

# LUTON TOWN

Saturday, December 4, 1999, 3pm

Official Matchday Magazine £2.00



v Notts County



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## Official Matchday Magazine

Editor  
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Printing  
**Regal Litho**  
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**Gareth Owen**

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



TONY Thorpe is looking forward to his "third home debut" for Luton Town this afternoon, after signing for us on three months loan from Bristol City. He hopes his return will get his career moving again, after a disappointing spell since he left nearly two years ago. We eventually received £900,000, but after spending £7million on the team that missed promotion - they were beaten in the 1998 play-off semi-finals by Grimsby - Fulham embarked on another squad rebuilding job

and Thorpe moved on to Bristol City for £1million.

They had won promotion, but came back down again last season, with changes in management not helping the team, or individual players, as Julian Watts recalled on these pages earlier this season.

Now Thorpe is back among familiar surroundings, and delighted to be wearing Luton Town's colours again.

He still appreciates the progress he made here after nearly being on the scrapheap. David Pleat remembered him in the Leicester youth team, and brought him to Luton on a free transfer in 1992 when Leicester decided their local lad was not good enough.

Few who were there, or who saw it on TV, will forget Thorpe's debut, when he scored a cracking goal in an FA Cup-tie at Newcastle in January 1994.

A couple of years later he was converted from midfield to striker, and in the 1996/97 season he hit 31 league and cup goals, the first Luton man to achieve that mark since Malcolm Macdonald in 1971.

He is back after Tony Pulis, his third manager at Bristol City, decided that the nimble striker was surplus to requirements. A transfer fee has been agreed with the Town, and it could be paid to make the deal permanent at any time during the three-month loan.

"I am very pleased indeed to be back," said the 25-year-old striker. "Life has been a bit difficult since I left - I have had six managers since then, and different managers have different ideas. It would suit me if the transfer becomes permanent."

Thorpe had taken a pay cut to rejoin the Town, but said: "It's worth it to be playing first team football again."

In his first spell with us he scored 60 goals in 144 games, and when he came back on loan for the final six weeks of last season he netted four times in eight games. Having been forced to miss the cup-tie at Lincoln, he would rather like to put his name on the Luton score sheet again this afternoon.

As Thorpe came in, two players went out, to help Lennie Lawrence box up his wages budget. Neil Midgley went back to Ipswich, after they declined to extend his loan into a third month. They were worried about cover for injuries, and suspensions which are on the near-horizon.

He left with a grateful handshake from Lawrence for services rendered - three goals in ten games. "He deserves our thanks, if only for the two goals that beat Burnley," said the boss. "And his time here will have done him no harm, giving him a taste of league football."

As Midgley said good-bye, so did defender Alan White, although in his case it is only for a month at present. He has joined Colchester on loan, and made his debut for them on Saturday. They are fighting to avoid relegation, and he helped them to a creditable 1-1 draw at Stoke. But he will not be allowed to play against us when we go to Layer Road in 13 days time.

SAFEGUARDING the club's interests, and rewarding a player who deserves tangible recognition for his achievements, Lennie Lawrence has reached agreement with Gary Doherty to extend his contract. A new deal has been signed, running to June, 2002 for the Irishman who will be 20 next month.

WE MEET an old friend when we go to Oxford on Tuesday for the Auto Windscreens Shield first round. Ray Harford, the only manager ever to bring major silverware to Kenilworth Road, has just been appointed Technical Director at the Manor Ground.

He will be the experienced guide for new manager Mickey Lewis, who has been put in charge until the end of the season. The Town can take some of the credit, if that is the right word, for the vacancy. Our 1-0 win at Oxford was the last straw for the then manager Malcolm Shotton, who walked out 48 hours later. It was Oxford's fifth consecutive defeat

Harford has known somewhat greater success than that - he stepped up from No. 2 to John Moore to become manager of the Town in 1987, and 12 months later led us out at Wembley on the day we beat Arsenal in the final of the Littlewoods Cup. We returned a year later, when we were runners-up to Nottingham Forest, but Harford was to enjoy an even greater prize after leaving us. After a spell at Wimbledon he joined his old pal Kenny Dalglish at Blackburn, and as his assistant helped to guide the Rovers to the Premiership championship.

Spells as manager of West Brom and QPR followed, and he helped out Jim Smith at Derby for the second half of last season before leaving Pride Park in the summer.

THERE was a unique Luton Town family treble tucked away in the pages of the matchday magazine for the cup-tie with Lincoln.

Club secretary Cherry Newbery spotted it after reading Roger Wash's column about a previous cup-tie between the sides, in December 1931. We wonder if three generations of the same family have ever before featured in the same programme: Cherry's normal column from the secretary's office appeared, while in the advertisement for the club shop one of the models for polo shirts on offer was her daughter Claire.

And way back in 1931 the Yardley mentioned by Roger Wash was Cherry's grandfather, Jimmy Yardley.

He scored both our goals in a 2-2 draw at Sincil Bank and got another when we won the replay 4-0 at Kenilworth Road. He was on target again when we were beaten 2-1 by Wolves in the third round a few weeks later.

A Scot, Yardley spent five seasons at Kenilworth Road, joining us from Clapton Orient in 1926 and scored 94 goals in 188 league and cup appearances before moving on to Charlton Athletic. In Luton, he met and married a local girl, and Cherry Newbery is their grand-daughter.

MANAGER sackings are common enough in football, but we were sad to hear that our former player Paul Futcher has lost his job at Southport. He was elbowed as manager after a 5-0 thrashing at Kidderminster, which left Southport below mid-table in the Nationwide Conference, and with no hope of regaining Football League status this season.

Futcher, one of the most elegant central defenders ever to wear a Town shirt, was a £100,000 bargain from Chester, and after four years with us moved on to Manchester City, Oldham, Derby, Barnsley, Halifax and Grimsby. His first effort in management saw eight defeats in ten games at Darlington, and he left after ten weeks, but as player-manager he led Gresley Rovers to the Doc Martens championship two years ago. They were denied promotion to the Conference because their ground was not up to scratch, and Futcher moved to Southport in the summer of 1997 as 41-year-old player-manager.

*Brian Swain*

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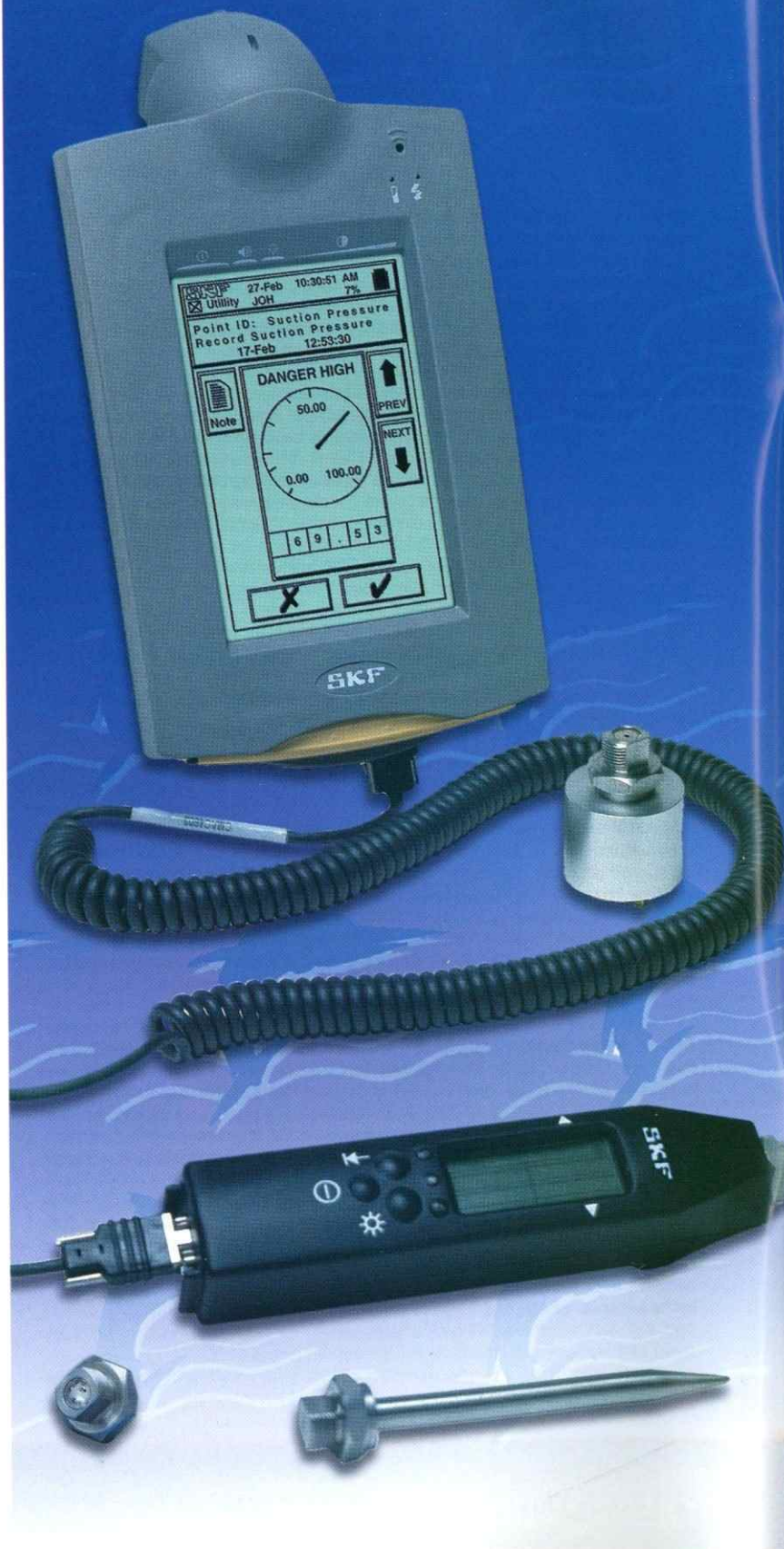
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# The Manager

Lennie Lawrence



UNTIL Tuesday evening's game at Lincoln things had not been going too well for us recently, but that well-deserved result should be turned to our advantage.

Our last game at Kenilworth Road saw the unbeaten home league record ended, by the best team we have seen in the league so far. We started brightly enough, but were undone by defensive lapses.

Then we had two away games, and two contrasting performances. At Bristol Rovers we were two down in the first 18 minutes, which left us a mountain which proved too steep to climb on a ground where we traditionally do not do well.

We were guilty of lack of concentration for the first goal, and the second came from great technique by Mark Walters.

I rested two players for the trip to Bristol, and am glad I did. Young players need a rest sometimes, and Matthew Taylor and Stuart Douglas were looking a little jaded. As the match developed, I doubt if it would have made any difference to the result if they had played. Bristol Rovers are strong in every area of the field, and probably there is no team in this league better equipped to deal with us.

Taylor and Douglas came back into the side for the cup-tie replay at Lincoln, and both bounced back with a vengeance.

I was pleased for all the players that we got a result at Sincil Bank, because I wanted to take this team back to Fulham and see how it compares with a good First Division side. We compared very well indeed the last time we went to Craven Cottage to become the only visiting team to win there last season.

At Lincoln it was a night for players to show determination, especially after the performance at Bristol, and we showed the right attitude right from the start. Conditions, with rain and a strong wind, were difficult, but we made our extra quality tell, as a Second Division team should against Third Division opponents.

Lincoln never got close to scoring, and we were pleased to deal with their set pieces, knowing how important they are to Lincoln. The clean

sheet was overdue and very welcome, and although there was only one goal in it at the end we were so much the better side that it could easily have been 3-0 or 4-0.

We redeemed ourselves with a resolute, professional performance and now we are looking forward to next Saturday's game at Fulham. We are in good spirit, and collecting £150,000 from TV has been a nice little bonus for the club. There will be no pressure on us at Craven Cottage - it will make a change for us to be the underdogs, and we have a good chance of another nice little earner if we play up to our capabilities.

I will be looking for maximum effort again today, because we can be sure Notts County will give us a good game.

They will want to win to put more daylight between themselves and the chasing pack, including us, while we need to start collecting points again after suffering our worst run of the season so far, three consecutive defeats in the league.

The cup-tie next week means that we have only three more league games this year after this afternoon's match. By the turn of the year our points total must be well into the thirties to keep us in touch with the play-off places.

Finally, like everyone else I am delighted to see Tony Thorpe back at Luton Town. I will neither confirm nor deny the alleged transfer fee that is being asked, but I am pleased that we and Bristol City have a deal lined up, and I hope to make his move permanent before the three-month loan runs out.

We are discussing with Bristol City their feelings on allowing Thorpe to play in the Auto Windscreens Shield at Oxford on Tuesday, and in the FA Cup next week. He should really be up for that one, back at Fulham, just as I hope we all will be.

Meanwhile, give us your backing today, and help us collect more points, because for all the enjoyment a good cup run can bring, promotion is still the number one priority for this club.

*Lennie Lawrence*

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## Hatters Roll-Call Season 1999/2000

	APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets)				GOALS			
	League	FAC	WC	Total	League	FAC	WC	Total
Nathan Abbey	19	3	2	24	0	0	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	3(3)	0(1)	2	5(4)	0	0	0	0
Gary Doherty	17	3	0(2)	20(2)	0	2	1	3
Stuart Douglas	14(3)	3	2	19(3)	2	1	0	3
Andrew Fotiadis	6	0	0(2)	6(2)	2	0	0	2
Stuart Fraser	16	3	1	20	1	0	0	1
Phil Gray	6	1	2	9	1	1	0	2
Liam George	17	3	0(1)	20(1)	10(1p)	1	0	11(1p)
Marvin Johnson	18	3	0	21	0	0	0	0
Tresor Kandol	1(3)	0	1	2(3)	0	0	1	1
Adam Locke	5(4)	1(1)	1	7(5)	1	0	0	1
Michael McIndoe	2(14)	0(2)	2	4(16)	0	0	0	0
Ray McKinnon	0(3)	0	1	1(3)	0	0	0	0
Paul McLaren	17	3	1	21	0	0	0	0
Neil Midgley	8(2)	0	0	8(2)	3	0	0	3
Efetobore Sodje	3(3)	1(1)	1	5(4)	0	0	0	0
Matthew Spring	19	3	1	23	2	1	0	3
Matthew Taylor	18	3	1	22	1	1	0	2
Tony Thorpe	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julian Watts	19	3	2	24	0	0	0	0
Alan White	1(1)	0	2	3(1)	0	0	0	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	0(1)	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0



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# Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson



THE NICE little win at Lincoln has given us a timely lift, and set us up to get back on track in the league this afternoon.

It was a difficult game, in wind and rain, and perhaps not as much of a "footballing" occasion as we wanted it to

be. But we produced the better football, and, importantly on the night, we showed we can battle a bit as well.

Liam George was not the happiest man in the dressing room after missing two or three good chances, but we are not complaining - he is having a cracking season, and we appreciate the way he gets into position for those opportunities. He can't remember missing so many chances in one game, but each time it happened I let him know that it was nothing to worry about. He will get goals, and knows the old adage about not being afraid to miss.

Stuart Douglas's goal was timely, and typical of his all-action determination. He took the goal very well, despite being under considerable pressure.

As professionals, and for me personally as a defender, the clean sheet was more than welcome - we know we have not had enough of those so far this season. Efe Sodje has done a good job at the back, and Gary Doherty is still a dual-purpose player. With Tony Thorpe available this afternoon, the boss has a nice problem on his hands with team selection. Personally, I am not sure which is Dozza's best position, because he has done so well in whatever role he has filled.

Having mentioned our pleasure at Tuesday's result, I have to admit that we were poor at Bristol on Saturday. We just didn't get going, and I can't explain why. We know we have to be more consistent, because we have shown that on our day we can match just about any team in this division.

We are also aware of the need to get back to winning ways in the league, and in front of our own supporters. Three league defeats in a row is an experience we have not enjoyed, and much as we are looking forward to the cup-tie at Fulham we all know that league points are more important.

We began the campaign at Notts County, and our draw there on the opening day of the season has

looked better and better as the weeks have passed. County have surprised a few people by doing so well, although I bet their coaches were not too happy with last week's 4-4 draw at home to Bristol City. If you see two similar defences today we should win 10-8!

Needless to say, that is not our game plan, and I think we are well capable of going one better than the 0-0 draw at Meadow Lane in August.

We were very disappointed to lose our unbeaten home record in the league to Preston, but they were a very good side, and I note that a few days later they went to Bury and won 3-1 before winning in the cup on Tuesday.

We now have to put together another unbeaten home run, starting this afternoon. I quite like the idea of a final league table showing only one home defeat against our name.

The return of Tony Thorpe is a real bonus, and we are all pleased to see him "back home." I think he is the right man for us, and that Luton Town is the right club for him, and his move should be beneficial on all sides. He's a cheerful character, confident in his own ability, and in the right mood to make an impact again with regular first team football.

I hope Bristol City allow him to play in the cup, and perhaps in the Auto Windscreens Shield at Oxford on Tuesday. Their players must have thought "Oh, no, not again" when they heard the draw. We were not at all displeased, because we have shown twice already that we must have a good chance of winning at the Manor Ground for the second time this season.

And don't be kidded about the importance of this competition: I don't yet know how strong our team will be, but I can promise that every one in the side will want to win. It might be a Cinderella competition, but it still offers the chance to play at Wembley, and that is every footballer's dream.

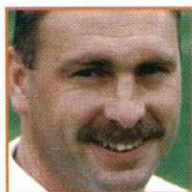
But today, those thoughts are on hold. First, we want to put three more points in the bag, and with your support we can do it. And, speaking of support, thanks a lot to every one of you who made the trip to Lincoln, on a wretched night when you could have stayed at home watching the game on TV. We heard you, and appreciated your encouragement. Do it again this afternoon, please, and help us get another good result.

Marvin Johnson



# Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear



PAUL McLaren was our only major injury worry from the cup-tie at Lincoln on Tuesday, and he was fighting an uphill battle to be available for this afternoon's match.

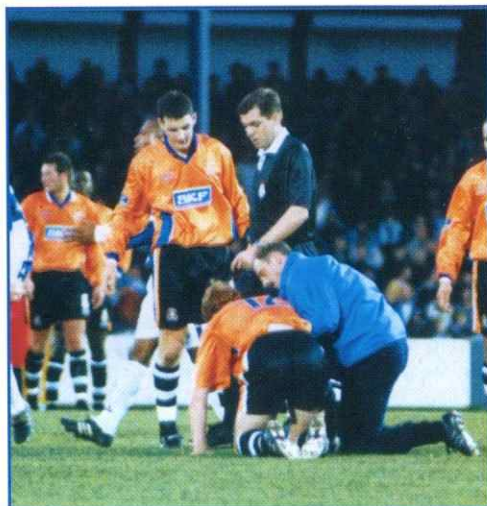
The odds were very much against him, after he suffered a slight hamstring strain and had to be subbed early in the second half at Sincil Bank. As with all injuries like this, you have to be patient and allow nature the time it needs to give the physio a helping hand. I don't think we will be able to risk him today.

In terms of physical effects, the match at Bristol on Saturday was more bruising. Gary Doherty collected a nasty wound in a clash of heads and had to be taken off to have eight stitches inserted.

They will be taken out in the next few days, but the injury, near the temple, is no big problem, and Doherty was able to play at Lincoln wearing a protective plaster. If selected, he can do the same today.

There were a lot of minor bumps and bruises from the Bristol game, but the only other one giving cause for concern was an ankle injury suffered by Julian Watts. It was very sore, but he was able to play at Lincoln, and while the soreness has still not entirely vanished I expect him to be available to play this afternoon.

Two strikers with long-term injuries are making good progress. Andrew Fotiadis is ahead of schedule, and has got another week's training behind him after his knee ligament injury. He saw the specialist again during the week, and the verdict was that everything was OK. He had been hoping to play at least a part of the game for the reserves next Wednesday, but that game has been postponed, so his earliest date for a return to competitive football is December 22, when we have our next fixture in the Avon Insurance Combination.



● **HEADING FOR TREATMENT:** Gary Doherty's part in the match at Bristol Rovers is over as he gets first aid from the physio. He had a wound which needed eight stitches, but it is now healing nicely.

Phil Gray is hoping that he too can be involved in that game, but for him it is still a case of making painfully slow progress. We are checking him regularly with scans and X-rays, and he is working well on general fitness, with plenty of swimming and use of the exercise bike.

Landry Zahana-Oni was having another scan this week to check progress on his knee, after his cartilage operation, and it is still too early to say when he can play again.

If you were at the reserve match on Wednesday you will have seen Dean Mortara stretchered off with a worrying leg injury. His shin had gone numb, and there are all sorts of possible causes of that. In the event, it was due to a nerve being hit, and he is all right, although suffering from very bad bruising.

Clive Goodyear

# Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery



IT'S not been a bad week for sports lovers from Luton, has it? Billy Schwer and our youth team putting up good performances on Monday, and the FA Cup replay result at Lincoln on

Tuesday have all helped to make life pleasant.

And yes, my secret is now out - I absolutely love going to boxing, which was why I was at Wembley on Monday for the Billy Schwer fight. He lost, but he did Luton proud, and no-one could have given more. I noticed a few raised eyebrows when people saw me in the crowd, but I have been a boxing fan for years and I have always enjoyed seeing Billy Schwer in action.

The crowd at Wembley helped to create a great atmosphere, and lot of them were Luton Town supporters. They shouted for Billy, and for the club, and they were a credit to Luton. I trust we will have plenty more to shout about this afternoon!

It seems hard to believe that our first match in December is also our last before Christmas, unless we have an FA Cup replay. After the win at Lincoln on Tuesday our league game scheduled for next Saturday, against Stoke, has had to be postponed. We will be talking about a new date when we see what happens to us in the FA Cup, and to them and us in the Auto Windscreens Shield.

Normally, next week's game would have seen the annual bucket collection in the ground for the Mayor of Luton's Christmas appeal. We always give our support, and the collection will be taken today. I am sure supporters will be as generous as possible, knowing that their money will be going to local good causes.

I was on the phone to Fulham early on Wednesday, and on page 11 you can read all

the details about ticket arrangements. If there is a replay it will be at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday December 21, kick-off 7.45.

Our youth team did us proud in the Times FA Youth Cup on Monday, winning at Welling United - see page 42 - and we are still waiting for news of the draw for the fourth round.

One "fixture" confirmed is the annual carol service, attended by players and staff, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Luton on December 15. I have been asked if it is an all-ticket service - it is not, just turn up for 7.30, and it is not even pay on the night! Except, that there will be a charity collection between the carols and lessons. Our thanks are due to club chaplain, the Rev Catherine Bell, for organising the service.

I want also to express the club's appreciation to Stephen Purdew of Henlow Grange, who very kindly invited the players to spend Thursday with them. They did some training, of course, but were also able to take advantage of such things as the sauna and massage services on offer. I remember that when we went to Wembley to win the Littlewoods Cup, days at Henlow Grange became a traditional part of the build-up to matches. Here's hoping we will have the same reason for booking a few more days over there between now and FA Cup final day!

Finally, there are a couple of changes in our reserve team fixtures. Next Wednesday they were due to be away to Southend, but as Roots Hall has first team games next Tuesday and Friday, this match cannot now be played. The other change is to a game in the spring: the away match at Fulham, originally listed for March 15 next year, is now to be played on April 12. Fulham Reserves play on a University of London pitch, and that will not be available on the original date.

Cherry Newbery





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.



# Tickets



## Auto Windscreens Shield - First Round

### Oxford Utd v Luton Town

**Tuesday December 7, kick-off 7.45pm**

Season ticket holders and members who purchase before the day of the game from the Luton Town ticket office, by 4pm on Monday at the latest, can obtain tickets at discounted prices:

Seats £10.50 adults, £5.50 concessions

Terrace £75.0 adults, £2.50 concessions.

On the night it will be pay on the turnstiles only at Oxford: Seats £12, concessions £7. Terrace £9 adults, £4 concessions

## Nationwide League Division Two

### Luton Town v Stoke City

*This match, due to be played next Saturday, has been postponed to a date to be arranged because of our FA Cup game at Fulham*

## Nationwide League Division Two

### Colchester v Luton Town

**Friday December 17, kick-off 7.45pm**

Seats: Adults £11, concessions £7  
Terrace: Adults £9, concessions £5.  
Pay on the day at Colchester only

## Nationwide League Division Two

### Luton Town v Chesterfield

**Sunday December 26, kick-off 3pm**

Tickets are now on sale at discounted prices until December 11.

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day. Supporters are advised to purchase early to avoid disappointment.

## The FA Cup sponsored by Axa - Third Round

### Fulham v Luton Town

**Saturday December 11, kick-off 3pm**

**Ticket prices:** Seats: £16 adults, £8 concessions  
Terrace: £12 adults, £6 concessions

Seats will be available for purchase at our ticket office until 4pm on Friday, December 10.

Seats can also be bought on the day at Fulham.

Terrace tickets are available only on the day at Fulham.

If there is a replay it will be on Tuesday December 21 at Kenilworth Road, kick-off 7.45pm.

Season ticket holders' seats would be reserved until close of business on December 16. Cup voucher C applies. All other seats would be available for purchase.

They would be on sale in person at the ticket office, by phone, or by post, but please bear in mind Christmas can affect postal services.

If there is a replay the ticket office will be open from 10am to 6pm Monday to Thursday, December 13 to 16, and 10 am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday December 17 and 18. On

Monday December 20 hours will be 10 till 6 and on the day of the game 10 until kick-off time.

If there is no replay, normal ticket office hours would apply.

# The Best in post-match reports

*The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette*



Discounts for early purchase of match tickets are available until a fortnight before each match. Cash turnstiles are open at all games, EXCEPT all-ticket matches.

## Ticket Office Opening Hours

**Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm,**

(except on Fridays before Saturday home matches when it is 10am to 6pm).

**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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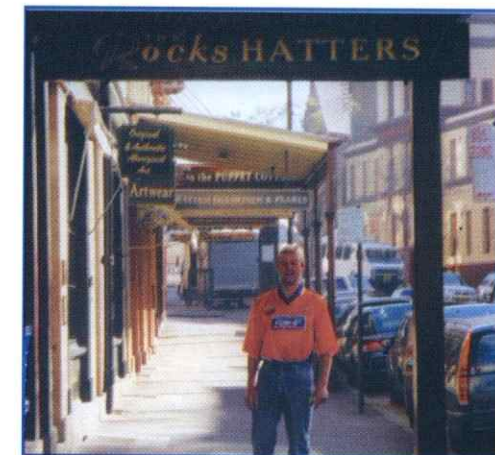
# Hatters Abroad

## carrying the colours

FOR the second time this season we are delighted to prove that Luton Town's colours are carried all round the world, and to the other side of the globe, as the Sydney Harbour Bridge picture testifies.

Jim and Anne Thomson, from Meyrick Avenue, Luton, were on a terrace of the world-famous opera house when they lined up their Town tops for the camera.

The other picture shows Jim at a location no self-respecting Town fan could ignore. "We were in the Rocks area of Sydney when we saw this shop sign, and thought it was a great place for a Hatters fan to have a photograph taken," said Anne.



TODAY'S other sunny memory is a picture of 13-year-old Jonathan Clare, from Shephall Green, Stevenage. He was on holiday in Bulgaria, and keen to prove to everyone that he is a real Luton Town supporter.

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.



# Hatters Chatter

## supporters' questionnaire

...WHAT YOU WANT AND WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

A huge thank you to the 600 people who completed the questionnaire from Cliff Bassett handed out to fans at the Gillingham match in October. The response has left us in no doubt you really do care about what happens to our club in the future.

Every single one of the ideas contained in the responses has been captured on computer so you can be sure none of your effort has been wasted. We are now in the process of putting together a plan to implement as many of the ideas as possible.

It was no surprise that the most frequently mentioned subject was the saga of our new ground - some 162 supporters said they want to move to a new ground while just four fans said they wished to stay at Kenilworth Road.

Almost one in seven of those who replied were women, a significantly higher proportion than for a fans' survey conducted in March 1995, when the figure was under one in ten. Overall, almost 9 in 10 of you claimed to go to all or most games each season with more men making this claim than women.

Some 3 in 4 attended with either family or friends and 4 in 10 of those with more than two others. Most of you clearly like to watch your football with others. A quarter of the fans also came with at least one child, though only about 1 in 10 came with more than two.

In total, just over 7 in 10 of the fans who responded claimed to be season ticket holders, compared with more than 8 in 10 in the 1995 survey. In the current survey the proportion of fans claiming to be season ticket holders was far higher for women than for men. In terms of membership, 3 out of 4 of the fans claimed to be members.

### Your Thoughts and Concerns

Cliff gave you the opportunity to suggest improvements you would like to see at the Club and new ideas you would like to see tried. Not surprisingly this brought a huge range of responses covering everything from the format of the programme to intricate plans on how to raise new finance for the club. After recent events, it was clear that a huge number of fans were simply relieved that they still have a club to support at all. In fact many fans included notes of thanks for Cliff Bassett and the staff at the club for all they have done in the past few months.

As well as seeing improvements off the pitch, Luton fans are also fairly optimistic about what is happening on it. The bright start to the season had many people raving about what one fan described as the best group of youngsters he has seen at the club in about 50 years! Despite this wave of optimism just about everyone had improvements to suggest.

**The suggestions raised by the most number of people are listed below, with the number who raised the point in brackets:**

- Relocate to a new stadium please (162)
- Encourage young fans with either cheap or free tickets (87)
- Young/talented players shouldn't be sold as frequently (82)
- Ticket prices should be reduced for less attractive matches (51)
- More toilets of a higher quality (49)
- Fans must be consulted more - a supporters' representative on the board (42)
- Money should be raised through a share issue (42)
- More pre-match/ half-time entertainment (40)
- More advertising over a wider area (36)

**We have wasted no time in getting to grips with some of these issues.**

We are working hard on finalising our stadium plans so we can make a planning application to Luton Council in the New Year, and part of this process may well involve raising additional finance.

Today we are launching our limited edition range of merchandise which we are sending to 100,000 supporters across four counties. As part of this promotion we've also launched an end of century ticket bonanza that will give you all chance to benefit from reduced prices at Kenilworth Road for the rest of the season. But be quick - you've got to buy your cut price tickets before the end of the year!

Cliff has gone on record as saying we have no plans to sell any of our young players, and we've been talking to FLAG and a cross-section of our supporters to find out how we can get you more involved with the club.

We're also planning improvements to Kenilworth Road, subject to agreement with the Council, and we'll let you know what can be achieved shortly. A bigger function room, improved refreshment and toilet facilities, and improvements to the ticket office and club shop are top priorities.

As for pre-match and half-time entertainment, we've got plans here too.

We hope to give you a taste of things to come at the Boxing Day game with Chesterfield - so make sure you get here early to enjoy the fun!

We are listening and we are acting as fast as we can! Thanks again for your terrific response to the questionnaire, and please keep the bright ideas coming.

*Rod Fountain*

Director, Business Development

# Commercial

## John Bailey



WE like to think that our commercial activities produce genuine friendships as well as good business for both sides involved, and today's match sponsors, J. J. Kelly and Sons Ltd, of Luton, are among those who come back time and again

as genuine friends of the football club.

The company has been operating successfully for a quarter of a century, specialising in civil engineering work and ground works for the construction industry.

We know them as good supporters, and are pleased to welcome John Kelly and his friends, including a good number of employees. It is a gesture of thanks to them, he says, for their part in the company's continuing success, and he wants to use today to wish them, and Luton Town FC, a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Also in our sponsorship lounges today are guests of P. J. R. Bacon (Builders) Ltd from Arlesey, and we thank Roy and James Bacon for their continued support over the years.



A BELATED birthday present will make today a very special occasion for Liam Connor Roberts. He is our commercial mascot, and he was five on Monday. He comes from Bovingdon, and goes to Great Gaddesden Junior Mixed Infants School.

Liam likes all sports, cooking and painting, and comes to matches with his dad and uncle Rich.

Today he is part of the action, enjoying a real VIP occasion, meeting the players before the game, and running out with the team for the pre-match rituals in a brand new kit supplied by the club.

We hope Liam and his family have a smashing day, and he will be extra pleased if we win and Liam George gets two or three goals, because Liam is his favourite player.

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.

Another welcome goes to a party of players and officials from Bushmead Wanderers FC, who are in the millennium suite. They have been very kindly sponsored by B & T Electrical plc.

We hope all our sponsors and guests have a very enjoyable time with us, and if you want to sample something similar we will be pleased to offer packages to suit all budgets. One phone call, to Luton 411622, is all it takes to set the ball rolling.

*John Bailey*

## GOLDEN GAMBLE

OUR Golden Gamble pay-outs have now passed the £5,000 mark this season, and another jackpot is on offer today, with a fistful of cash to be won for an outlay of just £1.

Our picture shows Stuart Smith, from Homerton Road, Luton, who collected £350 at the Lincoln match when his lucky ticket was pulled out of the drum.



At the Preston game, an away supporter who was a guest of a Luton fan went home doubly delighted on a night we would rather forget - Keith Hopkins, from Penwortham, Lancs, collected £450 on the Golden Gamble half-way through Preston's victory.

Tickets cost a mere £1, and there will be another cash prize for one lucky supporter today. 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 14 winners this season, sharing jackpots totalling £5,273.

The prize is 50 per cent of the takings - the other half goes into club funds, so even if your ticket is not a winner, you are helping Luton Town FC.



# Kit Sponsors

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MATTHEW TAYLOR	Mick Garbutt, Inside Media
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LENNIE LAWRENCE	Luton Town Supporters Club, Milton Keynes
JOHN MOORE	Ian Smith
CLIVE GOODYEAR	Christopher O'Toole, Luton Student Union May Ball 2000

## The sponsorship package includes:

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

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

The Total Cost of the package is £230 (inc. VAT) per sponsorship for the remainder season 1999/2000.

# Hatters v Magpies

## Magpies' Goals For & Against



## Magpies' Miscreants

Richardson...5	Owers...1
Hughes...4	Pearce...1
Redmile...4	Ramage...1
Darby...2	
Dyer...2	
Fenton...2	
Stallard...2	
Warren...2	
Beadle...1	
Liburd...1	

n.b. League Details Only

## Hatters' Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded



## Magpies' last time out

**Darren Ward**  
Goalkeeper 19 Apps 0 Goals  
Age 25 Ht 5'11" Wt 12:09  
Prev Club: Mansfield Int.: Wal U21

**Richard Holmes**  
Defender 19 Apps 0 Goals  
Age 19 Ht - Wt -  
Prev Club: - Int. -

**Matthew Redmile**  
Defender 18(1) Apps 0 Goals  
Age 23 Ht 6'4" Wt 14:10  
Prev Club: - Int. -

**Mark Warren**  
Defender 12(1) Apps 1 Goal  
Age 25 Ht 6'0" Wt 12:02  
Prev Club: Orient Int. -

**Nick Fenton**  
Defender 10 Apps 1 Goal  
Age 20 Ht 6'1" Wt 11:08  
Prev Club: on loan from Man City Int.: Eng Yth

**Dennis Pearce**  
Defender 6(5) Apps 0 Goals  
Age 25 Ht 5'9" Wt 11:00  
Prev Club: Wolves Int. -

**Craig Ramage**  
Midfield 19 Apps 4 Goals  
Age 29 Ht 5'9" Wt 11:08  
Prev Club: Bradford Int.: Eng U21

**Gary Owers**  
Midfield 18 Apps 1 Goal  
Age 31 Ht 5'11" Wt 12:07  
Prev Club: Bristol City Int. -

**Andy Hughes**  
Midfield 16 Apps 1 Goal  
Age 21 Ht 6'0" Wt 11:00  
Prev Club: Oldham Int. -

**Duane Darby**  
Forward 14(1) Apps 3 Goals  
Age 26 Ht 5'11" Wt 12:06  
Prev Club: Hull Int. -

**Danny Allsopp**  
Forward 3 Apps 1 Goal  
Age 21 Ht 6'0" Wt 12:08  
Prev Club: on loan from Man City Int. -

**Fran Tierney**  
Midfield (2) Apps 0 Goals  
Age 24 Ht 5'10" Wt 11:00  
Prev Club: Crewe Int. -

**Alex Dyer**  
Midfield 4(6) Apps 2 Goals  
Age 34 Ht 5'11" Wt 12:00  
Prev Club: Huddersfield Int. -

**Mark Stallard**  
Forward 12(2) Apps 9 Goals  
Age 25 Ht 6'0" Wt 12:10  
Prev Club: Wycombe Int. -

**Ian Richardson**  
Midfield 14 Apps 1 Goal  
Age 29 Ht 5'11" Wt 11:01  
Prev Club: Birmingham Int. -

**Clayton Blackmore**  
Midfield 13 Apps 2 Goals  
Age 35 Ht 5'7" Wt 12:01  
Prev Club: Barnsley Int.: Wales

## Luton's Goals For & Against

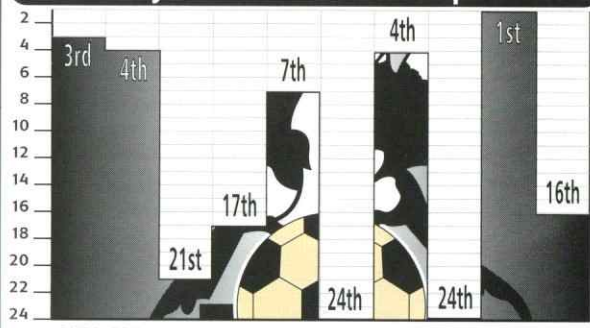


## MATCH

The UK's Biggest Selling Football Magazine!  
Here is a club-by-club run down of the highest, lowest and average Division 2 attendances.

	Highest	Lowest	Avg
Bournemouth	6,007	4,202	5,047
Blackpool	5,270	2,819	4,131
Brentford	7,100	4,657	5,972
Bristol City	16,011	7,777	10,149
Bristol Rovers	8,514	5,397	7,422
Burnley	12,898	8,944	10,659
Bury	6,469	3,293	3,992
Cambridge	6,211	3,285	4,530
Cardiff	11,168	4,523	7,240
Chesterfield	4,285	2,737	3,050
Colchester	3,986	2,557	3,352
Gillingham	6,892	5,884	6,352
Luton	7,205	4,633	5,661
Millwall	8,601	5,202	6,879
Notts County	6,197	4,020	5,431
Oldham	9,432	3,807	5,728
Oxford	6,638	4,318	5,545
Preston	14,226	8,506	11,263
Reading	13,348	5,393	7,942
Scunthorpe	5,336	3,376	4,221
Stoke	14,183	7,054	10,773
Wigan	11,986	4,338	6,630
Wrexham	5,924	2,473	3,852
Wycombe	7,042	4,345	5,438

## Notts County's Last Ten Years - The Complete Record



Div.	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99
F.A.	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2
W.C.	1	QF	5	3	4	3	3	3	2	3
L.S.	1	2	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	1
Goals	Lund 9	Johnson 16	Johnson 9	Draper 11	McSwegan 15	Devlin 9	White 8	Martindale 6	Jones 28	Richardson 7
Ave Att	6,171	8,194	11,133	8,194	8,346	7,203	5,130	4,258	5,725	5,635

## Notts County's Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded



## Magpies' Form Guide - Result, Points, Position

W	W	L	L	W	W	W	W	W	L	W	S	L	L	S
11	14	14	14	17	20	23	26	29	29	32	33	33	33	34
3	2	4	5	5	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	6

	Ground :	County Ground	City, FA Cup 6th round,	
	Capacity :	20,300	Year Formed :	
	Pitch Measurement :	114 x 74	Record League Wins :	11-
	Record Attendance :	47,310 v York City	County, Division 3 (S),	15-
	FA Cup 6th round, 12 Mar 1955	Mar 1975	Record Cup Wins :	15-0

Record Defeat:	1-9 v Blackburn Rovers, Division 1, 16 Nov 1889	Top League scorer in a season:	Tom Keetley, 39, Division 3 (S), 1930-31
Most Capped Player:	Kevin Wilson, 15 (42), Northern Ireland	Most Lge Appearances:	Albert Iremonger, 564, 1904-26
Most Lge Goals:	102, Division 4, 1959-60		
Most Lge Points:	99, Division 3, 1997-98		



# Today's Teams

welcome to Notts County



## GARY BRAZIL MANAGER

Gary started his career as an apprentice at Crystal Palace, and in 1985 he moved to Preston North End for £25,000. Four years

later his ability attracted the interest of Newcastle United who paid £250,000 for his services. Gary finished his playing career at Fulham following a £125,000 move in 1990. In 1998 he joined Notts County as Youth Team Manager and in this past close season was promoted to Assistant Manager. Following the shock resignation of Sam Allardyce, Gary was appointed Caretaker Manager but has now been given the manager's job on a full time basis at least until the end of the season.

## DARREN WARD (GOALKEEPER)

Widely regarded as one of the most promising

'keepers outside the Premiership, Darren has played for Wales at U21 level and regularly been selected for the National Squad. Notts paid Mansfield £160,000 for 'Wardy' in 1992, since then he has become a favourite at Meadow Lane, figured in the PFA Divisional select elevens.

## JAMES LINDLEY (GOALKEEPER)

A product of the Notts youth system, James came on in leaps and bounds last season, sufficiently so for the management team to award him with a professional contract. Modelling himself on the former Man Utd 'keeper, Schmikes' as he is known to his team mates, is a brave and committed young goalkeeper.

## RICHARD LIBURD (DEFENDER)

Richard joined Middlesbrough from Eastwood Town for a £20,000 fee in 1993 and shortly thereafter followed manager Lennie Lawrence



**NOTTS COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB 1999/2000**

**Back row:** Howell, Hughes, Warren, Gibson, Redmile, Lindley, Richardson, Dyer, Webster

**Middle row:** (Cleary), Murray, Darby, Bolland, Ward, Owers, Liburd, Pearce, (Gaunt).

**Front row:** Blackmore, Holmes, Brough, Heffernan, (Brazil), (Pavis), Stallard, Tierney, Rapley, Ramage

## the players

to Bradford City after making 50 appearances for 'Boro. At Bradford, who paid £200,000 for him, he established himself as a strong tackling wing back. He was released on a free and played for Carlisle for a short spell before being recruited by Sam Allardyce in the summer of 1998.

## DENNIS PEARCE (DEFENDER)

A skilful left back and wing back whose talents delighted the Notts faithful in the Championship winning 1997/98 season. Dennis failed to capitalise on that most productive spell as he made too many indifferent appearances last term. He will be looking for a return to the form that won him an accolade from his fellow professionals when being named in the PFA Third Division Select Side in 1998.

## MARK WARREN (DEFENDER)

A former England youth international, Mark joined Leyton Orient as a trainee and won Player of the Season at Brisbane Road in 1997. Following a very successful spell on loan at Oxford, he was spotted by Sam Allardyce who was relentless in his pursuit of the signature of the impressive central defender. Once a regular in the side last season, his performances made him a favourite with the supporters and one of the first names on the team sheet.



## MATT REDMILE (DEFENDER)

Although having previously made a number of first team appearances, it was an immediate impact that the then 20 year-old made as Notts set about gaining

immediate promotion back to the Second Division in August 1997. His headed goals from set pieces and his command of the penalty area became a trade mark and like so many other of his team mates, he made the Third Division look easy.

## IAN RICHARDSON (DEFENDER)

Ian entered professional football relatively late at the age of 24, when Birmingham City's then manager Barry Fry paid Dagenham & Redbridge £60,000. After only a handful of games for Birmingham, Colin Murphy brought him to Meadow Lane as a ball winning midfielder at a cost of £200,000.



## RICHARD HOLMES (DEFENDER)

Following some impressive performances in the youth team, Richard was awarded a professional contract before completing his traineeship last year.

## CLAYTON BLACKMORE (DEFENDER)

Clayton still trains long and hard in the belief that there are two or three good seasons left in him, a belief that literally shines from his eyes with boyish enthusiasm. His far too infrequent appearances for Middlesbrough in 1997/98 still gave the fans plenty to shout about, and the experienced mid-fielder proved he was still a force to be reckoned with, when displaying his consummate skill and boundless energy on the pitch. A product of the Manchester United youth scheme Clayton made 250+ appearances for the 'Red Devils' collecting many honours along the way including FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup, Super Cup and Premier League Winners medals. Signed during the middle of July on a free transfer from Barnsley, he has 39 Welsh caps.



## FRANCIS TIERNEY (MIDFIELDER)

A trainee at Crewe Alexandra, he became one of Dario Gradi's star youngsters. The disappointment of an on/off transfer to Liverpool

finally failing to materialise made it difficult for Fran to hold down a regular first team place at





# Today's Teams

## the players

Gresty Road. A wide right player with considerable flair and good ball control, he was signed by manager Sam Allardyce last summer.



### GARY OWERS (MIDFIELDER)

In an illustrious career that has seen him complete well in excess of 500 first class games, Gary has been a midfield ball-winner for Sunderland and Bristol

City before joining Notts in the summer of 1998. Following a season at Ashton Gate, during which he spent long spells on the injury list and having missed pre-season training at Meadow Lane, he took several months to find fitness and fluency. His crunching tackles and high energy performances then endeared him to the Notts supporters.

### ANDY HUGHES (MIDFIELDER)

Andy failed to make his mark at Oldham, where he had progressed through their youth ranks to become a highly rated young professional. He grasped the opportunity when Notts took him on loan and impressed sufficiently for a £150,000 transfer fee to prise him away from Boundary Park. He was a deserved Third Division Championship medal winner in 1998.

### ALEX DYER (MIDFIELDER)

Alex is a much travelled player who started his career as a striker but has, certainly as far as his involvement in the Notts team is concerned become 'Mr Versatile'. He has filled the roles of striker, central defender, full back and wing back. He came to Meadow Lane from Huddersfield and previously played for Blackpool, Hull, Crystal Palace, Charlton, Oxford, Lincoln, and Barnet plus Portuguese Second Division side FA Maia.

### CRAIG RAMAGE (MIDFIELDER)

Signed on a free transfer from Bradford in August 1999. Craig has already proved himself to be a key player in this seasons squad. He had a horrific season at Bradford in 98/99 when suffering a series of cartilage injuries, and did not start a first team game. His previous clubs

include Derby County, and Watford with loan spells at Wigan Athletic and Peterborough United.

### MARK STALLARD (STRIKER)

In the steal of the season, Sam Allardyce made an audacious swoop for Mark Stallard from Wycombe Wanderers. The (almost) local front man had been a trainee at Derby but had made only a handful of appearances at first team level before being transferred to Bradford City for £110,000 in 1994. Although registering some impressive performances at Valley Parade he was sold to Wycombe in 1997 where he made an explosive start with 11 goals in his first 16 games. He finished top scorer with 18 from 48 games in 91/98 before missing most of last season through injury. His return to fitness coincided with a predatory strike from Sam Allardyce and he joined County for a nominal sum just before the transfer deadline.

### KEVIN RAPLEY (STRIKER)

A quick and tricky right-sided striker, Kevin made an early and impressive impact on Brentford's first team following his traineeship at Griffin Park. He was almost ever present under manager's Eddie May and Micky Adams but fell somewhat out of favour with the arrival of Chairman/ Manager Ron Noades. Whilst on loan at Southend last season last season he hit a rich vein which sparked a £50,000 move to Meadow Lane. In his first outing for the Magpies he scored the only goal of the game at Luton, ending a long and worrying win-less spell for County.

### DUANE DARBY (STRIKER)

Following a successful start to his professional career at Torquay, where he had a scoring rate of 1 in 3 games, he moved to Doncaster then Hull City where he continued his scoring feats. A fractured cheekbone caused a spell on the sidelines but failed to prevent him finishing Hull's top scorer in 1997/98. The Bosman ruling enabled him to join County on a free last summer but he snapped an Achilles tendon in pre-season training, an injury which was to deny him to manager Sam Allardyce all season.



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## Football. It's a game of two halves

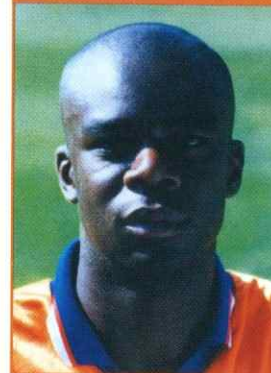
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# Head-to-Head

Marvin Johnson



Nationwide  
FOOTIE FACTS

OUR Carling Opta "head to head" charts today look at the comparisons between two men who have key roles in the game - central defender Marvin Johnson of the Town, and County's Matt Redmile.

Thanks to the backing of Football League sponsors Nationwide, Carling Opta analyse every minute of every game to provide this unique run-down on the two stars. They look at every tackle, every pass, every header and every mistake, and put it all together to award a rating to every player.

Matt Redmile



Hatters skipper Marvin Johnson has been a rock in the Luton defence this season as Lennie Lawrence's side have struggled against all the odds to put together an impressive early season run of form. This afternoon Johnson is up against Matt Redmile, the Notts County centre-back, who has received rave reviews for the Magpies.

Neither player has scored this season, though Redmile is always a threat from set pieces.

Johnson's passing has been the more accurate, helped by Luton's five man defence which gives Lawrence's side the opportunity to build play up from the back with short passes between the three centre backs until the right ball can be picked out to the midfield or forwards.

Johnson's confidence with the ball at his feet is suggested by his higher number of dribbles and runs compared to Redmile, whose strength lies with his aerial presence. He has cleared a staggering 315 balls and made double Johnson's number of tackles.

Redmile's will to win has got the better of him at times as he has conceded 34 fouls compared to the composed Johnson's 13.

Johnson's ability to keep things tight at the back will be tested severely with the threat of Mark Stallard and Duane Darby up front - and that of Redmile from dead ball situations. Redmile will have to make sure that he is not caught flat-footed by the threat of George and Douglas' rip-roaring pace which could propel the Hatters back up the table if they can click and take the chances that are created.

	Johnson	Redmile
Minutes On Pitch	1,605	1,593

### Goal Attempts

Goals	0	0
Shots On Target (inc goals)	1	0
Shots Off Target	1	3
Blocked Shots	0	2

### Passing

Goal Assists	0	0
Total Passes	451	408
Pass Completion %	70%	56%

### Crossing

Total Crosses	4	3
Cross Completion %	50%	33%

### Dribbling

Dribbles & Runs	37	18
Dribble Completion %	97%	89%

### Defending

Tackles Made	24	50
Tackles Won %	50%	50%
Blocks	50	53
Clearances	214	315
Interceptions	12	11

### Discipline

Fouls	13	34
Offside	0	0
Yellow Cards	1	3
Red Cards	0	0

Courtesy of Carling Opta



# Top Hatters Gallery



## Matthew Spring

Born: Harlow 17.11.79

Previous clubs: None

Joined Luton Town: As a YTS boy in 1995

Luton debut: v Bristol City (A) 27.9.97

Luton Town record: 90 appearances, 6 goals

Autograph



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# Hatters Away

travel information

## Oxford United v Luton Town

Tuesday 7th December, kick-off 7.45pm

WE ARE at The Manor Ground, Oxford, on Tuesday for a first-round match in the Auto Windscreens Shield, kick-off 7.45. The Bobbers Travel Club are providing coach transport, leaving Cranfield at 3.45 and Kenilworth Road at 4.45. The fare is £6.50 adults, and £5.50 for junior and senior citizens. 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.

At the time of going to press, arrangements had not been finalised for the Fulham game by Town on Tour or the Bobbers, but they should have it sorted out by today.



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## Fulham v Luton Town

Saturday 11th December,  
kick-off 3.00pm

For Fulham, traffic and parking make the motoring trip difficult, and the best advice is to use the coaches, or public transport, via Kings Cross and Putney Bridge underground station. If you want to drive, it is about 35 miles, and our preferred route is via the M1, and M25 west, leaving at junction 15 near Heathrow to join the M4 towards London. It becomes the A4, and you leave at the Hammersmith Flyover to follow Hammersmith signs to the Hammersmith roundabout. Follow the road alongside and underneath the A4 and turn left where you see the sign Alternative Route via Putney Bridge. That takes you down Fulham Palace Road, and after 1.2 miles the ground is on your right. Street parking is controlled, and charged by meters.

### DIY TRAVELLERS

The road journey to Oxford takes a little over an hour, depending on traffic, via the M1 south, M25 west and M40 west. Leave M40 when you see Oxford signposted, and join the A40, and see below for the final approach. The cross-country route is shorter in miles but takes a little longer. Leave Luton on the A505, through Dunstable, and follow the signs to Aylesbury. There pick up the A418 and go beyond Thame to join the A40, which is signposted to Oxford. On the outskirts of Oxford you come to the Headington roundabout, with the ring road running left and right. Go straight ahead at the roundabout, and you are in London Road, and in just under a mile you will see the ground on your right.

Mileage from Luton: 47.

Team Posters available now in the Club Shop  
price £2.00



# Blast FROM THE Past

Roger Wash

## Luton Town v Notts County



*"It could have finished ten-all."*

Having walked away with the championship of the old Division Two in 1982, after three years of close misses, everyone involved with the club felt that we had a side more than capable of holding its own at the top level.

Even so, manager David Pleat felt the squad needed strengthening and spent many hours trying to entice young Paul Walsh away from Charlton Athletic. Walsh was sought after by most of the top clubs in the country, but the persuasive tongue of Pleat finally won the day although the transfer came at a sad cost with Steve White, the previous season's second leading scorer, forced to go to the Valley as part of the deal.

Pleat now felt he had the best attacking pair in the country in Walsh and Brian Stein and with ace winger David Moss providing the ammunition, the Division One defences were going to be in for a hard time.

Our opening fixture was away to F.A.Cup holders, Tottenham, and after 20 minutes all Pleat's bold promises seemed to be shot to ribbons. In that opening spell Spurs went into a two goal lead much to the delight of the packed White Hart Lane crowd of 39,180 and Luton supporters could be forgiven for thinking that our top flight stay was likely to be as long as our previous one-just twelve months!

Making his debut for Tottenham that day was ex-Pleat target, Gary Mabbutt, and he took only three minutes to open his account for his new club, heading in a Glenn Hoddle free kick. Hoddle set up the second goal as well, threading a pass through for Mick Hazard to make simple work of beating Jake Findlay in the Luton goal.

The players had to learn fast and gradually started to make an impact on the game with Stein, in particular, causing problems for the Tottenham defence. It was a direct run and shot from the

clever South African that panicked Spurs defender John Lacy into knocking the ball into his own net for the first Town goal and then speeding through a square home defence to tap in number two.

Scares at both ends as the match wore on caused both sets of supporters to bite their fingernails, but a draw was a fair result although Pleat warned that better teams than Tottenham would not fritter away a two goal lead.

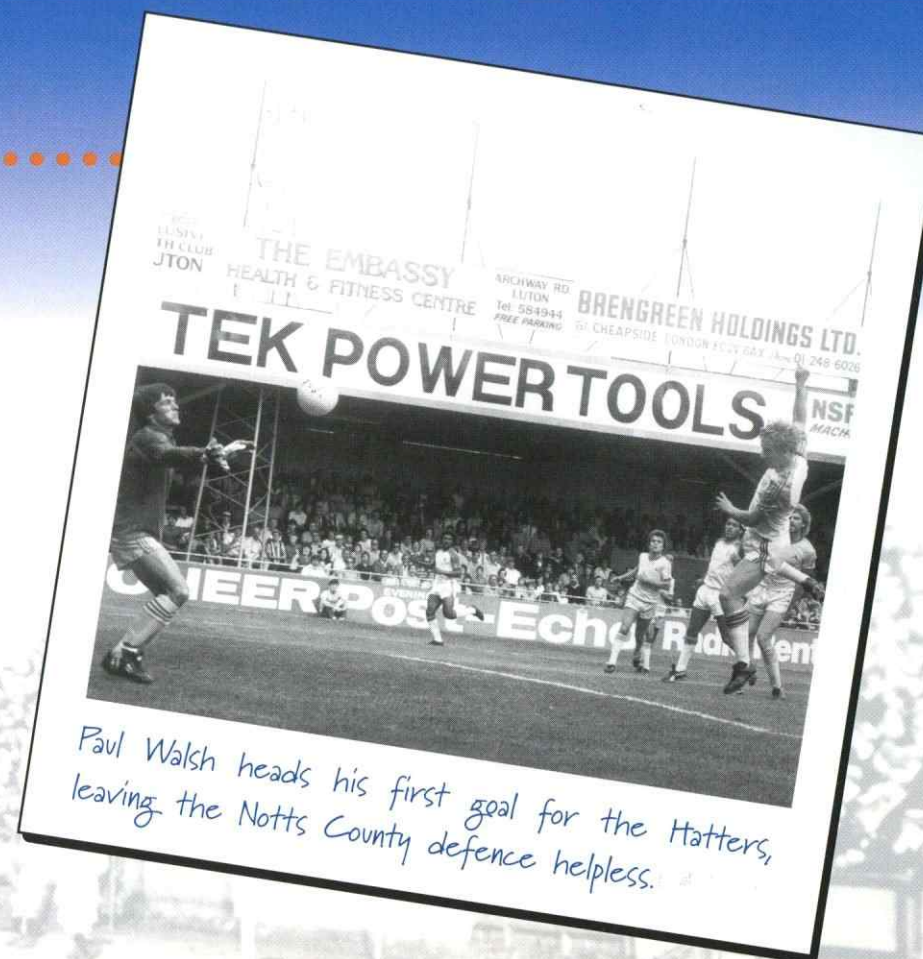
Pleat's words certainly came home to roost three days later with West Ham the first visitors to Kenilworth Road. It was really men against boys as an uncharacteristic Hammers, using physical power, soaked up everything the Town could throw at them and then scored two quick second half goals to kill the game. This time there was no fight back and no happy ending as the players found out the hard way that at this level you must take your chances and that any mistake at the other end was bound to be punished.

In those days we worried if we went two games without a win and a nervous crowd of only 9,071 turned up at Kenilworth Road the following Saturday to see if the Town could break their duck and overcome Notts County, who had drawn their opening two games.

The Magpies, managed by the wily Jimmy Sirrell, were a side that had played together for a while and had caused more than a few upsets in their first season back in the top flight in 1981/82. They also possessed the quickest player around at the time in John Chiedozie who according to Pleat, "could catch pigeons" but often hit the by-line before his fellow forwards were in the penalty area.

Paul Walsh, still finding his feet at the new level, missed an early chance but suddenly the clouds lifted from above the 19 year old when he headed in a pin-point Ricky Hill cross. Stung by this, County surged forward and equalised when giant centre-half Brian Kilcline headed a corner through a static Luton defence.

Worse was to follow soon after when Chiedozie scampered through on to a long ball, past a



*Paul Walsh heads his first goal for the Hatters, leaving the Notts County defence helpless.*

stretched Luton back four, and hammered County in front. Hatters defender, Richard Money, then had to leave the field after breaking his nose in a clash with Trevor Christie but before substitute Mike Small could come on Hill had slammed in a loose ball following a corner to level the scores once more.

The Town had now finally found their feet and began the second half on all out attack. David Moss shot the Hatters ahead from a well rehearsed free kick routine before Walsh scored the goal of the game.

Picking up a pass from full back Kirk Stephens he set off for goal, avoiding two foul tackles from Magpies defender Pedro Richards, before skipping past Kilcline and goalkeeper Raddy Avramovic to slot the ball home and bring the house down.

Walsh's hat trick goal came soon after when he reacted quickly to a low Moss cross and got in front of the Notts defenders to steer the ball in.

County had no option now but to attack and made

life extremely uncomfortable for the Luton defence with shots raining in from all angles and Jake Findlay having to pull off a string of acrobatic saves. A goal was pulled back when Mark Goodwin scored with a simple header following a long throw and it was a relieved crowd that rose to give the players a standing ovation at the end of a pulsating game of continuous excitement.

There were mixed emotions from David Pleat afterwards when he reflected on a game "that could have finished ten-all" with the pleasure of the first win and marvellous entertainment for the crowd tempered by obvious defensive frailties.

Jimmy Sirrell meanwhile was just spitting feathers!

**Luton:** Findlay, Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Money (Small), Antic, Hill, Horton, Stein, Walsh, Moss.

**Notts County:** Avramovic, Benjamin, Kilcline, Richards, Worthington, Hunt, Goodwin (McParland), Mair, Chiedozie, Harkouk, Christie.



# Community & Schools Programme



The Dunstable Gazette

The Luton News



## INDOOR CHRISTMAS COACHING COURSES

VENUE	VENUE
Luton Regional Sports Centre	Alameda Middle School Sports Hall
DATE	DATE
Mon, Tue and Wed 20th to 22nd Dec	Wed & Thur 29th & 30th Dec
TIME	TIME
10am to 3pm each day	10am to 3pm each day
AGE GROUP	AGE GROUP
School years 1 to 3 and 4 to 8 (advanced)	School years 1 to 3
PRICE	PRICE
£20.00 for the three days	£15.00 for two days

To book a place or for further information please contact the Community & Schools Department on 01582 411622

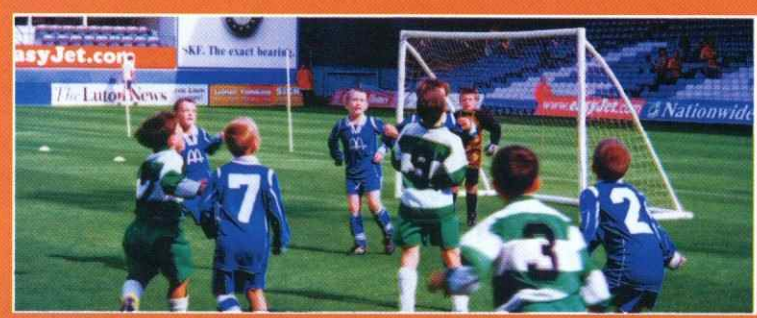
## INDOOR UNDER 10's FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

### '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



## ntl: SCHOOL VISIT PROJECT

With only two weeks 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 - providing the weather stays fine!

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.



## INDOOR WINTER COACHING PROGRAMME

LUTON TUESDAYS	DUNSTABLE THURSDAYS	LEIGHTON BUZZARD MONDAYS	NEW VENUE! HOUGHTON REGIS WEDNESDAYS
Luton Regional Sports Centre School Years 1 to 3 at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Manshead Upper School School Years 1 to 3 at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Cedars High School School Years 1 to 3 at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Houghton Regis Sports Centre School Years 1 to 2 at 4.00 pm to 4.50 pm
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> Luton Regional Sports Centre School Years 4 to 8 at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	School Years 4 to 8 at 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm	School Years 4 to 8 at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm	School Years 3 to 4 at 4.50 pm to 5.45 pm
<b>FRIDAYS</b> Cardinal Newman High School School Years 1 to 3 at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	<b>FRIDAYS</b> Northfields Upper School School Years 1 to 3 at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	<b>THURSDAYS</b> Vandyke Upper School School Years 1 to 3 at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm	
School Years 4 to 8 at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm	School Years 4 to 8 at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm		
<b>FRIDAYS</b> Cardinal Newman High School School Years 1 to 3 at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	<b>HARLINGTON THURSDAYS</b> Harlington Upper School School Years 1 to 3 at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm	<b>AMPTHILL TUESDAYS</b> Alameda Middle 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	School Years 4 to 8 at 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm	School Years 4 to 8 at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm	

To book a place or for further information please contact the Community & Schools Department on 01582 411622



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# Junior Hatters

welcome

WE NOW have full details of our first big "fixture" of the new century - the Junior Hatters Millennium Party on January 5, 2000. It will be held at the Ascot Room, at the Co-op Club, Round Green, Luton. It will start at 7pm and last for a couple of hours or so, and there will be snacks and drinks as well as a disco. Our favourite footballers will be there, so it is an excellent chance for young supporters to meet the Town's stars. Tickets cost £4 each, and are for Junior Hatters only, and as we expect the event to be a sell-out our advice is to get in early. They are available at the Town ticket office on a first come, first served, basis. If you are not in the Junior Hatters, but would like to go to the party, you still have time to join. Visit or phone the ticket office on Luton 416976 for more information.

OUR Saturday Club was in business again today, helping Junior Hatters enjoy football as a real day out. We meet at Dallow School at 12 noon, and if the weather is kind we use the Dallow pitch for football matches. 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 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



● **CENTRE OF ATTRACTION:** Officials and mascots are pictured in the centre circle before kick-off in our games against Lincoln and Preston. For the cup-tie the two mascots were Lewis Dowding and Andrew Wallis, and for the visit of Preston the Junior Hatters mascot was Ryan Wilkins.



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. We had a great day out last week at Bristol Rovers, except for the result! If you are under 16 and support Luton Town, come and join us!

Today's Mascot



THIS afternoon's Junior Hatters mascot probably sets a new record - 13-year-old Christopher Hemsall has had to make a 500-mile round trip to get here.

His father, Neil Hemsall, was a Stopsley boy who met Julie, the love of his life, in London. Julie was from Gateshead, and when they married they decided to go to the North East to set up home. "But we have never given up supporting Luton," said Neil. "Our sons are both in the Junior Hatters, and wear their Luton kit, even though they sometimes get a bit of stick from Newcastle fans."

Distance and expense mean that the Hemsall

family have to pick and choose which matches they attend, but they manage to see the Town quite often, and go to a lot of away games. This afternoon mum and dad and Christopher's nine-year-old brother Kevin will have their best-ever day at Kenilworth Road.

They live at Felling, Gateshead, and Christopher goes to the Thomas Hepburn Community School.

His hobbies are, like his brother's, summed up in one word - football!

Today Christopher will meet all his favourite players, and is especially looking forward to getting close to his favourite, Liam George. After joining the players in the dressing room he will take part in the pre-match kick-about, and then accompany skipper Marvin Johnson to the centre circle for the toss-up.

If you would like join the Junior Hatters, call the Ticket Office on  
**01582 416976**



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# Action Replay

Luton Town 0 Preston 2 (HT 0-2)

Brian Swain reports

THE best visiting team we have seen at Kenilworth Road this season went home grateful for defensive slips that led to the end of our unbeaten home league record. Preston manager David Moyes said: "Luton are a good side, but we got the goals at the right time, and we did a professional job in the second half. But Luton always made it very difficult for us, and we had to work hard for the result."

Preston and leaders Wigan are the only teams in the division yet to taste away defeat, and in a game which was mostly fought in midfield, where honours were just about even, we were undone by two sloppy goals. The first bounced in off David Eyres in the 33rd minute, and after Matthew Spring and Efe Sodje had gone close with attempts to equalise, another goal in stoppage time at the end of the first half finished us off.

We were missing the injured Marvin Johnson, and not until the late stages, when Gary Doherty was

pushed up into attack, did we really threaten. A few half chances went astray, and Doherty was unlucky with a thumping header which was brilliantly saved by Teuvo Moilanen.

But Preston were never going to concede two goals, let alone three, and their experience shone through as they settled to play a containing game after the break.

"We knew this was going to be a tough test," said Town boss Lennie Lawrence. "Preston will be a top two team, but they have beaten us by hardly having to get out of third gear. The disappointing thing is that we contributed to our own downfall. If you are going to beat them you can't be doing daft things. We looked all right for the first half an hour, but then we were undone by two pieces of poor defending.

"You might get back from one goal down, but against a team of that quality you are bound to struggle to get back from two."

## Match Details

**Luton Town:** Abbey, Fraser (Boyce 75 mins), Watts, Doherty, Sodje, George, McLaren. (White 62 mins), Douglas (McIndoe 73 mins), Spring, Midgley (McIndoe 62 mins), Taylor. Unused subs: Locke, Ward.

**Booked:** No-one

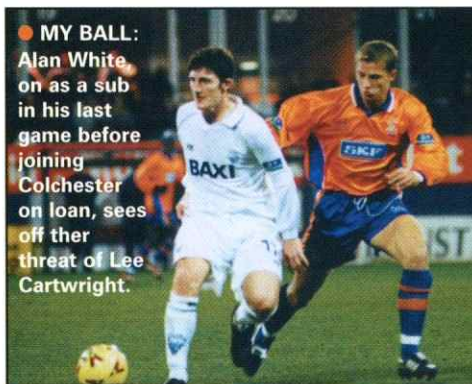
**Preston:** Moilanen, Alexander, Kidd, Edwards, Jackson, Gregan, Cartwright, Rankine, Macken, Nogan, Eyres. Subs, all unused: Gunnlaugsson, Murdoch, Mathie, Appleton, Lucas (GK).

**Booked:** No-one.

**The goals:** 0-1 33 mins - Rob Edwards crossed from the left, Lee Cartwright at the far post headed the ball back across the face of the goal, and Nathan Abbey's clearance attempt bounced off David Eyres into the net; 0-2 45 mins - Sean Gregan crossed from the right and David Eyres was unmarked to head in from about 12 yards, with Abbey diving and reaching the ball but failing to hold it.

**Referee:** Robert Styles, Waterlooville

**Attendance:** 5,124 including 578 visiting fans.



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# FA Cup Replay

Lincoln City 0 Luton Town 1 (HT 0-0)

Brian Swain reports

THERE might have been only one late goal in it, but the Town's performance at Sincil Bank was a real tonic for supporters who had watched recent league games. The night was made for Third Division opposition to pull off a cup upset, wet and very windy, and the pitch greasy.

But having so nearly won at the first attempt at Kenilworth Road, Lincoln were never allowed to feel any optimism. The Town had the right mixture of battle and skill, and their superior football might easily have brought more than the goal steered in by Stuart Douglas six minutes from time.

He and Matthew Taylor returned to the side after being rested at Bristol, and both were in the strong surge of determination that ran through the whole team. The manager's decision to rest them on Saturday paid handsome dividends - both looked hungry for action and success, and they combined for the winning goal.

Gary Doherty, still seen as a centre-back by the manager, was the best attacker on view, partnering Douglas and, in the second half especially, laying off a series of clever flicks and headers, and showing no fear despite the plaster covering a head wound received at Bristol which had needed four stitches.

Most satisfying of all was the way the defence coped, making it look easy against a team which rates set pieces as the major weapon in its scoring armoury. Efe Sodje, Julian Watts and Marvin Johnson, aided when necessary by Taylor and Stuart Fraser, denied Lincoln even one clear sight of goal. Nathan Abbey dealt comfortably with what did get through in terms of corners and hopeful high crosses.

The home side were the battering ram team, while the Town's passing gave them the rapier thrusts, often through Liam George.

He was a bit miffed at passing up a possible hat-trick, but goals or no goals, his contribution was highly valuable. Lincoln always looked uneasy when George and Douglas ran at them with the ball.

The second half saw the Town so much on top that it was a mystery why the pressbox was starting to make arrangements for new deadlines as extra time got nearer - Lincoln were on the ropes, but miraculously escaping the knock-out that threatened throughout the second half.

But you could see Lincoln's players accept defeat once Douglas struck at the end of yet another move which was far brighter and sharper than anything the home team produced. Doherty laid off the ball to Taylor, who in turn switched it across the field to give Douglas the chance to compete with Stuart Bimson for possession. The fullback had less determination than the Town man, who muscled clear and kept cool to carefully steer in the winner.

"No less than we deserved," said Lennie Lawrence. "It would have been a travesty if we had not won that game."

## Match Details

**Luton Town:** Abbey, Fraser, Sodje, Watts, Johnson, George, McLaren (Locke 50 mins), Douglas, Doherty, Spring, Taylor. Unused subs: Boyce, Kandol, McIndoe, Ward.

**Booked:** Matthew Spring, 40 mins, foul on Paul Smith; Stuart Douglas, 89 mins, dissent

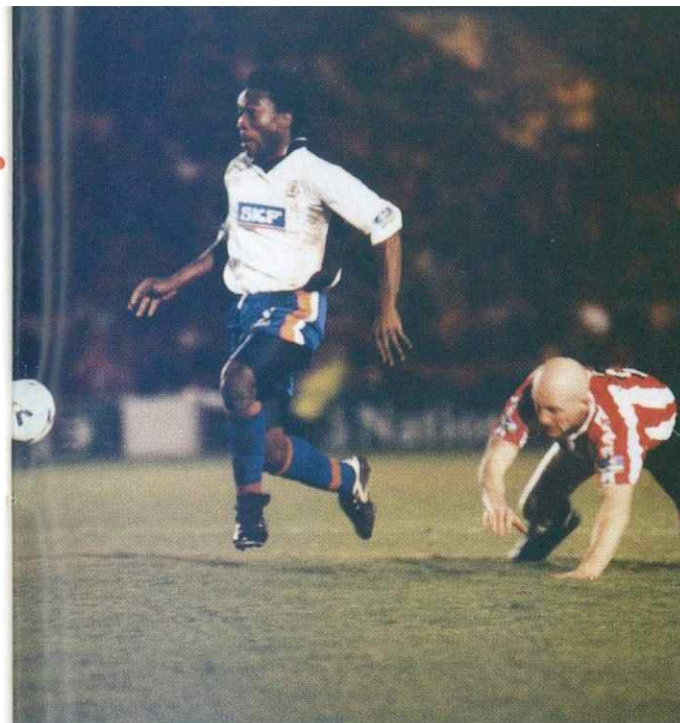
**Lincoln:** Richardson, Fleming, Barnett (Wilkins 77 mins), Henry, Bimson, Smith (Stant 86 mins), Finnigan, Miller, Gain (Philpott 74 mins), Gordon, Thorpe. Unused subs: Marriott, Phillips.

**Booked:** Terry Fleming, 89 mins, foul on Liam George.

**The goal:** Stuart Douglas, 84 minutes, holding off Stuart Bimson to collect a crows-field pass by Matthew Taylor before knocking the ball past the goalkeeper.

**Referee:** Steve Lodge, Barnsley.

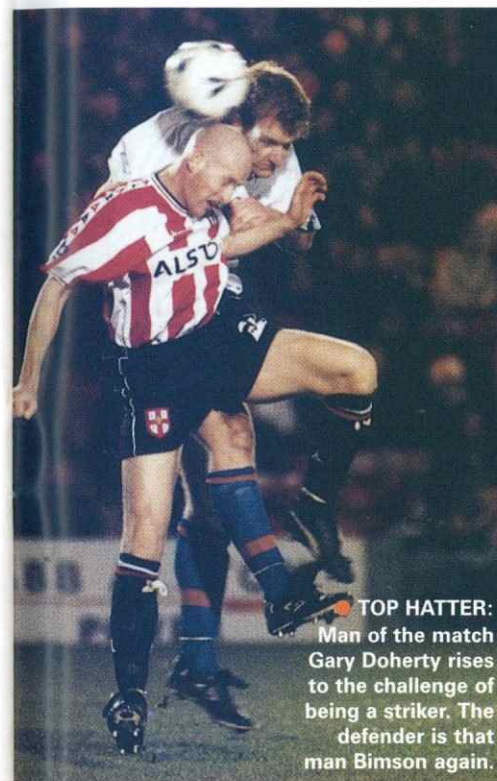
**Attendance:** 3,822 including 294 visiting fans.



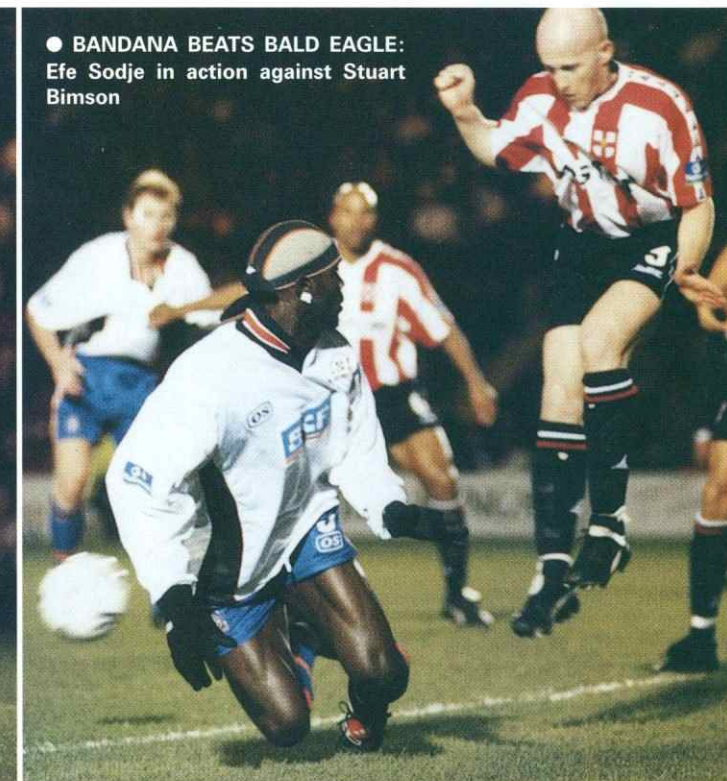
● **THE WINNER:** Stuart Douglas leaves Stuart Bimson sprawling, and the shot is about to be despatched into the net.



● **QUICKSILVER:** Liam George goes at the Lincoln defence, on a run which ended with a shot inches wide of the target.



● **TOP HATTER:** Man of the match Gary Doherty rises to the challenge of being a striker. The defender is that man Bimson again.



● **BANDANA BEATS BALD EAGLE:** Efe Sodje in action against Stuart Bimson



# Action Replay

**Bristol Rovers 3 Luton Town 0 (HT 0-2)**

Brian Swain reports

THE MANAGER shuffled the pack without finding any aces as we went down to our seventh away defeat of the season at the Memorial Ground. A two-man attack, receiving precious little good quality service, rarely looked like unsettling a strong Bristol Rovers side that has lost only once at home this season, to Notts County.

Yet another goal conceded from a corner gave Rovers an early boost, and not until Tony Thorpe went on as a late sub did we look like scoring, and by then the game was all over.

Stuart Douglas and Matthew Taylor were rested, and with Marvin Johnson returning after injury Efe Sodje kept his place in defence. That allowed Gary Doherty to play as an attacker with Liam George, following Neil Midgley's return to Ipswich.

Adam Locke and Michael McIndoe were recalled to play in midfield, and we might have ground out a 0-0 draw on a day when neither team looked that clever. But we were beaten again by sub-standard defending. We needed the first goal, and Doherty was unlucky not to get it in the first six minutes, when Stuart Fraser sent him running through the inside right channel. The shot was deflected for a corner.

We got nothing out of that, but Rovers did, from a corner five minutes later. David Hillier swung the flag-kick to the near post and Andy Thomson headed in.

George was inches shot of making contact for an equaliser from a flick across goal by Julian Watts following a Matthew Spring free kick, but a second set piece saw us two down after only 18 minutes. Watts was pulled up for a foul on the menacing Jason Roberts, and from 20 yards the experienced Mark Walters, newly signed on a free transfer from Swindon, marked his Rovers debut by whacking in the free kick.

The first attack of the second half finished us off. Robbie Pethick played a good cross-field ball to the Rovers right wing, Thomson crossed hard and low, and Jamie Cureton swept the ball home.

Thorpe made his first appearance for the Town with half an hour to go, replacing Doherty who had to go off to have stitches after a clash of heads with Andy Tillson.

The Town kept plugging away, and Spring had a free kick tipped around a post, while Nathan Abbey made a good save from Cureton.

Just once did we see a flash of the old Thorpe magic, when he jinked his way goalwards alongside the by-line before firing a shot that was still rising as it missed the bar by inches.

Sadly, for the 417 Town fans who made the trip, the game looked like an encounter between two also-rans of the Second Division. Even winning manager Ian Holloway could not call his team's performance anything more than "very competent."

Town boss Lennie Lawrence said: "We had enough of the play, but the difference between what we and they did in our penalty area was staggering. We didn't defend well enough, and that was where we were second best."

## Match Details

**Luton Town:** Abbey, Sodje, Watts (Boyce 86 mins), Johnson, Fraser, Locke, McIndoe, McLaren, Spring, Doherty (Thorpe 61 mins), George. Unused subs: Taylor, Douglas, Ward.

**Booked:** Julian Watts, 40 mins, foul on David Hillier; Tony Thorpe, 67 mins and Paul McLaren, 74 mins, both for dissent.

**Bristol Rovers:** Jones, Pethick (Bennett 76 mins), Thomson, Tillson, Foster, Walters (Challis 87 mins), Hillier, Mauge, Pritchard, Cureton, Roberts. Unused subs: Ellington, Zamora, Parkin (GK).

**Booked:** Robbie Pethick, 47 mins, foul on Stuart Fraser.

**The goals:** 1-0 11 mins - Andy Thomson near post header from corner by David Hillier; 2-0 18 mins - Mark Walters, ex England, Villa, Glasgow Rangers, and Liverpool, 20-yard free kick after a foul by Julian Watts on Jason Roberts; 3-0 47 mins - Jamie Cureton, sweeping in a right wing cross by Andy Thomson.

**Referee:** Philip Dowd, Stoke.

**Attendance:** 7,805, including 417 supporting the Town.



● **SO CLOSE:** Liam George stretches in vain to reach a low cross from Julian Watts when we were looking for an equaliser after Rovers' early goal.



● **IN FULL FLOW:** Matthew Spring in action on the right of our midfield.



● **GOAL SEARCH:** Paul McLaren tries his luck from distance.



● **RISING STAR:** Gary Doherty gets up for it as spearhead of the attack at Bristol.



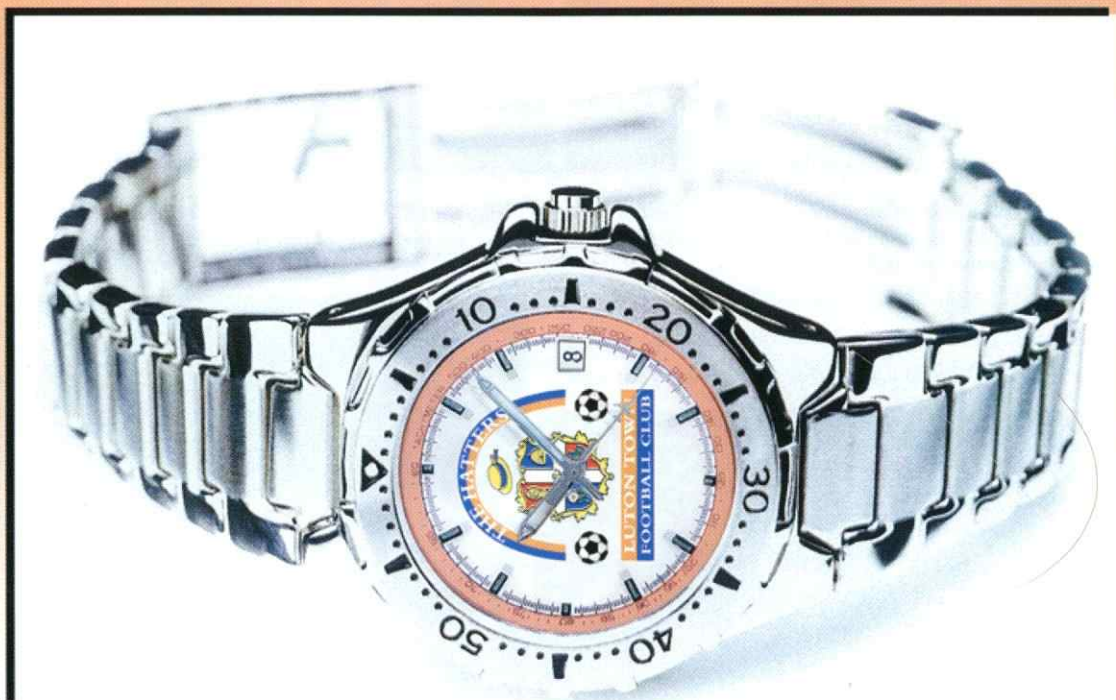


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# The Reserves

Trevor Hartley and John Moore



## Luton Town I Colchester I

EIGHT of our team were effectively strangers to one another, and a draw in an eventful game was just about right, although we had enough chances to win.

Daniel Tate came back in goal after a month on the injured list, and Andre Scarlett returned after six weeks. Tony Thorpe played half the game and youth team players Alex Minton and John Carroll made Avon Insurance Combination debuts.

We also had three trialists, Thomas Jones and Michael Cummings, from Middlesbrough, and Paul Read, who used to be with Arsenal but has been playing in Sweden recently.

Both goalkeepers emerged with great credit, playing behind defences which were suspect, to say the least, and there could have been more goals.

Michael McIndoe got the first after 20 minutes with a drive into the bottom corner after a cross had been knocked out to him on the edge of the box, but within two minutes Colchester had equalised.

An oddity was that cousins were on opposing sides - Tresor Kandol for us and Tresor Lua-Lua for Colchester, and TK was the one who should have come out on top. Unfortunately he missed a couple of good chances, and Read also let one pass by.

Our defence and midfield tightened up in the second half, and it was quite pleasing to see the team working

hard, and doing remarkably well considering how many had not played together before.

But Dean Mortara hardly enjoyed his second appearance in the Avon Combination - he went on as a sub for the second half, and within three minutes suffered a severe leg injury, and had to be stretchered off.

The news yesterday was that his injury was not as serious as it might have been.

**Luton Town:** Tate, Cummings, Carroll, Jones (Mortara HT, Minton 48 mins), Moran, Boyce, Scarlett, Thorpe (Jerry HT), Kandol, McIndoe, Read. Unused subs Mansell and Wraight (GK).

**Reserve team appearances, including as sub:** Kandol 10, Boyce 9, Ayres 8, Stirling 8, Scarlett 8, Jerry 8, Sodje 7, McIndoe 7, White 6, Locke 5, Ward 5, Tate 5, Moran 4, Mansell 3, O'Connor 3, Graham 3, Pearson 2, Davis 2, Brkovic 2, Dogbe 2, Clarke 2, Mortara 2, Barrieau 1, Carroll 1, Minton 1, Cummings 1, Thorpe 1, Jones 1, Read 1, Hunt 1, Zahana-Oni 1, Bowes 1, O'Brien 1, Ryan 1, Jack 1, Gray 1, Antunes 1, McKinnon 1, Estebar 1.

**Goals:** Kandol 8, Jerry 2, McIndoe 1, OG 1.

WE WERE hoping to have another look at the trialists on Wednesday, but the game against Southend has been postponed. Our next match is at home to Peterborough (2pm) on Wednesday December 22, and that will complete our 1999 fixtures.



# Youth Soccer

Paul Lowe



## Welling Utd I Luton Town 3

A FEW very sharp words were uttered at half time on Monday, when we looked like being knocked out of the Times FA Youth Cup. We had been awful in the first half, and lucky to be

only one down to a team that was unbeaten this season, and had knocked out highly-rated academy club Peterborough in the second round.

We got the response we wanted, with a change of attitude after too many players had been spectators in the first 45 minutes.

A corner led to Welling's goal in the 15th minute, and throughout the first half Welling were more positive, while we didn't get behind their defence once.

We expected them to come at us again after the break, but instead they seemed to ease off a little, perhaps thinking they were as good as through to the fourth round.

We made a substitution ten minutes after the interval to introduce the pace of Marcus Jeffrey and switch from two attackers to three, and the change paid off.

Within five minutes a good passing move, beginning with John Carroll at the back, ended with Sean Flaherty

going in to score with a good finish, and from then on the Welling defence looked much less sure of itself. Jeffrey took advantage of their disorganisation to give us the lead on 75 minutes after Duane Clarke's shot was blocked, and ten minutes from time we wrapped it up when goalkeeper Scott Ward punted a long clearance nearly the length of the pitch and Clarke went through to score.

We now await news of the draw for the fourth round, with this result a welcome confidence booster after a run of poor results in the league.

**Luton Town:** Ward, Mortara, Carroll, Stirling, Moran, Dogbe, Mentore, Mansell, Flaherty (Deeney 70 mins), Barrieau (Jeffrey 55 mins), Clarke. Unused subs: Osborn, Crane, Wraight (GK).

## Notts County O Luton Town O

THERE was little to enthuse about when we resumed our South Central Conference programme in the Football League Youth Alliance. The pitch at Trent University was very poor, and a strong wind was another factor making good football difficult. We missed the best chance of the game, Tresor Kandol heading over the bar from about six yards from a cross by Dean Mortara. Otherwise, defences were on top, with our only scare a long-range shot that hit the top of the bar.

**Luton Town:** Tate, Carroll, Moran, Ayres, Mortara (Dogbe 60 mins), Mansell, Mentore, Jerry, Talbot (Deeney 65), Kandol, Clarke (Nurse HT). Unused subs: Lamont, Wraight (GK).

## Luton Town O Colchester Utd I

OUR campaign in the Football League Youth Alliance Cup ended with another defeat, and failure to qualify for the next stage. But the result was cruel - the winner was a spectacular shot in the last minute, when Colchester broke away after their goalkeeper saved well from Rene Barrieau. We were down to ten men by then - we had used all our subs when Jude Stirling had to go off injured.

**Luton Town:** Ward, Stirling, Carroll, Moran, Ayres, Mortara (Barrieau 70 mins), Dogbe (Osborn 85 mins), Mansell, Jerry, Talbot (Minton 60 mins), Clarke. Unused subs: Mentore, Wraight (GK).

**Youth team appearances, including as sub:** Mortara 16, Moran 16, Clarke 16, Carroll 15, Stirling 15, Barrieau 14, Mansell 14, Ayres 13, Dogbe 13, Jerry 12, Wraight 9, Deeney 9, Mentore 9, Jeffrey 7, Ward 6, Flaherty 5, Minton 4, Kandol 4, Oughan 3, Thresher 3, Milton 2, Coktas 2, Crane 2, de Freitas 2, Talbot 2, Tate 1, Miller 1, Wilson 1, Osborn 1, Nurse 1.

**Goals:** Stirling 4, Clarke 4, Ayres 3, Jeffrey 3, Kandol 2, Flaherty 2, Jerry 1, Moran 1, OG 1.

## 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 (FAYC1)	H	2-0	(Moran, Flaherty)
NOV	Sat 23	Southend (FLAYC)	A	1-2	(Ayres)
	Sat 6	Cambridge (FLAYC)	H	1-2	(OG)
	Wed 10	Maidenhead (FAYC2)	H	5-0	(Clarke 2, Stirling 2, Jeffrey)
DEC	Sat 13	Barnet (FLAYC)	A	0-1	
	Sat 20	Colchester (FLAYC)	H	0-1	
	Sat 27	Notts Co	A	0-0	
JAN	Mon 29	Welling (FAYC3)	A	3-1	(Flaherty, Jeffrey, Clarke)
	Sat 11	Oxford Utd	A		
	Sat 18	Wolves	H		
FEB	Sat 8	Shrewsbury	H		
	Sat 15	Northampton	A		
	Sat 22	Walsall	A		
MAR	Sat 29	Cup rd 2			
	Sat 5	West Brom	A		
	Sat 12	Cambridge Utd	H		
APRIL	Wed 1	Cup quarter-final			
	Wed 22	Cup semi-final			
	Sun 16	Cup final			

## 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	0-2
DEC	Wed 1	Colchester	H	1-1 (McIndoe)
	Wed 8	Southend		Postponed (TBA)
	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 29	Gillingham	H	2pm
APRIL	Wed 5	Bournemouth	H	2pm
	Wed 12	Fulham	A	2pm

## Avon Insurance Combination, Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	9	7	2	0	28	12	23
Swindon	9	7	2	0	22	11	23
QPR	9	6	2	1	24	10	20
Fulham	9	5	2	2	15	9	17
Portsmouth	7	5	0	2	11	9	15
Norwich	9	3	5	1	14	8	14
Peterborough	9	4	2	3	13	10	14
Oxford	10	4	3	3	19	17	14
Millwall	8	3	4	1	11	8	13
Bournemouth	8	4	1	3	12	16	13
Cambridge	10	3	2	5	9	15	11
Leyton Orient	9	3	1	5	11	20	10
Bristol City	6	2	3	1	12	10	9
Bristol Rovers	9	2	3	4	15	14	9
Luton Town	10	2	3	5	12	16	9
Brighton	7	2	1	4	12	14	7
Colchester	8	1	4	3	8	13	7
Gillingham	7	2	1	4	5	10	7
Southend	9	2	1	6	11	24	7
Northampton	8	1	3	4	11	12	6
Barnet	9	1	1	7	12	20	4
Wycombe	7	1	1	5	4	13	4



## Biggest Wins & Defeats; Top Scorers

Goals	Player	League / Lge Cup / FA Cup
4-0	Colchester	
0-3	Preston	1-4 v Gillingham
10	Stein	7 2 1
2-0	Wycombe	
0-5	Bury	
8	Murphy	8 0 0
3-0	Colchester	
1-4	Bournemouth	
8	Owusu	7 0 1
5-2	Blackpool	
0-3	Gillingham & Oxford	
5	Tinnion	3 0 2
3-0	Luton	
1-3	Wigan	
10	Cureton	9 1 0
5-0	Wrexham	
0-1	Bristol Rovers / 1-2 v Luton & Scunthorpe	
9	Payton	9 0 0
5-0	Blackpool	
4	games by a 2 goal margin	
11	Lawson	10 1 0
5-2	Colchester	
2-4	Colchester / 1-3 v Scunthorpe & Stoke	
16	Butler	12 3 1
3-0	Colchester	
1-3	v Wycombe / 0-2 v Wigan	
8	Nugent	5 1 2
4-2	Cambridge / 2-0 v Preston	
0-3	Wigan	
9	Reeves	7 2 0
1-0	v Chesterfield / 3-2 v Reading / 2-1 v Oldham	
0-4	Bournemouth	
5	Tresor Lua Lua	3 1 1
5-1	Wrexham	
0-2	v Preston / 1-3 v Luton	
18	Taylor	15 1 2
3-1	Gillingham & Wrexham / 4-2 v Oxford	
0-3	Bristol Rovers	
11	George	10 0 1
5-0	Reading	
1-3	v Stoke / 0-2 v Preston & Gillingham	
10	Harris	10 0 0
3-0	Scunthorpe & Colchester	
0-2	v Preston & Bristol Rovers	
9	Stallard	9 0 0
2-0	Bury	
0-2	Brentford	
7	Allott	6 1 0
3-0	Bristol City	
2-4	v Luton / 1-3 v Millwall / 0-2 v Brentford	
10	Murphy	6 3 1
3-0	Bournemouth	
1-4	Wigan	
12	Maclean	10 2 0
2-0	Bury	
0-5	Millwall	
8	Caskey	4 2 2
3-1	v Cambridge & Bournemouth	
4	games by a 3 goal margin	
8	Ippoua	8 0 0
4-0	Wycombe	
4	games by a 1 goal margin	
7	Thorne	6 1 0
3-0	v Chesterfield & Scunthorpe / 4-1 v Preston	
No defeats as yet		
20	Barlow	16 2 2
4 games by a 1 goal margin		
0-5	Burnley	
8	Faulconbridge	7 0 1
3-1	Cardiff / 5-3 v Reading / 2-0 v Brentford	
0-4	Stoke	
14	Devine	12 1 1

## 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.....	Notts County 4-4 Bristol City 27-Nov
Biggest Away Win.....	Burnley 5-0 Wrexham 2-Nov
Consecutive Wins.....	Millwall 5-0 Reading 16-Nov
Consecutive Defeats.....	Blackpool 0-5 Bury 16-Oct
Games Unbeaten.....	Notts County 5
Consecutive Defeats.....	Wigan 19
Games without a Win.....	Oldham 5
Consecutive Wins.....	Gillingham, Millwall, Preston 3
Games Unbeaten.....	Wigan 19
Consecutive Defeats.....	Luton 3
Games without a Win.....	Chesterfield 13

### Current Sequences

## How Clubs have scored... and conceded

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG
5	3	5	3	1	0	7	2	Bournemouth	8	5	5	2	0	4	4
7	2	1	3	0	0	7	0	Blackpool	9	7	4	1	0	1	11
6	2	9	5	0	0	9	0	Brentford	4	1	4	1	1	4	7
3	4	3	6	0	1	4	0	Bristol City	4	3	5	3	0	0	10
8	1	2	1	1	3	6	0	Bristol Rovers	1	1	3	2	1	0	3
12	3	2	0	0	2	6	0	Burnley	0	4	5	0	0	2	1
8	7	3	2	0	2	6	1	Bury	4	4	5	2	0	0	11
11	5	1	1	0	3	5	2	Cambridge United	9	6	3	7	0	2	7
5	5	5	5	0	1	1	0	Cardiff City	8	3	4	5	0	2	4
3	1	2	1	0	3	1	0	Chesterfield	7	2	3	1	0	2	5
3	7	2	1	1	2	4	0	Colchester United	11	8	5	3	1	1	12
6	2	7	8	1	2	11	0	Gillingham	6	6	1	4	0	3	3
4	6	3	2	0	1	7	0	Luton Town	9	5	1	4	1	0	5
7	6	1	4	0	2	10	0	Millwall	3	2	4	1	1	4	5
11	4	3	0	1	0	8	1	Notts County	7	4	1	3	0	2	2
8	1	2	2	1	0	6	0	Oldham Athletic	8	6	1	2	0	3	4
3	3	2	2	0	3	4	1	Oxford United	3	6	1	5	0	1	7
8	7	3	4	0	2	5	2	Preston North End	6	2	2	1	1	2	4
7	3	1	3	0	3	5	0	Reading	8	3	4	6	1	2	8
3	3	3	1	0	3	7	0	Scunthorpe United	11	0	3	6	0	1	10
11	3	6	4	0	1	4	0	Stoke City	7	3	2	0	0	0	3
9	3	7	4	0	4	10	1	Wigan Athletic	5	0	0	3	0	4	6
6	2	1	5	0	1	3	0	Wrexham	10	3	7	1	0	0	10
3	6	2	3	1	3	6	0	Wycombe Wanderers	10	4	2	7	0	2	1

Referee	G	R	Y	Ave	Club	Y	R	Points
Wilkes	12	5	52	4.33	Millwall	39	2	45
Wilkie	4	0	17	4.25	Reading	38	2	44
Tomlin	13	3	54	4.15	Wrexham	30	4	42
Lynch	13	9	52	4.00	Wycombe	27	3	36
Hill	11	2	44	4.00	Bury	28	2	34
Barry	3	2	12	4.00	Oxford	31	1	34
Fletcher	14	2	55	3.93	Notts County	30	1	33
Bennett	7	1	27	3.86	Bristol Rovers	26	2	32
Bates	13	5	50	3.85	Cambridge	29	1	32
Foy	13	4	49	3.77	Stoke	25	2	31
Ryan	12	7	44	3.67	Blackpool	26	1	29
Warren	11	1	40	3.64	Bristol City	23	2	29
Jordan	12	1	43	3.58	Wigan	26	1	29
Parkes	12	2	43	3.58	Cardiff	22	2	28
Knight	8	3	27	3.38	Colchester	23	1	26
Cable	12	4	40	3.33	Brentford	19	2	25
Reed	3	0	10	3.33	Preston	17	2	23
D'Urso	3	1	10	3.33	Gillingham	19	1	22
Beeby	12	4	37	3.08	Oldham	21	0	21
					Scunthorpe	18	1	21
					Burnley	20	0	20
					Luton	20	0	20
					Chesterfield	16	1	19
					Bournemouth	15	0	15

Key:  
G = Number of goals  
R = Number of red cards  
Y = Number of yellow cards  
Ave = Number of yellow cards per game

## NATIONWIDE DIVISION 2 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Stats compiled by  
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**MATCH**

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

# 2nd Division Scene

## Brian Swain



A COUPLE of away wins in the Second Division saved some of our embarrassment as we went down to our third league defeat in a row at Bristol. Bournemouth and Bury might have overhauled us, but we are still in tenth place, thanks to Millwall winning 2-1 at Dean

Court (Bournemouth's second home defeat of the season) and Preston doing the business 3-1 at Bury. But we are now seven points adrift of the play-off zone, with today's visitors holding sixth place. Notts County shared eight goals at Meadow Lane with Bristol City, but their away record demands respect - six wins on their travels, out of nine fixtures, is the highest of any team in the whole of the Premiership or Nationwide League.

Division Two leaders Wigan are still the only team in top English football yet to be beaten this season, although Steve Davis, Mitchell Thomas and the rest of the Burnley lads almost put the first dent in that record.

Andy Payton's header put Burnley ahead at the JJB stadium, but Simon Haworth equalised in front of 11,986 fans, the biggest home crowd in Wigan's history, 5,000 more than were in the ground for our visit. Stevo and Mitch managed to keep Stuart Barlow off the score chart, but he is still the top marksman in England, with 20 goals to his credit.

Preston's success at Bury enabled them to draw level on points with Wigan, with the current Preston run 13 games without defeat.

Gillingham are also on a roll, and moved up to third place, leapfrogging Notts County, Brentford and Burnley with a 2-1 win at Cardiff. They did it without 18-goal Robert Taylor, who announced he wanted to accept a £1.5million transfer to First Division leaders Manchester City. The transfer discussions were still going on over the weekend, but Gills boss Peter Taylor dropped his namesake for the trip to Wales, saying he would not have in his team any player who would rather be elsewhere. The striker got his wish a couple of days later.

Gillingham obviously learned well the lesson of their visit to Kenilworth Road - they are unbeaten in seven games since losing to us, and this week their boss was named Second Division manager of the month. Their November record in league and cup was six wins, one draw, no defeats.

Down among the strugglers, Blackpool swapped places with Cambridge by beating them 2-1 at Bloomfield Road. It was only their third league win of the season, and their first at home since August.

Cambridge's victory over us at The Abbey is their only win in the last seven outings, although Martin Butler is still popping in the goals - his late consolation at Bloomfield Road was his 16th of the season.

## The Second Division

	HOME					AWAY					Pts
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A		
Wigan	19	8	2	0	21 6	2	7	0	17 12	39	
Preston	19	6	1	2	13 9	5	5	0	18 9	39	
Gillingham	19	6	1	2	20 9	4	4	2	17 14	35	
Bristol Rov	18	5	3	1	12 5	5	2	2	10 6	35	
Burnley	19	7	1	1	19 6	2	6	2	6 6	34	
Notts Co	19	4	3	3	13 11	6	1	2	15 9	34	
Stoke	19	4	4	2	13 9	5	2	2	16 8	33	
Millwall	19	4	4	1	14 8	5	2	3	16 13	33	
Brentford	19	6	2	1	18 9	3	4	3	13 14	33	
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18 11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5 14</b>	<b>27</b>	
Bournemouth	19	6	2	2	18 8	1	2	6	8 20	25	
Wycombe	19	4	3	3	14 14	2	4	3	10 12	25	
Bury	19	4	4	2	20 17	1	5	3	9 9	24	
Oldham	19	3	2	5	11 12	2	3	4	9 12	20	
Oxford	19	2	3	4	10 11	3	2	5	8 12	20	
Scunthorpe	19	2	2	5	8 15	3	3	4	12 16	20	
Cardiff	19	2	6	2	11 11	2	1	6	11 15	19	
Wrexham	19	3	3	3	11 11	1	4	5	7 20	19	
Bristol City	18	2	7	0	12 7	1	2	6	9 19	18	
Reading	18	3	4	3	11 11	1	1	6	11 23	17	
Cambridge	19	3	3	3	18 16	0	3	7	10 18	15	
Blackpool	19	2	4	4	11 17	1	2	6	9 17	15	
*Colchester	19	1	3	5	10 20	2	3	5	10 22	15	
*Chesterfield	18	1	3	5	5 9	1	3	5	6 11	12	

\*Not including last night's game

Chesterfield are in danger of losing touch, five points adrift of the safety mark after a goalless draw at home to Oxford. That makes it 16 league and cup games without a win, including a home defeat by non-league Enfield in the FA Cup.

Colchester, who entertain us in 13 days time, and will then be our first visitors of the new millennium, were still bottom but one last night, before a crucial game at Layer Road. With Alan White making his debut they did us a favour by grabbing a point at Stoke. Aaron Skelton, who learned his trade at Kenilworth Road, headed them into the lead before Kyle Lightbourne snatched a late equaliser.

Last night saw a real relegation six-pointer at Layer Road, with Colchester entertaining Chesterfield, who are due at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day.

## Today's other Second Division fixtures

- Brentford v Bristol Rovers
- Bristol City v Reading
- Burnley v Wycombe
- Cambridge v Bournemouth
- Gillingham v Bury
- Millwall v Cardiff
- Oxford v Stoke
- Preston v Oldham
- Scunthorpe v Wigan
- Wrexham v Blackpool

Last night: Colchester v Chesterfield

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# Today's Teams



## Luton Town

NATHAN ABBEY	1
STUART FRASER	13
JULIAN WATTS	40
EFE SODJE	3
MARVIN JOHNSON	6
LIAM GEORGE	11
ADAM LOCKE	28
STUART DOUGLAS	9
MATTHEW SPRING	4
GARY DOHERTY	12
MATTHEW TAYLOR	15

### Substitutes

TONY THORPE	29
EMMERSON BOYCE	17
TRESOR KANDOL	18
MICHAEL McINDOE	10
SCOTT WARD (GK)	24

V



## Notts County

DARREN WARD	1
RICHARD HOLMES	19
DENNIS PEARCE	3
MARK WARREN	4
MATTHEW REDMILE	5
IAN RICHARDSON	6
MARK STALLARD	9
DANNY ALLSOPP	10
DUANE DARBY	17
GARY OWERS	12
CRAIG RAMAGE	26

### Substitutes

CLAYTON BLACKMORE	24
NICK FENTON	28
ANDY HUGHES	14
SHAUN MURRAY	11
PAUL GIBSON(GK)	13

## Today's Officials

**Referee:** Steve Tomlin, Lewes

**Assistants:** P. Armstrong, Thatcham (red flag)  
L. C. Jones, Bournemouth (yellow and red flag)

**Reserve official:** P. T. McCaul, Huntingdon

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