

Luton Town



Official Matchday Magazine



Tuesday,
September 12, 2000
7.45pm



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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

Layout & Printing

Regal Litho

Photography

Gareth Owen

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

Front Cover



Cup delight: Liam George and Peter Holmes enjoy the moment after helping the Town to a thrilling draw at Peterborough, to earn a tie with Sunderland in the second round of the Worthington Cup - see pages 38 and 39 for a report and more pictures.

Inside

Forward

VERY displeased with the performance we saw at Kenilworth Road on Saturday as the Town caved in to Northampton, manager Ricky Hill is threatening team changes for tonight's meeting with the Second Division leaders.

And we may well get our first look at new striker Peter Thomson, whose transfer from Dutch club NAC Breda has now been completed. The boss and his assistant Chris Ramsey were working with the players at Kenilworth Road on Sunday, seeking to put right the things that went so very wrong the day before.

He pulls no punches in his column this evening - see page 5 - but intended to watch the players again yesterday before making his final decision on team selection.

Thomson, he said, would have a very good chance of being involved this evening, either from the kick-off or as a substitute.

The 23-year-old striker was born in Bury, and first joined his home town club. But after 18 months as a teenager at Gigg Lane he was allowed to leave, and joined neighbouring Chorley, in the Unibond Premier League. His scoring touch there alerted ambitious rivals Lancaster, and they reaped a rapid return after recruiting him. In six months he netted 24 goals, and Lancaster cashed in when NAC Breda offered £25,000. A broken leg interrupted Thomson's career in the Dutch Premiership, but he got over it and regular goals led to his name being circulated widely in this country.

The boss had already been tipped off by a friend that Thomson was looking tasty, and at 6ft 3ins tall any good player with a bit of height and presence in the box could be ideal support for Mark Stein and Liam George, for instance.

Among other team change possibilities for this evening, the choice of goalkeeper might be difficult. Mark Ovendale was expected to be fit again after being ruled out of Saturday's match by a neck injury, probably caused by sleeping in an awkward position.

Nathan Abbey was thrown into the fray, and turned in a man of the match performance. Northampton served notice of their intentions with an early attack that opened us up at the back, and Abbey made a brilliant point-blank save from Jamie Forrester when a goal looked certain.

Forrester might have had a hat-trick at least but for good work by Abbey, and he and striking partner Steve Howard must still be wondering how the Cobblers went home only two goals to the good. Each scored from openings created by the other, while the Town rarely threatened at the other end.

The Town, agreed Ricky Hill, had too many players too far below par, and the second home defeat of the season, after a run of five games unbeaten, was no more than the performance deserved.

There will be changes, he said, and if the current squad cannot show that it can do a job, money is available for reinforcements. Goalkeeper Abbey was the only individual he exonerated from his criticism.

IT WAS ironic that Mark Ovendale should miss Saturday's game - it happened on the day he was named in the Nationwide League Division Two team of the week. Emmerson Boyce was also there, selected by Nationwide League analysts who have access to a thousand and one facts and figures from matches.

Surprisingly, despite being top of the table, this evening's visitors had only one player in the team, midfielder Dean Keates. The full team of the week, in a 4-4-2 line up was: Mark Ovendale; Emmerson Boyce, Adrian Viveash (Reading), Barry Hunter (Reading), Adam Drury (Peterborough); Jason Dozzell (Colchester), Mike Stockwood (Colchester), Dean Keates (Walsall), Kevin Watson (Rotherham); Tony Naylor (Port Vale), Craig Ramage (Notts County).

WE MIGHT have known the Town would lose on Saturday. Not only was the law of averages against us, so was the psychology strategy chosen by club statistician Roger Wash. He and one or two others knew that Northampton had never won a league game at Kenilworth Road in their 20 previous attempts.

Roger now admits: "I was going to put that into my column for Saturday's programme, but thought I had better not because it would be tempting fate. I thought if it was printed, we would be bound to lose. So I left it out. Needn't have bothered, need I?!"

THE journey to Wearside might be long and expensive, but Sunderland have made a Worthington Cup decision which helps our supporters. For the first leg of the second round at the Stadium of Light next Tuesday they have slashed admission prices.

We don't kid ourselves as to why - Luton Town are not quite the big drawing power we used to be, so to attract their own fans in to see a game Sunderland are expected to win at a canter admission prices have been set at just £5, and a quid for kids. Our apologies for an error in Saturday's "Stop Press" item suggesting terrace tickets are also available. They are not.

The match is all-ticket for Town supporters, and the last chance to buy is on Monday. See page 11 for further details, and for ticket information about the second leg at Kenilworth Road.

Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club have both finalised arrangements to provide coaches to the game at Sunderland. The Bobbers are charging £17.50 for adults, £14.50 concessions, and they depart from Cranfield at 12.15, and Kenilworth Road at 1.15.

Town on Tour sets off at 1pm, calling at Milton Keynes Coachway about 20 minutes later, and has cut prices to the bone to help supporters. Members of Luton Town Supporters Club will pay £16 for adults, and £14 for concessions. Non-members can travel for £18. See page 13 for booking arrangements.

Brian Swain



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The Manager

Ricky Hill

I THINK first this evening I should say sorry to the supporters for the poor quality of our football and the result against Northampton on Saturday. We must not take too much credit away from Northampton, because they played very well. But we know we let them do that, through our own failings.

Too many players were too far below par, and the team was duly punished. I tend not to single out individuals either for praise or for criticism, but the plain fact on Saturday was that only Nathan Abbey prevented the Cobblers scoring two or three more goals.

To end an unbeaten run of five games in front of our own fans was hugely disappointing, all the more so in view of the manner in which we played. There has been some good straight talking about it, within the privacy of the dressing room. I will not tell you what was said, but you can be sure it was a case of real home truths being aired.

It is still early days in the terms of a 46-match season, so we have time to put things right. But obviously other teams around us in our current lowly league situation will be saying something similar, so we cannot afford to take too long to regain the sort of football we want to see. I want us to be entertaining, of course, but more importantly we want points in the bag.

It is always difficult to analyse why a team can be good one match, as we were at Peterborough, and pretty awful the next, as we were on Saturday. Fatigue might come into it, and I suspect we had a harder physical battle in the two hours of mid-week cup-tie football than Northampton did in their defeat at Fulham.

But I can promise you this: we will all be working to put things right, the sooner the better, and preferably this evening.

One thing is sure: neither team will need to be

motivated for tonight's game. We are about to test ourselves against the top team in the division, while Walsall will, like us, be smarting after the unwelcome taste of defeat. They lost at Bury on Saturday, and despite that result, which ended the Second Division's last remaining 100 per cent record, our reports make it clear that Ray Graydon has a very good squad.

This evening both teams have an early chance to put things right, and our players have been left in no doubt about what is expected of them. They also know if they, as a group, cannot deliver, the group will be changed. Peter Thomson has now joined us, giving us more options in our attacking ideas, and he might be involved at some stage this evening. We welcome him to Luton, and hope his move back to this country from Holland is to the benefit of player and club alike.

The chairman is as much a Luton Town supporter as anyone on the terraces, and has told me that the board will consider further player purchases. If we get too many performances like we had on Saturday I will certainly be taking up that offer pretty quickly! But, we must not over-react, on or off the field. Saturday's game was dreadful for the home fans. We owe them something a lot better tonight. Everyone in the club knows that. We are capable of playing some decent football, and players do not lose their talent overnight. This evening, they have a point to prove. I trust they will go out and do exactly that.

Then we will turn our attentions to the need to get more points from Swansea on Saturday - and only after that will there be consideration of the little distraction offered by a cup-tie trip to the Stadium of Light. Players want to be involved in games like that, against Premiership opposition. They have got to earn their places in the side first! I trust they will by providing the result we all want tonight.

Ricky Hill

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Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson

looking for.

But I was delighted for Nathan Abbey, coming back into the team at short notice and playing a blinder. It was certainly not his fault that we lost, and I also thought Emmerson Boyce had another good game. I watch him carefully, of course, because I am sure he wants to keep me out of the team for a long time! On recent displays, I will have my work cut out to displace him, but I look forward to getting the chance.

Being injured is always a frustration, and this time has been a bit more annoying than usual because at one stage I seemed to be getting close to full fitness. I had expected to be fit for the game against Bournemouth, but I felt a little aggravation from the hamstring, and I am told I will have to be patient for a little while longer yet.

So once more this evening my only contribution will be to do what I can to boost the lads' confidence, and then to shout them on from the stand. We know Walsall will be a tough test, and I don't suppose their result on Saturday has done us any favours. They lost their 100 per cent record by being beaten at Bury, and their manager, like ours, will be demanding that his players set the record straight this evening.

And we have to keep things in perspective: unwelcome though our performance and the result was on Saturday, we had gone five games without defeat before then, and had shown that we are capable of playing well. We know we can, and we want to do it for everyone tonight, for the supporters, and for ourselves as well. Players hate losing even more than supporters do.

Marvin Johnson

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Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear



ONE item of good news from Saturday's disappointing game against Northampton is that we did not pick up any more serious injuries.

Matthew Spring had to be taken off early in the second half after a clash of heads opened up a cut on his forehead. It needed five stitches, but they are already doing their job, and the healing process will be quite quick. He should be available this evening if selected, if necessary playing with a protective covering on the wound.

Otherwise, we came through the Northampton game with nothing more than the usual bumps and bruises, and with no additions to the injury list.

At the time of writing it looked as though Mark Ovendale would be ready to return to the team this evening, if the boss decided to restore him. The goalkeeper was a late withdrawal from Saturday's game, having woken up at home on the day with a stiff neck. It was probably caused by

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Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery

WE HAVE had a mix of emotions behind the scenes in the past few

days. Getting through to the second round of the Worthington Cup after a thrilling game at Peterborough was excellent, and made all the better once we heard the draw.

The Stadium of Light is one of the best football arenas in the country, and I know our supporters were pleased at the prospect of going there next week. We were fielding phone calls before 9 am on the morning after the draw as fans checked out details. The basics are that we are away to Sunderland next Tuesday, and then play the second leg at Kenilworth Road on the following Tuesday, September 26, with a 7.45 kick-off each time. Please see the ticket information page for further details.

The second leg game will result in a change to our reserves' fixture list. They are due to be away to QPR that afternoon, but the Avon Insurance Combination has agreed to a postponement. I will let you know the new date in due course.

While the cup is all about pleasure and optimism,

we began the week mourning the loss of a good man, and a real stalwart supporter of Luton Town, Fred Reed.

He lived in Hazlebury Crescent, and was a true fan. I first knew him when he was a volunteer helping out around the ground just because he wanted to give something to his favourite football team. For a time he worked for us as a car park steward. He suffered a severe stroke about four years ago, which meant he had to go into care, but he still followed the progress of his beloved Hatters. We kept in touch, and he was always delighted to receive news from the club, and to talk about the team's prospects. He was able to make a couple of trips to matches, and thoroughly enjoyed them. His death left us feeling very sad. We will miss him, and send our condolences to his family.

Finally, this evening, can I ask if there is anyone out there able to offer us a few hours of their time now and again? We need occasional help in the ticket office, covering for holidays, etc. If you are interested, please ring me on Luton 411622.

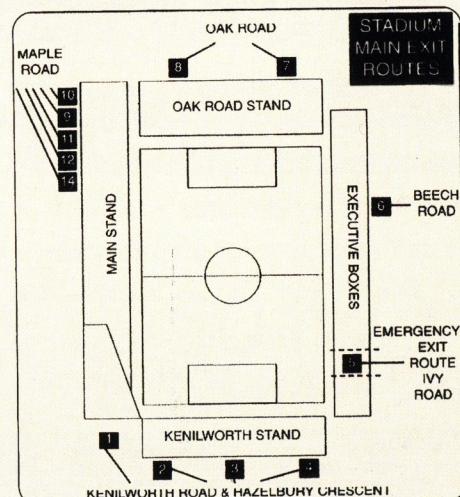
cherry Newbery

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IN THE event of any emergency in the stadium, Luton Town FC and the emergency services have agreed on an evacuation procedure which is designed to ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd, and to ensure their safe dispersal from the area, to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks.

In the event of evacuation from all or part of the stadium, you will receive instructions over the public address system on how you should leave. In an evacuation of the main stand you will be instructed to use the pitch. Stewards will direct you to the nearest exit. It may be that your normal exit route will not be available. On leaving the stadium, you will find some roads closed to pedestrians, to enable swift and unobstructed access for the emergency services. Please leave the area of the ground as quickly as possible, by the route directed. Your co-operation will be most appreciated.

Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager



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Admission: Adults £10, concessions £5

Luton Town

v
Swindon

Saturday September 23, 2000,
kick-off 3 pm
Tickets for this match are now on sale
at normal match day prices
Cash turnstiles will be open on the day
Supporters are advised to arrive early

Bristol Rovers

v
Luton Town

Saturday September 30, 2000,
kick-off 3pm
This match will be pay on the day only
Admission: Adults £11, concessions
£5.50



**WORTHINGTON CUP
SECOND ROUND**

First Leg: Sunderland v Luton Town

Tuesday September 19, 2000, kick-off 7.45pm
This is an ALL-TICKET match for Luton supporters, and tickets will be on sale, subject to availability, until close of business
on Monday September 18. Seats: Adults £5, juniors £1

Second Leg: Luton Town v Sunderland

Tuesday September 26, 2000, kick-off 7.45pm
SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Season ticket holders' seats will be reserved for them until the close of business on Tuesday September 19.
All other seats are now available for sale

TICKET PRICES MAIN STAND

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Two adults and one child: £22 One adult and two children: £17 Each extra child: £4

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SATURDAY

9am to 5.30pm on match days;
10am until the away coaches depart on
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Hatters Away

CUP SUCCESS at Peterborough means that we face two very long journeys in four days to follow the Town next week. Our longest league trip of the season is on Saturday to Swansea, and on Tuesday we are away to Sunderland in the first leg of the Worthington Cup second round.

As we went to press we were awaiting details of coach services to Sunderland, but Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club were both planning to take supporters to the Stadium of Light.

The Bobbers offer the lowest-possible fares to away games, and to book with them visit their kiosk before home matches, or phone Paul Deason after 6pm on 01234 750996. The trip to Swansea will depart from Cranfield at 8am, and leave Luton an hour later, picking up also at the Gateway Hotel, near the M1. The fare is £15.50, or £13 for pensioners and children under 16.

Town on Tour fares are higher, to pay for luxury executive coaches, with stewards and food and drink available on board. They sell tickets through the Supporters Club kiosk before and after matches, or via the club shop during the week. The Town on Tour fare to Swansea is £16 for adult members of LTSC, £14 for pensioners and junior members, and £17.50 for others. They leave Maple Road at 9.30am.

Passengers using either coach service can park in safety at Maple Road, for £3 if you can show a membership card of the Supporters Club or the Bobbers Travel Club. The price for others is £4.

DIY Travellers

To South Wales



THE round trip to Swansea is over 400 miles, but if traffic is kind you can motor at a decent pace because it is nearly all motorway driving. Leave Luton on the M1 going south, and then take the M25 westwards, signposted towards Heathrow. Near

the airport, turn on to the M4, going west, and follow that motorway into Wales, paying a toll to use the Severn Crossing. Leave the motorway at junction 42 to follow the A483 towards Swansea. Stay on Fabian Way for 4.6 miles from the motorway, when you approach a big road junction. Take the left-hand lane signposted towards the city and docks, which takes you into Victoria Road, and then follow the signs towards Mumbles. In less than a mile you will see the Marina on your left, and then County Hall, and it's time to search for a parking spot. The Vetch is on your right, surrounded by a lot of side streets where parking is subject to restrictions.

Mileage from Luton: 232.

To Wearside



© Chorley Handford/Premier Image

YOU need to allow at least four hours to drive to Sunderland, and it can easily take longer if the motorways are busy. Leave Luton going north on the

M1, and go almost as far as Sheffield before leaving at junction 31 on the M18. Leave at junction 2 to take the A1(M) north. You can stay on that road all the way to near Sunderland, and follow the signposts, which is our man's chosen route, or you can leave when you see the A19 signposted towards Teesside, which leaves you 50 miles of dual carriageway. The drawback with this route is that it carries a lot of big lorries. Whichever route to Sunderland you choose, you reach Wearside on the A1321, and if you remember the route to Roker Park - now a housing estate - take that and you will see the Stadium of Light, near Roker, and close to the River Wear. As you drive into Sunderland, stay close to the river and you can see the stadium not far from the Wearmouth Bridge.

Mileage from Luton: 263.

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Commercial John Bailey



OLD friends from Luton and new ones from the Midlands are among those in our executive lounges this evening, and we welcome them all, and thank them for their valuable support.

Tonight's match sponsors are Intasport, from Stafford, a young and energetic sports promotion company which prides itself on giving quality and excellent services to its rapidly expanding client base. Intasport has earned a high reputation within sporting circles as publishers of fixture charts, year planners, and brochures for football, rugby and cricket clubs, and racecourses, and was recent appointed to the English Cricket Board. Luton Town is delighted to welcome Intasport's representatives, and also their guests from local companies who have supported production of the fixture charts - The Cane Industries (UK) Ltd, Quest Employment, Islebest Ltd, Barry Bolton Windows, Old English Reclaim, Dunstable College Training Agency, Royston Roofing and Sainsbury's.

TONIGHT's match ball sponsors are Cannon Lane, Stopsley, who are suppliers of new and used Chryslers, including the PT cruiser, Voyager and Neon, and, through Jeep, the Cherokee, Grand Cherokee and Wrangler. In addition they have a wide selection of used 4x4s. You can see them at Hitchin Road, Stopsley, or on the web at www.cannonlane.co.uk



HE COMES from Walsall, but eight-year-old Michael Farr is very much a Luton Town supporter, and he will be wearing the colours proudly this evening when he runs out onto the pitch with the team. Among the various commercial packages we offer, the chance to be a mascot at Luton Town is one of the most popular. It's a treat for any youngster, and this evening the experience will be enjoyed by Michael, who comes from Scott Road, Walsall.

He goes to Park Hall School, Walsall and apart from football his hobbies are motor racing and tennis. He comes to Luton often to watch the Hatters, having been brought up properly by his father, who has always been a Luton fan. Michael is often to be seen at games with his uncle, Derek Farr, who is another good friend of the club.

Tonight Michael will meet the team before kick-off, and we hope Stuart Douglas is with the squad, because the striker is Michael's favourite player. The mascot also gets to meet other important people, joining the skippers in the centre circle for the toss-up.

If you have a boy or girl who deserves a similar treat, contact the commercial department on Luton 411622.

John Bailey

Supplier of tonight's
matchday music.

Golden Gamble

WE CONFIDENTLY predict that one supporter goes home tonight with a very good result to enjoy, whatever happens on the pitch. One lucky punter will leave the ground considerably richer than when he or she came in, thanks to our popular Golden Gamble, which is run at every home game.

The jackpot prize at the Bournemouth match was £450, and our picture shows the lucky winner, J. James, from Hartington Road, London W4 clutching the wad. Dean Standen is the player who picked out the winning ticket.

Three jackpots paid out so far this season have totalled £1,325, an average of £442. The size of the prize depends on sales: tickets cost £1 each and 50p goes into the jackpot kitty and the other 50p goes to Luton Town funds, so even if you are not a winner you are helping the club. The draw is made during the interval, with the prize paid out instantly.

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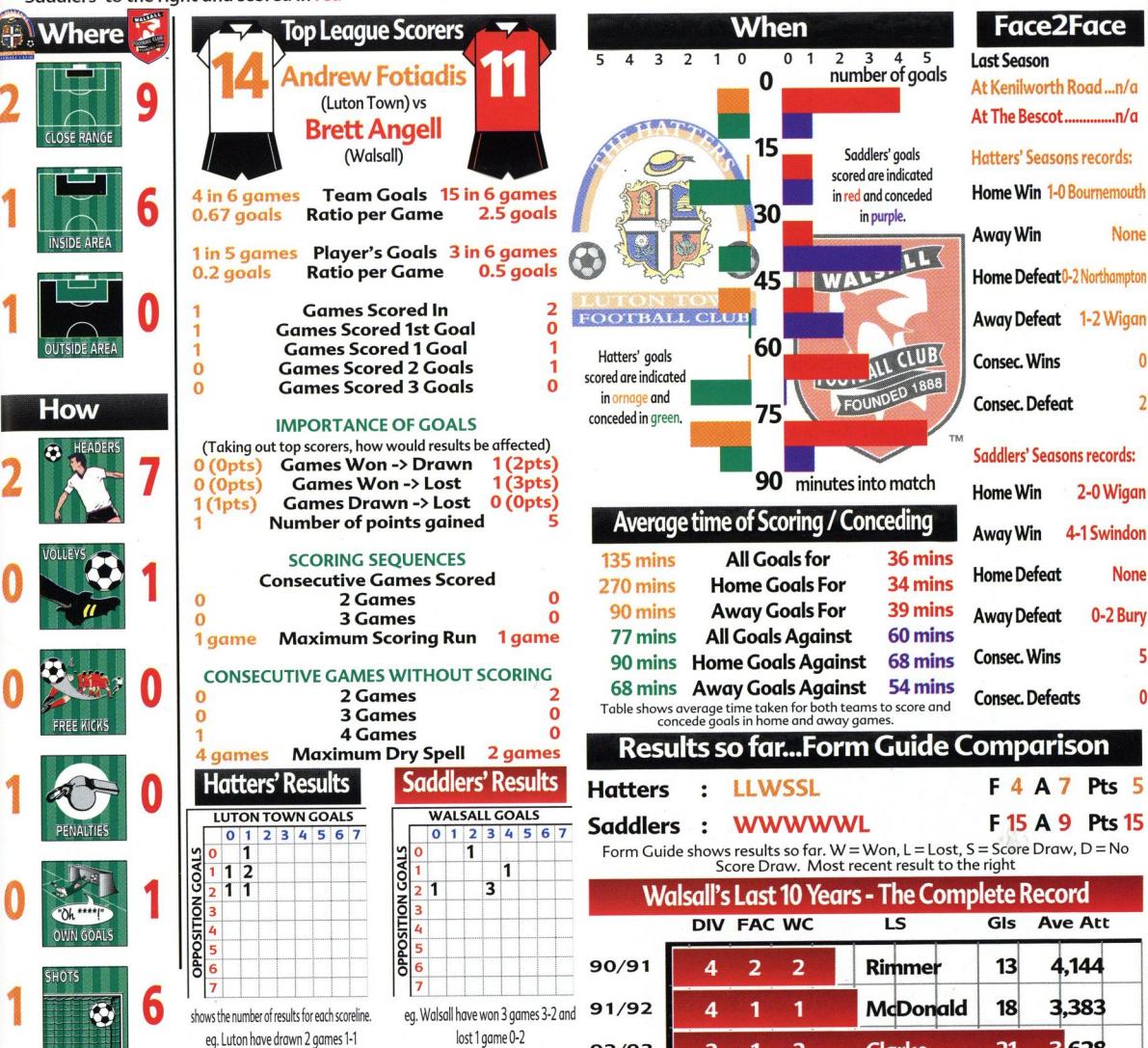
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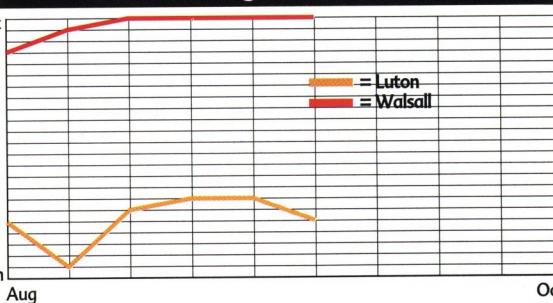
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Goalscoring Head 2 Head

in the graphics below, Hatters' figure is to the left with the goals scored indicated in orange and Saddlers' to the right and scored in red



1st



Where

2
1
1

9
6
0

When

5
4
3
2
1
0

Top League Scorers

14
11

Team Goals

15 in 6 games

Player's Goals

3 in 6 games

Games Scored In

2
0
1
1
0
0

Importance of Goals

0 (0pts)
0 (0pts)
1 (1pts)

Games Won -> Drawn
Games Won -> Lost
Games Drawn -> Lost

Number of points gained

5
4
3
2
1
0

When

0
1
2
3
4
5

Face2Face

Last Season

At Kenilworth Road .../n/a

At The Bescot/n/a

Hatters' Seasons records:

Home Win 1-0 Bournemouth

Away Win None

Home Defeat 0-2 Northampton

Away Defeat 1-2 Wigan

Consec. Wins 0

Consec. Defeat 2

Saddlers' Seasons records:

Home Win 2-0 Wigan

Away Win 4-1 Swindon

Home Defeat None

Away Defeat 0-2 Bury

Consec. Wins 5

Consec. Defeats 0

Average time of Scoring / Conceding

135 mins

270 mins

90 mins

77 mins

90 mins

68 mins

Table shows average time taken for both teams to score and concede goals in home and away games.

36 mins

34 mins

39 mins

60 mins

68 mins

54 mins

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36 mins



Tonight's Visitors

Walsall



RAY GRAYDON - MANAGER

Commanding total respect throughout the club former Aston Villa and Bristol Rovers player has worked wonders since being appointed into the hot seat in the summer of 1998 despite the club's unfortunate relegation at the end of last season. A strict disciplinarian he has a code of conduct which players must follow at all times both on and off the field and his standards have not waned one bit.

An excellent and proven coach who knows exactly what he wants from his team and more often than not gets it.

NO. 1 JAMES WALKER - GOALKEEPER

Born: 09.07.73, Sutton-in-Ashfield

Previous Clubs: Notts County.

An extremely reliable and confident goalkeeper who

has proved to be an outstanding last line of defence for a number of years, playing with a high level of consistency. What he lacks in height he more than makes up for in ability and is a much-loved figure by both fans and fellow players alike.

NO. 17 CARL EMBERSON - GOALKEEPER

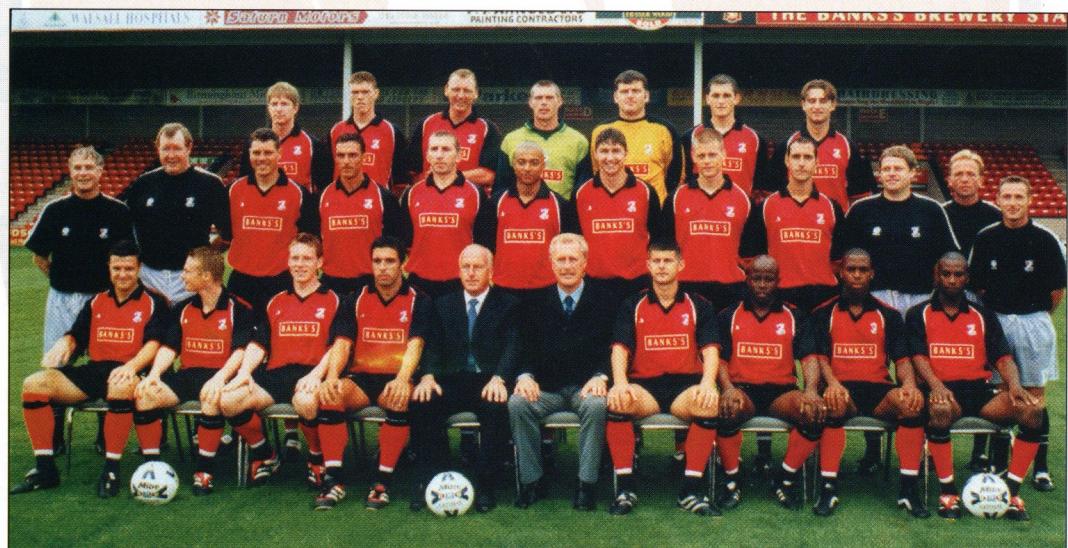
Born: 13.07.73, Epsom
Previous Clubs: Millwall, Colchester United. A goalkeeper of great presence who has worked hard during his time at the club despite playing second fiddle to James Walker. When called upon he has let no one down playing a steady and assured fashion, which was the hallmark of his time at previous club Colchester United for whom he made around 200 appearances.

NO. 2 CHRIS MARSH - DEFENDER

Born: 14.01.70, Sedgley

Previous Clubs: None.

Another player who commands total respect at the



Walsall FC - 2000/2001

Back Row (Left to Right): Ian Brightwell, Matthew Gadsby, Andy Rammell, James Walker, Carl Emberson, Gary Birch, Gabor Bukran.

Middle Row (Left to Right): Bill Jones (Youth Liaison Officer), Mick Kearns (Community Liaison Officer), Brett Angell, Andy Tilson, Tony Barras, Dion Scott, Ian Roper, Siggi Eyjolfsson, Pedro Matias, John Kerr (Centre of Excellence Director), Mick Halsall (Youth Team Manager), Duncan Russell (Physio).

Front Row (Left to Right): Chris Marsh, Dean Keates, Darren Wrack, Jorge Leitao, Ray Graydon (Team Manager), Paul Taylor (Director of Football), Tom Bennett, Paul Hall, Darren Byfield, Alfie Carter.

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Club due to the fact that he is easily the longest serving player in the current squad. Signing as a professional back in July 1988, one of his key assets is his versatility, which has seen him play in virtually all positions over the years - including goalkeeper. Now settled into the full back role where he has given many assured and confident displays over the past couple of season's.

NO.3 IAN BRIGHTWELL - DEFENDER

Born: 09.04.68, Lutterworth

Previous Clubs: Manchester City, Coventry City

After impressing during a spell at the club towards the end of last season the talented full back was duly snapped up on a longer contract this summer. A neat and tidy player, he gained plenty of experience during his time at Manchester City but a move into the top flight with Coventry City failed to work out and so he opted to link up with The Saddlers as opposed to a move to America.



NO.5 ANDY TILLSON - DEFENDER

Born: 30.06.66, Huntington
Previous Clubs: Grimsby Town (2 spells), QPR, Bristol Rovers.

The tall and imposing defender finally put pen to paper for The Saddlers during the summer of 2000 after the club had sought his services for a number of years. Solid and dependable he gave fine service for former club Bristol Rovers during an eight year stay in which he made well over 250 appearances.

NO.6 IAN ROPER - DEFENDER

Born: 20.06.77, Nuneaton

Previous Clubs: None.

The young defender's outstanding development continued last season as he proved that he could more than hold his own at first division level. Growing in confidence and stature all of the time he is now one of the most important figures in the side and is sure to get even better in the years to come. An honest and dedicated professional who deserves to go far in the game after coming through a decidedly shaky introduction to his career in the game.

NO.21 MATTHEW GADSBY - DEFENDER

Born: 03.09.79, Manchester

Previous Clubs: None

The young defender has been on the fringes of the first team for several seasons and now he is expected to make the step up to the first team regular after an extremely consistent season in the reserves last year. An assured and levelheaded player whose footballing brain belies his tender years.

NO.24 DION SCOTT - DEFENDER

Born: 24.12.80, Birmingham

Previous Clubs: None

The former youth team skipper has worked his way up through the ranks and is now knocking on the first team door. A talented and mobile defender who is comfortable on the ball and calm under pressure he impressed at reserve team level last year and should be ready to make the transition to the first team without too many problems.

NO.25 TONY BARRAS - DEFENDER

Born: 29.03.71, Billingham

Previous Clubs: Hartlepool United, Stockport County, Rotherham United (loan), York City, Reading.

The honest and hard-working defender has enjoyed a solid career in the lower leagues. He let no one down when called upon last season, even weighing in with a number of vital goals along the way. The summer departure of Adrian Viveash should see the likable northeast lad grab a regular starting berth in 2000/2001 when it is hoped he will be at the heart of a reliable defensive unit.

NO.4 TOM BENNETT - MIDFIELDER

Born: 12.12.69, Falkirk

Previous Clubs: Aston Villa, Wolves, Stockport County.

A midfielder of genuine quality and ability, he was snapped up on a two year contract in the summer after impressing greatly during two separate loan spells at the club last season. An influential player with plenty of presence on the field he was immediately installed as Captain upon his arrival.



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NO.7 DARREN WRACK - MIDFIELDER

Born: 05.50.76, Cleethorpes
 Previous Clubs: Derby County, Grimsby Town, Shrewsbury Town (loan).
 A lively and direct wide man who possesses plenty of talent and has an eye for goal. After being an ever present in the side throughout the 1998/99 promotion campaign he lost his way slightly last term but never the less showed flashes of what he capable of and it is hoped that he can rediscover this on a consistent basis once more this term. A down to earth and genuine lad.

**NO.10 DEAN KEATES - MIDFIELDER**

Born: 30.06.78, Walsall
 Previous Clubs: None.
 The pocket sized midfield battler has been an important cog in the Walsall wheel over the past few seasons and his displays in the middle of the park have attracted the scouts along to Bescot. Being a local lad means that he is well respected by the fans and his game has benefited from the Saddlers' brief flirtation with Division One action last year.

NO.26 GABOR BUKRAN - MIDFIELDER

Born: 16.11.75, Eger (Hungary)
 Previous Clubs: R. Charleroi (Belgium), Cordoba F.C. (Spain), Xerez C.D. (Spain).
 A stylish performer in the heart of the side, he lost his way somewhat during the second half of last season, however hopes are high the 2000/2001 will see him back to his best and pulling the strings in the middle of the park once more. A player of undoubted ability he managed to force his way into the full Hungarian squad towards the start of last season and he will be hoping to reignite his International ambitions again this term.

NO.27 PEDRO MATIAS - MIDFIELDER

Born: 11.10.73, Madrid (Spain)
 Previous Clubs: Macclesfield Town.
 This skilful Spaniard can reflect on a fine 1999/2000 season for himself despite the club's relegation. A tricky performer who may not have the pace of other players in his position but this is more than made up for by an outstanding football brain, which was developed at Real Madrid. A favourite of the fand who appreciate his mazy runs down the wing.

NO.8 DARREN BYFIELD - STRIKER

Born: 29.09.76, Birmingham
 Previous Clubs: Aston Villa, Preston North End (loan), Blackpool (loan).
 An exciting and pacy player who linked up with the Club from local rivals Aston Villa in the summer after finding his path to the first team blocked at Villa Park. Possessing a high level of skill he is relishing the possibility of gaining regular first team football and with a point to prove he is sure to cause opposition defences plenty of headaches.

NO.9 ANDY RAMMELL - STRIKER

Born: 10.02.67, Nuneaton
 Previous Clubs: Manchester United, Barnsley, Southend United.
 'Rambo' as he is effectively known is a powerful front man who strikes fear into the hearts of most opposition defences. An experienced campaigner with plenty of know-how he is an important figure both on and off the field. Well respected by everyone as Bescot, 1999/2000 was frustrating season for him as he suffered at the hands of injury, but is looking forward to a much better time of it this year.

**NO.11 BRETT ANGELL - STRIKER**

Born: 20.08.68, Marlborough
 Previous Clubs: Portsmouth, Derby County, Stockport County (two spells), Southend United, Everton, Sunderland, Sheffield United (loan), West Bromwich Albion (loan), Notts County (loan), Preston North End (loan).
 The big and bustling target man is a summer arrival from Stockport County where he received cult status from the Edgeley Park faithful. Possessing a keen eye for goal, it is hoped that his vast experience in the game will serve The Saddlers well as they attempt to regain their first division status.

NO.14 JORGE LEITAO - STRIKER

Born: 14.01.74, Oporto (Portugal)
 Previous Clubs: None
 A powerful front man who is comfortable on the ball and knows exactly where the goal is. He was snapped up for £150,000 in the summer after impressing during a trial spell. An intelligent player, he gave up the chance of completing the third year of his sports science degree in his native Portugal when the lure of English football became too great to resist.

NO.16 SIGGI EYJOLFSSON - STRIKER

Born: 01.12.73, Iceland
 Previous Clubs: Chester City (loan)
 A tall and rangy striker whose game is improving all of the time has a special place in the hearts of the Walsall faithful due to his non-stop effort and

commitment to the task at hand. An honest and genuine lad, he was sent out on loan last season in a bid to get some much needed first team experience and with the likes of Any Rammell and Brett Angell around his game is sure to come on in leaps and bounds in 2000/2001.

NO.19 PAUL HALL - STRIKER

Born: 03.07.72, Manchester
 Previous Clubs: Torquay United, Portsmouth, Coventry City, Bury (loan), Sheffield United (loan), West Bromwich Albion (loan).

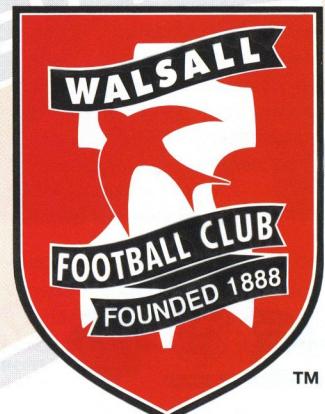
Another player who has put pen to paper on a longer contract at the Club after impressing during a short spell towards the end of last season. An exciting talent, whose game is rich in skill and pace, he weighed in with a number of goals during his brief stay at the Club last term and it is hoped that the goals will continue to flow this time round.

NO.20 GARY BIRCH - STRIKER

Born: 08.10.81, Birmingham
 Previous Clubs: None.
 A promising young striker who has come up through the ranks, he was a prolific scorer at youth level and developed well both mentally and physically last season as he earned a regular place in the reserve side. This term he will be on the very fringes of the first team and he will be hoping to grab a taste of the action at some stage during the course of the campaign.

NO.23 ALFIE CARTER - STRIKER

Born: 13.08.80, Birmingham
 Previous Clubs: None.
 An exciting player who has come through the Bescot Stadium ranks to find himself on the fringes of the first team. Had his appetite wet last season with a couple of appearances and should get more under his belt this term. A nippy wide man with plenty of skill.



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Hatters Abroad



ON HOILIDAY in Canada, Diane Murphy and her brother Stewart, both keen Town fans, could not resist a trip to the famous SkyDome in Toronto to watch a baseball match between the Toronto Blue Jays and the New York Mets. Diane and Stewart, from Grovelands Avenue, Hitchin, were visiting their father's cousin, Terry Dineen, who like them is an avid Town supporter, keeping in touch with events on the WHOSH web site. And the baseball? "The Mets won 7-5 after over four hours of play," reports Diane.

PRETTY as a picture is Heather Robinson, a season ticket holder from Baker Street, Luton, who sent us this snapshot from her holiday in Crete.

"I had an enjoyable time in the sun, and am pictured here on a boat trip around the ancient harbour of Rethymnon," she said. "A few days later I was back in the sun watching Luton's first game of the season at a very bright Kenilworth Road."



THIS page is open to all Luton Town fans, and the matchday magazine will be pleased to consider for publication photographs from anywhere in the world. All we ask is that the Hatters colours are well to the fore. So if you have an interesting snap of Town kit in far-off places, please send it, with a few details, to the matchday magazine editor at Luton Town FC. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back.

We are also interested in hearing about our very young fans sporting the Town's colours for our occasional "Mini Hatters" series.

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Cup Tie Photo Action

Peterborough 2 Luton Town 2



UNBOUNDED JOY: Andre Scarlett celebrates his first goal of the season, which turned out to be the one that put the Town through to the second round of the Worthington Cup at the expense of Peterborough. Racing to join the celebrations are Liam George and Dean Brennan. Report and more pictures: pages 38 & 39.

Photos: Gareth Owen/LTFC

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Blast from the Past

Roger Wash

Town ride their luck against the Saddlers

After the Town's narrow failure to win promotion at the end of the 1996/97 campaign it was always going to be a struggle to lift the squad to make a further bid for a top two spot. The situation was not helped when an injury crisis struck, the like of which had not been seen for many years, leaving the team severely decimated throughout most of the autumn. In a game at Bristol City in late September matters were so bad that none of the three substitutes had managed a league appearance between them and the subsequent 0-3 defeat was regarded as a moral victory.

Although the injury crisis did eventually subside, the run of poor results left the team playing catch-up for the remainder of the season and try as they might the players could not manage to lift themselves above the relegation positions. A run of four straight home defeats in November, which included the Town's first exit from the F.A.Cup in round one since 1929, brought terrace disquiet to a head and there were now serious worries that the Hatters would be relegated back to the football basement.

A run of three straight wins, against Millwall, Southend and Blackpool shortly after Christmas, gave cause for some hope but those hopes were dashed when a run of four defeats, including an embarrassing 1-4 home reversal to Fulham, pushed the Town even deeper into the mire.

The turning point in the campaign can be traced to the game at near neighbours, Watford, in mid-February. Walking away with the division, the Hornets were seeking to win a rare double over the Hatters after inflicting a 4-0 thrashing the previous October. Taking the lead just after half-time, Watford obviously felt that the Town would self destruct but putting

together previously unseen reserves of fight and determination the Hatters refused to give up and bagged an equaliser just before the end from the unlikely saviour Marvin Johnson.

This point against the leaders was followed up with another hard earned draw, this time against the second placed club, Bristol City, at Kenilworth Road. Results and performances were now pointing in the right direction.

Just as the light appeared at the end of the tunnel it was quickly extinguished when the bombshell was dropped that top scorer, Tony Thorpe, was to be sold to Fulham for £800,000. Despite this, two goals in the last ten minutes from youngsters Andrew Fotiadis and Sean Evers earned a valuable victory at fellow strugglers, Plymouth, in the next game and pushed the Town up to 19th spot in the table. The need for an accomplished striker soon became acutely apparent, however, with a narrow 0-1 defeat at Preston followed by draws at home to Wycombe and away at Burnley. In all three games the Town dominated possession but could not convert their superiority into goals and once more the team dropped into the relegation positions.

Manager Lennie Lawrence obviously realised the deficiency and searched high and low for a loan signing as the transfer deadline date rapidly approached. Bradley Allen of Charlton and Gerry Creaney, out of favour at Manchester City, were mentioned as possible recruits but neither could be enticed from their respective clubs.

With the Town dropping to second bottom following a 2-2 home draw against a powerful Grimsby outfit at Kenilworth Road a lifeline loan signing was offered by ex-Town boss David Pleat, now Director of Football at Tottenham.

Pleat suggested that 20 year old striker, Rory Allen, would do the Town a favour and possibly knock in the goals that would ensure safety from relegation. The downside to the deal was that Allen had managed barely two reserve team games since an ankle operation the previous summer and his general fitness was therefore of some concern.

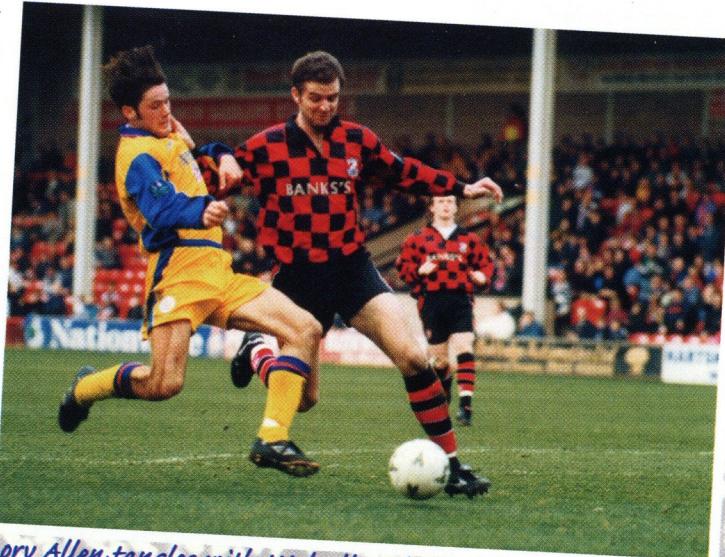
Lennie Lawrence was, quite frankly, desperate and although in normal circumstances would have turned down Allen he was not prepared to look a gift horse in the mouth.

Allen, of whom a great future had been predicted before his injury problems, was anxious to prove his fitness and hopefully re-establish his career at White Hart Lane and was confident of scoring goals at Division Two level starting in the next game against Walsall at the Bescot Stadium.

Walsall were on the edge of the dogfight developing at the foot of the table although they had games in hand on all their fellow strugglers. They had inflicted a 3-2 defeat on the Town a year before which virtually ended hopes of an automatic promotion spot and had won 1-0 at Kenilworth Road earlier in the campaign.

At the time Walsall included four Frenchmen in Roger Boli, Jeff Peron, Didier Tholot and Jean Jacques Eydelie and although their skills were not in doubt their play acting and theatrical diving, especially in the first half, left the Town players bemused and more than a little angry. Luckily referee Bill Burns was not taken in by the antics.

With all this going on the Town somehow managed to sneak into the lead. Chasing a seemingly lost cause down the right, Allen, showing refreshing commitment for a loan player, retrieved the ball and floated it over to David Oldfield who mis-hit a looping shot over James Walker in the Walsall goal.



Rory Allen tangles with Walsall's Adrian Viveash at the Bescot Stadium in March 1998.

Walsall came out for the second half determined to attack from the start and their positive efforts bore fruit when defender Adrian Viveash powered in a header from a corner for the equaliser. The Saddlers continued to attack and just as it seemed the Town defence was about to fold two goals on the break completely turned the game on its head.

Firstly, Oldfield was released by a desperate clearance from Waddock and he ran through the Walsall defence before smacking a shot against an upright. Fortunately Allen was following up and coolly slotted the ball into an empty net.

Soon afterwards Dwight Marshall played a perfect wall pass routine with Oldfield before netting from an acute angle and although the Saddlers pulled a goal back almost immediately through Tholot the Town defence battened down the hatches and managed to survive until the end for a vital three points.

All the talk afterwards was of the contribution from Allen who, by the end of the campaign, had netted six goals in only eight starts to stave off the threat of the drop. Truly the best loan player of all time!

Roger Wash

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FREE COACHING DAY WITH ntl:



Last Monday almost 200 youngsters turned up at our free coaching day at Barnfield College in Luton to enjoy the last day of their school summer holidays.

The entire day's coaching was free for all of the youngsters who attended thanks to NTL our Schools Visit sponsor. This is the third year running we have organised such an event and our thanks go to NTL for making it possible.

With everyone now back at school our NTL School Visits Project is up and running and details of how you can be involved are on the opposite page. Meanwhile, our thanks go to all of the hundreds of youngsters who have been on our coaching courses over the summer - we hope to see you all again very soon.



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ntl: NTL SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT

With everyone now back at school our NTL School Visit Project is back in full swing with our coaches visiting schools throughout Herts and Beds. In fact visits are already planned for schools in Ampthill, Leighton Buzzard, Hitchin, Luton and Dunstable. The project is jointly funded by NTL and Sportsmatch and aims to provide curriculum time PE and football coaching in schools to youngsters of all abilities. We're well on our way to reaching a total of some 20,000 youngsters who will have benefited from the scheme over the last couple of

years and our aim is to reach more and more youngsters each term. Although we have visited over 150 schools in our area there are still schools we've not yet reached - if you're reading this and think you might be one of them why not give us a ring at the Club and we would be pleased to answer any questions you may have or arrange for our coaches to visit.

Pictured are school children from Linslade Lower School in Linslade and Maulden Lower School near Ampthill.

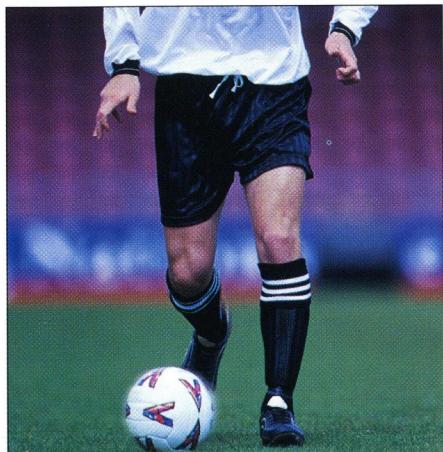


The Dunstable Gazette

The Luton News



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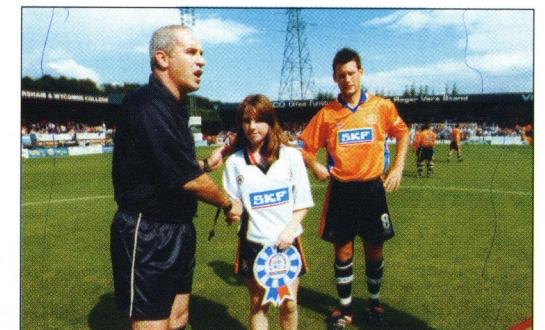
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Junior Hatters

WE HAVE been on the road twice in recent weeks to follow the Town and to meet youngsters at other clubs. Both trips were very enjoyable and we look forward to reciprocating the hospitality later in the season when Wycombe and Rotherham come to Luton with their young supporters.



HAPPY TRAVELLERS: The Junior Hatters arrive at Adams Park to be given a very warm welcome and excellent hospitality. We were invited to send out our own mascot, and the choice, drawn out on the coach to Wycombe, was 12-year-old Lisa McCabe, from Loftus Close, Luton. She presented a Luton Town pennant to her opposite number, but first had the pleasure of meeting the match referee, Frazer Stretton, with acting skipper Paul McLaren looking on.



IT WAS a great pleasure to go to Rotherham again, after a break of three years, because they are one of the friendliest and most sociable clubs in the Football League. Our mascot, pictured before kick-off, was Olivia Bellanca, who is nine, and comes from Seaford Close, Dunstable.

Rotherham also asked us to provide two ball boys, and Chris Kelly, 10, and Charles Day, were chosen.

Tonight's Mascot



TONIGHT'S mascot is ten-year-old Gary Bygate, from Five Oaks, Caddington. He comes to games with his dad and uncle, and as well as football he likes karate, tennis and fishing.

He goes to Five Oaks Middle School, Caddington, and when he meets the players before kick-off they will of course include his favourite, Liam George.

Our ball girl tonight is Olivia Bellanca, having been lucky in a draw for the second time in ten days. Ryan Doherty, of Fairford Avenue, Luton, who will be seven in a fortnight, is our ball boy.

The Junior Hatters are sponsored by London-Luton Airport

If you would like to join the Junior Hatters, call the Club Shop on:

01582 411622

Matchday Hospitality & Sponsorships

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For special occasions and celebrations, why not book a table in the The Joe Payne Sponsor Lounge and treat yourself and your party to a memorable day out with Luton Town Football Club.

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Joe Payne Sponsors Lounge

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Give your child the memory of a lifetime. Every young supporters dream is to lead their team out on to the pitch. With our commercial mascot package, you can turn your child's dreams into reality. This incredible 3 person package includes:

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- Tour of the Player's Dressing Room area •
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- Leading the team out on the pitch •
- Four Course meal •
- Complimentary pre and post match drinks •
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- Certificate commemorating the day, signed by the Manager and photographs of the occasion. •

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- Seats in the Director's Box •
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For more information on any of these or to make reservations contact the Commercial Department on 01582 411622.

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COMMERCIAL MASCOT

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Hatters on Card

Alan Robinson

THIRTY years ago this week the Town entertained Workington, now in the Unibond League, in the second round of the Football League Cup. We were flying high, near the top of the old Second Division at that time, and as expected comfortably overcame the lowly visitors.

It was 3-0, and two of the goals were scored by new signing Don Givens, who later that season was featured in a set of 160 football cards given away with comics like Buster, Scorch, Tiger and Valiant.

Limerick-born Givens joined Manchester United as a 17-year-old in 1966, and gained the first of his 56 full caps for the Republic of Ireland three years later, before he had made his league debut. This came in August 1969, and the young winger went on to feature in seven more United matches that season, scoring once.

The following summer Luton boss Alec Stock swooped to sign four players from Old Trafford, Givens, Jim Ryan, Ken Goodeve and Peter Woods.

Givens and Ryan went straight into the Town's senior squad, with Givens soon striking up a good understanding with Malcolm Macdonald as the newly-promoted Hatters stormed to the top of the table.

The partnership was at its most potent in early October when the team went to Hillsborough and trounced Sheffield Wednesday 5-1, with Macdonald claiming a class hat-trick - one goal with each foot and the other a header - and Givens scoring twice.

For a long time that season it looked as if the Town would go straight through to the top flight, but a dismal Easter, when all three games were lost, ended that dream.

The loss of Macdonald to Newcastle at the end of the season meant that the following campaign was an altogether different story, with Givens finding life more difficult without his old striking partner. Nevertheless, he soldiered on, appearing in every

first-team match in the 1971-72 campaign, netting nine times, including three penalties.

During the close season supporters were somewhat dismayed to discover that new boss Harry Haslam had accepted a £40,000 bid from Queens Park Rangers for Givens. It was at Loftus Road that his career really blossomed, with the Rangers winning promotion in his first season and then, assisted by players of the calibre of Gerry Francis and Stan Bowles, achieving runners-up slot in the old First Division in 1975-76. Givens was Rangers' top scorer with 13 goals, towards an overall total of 76 in 242 outings for the club.

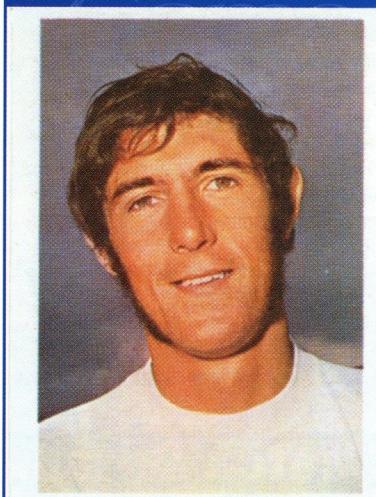
In the summer of 1978 he moved on to Birmingham City, before linking up with Haslam again in March 1981, at Sheffield United. His stay at Bramall Lane was not a happy one. The Blades were battling to avoid relegation to Division Four. On the final day of the season they entertained fellow-strugglers Walsall, needing a point to ensure survival. Walsall were leading 1-0 with seconds remaining, when United were awarded a penalty. Up stepped Givens, but there was no glory ending, as perhaps some of our visitors tonight might recall - he missed and the Saddlers survived instead.

It was to be the last kick of Givens's league career, and certainly not a fitting end for this likeable and talented Irishman. He spent a short time in Swiss football, with Neuchatel, before moving into coaching. He returned to London to run Arsenal's youth academy before, earlier this year, accepting the position of coach to the Irish under-21 squad.

Something of the high esteem in which the Town were held in that exciting 1970-71 season can be gauged by the fact that five players were included in this series, the others being Viv Busby, Roger Hoy, Mike Keen and Jim Ryan. The cards are still fairly easy to obtain, at around 50p each.

Alan Robinson

My Favourite Soccer Stars Scorcher Comic - 1971



D. Givens (Luton)

Coming Soon!
Luton Town's very own official website.
www.lutontown.co.uk

Action Replay

Rotherham Utd 1 Luton Town 1 (HT 0-1)

THE point brought home from Millmoor was well deserved, but manager Ricky Hill thought the Town could, and should have done better. They snatched an early lead, but then seemed to be in a comfortable cruise control mode against a team still adjusting to the Second Division after winning promotion last May.

The Town were much the better side at creating scoring chances, but once again more attempts were off target than on, and twice the woodwork intervened on Rotherham's behalf.

Adam Locke was recalled to play at right back while Stuart Fraser was in Latvia with the Scottish under-21 squad, while Peter Holmes came in for Liam George. The defence looked solid with Julian Watts impressing on the ground where his career began as a YTS boy, and while the midfield just about cancelled each other out, the Town showed more flair in working out routes to goal. Rotherham's long ball game was less attractive to watch.

Mark Stein was narrowly wide with an early flick, from a near-post cross by Matthew Taylor, a minute before helping to create a fine opening goal for Andrew Fotiadis. Stein drew a marker before slipping the ball back to Holmes, and from his short pass Fotiadis strode into the box and hit a clinical shot for his first goal of the season.

Stein's overdue first goal of the season nearly arrived midway through the first half, when he acrobatically got in an overhead bicycle kick after Fotiadis headed on Locke's diagonal ball. Instead of a tremendous

goal, it was another near-miss. Rotherham missed a better chance just before the break, with Leo Fortune-West heading wide from a right wing far post cross by Mark Robins.

At that stage of the game the Town seemed to be doing just enough to contain the opposition, without really imposing themselves, and Rotherham came more into it after the interval. Fotiadis had to miss the second half with a hamstring injury, giving Tresor Kandol another chance to shine after his point-saver at Wycombe.

He nearly did it again, with a late drive which clipped the angle of post and bar, as the Town staged a promising grandstand finish.

By then, they had been pegged back as Rotherham stepped up a gear for the second half. Mark Ovendale saved well from Fortune-West, and the Town nearly doubled their lead when Stein hit a bullet of a cross-shot which was kept out by the far post.

Two minutes later Rotherham, getting increasingly desperate, made the best of a lucky break to equalise. For once Emmerson Boyce was caught out by Paul Hurst's run inside him, and although Ovendale managed to keep out Hurst's shot, Robins collected and converted the rebound.

It stung the Town into taking command again for the closing stages, without being able to find another goal. "We battled hard, which was pleasing, but I am still looking for a bit more quality," said the manager.

Match Details

Town: Ovendale, Locke, Boyce, Watts, Taylor, Spring, McLaren, Scarlett, Holmes (Brennan 65 mins), Stein (George 81 mins), Fotiadis (Kandol HT). Unused subs: Stirling, Abbey.

Booked: Mark Stein, 55 mins, foul on Marvin Bryan; Matthew Spring, 74 mins, kicking the ball away after offside decision; Tresor Kandol, 87 mins, playing on after offside.

Rotherham: Gray, Bryan, Branston, Wilsterman, Hurst, Talbot, Garner (Monkhouse HT), Watson, Warne (Berry 88 mins), Fortune-West, Robins. Unused subs Pettinger, Varty, Hudson.

Booked: Mark Robins, 80 mins, playing on after offside given.

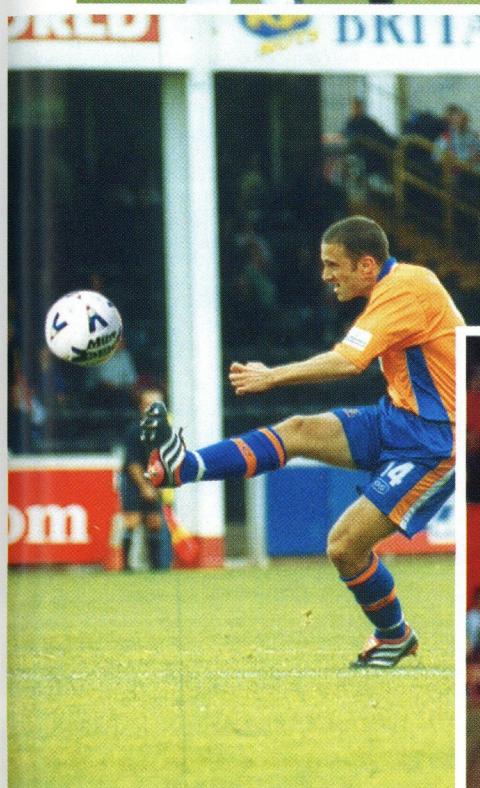
The goals: 0-1 6 mins - Andrew Fotiadis, emphatic drive from an opening made by Peter Holmes's pass; 1-1 64 mins - Mark Robins tap-in after Paul Hurst brushed past Emmerson Boyce and had a shot half-saved by Mark Ovendale.

Referee: Chris Foy.

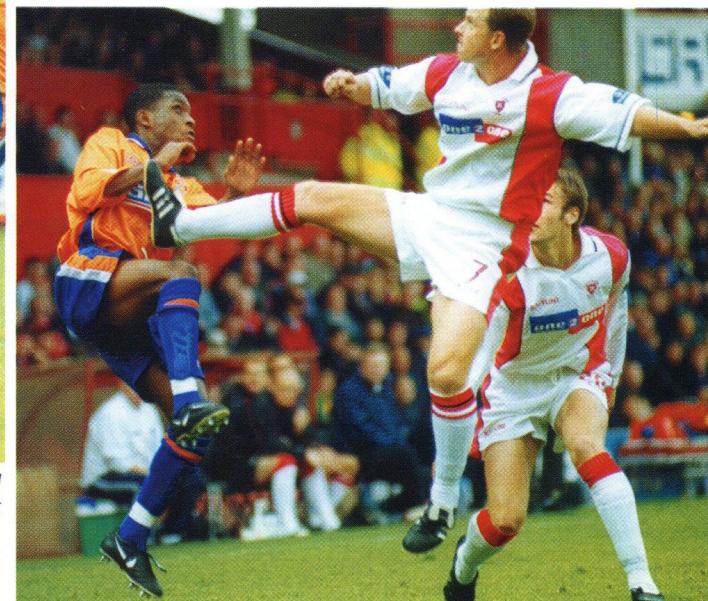
Attendance: 4,061 including 603 Town supporters.



PUTTING HIS BACK INTO IT: Mark Stein fires in an acrobatic shot at goal, which went just wide



PERFECT POISE: Andrew Fotiadis in typical action as he opened his season's account at Millmoor.



HIGH KICKING: Andre Scarlett takes a risk as Rotherham's Mark Robins puts his foot in

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CLUBCALL - 09068 121123

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

Action Replay

Peterborough Utd 2 Luton Town 2 aet (HT 0-1, 90 mins 2-2)

TOP quality strikes by Mark Stein and Andre Scarlett will go down in the record books as the reason for the Town's success in reaching the second round of the Worthington Cup on the away goals rule.

But perhaps more memorable for the big Town following was the tremendous display of Mark Ovendale. His goalkeeping broke Peterborough's hearts, and left their manager Barry Fry complaining that the Town must have been one of the luckiest cup-tie winners ever - doing it with a draw, and saved by their keeper.

For endeavour and commitment, the match was a cup-tie thriller, with neither defence looking too secure, and thus adding to the excitement. The action was non-stop, ebbing and flowing as each team in turn held brief ascendancy.

The Town attack looked lightweight, with Scarlett supporting Liam George and Mark Stein, but Julian Watts, for instance, went upfield for set pieces, and Paul McLaren added his muscle in an attack-minded midfield role.

The back four was kept busy, and lived dangerously at times, but with two teams determined to be positive there were few quiet moments for either defence.

The Town gave a full debut to Dean Brennan, in place of Peter Holmes, and with Andrew Fotiadis on the injured list George was asked to play a more forward role than usual. Lightweight or not, the Town's nimble approach work caused plenty of problems for the home side, but Ovendale had to make the first of several good saves to prevent

Francis Green volleying a 17th-minute goal for Peterborough.

The up and down pattern of the game was set in the early stages, so perhaps it should not have been surprising that after Stein gave us the lead, Peterborough equalised within three minutes.

Stein's first goal for us since a strike at Norwich in April 1988 was a gem. George put in a cross, Dean Hooper headed weakly to the edge of the box, and Stein turned and shot in a blur of movement, with the ball hurtling into the top corner.

Peterborough's reply was not so pretty, but effective - our defence wandered too far upfield, and was caught by the ball played beyond them into space, giving Dave Farrell the chance to score.

Seven minutes after the break Scarlett expertly side-footed his first goal of the season, after a thoughtful pass across the face of the penalty area by George. It provoked Peterborough into a storm of attacking, but Guy Whittingham missed a sitter and Ovendale pulled of a stupendous point-blank save from a header by Andy Edwards.

McLaren cracked a 20-yarder against a post in a Town counter-attack, but Peterborough came back with their longest spell of pressure of the game, and Andy Clarke cut inside the penalty area to hit their second equaliser.

But the Town held on after that, thanks to Ovendale, and a post which blocked a shot from David Oldfield, and even with extra time, when both sides were tiring, no-one could find another goal, despite strenuous efforts.

Match Details

Town: Ovendale, Fraser, Boyce, Watts, Taylor, Spring (Locke 105 mins), McLaren, Scarlett, Brennan (Holmes 74 mins), George, Stein (Kandol 113 mins). Unused subs: Stirling, Abbey.

Booked: No-one (for the first time this season)

Peterborough: Tyler, Hooper (Scott 113 mins), Rea, Edwards, Drury, Farrell (Hanlon 48 mins), Oldfield, Clarke, Forsyth, Whittingham, Green (Shields HT). Unused subs Cullen, Connor.

Booked: No-one.

The goals: Mark Stein, tremendous shot on the turn; 1-1 34 mins - Dave Farrell, punishing a stretched defence with a low drive after getting behind the back four; 1-2 52 mins - Andre Scarlett side-foot belter from a lay-back by Liam George; 2-2 68 mins - Andy Clarke, solo effort and shot.

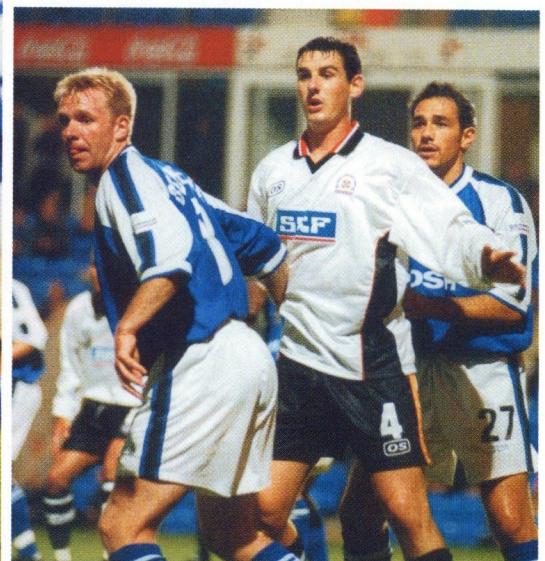
Referee: Uriah Rennie.

Attendance: 4,286 including 908 very happy and very noisy Hatters.

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



ONE ON ONE: Lively Liam George foiled by goalkeeper Mark Tyler.



BIT OF A HANDFUL: David Oldfield, later to hit a post with his best shot of the game, man-marks Matthew Spring's shirt!

WATCH IT GO: Mark Stein fires our opening goal, and the defender nearest to him is not too happy as he realises the ball is whistling into the top corner.

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Luton Town's very own official website.
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From Saturday 9th September

All plain polo shirts normal price £22.50



Home kit

Shirts	White - Black
Childs	£29.99
Youths	£34.99
Adults	£39.99
Shorts	
Childs	£15.99
Adults	£19.99



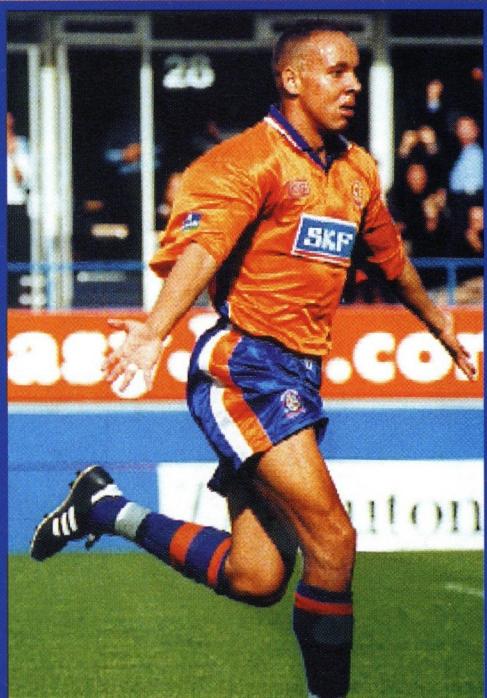
Watercolour

Limited Edition
Ariel watercolour in mahogany frame
Available to order within 10-14 days £49.00



Badges

Limited Edition
Badge set in wooden frame £22.95
Available from stock only 40 out of 250

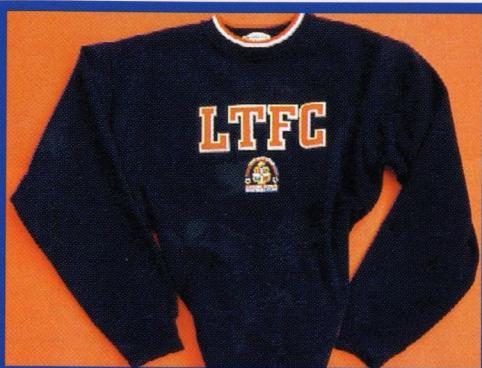


Away kit

Shirts	Orange - Royal
Childs	£29.99
Youths	£34.99
Adults	£39.99
Shorts	
Childs	£15.99

to Saturday 23rd September

will now be on sale at £12.00 each



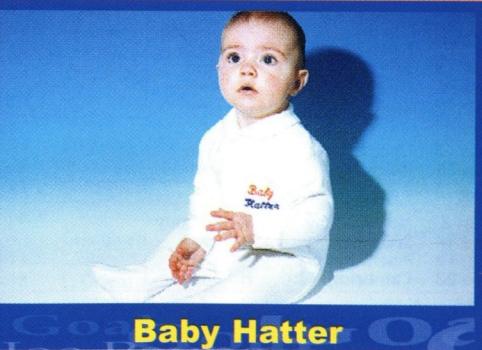
Leisure Wear

Double applique sweatshirt
s,m,l,xl £26.00



Leisure Wear

Fleece T-Shirt £18.50
Ringer T-Shirt £13.00
Navy Sweatshirt £19.50
Black Polo Shirt £17.00



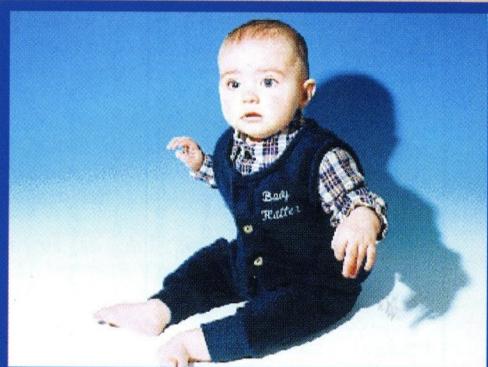
Baby Hatter

Sleepsuit £7.99



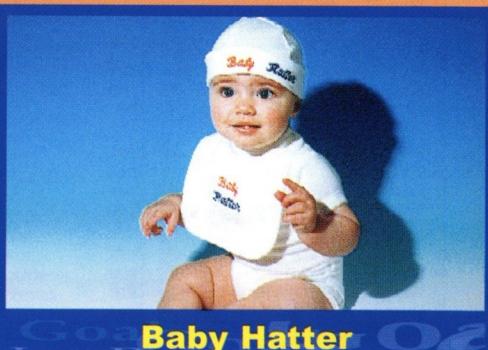
Leisure Wear

Sports applique sweatshirt
s,m,l,xl £26.00



Baby Hatter

Fleece Waist Coat £7.99
Fleece Trouser £7.99
Check Shirt £9.99

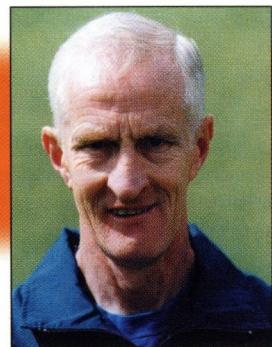


Baby Hatter

3 - Piece Set (Bronx Hat, Bib & Romper) £13.00

Available Now in

The Club Shop



The Reserves

John Moore



TWO WINS and a draw is a very creditable return from our first three games of the season in the Avon Insurance Combination, but we have not yet been able to get the reserves into a settled pattern. The team-sheets tell their own story: 25 different players have been used already as we run the rule over possible new talent to bring into the club. The need to give games to trialists means that there has been little stability about the squad so

far, and it is difficult to work to patterns in training when you cannot be sure who will be needing a game next time you have a match. But it is vital for us to check on all available talent. The bench mark is simple - we can take them if they can push for a place in our first team. Otherwise they are wasting their time and ours. They must be capable of competing for a first team place sooner or later, and in our case usually sooner!

So far we have used ten trialists in one or more games, and only two, Friedrich Breitenfelder and Tommy Carter have been signed - and Carter is on a short-term contract with something to prove before a final decision is made.

Of the eight others, one or two will be given further games to try to show us they are worth contracts, and the rest have gone on their way.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Ayres 3, Standen 2(1), Minton 2 (1), Abbey 2, Breitenfelder 2, Kandol 2, Carter 2, Stirling 2, Glasgow 1(2), Scarlett 1, Brennan 1, Ward 1, Mortara 1, Fraser 1, Murfin 1, Carroll 1, Codner 1, Dogbe 1, Tait 1, Onachie 1, Locke 1, Dickie 1, Walker 1, Carham 1, Mansell (1).

Goals: Brennan 2, Kandol 2, Carter 1

WE are away to Orient in the Avon Insurance Combination tomorrow, kick-off 2pm, next Wednesday, on September 20, we entertain Gillingham in the League Cup. Kick-off at Kenilworth Road will be at 2pm.

Avon Insurance Combination

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Swindon	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
QPR	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Cheltenham	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Brentford	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Fulham	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Bristol City	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Wycombe	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Millwall	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Northampton	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Luton Town	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Gillingham	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Crystal Palace	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Norwich	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Portsmouth	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Bournemouth	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Southend	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Reading	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Brighton	2	0	1	1	4	7	1
Oxford	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Barnet	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Bristol Rovers	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Leyton Orient	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Colchester	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Peterborough	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Avon Insurance Combination League Results and Fixtures

AUG		League Results and Fixtures					
Wed 16	Barnet	H	3-1	Brennan 2, Kandol			
Mon 21	Peterborough (LC)	H	2-1	Kandol, Carter			
Tues 29	Millwall	A	0-2				
SEPT							
Wed 13	L. Orient	A	2pm				
Wed 20	Gillingham (LC)	H	2pm				
Tues 26	QPR	A	2pm				
OCT							
Wed 4	Fulham	H*	2pm				
Wed 11	C. Palace	H	2pm				
Wed 18	Gillingham	A	2pm				
Wed 25	Cambridge Utd (LC)	H*	2pm				
NOV							
Wed 1	Reading	A	2pm				
Mon 6	Brentford	H*	7pm				
Wed 15	Bristol City	A	2pm				
Wed 29	Swindon	A	2pm				
DEC							
Mon 4	Portsmouth	H*	7pm				

*To be played at Baldock Town.

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



Youth Soccer

Paul Lowe

Luton Town 1 Portsmouth 1

A DRAW was a fair reflection of a good contest between evenly-matched teams, with both sides knowing they could have snatched a victory. It was pleasing to see a much better defensive performance, which we had demanded after four goals were conceded in the previous match, at Leyton Orient.

Joe Bruce made his debut for us as a trialist and helped to strengthen that department, and the whole team learned the lessons of the Orient drubbing. Robert Gillman, another defender on trial, also had a good game.

Scott Ward made a very good save when Portsmouth looked like taking the lead through a striker who broke through and hit a sharp drive. It looked a certain goal until the keeper tipped the ball over the bar.

The visiting keeper also did well soon afterwards to smother a shot by Gillman, from an inswinging free kick to the far post by John Carroll.

Joe Deeney had to go off with a hip injury ten minutes before the interval, and the reshuffle disrupted us for a time.

At the interval we warned the players that although they would be going down the slope in the second half, and with the wind behind them, they had to keep their shape, and be patient. The warning was

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE

South East Conference Results and fixtures

AUG			
16	Southend	H	2-2 Carroll, James-Barriteau
26	L. Orient	A	0-4
SEPT			
2	Portsmouth	H	1-1 Dillon
9	Wycombe Wdrs	H	
16	Northampton	A	
23	Cambridge	H	
OCT			
7	Barnet	A	
14	Brighton	H	
21	Brentford	A	
28	Colchester	H	
NOV			
4	Gillingham	A	
11	Southend	A	
18	L. Orient	H	
25	Portsmouth	A	
DEC			
2	Northampton	H	

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rammed home ten minutes later, when the defence was caught pushing too far upfield, and a simple ball played in behind them led to a goal. That was very disappointing after our words at half-time. However, the team learned the lesson, and 15 minutes from time the point we deserved was secured when Carroll and Duane Clarke exchanged passes on the edge of the box. Carroll hit a good cross to the far post, between the keeper and centre-back, and Chris Dillon passed the ball into the net for his first goal of the season.

We finished the stronger of the sides after that, with Carroll smashing a shot narrowly wide of the far post, but we did not begrudge Portsmouth their point. The whole team did well to bury the memories of the previous week's thrashing, and a word of praise is due to 15-year-old trialist Steve O'Leary, who went on as a sub for 20 minutes, and did well in an under-19 competition.

Luton Town: Ward, Bruce, Carroll, Gillman, Deeney (Osborn 55 mins), James-Barriteau, Dogbe, Mansell, Clarke, Dillon (Meikle 70 mins), Mortara (O'Leary 70 mins)

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Ward 3, Gillman 3, Deeney 3, Carroll 3, Dogbe 3, Mansell 3, Mortara 3, James-Barriteau 3, Dillon 2, O'Leary 1(2), Jeffrey 1(1), Clarke 1(1), Leary 1, Bruce 1, Nurse 1, Minton 1, Osborn (1), Ramirez (1), Meikle (1)
Goals: Carroll 1, James-Barriteau 1, Dillon 1

WE ARE away to Northampton on Saturday, and our next home game is on the following Saturday, September 23, against Cambridge Utd. We play at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Farley Hill, and kick-off is at 11 am. Spectators are welcome, and admission is free.

South East Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge Utd	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Brighton	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Brentford	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Wycombe Wdrs	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Portsmouth	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Colchester	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Gillingham	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Southend	3	1	1	1	8	9	4
Leyton Orient	3	1	0	2	5	3	3
Luton Town	3	0	2	1	3	7	2
Barnet	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Northampton	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

Division 2 2000/01 Ave. Attendances

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000	12000	14000
Bournemouth	4,364						
Brentford	5,056						
Bristol City	10,327						
Bristol Rovers	8,046						
Bury	3,850						
Cambridge	3,765						
Colchester	3,647						
Luton	6,331						
Millwall	10,244						
Northampton	6,054						
Notts County	5,526						
Oldham	5,010						
Oxford	5,035						
Peterborough	6,237						
Port Vale	4,147						
Reading	11,675						
Rotherham	4,333						
Stoke	13,528						
Swansea	7,319						
Swindon	6,394						
Walsall	6,262						
Wigan	6,150						
Wrexham	4,883						
Wycombe	5,546						

Division 2 General Stats

	PU	CS	FS	PU	CS	FS	
Bournemouth	18	0	1	Oxford	21	0	3
Brentford	18	3	3	Peterborough	17	1	2
Bristol City	22	1	3	Port Vale	19	2	1
Bristol Rovers	17	0	0	Reading	21	3	2
Bury	20	3	0	Rotherham	16	2	0
Cambridge	18	2	1	Stoke	17	2	2
Colchester	16	2	2	Swansea	17	3	4
Luton	17	1	2	Wrexham	18	2	3
Millwall	21	2	0	Walsall	15	1	1
Northampton	17	2	2	Wigan	21	1	2
Notts County	18	3	1	Wrexham	17	0	1
Oldham	17	0	1	Wycombe	16	3	2

PU = Players Used CS = Clean Sheets NS = Games Team Failed to Score

Division 2 Campaign Records

Highest Gate	14,532	Stoke v Wycombe
Lowest Gate	3,182	Bury v Northampton
Highest Aggregate Score	..	Brentford 2-6 Bristol Rovers
Biggest Home Win	Cambridge 6-1 Rotherham	
Biggest Away Win	..Brentford 2-6 Bristol Rovers	
Wins	Walsall 5	
Games Unbeaten	Wycombe 6	
Defeats	Bristol City, Oxford 4	
Winless Run	Oxford 6	
Games:	65	
Home Wins:	23 (35%)	
Away Wins:	25 (38%)	
Draws:	17 (26%)	
1-1 Draws:	10 (15%)	
0-0 Draws:	5 (8%)	
Yellow cards:	202	
Red cards:	9	

Division 2 Hotshots - Each club's most prolific marksmen

	GS	1st Gl	1Gl	2 Gls	3 Gls		GS	1st Gl	1Gl	2 Gls	3 Gls	
Bournemouth	Fletcher S	2	0	2	0	0	Oxford	Beauchamp	1	0	1	0
Brentford	Ingimarsson	1	0	1	0	0	Peterborough	Green	3	2	3	0
Bristol City	Thorpe	1	1	1	0	0	Port Vale	Naylor	2	2	1	1
Bristol Rovers	Ellington	3	1	3	0	0	Reading	Cureton	3	2	2	0
Bury	Bullock	2	1	2	0	0	Rotherham	Robins	4	3	3	1
Cambridge	Abbey	3	2	3	0	0	Stoke	Thordarson	2	0	2	0
Colchester	Lua-Lua	1	1	0	1	0	Swansea	Bound	1	1	1	0
Luton	Fotiadis	1	1	1	0	0	Swindon	Invincible	1	0	1	0
Millwall	Harris	3	2	3	0	0	Walsall	Angell	2	0	1	1
Northampton	Forrester	3	3	2	1	0	Wigan	Haworth	2	1	1	0
Notts County	Stallard	4	2	4	0	0	Wrexham	Sam	3	1	2	1
Oldham	Corazzin	2	0	2	0	0	Wycombe	Brown	3	2	3	0

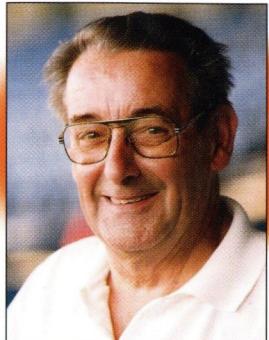
GS=Number of Games Scored In; 1st Gl=Games Scored 1st Goal; 1 Gl=Games Scored 1 Goal; 2 Gls=Games Scored 2 Goals; 3 Gls=Games Scored 3 Goals

Statson2

League Scorers: the difference their goals made

		Gls	Gms	Gl/Gm	W/L	W/D	D/L	Pts	Run	Dry
Notts County	Stallard	4	6	0.67	0	2	1	5	3	2
Walsall	Angell	3	6	0.5	1	1	0	5	1	2
Millwall	Harris	3	4	0.75	0	2	0	4	3	1
Bury	Bullock	2	5	0.4	0	1	1	3	2	2
Cambridge	Abbey	3	6	0.5	0	1	1	3	1	1
Northampton	Forrester	4	5	0.8	0	1	1	3	1	1
Reading	Cureton	5	4	1.25	0	1	1	3	3	1
Rotherham	Robins	5	6	0.83	0	1	1	3	2	2
Wigan	Haworth	4	5	0.8	1	0	0	3	1	2
Wycombe	Brown	3	6	0.5	0	1	1	3	1	1
Bournemouth	Fletcher S	2	5	0.4	0	0	2	2	1	2
Bristol Rovers	Ellington	3	4	0.75	0	0	2	2	3	1
Colchester	Lua-Lua	2	6	0.33	0	1	0	2	1	3
Peterborough	Green	3	6	0.5	0	0	2	2	2	1
Wrexham	Sam	4	4	1	0	1	0	2	3	1
Brentford	Ingimarsson	1	6	0.17	0	0	1	1	1	5
Luton	Fotiadis	1	5	0.2	0	0	1	1	1	4
Stoke	Thordarson	2	5	0.4	0	0	1	1	2	3
Bristol City	Thorpe	1	5	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	4
Oldham	Corazzin	2	5	0.4	0	0	0	0	1	3
Oxford	Beauchamp	2	5	0.4	0	0	0	0	1	2
Port Vale	Naylor	3	4	0.75	0	0	0	0	2	1
Swansea	Bound	1	5	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Wrexham	Invincible	1	4	0.25	0	0	0	0	1	2

Each club's leading league scorer and their goals per game (Gl/Gm). Next 3 columns show taking off their goals how many games change from Win to Loss (W/L), Win to Draw (W/D), Draw to Loss (D/L) and Points (Pts) lost. Last 2 figures show best scoring run, and longest dry spell in consecutive games.



2nd Division Brian Swain

WALSALL come to Kenilworth Road this evening still leaders of the Second Division, trying to bounce back up to Division One at the first attempt. But, like us, they will be trying to compensate for a poor result on Saturday.

While we were suffering our third defeat in six league starts, and dropping to 19th place, the Saddlers were losing the Division's only remaining 100 per cent record. Bury beat them 2-0 at Gigg Lane to narrow the gap between them and the leaders to two points. Perhaps ominously for us, Walsall manager Ray Graydon promised that his team could perform much better than they did at Bury. Goalkeeper James Walker stood between Bury and a stack of goals, but was beaten by two centre-backs, Chris Swales and Sam Collins.

Wycombe are third, and still unbeaten this season, after a 3-1 home win over Oxford which left their neighbours in bottom place. Swansea, our next opponents, are level with us on five points, but with a game in hand, after

an unlucky defeat at Millwall - Neil Harris got the only goal a minute from time, after Swansea had played well defensively.

The weekend's biggest surprise packets were Cambridge, who went a goal down early on at home to Rotherham, but then replied with six to move into fourth place. One of the marksmen was Nathan Abbey's brother Zeema, who was playing for Hitchin Town last season. The Luton connection at Bristol had a bad day. The odds on struggling Swindon winning at Ashton Gate must have been pretty long, but it duly happened, and City have lost all three of their home games in the league so far. Their only win was on the opening day, 2-0 at Wrexham, when Tony Thorpe was on the score sheet.

City may currently be in the relegation places, but the striker forecasts that things will change. He has been at Bristol for two years, in which time the club has gone through all sorts of turmoil.

At one time he was one of a coach-load of players available for transfer as Ashton Gate ushered in and then booted out a succession of managers. In the summer Danny Wilson became the fifth in 18 months and Thorpe is now a much happier and more settled player. He rates Bristol City as capable of a play-off place at least. Danny Wilson, he said, had impressed everyone on the staff, and they wanted to do it for him as well as for themselves.

Brian Swain

Tonight's other 2nd Division Fixtures

Bournemouth v Swindon
Bristol City v Brentford
Bury v Colchester
Cambridge v Port Vale
Millwall v Northampton
Notts County v Swansea
Reading v Oldham
Wigan v Peterborough
Wrexham v Rotherham
Wycombe v Bristol Rovers

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Statistics Fixtures

2000 / 2001

Travelling Army



Substitutes
Holmes for Locke 57, Fraser for Watts 78. Unused: Stirling, Brennan, Abbey.
Fraser for Johnson HT, Scarlett for Locke 73, Brennan for Holmes 83. Unused: Stirling, Abbey
Brennan for Fotiadiis 81. Unused: Stirling, Locke, Scarlett, Abbey.
Brennan for George 57, Locke for Holmes 86. Unused: Stirling, Kandol, Abbey.
Brennan for George 55, Kandol for Fotiadiis 76. Unused: Locke, Stirling, Abbey.
Kandol for Fotiadiis HT; Brennan for Holmes 65; George for Stein 81. Unused: Stirling, Abbey.
Holmes for Brennan 74; Locke for Spring 105; Kandol for Stein 113. Unused: Stirling, Abbey
Holmes for Spring 75; Kandol for Brennan 60. Unused: Locke, Stirling, Brietenfelder.

Town Teaser

OUR "Town Trivia" quiz offers a little prize to one lucky supporter this evening. The question at the last home game was about the Northampton player wgho joined us in 1967 and skippered the Town side that won the Fourth Division championship. The answer, of course, was Terry Branston. This evening the PA announcer will ask another Town Teaser, and if you know the answer listen for your chance to step up and have a go.

Today's Question

WHO was the midfielder David Pleat signed from Walsall to help keep us in the old First Division, and who was a member of our 1988 Littlewoods Cup-winning team?

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The Big Match Tonight's Teams
Tonight's Teams The Big Match

Luton Town



Manager : Ricky Hill

MARK OVENDALE

EMMERSON BOYCE

JULIAN WATTS

PAUL McLAREN

STUART FRASER

MATTHEW TAYLOR

MATTHEW SPRING

PETER HOLMES

LIAM GEORGE

MARK STEIN

ANDRE SCARLETT

Substitutes

ADAM LOCKE

TRESOR KANDOL

DEAN BRENNAN

JUDE STIRLING

NATHAN ABBEY (GK)

Changes

Tonight's Officials

Referee:

D. R. Elleray

Assistants:

P. W. Barnes (red flag)

A. J. Conn (yellow and red flag)

Fourth Official:

Fourth official: S. W. Tincknell

Manager: Ray Graydon

JAMES WALKER

IAN BRIGHTWELL

TOM BENNETT

ANDY TILLSON

DARREN BYFIELD

DEAN KEATES

BRETT ANGELL

JORGE LEITAO

ZIGOR ARANALDE

PAUL HULL

TONY BARRAS

Substitutes

GABOR BUKRAN

PEDRO MATIAS

IAN PORTER

DARREN WRACK

CARL EMBERSON (GK)

Changes

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Sun 10.30-4.30pm

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Q

