

LUTON TOWN

Tuesday, December 21, 1999, 7.45pm

Official Matchday Magazine £2.00



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and a
Happy New Year

v Fulham

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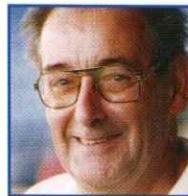
Official Matchday Magazine

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



Front cover:
Double delight: Stuart Douglas and Liam George celebrate after George's opening goal at Craven Cottage.



COMPLAINING that Luton Town were the victims of emotional blackmail, Lennie Lawrence has reluctantly agreed to the loss of Efe Sodje, for anything up to six weeks, to allow the 27-year-old defender to pitch for a place in the Nigerian squad for next month's African Nations Cup. Lawrence was angered by what amounted to an ultimatum to the player: turn up for a training camp gathering, or we will not consider you again for international football.

The saga began when the Nigerian FA announced Sodje's inclusion in a 29-man squad which is now in training in Marbella, Spain. They said the Town had no choice under FIFA rules, and that the player had to be allowed to join the party yesterday. Lawrence could hardly believe it. He wanted Sodje available for tonight's game. When the Town checked, the FA agreed that the FIFA rule did not cover the training camp request, but would come into operation if Sodje was picked for the final 23. The Town would lose his services for up to six weeks.

"I was not too happy about that, but in the circumstances I was ready to accept losing the player in January and February," said the Town boss. "But then word came that the Nigerians were planning a game on Tuesday, and they told him if he did not take part he would not be considered for future internationals. That put him and this club in an impossible position.

"I could stand firm and refuse him permission to go to the training camp. If they wanted to see Sodje in action on Tuesday, they could have him watched at Kenilworth Road against Fulham.

"Sodje and I talked it over at some length. Naturally he wants to play for his country, and he may never get a better chance than this. If I were to say no to the training camp request I might be ending his international career before it has begun. He and I have been subject to emotional blackmail, and much as though I think we need him, I had to let him go. But I am not happy about the way it was done."

Sodje confirmed the warning about turn up or miss out, and was desperate to stake his claim for international football. "I want to play for my country, as everyone does," he said. "I have worked hard for this chance for a long time, and think I have a chance of getting into the team. When a chance like this comes up you have got to take it."

Born in Greenwich, of Nigerian parents, Sodje was flying to Spain yesterday, and playing in a trial game tonight. If he misses the cut, he will return home tomorrow, and be available for the Town's Christmas games. The Nigerian squad choice will have an effect on Alan White - his month's loan to Colchester is about to expire, and originally the plan was to let it go on to two or three months. But if Sodje is taken out of the Town squad White is likely to be recalled.

Sodje might also face suspension, for being sent off at Colchester on Friday night. Referee Lee Cable penalised Sodje for handball to stop a shot at goal, but the Town will consider an appeal after looking at video evidence. "It will show that it was definitely not a handball," said the player. "The ball hit me on the chest."

David Greene smashed the penalty onto the top of the bar and into the crowd, but the ten men were beaten 3-0.

For all the latest news, views and interviews call

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

The chairman, directors, manager, coaches, players and all staff at Luton Town FC would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Our special thanks to everyone for the support and help we received during some difficult times in 1999 - we look forward to a successful second half of the season, and plenty to celebrate before 2000 is five months old!

TO SAY that Paul Read is keen to play for Luton Town is something of an understatement. He is so determined to make a new mark in English football that he is working with us without wages!

He made his debut, as a 45-minute sub, at Oxford, where he went close to scoring twice - one shot very well saved, and one slightly off target. He was on the bench again at Colchester on Friday, but did not get on.

Born in Harlow, Read joined Arsenal as a YTS boy. But seven years at Highbury left him stuck in the reserves, behind such men as Ian Wright, Dennis Bergkamp and John Hartson.

He went to Wycombe, for £35,000 and more to follow, but the move went sour. "It didn't really work out there due to financial difficulties over the contract set up on payments between Arsenal and Wycombe," he said.

He added: "I decided to leave Wycombe and go abroad and fall in love with the game again. I went to Sweden and scored lots of goals, then came back, and now Lennie has given me an opportunity on a non-contract basis with a view to something happening after that.

"You could say it is a case of playing for love, not money. I just want to play football. Lennie Lawrence must have seen me millions of times playing for the reserves at Arsenal. I scored plenty of goals, so he knows what I can do.

"A few other clubs showed interest, but my objective is to do well with Luton Town, and repay the club for giving me this chance. I don't think it is right to be looking elsewhere until the manager here says he doesn't want me."

Brian Swain

WE apologise for being unable, because of production difficulties, to include a full match report and pictures tonight from Friday's game at Colchester. The details are included in the stats pages, and the report will appear in the Boxing Day matchday magazine.

To advertise in this matchday programme call the Commercial Department on

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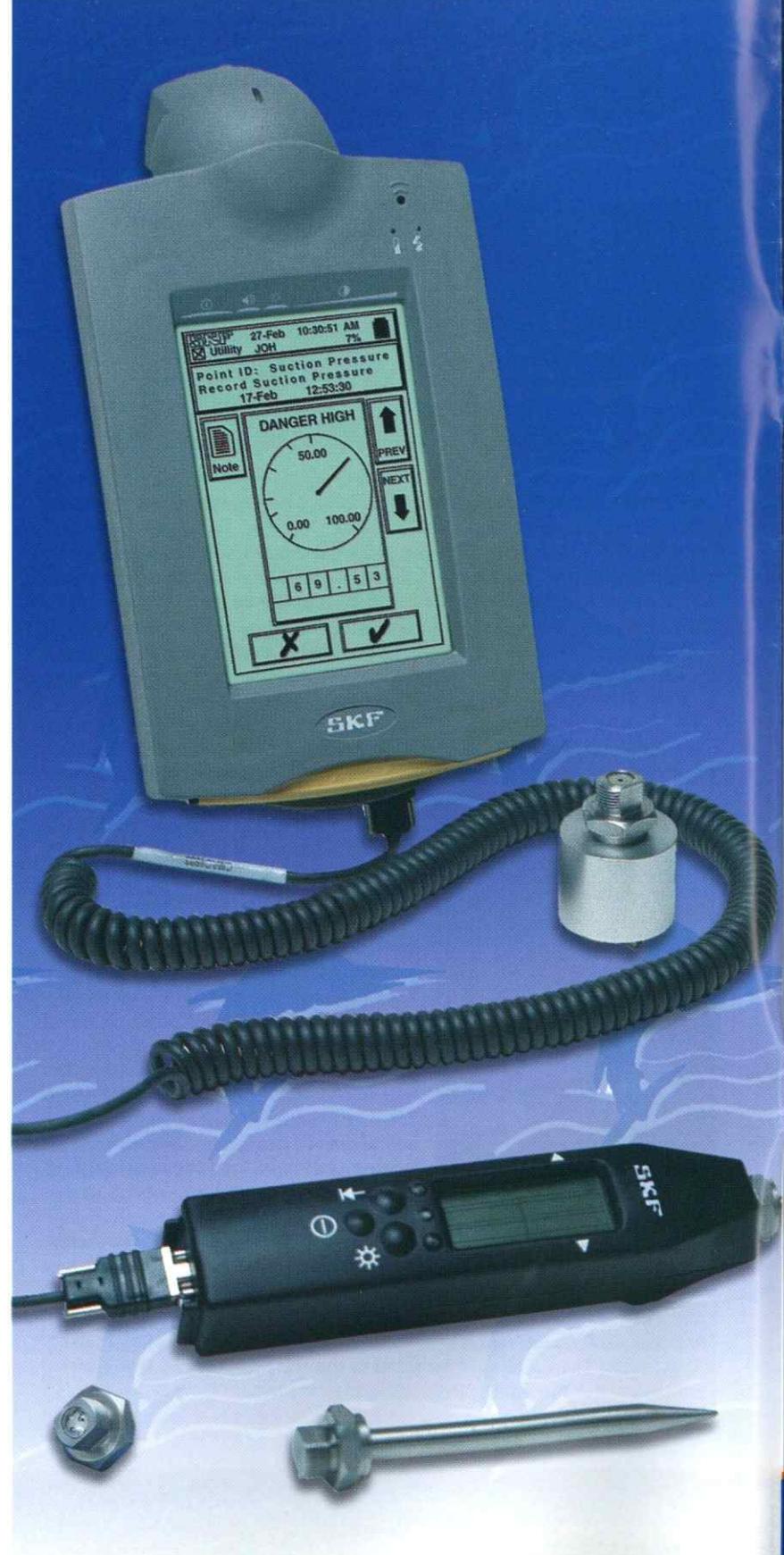
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The Manager

Lennie Lawrence



OUR LAST two away games have produced vastly contrasting performances and results, and we go into tonight's match knowing that we have to get back to the style and pattern we had at Fulham ten days ago, and not the less impressive display we saw at Colchester on Friday.

In the first half at Layer Road we were controlling proceedings without looking likely enough to score. We reduced their attacking threat but the game turned on one incident when we conceded a penalty and had Efe Sodje sent off. The video evidence about his alleged handball is inconclusive, but it was poor defending that led to it - we allowed a player to get near to the by-line before cutting the ball back for the shot that the defender blocked.

Fortunately, the penalty was missed, and then we had one of the best chances of the game to score, but that too was missed. The 0-0 half-time scoreline was about what we deserved, but the second half was a different story. With so few options to change things, we went to a 4-3-2 formation, but conceded an early goal, and after that never threatened to score. And every ball played into our penalty area in the air was a matter of great concern. We would probably not have lost by three goals if we had kept 11 men on the pitch throughout, but our second-half performance offered little hope that we could salvage something from the game.

How different it all was compared to the excellent display at Fulham which earned us tonight's replay. Apart from a 15-minute spell in which Fulham scored twice, we more than matched our First Division opponents, and the draw was the least we deserved.

Our attitude was right: there has never been the slightest concern in my mind that this group of players, even the young ones, would be overawed by the big games, and hopefully we will do ourselves justice again tonight.

But we are not kidding ourselves that we have done the hard part by drawing at Craven

Cottage. Fulham have a wealth of talent, much of it costing a lot of money. They have the luxury of being able to rotate their team. They often have players costing a million pounds or more on the bench, as they had when they played us.

Fulham have drawn their last four matches, and are just one place off the play-off zone in the First Division. They have lost only two of their 12 away games in the league, and they will perhaps be smarting at being held by Second Division opposition ten days ago.

We will be aware of the danger of being caught out by counter-attacks at home, and that will be a bigger danger than we faced from Fulham at Craven Cottage. If you give them space, they can do serious damage, and the requirement tonight is to repeat our tactics at Fulham, and cut down the service to their attackers.

In many ways, we face a harder task tonight than we did at Fulham. But having shown once that we can match a very good First Division side, we all want to do it again, and go one better, in front of our own supporters. We must be at our absolute best, as we were for most of the game at Fulham.

Most important of all is that we must give a good account of ourselves. Most home games this season have been entertaining, and tonight we can look forward to another proper football match. If we are on song, there is no reason why we should not win, and enjoy playing in the fourth round for the first time in five seasons, the year before I became manager.

Tonight, we have an excellent chance of making further progress, and as always the supporters can help. Our following at Craven Cottage was magnificent, in terms of numbers and encouragement. We didn't let you down that day, and together we can do it again tonight.

My last words to the team before kick-off will be to remember how they played at Fulham. If they and the supporters repeat that performance, we can make it a very happy start to the Christmas and New Year programme. And I think we can.

Lennie Lawrence

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Hatters Roll-Call Season 1999/2000

	APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets)					GOALS			
	League	FAC	WC	AWS	Total	League	FAC	WC	Total
Nathan Abbey	21	4	2	1	28	0	0	0	0
James Ayres	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	3(4)	0(1)	2	1	6(5)	0	0	0	0
Gary Doherty	19	4	0(2)	1	24(2)	1	2	1	4
Stuart Douglas	15(3)	4	2	1	22(3)	2	1	0	3
Andrew Fotiadis	6	0	0(2)	0	6(2)	2	0	0	2
Stuart Fraser	18	4	1	1	24	1	0	0	1
Phil Gray	6	1	2	0	9	1	1	0	2
Liam George	19	4	0(1)	1	24(1)	10(1p)	2	0	12(1p)
Marvin Johnson	20	4	0	1	25	0	0	0	0
Tresor Kandol	1(3)	0	1	0	2(3)	0	0	1	1
Adam Locke	7(4)	2(1)	1	1	11(5)	1	0	0	1
Michael McIndoe	2(14)	0(2)	2	0	4(16)	0	0	0	0
Ray McKinnon	0(3)	0	1	0	1(3)	0	0	0	0
Paul McLaren	17(1)	3	1	0	21(1)	0	0	0	0
Neil Midgley	8(2)	0	0	0	8(2)	3	0	0	3
Paul Read	0	0	0	0(1)	0(1)	0	0	0	0
Andre Scarlett	0	0	0	0(1)	0(1)	0	0	0	0
Efetobore Sodje	4(4)	1(1)	2	1	8(5)	0	0	0	0
Matthew Spring	21	4	1	1	27	2	2	0	4
Matthew Taylor	20	4	1	0	25	1	1	0	2
Tony Thorpe	2(1)	0	0	0	2(1)	1	0	0	1
Julian Watts	21	4	2	0	27	0	0	0	0
Alan White	1(1)	0	2	0	3(1)	0	0	0	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0



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Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson



LUTON Town are overdue for a place in the fourth round of the FA Cup, and I can promise that the players also know we owe the supporters something after Friday's events at Colchester.

You might think it a little odd, but we all fancy our chances of getting a result against a good First Division team despite our failure against a lower-level Second Division outfit.

We are determined to prove that we are much better than we looked at Layer Road. I think that was our poorest performance of the season so far, and we know it was nowhere near good enough for a club wanting to win promotion.

It is impossible to work out how we can be so good one day at Fulham, then so bad six days later at Colchester.

We were doing all right on Friday until Efe Sodje got sent off. We thought the penalty against him was harsh, because it looked more a case of ball hitting hand than hand making deliberate contact with ball. Efe was red carded for denying a scoring opportunity, and I find that edict by FIFA a little draconian. Colchester were still presented with an excellent scoring opportunity, from 12 yards with only a goalkeeper to beat.

Our old pal David Greene did the decent thing by hitting the bar from the spot, but we were always up against it after that, playing with ten men for the best part of an hour. If Fulham and Wimbledon were having us watched, at least we might have given them a false impression of our capabilities. I would love to get through tonight to face Wimbledon. John Hartson keeps leaving messages on my answerphone to wind us up. He says we need to get through to find out what it's like playing a real top team!

We know Fulham are a very good side, and potentially Premiership material. They made the point when they knocked Spurs out of the Worthington Cup, but we have nothing to fear after the way we played at Craven Cottage.

The draw was the least we deserved, but I don't for one moment believe that the hard part is over in bringing them back to Kenilworth Road.

I wonder if Lincoln thought that when they drew with us here in the second round. If they did, we

taught them a bit of a lesson, and we too have to learn from that. It's another one-off occasion tonight, and we know nothing less than our best will do.

Fulham are bound to be favourites, and being underdogs suits us. Any pressure we might feel as the home side will be more than matched by the pressure Fulham will feel under, playing a game they are expected to win.

In our favour is that we seem to like the big games, and none of our players are over-awed by them – just the opposite, as we have seen comparing our performances at Fulham and Colchester! We are very keen to prove that it was not the real Luton Town on view at Layer Road.

That defeat adds to an away record which is causing us great concern, and it is worrying that while we seem to be able to cope with the top clubs in the division, we go to places like Cambridge and Colchester and get slaughtered.

We still believe we are capable of winning a place in the top six by the end of the season, but to do that we have to start gathering points again quickly. I think the next month will be very important, and that by mid-January we will have a much better idea of our chances.

But tonight we need to bounce back from Friday's disappointment, and if we rise to the occasion we have every chance of winning. I think it will be a close-run thing, perhaps only one goal in it. It might well go to extra time and penalties, and we have given some thought to that.

The boss has decided on the five to take first crack if there is a shoot-out, and I can tell you I am ready to step up. I had a spell, under David Pleat, when I was the team's nominated penalty-taker, although we did not win too many in those days. I remember scoring one in the FA Cup against Sheffield United, and, believe it or not, one against Fulham when we knocked them out of the Coca Cola Cup on penalties in the 1994/95 season. We fancy our chances of winning in 90 minutes tonight, but if it has to be a Marvin Johnson penalty to settle it, I am ready, and that will do for me!

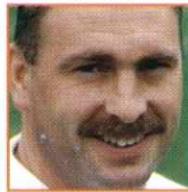
Whatever happens, I hope we get back to something much nearer our true abilities, and that we all, fans and players alike, have a cup night to remember.

Marvin Johnson

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

Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear



ONE OF the best presents a football club physio can have for Christmas is an empty treatment room. I know it is tempting fate to say so, but we might get our wish, because a whole series of injuries has been clearing up in recently, including some serious long-term ones.

Paul McLaren, who suffered a hamstring injury in the FA Cup replay at Lincoln three weeks ago, returned to league football at Colchester on Friday, when he went on as a substitute for the final half-hour. The players were all in for training on Saturday, and I was pleased to see that McLaren had suffered no adverse reaction from his first game back. He has worked hard to get fit again, and he should be available for tonight, if selected.

We came through the Colchester game with no more injuries, and if we have similar good fortune tonight the boss will soon have a much bigger squad of fit players to choose from. He and I will be among the very interested spectators tomorrow afternoon when the reserves play Peterborough at Kenilworth Road. Our team should include four players who are looking to return to match fitness after long-term injuries, and for Gavin McGowan in particular it will be a relief to play competitive football again, because it will be his first match of the season.

He suffered a bad knee injury during pre-season training, and it has been a long recovery period of treatment and work. He has done well in training, and tomorrow's game should be another step on that long road back to full match fitness. But having missed so much football, he will need more games to complete his recovery. Landry Zahana-Oni, another knee injury victim, is also expected to play tomorrow, and we should have a potent attack on view, because Phil Gray and Andrew Fotiadis are both ready to take part in the game as well.

Gray might even be involved in the squad tonight, after his back and hamstring problems which date back to September. It has been particularly frustrating for him because it was an

unusual intermittent injury, causing a problem but then apparently clearing up, only to reappear at odd times. It has taken a while for him to be declared fully fit again, but he has been in full training now for a fortnight, showing no ill-effects, and the hard work he has put in deserves reward.

We are fortunate at Luton Town that all our players have the right attitude in dealing with injuries. In some ways they have to work harder than they do in normal training to regain fitness but they get on with it, knowing it will be worthwhile in the end.

Fotiadis has worked hard to ensure he met the targets we had privately set ourselves for his recovery after a bad knee injury in the middle of September. All injured players are impatient to get back into action, but he knew from day one it was going to be a long job. He stuck at it, and now faces the final barrier, in tomorrow's game. He has been training well, although he suffered a slight ankle injury last week. It was a bit sore, but no problem at all compared to what he had gone through with his knee. Like McGowan, Gray and Zahana-Oni he has come through two testing weeks of full training except for that slight interruption, and is all set to play again tomorrow. At this stage I cannot forecast when he will be ready for first team duties. After such a long lay-off, players usually need games to complete the return to match sharpness, and some get there a little quicker than others.

We will have a better idea after tomorrow's game, which is a psychological test as well as a physical one. If the four returning players all get 90 good minutes under their belts they will have every reason to feel optimistic about their prospects for the near future. They are bound to feel a little private apprehension about how it will go, and there is nothing better than a full game to prove a point to their own satisfaction.

Hopefully that is how it will be for all four of them tomorrow, in which case we could be going into the Christmas and New Year programme with our biggest available squad for some time. Just what the doctor ordered!

Clive Goodyear

Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery



FIRST tonight my thanks to all supporters for getting into the Christmas spirit early - our bucket collection for the Mayor of Luton's Christmas Appeal at the last home game brought in more than £400, and your generosity is much appreciated.

Tonight's cup-tie has created a real buzz around Kenilworth Road and the staff have been extra busy, and my thanks to everyone involved for their efforts. Obviously we hope that we will get through to earn a home tie with Wimbledon in the fourth round and we have begun to make provisional arrangements for that game if it happens.

It will mean that for the second time this season a league match against Stoke City will have to be postponed, and as yet we have still not finalised a date for our home match with Stoke which was put off because of our visit to Fulham. I will let you know the new date as soon as possible, and if we have a fourth round cup-tie with Wimbledon I hope to be able to include details of ticket arrangements in my column for the Boxing Day match. We have also made arrangements for extra staff to be available, and we will also put another telephone line into service for the benefit of season ticket holders wishing to reserve their seats. Again, more details will be given as soon as possible.

We have had confirmation this week of another cup-tie. Our youth team is doing well in the Times FA Youth Cup, and has qualified for the fourth round. We have been drawn away to Southampton, and that game will be played at The Dell on January 11, kick-off 7.30. If there is a replay it is provisionally scheduled for Kenilworth Road on January 18.

I am pleased to be able to report another good result at Kenilworth Road this week - in the Supporters Club's annual Christmas quiz. All the players attended to mixed with fans, and as always it was an excellent night. And once again our players proved that they are remarkably knowledgeable over a wide range of subjects, and not just on football.



• **Billy Schwer**, surely Luton's sportsman of the year, very kindly made time to come to our last home game and take a bow from our fans. Many of them had been at Wembley when he came so close to becoming a world champion. It was a pleasure to meet him again, and he passes on his thanks to all those who gave him a cheer in the stadium, and at Wembley. We look forward to entertaining him again, and wish him well in his next tilt for the title.

Some of them threatened to lodge an appeal against the result: the winning team consisted of Vic and Merilyn Fussell, Margaret and Peter Jaggs, Alan White, and yours truly. There were claims from some quarters, mainly our players on losing teams, that we should have points deducted on the grounds that neither I nor Alan White are Luton Town players. I am pleased to report that the result stands! We were runners-up last year, so we were well pleased to go one better this time.

Another improved facility is now available inside the ground, with the upgrading of our loop system for visually-impaired supporters. It enables them to listen to a full commentary of the match, done by Simon Pitts from the PA box. If you are interested in using the facility, please contact me in advance and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Finally, like everyone else at Kenilworth Road I wish all supporters a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and thank everyone who has done so much for the club during 1999. I hope we have plenty of success to celebrate in the first year of the new millennium.

Cherry Newbery

Good News for Motorists

EXTRA car-parking space will be available for supporters starting with the match against Reading on January 22. I am delighted to advise that a new car park will be available in Dallow Road Junior School on match days. It is only a short walk from the ground, and it will be open on Saturday matchdays from 1.30pm to 5.30pm and for midweek evening games from 6.30pm to 10pm.

This car park is available for £35 for the rest of the season, with tickets on offer on a first come, first served, basis. Give me a ring if you need further details, or you can book a space immediately: write to me, club secretary, at Luton Town, with a £35 cheque payable to Luton Town FC.

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Tickets

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END-OF-CENTURY TICKET BONANZA

Treat yourself, or make someone's day with a Luton Town Ticket Bonanza Gift. Until December 31 we are offering amazing savings on Main Stand tickets for Luton Town matches in the new millennium. The offer is three matches for the price of two, and in addition to that saving, season ticket holders can have an extra 10 per cent discount - a value for money gift for family or friends.

Select which package of three matches appeals to you, and claim your discounted tickets at the ticket office in Kenilworth Road, or at our new kiosk in Boots, in the Arndale Centre, Luton, or phone the credit card hotline on Luton 450248.

You can buy as many of the packages as you like, but tickets are subject to availability - the best seats are likely to be snapped up quickly, because sales are on a first come, first served basis, so we advise you to book early!

THE OFFERS

Package A: Home games against Scunthorpe Jan 3, Bristol Rovers Feb 19, Wigan April 24

Package B: Home games against Reading Jan 22, Cambridge March 21, Colchester April 1

Package C: Home games against Bournemouth Feb 5, Brentford Feb 26, Millwall March 11.

THE PRICES

	Normal for three matches		Ticket Bonanza Offer	
	Adults	Concessions	Adults	Concessions
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Block G	£27.00	£18.00	£18.00	£12.00

FA Cup Sponsored by Axa - Fourth Round

In the event that we are successful this evening, the details for the fourth round would be:

Luton Town v Wimbledon

Saturday January 8, 2000, kick-off 3pm

Normal matchday league prices would apply, tickets on sale from tomorrow. Season ticket holders' seats would be reserved until close of business on December 31. Cup voucher D applies.

NEW SERVICE FOR SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Season ticket holders only can use the new telephone number 01582 450248 to order their seats, quoting their season ticket number and credit card details. Tickets may be purchased in person or by post. Supporters may purchase all other available seats.

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS (IF THERE IS A CUP-TIE)

Tomorrow and Thursday 10am - 8pm (Season Ticket Holders Only)

Friday 10am - 4pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week, December 27-30 10am - 6pm

New Year's Eve 10am - 2pm

Monday Jan 3, normal matchday hours

Tuesday to Friday, January 4 - 7 10am - 6pm

Saturday January 8, normal matchday hours

Tickets

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

Blackpool v Luton Town

Saturday January 15, kick-off 3pm

Admission at the Bloomfield Road is pay on the day only, and terracing only
Adults £10, Concessions £5

Luton Town v Chesterfield

Sunday December 26, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal league prices.
Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.
Supporters are advised to come early to avoid disappointment.

Luton Town v Reading

Saturday January 22, kick-off 3pm

Tickets go on sale tomorrow at discounted prices.
Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.
Supporters are advised to come early to avoid disappointment.

Bristol City v Luton Town

Tuesday December 28, kick-off 3pm

Admission at Ashton Gate is pay on the day only, and seating only
Adults £13, Senior Citizens £10, Juveniles £8

Luton Town v Scunthorpe

Monday, January 3, 2000, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal league prices.
Cash turnstiles will be open on the day.
Supporters are advised to come early to avoid disappointment.

Stoke City v Luton Town

Saturday January 8, kick-off 3pm

Admission at the Britannia Stadium is pay on the day only, and seating only
Adults £15, Concessions £9

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS FIXTURE WILL BE POSTPONED IF WE WIN TONIGHT'S MATCH

Our game on January 8 will instead be:
FA Cup Fourth Round v Wimbledon
(see opposite page)

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 AND CLUB SHOP HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

UNLESS WE HAVE AN FA CUP FOURTH ROUND TIE ON JAN 8 (SEE OPPOSITE PAGE)

Christmas Eve: 10am - 4pm • Christmas Day: Closed

Boxing Day: 9am - 5.30pm

Monday and Tuesday, December 27 and 28: Closed

Wednesday and Thursday, December 29 and 30: 10am - 4pm

New Year's Eve: 10am - 2pm

Friday and Saturday Jan 1 and 2: Closed

Monday Jan 3: 9am - 5.30pm



Executive Box Holders



Mick Connolly

Mr H. Khatab

Dave Crawford & Family



Rob Stringer of Epic Records & Mick Garbutt of Inside Media

Kenilworth Suite Members

Chris & Kim Clarke of the Wheatsheaf PH, Flitwick

Woburn Media Ltd

SKF (U.K.) Ltd

Corporate Coaching

J P Hygiene Supplies

DBF Crosswinds Ltd

R W Harvey & Son

Dr David Siegler

Regal Litho Ltd

Mr Malcolm Eade

Mr J Siegler

Mr D Ryder

Mr Roger Eade

Datapace Ltd

Mr P Mitchell

Cobb Group Ltd

Neahurst Ltd

Grosvenor Casino

Morestaff

The Magic Touch (GB) Ltd

Travel Extras

Vangis UK Ltd

Fisher Frozen Foods Ltd

Head-to-Head

Matthew Taylor



Rufus Brevett



TWO of the best left wingbacks in the Nationwide League are in opposition tonight, and Carling Opta's head to head analysis looks at the talents of Matthew Taylor and Rufus Brevett.

Some of us at Kenilworth Road remember Brevett well. When Jim Ryan was manager the then Town SoccerLine, now replaced by ClubCall, had a facility

to allow fans to ring in and leave messages and views, or ask questions. An exiled Hatter living in Yorkshire phoned to plead with the manager to nip in and buy a 21-year-old left back at Doncaster Rovers.

Ryan knew all about young Brevett, but the Town were then only sellers of players, not buyers, and he went to Queens Park Rangers instead, and then on to Fulham.

He had an impressive game against us at Craven Cottage, but so too did Matthew Taylor, whose early shot led to our first goal.

One of the features of the first exciting FA Cup tie between Luton and Fulham was the play of wing-backs Matthew Taylor and Rufus Brevett down the respective left flanks.

The two dashing players may be at opposite ends of their career spectrums, but both give equally good service to their clubs and excel in all areas of full back play.

Brevett is a real crowd favourite at the Cottage and has been in good form in recent weeks. But in truth most of his best work has come at the back. He has made most of his passes in his own half and weighed in with more than half a century of clearances.

When it comes to those foraging forward runs, he has been less effective, with just 14 per cent of his crosses finding a team-mate, even with the aerial power of Geoff Horsfield up front.

Taylor's own cross completion rate is still short of the sort of figure you would expect from a wide man, but he has swung in 126 crosses already this season, finding a Town player with almost a quarter. He has been particularly effective with his dribbling, completing an impressive 92 per cent.

He has also been keen to test opposition goalkeepers, firing in almost 50 shots. But so far he has found the net just once, in a 3-1 win over Wrexham earlier on in the season.

Both men have two goal assists in the League to their credit and each has conceded the same number of fouls - only 24, not many at this level for two players that have played so much football.

At this stage of the FA Cup, matches tend to get a good deal more coverage than the average Nationwide Football League match and if Taylor puts in another good performance today, it may not be long before the big clubs come looking. What was that Kevin Keegan was saying about the lack of decent English left-footers?

	Taylor	Brett
Minutes On Pitch	1,690	1,384

Goal Attempts

Goals	1	0
Shots On Target (inc goals)	16	1
Shots Off Target	22	5
Blocked Shots	10	3

Passing

Goal Assists	2	2
Total Passes	565	578
Pass Completion %	49%	68%

Crossing

Total Crosses	126	51
Cross Completion %	24%	14%

Dribbling

Dribbles & Runs	39	29
Dribble Completion %	92%	83%

Defending

Tackles Made	56	35
Tackles Won %	43%	46%
Blocks	31	22
Clearances	84	53
Interceptions	11	7

Discipline

Fouls	24	24
Offside	1	0
Yellow Cards	2	3
Red Cards	0	0

Courtesy of Carling Opta

Matchday Hospitality & Sponsorships

STAND SPONSORSHIP

..... **FROM £4,000 PER SEASON**

MATCH SPONSORSHIP

..... **FROM £550**

MATCH BALL SPONSORSHIP

..... **FROM £360**

JOE PAYNE LOUNGE

..... **FROM £55 PER PERSON**

MILLENNIUM SUITE

..... **FROM £30 PER PERSON**

EXECUTIVE BOXES

..... **FROM £29.50 PER PERSON**

COMMERCIAL MASCOT

..... **£200**

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

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

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

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT)

Commercial

John Bailey



THREE VERY successful local companies are our match sponsors tonight, and we wish to express our appreciation to them. Anachem Ltd, J. J. Kelly and Sons Ltd and Edmundson Electrical have all been long-time supporters of Luton Town. FA Cup replays

have to be organised at short notice, for obvious reasons, but we are fortunate that we have so many real Luton Town supporters within the local business community willing to step in to give much-needed backing to the club.

Anachem Ltd, based in Charles Street, Luton, is the most successful UK scientific company distributing instrumentation and consumables to the life science research market, everything from multi-national pharmaceutical companies to academic research institutions.

Founded in 1970, the company now has a turnover in excess of £26million, and employs over 160 staff. Seven years ago Anachem became part of Diploma plc, a large international group specialising in technical value-added distribution. They have an extensive product portfolio offering a high degreee of technical specialisation. To find out more, visit their web site on www.anachem-ltd.com. J. J. Kelly and Sons Ltd are another local company who have worked hard to prosper in Luton, and now want to put something back into the community. John Kelly has been a supporter for many years, and received some reward when he sponsored the last home match, against Notts County - he was the day's Golden Gamble winner.

His company has been operating successfully in Luton for more than a quarter of a century, specialising in civil engineering and ground work for the construction industry.

Edmundson Electrical are based in Cosgrove Way, Luton, and are the premier stockists of electrical installation materials in the area. They are delighted to be associated with Luton Town FC, and invite anyone to contact them for a competitive quotation , or to discuss their needs, on

728811.

We offer a very warm welcome to everyone in our sponsorship lounges tonight - the club has picked up a very welcome bonus from the FA Cup results so far, and the commercial department has to raise every penny it can to support Lennie and the players. We could not do it without the backing of the local business community and individual fans who support our sponsorship schemes, and our grateful thanks go to all of them.

WE extend a very warm welcome tonight to our ball sponsors, G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd, who are very loyal supporters of the club, and of our commercial activities. The company has its roots in the Luton area, but its remarkable growth led to the need for bigger premises and a more central location, and it is now based in Northamptonshire.

A wide range of house builders, including companies like Connolly Homes, has discovered it is good business to rely on Owen's to supply and fix ceramic tiles, and from its Northamptonshire headquarters G. Owen Ceramic Tiling has built up an ever-increasing portfolio of contracts with major housing construction concerns all over the country.

They are among our most regular visitors and supporters, and we are very grateful for their continued involvement, and hope they have a match and a result to remember tonight.

The past year has not been the easiest for the club, but we are very appreciative of all those who have come to our aid by backing our commercial efforts, and we are looking forward to offering many more companies and individuals our services as we go into the new millennium.

John Bailey

GOLDEN GAMBLE

ONE lucky supporter will tonight collect a very welcome surprise "Christmas present" - a fat handful of cash. It is on offer in our Golden Gamble lottery, which has already paid out well over £5,000 to lucky winners this season.

There is a jackpot at every match, with hundreds of pounds the prize to be won for an outlay of just £1. Our picture shows the latest winner, John Kelly, one of our most loyal and generous supporters, collecting £505 from Town secretary Cherry Newbery after his lucky ticket was pulled out of the drum.



Tonight, as usual, sellers will be on duty all around the ground offering you the chance to win a jackpot for £1. The draw is made at half time, with the cash instantly handed over. There have been 15 winners this season, sharing jackpots totalling £5,778.

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

NATHAN ABBEY	Paul Deason
GAVIN McGOWAN	Luton Town Supporters Club
MATTHEW SPRING	Brian Hall
ALAN WHITE	Rob Stringer, Epic Records
MARVIN JOHNSON	Space Display Systems
PHIL GRAY	G & S Ceramics
PAUL McLAREN	Elsie Clubb
STUART DOUGLAS	Les & Sue Miller
MICHAEL McINDOE	The Bobbers Travel Club
LIAM GEORGE	WHOSH
GARY DOHERTY	Peter Johnson
STUART FRASER	David & Jonathan Siegler
ANDREW FOTIADIS	Sally Mayne & Family
MATTHEW TAYLOR	Mick Garbutt, Inside Media
LANDRY ZAHANA-ONI	Elsie & Danny Clubb
EMMERSOON BOYCE	In discussions
TRESOR KANDOL	Danny Clubb
JAMES AYRES	E.C. Smith & Sons Ltd
ANDRE SCARLETT	WHOSH
JERRY MOSES	Century Club
DANIEL TATE	Mike and Mark Tearle, Century Club Members
JUDE STIRLING	Century Club
SCOTT WARD	G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd
ADAM LOCKE	Jeremy Cain of D. A. P. Consulting
EFETOBORE SODJE	Graham Group Plc
JULIAN WATTS	Les Miller, Miller & Company, Bedford
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 Cottagers



Fulham's Goals For & Against



Cottagers' Cards

	2	4	6	8	3	6	4	2
0-15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60-75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75-90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

n.b
League
Details
Only



Hatters' Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded



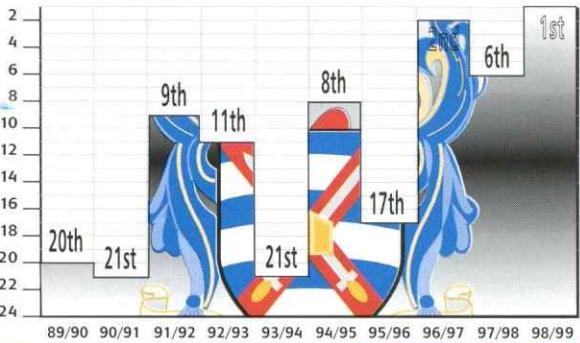
Cottagers' last time out

1	Maik Taylor
6	Kit Symons
3	Rufus Brevett
4	Andy Melville
14	Simon Morgan
8	Lee Clark
11	Steve Hayward
23	Sean Davis
2	Steve Finnian
10	Paul Peschisolido
15	Barry Hayles
17	Wayne Collins
5	Chris Coleman
9	Geoff Horsfield
7	Paul Trollope
20	Gus Uhlenbeck

Luton's Goals For & Against



Fulham'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
Div.	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
F.A.	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	5
W.C.	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3
L.S.	Walker 13	Davies 6	Brazil 14	Farrell 12	Brazil 14	Morgan 11	Conroy 9	Conroy 21	Moody 15	Horsfield 15
Goals	4,456	4,057	4,531	4,716	4,654	4,207	4,191	6,644	8,976	11,387
Ave Att										

Fulham's Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded



Fulham's Form Guide - Result, Points, Position

W	W	L	S	S	L	W	L	S	W	D	D	
19	22	22	23	24	25	25	28	28	29	32	33	34

Form Guide shows last 15 results.

W = Won, L = Lost, S = Score Draw, D = No Score Draw.

Ground : Craven Cottage Capacity : 19,250 Year Formed : 1879 Record League Win : 10-1 v Ipswich

Pitch Measurement : 110 x 75 Record League Loss : 2-0 v Millwall, 1879 Record Cup Win : 7-0 v Swansea City, 1986

Record Attendance : 49,335 v Millwall, 1938 Record Cup Loss : 1-0 v Bristol Rovers, 1986

Division 2, 2 May 1998 Record Cup Loss : 1-0 v Watford, 1986

Record Receipts : £139,235 v Watford, 1995 FA Cup 1st round, 11 Nov 1995

Division 2, 2 May 1998 Record Cup Loss : 1-0 v Watford, 1986

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Division 2, 2 May 1998 Record Cup Loss : 1-0 v Watford, 1986

Division 2, 2 May 1998 Record Cup Loss : 1-0 v Watford, 19

tonight's visitors

welcome to Fulham



PAUL BRACEWELL (MANAGER)

Paul was the popular choice to succeed Kevin Keegan in May 1999, having been promoted from player-coach - the move signalling the end of a playing career which produced a whole string of honours. The move into management has, so far, been a smooth transition with 'Brace' having the most successful start to any Fulham management career.

As a player, Paul came through the Stoke youth system, signing pro in February 1980. His first of three moves to Sunderland came in July 1983 for £250,000, taken to Roker by former Stoke boss Alan Durban. The Stoke connection took him on to Everton for £425,000, reuniting Paul with former Potteries team-mate and then Goodison boss Howard Kendall in May, 1984. Whilst at Everton, Paul won two League Championship medals, a European Cup Winners Cup medal, appeared in three FA Cup Finals and won three England caps. He was also very close to being selected for England's 1986 World Cup squad.

Again it was the Stoke link that saw him switch to Sunderland when former City central defender Denis Smith paid £250,000 for his services in August 1989. Again Paul appeared in an FA Cup Final before joining up with Kevin Keegan for the first time - moving to Newcastle in June 1992 for £250,000. Bracewell was a cornerstone on which Keegan built Newcastle into a big power again, before he moved

to Sunderland for a third time, for £100,000 in August, 1999, joining up with his old Everton teammate Peter Reid who had become Roker boss. It was the lure of working with Keegan again, and the prospect of continuing his playing career, that persuaded Paul to move south to Fulham in October 1997 for £75,000 and he was voted into the PFA Second Division representative side for 1997/98.

RUFUS BREVETT (LEFT-BACK)

Rufus joined Fulham in January 1998 for a fee of £350,000 signed by Ray Wilkins, his former Queens Park Rangers manager. Derby-born, Rufus was a trainee at his local club before signing for Doncaster Rovers where he played under the likes of Dave MacKay, Joe Kinnear and Billy Bremner. He also played in the FA Youth Cup Final whilst at Belle Vue and showed enough in his 100-odd first-team games for QPR to sign him for £250,000 in February 1991.

LEE CLARK (MIDFIELD)

Lee became the club's record signing when he joined from Sunderland for a fee of £3m in July 1999. His new manager Paul Bracewell had been a teammate at Newcastle and his coach at Sunderland. Lee had previously been Sunderland's record signing in the summer of 1997 when he arrived from Newcastle, and immediately won over the fans with typical displays of 100% effort and accurate passing. 'Clarky' was also awarded the captaincy in the absence of Kevin Ball and was named in the PFA Division One representative side.



FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB 1999/2000

the players

CHRIS COLEMAN (CENTRAL DEFENDER)

Hugely popular with the Craven Cottage crowd after a series of colossal performances over the past two seasons and has just signed a new long-term contract with the club. Missed only one game last season, through suspension, and his captaincy was a major asset in leading Fulham to the Second Division title.

The 6'2" centre-half cost £2.1m from Blackburn in December 1997 and quickly regained his place in the Welsh International side as well as being voted into the PFA Second Division representative side, an honour he also received last season. Chris was born in Swansea, and after a spell as a schoolboy at Manchester City, joined his local club. He made his debut as a seventeen year-old and in his first season helped the Swans to promotion from the old Fourth Division. In four seasons Chris made over 150 appearances and in July 1991 Steve Coppell paid £275,000 to take him to Crystal Palace. He was an inspirational figure as Palace see-sawed between the Premiership and First Division before Blackburn paid £2.8m to take him to Ewood Park in December 1995.

WAYNE COLLINS (MIDFIELDER)

A £450,000 signing from Sheffield Wednesday in January 1998, Wayne was playing for non-league Winsford United when Dario Gradi spotted him and took him to Crewe Alexandra. In three seasons at Gresty Road, Wayne played 117 League games, scoring 14 goals. During that time he helped the team to one promotion and two play-off's before David Pleat signed Wayne for Sheffield Wednesday in August 1996. Wayne scored some important goals from midfield for the Owls, but was allowed to join Fulham after Ron Atkinson became manager.

SEAN DAVIS

Eighteen year-old Sean is a highly rated prospect who has forced his way into first-team contention last season. Battersea-born, Sean came through the junior ranks at Fulham, and made his debut in October 1996 when he was just 17 years and 25 days old.

STEVE FINNAN

Twenty-three year-old Steve has impressed many observers since signing for Fulham for £600 000

from Notts County in November 1998. Steve is a local boy who began his career as the first ever YTS player at Conference side Welling. In the summer of 1995 Barry Fry took him to Birmingham City for £40 000, and after a three month loan spell with Notts County (which included the 1996 Wembley play-off final against Bradford City) he made a permanent move to Meadow Lane for £300 000.

MARCUS HAHNEMANN (GOALKEEPER)

Manager Paul Bracewell first saw Marcus on video and was impressed enough to making a scouting trip to New York to watch the 6'3" keeper in action. Clearly the video footage was confirmed and the Fulham boss paid Colorado Rapids \$150,000 (£90,000) for his services.

BARRY HAYLES (STRIKER)

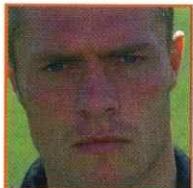
At £2 million, Barry Hayles is one of Fulham's most expensive signings. A latecomer to the professional game, Barry is a Londoner who began his career at Conference side Stevenage. Initially a full-back, Barry switched to attack after a successful up-front outing as a substitute. A Player of the Season award, 36 goals, and a Conference League winners medal (League status was denied by an inadequate ground) helped Barry into the professional ranks as he joined Bristol Rovers in June 1997. His 26 goals last season helped Rovers secure a play-off place.

STEVE HAYWARD (MIDFIELDER)

Steve, who joined Fulham in a £175,000 move from yo-yo club Carlisle in July 1997, won England caps at Under 17, 18 and 19 level while a hugely promising midfield talent during his YTS years at Derby County. His chances at the Baseball Ground were not helped with an influx of players and he made only 26 League appearances over seven seasons. Steve joined Carlisle for £100,000 during the 1994/95 season and impressed as a ball-playing midfielder with an eye for goal and a competitive spirit. Steve was captain as the Cumbrians won promotion alongside Fulham in 1997 and scored the winning goal in that season's Auto Windscreen Trophy in front of 76,000 at Wembley. Another who found it hard to establish a place in the Fulham side at first, but last season was a regular in the Fulham midfield.

Today's Visitors

the players



GEOFF HORSFIELD (STRIKER)

A £300,000 signing from Halifax in October 1998. Geoff is a 6-foot striker with an impressive scoring record. The Barnsley-born forward began his career with Scarborough Town, but after a dozen appearances moved to non-league Guiseley in the Unibond League, resuming his career as a bricklayer. His 35 goals for the Yorkshire club led to a trans-Pennine transfer to Witton Albion, and only 12 months later, a return to Yorkshire with Halifax Town. It was with the Shaymen that Geoff came to prominence, scoring 30 goals in his side's promotion season from the Vauxhall Conference. Started last season in similar fashion, scoring eight goals by the time of his move to Craven Cottage. Geoff quickly settled into life at Fulham and finished last season as top scorer – just missing out on the divisional Golden Boot.

ANDY MELVILLE (DEFENDER)

Andy became Paul Bracewell's first signing when he turned down a new deal at Sunderland to link-up with his former Stadium of Light player-coach. Andy was ever-present in the Sunderland side that romped home to the First Division and his presence gives Fulham more options in the centre of defence. Previous clubs include Swansea City and Oxford United.

SIMON MORGAN (DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER)

Simon is a Birmingham born player who has played over 350 games for the Whites scoring more than 50 goals. The club's longest serving player having come to Craven Cottage in October 1990. Began his career at Leicester City where he made 160 League appearances and won two England Under-21 caps. Since his arrival at Fulham, Simon has become a huge favourite with the fans and was captain of the team for several seasons. He led the side to promotion in 1996/97.

PAUL PESCHISOLIDO (STRIKER)

Canadian Paul has been a crowd pleaser wherever he goes and warmed the Fulham fans by scoring numerous and spectacular goals. Quick and sharp around the penalty area he cost £1.1 million from West Brom in October 1997, doubling the previous Division Two record. He first came to prominence playing for Canada in the Under 16 World Cup and later for the Olympic Under 19 team. Paul went to Birmingham at age 21 and in his second season was snapped up by Stoke City for £400,000, rising to nearly £700,000 after so many goals and appearances. After two full seasons at Stoke he switched back to Birmingham for £400,000, having already married St Andrews managing director Karren Brady. But after only three months he was in demand again and moved to West Brom for £650,000 for last season.

KARL HEINZ RIEDLE

Vastly experienced German International striker who was signed at the end of September for a fee of £200,000 from Liverpool. Made his debut in the subsequent game at Norwich and made an immediate impact by scoring in a 2-1 victory. Played for several clubs in his home country before joining Lazio in 1990 to become one of the most expensive players in European football. Renowned for his prowess in the air, the 5'10" striker was tagged, 'The best header of the ball in Europe' and helped revive the Italian club's fortunes. Karl has won most of the game's major honours, with over 40 caps for the German side, including appearing in the 1990 World Cup finals for the winning side. At domestic level, a return to Germany led to successive Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund in 1995 and 1996 and the European Cup in 1997 after Karl's two goals helped beat Juventus. He joined Liverpool that summer and competed for a place with Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen before moving to Craven Cottage.

KIT SYMONS (DEFENDER)

Basingstoke born defender who began his career at Portsmouth. Having had brief tastes of the first-team it was the 1991/92 season that was the making of him. Alan Ball was the manager at Fratton Park as the then 20 year-old became a regular in the side that was unlucky to lose to Liverpool in the FA Cup Semi-

Final on penalties. He had earned a reputation and after three more seasons on the south coast he moved to Manchester City for £1.2m in the summer of 1995. Again Alan Ball was his boss, but this time the experience was not a happy one for Kit, or his club. Two relegations in three seasons followed as City plunged to the Second Division with Kit as captain. He was released under the Bosman ruling in the summer of 1998 and Fulham beat several clubs to his signature.

MAIK TAYLOR (GOALKEEPER)

Born in Germany and at the end of last season was selected for the Northern Ireland squad. Maik was spotted by former England goalkeeper, Ray Clemence, when he was playing for non-league Farnborough Town. Clemence, at that time was manager of Barnet and Maik left the army to join the professional ranks.

Maik flourished under the coaching of Clemence and after 70 appearances for the North London side, Southampton's Graeme Souness paid £500,000 for his services in January 1997. The arrival of Dave Jones signalled the end of his Dell career. Signed for Fulham for £700,000 in November 1997.

PAUL TROLLOPE (MIDFIELDER)

Paul is the son of Swindon Town's legendary long-serving defender, John Trollope, and also began his career at the Wiltshire club. However, he was unable to make the first-team at the County Ground and a loan spell at Torquay led to a permanent move. A Welsh International with two caps, he stayed three seasons at Plainmoor before joining Derby County in 1995. Paul had loan spells at Grimsby and Crystal Palace, before moving to Fulham last December for £650,000.

GUS UHLENBEEK (FULL BACK)

Dutchman Gus was another summer 1998 signing under the Bosman ruling for Fulham. His previous club Ipswich had been keen to hang on to the attacking left wing-back but once again the lure of playing for Keegan proved too much to refuse. The Paramaribo-born player established himself in his home country with his appearances for SV Tops and joined Portman Road outfit in the summer of 1995. He became a popular and important member of the Ipswich side and was a crowd favourite.

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REGULAR readers of this column will have realised by now that football cards were issued with all manner of products, ranging from cigarettes to sweets and bubble-gum.

Newspapers and magazines were also among those who hoped for increased sales if they enticed readers with these little gems. One such paper, now defunct, was the Sunday Empire News. In 1949 they employed Mickey Durling, one of the leading cartoonists of the day, to draw a set of 48 football cards to be given away with the paper.

Included at No. 11 was Douglas Gardiner, a tough-tackling half-back who had joined Luton in 1939 from Scottish junior side Auchinleck Talbot. Due to Adolf Hitler's intervention he had to wait for more than eight years before making his debut in the Football League.

In the intervening period he spent more than three years in a prisoner-of-war camp, after being shot down over Germany in the service of his country with the RAF.

Injury further delayed his long-awaited bow as a Luton Town player, but a few months short of his 30th birthday Gardiner was chosen to play inside left in a Second Division fixture at Chesterfield on October 12, 1946. Our visitors on Boxing Day will recall it with more pleasure than we will - Chesterfield won 2-1, with Allen Driver getting our goal.

Gardiner's second appearance was in one of the all-time great games, at home to Newcastle seven weeks later. We were three down at half-time, but stormed to victory with four second-half goals, scored by Billy Waugh, Driver, Hughie Billington and Mel Daniel.

Gardiner played in the No. 6 shirt that day, on the left of midfield, and it was in this position that he made most of his 134 first-team appearances for us.

However, he also had a few games on the left

wing at the end of the 1949/50 season, when the Town were desperately fighting relegation. It was during this spell that he scored his solitary league goal, in a vital 3-1 victory over Barnsley that April. It was only the second home win we had managed since the previous bonfire night!

By now Gardiner was captain of the side, and the longest-serving player on the books. But the following season he managed only three starts, and at the end of the campaign he was allowed to leave for neighbours Bedford Town, then in the Southern League.

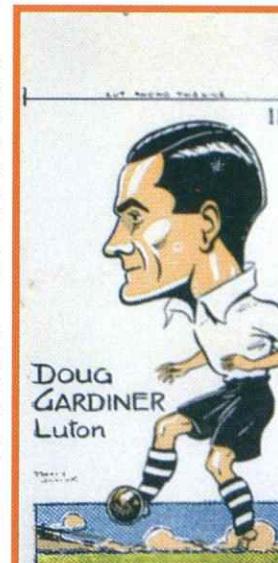
It was widely acknowledged that he had been a great clubman. The Luton News 1949 Football Handbook described him as "a tenacious tackler who never knows when he is beaten, and one of the best servants the club has ever had."

Gardiner spent several years with The Eagles, and became trainer/coach. He was operating in this capacity when Bedford so nearly overcame Arsenal in the FA

Cup third round in 1956, when they forced the Gunners to a replay.

These plain-backed cards provided a curious mixture of unsung players from the Second and Third Divisions along with established top-flight stars. This set included Harry McIlvenny of Bradford Park Avenue, and Maurice Edelston of Reading, who later became a respected sports commentator with the BBC. Also featured were Tommy Lawton, Len Shackleton and Stanley Matthews, and at No. 46 a player we were to appreciate, George Stobart, then of Newcastle, but shortly afterwards transferred to us.

These colourful cards have a lovely period flavour about them, and are well worth looking out for. Unfortunately they are becoming increasingly scarce, and are no longer cheap. They are listed at around £3.25 each in Murray's latest catalogue.



Sunday Empire News
Famous Footballers of
Today, 1949



Top Hat Trimmers Gallery

Emmerson Boyce

Born: Aylesbury 24.9.79

Previous clubs: None

Joined Luton Town: As a YTS boy in 1995

Luton debut: v Walsall (H) 5.1.99

Luton Town record to 16.12.99: 13 appearances.



Autograph

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Hatters Away

travel information



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THE Town go to Bristol next Tuesday, for their final game of 1999, this time to meet Bristol City, kick-off 3pm. As usual Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club are offering their services. If you pick up their coaches at the ground, secure parking is available for £3 at Maple Road.

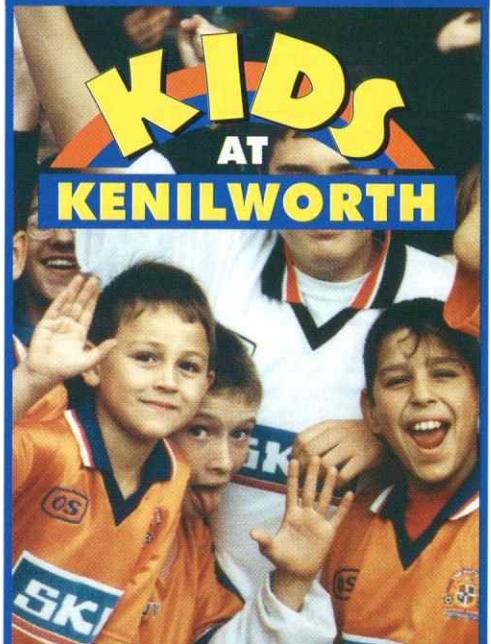
Luxury executive coaches run by Town on Tour, an offshoot of the Luton Town Supporters Club, will leave Maple Road at 11am. The fare is £11.50 for adult members of LTSC, £9.50 for concessions, and £13.00 for all others. You can book at the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road before or after today's game, or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

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

DIY travellers

IF YOU want to drive yourself to Bristol, the journey is easy. Leave Luton on the M1 south, then make a right turn onto the M25 west. Near Heathrow leave M25 to turn right onto the M4 heading west. Leave M4 at junction 19, turning left onto the M32. At the end of the motorway, after nearly five miles, turn left to follow the signs to Broadmead and Temple Meads, and then get into the right hand lane to follow signs towards Bristol Airport. At the next two roundabouts go left to follow the signs towards Taunton A38. After leaving the second roundabout stay in the left hand lane, still following the A38 signs, into Brunel Way, the A3029. This swings left into Winterstoke Road, and Ashton Gate is on your left.

Mileage from Luton: 150.



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.



Team Posters available now in the Club Shop

price £2.00

Blast FROM THE Past

Roger Wash

Luton Town v Fulham



Cup clashes with the Cottagers

Clashes in the F.A.Cup with this evening's opponents have been thin on the ground over the past sixty years or so, but during the first decade of this century we were paired together four times with three coming in consecutive seasons.

In 1902/03 we had battled through the early qualifying rounds, beating Q.P.R. and Lowestoft along the way, before facing Fulham at Dunstable Road. Fulham were in Southern League Division Two at the time (although they were to win promotion at the season's end) while we were the 'big boys' of Division One.

There were to be no giant killing feats that season with the Town winning comfortably 5-1, aided by a hat-trick from Leon Gall, on their way to an eventual defeat at Millwall in the first round proper.

In the following campaign the Town eased their way past Hitchin and Watford before coming up against Fulham once more, this time at Craven Cottage. The Cottagers were by now a much stronger outfit and a goal from Jack Durrant was the only consolation in a 1-3 defeat in front of a 10,000 crowd.

Amazingly the two clubs were paired together again in 1904/05 in the sixth qualifying round, the first outing for each of the sides in that season's competition. This time a 16,000 crowd at Craven Cottage saw the Hatters put in a woeful performance going down 0-4 although adequate revenge was gained a month later when we thrashed the Cottagers 6-0 in a league clash at Dunstable Road. Fulham's consolation was to battle on through to the third round proper (equivalent to today's fifth round) before bowing out at Aston Villa in front of a 47,000 crowd.

The clashes in the Edwardian era were not quite complete as the teams were paired together again in 1907/08 in the first round proper at Kenilworth Road. Fulham had won the championship of the Southern League in the previous campaign and

had gained election to the Football League Division Two where they were making a concerted attempt at promotion at the first time of asking. The Cottagers proved far too powerful for the Hatters and won by the strange scoreline of 3-8 although it must be said that the Town were reduced to nine fit men in the days before substitutes. Fulham saw off better sides than Luton in that season's competition and went all the way to the semi-final where they were trounced 6-0 by Newcastle at Anfield.

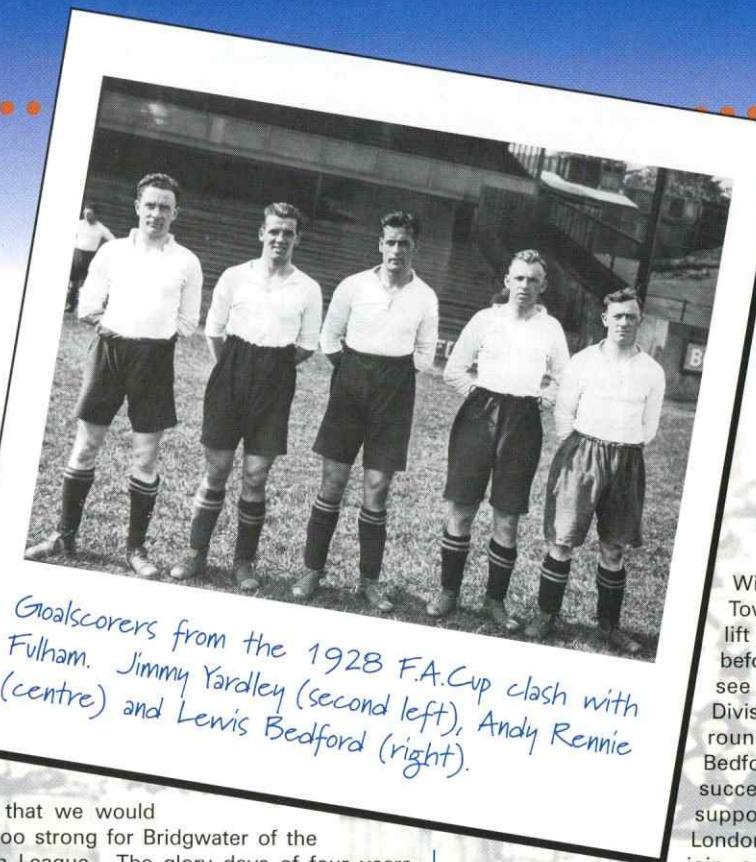
The Hatters had to wait twenty years for a chance to avenge the hammering by Fulham but that chance eventually came in 1928/29 when the teams were drawn out of the hat for a second round clash. Fulham had been relegated from Division Two at the end of the previous season to join the Town in Division Three (South), but led the table when the two sides met at Craven Cottage on December 8th 1928.

This time it was Fulham's turn to suffer injury with Albert Barrett limping off early on. Surprisingly the Hatters did not seem to want to press home their advantage and were content to frustrate the crowd of 19,788 and force a scoreless draw. The replay took place at Kenilworth Road on the following Thursday afternoon and a respectable crowd of 11,250 turned up to see the Town 'swing the ball about to good effect' in a display totally unlike the negative performance of five days before. The end result was a convincing 4-1 win with Jimmy Yardley (2), Andy Rennie and Lewis Bedford on the scoresheet. Fulham's Bertie Rosier was a limping passenger in this game but the Cottagers gained ample revenge two days later when they turned over the Town, 4-2 at Craven Cottage, in a league fixture.

A lot of water had passed under the bridge by the time the teams met for what was to be the last time in the competition before this year.

In 1963/64 we had just been relegated to the old Division Three for the first time since 1937 and had to take part in the draw for the first round rather than come in at the third round stage.

Also for the first time in 25 years we had to face up to non-league opposition in the competition and, such was our league form, it was by no



Goalscorers from the 1928 F.A.Cup clash with Fulham. Jimmy Yardley (second left), Andy Rennie (centre) and Lewis Bedford (right).

means

certain that we would prove too strong for Bridgwater of the Western League. The glory days of four years before, when we reached the final, seemed a lifetime away when a fair number of Town supporters made their way to Somerset to swell the attendance to 4,453 which would have been far higher but for torrential rain which also turned the pitch into a mudbath.

Ace marksman, Gordon Turner, scored against the run of play to give the Town the lead but the defence had to survive several scares before extra fitness told as the game drew to a close, leaving Tom McKechnie to net a couple of opportunist goals to give the scoreline an unrealistic look.

The reward for this victory was a home tie with Reading, who looked on the Town as a 'bogey' side at the time. As it turned out Reading had all the early play and it was a surprise that it was not until the 65th minute that they took the lead through Doug Webb.

Shortly afterwards Turner was fouled in the area and then equalised from the spot to level the score. With the game petering out and the crowd of 9,090 drifting away a shot out of the blue from winger Mike Fairchild put the Town into a totally undeserved lead which they managed to hang on until the end.

With luck like that the Town were destined to lift the trophy, but before that they had to see off Fulham from Division One in the third round. Cup fever hit Bedfordshire and many success starved supporters travelled to London on a murky day to join a crowd of 18,089 gathered at the Cottage.

Fulham had beaten Ipswich 10-1 in their previous home game but the Town decided to attack from the start and put on a first half display which totally belied their lowly league status. Winger Harry Walden hit a post and only a tremendous save from Fulham goalkeeper Tony Macedo kept out a fierce goalbound effort from McKechnie. It was difficult to tell which was the first division side but whatever was said in the Fulham dressing room at half-time seemed to work as, within 60 seconds of the restart, Alan Mullery had put Fulham ahead.

Goal number two swiftly followed when Graham Legatt hit home a rebound off the body of Luton goalkeeper, Ron Bayham, and although Ray Smith reduced the deficit on the hour with a fine individual effort there now looked only one likely winner.

Extra class and power eventually told when two corners from John Key and Johnny Haynes were converted into goals by Bobby Howfield and Maurice Cook to give the final score a slightly flattering look.

We have waited a long time for revenge!

Community & Schools Programme

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

The Luton News



The Dunstable Gazette

'YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY ON THE PITCH'

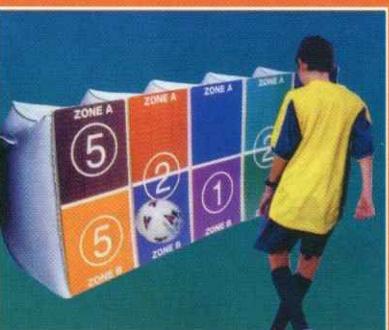
Venue: Luton Regional Sports Centre

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 Scunthorpe, Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd January 2000.

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ntl: SCHOOL VISIT PROJECT

Our last school visit of 1999 took place last Friday at Streetfield Middle School in Dunstable, a mere one mile down the hill from where our first school visit took place this year at Heathfield Lower School in Caddington.

In between during the last twelve months our travels from school to school throughout Beds, Herts and Bucks have seen us cover over 40,000 miles in trying to reach as many children as possible. At the beginning of this year we set ourselves a target of 10,000 children and while simply counting the

numbers is a job in itself we can say for definite that we have not only reached that target but surpassed it! We will announce the final number in our Boxing Day Programme, however, for a Club that has been in receivership for much of this year we feel that this has been no mean achievement and special thanks must go to our sponsors ntl and Sportsmatch for providing the budget and to Ben Smith and Simon King, two of our coaches who have spent every day coaching children in our local schools.

Not only does the ntl school visit project bring improved and exciting PE lessons to the children but it brings Luton Town FC a lot closer to our local community in a real way - it's a great scheme for all concerned with winners all round. Look out for our Boxing Day final announcement of the year and also for some great news for next year. Merry Christmas everyone.



INDOOR WINTER COACHING PROGRAMME

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Luton Regional Sports Centre
School Years 1 to 3
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WEDNESDAYS

Luton Regional Sports Centre
School Years 4 to 8
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FRIDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

Lealands High School
(times as above)

DUNSTABLE

THURSDAYS

Manshead Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
School Years 4 to 8
at 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm

FRIDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

Harlington Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
School Years 4 to 8
at 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

MONDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

HOUGHTON REGIS

WEDNESDAYS

Houghton Regis Sports Centre
School Years 1 to 2
at 4.00 pm to 4.50 pm
School Years 3 to 4
at 4.50 pm to 5.45 pm

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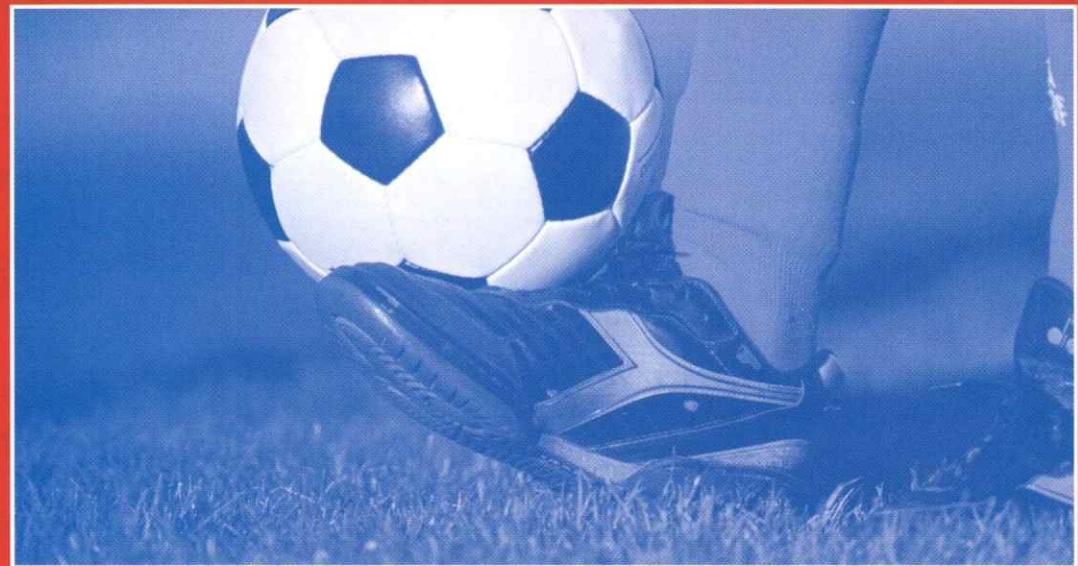


The Dunstable Gazette

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LEIGHTON BUZZARD
Observer

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Junior Hatters

welcome

Celebrate the Millennium

THE first big fixture of the new century has been arranged for the Junior Hatters, our 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.



• THERE were three mascots on duty at our last home game, when we entertained Notts County. Two of them were Luton Town supporters: five-year-old Liam Connor Roberts, from Bovingdon, who was the commercial mascot, and 13-year-old Christopher Hempsall, from Gateshead, who was chosen by the Junior Hatters. They are pictured in the centre circle before the game started, with the match officials and skippers at the toss-up.

Today's Mascot



EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Adam Dilley thought he had been robbed of his big day at Kenilworth Road when we qualified to meet Fulham in the FA Cup. He was the Junior Hatter whose name had been drawn out of the hat to be mascot for our home match against Stoke in the Second Division, but the game was called off. We were at Craven Cottage instead that day, but after we earned the replay Adam was invited to be mascot tonight instead, and jumped at the chance.

He comes from Sullivan Close, Shefford, and attends Shefford Lower School. He usually comes to Luton matches with his father, brother, and a friend, and as well as watching the Hatters he likes playing football and cricket, and also enjoys his PlayStation. Tonight he gets the chance to meet all the Town team, and doubtless will be pleased especially to chat to his favourite player, Matthew Taylor. Adam will be in the dressing room with the players as they prepare for the game, and will take part in the pre-match kick-about and accompany skipper Marvin Johnson at the toss-up. It will be a night to remember for him, and we hope he and his family enjoy the experience.

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

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Action Replay

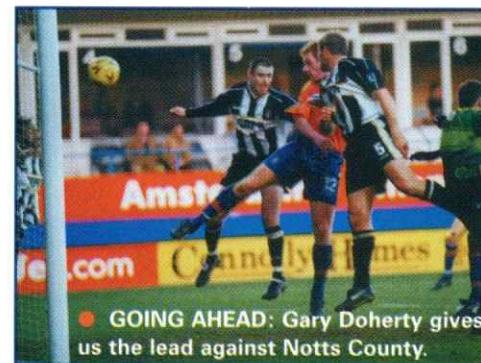
Luton Town 2 Notts County 2 (HT 2-0)

Brian Swain reports

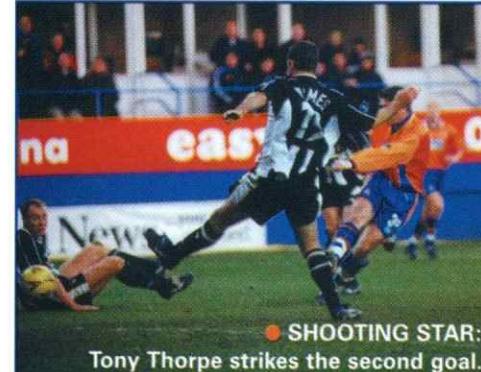
TWO UP at the interval, the Town were relieved to collect a point after play-off contenders Notts County changed their ideas and formation for the second half.

Tony Thorpe turned on the style, making one goal and scoring another, to put the sting into the tail of the first 45 minutes. Until his intervention it was looking like a bore-draw, with County often pulling nine men back and content to stifle the game.

It made for poor entertainment until Thorpe's double intervention brought two goals in two minutes. But that only forced County to open up after the break, with a substitution doubling their strike force to two, and they looked all the better for it. They were level with 17 minutes to go, and while both sides had chances to snatch a winner after that, County looked the more likely to do it.



GOING AHEAD: Gary Doherty gives us the lead against Notts County.



SHOOTING STAR:
Tony Thorpe strikes the second goal.

"We hardly deserved to be two ahead at half-time," admitted Lennie Lawrence. "We were not playing well, but Thorpe's quality turned the tide in our favour. County pushed us back in the second half and in the end I was pleased with the draw. We would probably have lost if the game had gone on ten more minutes."

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Fraser (Boyce 60 mins), Doherty, Watts, Johnson, George, Locke, Douglas (Sodje 81 mins), Thorpe, Spring, Taylor. Unused subs: Kandol, Scarlett, Tate.

Booked: Adam Locke, 52 mins, foul on Mark Stallard; Gary Doherty, 53 mins, delaying a free kick; Stuart Douglas, 62 mins, dissent.

Notts County: Ward, Holmes (Tierney 63 mins), Pearce, Warren, Redmile, Richardson, Stallard, Fenton, Hughes, Owers, Ramage (Rapley HT). Unused subs Blackmore, Dyer, Gibson.

Booked: Craig Ramage, 42 mins, foul on Stuart Douglas; Mark Stallard, 52 mins, foul on Adam Locke.

The goals: 1-0 38 mins - Gary Doherty, close-range header after Tony Thorpe took a pass from Matthew Spring, wriggled almost to the by-line and around the goalkeeper before delivering an exquisite short chipped centre; 2-0 40 mins - Thorpe, quickfire footwork making the opening for the shot after collecting a short pass by Stuart Douglas; 2-1 54 mins - Ian Richardson, far post header, after short corner routine and cross by Dennis Pearce; 2-2 73 mins - Gary Owers, cracking half-volley from the edge of the box after Matthew Taylor failed to control the ball after intercepting a cross.

Referee: Steve Tomlin, Lewes.

Attendance: 5,195 including 328 visiting fans.

Action Replay

Oxford United 2 Luton Town 0 (HT 1-0)

Brian Swain reports

Auto Windscreens Shield

THE oft-maligned Auto Windscreens Shield offered the best chance of the Town going to Wembley this season. The top teams in the tournament, Wigan, Preston and Burnley, are all in the Northern Section, and the Town went to Oxford believing they were capable of completing a treble over the home side.

But the hoped-for third win vanished on a night when nothing went right for the Town in front of goal, while Oxford were given two penalties to compensate for their inability to get into our box regularly.

The first, for a push by Efe Sodje, was needless, and the second, for handball by debut-making James Ayres, was harsh. Ayres blocked, at close range, one of only four scoring efforts Oxford put on target in the 90 minutes. Two were penalties, and the other an angled drive deflected away for a corner by Stuart Fraser.

Lennie Lawrence said in all his years as a manager he could never recall a team having so many chances and losing.

Tony Thorpe was not allowed to play in the game, so Gary Doherty was used up front. Ayres, 19, looked confident and assured on his debut, but as Lawrence said he should not be kidded that Oxford's performance was typical of what he is likely to meet in the Second Division. Sodje played in place of injured Julian Watts, and Emmerson Boyce was in to give Matthew Taylor a rest.

Over 90 minutes, the Town delivered ten seriously-threatening attempts at goal compared to Oxford's six, which tells the tale of the game in a nutshell.

The lively Doherty worried the Oxford defence all night, with no luck in his finishing - in the first 25 minutes he saw one shot beaten out by the keeper, had another rise inches too high, and then had one cleared off the line. Oxford were no threat at all, until the 39th minute, when Joey Beauchamp slung over a cross from the right and Sodje was penalised for a shove on Steve Anthrobus as the ball went over and beyond the pair of them.

Paul Powell tucked away the penalty, and the

Town resumed their attacking with Paul Lundin making an excellent one-handed save from Stuart Douglas just before the break.

Douglas made way for Paul Read's debut in the second half, and the non-contract striker became another to suffer the pattern of creating and missing.

On 47 minutes Oxford mounted a rare attack. A cross by Jamie Cook was half-cleared to just outside the box, and Simon Weatherstone, one of two brothers playing for Oxford, connected cleanly and powerfully. The ball struck Ayres, and referee Mark Warren called it deliberate hands.

Powell netted his second goal from the spot, and Oxford spent the rest of the game surviving a series of raids which failed because the Town were firing blanks.

"I've never known a game like it," said the Town boss. "I think Oxford got into our box about six times at the most, and we have paid the price of not putting away innumerable chances."

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Sodje, Johnson, Ayres, Fraser, Locke (Scarlett 69 mins), Spring, Boyce, George, Douglas (Read HT), Doherty. Unused subs: Taylor, Jerry, Tate.

Booked: Efe Sodje, 39 mins, and James Ayres, 47 mins, for the offences that led to the match-winning penalties.

Oxford: Lundin, Robinson, Powell, Fear, Anthrobus, Beauchamp (Whitehead 79 mins). Cook (Abbey 79 mins), Simon Weatherstone, Whelan, Ross Weatherstone, McGowan. Unused subs: Lilley, Shepheard, Arendse.

Booked: Neil McGowan, 57 mins, foul on Gary Doherty.

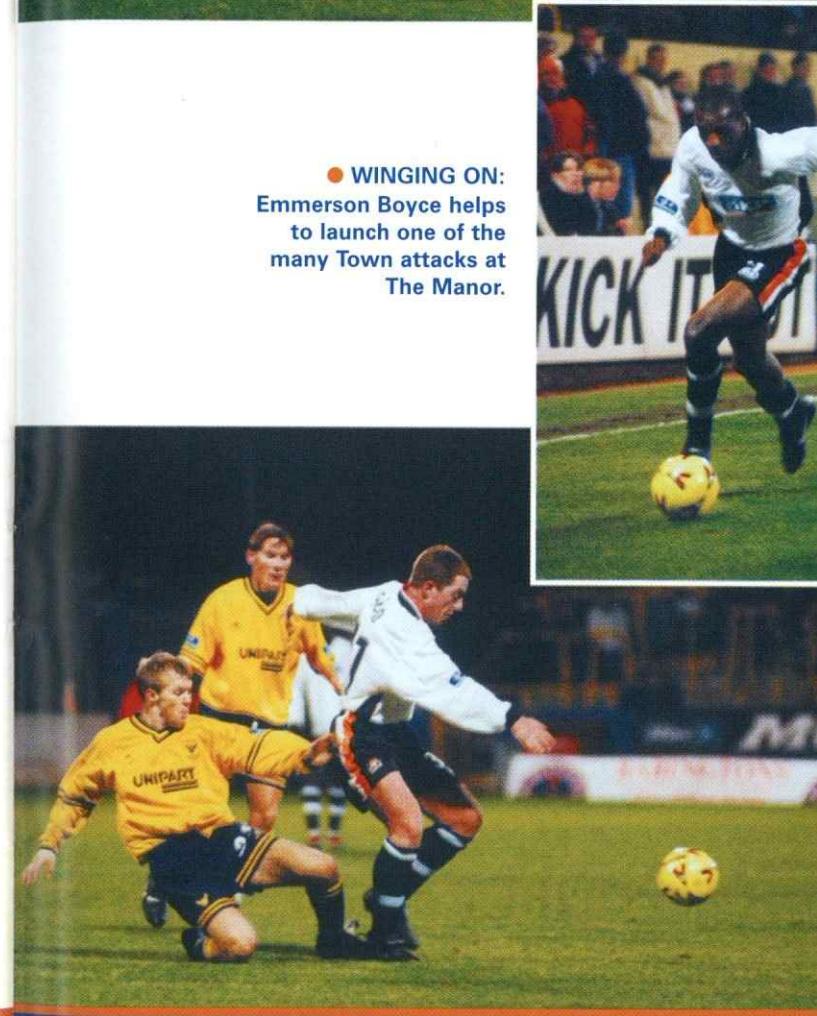
The goals: 1-0 39 mins - Paul Powell penalty after Efe Sodje pushed Steve Anthrobus as a cross went over them; 2-0 47 mins - Powell penalty again, awarded harshly for hands by James Ayres.

Referee: Mark Warren, Walsall.

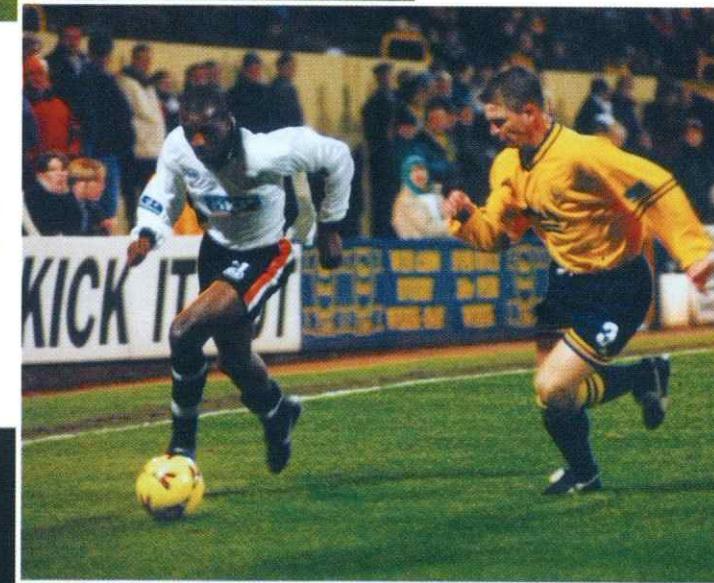
Attendance: 1,220 including 126 visiting fans.



● JUMPING TO IT: Gary Doherty taking on a brave goalkeeper at Oxford.



● WINGING ON: Emmerson Boyce helps to launch one of the many Town attacks at The Manor.



● OUTNUMBERED: Paul Read, on his Luton debut, gets away from the Oxford defence before firing in a drive which brought a good save from the keeper.

FA Cup Action

Fulham 2 Luton Town 2 (HT 2-1)

Brian Swain reports

IF FULHAM are as sharp for 90 minutes tonight as they were for 15 at Craven Cottage, the Town have a very difficult task on their hands. But if the Town can reproduce their second-half performance, the problems will be all Fulham's.

Young, and mainly home grown, the Town well deserved a second bite at the wealthy Londoners, and on the Craven Cottage evidence our lads would not be out of place in the First Division.

They struck the first crucial blow by scoring an early goal, but that did wonders in terms of shaking Fulham out of any complacency they may have had. They turned on the attacking style for about a quarter of an hour, took the lead, and then seemed to take a collective decision that the job was done.

For the second half it was important for the Town not to concede again, and to hit back as quickly as possible.

It was a time for discipline and concentration, especially in keeping a solid defensive shape, and that requirement was brilliantly achieved.

But as the minutes ticked away, the biggest Town following of the season so far had to raise its voice ever louder to try to suck in a goal to add to Liam George's opener. Only eight minutes were left when Matthew Spring delivered - and what a delivery, one to rival the power and accuracy of the cracker that helped to see off Kingstonian in the first round.

On the pattern of the second half, Fulham were lucky to have another chance, because the Town outplayed them, and only a goal post denied Gary Doherty a goal 15 seconds after the break.

Standing in for Tony Thorpe, he was one of eleven Town men who rose to a challenge that could have been very difficult, yet looked well within their range the longer the game went on. Each man was on top of his game, and collectively it was a well-organised and vibrant team display. For the first time this season, not a single sub was used - there really was no point in disrupting a pattern and rhythm that

had the Town looking the more likely winners. Fulham boss Paul Bracewell complained that it had been his side's worst performance since he took over from Kevin Keegan. Lennie Lawrence was the manager purring with delight, although he and skipper Marvin Johnson both came away slightly disappointed - the plain fact was that we might easily have won at the first attempt.

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Sodje, Watts, Johnson, Fraser, Locke, Spring, Taylor, Douglas, Doherty, George. Subs, none of them needed: Scarlett, Boyce, Ayres, Jerry, Tate.

Booked: Stuart Fraser, 53 mins, foul on Rufus Brevett.

Fulham: Taylor, Finnan, Brevett, Melville, Coleman, Symons, Davis (Trollope 80 mins), Clark, Horsfield, Hayles, Hayward (Collins 80 mins). Unused subs Morgan, Peschisolido, Hahnemann.

The goals: 0-1 6 mins - Liam George, tap-in after Stuart Douglas took a headed pass by Gary Doherty, pulled the ball back to the edge of the penalty area, and Matthew Taylor struck a piledriver which the goalkeeper could only parry into the path of George; 1-1 10 mins - Geoff Horsfield, close range shot after Chris Coleman crossed from Fulham's left and Kit Symons rose to deliver a perfect headed knock-down; 2-1, 14 mins - Sean Davis getting ahead of a stretched defence after Barry Hayles outstripped the cover on the Town's left flank and crossed hard and low to the far post; 2-2 82 mins - Matthew Spring 30-yard belter into the bottom corner, taking in his stride a flicked-on pass by Liam George after Nathan Abbey's punted clearance.

Referee: Graham Frankland, Middlesbrough.

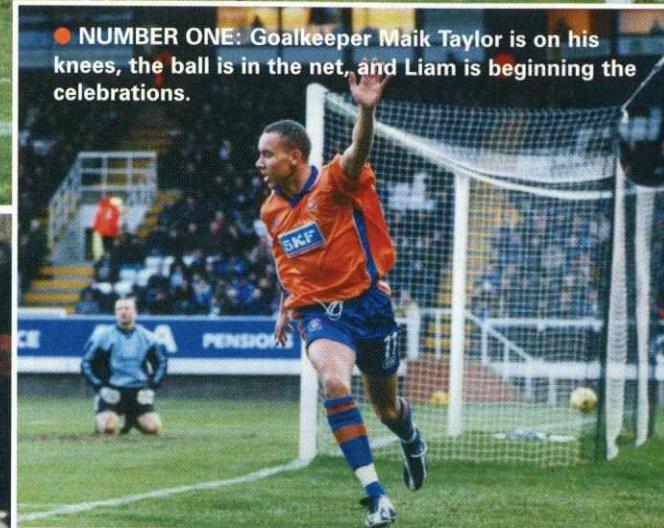
Attendance: 5,905 including a magnificent Town following of 2,346.



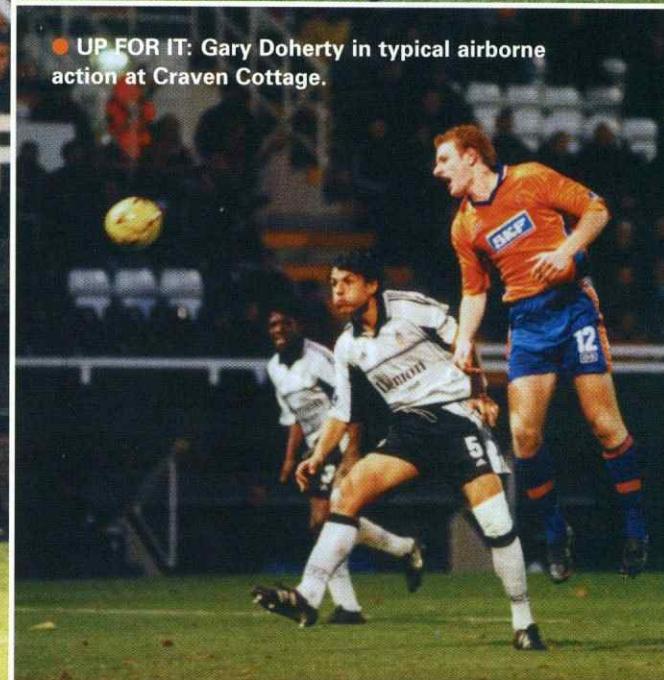
● **HATTERS AHEAD:** Liam George nets his 12th goal of the season in the sixth minute at Craven Cottage.



● **SPRING IN THE AIR:** Matthew leaps for joy after hitting another FA Cup wonder-goal.



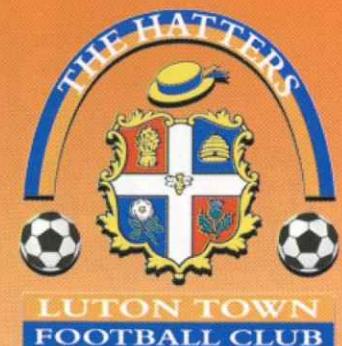
● **UP FOR IT:** Gary Doherty in typical airborne action at Craven Cottage.



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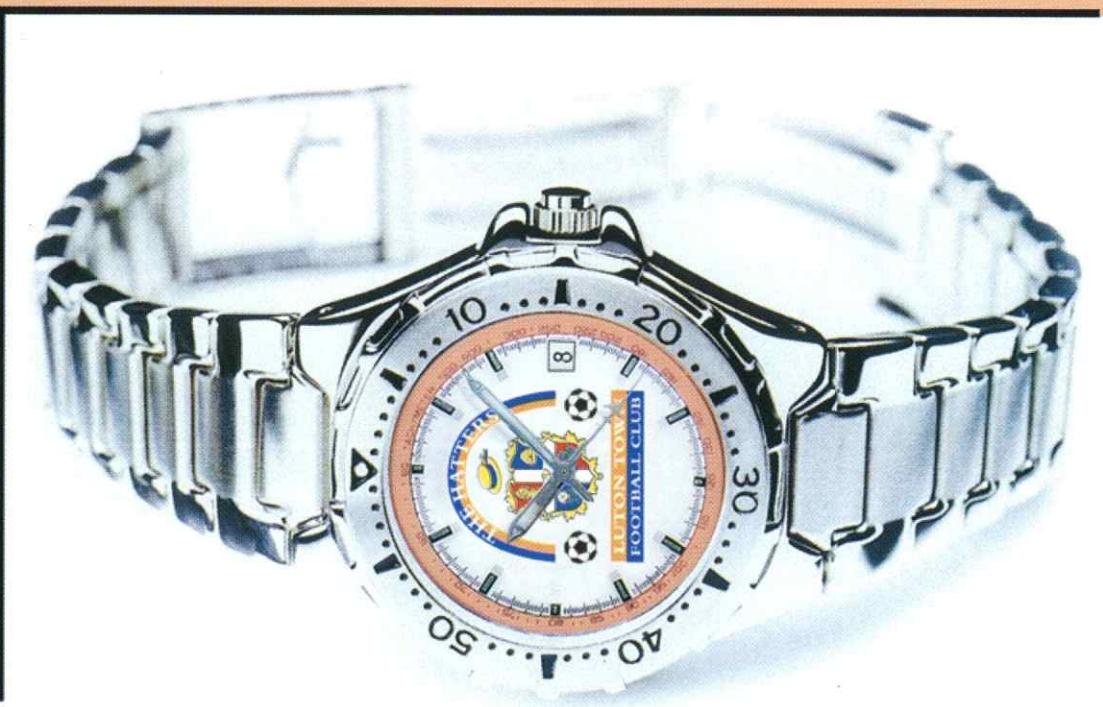
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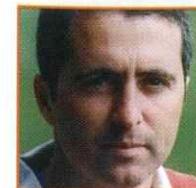
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Youth Soccer

Paul Lowe



Oxford Utd 2 Luton Town 2

TWO good goals in the second half gave us the draw we deserved at Oxford in a match played in very difficult conditions. The pitch, on a university sports field, was very wet, and cut up badly within 20 minutes or so.

Our preparations were hampered by call-ups to the first team squad for Moses Jerry and James Ayres, and we began with Ezra Mentore playing in central defence for the first time in his career. He did well, but was up against a tall opponent who caused us a few problems. We moved John Carroll into the centre, but Oxford were on top for the first half, and we were lucky to get to the interval only one goal down. Oxford wasted several chances, while we thought we should have had a penalty when Alex Minton, returning after injury, seemed to be brought down.

We changed the formation at the interval, to play three at the back, with an extra man in midfield, and looked much better. But we were caught by a breakaway goal after 55 minutes, and then made further changes. Jude Stirling, who had been out through injury, and who is normally a centre-half, was sent on as an attacker, and his enthusiasm and self-belief gave us a lift.

With 20 minutes to go we went through on a run that

took him past the last defender before slotting in an excellent goal, and we dominated the rest of the game. Ryan Moran got the equaliser our efforts deserved, with a cleanly-struck volley after Lee Mansell's free kick into the box.

Overall it was a pleasing performance, especially in the second half, when we showed a lot of determination. We had a couple of trialists, and Erdem Dosdogru from London appreciated the chance to play for us - he was with us as an under-16, and has come back after asking for another chance. The other trialist was Paul Cooper, from Swindon.

Luton Town: Ward, Mortara, Carroll, Mentore (Deeney HT), Moran, Dogbe, Mansell, Minton, Dosdogru, Clarke (Stirling 55 mins), Barriteau (Cooper 55 mins). Unused sub: Wraight (GK).

Youth team appearances, including as sub: Mortara 17, Moran 17, Clarke 17, Carroll 16, Stirling 16, Barriteau 15, Mansell 15, Ayres 13, Dogbe 14, Jerry 12, Wraight 9, Deeney 10, Mentore 10, Jeffrey 7, Ward 7, Flaherty 5, Minton 5, Kandol 4, Oughan 3, Thresher 3, Milton 2, Coktas 2, Crane 2, de Freitas 2, Talbot 2, Tate 1, Dosdogru 1, Cooper 1, Miller 1, Wilson 1, Osborn 1, Nurse 1.

Goals: Stirling 5, Clarke 4, Ayres 3, Jeffrey 3, Moran 2, Kandol 2, Flaherty 2, Jerry 1, OG 1.

WE WERE at home to Wolves on Saturday in the Football League Youth Alliance and there will be a report in the Boxing Day matchday magazine. We then have a break until a home game on January 8, against Shrewsbury at Luton RFC, kick-off 11am. On the following Tuesday evening we will be away to Southampton in the Times FA Youth Cup fourth round.

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)
	Sat 23	Southend (FAYC1)	A 1-2 (Ayres)
NOV	Sat 6	Cambridge (FAYC)	H 1-2 (OG)
	Wed 10	Maidenhead (FAYC2)	H 5-0 (Clarke 2, Stirling 2, Jeffrey)
	Sat 13	Barnet (FAYC)	A 0-1
	Sat 20	Colchester (FAYC)	H 0-1
	Sat 27	Notts Co	A 0-0
	Mon 29	Welling (FAYC3)	A 3-1 (Flaherty, Jeffrey, Clarke)
DEC	Sat 11	Oxford Utd	A 2-2 (Stirling, Moran)
	Sat 18	Wolves	H
JAN	Sat 8	Shrewsbury	H
	Tues 11	Southampton (FAYC4)	A
	Sat 15	Northampton	A
	Sat 22	Walsall	A
FEB	Sat 5	West Brom	A
	Sat 12	Cambridge Utd	H

League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
West Brom	10	5	1	4	23	15	16
Wolves	9	5	1	3	16	11	16
Oxford	11	4	4	3	15	18	16
Luton Town	10	3	4	3	11	16	13
Notts Co	9	3	2	4	9	8	11
Walsall	9	3	2	4	16	17	11
Northampton	10	3	2	5	18	22	11
Shrewsbury	10	2	3	5	11	18	9



THE RESERVES have had no game for three weeks, but tomorrow they entertain Peterborough at Kenilworth Road, kick-off 2pm. We hope to include a report in the Boxing Day matchday magazine.

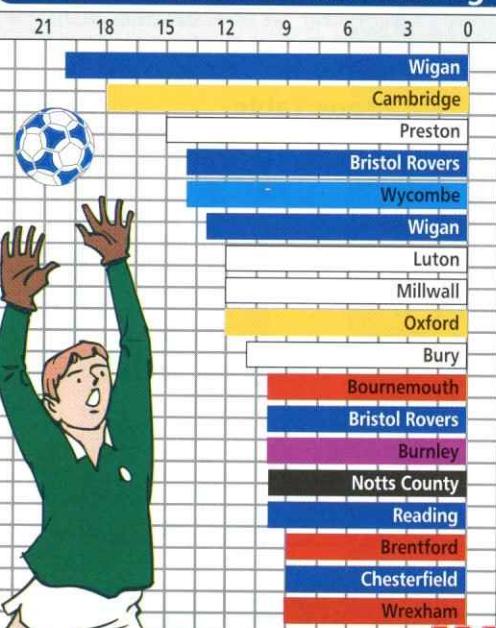
Current form guide - the last six Division 2 games.

Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sequence	Team	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sequence
Millwall	6	0	0	14	3	18	WWWWWWWW	Cardiff	2	0	4	7	8	6	LLLWWWW
Gillingham	5	1	0	15	4	16	WWWWWWWD	Bury	1	3	2	6	7	6	WLDDWW
Preston	5	1	0	14	3	16	WWWWWWWD	Notts County	1	2	3	11	11	5	LWDDWW
Bristol Rovers	5	1	0	12	3	16	WWWWWWWD	Cambridge	1	2	3	8	10	5	LLLDWW
Wigan	4	2	0	11	6	14	WWDDWW	Blackpool	1	2	3	6	10	5	LDLWWW
Burnley	3	2	1	6	4	11	WWDDWL	Wrexham	0	5	1	4	5	5	DDDDWW
Bristol City	2	4	0	11	7	10	DWWDDD	Brentford	1	1	4	5	11	4	LDLWWW
Bournemouth	3	0	3	13	11	9	WLWLWL	Luton	1	1	4	5	14	4	LDLWWW
Oxford	2	3	1	5	7	9	LDWDW	Wycombe	1	1	4	4	9	4	DLWLWW
Oldham	2	2	2	7	8	8	WLDDLW	Reading	0	3	3	5	13	3	DLDDWW
Stoke	1	4	1	8	5	7	LDDWW	Chesterfield	0	2	4	2	7	2	DLDLWW
Colchester	2	1	3	6	9	7	WLWDLL	Scunthorpe	0	1	5	7	17	1	LLDLWW

When Clubs have scored goals... and conceded them

0-15							16-30							0-15							
31-45			46-60		61-75		76-90		0-15			16-30		31-45		46-60		61-75		76-90	
1	6	8	8	8	3	7	Bournemouth	7	7	4	6	5	4								
5	2	5	2	0	7		Blackpool	1	2	6	8	8	13								
3	5	5	5	8	6		Brentford	2	4	5	5	3	9								
0	2	4	5	5	10		Bristol City	4	3	3	3	7	7								
2	6	4	7	5	5		Bristol Rovers	2	1	0	2	5	3								
4	2	8	5	5	4		Burnley	1	2	3	2	3	2								
3	3	2	9	8	6		Bury	2	1	6	4	6	8								
2	4	6	5	8	5		Cambridge United	6	6	4	9	3	11								
3	2	4	4	6	4		Cardiff City	3	7	3	5	5	7								
1	1	1	3	3	3		Chesterfield	2	2	4	8	5	3								
1	3	3	7	6	5		Colchester United	5	4	7	9	7	12								
4	10	3	6	8	7		Gillingham	3	2	1	5	7	5								
4	2	3	6	4	6		Luton Town	1	4	3	9	8	5								
4	5	3	7	6	10		Millwall	2	3	2	7	6	2								
6	3	8	6	5	7		Notts County	0	5	2	4	5	8								
4	2	2	2	5	8		Oldham Athletic	4	2	5	2	9	6								
4	3	1	2	5	4		Oxford United	3	4	4	4	4	9								
1	5	5	7	12	6		Preston North End	2	2	2	4	5	3								
2	3	2	6	4	8		Reading	3	4	7	9	7	9								
2	3	3	5	3	5		Scunthorpe United	3	4	8	9	3	8								
1	4	1	9	5	11		Stoke City	1	5	1	3	2	8								
4	3	7	9	7	11		Wigan Athletic	3	6	1	2	3	4								
2	1	2	7	4	5		Wrexham	3	5	9	8	5	4								
3	6	4	4	3	5		Wycombe Wanderers	3	1	4	9	6	6								

Nationwide Division Two Leading Goalscorers 1999-00



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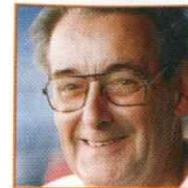
1999-00 Attendances

(Bands behind represent average gate as percentage of ground capacity)

	00%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%
Highest:	8,514							
Lowest:	5,397							
Average:	7,382							
Capacity:	9,173							
Highest:	7,036							
Lowest:	5,884							
Average:	6,420							
Capacity:	10,600							
Highest:	6,638							
Lowest:	4,318							
Average:	5,560							
Capacity:	9,572							
Highest:	7,205							
Lowest:	4,633							
Average:	5,614							
Capacity:	9,975							
Highest:	7,042							
Lowest:	4,345							
Average:	5,378							
Capacity:	10,000							
Highest:	14,226							
Lowest:	8,506							
Average:	11,234							
Capacity:	21,412							
Highest:	11,168							
Lowest:	4,523							
Average:	7,240							
Capacity:	14,660							
Highest:	6,007							
Lowest:	4,202							
Average:	5,047							
Capacity:	10,770							
Highest:	16,011							
Lowest:	7,777							
Average:	10,028							
Capacity:	21,479							
Highest:	12,898							
Lowest:	8,944							
Average:	10,508							
Capacity:	22,546							
Highest:	7,100							
Lowest:	4,286							
Average:	5,898							
Capacity:	12,763							
Highest:	6,211							
Lowest:	3,285							
Average:	4,435							
Capacity:	9,617							
Highest:	5,336							
Lowest:	3,376							
Average:	4,145							
Capacity:	9,183							
Highest:	14,183							
Lowest:	7,054							
Average:	10,773							
Capacity:	24,054							
Highest:	3,986							
Lowest:	2,557							
Average:	3,320							
Capacity:	7,556							
Highest:	9,432							
Lowest:	3,807							
Average:	5,728							
Capacity:	13,559							
Highest:	5,924							
Lowest:	2,473							
Average:	3,734							
Capacity:	9,200							
Highest:	5,270							
Lowest:	2,819							
Average:	4,131							
Capacity:	11,295							
Highest:	9,044							
Lowest:	5,202							
Average:	7,095							
Capacity:	20,146							
Highest:	6,469							
Lowest:	3,293							
Average:	3,992							
Capacity:	11,841							
Highest:	4,285							
Lowest:	2,254							
Average:	2,971							
Capacity:	8,880							
Highest:	13,348							
Lowest:	5,393							
Average:	7,942							
Capacity:	24,200							
Highest:	11,986							
Lowest:	4,338							
Average:	6,630							
Capacity:	25,000							
Highest:	6,197							
Lowest:	4,020							
Average:	5,319							
Capacity:	20,300							

2nd Division Scene

Brian Swain



A SOCCER oddity gives us a Town Trivia question tonight. how and when did we move up a place in the league table on a day we didn't play in the league?

It happened because while we were drawing in the FA Cup at Craven Cottage Bournemouth were being stuffed 5-1 in the Second Division at Notts County.

The Cherries were level on points with us, but kicked off with a zero goal difference figure, compared to our minus 2. We went back into the top ten thanks to County turning the Bournemouth figure to minus 4. But Bournemouth had their revenge at the weekend - they went back above us on Friday night without kicking a ball because our defeat at Colchester reduced us to minus 5. It got worse on Saturday when Bournemouth increased their advantage in points as well as goals by hammering Oxford 4-0 at Dean Court.

Our away record is undermining play-off hopes - it's now the worst in the division, with not even teams in the relegation places matching our sad total of eight away defeats, and only five goals scored in 11 games. At the start of this month we were seven points adrift of the top six, but the gap has now widened to ten points.

Wigan and Preston continue to lead the way at the top, with Wigan still the only club in the country unbeaten in the league this season. Mysteriously, their crowds in a magnificent stadium are still poor. They had under 6,000 to see them beat Brentford on Saturday, while just down the road nearly 17,000 went to Deepdale to see Preston beat Blackpool 3-0. That makes it five consecutive wins for Preston, including their success at Kenilworth Road, and they rather like local derbies - in recent weeks they have seen off Bury, Blackpool and Oldham, and for good measure knocked Oldham out of the FA Cup as well. But Kurt Nogan, who started his career at Kenilworth Road, might not be in the team when we go to Deepdale in the spring. Last week Preston accepted a £100,000 offer from Third Division Hull City, but the Welsh striker refused Hull's terms. Cardiff City are said to be interested, which might be more to Nogan's taste, because he comes from Cardiff, and Oxford United have also been mentioned as keen on the 29-year-old. They used to have his brother Lee on their books.

Cardiff need a little firepower - they were beaten 2-1 at Burnley on Saturday, and our old favourite Mitchell

The Second Division												
	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	21	9	2	0	22	6	3	7	0	19	13	45
Preston	21	8	1	2	18	9	5	5	0	18	9	45
Bristol Rov	21	8	3	1	14	6	7	2	2	15	7	44
Millwall	22	6	4	1	17	8	6	2	3	18	14	42
Burnley	21	9	1	1	22	7	2	6	2	6	6	40
Gillingham	20	7	1	2	21	9	4	4	2	17	14	38
Notts Co	22	5	3	3	18	12	6	2	3	17	12	38
Stoke	21	4	4	3	14	11	5	3	2	17	9	34
Brentford	22	6	3	2	19	13	3	4	4	13	15	34
Bournemouth	22	7	2	2	22	8	2	2	7	11	25	31
Luton Town	21	6	3	1	20	13	2	1	8	5	17	28
Bury	21	4	4	2	20	17	2	5	4	11	10	27
Wycombe	22	4	3	4	15	16	2	5	4	10	15	26
Bristol City	21	3	8	0	15	8	2	2	6	11	19	25
Oldham	21	3	2	5	11	12	3	3	5	12	16	23
Oxford	21	2	4	4	11	12	3	2	6	8	16	21
Wrexham	21	3	4	3	12	12	1	5	5	9	22	21
Colchester	22	3	3	5	14	20	2	3	6	11	24	21
Scunthorpe	21	2	2	7	9	19	3	3	4	12	16	20
Cardiff	21	2	6	2	11	11	2	1	8	12	19	19
Reading	20	3	5	3	13	13	1	1	7	12	26	18
Blackpool	21	2	4	4	11	17	1	3	7	10	21	16
Cambridge	21	3	3	5	20	21	0	3	7	10	18	15
Chesterfield	21	1	3	6	5	11	1	4	6	7	13	13

Thomas obviously felt sorry for them. He netted his first goal since joining Burnley last summer... at the wrong end to give Cardiff the lead.

Victory lifted Burnley back into the play-off places, and they have been unbeaten in their five league games since losing at Kenilworth Road.

Bristol Rovers are also in a consistent run, with five consecutive victories, including the one over us, taking them back up to third place. They won 2-1 at Stoke on Saturday, with Mark Walters getting his third goal for them in four games, having opened his account on his debut against us.

But top of the form table tonight are Millwall, whose win at our expense at the New Den kick-started a run of six consecutive victories, to push them up into fourth place. Their latest success was a 1-0 home win in a six pointer against Notts County .

Chesterfield, who are our next opponents, had an enforced rest, much to the disgust of a lot of Gillingham fans who made the trek to Derbyshire and then discovered the game was off because the pitch was frozen.

One other snippet from the First Division has a Luton interest this week - Neil Midgley, having scored the first league goals of his career while on loan with us, made his debut for Ipswich on Saturday, as a sub for injured David Johnson, and marked the occasion by heading the a the clincher from the far post to complete a 3-1 victory over West Brom.

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Statistics

fixtures 1999/2000

date	opposition	result	scorers	league place	attnd.	team	substitutes										
SAT 7	Notts Co	A 0-0		-	6,141	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Johnson	Douglas	McLaren	Gray	Spring	McIndoe	Taylor	Boyce for Taylor, 70 mins. Unused: George, Scarlett, Zahana-Oni, Tate
TUE 10	WC1 (1) Bristol Rov	H 0-2		-	2,984	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Boyce	Douglas	McLaren	Gray	Spring	McIndoe	Taylor	Doherty for White HT; Fotiadis for Douglas 60 mins; George for McIndoe 60 mins. Unused: Zahana-Oni, Tate
SAT 14	Blackpool	H 3-2	George 2, Spring	7	5,176	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Douglas	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	McKinnon for Fotiadis 75 mins; Zahana-Oni for Douglas 83 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 89 mins. Unused: Boyce, Tate
SAT 21	Reading	A 2-1	Fotiadis, George	3	8,741	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	McIndoe for Fotiadis 79 mins. Unused: Sodje, White, McKinnon, Tate
WED 25	WC1 (2) Bristol Rov	A 2-2	Kandol, Doherty	3	4,414	Abbey	Locke	Sodje	Boyce	White	Watts	Gray	McKinnon	Douglas	McIndoe	Kandol	Doherty for Douglas 67 mins; Fotiadis for Kandol 67 mins. Unused: Scarlett, Davis, Ward
SAT 28	Cardiff	H 1-0	Gray	2	5,374	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	Douglas for Fotiadis 66 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 81 mins; McKinnon for George 84 mins. Unused: Sodje, Tate
TUES 31	Bournemouth	A 0-1		2	4,797	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	Douglas for Fotiadis 60 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 81 mins. Unused: McKinnon, Sodje, Tate
SAT 4	Bury	H 1-1	Fotiadis	5	4,633	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	Douglas for Fotiadis 73 mins; McIndoe for George 73 mins. Unused: McKinnon, Sodje, Tate
SAT 11	Wrexham	H 3-1	Taylor, Spring, George	3	5,121	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Douglas	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	Kandol for Fotiadis HT; McKinnon for McLaren 62 mins; Sodje for Johnson 75 mins. Unused: Scarlett, Tate
SAT 18	Brentford	A 0-2		5	7,039	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	Kandol	Taylor	Sodje for Kandol 70 mins. Unused: White, Boyce, Scarlett, Tate
SAT 25	Oxford Utd	H 4-2	George 2, Fraser, Locke	3	6,102	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	Midgley	Taylor	McIndoe for Midgley 66 mins. Unused: Sodje, Kandol, Scarlett, Tate
SAT 2	Wigan	A 0-1		8	6,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for McLaren 73 mins; Midgley for Locke 77 mins. Unused: Sodje, White, Ward
SAT 9	Oldham	A 1-2	Midgley	10	4,532	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	Gray	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Kandol for Gray 50 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 67 mins; Midgley for Douglas 67 mins. Unused: White, Ward
SAT 16	Gillingham	H 3-1	George 2 (1pen), Douglas	7	6,394	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Locke for Midgley 80 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 85 mins. Unused: Kandol, Sodje, Ward
TUE 19	Wycombe	H 1-1	Douglas	7	5,820	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Midgley 75 mins. Unused: Kandol, Sodje, Ward
SAT 23	Oxford Utd	A 1-0	George	7	5,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Midgley 72 mins; Locke for Douglas 77 mins. Unused: Kandol, Sodje, Ward
SAT 30	Kingstonian (FA Cup 1)	H 4-2	Gray, George, Spring, Taylor	7	4,682	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Gray 30 mins; Boyce for Fraser 39 mins. Unused: White, Sodje, Ward
TUE 2	Millwall	A 0-1		9	6,181	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Midgley HT. Unused: White, Sodje, Locke, Ward
SAT 6	Burnley	H 2-1	Midgley 2	8	7,205	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Douglas 73 mins; Locke for McLaren 79 mins; Kandol for Midgley 88 mins. Unused: Sodje, Ward
FRI 12	Cambridge Utd	A 1-3	George	9	6,211	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Sodje for Boyce HT; Locke for McLaren 59 mins; McIndoe for Midgley 59 mins. Unused: Kandol, Ward
FRI 19	Lincoln (FA Cup 2)	H 2-2	Doherty 2	10	4,291	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Sodje for Locke HT; McIndoe for McLaren 83 mins. Unused: Boyce, Kandol, Ward
TUE 23	Preston	H 0-2		10	5,124	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Sodje	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for McLaren 62 mins; White for Midgley 62 mins; Boyce for Fraser 75 mins. Unused: Locke, Ward
SAT 27	Bristol Rov	A 0-3		10	7,805	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty	Locke	Spring	McLaren	McIndoe	Thorpe for Doherty 61 mins; Boyce for Watts 86 mins. Unused: Taylor, Douglas, Ward
TUE 30	Lincoln (FA Cup 2R)	A 1-0	Douglas	10	3,822	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Locke for McLaren 50 mins. Unused: Boyce, Kandol, McIndoe, Ward
SAT 4	Notts County	H 2-2	Doherty, Thorpe	11	5,195	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Thorpe	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Taylor	Boyce for Fraser 60 mins; Sodje for Douglas 81 mins. Unused: Kandol, Scarlett, Tate
TUE 7	Oxford (AWS 1)	A 0-2		11	1,220	Abbey	Fraser	Sodje	Ayres	Johnson	George	Doherty	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Boyce	Read for Douglas HT; Scarlett for Locke 69 mins. Unused: Taylor, Jerry, Tate
SAT 11	Fulham (FA Cup 3)	A 2-2	George, Spring	10	5,905	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Taylor	All unused: Boyce, Scarlett, Jerry, Ayres, Tate
FRI 17	Colchester	A 0-3		11	3,049	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Thorpe	Doherty	Spring	Locke	Taylor	McLaren for George 62 mins. Unused: Boyce, Scarlett, Read, Ward
SUN 26	Chesterfield	H 3pm															
TUE 28	Bristol City	A 3pm															
MON 3	Scunthorpe	H 3pm															
SAT 8	Stoke	A 3pm															
OR	Wimbledon (FA Cup 4)	H 3pm															
SAT 15	Blackpool	A 3pm															
SAT 22	Reading	H 3pm															
SUN 30	Cardiff OR FA Cup 5	A 12.15pm															
SAT 5	Bournemouth	H 3pm															
SAT 12	Bury	A 3pm															
SAT 19	Bristol Rov OR FA Cup 6	H 3pm															
SAT 26	Brentford	H 3pm															
SAT 4	Wrexham	A 3pm															
TUE 7	Burnley	A 7.45pm															
SAT 11	Millwall	H 3pm															
SAT 18	Preston	A 3pm															
TUE 21	Cambridge Utd	H 7.45pm															
SAT 25	Chesterfield	A 3pm															
SAT 1	Colchester	H 3pm															
SAT 8	Scunthorpe	A 3pm															
SUN 9	FA Cup semi-final	3pm															
SAT 15	Bristol City	H 3pm															
SAT 22	Gillingham	A 3pm															
MON 24	Wigan	H 3pm															
SAT 29	Wycombe	A pm															
SAT 6	Oldham	H 3pm															
TBA	Stoke City	H															

Tonight's Referee

THE referee this evening should have a fair idea of what lies in store. Graham Frankland, from Middlesbrough, was in charge of the first game at Craven Cottage. A partner in an office equipment supply company, he is one of the busiest referees on the circuit. He started in parks football with the local leagues in and around Middlesbrough in 1987, and was promoted to Class One after only two seasons. He quickly passed through the Northern Premier League, and reached the Football League as a linesman in 1994, and joined the referees list a year later. In his first four years he refereed more than 140 Football League games. Outside soccer, his hobbies are golf and horse racing, and he is also on the committee of Middlesbrough Roller Hockey Club. We trust he doesn't get too much stick tonight, and enjoys his evening at Kenilworth Road.

TOWN TEASER

OUR popular "Town Trivia" quiz offers a free prize to another supporter tonight.

Before the game the PA announcer will ask the latest Town Teaser. If you know the answer, listen for your chance to have a go.

TONIGHT'S QUESTION

We went to the semi-finals of the FA Cup in 1994.

Which four teams did we beat to get there?

OUR fans at Craven Cottage played their part in the Town's well-deserved draw. Our biggest away following of the season so far was

there, proving again that the Hatters take far more fans to other grounds than visitors bring to us. But the average dropped below four figures on Friday, at Layer Road, with our lowest league away following of the season so far. The figures:

Travelling fans

OURS

Notts County	.....	1,531	Bristol Rovers (WC)	.....	240
Reading	.....	1,536	Blackpool	.....	464
Bristol Rovers (WC)	.....	134	Cardiff	.....	992
Bournemouth	.....	665	Bury	.....	198
Brentford	.....	1,704	Wrexham	.....	307
Wigan	.....	985	Oxford	.....	745
Oldham	.....	451	Gillingham	.....	1,241
Oxford	.....	1,523	Wycombe	.....	711
Millwall	.....	688	Kingstonian (FAC1)	.....	571
Cambridge	.....	2,152	Burnley	.....	1,392
Bristol Rovers	.....	417	Lincoln (FAC2)	.....	523
Lincoln (FAC2R)	.....	294	Preston	.....	578
Oxford (AWS)	126	Notts County	328
Fulham (FAC3)	2,346			
Colchester	384			
Total	14,936			8,290
Average	995			638

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Tonight's Teams



Luton Town

NATHAN ABBEY	1
STUART FRASER	13
JULIAN WATTS	40
GARY DOPHERTY	12
MARVIN JOHNSON	6
LIAM GEORGE	11
ADAM LOCKE	28
STUART DOUGLAS	9
MATTHEW SPRING	4
PAUL McLAREN	8
MATTHEW TAYLOR	15
Substitutes	
ANDRE SCARLETT	21
EMMERSOON BOYCE	17
TRESOR KANDOL	18
JAMES AYRES	19
DANIEL TATE (GK)	22

V



Fulham

1	MAIK TAYLOR
2	STEVE FINN
3	RUFUS BREVETT
4	ANDY MELVILLE
5	CHRIS COLEMAN
6	KIT SYMONS
23	SEAN DAVIS
8	LEE CLARK
9	GEOFF HORSFIELD
15	BARRY HAYLES
11	STEVE HAYWARD
Substitutes	
14	SIMON MORGAN
10	PAUL PESCHISOLIDO
7	PAUL TROLLOPE
17	WAYNE COLLINS
12	MARCUS HAHNEMANN (GK)

Tonight's Officials

Referee: Graham Frankland, Middlesbrough

Assistants: P. J. Griffin, Hornchurch (red flag)

J. G. Parish, Harlow (yellow and red flag)

Reserve official: S. C. Symonds, Cambridge

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