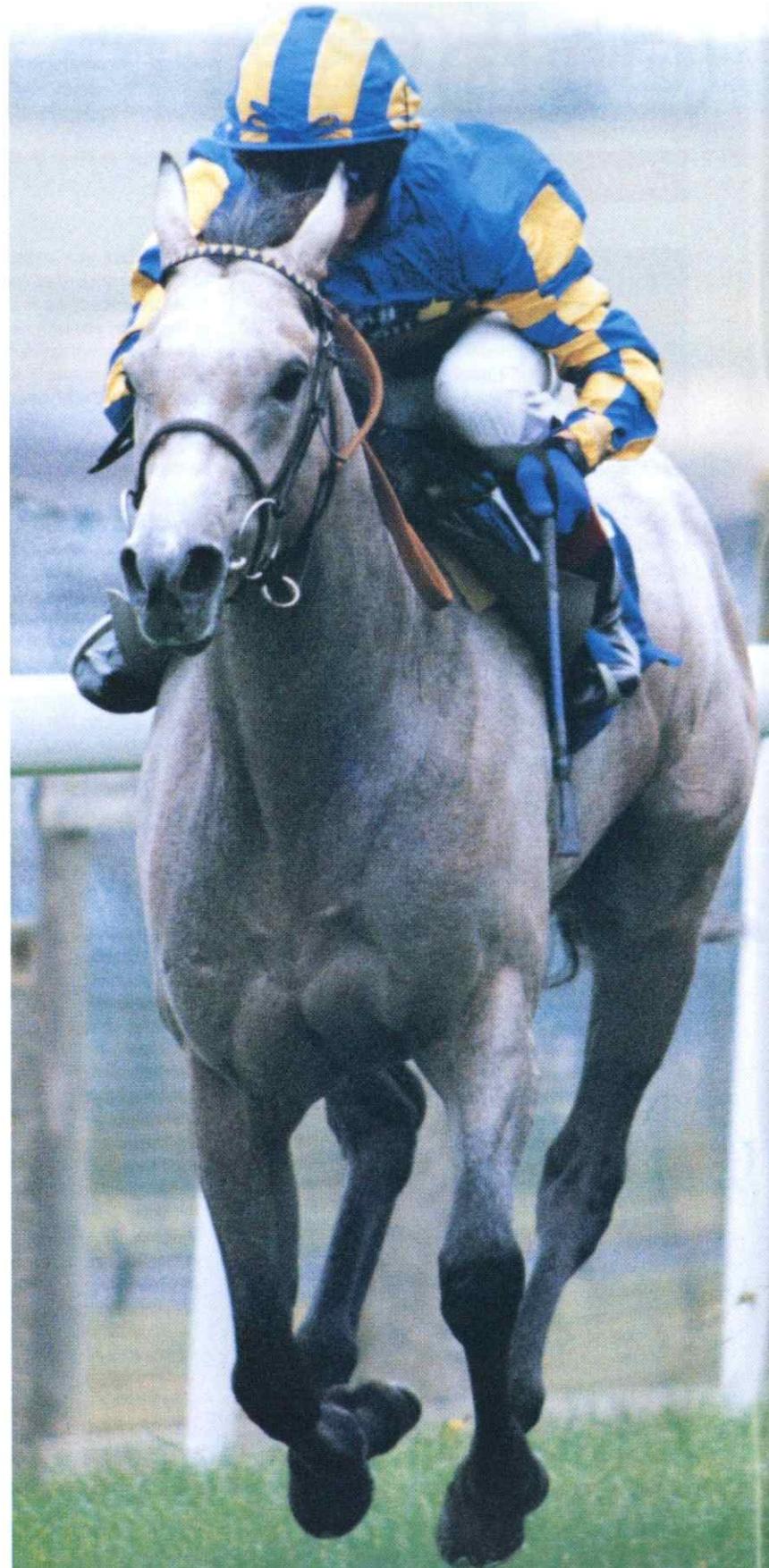
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Tickets

Nationwide League
Division Two

Luton Town v Preston North End

Tuesday November 23,
kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal
league prices.
Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.
Due to heavy demand supporters are
advised to arrive early.

Nationwide League
Division Two

Luton Town v Notts County

Saturday December 4,
kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at
discounted prices.
Cash turnstiles will be open on
the day.

Nationwide League
Division Two

Bristol Rovers v Luton Town

Saturday November 27,
kick-off 3pm

Pay on the day only.
Terrace only: £10,
concessions £5.

FA Cup sponsored by Axa
Second Round

If this evening's game is
drawn, the replay will be at
Sincil Bank Stadium on
Tuesday November 30,
kick-off 7.45pm

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Adults £10, concessions £8

Discounts for early purchase of match tickets are available until a
fortnight before each match. Cash turnstiles are open at all games,
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Ticket Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm,
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Saturday 9am to 5.15pm on matchdays;
10am until the away coaches depart on days when there is no game at Kenilworth Road.

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carrying the colours

WE MIGHT be stretching a point here, calling Wales abroad, but this collection of Luton supporters will be highly chuffed to see their picture in the matchday magazine.

The letter that came with it explains why the kit is last year's away strip. Michael Fuller, known as Shandy, writing from Bryn Morfa, Llandrindod Wells, Powys explained: "The photo is a group of my mates who recently played a friendly match against a challenging team in Wales, where I am currently exiled. I try to attend as many games as possible, usually away.

"We went shopping for a team strip in Cardiff, and being Luton fans, we settled for the old away kit, which was, not surprisingly, in plentiful supply. As soon as I saw it I picked them all up off the rails - I doubt there are many other Luton fans in Cardiff!

"Anyway, I felt you might be interested in printing this in the Hatters Abroad section of the programme. It would make me and my mates very happy if you could. I subscribe to the home programme, and would be most pleased to see our team, the Pink Steel Wide Boys, pictured in it.

"In the back row, left to right, are James Willerton, Daniel Willson, Richard Murray, Mark Rice, T and Gavin Jackson. The front row, left to right, is Michael Fuller, Spencer Marks, Charles Evans, John Spatcher and Ian Sharpe.

"We look forward to seeing the photo in the programme - and thank you very much for the programme, by far the best in the Second Division."



OUR Hatters Abroad feature is open to all fans - if you have an interesting snap of Town kit in far-flung places, or even close to home if the subject or location is picturesque, we would like to consider it for publication. 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 for our occasional "Mini Hatters" series.



Kids at Kenilworth is a new sponsorship package soon to be introduced at the Club. It is designed for organisations to provide disadvantaged children and young supporters with an opportunity to watch Luton Town play at Kenilworth Road for Nationwide League matches for the 1999/2000 season. There are many benefits for the sponsoring organisation as well as helping the children. Further details will be announced in future matchday programmes.



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The Commercial Department is also taking bookings for non-match day use of the executive suites and lounges. These rooms are ideal for meetings, seminars, social events, etc.

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(ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT)

Commercial

John Bailey



WE welcome old friends back to our hospitality lounges tonight, and offer our thanks to Belldene Ltd Construction Services, who are tonight's match sponsors.

Directors Jon Ring and Peter Gibel are loyal Luton Town supporters, and tonight they have brought with them accounts manager Darren Mookien, and friends and guests from SDC Builders Ltd, Jackson Civil Engineering, HSBC and R. Draper Contractors. Belldene has flourished by offering reliable service. Based in Britannia House, Leagrave Road, the company has become renowned for supplying quality sub-contract trade and labour to the construction industry.

We hope they and their guests have a very enjoyable time with us tonight, and if you want to sample something similar we will be pleased to work out packages to suit your needs and budgets. One phone call, to Luton 411622, is all it takes to find out more.

John Bailey

THE MATCH BALL sponsors tonight are Diamond Free ADS, part of the Auto Trader publishing group. It is a local free advertising newspaper in which private advertisers can advertise anything free, and trade rates are exceptionally competitive. You can buy your copy of Diamond Free ADS every Wednesday from local newsagents.

GOLDEN GAMBLE

THE LAST home game produced three new "best of the season" features. It was our biggest attendance, and Burnley brought the biggest away following so far. And the day also brought our biggest Golden Jackpot of the season, which was particularly good news for Angela Couter, of Norman Road, Barton. Hers was the lucky ticket picked out of the drum at half-time, and she collected £585. No wonder she looks happy in the photograph. With her is her grandson Terry Craddock and Andre Scarlett, the player who fished out the lucky ticket.



WE KNOW some fans prefer to watch their football on Saturdays, but Lewis Dowding, from Huckleberry Close, Luton, could hardly have wished for a better choice than tonight for a match to remember.

He is nine years old today, and the occasion is completed by a real treat, because he is our commercial mascot, enjoying a VIP occasion with his football favourites. He meets them all before the game, and runs out with the team for the pre-match rituals in a brand new kit supplied by the club.

We hope Lewis has a very happy birthday, and a night to remember. He goes to Bramingham Primary School, and as well as watching the Hatters he likes swimming and playing football. His favourite player is Matthew Spring, and he comes to matches with his dad. A winning goal by Matthew will probably be the perfect end to the birthday treat!

And if you have a youngster who deserves to be a VIP at a Kenilworth Road match, the commercial mascot package is one of many we offer - give us a ring on Luton 411622 to find out more.



The jackpot ticket cost Mrs Couter a mere £1, and there will be another cash prize for another lucky supporter tonight. Sellers are on duty in all parts of the ground, and the draw is made at half time, with the cash instantly handed over. There have been 12 winners this season, sharing jackpots totalling £4,473.

The prize is 50 per cent of the night's take - the other half goes into club funds, so even if your ticket is not a winner, you can be sure you are helping Luton Town FC.

Tonight's Visitors

welcome to Lincoln City



JOHN REAMES (CHAIRMAN/MANAGER)

John took control of team matters in early November 1998 following the departure of Shane Westley. He has been Club Chairman since March 1995 and now combines the roles of chairman and manager.

BARRY RICHARDSON (GOALKEEPER)

Experienced keeper signed from Preston North End in October 1995. He is now in his fourth season at Sincil Bank. Began the current campaign out of favour and loaned out to Mansfield Town but recalled in September and was immediately restored to the first team.

ALAN MARRIOTT (GOALKEEPER)

Youngster signed on a three month contract in August after being released by Tottenham

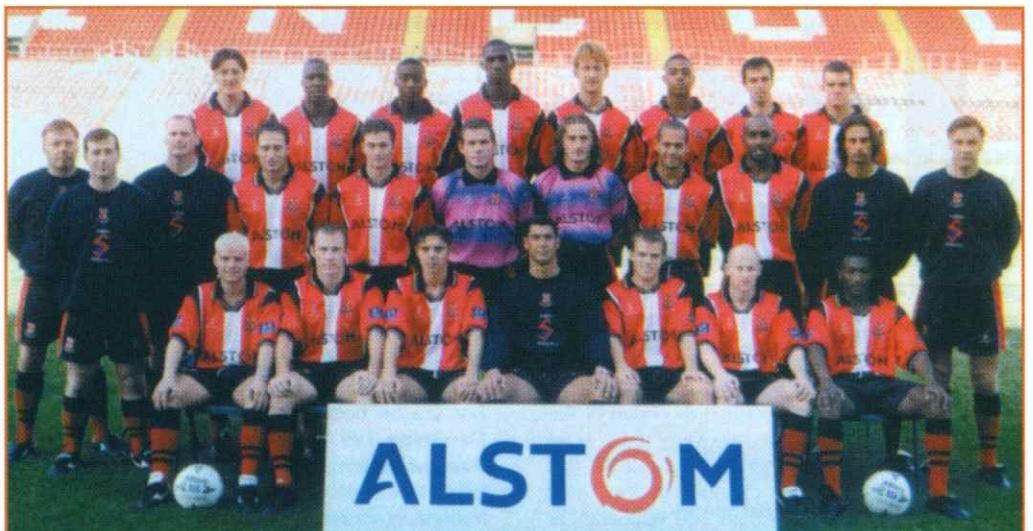
Hotspur. Performed well in the reserves and was rewarded with a two year contract at the start of November. Regarded as a great prospect for the future.

JOHN VAUGHAN (GOALKEEPER)

Signed for Lincoln in the summer of 1996 from Preston North End and has since competed with Barry Richardson for the first team shirt. Started the season in the first team but dropped after a 5-2 defeat at Torquay in September. Loaned out to Colchester United in mid-November.

DAVID BARNETT (DEFENDER)

Solid central defender with plenty of experience. His previous clubs include Barnet, Birmingham City, Dunfermline Athletic and Port Vale before signing for Lincoln in the summer to add strength to a defence weakened by injuries.



LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

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the players



STUART BIMSON (DEFENDER)

Talented left-back whose inswinging corners and free-kicks have set up many goals over the last couple of seasons. Underwent a knee operation in the summer but recovered to take his place for the current season. Previously at Macclesfield and Bury.

ANTHONY HENRY (DEFENDER)

Left-sided central defender released by West Ham in the summer. Initially joined Lincoln on a three month contract but this was extended for a further four weeks at the start of November. Made his Nationwide League debut as a substitute at Mansfield Town in November.

IAN WILKINS (DEFENDER)

Local born central defender who is a product of the Imps youth scheme. Made his league debut while still a trainee but has since remained on the fringes of the first team. Played in the FA Cup against Welling and again in the league against Peterborough.

GRANT BROWN (DEFENDER)

Lincoln's longest serving player who is currently having a testimonial year at Sincil Bank. Signed from Leicester City in 1989 for what was then a club record fee of £60,000 and has since made over 300 league appearances putting him third in the Imps all-time list. Currently out with a stress fracture of the foot.

STEVE WELSH (DEFENDER)

Experienced centre back who can also fill in at left back. Glasgow-born but made his Football League debut for Cambridge. Later at Peterborough before moving back north to play for Partick Thistle. Has since been at Dunfermline Athletic and Ayr United before moving to Lincoln in the summer. Out from early November after undergoing a cartilage operation.



JASON BARNETT (DEFENDER)

Right back, now in his fifth season at Sincil Bank after signing from Wolves in October 1995. A popular player with the fans, he signed a new contract in the summer but suffered a toe injury in the first game of the season and is likely to be out until February.



STEVE HOLMES (DEFENDER)

Central defender whose impressive displays earned him the club's 1998-99 Player of the Season award. Started at Lincoln as a trainee but released before making his debut. Went into non-league soccer but was given a second chance by Preston North End and returned to Sincil Bank in March 1996 in a £30,000 deal. Underwent a neck operation in the summer and not due to start playing again until early February.



TERRY FLEMING (MIDFIELDER)

Combative central midfield player who has been used for much of the early part of the season as an emergency right back due to injury problems. Team captain and penalty taker. Signed for City in December 1995 after spells with Coventry City, Northampton Town and Preston North End.

JOHN FINNIGAN (MIDFIELDER)

Skillful player who is an important part of the Imps midfield. Spent seven seasons at Nottingham Forest where he was captain of the reserve team before moving to Sincil Bank after a successful loan spell at the end of the 1997-98 season.

Tonight's Visitors

the players

RICHARD PEACOCK (MIDFIELDER)

Right-sided player signed from Hull City in January 1999. Found his chances at Sincil Bank very restricted last season but has been a first choice player this time around when not affected by injury.



LEE PHILPOTT (MIDFIELDER)

Left winger who was at Peterborough and Cambridge before a £350,000 move to Leicester City. Gained Premiership experience with the Foxes and later at Blackpool before signing for Lincoln in the summer of 1998. Skillful player who has the ability to turn a game.

PAUL MILLER (MIDFIELDER)

Hardworking midfield player who did well after winning his first team place back midway through last season. He signed a new two year contract in the summer. Previously at Wimbledon and Bristol Rovers.



PAUL SMITH (MIDFIELDER)

Exciting winger with ability to get crosses into the box as well as providing a regular supply of goals himself. Was at Hastings United when he was snapped up by Nottingham Forest. Failed to make the breakthrough at the City ground and signed for Lincoln in December 1997 after a spell on loan. Can also play as a wing-back.

DAVID PHILLIPS (MIDFIELDER)

Veteran midfield player who can also play at full back if required. He gained 62 international caps for Wales during a career which has seen him play for Plymouth, Manchester City, Coventry City, Norwich City, Nottingham Forest

and Huddlesfield Town. Also an FA Cup winner back in 1987 with Coventry. Signed for Lincoln in March 1999.

PETER GAIN (MIDFIELDER)

Left sided player who originally came to Lincoln from Tottenham under the extended loan system. The deal was made permanent in March 1999 and he is seen as a player with a promising future ahead of him.

CRAIG STONES (MIDFIELDER)

Wing back or central midfield player who made his Football League debut as a 16 year old back in April 1997. Spent most of last season in the reserves but will be looking for first team experience this campaign.

DAVID POPPLETON (MIDFIELDER)

Doncaster born midfield man who was a YT with Everton before being released from Goodison Park in the summer. Came to Sincil Bank on trial and was rewarded with a three month contract with the Imps.



LEE THORPE (STRIKER)

Striker whose career began at Blackpool but he was given few first team opportunities by the Bloomfield Road outfit. Came to Lincoln in the summer of 1997 and finished as top scorer in each of his two seasons at Sincil Bank.

GAVIN GORDON (STRIKER)

Talented striker whose ability in the air coupled with his powerful running provides plenty of problems for opposition defences. Made his debut for Hull as a 16 year old before moving to Lincoln in November 1997.

TONY BATTERSBY (STRIKER)

Joined Lincoln at the start of last season from Bury and was a first team regular until hit by injury towards the end of the campaign. Hit

several league goals last season. Started out as Sheffield United and later at Notts County.



PHIL STANT (STRIKER)

Veteran striker whose main duties are as Assistant Manager but likely to be used on the subs bench. Finished as leading scorer for City's reserves last

season. Nearing the end of a lengthy playing career which has seen him turn out for ten league clubs.

GRAHAM LEWIS (STRIKER)

Reading-born trainee in his second year at Sincil Bank. Leading scorer for the youth team last season and rewarded by moving up to become part of the first team squad for this season.

The Best in post-match reports

The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette



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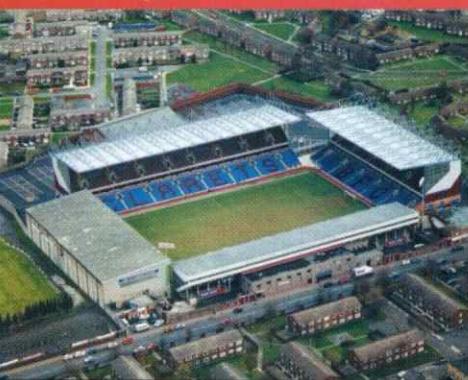
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Notice to All Supporters

- AN INCREASE in unacceptable behaviour in the stadium, particularly obscene chanting, has been apparent in recent matches.
- We are a family club, trying to encourage more children to games, and we will invoke the law to prevent such things as obscene language or gestures.
- Please see the warning notices on this subject displayed in various parts of the stadium, and please help us to stamp out unacceptable behaviour. If there is a culprit you can identify, please contact a steward or police officer as quickly as possible.
- Please be advised that the club will deal in the strongest possible way with any matter relating to unacceptable behaviour either at home or away matches.
- Together, we can all make Luton Town a club to be proud of.**

Football. It's a game of two halves



Many sides play their game in magnificent stadiums. Others play theirs on park pitches.

At the Football Trust, we're here to make sure that everyone is a winner thanks to the grant aid we can offer at every level, from ground redevelopment and safety work at league clubs right down to the very grass roots.

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Hatter's Chatter

we've had our chips!

WHY can't we stand in that big space at the back of the Kenilworth Road terrace to watch football? Why is it allowed at Blackpool, Gillingham and Cambridge, but not at Luton? Why don't the snack bars sell chips as well as burgers? How long will Marvin Johnson go on being the star of central defence?

The questions came thick and fast when Luton Town Supporters Club organised a fans' forum, to quiz Marvin, catering manager Fiona Wallace, sales and marketing manager John Bailey and safety officer Geoff Lovell.

A stream of pertinent questions on a wide variety of subjects brought out all sorts of points about what has to happen in the background before the lads run out onto the pitch for matches.

The question about standing room struck a chord in the audience that packed into the Eric Morecambe Lounge. Plenty of others felt there should be standing room, as there is in some of the grounds we visit during the course of the season.

The answer is that we timed our relegations badly! Mr Bailey added the same was true about income - we dropped out of the old First Division just before it became the Premiership collecting mega-bucks from TV. The second relegation compounded the problem, although commercial activities are now on the move again after the end of receivership and a string of good home results. All-seater stadium plans were introduced following the Taylor report on safety in sports grounds. New laws came in, forcing the Premiership, then the First Division, to abolish standing room, and Luton Town had to obey that. Clubs in lower divisions were allowed to keep some standing room, provided they met standards laid down by safety legislation. Clubs who were about to move to new grounds could also have exemption, which was why, for instance, when we went to Bolton for an FA Cup replay two years ago, there was a lot of standing room at Burnden Park. But new grounds have to be all-seaters.

Mr Lovell said that even if Luton Town wanted to re-introduced standing room, the authorities would not allow it. So why not put seats in the unused top section of the Kenilworth? A summary of the answers was that they don't seem to be needed yet, because we can't regularly fill the seats we already have, and there would be

considerable cost in installing more seats. The club would have to be pretty sure it would get its money back before committing itself. "We'll probably do it when we get back into the Premiership," said John Bailey. He also looked forward to seeing the ground packed to the rafters next season when we have a Division One meeting with a team from Hertfordshire...

This year's version of a local derby was at Oxford, and one questioner complained about heavy-handed policing in and around the Manor Ground - "more provocative than prevention" he said.

The answer was that each constabulary decided how games on its patch should be policed. Sadly, early this season, an element of travelling fans from Luton had brought the club into disrepute. In the first game, at Notts County, there was trouble in the away end, resulting in arrests and court cases. Police forces liaise with each other, and a bad reputation can be gained far quicker than a good one. The problems with our away support are easing, said Mr Lovell, but in the meantime police strategy will always be one of safety first. A small minority's idiocy can result in inconvenience for the majority of well-behaved people who just want to enjoy their football.

He also spoke about a minority which does the club no service at home games: abusive and foul-mouthed chanting at the opposition had become more pronounced in recent games, and stewards and police would continue to take action, with culprits ejected, possibly taken to court, and banned from the ground.

The question of no chips in the snack bars was one that had already been looked at by Fiona Wallace, who came in as catering manager at the start of last season. The short answer was that the kiosks are not able to accommodate the increased electricity, space and extraction fans that would be necessary, and the cost of putting in the necessary gear and in some cases rebuilding kiosks was prohibitive.

And the question about Marvin Johnson's prospects? One speaker said he had been watching James Ayres in the youth and reserve teams, and he wondered how long it would be before Marvin's peg in the first-team dressing room was taken over by the young defender. "About ten years," replied the 31-year-old skipper with a big smile.



Autograph

Nathan Abbey

Born: Islington 11.7.78
Previous clubs: None
Joined Luton Town: As a YTS boy in 1994
Luton debut: v Colchester, 12.8.97
Luton Town record: 24 appearances

TOP HATTERS GALLERY



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



The authority...

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

The Quality of the Football



Tonight's Referee

A HIGH-profile game gets a high-profile referee this evening, with one of the most experienced officials on the Premiership list taking charge of the match.

Steven Lodge, a local government officer from Barnsley, has tasted FA Cup action at the highest level - he was in charge of the 1977 final, when Chelsea beat Middlesbrough 2-0 at Wembley.

Mr Lodge started refereeing as a teen-ager in the Barnsley and District Leagues, with parks football the beginning of a career which was to bring international recognition.

After working his way up the pyramid, through the Midland and Central Leagues, he became a linesman on the Football League in 1984, and was promoted to league referee three years later. He was put onto the FIFA and Premiership referees lists in 1992 and travelled the world before retiring from FIFA duty five years later - he had charge of half a dozen A internationals, and his FIFA and UEFA appointments took him to 25 different countries.

His highlights in domestic football, as well as the FA Cup final, have included the FA Vase final in 1996 and FA Cup semi-finals in 1996 and 1998.

Father of a young boy, his interests outside football are squash, golf, cricket and gardening.



TOWN TEASER

OUR popular "Town Trivia" quiz continues this evening, offering one supporter the chance to go home with a prize. Listen to the PA announcer before the game, and if you know the answer to tonight's Town Teaser listen for your chance to have a go.

TONIGHT'S QUESTION

We reached the FA Cup semi-final in 1994, and one member of our team is now playing in the Premiership for Coventry City. Who is he?

Hatters Away

travel information

Bristol Rovers v Luton Town

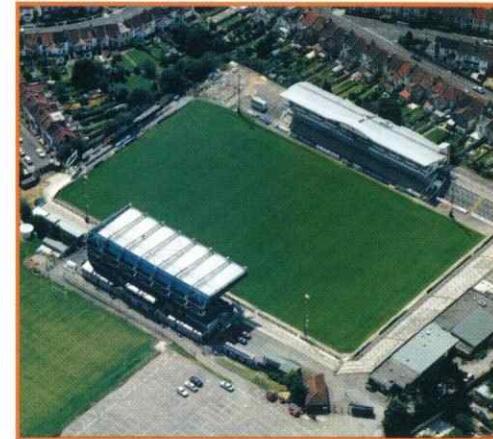
Saturday 27th November, kick-off 3.00pm

AFTER Tuesday's home game with Preston, we go to Bristol on Saturday, seeking to avenge our Worthington Cup defeat. We went to the Memorial Ground in the August sunshine to play Bristol Rovers, and a creditable 2-2 draw was to no avail, having lost the first leg at Kenilworth Road.

The easiest way to make the journey is by coach, with Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club offering their services.

If you want to use them, car parking arrangements have been made easier - you can leave your car at the club's Maple Road car park, which is staffed by a security man all day until the coaches return, and you no longer have to book a parking spot in advance - pay £3 on the day.

Luxury executive coaches run by Town on Tour, an offshoot of the Luton Town Supporters Club, will leave Maple Road at 11am. The fare is £11.50 for adult members of LTSC, £9.50 for concessions, and £13.00 for all others. You can book at the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road before or after tonight's game, or through the club shop at other times. You might find it worthwhile joining the Supporters Club - it's £6 for adults, £5 for concessions, or £12 for families of up to two adults and two children, and they all get discounts on Town on Tour.



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The Bobbers Travel Club will have a coach leaving Cranfield at 9.30am, with various pick-up points on the way to Luton, and departure time from Kenilworth Road is 10.30. The fare is £10.50 adults, and £8.50 for junior and senior citizens and tickets can be bought at the Bobbers Travel Club kiosk before home matches, or by phone call to Paul Deason after 6pm on 01234 750996. He will also be pleased to enrol you into the Bobbers Travel Club - membership is obligatory to use the service, but life membership costs only £1.

DIY travellers

IF YOU want to drive yourself to Bristol, the journey is quite simple. Leave Luton on the M1 south, then make a right turn onto the M25 west. Near Heathrow leave M25 to turn right onto the M4 heading west. Leave M4 at junction 19, turning left onto the M32. Leave the M32 at junction 2, and turn right, signposted to Fishponds and Horfield. Bear right where the road forks, and at the sixth set of traffic lights, about a quarter of a mile further on, turn left into Filton Avenue. The ground is on your left, and there is ample street parking in the area.

Mileage from Luton: 150.

Blast from the Past

Roger Wash

Luton Town v Lincoln City



Although the history of both clubs goes back well over a century this evening's game will be only the second time they have been paired together in the F.A.Cup competition.

As always, the Luton supporters looked on the dawning of a new season with optimism but the 1931/32 campaign seemed somewhat different. Manager George Kay had set off to pastures new at Southampton, presumably to better himself at a Division Two club, while his replacement, Harold Wightman, had been given some money to spend by the Town's directors to make sure that he would not go the same way.

It was regarded as a great coup at the time to secure the services of Fred Kean from Bolton. An ex-England international, holder of an F.A.Cup winners medal and highly regarded as still one of the best wing halves in the country he was immediately made skipper. Also from Bolton came Tommy Tait who had been a prolific scorer in the top flight and was to prove just as efficient lower down netting 50 times for the Hatters in only 84 league games.

With these additions to a squad that was already showing a good mix of youth and experience it was hoped that the previous season's final position of seventh could be bettered. Unfortunately disaster struck on the opening day when, watched by a large crowd of Luton supporters which had swelled the crowd at Reading to 14,591, goalkeeper George Harford was badly injured. With no substitutes in those days the ten man Town side eventually went down 1-2 and the pattern for the season was set.

'Inconsistent' was the word levelled at the Hatters during the opening half of the campaign with 6-3 home wins followed by 3-2 away defeats. One thing the supporters could not complain about, however, was the lack of goals with efforts raining in at both ends.

At that time the Town did not have a great F.A.Cup pedigree and, given the teams inconsistency,

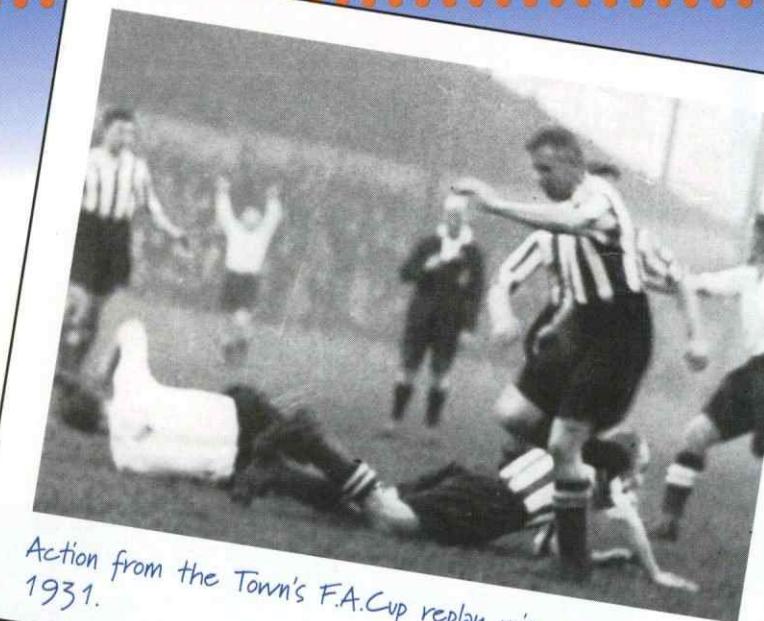
progress in the competition was not something that could be banked on. An away tie at Swindon, who were in the same division as the Town, in Round One did not send the heart racing but in one of those infuriating performances that was to punctuate their season the Hatters ran out winners by an amazing 5-0. Swindon relied overmuch on their record goalscorer Harry Morris who was policed effectively by Luton centre-half Hugh McGinnigle, while at the other end Jimmy Yardley scored twice, missed many more chances but led the line so effectively that his colleagues had a field day.

According to the press report 'Swindon gave the most feeble display that has been seen in a Cup tie at the County Ground' and the reporter went on to praise the home defence which had worked hard to keep the score down.

The Town's reward for this victory was a tie with Lincoln at Sincil Bank, a ground they had not visited since the days of Division Two at the back end of the last century. Lincoln were riding high at the top of Division Three (North) but had surprisingly gone down 1-8 at Crewe the week before the Town were due to visit on 12th December 1931. More ominous was the fact that Lincoln had won their last home game 7-0 with Southport on the receiving end.

A crowd of 12,613 assembled at Sincil Bank fully expecting a home victory to go alongside the 3-0 win over Manchester Central in the previous round. The home fans were, however, stung when Yardley, receiving the ball in a seemingly offside position, stormed forward to hammer the Town into the lead.

Imps top scorer, Allan Hall, levelled before the interval but as the home side gained the initiative in the second period it was the Town that took the lead again, against the run of play with fifteen minutes left. Swift interpassing between Tait and George McNestry set up Yardley who made no mistake and as Lincoln pressed for an equaliser the Town broke away and spurned two simple opportunities. These misses proved costly as, in the final minute, Hall netted direct from a free kick to take the tie back to Kenilworth Road.



Action from the Town's F.A.Cup replay win over Lincoln in 1931.

No floodlights in those days so a Wednesday afternoon was booked for the replay. A respectable crowd of 9,264 turned up boosted, no doubt, by an army of shopworkers who were enjoying their normal half day holiday. This time the Town were in total control from the start and scored at regular intervals through Tait, with two, Yardley and speedy winger Jack Slicer. Lincoln were left, in time honoured fashion, to 'concentrate on the league' and ended up as champions of their division.

The Town were now through to the Third Round for the first time in three years and Cup fever took over when it was announced that Division Two pacesetters, Wolves, would visit Kenilworth Road. A 6-1 victory over Reading in the league was the perfect warm up for the big Cup match and on the day of the game the turnstiles stopped clicking with 16,945 in the ground which was the biggest crowd at Kenilworth Road since the visit of Preston, again in the Cup, in 1921.

The match was fiercely fought -overfiercely according to the newspaper reports- and the referee had difficulty in keeping control as the boots flew in. Today the game would have finished up six a side but in those far off times the permanent maiming of an opponent merely received a booking.

Wolves took the lead after five minutes from the spot and missed several first half opportunities to put the game out of the reach of the Town. They did increase their lead towards the end and it was only then that the Hatters started to put the Wanderers defence under pressure. A cross from Andy Rennie was headed home by Yardley to make it an uncomfortable last ten minutes for the away side but, although the Town hit the post in the final seconds, a draw would have been unjust.

It was now the Town's turn to go back to the 'bread and butter' of the league and they did indeed improve on their previous season's placing of seventh. They finished sixth!

Lincoln (first game): McPhail, Worthy, McConville, C.Pringle, Young, Buckley, H.Pringle, Keetley, Hall, Riley, Whyte.

(Second game): Smith replaced McConville and March replaced Riley.

Luton (both games): Imrie, Kingham, Hodgson, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, McNestry, Tait, Yardley, Rennie, Slicer.

Community & Schools Programme

INDOOR UNDER 10's FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

'YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY ON THE PITCH'

Venue: Luton Regional Sports Centre

Date: Thursday 23rd December 1999

Time: From 12.00 midday to 5.00 pm

Final to be played on the pitch prior to Luton Town v Chesterfield, Boxing Day, December 26th.

To register your team simply ring The Community & Schools Programme on **01582 411622**



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LUTON

TUESDAYS

Luton Regional Sports Centre
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Luton Regional Sports Centre
School Years 4 to 8
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

FRIDAYS

Cardinal Newman High School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm
School Years 4 to 8
at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

DUNSTABLE

THURSDAYS

Manshead Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

FRIDAYS

Northfields Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm
School Years 4 to 8
at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

COACHING PROGRAMME

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

MONDAYS

Cedars High School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Vandyke Upper School
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School Years 4 to 8
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THURSDAYS

Vandyke Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
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To book a place or for further information please contact the Community & Schools Department on

01582 411622

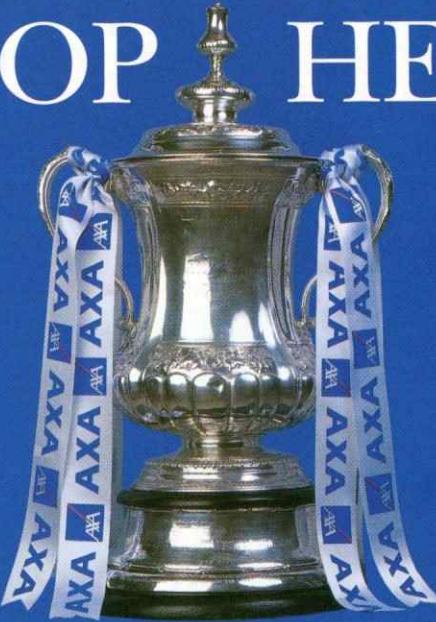
NTL SCHOOL VISIT PROJECT

With only a month or so to go before the end of the school year we've certainly got our hands full in meeting our target of 10,000 school children to experience a school visit from our coaching staff. However with visits planned for many schools in Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Hitchin, Leighton Buzzard and Bedford we are well on our way to reaching our target.

Our School Visit Project is jointly funded by NTL and Sportsmatch and aims to provide curriculum time PE and football coaching in schools to youngsters of all abilities. If you would like further information about the project or to invite us to your school then it couldn't 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.



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Junior Hatters

welcome

THERE will be a Junior Hatters coach trip to Bristol next Saturday, for an occasion which is often one of the highlights of our travelling season. We always have a good day out there with the Young Pirates, and whatever the result we know more friendships will be made. The price will be £10 for Junior Hatters, £13 for adults and guests. Contact the ticket office to book, but please don't leave it too late - it is first come, first served.

CIRCUMSTANCES beyond our control have led to different arrangements being made for the annual Junior Hatters Christmas party. It is no longer possible to hold it on the date we had pencilled in, but instead it will be a Millennium Party on January 5, 2000. We will publish more information as arrangements are finalised, but book the date in your new millennium diary! If you are not in the Junior Hatters, but would like to be there, you still have time to join. Visit or phone the ticket office on Luton 416976 for more information.

OUR Saturday Club will be in business again at our next home match, against Notts County in a fortnight's time, helping Junior Hatters enjoy football as a real day out, not just 90 minutes of watching soccer action.

We meet at Dallow School at 12 noon, and if the weather is kind we use the Dallow pitch for football matches, sometimes against junior teams from the clubs who are visiting Kenilworth Road. If the weather is bad we have a foam ball for indoor soccer, and that is always popular. All sorts of other entertainment is on offer, and naturally the Saturday Club is fully supervised.

The Saturday Club has a few vacancies, so if you want to get everything possible out of coming to football at Luton Town, why not join us? The price is £5 for Junior Hatters who have season tickets, or £9



• **MASCOTS** from both clubs line up before kick-off against Burnley, when we were pleased to be able to welcome young Clarets fan Jamie Ratcliffe as our guest. Aged 13, and from Fareham, in Hampshire, he enjoyed his day with us, except for the result!

Much happier was 12-year-old Michael Rogers, pictured with the skippers, match officials and Happy Harry. Michael, from Church Road, Westoning was the commercial mascot.

with a match ticket included. Very often we have visits by Town players, and we provide a lunch of sausage and chips, with a drink. We have a quiz in our family room, then watch the game from the Kenilworth lower tier and meet up with parents and friends after the game.

For more information, or to join the Junior Hatters, please contact the Town ticket office on Luton 416976. We also organise trips to a lot of away games, often to meet up with the juniors of other clubs, and sometimes we have mascots at away games. If you are under 16 and support Luton Town, come and join us!

Today's Mascot

ANDREW Wallis, who will be 12 later this month, is the Junior Hatter lucky enough to have his name picked out of the drum to be mascot tonight. He comes from Holliers Close, Thame, and goes to the Lord Williams's School nearby, but the family's roots are in Luton, and two generations are regular supporters - Andrew comes to matches with his mum and dad, Kevin and Diana, and his brother Steven, and often with pals from the Boys Brigade. A nice win tonight would be a birthday present three times over for the family: Andrew will be 12

on the 28th of this month, Steven will be nine on the 21st, and dad will be 21 yet again on the 25th.

We hope they all have a good night with us, and for sure Andrew will - before the game he gets to meet his heroes close up, joining them in the dressing room, and then taking part in the pre-match warm-up and kick-in, before accompanying Marvin Johnson to the centre circle for the toss of the coin.

Andrew is not just a football watcher - he likes playing the game as well, and also enjoys swimming and reading. And this evening one of his many treats will be meeting Liam George - the striker is his favourite player.



If you would like to join the Junior Hatters, call the Ticket Office on

01582 416976

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Hatters On Card

Alan Robinson

ALTHOUGH we are only at the second round stage in the FA Cup tonight, it is not that long ago that Hatters supporters had high expectations of progressing considerably further in this competition.

Starting with a trip to Villa Park to play Everton in 1985, the Town reached the semi-finals three times in nine years.

For the first two, in the unlucky defeat by Everton and the disappointing defeat against Wimbledon at White Hart Lane in 1988, we were skippered by Steve Foster.

It was therefore appropriate that this inspirational character was featured when the soccer magazine Match Weekly decided to give away a series of FA Cup fact cards in 1986.

"Fozzie" started his career with his home town club Portsmouth, and some of us remember him playing against the Town at Fratton Park as a young centre-forward. George Graham was alongside him in the Pompey attack.

But it was further along the south coast, at Brighton where he really made his mark, and his commanding performances, as a centre-half, helped to take the Seagulls into the top division of the Football League, and to the 1983 cup final. That was the famous "Smith must score" game, when Foster was suspended as Brighton drew 1-1 with Manchester United. Gordon Smith's miss was immortalised in a fanzine title, and Fozzie returned for the replay which United won 4-0.

He had been capped by England three times, but a move to Aston Villa was less than successful. David Pleat rescued his career by taking him out of Villa reserves for a bargain fee of £70,000, eight months after Villa had paid Brighton £200,000.

With his trademark headband, worn to protect scar tissue, Foster made an immediate impact at Kenilworth Road, and soon formed a solid defensive partnership with Mal Donagh. Aided by other new signings, David Preece, Mick Harford and Peter Nicholas, the Town were transformed from apparent certainties for relegation into a team capable of challenging for honours.

Foster led by example, and was always vociferous in shouting instructions to team-mates - asked Marvin Johnson - and few strikers got the better of him in the air.

He could also be relied upon to pop up at set pieces with the odd goal, and an important one broke the deadlock against Bradford City in the Littlewoods Cup quarter-final. This, of course, set up Foster and the Hatters for their finest hour, the unforgettable triumph over Arsenal at Wembley in April 1988.

Fozzie led us to another Littlewoods Cup final the following season, but this time we were beaten, by Nottingham Forest.

At the end of the 1988/89 season the defender, who by then was player-coach, decided to step down a division to join Oxford United. That surprised and disappointed many Luton fans, who thought he was good for at least two more seasons in the top flight. His inspirational leadership

had been something special. After a few seasons at the Manor Ground, Foster finished his career back at Brighton. When he retired in 1996 there were those who were surprised he did not utilise his leadership skills in management or coaching, but instead he preferred to concentrate on his business interests on the south coast.

The reverse of the card is interesting: although Foster is pictured as a Hatters player, the text makes no mention of Luton at all, concentrating on the story of his missed FA Cup final and his unsuccessful High Court action to try to get his suspension lifted.

The FA Cup fact file adds two general interest items: Albert Johansson of Leeds being the first black player to appear in an FA Cup final, in the Leeds team beaten by Liverpool in 1965; and Manchester United winning the 1948 final after being the first ever to be drawn against First Division teams in every round.

These larger-sized cards are still popular with collectors, and are now catalogued at £6.50 for the set of 31.



Match Weekly
FA Cup Fact File, 1986

Action Replay

Luton Town 2 Burnley 1 (HT 0-0)

Brian Swain reports

IF TONIGHT'S game is as good as the last one at Kenilworth Road, we are in for a treat - and perhaps an occasion when both sets of fans can go home believing their was the better side.

Two sharply-taken goals by Neil Midgley ended Burnley's run of four games without defeat, but the visiting manager left Kenilworth Road wondering how his side had lost.

Proving that football can be all things to all men, Stan Ternent claimed that in the second half Burnley battered us. "We are a bit frustrated to have got nothing out of that," he said. "In the second half we were on top after getting the equaliser, but then we were caught with our pants down and gave away another goal. But before that we had Luton on the ropes. And their goalkeeper made an unbelievable save from Steve Davies in the last minute."

Even Burnley's Press lads thought their manager had got it a little wrong, but everyone agreed that we had seen a cracking game of football - three goals, one cleared off the line at each end, and late drama when we missed two good chances before Davis's header from a corner was brilliantly clawed away by Nathan Abbey.

It added up to a less than happy return for the former skipper, and for Mitchell Thomas, now 35 but enjoying a new lease of life as a centre-half alongside Davis.

For our part, the new generation showed that a team with spirit and commitment, and ready to work for each other, can outplay sides put together with the cheque-book. Very satisfying it was for the majority of the biggest league attendance of the season so far.

Burnley's fans, the biggest away crowd yet, played their part in ensuring the atmosphere crackled as two good teams slugged it out.

Lennie Lawrence was proved right when he forecast it would be the toughest home test of the season. How nice to see it passed with flying colours.

And while Ternent moaned about the late save from Davis, the Town boss was able to point out that by then Burnley could have been 3-1 down - sub Tresor Kandol and perpetual-motion Matthew Taylor both raced clear when the

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Boyce, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George, McLaren (Locke 79 mins), Douglas (McIndoe 73 mins), Spring, Midgley (Kandol 88 mins), Taylor. Unused subs: Sodje, Ward.

Booked: Julian Watts, 58 mins, foul on John Mullin

Burnley: Crichton, Brass (Jepson 72 mins), Thomas, Mellon, Davis, Armstrong (Lee 86 mins), Little, Cook, Cooke, Payton (Branch 78 mins), Mullin. Unused subs Robertson, Weller.

Booked: No-one.

The goals: 1-0 49 mins - Neil Midgley, side-footing in at the near post after Liam George took a pass from Matthew Spring, tricked his way past Chris Brass, and then crossed before Steve Davis could get in a tackle; 1-1 60 seconds later - Andy Cooke, close range shot on the far post after a low cross from the right by Glen Little eluded all the Town defenders; 2-1 68 mins - Midgley again, completing the first league double of his career, after riding a tackle to send Stuart Douglas down the right wing, and then getting half a yard ahead of his marker to meet the low cross and steer in a right-foot shot at the near post.

Referee: Frazer Stretton, Nottingham.

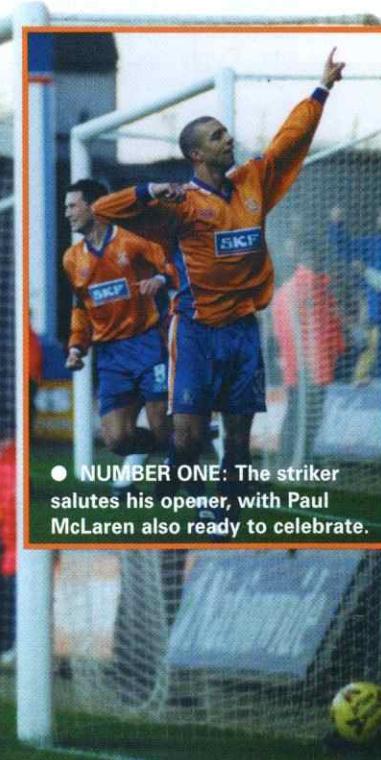
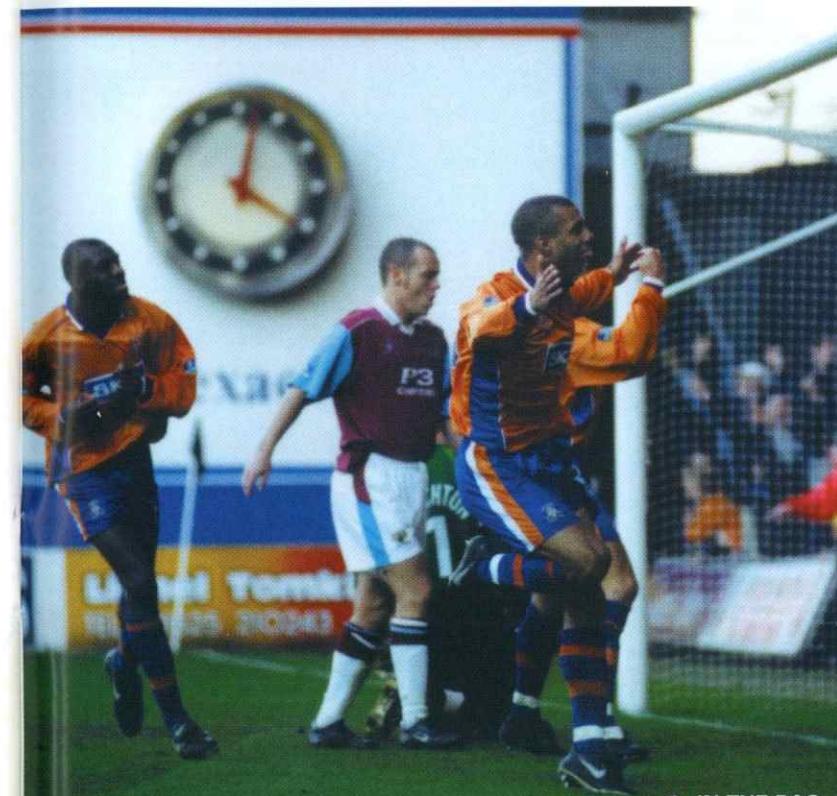
Attendance: 7,205 including 1,392 visiting fans.

visitors were caught on the break, but suffered rush of blood syndrome and shot wildly when calmness, or a pass, would have been devastating to a team that had suffered only one previous away defeat.

"Burnley didn't threaten us until the second half," said Lawrence. "We showed good desire and spirit. We go where that takes us... and at the moment it is taking us along very nicely. We are probably the youngest team in the four divisions, and they are not fazed by anything."



● **DOUBLE TAKE:** Two pairs of pictures capture the delight when Neil Midgley's first League double-strike completed victory over Burnley. This is his winner, and shows just how sharp he was to get into the right place while surrounded by would-be defenders.



● **NUMBER ONE:** The striker salutes his opener, with Paul McLaren also ready to celebrate.

● **IN THE BAG:** Midgley's first goal hits the net.

Action Replay

Cambridge United 3 Luton Town 1 (HT 2-0)

Brian Swain reports

HAVING seen such a good performance to dispose of Burnley, the Town's biggest away following of the season packed into the Abbey Stadium, hoping and expecting to see us heap more misery on the team that kicked off in the bottom four of the Second Division. It turned out to be a night when the misery was all ours, and Lennie Lawrence admitted that if we play like that again tonight Lincoln will be in the third round of the FA Cup, and not us.

Never before, in ten league fixtures, had we ever been beaten by Cambridge, but this time you sensed it was all over when Cambridge eased into a two-goal lead, and then escaped when Matthew Taylor hit a tremendous free kick against a post in the final seconds of the first half.

We had also been unlucky before that. The first goal that might have settled us down against a tea of battling triers looked on its way when Gary Doherty outjumped everyone to meet a corner by Matthew Spring. The headed contact was too good - Doherty powered the ball downwards so hard that it bounced high over the bar.

But we could not kid ourselves we were unlucky to lose. Cambridge provided rousing passion and commitment, and it was painful to see it swamping us.

It was not all long ball and run - luckless Emmerson Boyce found the pace of trickery of Trevor Benjamin a real problem, and was taken out of the firing line at the interval. But by then Cambridge, playing with three attackers, were two up and responding to the Abbey's biggest attendance of the season. When you are battling against relegation, up and at 'em bravado will be enough if it knocks the opposition out of their stride.

We failed to get a grip of midfield, and although the defence was tighter after the break, with Efe Sodje in the centre, and Doherty on the right, we rarely looked like piercing the rugged home back four.

A double substitution was made for the last half-hour, to strengthen midfield, and leaving only two attackers, but within eight minutes we had conceded another goal, and Liam George's last-minute reply was very scant consolation.

Skipper Marvin Johnson admitted that Cambridge had been stronger and more determined, and showed more desire, while the Town, for reasons they could not work out, were well below their best. "Credit to Cambridge," said Lennie Lawrence. "They have scored even more goals than us, and you can see why - their front three did very well and

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Boyce (Sodje HT), Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George, McLaren (McIndoe 59 mins), Douglas, Spring, Midgley (Locke 59 mins), Taylor. Unused subs: Kandol, Ward.

Booked: Julian Watts, 40 mins, foul on Neil Mackenzie.

Cambridge: Marshall, Ashbee, Joseph, Mustoe, Wanless, Butler, Benjamin, Kyd (Taylor 82 mins), Wilson, Mackenzie, McNeil. **Unused subs:** Preece, Tann, Chillingworth, Van Heusden.

Booked: Marc Joseph, 15 mins, foul on Liam George.

The goals: 1-0 39 mins - Julian Watts harshly adjudged to have fouled Martin Butler, and Clive Wilson hit a curling free kick from the right into the far corner, with Butler claiming the faintest touch with a glancing header; 2-0 43 mins - Wilson's cross from the left headed back across the face of the goal by Michael Kyd for Trevor Benjamin to head home from close range; 3-0 68 mins - Town lost possession in midfield, allowing Neil Mackenzie to deliver a cross-field pass for Kyd to collect, and turn into a goal with a fierce cross-drive; 3-1 89 mins - Liam George's 11th goal of the season, expertly-taken shot after collecting a long clearance by Nathan Abbey.

Referee: Terry Heilbron, Newton Aycliffe.

Attendance: 6,211, including 2,152 supporting the Town, with a lot more locked out.

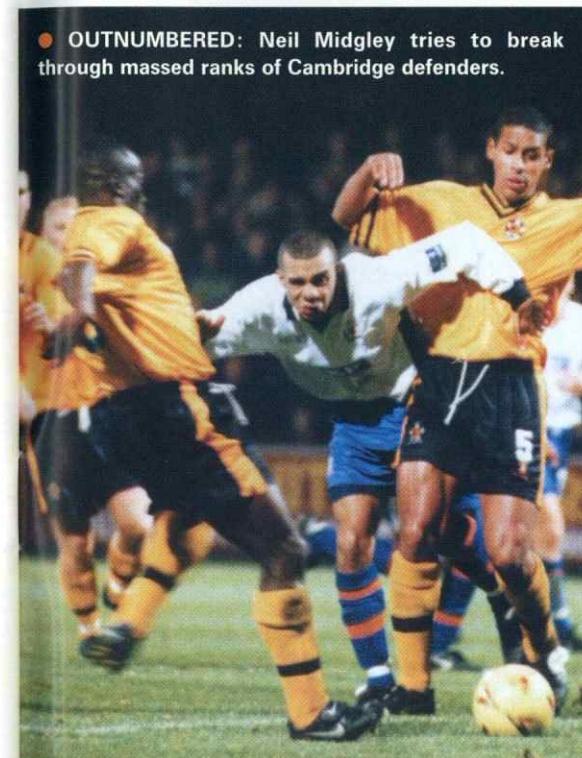
we were struggling to cope with them. We didn't defend their crosses well enough, which led to two of their goals, but most of important of all we didn't pass it anywhere near well enough. We created too few chances, and put in too few crosses.

"If we had come in with one goal under our belt at half-time - and we were unlucky with Doherty's header and Taylor's shot against the inside of the post - we might have done something. But you can't hope to defend like that and win. If you defend like that but your passing is excellent and you are creating and scoring goals, you might get away with it. We have done at home, although not defending as badly as that. We bounced back against Kingstonian, for example. But we haven't been able to do it away, and certainly were not going to do it from two goals down, let alone three."

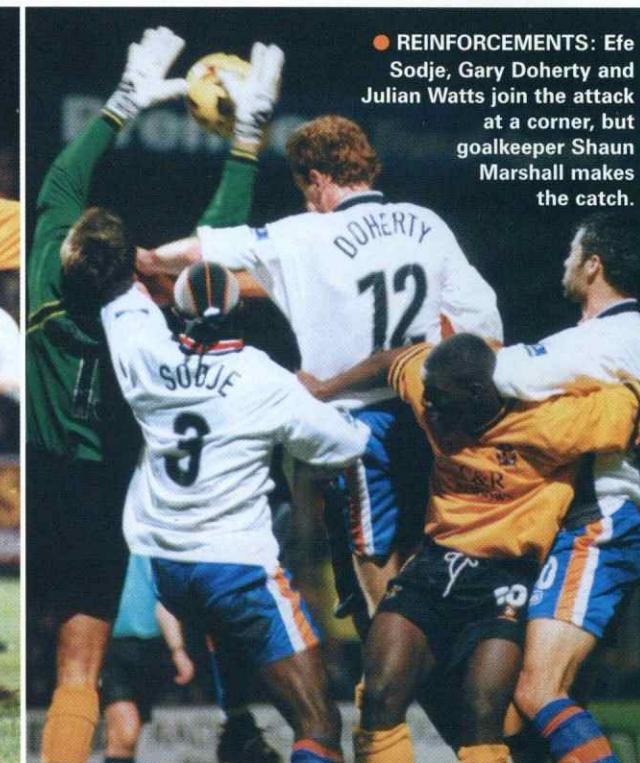
● **LATE CONSOLATION:** Liam George strikes his 11th goal of the season, in the final minute.



● **OUTNUMBERED:** Neil Midgley tries to break through massed ranks of Cambridge defenders.



● **REINFORCES:** Efe Sodje, Gary Doherty and Julian Watts join the attack at a corner, but goalkeeper Shaun Marshall makes the catch.



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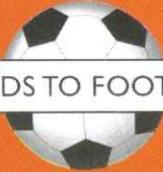
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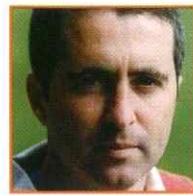
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Youth Soccer

Paul Lowe



Luton Town 5 Maidenhead 0

WE made comfortable progress in the Times FA Youth Cup, and coasted through to earn a third round tie away to Welling United.

It is difficult to judge a team performance when boys in full-time training come up against lads who do not have the same advantage, and Maidenhead were unlucky in meeting us in a week when the preparations had been exactly right.

For the first time, with no first team or reserve team games in midweek, we were able to devote two clear days to preparing for the game. In the event, we did a professional job, enjoying the occasion of playing under the floodlights of Kenilworth Road, with Lennie Lawrence among those watching.

The FA Youth Cup is for under-18 teams, which was why Tresor Kandol had to be left out of the side - he is just one day too old to play in this year's tournament.

Football League Youth Alliance South Central Conference

Results and Fixtures

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	0-2
	Wed 20	Sutton Utd (FLYAC)	H	2-0 (Moran, Jeffrey)
	Sat 23	Southend (FLYAC)	A	1-2 (Ayres)
NOV	Sat 6	Cambridge (FLYAC)	H	1-2 (OG)
	Wed 10	Maidenhead (FLYAC)	H	5-0 (Clarke 2, Stirling 2, Jeffrey)
	Sat 13	Barnet (FLYAC)	A	
	Sat 20	Colchester (FLYAC)	H	
	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		

The Football League Youth Alliance is an under-19 tournament, so the FA Youth Cup gives us the chance to assess our first-year boys in competitive games.

We used three 16-year-olds as subs, and Marcus Jeffrey, Joe Deeney and Darren Crane livened up the game considerably in the last half hour or so when there was a danger of complacency creeping into our play.

It is difficult to judge players when matches are one-sided, and we certainly will not get carried away with this result. Goalkeeper Scott Ward did not have a difficult save to make.

Players know when they have got the measure of inferior opposition, and there were times when we did well in terms of putting our training moves into the game. But there were also times when we were dominating so much that players were getting too easy-going, and taking too many touches.

We were two up at half time, with carbon-copy goals by Darren Clarke, made by the incisive running of Rene James-Barriteau. He delivered good crosses in the 19th and 26th minutes for Clarke to fire home, Barriteau nearly got one of his own between those goals, but the goalkeeper saved with his legs.

The game was all but over ten minutes after the interval when Steven Dogbe was tripped by the keeper and Jude Stirling converted the penalty. A solo goal calmly stroked in by Stirling made it four, and in the last minute his long throw had the Maidenhead defence in disarray and Jeffrey nipped in to score.

That was down to poor defending, but one pleasing feature of our play was that with no big target man in attack - a job that used to be done by Kandol and before that Gary Doherty - we are using passing skills to work the ball forward, and play it to feet.

Luton Town: Ward, Mortara, Stirling, Carroll, Moran, Dogbe, Mansell, Mentore (Deeney 77 mins), Clarke (Crane 77 mins), Flaherty (Jeffrey 64 mins), Barriteau. Unused sub: Wraight (GK).

Luton Town 1 Cambridge Utd 2

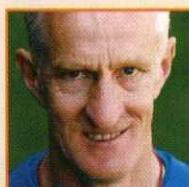
THERE were times when we looked quite good in our Football League Youth Alliance Cup match, but we paid the penalty of not being positive enough in using possession.

The Reserves

Trevor Hartley & John Moore



BECAUSE we do not have a massive squad of senior players, our reserve team has not been entered in the Avon Insurance League Cup, which has meant that we have had no competitive fixture for a fortnight before Wednesday's game at Ipswich. There will be a full report of that match in Tuesday evening's matchday magazine. The next Avon Insurance game is against Colchester on Wednesday December 1, kick-off 2pm at Kenilworth Road.



Reserve team appearances, including as sub:
Kandol 8, Boyce 7, Scarlett 7, Ayres 7, Stirling 7, Sodje 6, Jerry 6, White 5, McIndoe 5, Locke 5, Ward 5, Tate 4, O'Connor 3, Graham 3, Pearson 2, Davis 2, Brkovic 2, Mansell 2, Moran 2, Dogbe 1, Mortara 1, Clarke 1, Barriteau 1, Hunt 1, Zahana-Oni 1, Bowes 1, O'Brien 1, Ryan 1, Jack 1, Gray 1, Antunes 1, McKinnon 1.
Goals: Kandol 8, Jerry 2, OG 1.

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	2-1 (Jerry, Kandol)
	Wed 27	Bristol Rov	A	0-0
NOV	Wed 3	Norwich	H	1-1 (Kandol)
	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

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Goals	Player	League	League Cup	FA Cup
4-0	Colchester			
0-3	Preston / 1-4 Gillingham			
8	Stein 5 / 2 / 1			
2-0	Wycombe			
0-5	Bury			
6	Murphy 6 / 0 / 0			
2	goal margin in 4 games			
1-2	Preston / Gillingham			
6	Owusu 5 / 0 / 1			
5-2	Blackpool			
0-3	Gillingham / Oxford			
5	Tinnion 3 / 0 / 2			
2-0	Notts Cnty / Sc'thorpe / 3-1 Blackpool			
1-3	Wigan			
9	Cureton/Roberts 8/6 / 1 / 3 / 0			
5-0	Wrexham			
0-1	Bristol Rvs / 1-2 Luton / Sc'thorpe			
8	Payton 8 / 0 / 0			
5-0	Blackpool			
0-2	Reading / Oldham / 1-3 Notts Cty			
10	Lawson 9 / 1 / 0			
5-2	Colchester			
2-4	Ch'field / 1-3 Sc'thorpe / Stoke			
14	Butler 11 / 3 / 0			
3-2	Oxford / 2-1 Ch'field / Notts Cty			
1-3	Wycombe / 0-2 Wigan			
8	Nugent 5 / 1 / 2			
4-2	Cambridge / 2-0 Preston			
0-3	Wigan			
9	Reeves 7 / 2 / 0			
1-0	Ch'field / 3-2 Reading / 2-1 Oldham			
0-4	Bournemouth			
5	Lua Lua 3 / 1 / 1			
5-1	Wrexham			
0-2	Preston / 1-3 Luton			
15	Taylor 14 / 1 / 0			
3-1	Gill'm / Wrexham / 4-2 Oxford			
0-2	Brentford / 1-3 C'bridge			
11	George 10 / 0 / 1			
4-1	Scunthorpe			
1-3	Stoke / 0-2 Preston / Gill'm			
6	Cahill/Harris 6/6 / 0 / 0			
3-0	Scunthorpe / Colchester			
0-2	Preston / Bristol Rovers			
8	Stallard 8 / 0 / 0			
2-0	Bury			
0-2	Brentford			
6	Allott 5 / 1 / 0			
3-0	Bristol City			
2-4	Luton / 1-3 Millwall / 0-2 Brentford			
9	Murphy 6 / 3 / 0			
3-0	Bournemouth			
1-4	Wigan			
11	Mackon 9 / 2 / 0			
2-0	Bury			
2	goal margin in 4 games			
7	Caskey 4 / 2 / 1			
3-1	Cambridge / B'mouth			
0-3	Notts Cnty / Wigan / 14 Millwall			
7	Ipoua 7 / 0 / 0			
2	goal margin in 4 games			
1	goal margin in 4 games			
6	Thorne 5 / 1 / 0			
3-0	Ch'field / Sc'thorpe / 4-1 Preston			
0	no defeats as yet			
18	Barlow 14 / 2 / 2			
1	goal margin in 4 games			
0-5	Burnley			
6	Faulconbridge 6 / 0 / 0			
3-1	Cardiff / 5-3 Reading			
0-2	Blackpool / Bury			
11	Devine 10 / 1 / 0			

1999-00 Season Division 2 Campaign Records

Highest Gate	16,011 Bristol City v Bristol Rovers 17-Oct
Lowest Gate	2,473 Wrexham v Brentford 6-Nov
Highest Aggregate Score	Wycombe 5-3 Reading 2-Oct
Biggest Home Win	Burnley 5-0 Wrexham 2-Nov
Biggest Away Win	Blackpool 0-5 Bury 16-Oct
Consecutive Wins	Notts County 5
Games Unbeaten	Wigan 16
Consecutive Defeats	Oldham 5
Games without a Win	Blackpool 12

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins	Brentford 2
Games Unbeaten	Wigan 16
Consecutive Defeats	Chesterfield 3
Games without a Win	Chesterfield 11

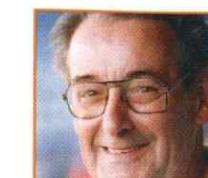
How Clubs have scored goals... and conceded them

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	
4	3	3	2	0	0	6	2	Bournemouth	6	4	3	2	0	4	3	0
5	2	1	3	0	0	6	0	Blackpool	7	7	4	1	0	1	10	1
6	2	8	5	0	0	6	0	Brentford	4	1	3	0	0	3	5	1
2	3	2	4	0	1	4	0	Bristol City	2	3	4	3	0	0	9	0
7	0	2	1	0	3	5	0	Bristol Rovers	1	1	3	2	1	0	3	0
11	3	2	0	0	2	6	0	Burnley	0	4	5	0	0	2	0	0
8	7	2	1	0	1	6	1	Bury	3	3	5	1	0	0	9	0
10	4	1	1	0	3	5	2	Cambridge United	8	5	3	7	0	2	6	0
4	4	3	5	0	1	1	0	Cardiff City	7	3	4	5	0	2	3	0
3	1	2	1	0	3	1	0	Chesterfield	7	2	3	1	0	2	4	0
2	7	2	1	1	2	4	0	Colchester United	9	7	4	3	1	1	9	1
4	2	5	8	1	2	9	0	Gillingham	6	5	0	4	0	3	3	0
4	6	3	2	0	1	7	0	Luton Town	7	3	1	4	0	0	5	0
4	4	0	4	0	2	7	0	Millwall	2	2	3	1	1	4	5	1
10	4	2	0	1	0	7	0	Notts County	6	3	0	2	0	2	2	0
7	1	2	2	1	0	6	0	Oldham Athletic	8	6	1	1	0	3	4	0
3	3	2	2	0	3	4	0	Oxford United	3	6	1	5	0	1	7	0
6	5	3	4	0	2	4	2	Preston North End	6	2	1	1	1	2	4	0
6	3	1	3	0	3	5	0	Reading	6	2	3	6	1	2	6	2
3	2	3	1	0	3	6	0	Scunthorpe United	9	0	1	6	0	1	9	0
8	2	5	4	0	1	4	0	Stoke City	6	3	2	0	0	0	3	2
7	3	6	3	0	4	8	1	Wigan Athletic	3	0	0	2	0	3	6	0
6	1	1	5	0	1	3	0	Wrexham	10	2	7	1	0	0	10	0
3	6	2	3	1	2	5	0	Wycombe Wanderers	8	3	1	7	0	2	1	0

Key to chart: H = Header
V = Valley
FK = Free Kick
Y = Yellow Card
R = Red Card
Ave = Average

NATIONWIDE DIVISION 2 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistics compiled by
FOOTBALL INFORMATION SERVICES
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OUR sixth home win of the season, against Burnley, lifted us back into the top eight of the Second Division, only for the place to be lost when the sixth away defeat overwhelmed us at Cambridge. We dropped another place, to tenth, the lowest of the season, when Millwall overtook us on goal difference on Tuesday with a 5-0 thumping of Reading at the Den.

The two sections of the league table tell their own story - the benefits of being invincible at home are being eaten away by one of the division's poorest away records. No-one in the division has scored fewer than our total of five away goals, although the defensive record is holding up reasonably well. The situation is not desperate, because we are still only a couple of points away from the play-off zone, but the top two places are edging further away.

Wigan have regained first place after maintaining the division's only unbeaten record. Jermaine McSporran gave Wycombe the lead on Saturday at the JCB Stadium, where the crowd was only 5,523, but Stuart Barlow, the Nationwide League's top marksman, equalised with his 18th goal of the season, and Stuart Balmer added a second-half winner. Wigan extended their lead on Tuesday with a 3-1 home win over Bournemouth, with Barlow on target again. Worryingly for Wigan, the gate dropped below 5,000.

Previous leaders Notts County dropped to third, overtaken by Preston, who beat them at Deepdale, and who come to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday. Preston won 2-0, and it was County's second away defeat of the season, although they had been beaten 4-2 in an FA Cup replay at Bournemouth few days earlier. County kept Kurt Nogan off the score-sheet at Preston, although another former Town player, Mark Stein, notched his eighth of the season in the cup-tie.

Bournemouth have problems similar to ours:

excellent at home, but decidedly iffy away. They are still in touch with the leading bunch, but a 4-1 thrashing at Gillingham was their fifth defeat on their travels.

Brentford eased up into fourth place by edging victory in a 4-3 comedy of defensive errors at home to Scunthorpe, but were then overhauled by Burnley on Sunday.

The Second Division

	HOME				AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	F	A	Pts
Wigan	17	8	1	0	20	5	2	6	0	15	10
Preston	17	6	1	2	13	9	3	5	0	13	8
Notts Co	17	4	2	2	9	6	6	1	2	15	9
Burnley	17	7	1	1	19	6	2	4	2	5	5
Brentford	16	6	2	1	18	9	2	4	1	9	8
Gillingham	17	6	1	2	20	9	2	4	2	11	12
Stoke	17	4	3	2	12	8	4	2	2	12	8
Bristol Rov	16	4	3	1	9	5	4	2	2	9	6
Millwall	17	4	4	1	14	8	3	2	3	12	11
Luton Town	17	6	2	0	18	9	2	1	6	5	11
Bury	17	4	3	1	17	12	1	5	3	9	9
Wycombe	17	3	3	2	12	10	2	4	3	10	12
B'mouth	17	5	2	1	13	5	1	2	6	8	20
Scunthorpe	17	2	2	4	7	11	3	2	4	11	19
Oldham	17	3	1	5	11	12	2	2	4	8	11
Wrexham	17	3	2	3	10	10	1	3	5	7	20
Bristol City	16	2	6	0	11	6	1	1	6	5	16
Cardiff	17	2	6	1	10	9	1	1	6	8	15
Oxford	17	2	3	4	10	11	2	1	5	7	12
Reading	16	3	2	3	10	10	1	1	6	11	15
Cambridge	17	3	3	3</							

Statistics

fixtures 1999/2000

date	opposition	result	scorers	league place	attnd.	team	substitutes									
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	Fotiadiis	Taylor
Sat 21	Reading	A 2-1	Fotiadiis, George	3	8,741	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadiis	Taylor
Wed 25	WC1 (2) Bristol Rov	A 2-2	Kadol, Doherty	3	4,414	Abbey	Locke	Sodje	Boyce	White	Watts	Gray	McKinnon	Douglas	McIndoe	Kadol
Sat 28	Cardiff	H 1-0	Gray	2	5,374	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadiis	Taylor
Tues 31	Bournemouth	A 0-1		2	4,797	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadiis	Taylor
AUGUST																
SEPTEMBER																
OCTOBER																
NOVEMBER																
DECEMBER																
JANUARY 2000																
FEBRUARY																
MARCH																
APRIL																
MAY																

Travelling fans

OUR biggest following of the season helped to swell the attendance at The Abbey to Cambridge's best so far. We had seen something similar the previous week, when Burnley brought the biggest away contingent we have seen at Kenilworth Road this season. That pushed the gate at our last home game beyond 7,000 for the first time since 7,424 came to watch Fulham last March. On average we are still taking nearly twice as many fans to away matches than the teams who have come to Luton: The figures so far:

OURS

	THEIRS
Notts County	1,531
Reading	1,536
Bristol Rovers (WC)	240
Blackpool	464
Cardiff	992
Bury	198
Wrexham	307
Oxford	745
Gillingham	1,241
Wycombe	711
Kingstonian (FAC)	571
Burnley	1,392
Total so far	11,369
Average	1,137

The FA Cup final will be on May 20

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Tonight's Teams



Luton Town

NATHAN ABBEY	1
STUART FRASER	13
JULIAN WATTS	40
GARY DOHERTY	12
MARVIN JOHNSON	6
LIAM GEORGE	11
PAUL McLAREN	8
STUART DOUGLAS	9
MATTHEW SPRING	4
ADAM LOCKE	28
MATTHEW TAYLOR	15
Substitutes	
EMMERSOON BOYCE	17
EFETOBORÉ SODJE	3
TRESOR KANDOL	18
MICHAEL McINDOE	10
SCOTT WARD (GK)	24

V



Lincoln City

26	BARRY RICHARDSON
8	TERRY FLEMING
6	DAVE BARNETT
22	ANTHONY HENRY
3	STUART BIMSON
19	PAUL SMITH
7	JOHN FINNIGAN
11	PAUL MILLER
15	PETER GAIN
9	GAVIN GORDON
10	LEE THORPE
Substitutes	
21	PHIL STAMP
18	IAN WILKINS
12	LEE PHILPOTT
17	DAVE PHILLIPS
13	ALAN MARRIOTT (GK)

Tonight's Officials

Referee: Steven Lodge, Barnsley

Assistants: M. C. Dexter, Glenfield, Leicester (red flag)

M. Ebbage, Burnham, Bucks (yellow and red flag)

Reserve official: P. Walton, Long Buckby

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