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Luton Town

Tuesday 23rd January 2001

Kick-Off 7.45pm

Nationwide League Division Two



INSIDE

- Andy Ritchie
- Goalden Boys
- Time of my Life



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF OLDHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



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The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily
those of Oldham Athletic FC

JOHN WILLIE TO HIS MATES



The Boss

continued on page 5

Saturday's defeat at Wigan was disappointing as I felt we had as much of the game as them and we deserved a draw.

Let's hope Luton Town, who we welcome to Boundary Park tonight, don't have a wasted journey as they had three months ago when we should have played the game. Then a heavy downpour at tea-time, allied to our pitch problems at that time, left the surface unplayable with the match called off shortly after Luton arrived.

This is the first of two home games in the space of four days and we must look to pick up six points if we are to begin a charge up the Second Division table. We have been playing better at home this season, but there is still plenty of scope for improvement.

There is no way we can rest on our laurels having Dropped to 16th place, and the only way must be up. We must be scared of going



down and use that fear to push ourselves forward.

Saturday's defeat at Wigan was disappointing as I felt we had as much of the game as them and we deserved a draw. Where we came unstuck - not for the first time this season - was conceding silly goals and not taking chances. We should have gone 2-1 up before they went 2-1 ahead. Wigan didn't cause us a lot of problems over the 90 minutes and again we caused them trouble. But the bottom line is that we have to start taking our chances, and need somebody who can score regularly. What is frustrating is that we have players who have done so in the past.

Luton have had a difficult season with Lil Fuccillo recently taking over from

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The Boss

continued

Ricky Hill as manager. If we want to aspire to greater heights we have got to beat teams like Luton who are below us in the League, and then we can set our sights on the bigger boys. We cannot afford to slip up against teams who are below us, though this season I have been pleased with our level of consistency. We have been difficult to beat in recent months with our only failing we have drawn too many matches. The players we have are good enough and have shown that they can live with the best teams. But they must produce that sort of form consistently and be more ruthless. I believe that can be achieved by a state of mind and self belief, in our own ability. And that comes by beating and winning regularly which breeds confidence. What pleased me at Wigan is that we went out with no apprehension. I am sure there are many teams who go there believing they have no chance. I heard Barry Fry talking about promotion and he can see no further than Millwall, Wigan, Walsall, Stoke, Reading and Bristol City, the big hitters. I agree, but we have to scrap and try to get up there with them.

You will probably have read

about the rift between UEFA and FIFA regarding the abolition of the transfer system. I hope common sense prevails because football needs to be united on this matter which could be

**"What pleased
me at Wigan is
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apprehension."**

detrimental to lower league clubs like ourselves. If the transfer system as we know it is abolished a lot of smaller clubs could go to the wall, or at best, be forced to go part-time. I am sure you will want to come and watch us for the next 10, 12, or more years so can I ask you to make your

feelings heard. Write to your local MP, MEP and ask them to put pressure on the powers-that-be. I think everything revolves around the Premiership - and even some of those clubs are struggling - with those in the rest of the League overlooked.

And finally a word for our youngsters who play at West Ham tomorrow in the fourth round of the F.A. Youth Cup. It is a great opportunity for our players to take on one of the best youth sides in the country. If we get through tomorrow's tie we are at home to Arsenal who, too, have a great youth set up. But they have a lot of foreign players in their side, even at that level, which can only be detrimental to the development of our kids.

Our lads have done well to get this far and we won't be going to defend, but to have a go.

**Good luck to them and
enjoy tonight's game.**



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Junior Latics

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Now is the time for all young Latics fans to join one of the best Junior Supporters Clubs in the League.

Membership is open to boys and girls aged 7/16 and the benefits you receive are enormous.

- 10% discount on purchases in Latique
- 10% discount on away coach travel
- A birthday card personally signed by Andy Ritchie
- Regular Meetings at the Queen Elizabeth Hall where members can meet the players and join in quizzes etc, plus the opportunity to be a match mascot.
- Subsidised trips to away matches.
- An annual soccer tournament
- Use of facilities in the Junior Latics Lounge on match days, including play stations and table football.

In addition all new members receive a package of Latics Souvenirs, including your very own Junior Latics enamel badge.

So why not pick up an application form today from the Junior Latics Lounge or Latique and that way you will

eligible for all the activities on offer for the whole of 2001.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

A reminder to all those members who have not yet renewed, that memberships were due for renewal on January 1st.

The £2 renewal fee can be paid in Latique at any time or the Junior Latics Lounge on match days.

We have lots of events planned for this year so make sure you don't miss out by renewing your membership today.



Left:
Tom Bell,
mascot for our
game against
Walsall, meets
his favourite
player John
Sheridan, prior
to kick off.



Below:
and then lines
up in the
centre circle
along with the
captains and
officials.

MATCH MASCOT



Tonight's match mascot is 13 years old Andrew Royle of Bury Old Road, Prestwich. Andrew who is a first team ball boy at Boundary Park attends Prestwich High School where his favourite lesson is PE.

Outside of school Andrew enjoys playing football and cricket along with watching his favourite t.v. programme Big Brother.

Craig Dudley is Andrew's favourite current Latics player with Roger Palmer his favourite ex player.

Patrick Kluivert was the player who Andrew picks as the best player in Euro 2000 and his prediction for tonight's game is 2-1 to Latics.



r.u.J.D.Sports?
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The Latics Files...

Keeping you up to date with all the latest at the club and in the world of football.

SECOND YEAR OF PROMISE

Following the huge impact made in its first twelve months, the second Season of Promise kicked into full swing this week with the news that all 72 member clubs of The Nationwide Football League have now had their applications approved by both The Football League and the Nationwide Building Society.

As a result a total of £750,000 has been allocated by Nationwide to support a wide range of local community projects. Each club has been awarded a grant of £10,417, which is to be used to enhance current or establish new community initiatives.

The aim being to encourage more people from minority or disadvantaged groups to attend live football.

One again, Football League clubs have taken up the challenge to be original and creative by introducing a number of new and novel schemes with many clubs also choosing to continue the good work established in year one.

Here at Boundary Park, Latics are offering FREE ADMISSION to all under 16's at this Saturday's game when Brentford are the visitors.

Portsmouth intend to offer 20 free tickets

to low income families for each home game and in particular will target loyal supporters who are unable to attend as they have fallen on hard times. Whilst Brighton and Hove Albion will continue their training sessions for children with special needs established so successfully last season.

In welcoming the news, Nationwide's Head of Sponsorship Peter Gandoli, said "While many of the headlines today in football are about massive wages and transfer fees, it is sometimes easy to forget what a wonderful job most football clubs do in their local communities. We have been delighted that the Season of Promise initiative has helped Nationwide Football League clubs to dramatically expand these activities".

Football League Chief Executive David Burns added "Not only is this country unique in having such a strong and widespread professional league, it is also unique in that its clubs invest so much time and money in their local communities.

"The Season of Promise was a huge success in its first year and I would like to thank the Nationwide Building Society for

The Latics Files...

its continued investment in such a worthwhile initiative".

Carlisle, and is currently in discussion with the club to renew his contract for next season.

The likable left-footer told us "I would love to stay here with Latics, they are a super club, it would be nice to have a bit of security for the future as well".

Watch this space for further news on contract talks with a number of players.

NEW VENUE NEW PITCH

The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff - the new home to The Football League's five annual finals - this week completed the laying of the

new playing surface that will be used for this year's Worthington Cup Final on February 25.

The laying of the new pitch has been completed in a week and it will make its debut for the Wales v England rugby Union international in February and then have a clear 22 days of rest and recuperation prior to the Final.

Football League Chief Executive David Burns said "Our agreement with the Millennium Stadium promises us a pitch of UEFA five-star standard on Worthington Cup Final day, in short a pitch capable of staging a World Cup Final. From the start we have always been absolutely certain that this is what the Millennium Stadium would deliver and

£100 FOR TONY



The Lookers Player of the Month for December was presented when Colchester United visited Boundary Park. Allan Marston, Financial Director of Lookers plc, handed over a cheque to the value of £100 to Tony Cars. Tony has gone from strength to strength since arriving at Latics via

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the news that the pitch is now in place simply reaffirms this".

GRAND BONANZA EASTER

All season ticket holders and members will shortly be receiving five books of tickets for Latics' Grand Easter Bonanza draw. The club would like to ask all recipients if they would kindly assist the club in selling these tickets once again.

As with previous draws, if you sell the five books you will be entered into a free draw for a weekend break for two persons, in addition the sellers of the first three tickets drawn will receive £150, £100 and £50 respectively.

All counterfoils, unsold tickets and money should be returned in the FREEPOST envelope supplied by Saturday 31st March 2001.

Your help and assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the club.

CHADDY'S FINAL EXIT

Chaddy the Owl (version one) made an undignified



final appearance just last week ... In the bin!

Poor old run down Chaddy made the final journey to the 'scrap yard in the sky' after 10 years loyal service.

The lovable Chaddy fell fowl of a clearout here at the club but couldn't resist a final appearance as the bin men arrived, "He nearly frightened the life out of us" commented one of the Cleanaway men as they wheeled him away, another was heard to say "It's the only bird I've picked up all year"!

WATCH BRENTFORD FOR FREE

This coming Saturday 27th January Latics take on Brentford in a Nationwide Division Two fixture here at Boundary Park and all under 16 year olds can gain FREE admission to the

Ellen Group stand for the match.

This game has been designated as one of Latics' Nationwide Building Society "Season of Promise" matches and the large section of the stand has been thrown open to all juniors.

All you have to do to gain admission for free is enter via turnstile numbers 24, 26 and 28. Adults price £15 enter via turnstile 23, members price £12 enter via turnstile 25 and concessions (O.A.P.s) £7 enter via turnstile 27.

£130 FOR MOSSLEY



Latics' Strike it Lucky paid out £130 when Wigan Athletic were the visitors in the L.D.Vans Trophy game and the lucky winner

The Latics Files...

was Mick Lister from Mossley.

Mick sits in the Seton stand to watch his matches and his ticket number 9797 won him £130.

You could be the next money winner today at Boundary Park by purchasing your Strike it Lucky ticket today ... £1 is all it will cost and they can be bought from any 'yellow bibbed' seller around the stadium before kick off.

FOURTH ROUND TRIP SPONSOR

Latics youth team who face the daunting trip to face West Ham United in the fourth round of the Axa/Times F.A. Youth Cup have found a friend in Mick Nield a local builder, who has kindly sponsored the lads pre-match meal to the tune of £250.

Mick, who last year sponsored all Latics' reserve team programmes, has a local building

company based in Royton and always has been a keen supporter of youth and reserve team football. The football club thanks Neil for his kind sponsorship.

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE FOR DAVE



Dave Land had the surprise of his life when Colchester visited Boundary Park, his friends from work (Farnell, Leeds) had organised a secret presentation by Latics captain Lee Duxbury and Chaddy the Owl.

Dave's photograph also appeared dressed in his favourite suit (Dave hates

wearing suits) in the Latics matchday programme. You too could 'hit' on a friend with a surprise package of an autographed ball, picture of presentation and photo in programme for just £35 (without ball £23.50).

Contact the commercial department to arrange your surprise 'hit'.

LATIQUE SALE

Latique Sport & Leisurewear is the place to be over the next 11 days as you can pick up a bargain with up to 25% off many items, including home shirts, away shirts, tracksuits and bench coats. You can pick up a free away kit hanger with every home kit hanger purchased and a free enamel badge can be picked up when you purchase a Latics Beanie Bear.

Call in now ... You only have 11 days to pick up a bargain.

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It's... TRIVIA
TIME

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- 1 Who moved from Celtic to Nantes in 1987?
- 2 Which European trophy did Newcastle win in 1969?
- 3 In 1982, which German side did Aston Villa beat 1-0 to win the European Cup?
- 4 Which English born goalkeeper played 42 times for Rangers in their 'double' winning season of 1986-87?
- 5 Who in 1988 was caretaker manager of Newcastle before the appointment of Jim Smith?

HALFTIME QUIZ

- 6 Why was John Aldridge dropped in October 1989?
- 7 Who was voted 'Footaller of the Year' in 1989?
- 8 Who was the first foreign manager to win the FA Cup?
- 9 Alex Ferguson was voted 'Manager of the Year' three times between 1993 and 1996, who was the only other manager to win the honour during this period?
- 10 In 1991, which Geordie was signed from Millwall by Crystal Palace for £1.5m?

Who AM I?



20 years ago this season, Ipswich comprehensively beat AZ67 of Holland 3-0 at home and 4-2 away in the UEFA Cup.

TURNING
BACK
THE CLOCK

Born 1975, Bury St. Edmunds, joined Ipswich Town as trainee, vital member of last season's promotion squad.

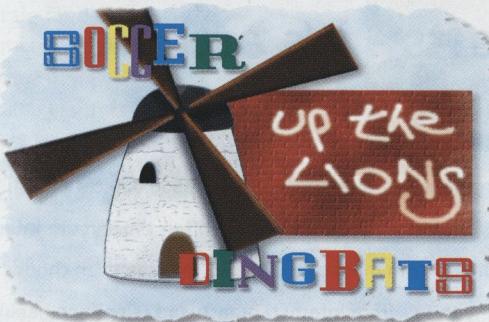
GROUND JUMBLE

HUTS SPARKLER ROUGH BAGGO BAMBI TUESDAY SOAKING DROOP

Identify four league grounds from the jumble above, the colours will give you a clue.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Jamie Redknapp has played soccer in America?

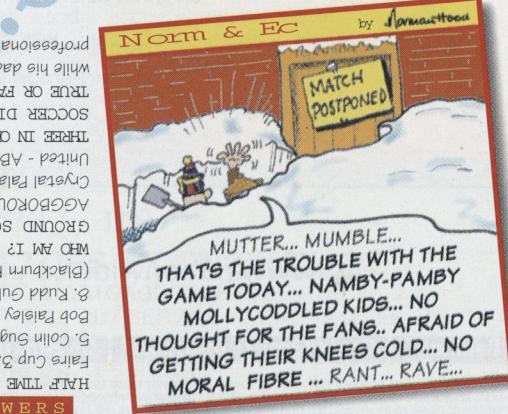


three
in ONE



Can you identify these
three club crests?

WHO AM I? Jamie Scoonecroft.
GREGORIUS SCARFEE. Kidderminster Harriers.
AGGREGATE SCARFEE. Groundsman.
GROUNDS SCARFEE. Garry Mullin.
WHY AM I? Johnstone's Wood.
(Blackburn Rovers) 10. Chris Armstrong.
GORDON SCARFEE. Kenny Dalglish.
GORDON SCARFEE. Steve Nicol.
BOB GORDON SCARFEE. 7. Steve Nicol of former manager
GORDON SCARFEE. 8. Rudd Gullit with Cheese. 9. Chris Woods.
GORDON SCARFEE. 10. Chris Armstrong.
GORDON SCARFEE. 11. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 12. Peter Cottesmore.
GORDON SCARFEE. 13. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 14. Chris Woods.
GORDON SCARFEE. 15. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 16. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 17. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 18. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 19. Johnstone's Wood.
GORDON SCARFEE. 20. Johnstone's Wood.



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Reserves & Youth

Fixture Congestion

With the postponement of last week's Reserve game against Port Vale Latics now find themselves having had eight Reserve games postponed this season because of either frost or waterlogging. With the addition of two Manchester Senior Cup games to arrange that makes a total of 10 Reserve Team games still to accommodate.

"It will mean we will be faced with two games a week for the Reserves when the weather improves" said Chief Executive Alan Hardy. "It's something we would rather have avoided but because of the very wet autumn and the sever cold snap we are experiencing at present it is something we just have to accept".

The postponement meant that Craig Dudley's eagerly anticipated return to action was delayed.

Manager Andy Ritchie would have to decide whether Dudley could be involved in some way at Wigan last Saturday without having had the benefit of a mid-week run out.

Good Weekend for Tipton Family

Matthew Tipton's younger

brother Craig scored all five goals in the Latics U14 5-0 victory against Macclesfield Town in the centre of excellence fixture on Sunday 14th January completing an excellent weekend on the scoring front for the Tiptons. Older brother Matthew grabbed Latics' late equaliser against Colchester United for the first XI.

FUTCHER OUT



Defender Ben Futcher collected two yellow cards in the Reserves defeat at Wolves and his automatic one game ban comes into force on 22nd January which means he will not be available for the home game against Luton Town tonight.



Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
TRANMERE ROVERS	12	9	1	2	23	14	9	28
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	13	8	2	3	31	15	16	26
WOLVES	15	5	5	5	20	18	2	20
BURNLEY	11	6	1	4	19	22	-3	19
BARNESLEY	10	5	2	3	14	11	3	17
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	8	5	0	3	14	12	2	15
PORT VALE	12	4	3	5	18	19	-1	15
WEST BROM	11	4	2	5	14	12	2	14
PRESTON NORTH END	11	4	2	5	16	16	0	14
BIRMINGHAM CITY	9	4	1	4	10	9	1	13
BOLTON WORLDS	11	3	2	6	10	22	-12	11
ROTHERHAM UTD	12	1	4	7	8	17	-9	7
STOCKPORT COUNTY	9	0	3	6	11	21	-10	3

RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES 00-01

TUES 15th AUG	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	H	2-4
WED 6th SEPT	WEST BROM.	H	1-0
WED 20th SEPT	HUDDERSFIELD T.	H	0-1
WED 27th SEPT	BIRMINGHAM C.	A	P-P
TUES 3rd OCT	ROTHERHAM U.	H	3-0
MON 9th OCT	BARNESLEY	A	P-P
WED 25th OCT	BOLTON W.	A	3-0
WED 1st NOV	PORT VALE	H	P-P
TUES 7th NOV	TRANMERE R.	H	P-P
WED 15th NOV	BURNLEY	A	2-1
WED 22nd NOV	STOCKPORT C.	A	3-2
TUES 28th NOV	PRESTON N.E.	H	P-P
WED 6th DEC	BOLTON W.	H	P-P
TUES 12th DEC	PORT VALE	A	P-P
MON 8th JAN	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	A	0-4
WED 7th FEB	WEST BROM	A	7pm
TUES 13th FEB	BIRMINGHAM C.	H	7pm
MON 26th FEB	HUDDERSFIELD T.	A	2pm
WED 28th FEB	PORTVALE	A	7pm
TUES 19th MAR	BARNESLEY	H	7pm
TUES 27th MAR	ROTHERHAM U.	A	7pm
WED 4th APR	TRANMERE R.	A	7pm
TUES 10th APR	BURNLEY	H	7pm
TUES 17th APR	STOCKPORT C.	H	7pm
MON 23rd APR	PRESTON N.E.	A	7pm

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The Third Eye

FAMILY DISLOYALTY

Just to prove that it doesn't matter who you are when it comes to football, ref Ian Crosby sent off Sunday league player Jason Paige despite the fact that the defender had married Crosby's daughter some weeks earlier in Redhill, Surrey.

FINE AND DANDY

Here's a story for those clubs that are looking for a way to make a few more pennies. A footy manager from Barnstaple, Devon started fining his players 50p every time he caught them swearing. In 4 months he'd managed to accrue so much money that he was able to splash out on a new strip for the team.

YANKEE DOODLE

This next one's not quite football, in fact it's more like egg-chasing but the sentiment is...



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worthy of a mention. American football fan Paul Wellener has 2 seats from the Pittsburgh Steelers stadium as a gravestone. Paul had been

a Steelers fan for 40 years before he died last year aged 68. His son, the imaginatively named Paul Junior, paid £1,400 for 3 pairs of seats at an auction and he said of his dad's curious headstone: "Dad would have wanted them there."

Cop For That

A policeman was asked to model a stolen football kit in an attempt to trace the owners. It was only when he'd actually got the colours on and was standing proudly beside his police car that he noticed that the strip actually belonged to his station's football team from the Worthing and District Sunday League. D'Oh! When asked for his reaction the eloquent PC said: "We are very pleased to get it back."

MUM KNOWS BEST

Footballer Phil Miles was sent off for telling his spectator mum exactly where to go. His mother Margaret was continually criticising her son's performance from the touchline. Eventually Phil got so annoyed at her abuse he yelled back: "Shut up and enjoy the flipping game," or words to that effect. Unfortunately the referee, Sean Pyor, heard the outburst and sent Phil off for foul and abusive language. The player pleaded his case by saying: "It's just my mum," to which the ref responded: "We can't have you talking to spectators like that. You're off!" Now Phil, who plays for Chatham Town in the Kent Premier

Alan Bennett's unusual Stories around the divisions

League, faces a 5 match ban and a £25 fine. "I'm so embarrassed," he said, "it's the first time she's ever heard me swear." His mum said: "He's normally such a nice boy but when he puts on a football shirt he gets all carried away."

ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING

Dan Groombridge never usually scores, so when he did, for his team in Guildford, Surrey, he got booked for dancing around without his shorts on and with a bucket on his head. The surprising thing is he wasn't booked for taking his shorts off in the first place and where did he get a bucket from?

ORANGES AND LEMONS

Manager Luke Fairclough has come up with a novel idea to encourage his team, from Folkestone, Kent, to play better. If they're winning at half-time he'll let them have oranges and chocolate but if they're getting beat they have to have lemons and yoghurt.

BOY'S GOALPOST FEARS

Schoolboy Dan Deurden has had to quit football after an accident left him afraid of goalposts. He was a goalkeeper who was knocked unconscious and needed stitches after a metal crossbar fell on his head. Now the 7 year old from

Ecclestone, Lancashire has nightmares about the accident. Myerscough College, near Preston, was fined £3,500 after the incident.

ENJOYING THE GAME?

Premiership chiefs were in talks this week with big beer people Budweiser. The Americans have offered £45 million to sponsor the top league, £6 million more than Carling who have been the League's sponsors since it began in 1992. Surprisingly, however, it looks as if the Premiership are going to snub Bud's offer and remain loyal to Carling.

MIS-MATCH OF THE DAY

ITV has won Premiership backing to screen football highlights as early as 6pm it was revealed this week. The ITV contract replaces Match of the Day in August. It was originally supposed to show highlights at 7pm with an extended version at 11pm but now ITV bosses, who paid £183 million for the Premiership TV rights, want to bring it forward by an hour, a move which has upset Sky TV, who fear it may interfere with their own plans. But ITV spokesman Paul Tyrell said: "We have not had any contact from any other broadcaster. Any conversations have been with the Premier clubs and all 20 chairmen have given their full support."



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2000
PROFESSIONAL PLAYER PERFORMANCE

In Town Today

Luton Town



This evening we welcome Luton Town to Boundary Park for the rescheduled Nationwide League Division Two game which should have taken place initially on 24th November last.

At the minute the Hatters, currently managed by Lil Fuccillo, vastly experienced in the game of soccer, are struggling and if you glance at the league table on the 'stats' page you will see that they are deep in relegation trouble.

With only one win away from home this season (surprisingly by 3-1 at promotion-chasing Stoke City) Luton have it all to do if they are to avoid being caught up in an and-of-season battle for survival. They haven't played too badly at times (especially away) but on reflection it's their dismal home record that is letting them down badly. Prior to these notes being compiled, the Kenilworth Road side had lost NINE times in front of their own supporters so far this season....and that certainly spells trouble. On the road they have played twelve games, drawing five and losing six. Ex-player Fuccillo knows all too well that's it's going to be a hard, long slog from now until the curtain comes down in May and if Luton Town are to avoid relegation then one suspects that they will have to gain at least 44 points - and bearing in mind their current plight and indeed, points tally, it will take one enormous effort to escape from the trap-door leading into Division Three. But as they say, the show isn't over until the fat lady sings and with 16 games still to play - and a total of 48 points up for grabs - the players of Luton Town will be fighting every inch of the way from now until the last ball is kicked (in earnest) in some four months time.

THE LUTON TOWN SQUAD

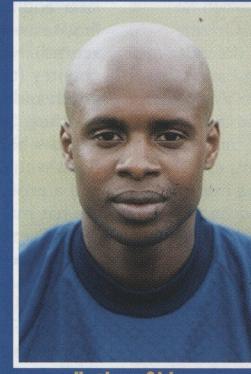
The players who are likely to be available for selection this evening are as follows:

IN GOAL

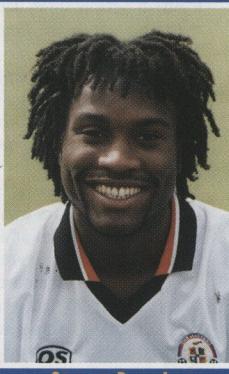
Mark Ovendale, aged 27, from Leicester, played for Wisbech Town, Northampton Town, Barry Town and Bournemouth before joining the Hatters last year. Standing 6ft 2ins tall and weighing over 13 stones he is one of the heftiest 'keepers in the Division and was, in fact, voted the Cherries' 'Player of the Season' last term.

IN DEFENCE

Emmerson Boyce (21) is a native of Aylesbury and joined Luton as a teenager, turning professional at Kenilworth Road in April 1998. He has now made 50 appearances for the Hatters as a right wing-back of central defender.



Nathan Abbey



Stuart Douglas

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In Town Today Luton Town

The experienced figure of Adrian Whitbread has been in competitive football action since 1989 when he made his debut for Leyton Orient. Since then the 29 year-old defender from within sight of Epping Forest, has also assisted Swindon Town, West Ham United and Portsmouth and moved to Luton last year after more than 150 senior appearances for Pompey. Scotsman Stuart Fraser was born in Edinburgh 20 years ago and was taken on the professional staff at Kenilworth Road in 1998 after two years as an apprentice. He passed the mini milestone of 50 first-class outings for the club earlier this season.

Oxford-born left-sided wing-back Matthew Taylor (19) graduated through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and has been a 'pro' with the Hatters since last February. He passed the 50-mark in appearances for the club earlier this season.

IN MIDFIELD

The 25 year-old Finnish international Petri Helin (from Helsinki) played in the 2000 World Cup qualifying match against England, and is likely to figure in many more forthcoming internationals. A positive player, with good vision and technique, he has been in good form of late following his transfer from FC Jockerit.

Adam Locke (30) is a native of Croydon, Surrey who joined Luton in August 1999 from Bristol City. He started his career with Crystal Palace in 1988 and has also assisted Southend United and Colchester United. A forceful competitor, he has now amassed in excess of 300 league and Cup appearances at club level.

Liam George is a goal-scoring midfielder with a terrific engine. He huffs and puffs for the full 90 minutes, never shirks responsibility and motors on regardless. A local lad who will be

22 next month, he joined Luton initially in 1995, turned professional two years later and has now accumulated over 90 first-team appearances (almost 20 goals scored). He has represented his country (the Republic of Ireland) at youth and Under-21 levels.

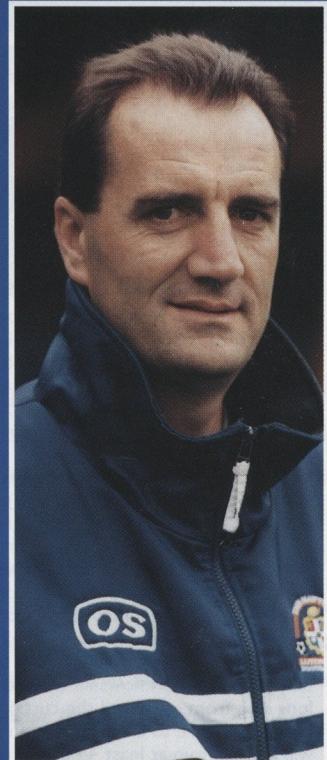
Matthew Spring is a 21 year-old Harlow-born professional who has been with the Hatters almost five years and a professional for just over three. He has made close on 150 first-class appearances for the Hatters, manning midfield tenaciously with gusto and total commitment.

IN ATTACK

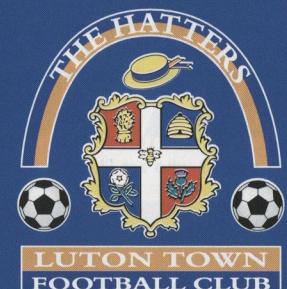
Andrew Fotiadis has already netted some fine goals this season - with more to come (he hopes). The 23 year-old striker from Hitchin has developed through the junior, intermediate and reserve teams at Luton and is now an established member of the squad. He has been a 'pro' since July 1996 and has over 100 senior games under his belt (12 goals).

Lee Nogan, a 31 year-old Welshman from Cardiff, is a proven goalscorer, having already netted over 100 times while playing for Oxford United, Brentford, Southend United, Watford, Reading, Notts County, Grimsby Town, Darlington and of course Luton Town, whom he joined last year from Blundell Park. Capped by Wales at senior, B' and Under-21 levels, he made his Football League debut way back in 1987 (for Oxford).

Mark Stein is also an experienced and proven marksman who has also registered plenty of goals - over 200 in fact at various levels. Born in Capetown, South Africa in January 1966, Stein in fact first joined the Hatters back in 1984 and returned to Kenilworth Road last year having served, in between times, Aldershot,



Lil Fuccillo - Manager



Marvin Johnson - Captain



QPR, Oxford United, Stoke City, Chelsea, Ipswich Town and AFC Bournemouth. A former England youth international, he gained a League Cup winners' medal with the Hatters in 1988.

Lee mansell (only 18) scored on his debut for the Hatters a week ago in the FA Cup replay with QPR. A sharp, darting little player, he is looks set for a big future in the game.

IN RESERVE

Nathan Abbey (aged 22), a former YTS lad, is the second-string goalkeeper who is pushing hard for a first team place.

Marvin Johnson (32) has been a professional with the Hatters since 1986 and has now starred in over 400 competitive games. He was out of contract at the end of last season but has shown his dedication to the club by staying on for at least another year.

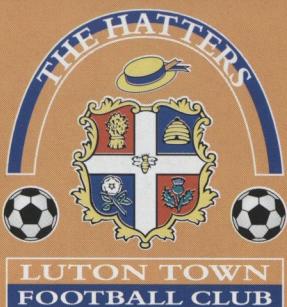
Stuart Douglas (22) comes from Enfield and is a pacy striker who has been at Kenilworth Road since 1994 and a professional since 1996. He began this season with 18 goals to his credit in 139 appearances.

Young Peter Holmes has risen through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and is now looking to establish himself in the senior squad, whereas Tresor Kandol (19) from Zaire was voted the club's 'Young Footballer of the Year' last term, and finally we have the former

Leicester City defender Julian Watts (29) who has been out of action of late but is vastly experienced, having chalked up some 225 senior appearances at club since making his debut for Rotherham United in 1990. He joined the Hatters from Bristol City in August 1999 after loan spells with Blackpool and Lincoln City.

IN CHARGE

Lil Fuccillo took over the reins at Kenilworth Road earlier this season from Lennie Lawrence who left the



In Fact

- Syd Owen, the former England centre-half, played his last senior game for Luton Town at Wembley, as the losing skipper in the 1959 FA Cup Final v Nottingham Forest.

- On 30 November 1946 the Hatters were 3-0 down to Newcastle United at half-time in a Second Division match. After a serious chat over a cuppa, they came out for the second period with their sleeves rolled up and raced to a 4-3 win.

- David Pleat was Luton's manager from 1978-86 and again from 1991-95....total 12 years.

- The Hatters drew their first-ever League game 1-1 with Leicester Fosse in September 1897 (Division 2).

- Joe Payne scored 10 goals when Luton hammered Bristol Rovers 12-0 in a home Second Division match in 1936.

club after a series of disappointing results.

The 44 year-old former midfielder with the club, knows what the game's all about and is determined to steer the Hatters to safety.

Bedford-born, he started his career as an apprentice with Luton at the age of 16 and has never really looked back on the game of soccer. He made over 180 appearances during his ten years at Kenilworth Road, helping the Hatters reach the old First Division. He wound down his playing career in the USA before returning to the UK, initially as a coach, before taking charge of Peterborough United. He then had spells as a coach with both Sheffield Wednesday and Barnet and finally completed the full circle by returning to Luton last year.

He said: "We need everybody on deck to get us out of this mess. Ultimately it can't come from me or any other manager - it has to come from the players who will be performing out there on the pitch."



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WELCOME SEAN



Sean Jarvis, age 34, took up his new post of Marketing & PR Manager at Boundary Park last week with the clear motive to 'drive' Latics of field activities into the 21st century. Sean has ten years experience of working in a sporting environment and was part of the team that helped develop summer rugby's Super League brand in conjunction with Sky Television and Bass plc. Sean intends to bring new ideas and improve the communication between the fans and the football club and shortly will be sanctioning exit and entry polls to gain the supporters views on Oldham Athletic.

Sean commented "I am very much a team player and we shall have a flat management structure in the commercial department with positive inputs from commercial manager Bob Gorrill and with Gordon Lawton's huge experience together the team can drive Latics into the technological age.

The new position has been created thanks in part to Athletic's initiative in signing up to the Nationwide League - NTL joint development accord which has already earned Latics £150,000 in rights fees.


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The Time of my life.... Matthew Tipton

Matthew Tipton, Latics Welsh dragon, has yet to set the first-team ablaze. The 20-year-old striker admits he has underachieved in the three years since his senior bow.

Tipton has scored seven League goals in 74 matches - admittedly he has made more substitute appearances than starts - and knows there is a lot more to come. He explained: "I have not done myself justice in the first team and performed as I can do.

"Everything falls for me in the reserves, but it simply isn't happening when I step up. Perhaps I need a couple of goals to set me off and give my confidence a lift."

It has still been an eventful short career for Tipton who made his first-team debut at the age of 17 and here he reflects on some of the key moments so far.

JOINING LATICS

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but because of the travelling from Bangor only usually went to train with them during the school holidays. Latics began a Centre of Excellence at Colwyn Bay which was close to home so I began going there. Willie Donachie and Andy Holden coached us and I enjoyed it and I liked the set up at Oldham. Though I supported Liverpool, and I would have loved to have joined them, I felt I stood a better chance with Latics and so it has proved.

LATICS DEBUT

Neil Warnock gave me my chance in the Auto Windscreens Shield at Carlisle in December 1997. My first League appearance was a substitute a couple of months later in the home defeat by Blackpool.. I came on with about 10 minutes left and no sooner had I stepped on to the pitch than Ronnie Jepson was sent off. My full League debut was at Chesterfield in February 1998, though it was the following season after Andy Ritchie took over that I got my first proper run.

FIRST GOAL

That was special in many respects, one being that it was against Wrexham which is the nearest League club to where I live. It was also our winner in our 3-2 victory and it was later voted Sky Sports goal of the weekend, which was pleasing.

MEMORABLE STRIKES

Obviously the one against Wrexham was special, but a number have stood out this season. I scored from 40 yards against Wolves reserves and struck a great volley from 20 yards versus Rotherham, also in a second-team game. Then in the F.A. Cup tie at Hednesford I struck a daisy cutter which flew in from 25 yards.

GOALSCORING FEATS

When I was playing junior football I once scored 178 goals in one season and I hit over 100 goals in five consecutive seasons. I have found the net 13 times in one game on two occasions. Here in the reserves two is my biggest haul while it is one for the first

team.

HIGHLIGHTS

I came on for the last 15 minutes against Chelsea in the F.A. Cup and that was a massive game. I also played in our win at Manchester City, then there was our League double against Wigan Athletic last season. These are the sort of games you strive to play in. Playing for Wales under-21's has also been a thrill as it is an honour to play for your country at any level.

COMPETITION

There is tremendous competition for forward places and our strikers know if they don't perform they will be out of the side. Carlo Corazzin and Mark Allott have been doing well while Craig Dudley was on fire until he was injured. In my case it has been biding my time and when the chance comes take it. The recent 'flu virus which swept through the club gave me another opportunity and I don't think I have done myself any harm.

FAVOURITE CO-STRIKER

In the reserves I struck up good partnerships with Mark Allott and Ryan Sugden but unfortunately we haven't been able to

reproduce it in the first-team. I try to learn from all our strikers who all have their own qualities. Carlo is strong and holds the ball up well while Mark is also good at keeping possession and Craig has terrific pace. I have also picked up a lot of tips from the gaffer who was himself a top striker. While there is a great rivalry between us we all help and encourage each other.

TOUGHEST DEFENDER

Chelsea's Marcel Desailly is the biggest name I have come up against, but nobody has given me a particularly tough time. The player who has been the hardest to play against is probably Shaun Garnett in training as he is a good solid defender.

FUTURE GOALS

My next ambition is to establish a regular first-team place and to score goals at that level. The Premiership is where every player dreams of playing, and I am no exception. But before I can look that far ahead I must make a mark here.



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Surfing Nationwide



Bournemouth
On-loan Jermaine Defoe has equalled a post-war record by scoring in nine League games in a row. Only John Aldridge and Wrexham's Kevin Russell have matched the feat. Defoe, on a season's loan transfer from West Ham, broke a 78-year-old club record when he found the net in eight successive League matches.



Brentford A ground share with either Woking or Kingstonian is a distinct possibility next season if Griffin Park is sold to developers. The Bees have identified four, possibly five, sites for a new stadium.



Bristol City Unsettled defender Ivan Tistimetanu, worried that a failure to hold down a regular place may jeopardize his international prospects has been loaned to FC Zimbru in his native Moldova.



Bristol Rovers The Pirates, still struggling to replace Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton, are reported to have agreed a £400,000 fee with Bradford for striker Isiah Rankine.



Bury It is raining pennies from heaven for the cash-strapped Shakers who are to receive a £380,000 cut from the £3 million sale of former player David Johnson from Ipswich to Nottingham Forest. An eagle-eyed reporter saved Bury a hefty fine and possible loss of points after noticing Darren Bullock in their line-up to play Cambridge when he was suspended.

Bullock did not know he had been sent off for arguing with a referee's assistant believing he had simply been told to sit on the bench.



Cambridge United Beaten at non-League Morecambe in the F.A. Cup, there was more misery with a defeat away to Third Division Southend in the LDV Vans Trophy.



Colchester United The £15,000 capture of Barnet's Scott McGleish ended Steve Whitton's lengthy search for a striker. They nervously shelved interest in Southend's Martin Carruthers after being quoted an asking price of £150,000.

Luton Town Lil Fuccillo is having a clear out handing free



transfers to Gavin McGowan, Rocky Baptiste, James Ayres and Dean Brennan. The Hatters manager is keen to sign Portsmouth defender Adrian Whitbread, who has been on loan, on a permanent basis.



Millwall The Lions continue to set the pace at the top of the table, though manager McGhee has warned his players they may have to change their passing style of play because of the poor state of the pitch at the New Den.



Northampton Town Long-serving club captain Ian Sampson has been awarded a testimonial after eight years and over 300 first-team appearances.



Notts County It was very much the case of the early and late show in the 2-2 draw at Cambridge. Mark Stallard scored one of the quickest goals of the season in 33 seconds, but Jockey Scott's side was denied maximum points by a 93rd minute equaliser from Cambridge player-coach John Taylor.

Oxford United David Kemp



has been busy in the transfer market splashing out £75,000 each for Brentford striker Andy Scotland and midfield player Robert Quinn and loaning Garry Monk from Southampton.



Peterborough United Barry Fry has recalled striker Drew Broughton from Conference club Dagenham and Redbridge because of injury problems at London Road.



Port Vale Tommy Widdrington was the match-winner in the 1-0 win at Swindon which lifted the Potteries side out of the relegation places and eased the pressure on manager Brian Horton.



Reading The Royals' promotion bid may have faltered in recent weeks but they continue to draw in the crowds with their average of 11,759 second only in size to Stoke.



Rotherham Ronnie Moore has fined defender Marvin Bryan a week's wages and put him on the transfer list after he refused to



Nationwide

FOOTBALL LEAGUE



be a substitute in the F.A. Cup tie at Liverpool feeling he should have been in the starting line-up.



Stoke City Defender Mikael Hansson has signed a 12-month extension to his contract with the Potters to end speculation about his future.



Swansea City The Football Association of Wales have confirmed that the

Swans' appeal against Jason Smith's sending off at Wigan warrants further investigation. Wigan manager Bruce Rioch even confessed to being "astonished" by the referee's decision to produce a red card for a seemingly innocuous challenge on Andy Liddell.



Swindon Town Kyle Lightbourne has arrived on a month's loan from Stoke City but Andy King failed in an audacious bid to land Stan Collymore from Bradford City.



Walsall If the Saddlers fail to win promotion it will be because of their disappointing away form with the defeat at bottom-club Oxford their

sixth League loss on their travels.



Wigan Athletic The Latics are being linked with Everton striker Phil Jevans, but their is little likelihood of Manchester City being receptive in any move for striker Shaun Goater, another reported target.



Wrexham The Welsh side continues to struggle to pull in the crowds, their average is 3,707 with only Colchester and Bury attracting fewer punters. Wrexham's lowest attendance has been 1,584. Goalkeeper Kevin Dearden has been voted Second Division player of the month by Match Magazine.



Wycombe Wanderers Andy Rammell's goals since his early-season transfer from Walsall - he has found the net 10 times - is keeping Lawrie Sanchez's side in contention for a play-off place.



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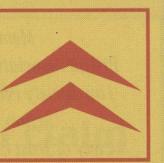
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The A to Z of Latics

RHODES, Andy



Goalkeeper Andy Rhodes (born in August 1964 at Askem) played for Barnsley and Doncaster Rovers before switching to Boundary Park

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in March 1988 for £55,000. He went on to play in 69 League games for the Latics prior to his transfer to Airdrieonians in 1990. He then moved onto Scarborough where he ended his senior career in 1998 with some 150 League and Cup games under his belt at club level.

RICHARDSON, Stuart

Yorkshireman Stuart Richardson was born in Leeds in June 1938 and played his early football with Methley United before entering League action with QPR in 1956. A wing-half he failed to make an impression at Loftus Road and switched to Boundary Park in July 1959. He remained with the Latics until June 1960 having made 22 League appearances in just the one season with the club.

RIDDING, Bill

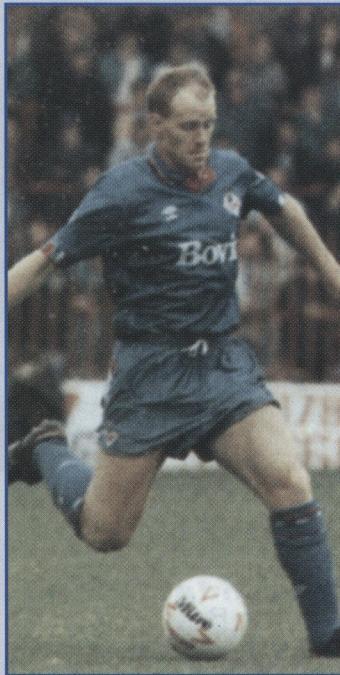
After a relatively short playing career which ended in 1936 through injury, Bill Riddings later completed 22 years' service with our neighbours Bolton Wanderers, first as a trainer from 1946, then as team manager from 1951 and lastly as secretary-manager from January 1957 until August 1968 when he retired. An inside-forward, he played

his League football with Tranmere Rovers (two spells), Manchester City, Manchester United, Northampton Town and Oldham Athletic, serving the Latics for barely two months: October/November 1935 (making one appearance). He became Tranmere's manager in 1939, holding office until 1945. A year later he went to Burnden Park and trained the England squad for the 1950 World Cup Finals before leading Bolton to two FA Cup Finals at Wembley as their manager, firstly in 1953 versus Blackpool (lost 4-3) and then 1958 versus Manchester United (won 2-0). He later ran his own physiotherapy business and was physio for a while to the Lancashire CCC. Riddings died in Bolton in 1981, aged 70.

RITCHIE, Andy

As a player Andy Ritchie was an out-and-out striker who served in turn with Manchester United (apprentice, 1975, professional 1977), Brighton & Hove Albion (1980-83), Leeds United (1983-87), Oldham Athletic (1987-95), Scarborough (1995-97) and the Latics again, taking over as manager at Boundary Park in May 1998 from Neil Warnock. Born in Manchester

Tony Matthews continues his series of Oldham Athletic through the Alphabet



in November 1960, Ritchie netted well over 200 goals at first-class level in some 650 competitive matches. His record as a player with the Latics was 108 goals in 277 outings before he retired (to concentrate on management) last year. Capped by England at schoolboy, youth and Under-21 level, he helped the Latics win the Second Division championship in 1991, compete in the Premiership and play at Wembley.

ROBBINS, Pat

Opus-side-left pat Robbins scored 14 goals in 80 league games for the Latics during his time with the club: May 1935 to June 1938. Before moving to Boundary park he had served with Middlesbrough and Blackburn Rovers and after leaving the club he played for Hartlepool United and Accrington Stanley. He was born in Birr, Ireland in 1914.

ROBERTS, Charlie

Centre-half Charlie Roberts was one of the best 'stoppers' in the game before the First World War. Born in Darlington in April 1883, he played initially for Bishop Auckland and then Grimsby Town before becoming a star performer with Manchester United who he helped win the Football League title twice and the FA Cup once in the space of three seasons (1908-11). He moved to Boundary park in August 1913 and went on to appear in 68 League games for the Latics (4 goals scored) before announcing his retirement during WWI. In June 1921

was appointed manager of Oldham Athletic, a position he held until December 1922. Capped three times by England (with United) Roberts was a founder member of the Players' Union (the PFA) and acted as its chairman until 1921. He died in Manchester in 1938, aged 56.

ROBINS, Ian

Scorer of 40 goals in 210 league games for the Latics, utility forward Ian Robins gave the club excellent service for 12 years up until 1977 when he moved to Bury, where he was born in February 1952. Signed as a junior by Athletic in 1965, he made his senior debut against Port Vale in 1969 and five years later helped the team win the Third Division championship. He left Gigg Lane for Huddersfield Town in September 1978 and two years later added a Fourth Division championship medal to his tally with the Terriers. Altogether Robins made over 450 senior appearances for his three clubs and bagged more than a century of goals.

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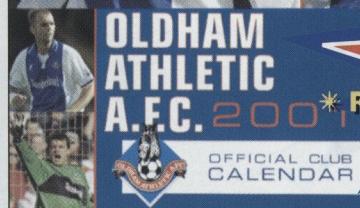
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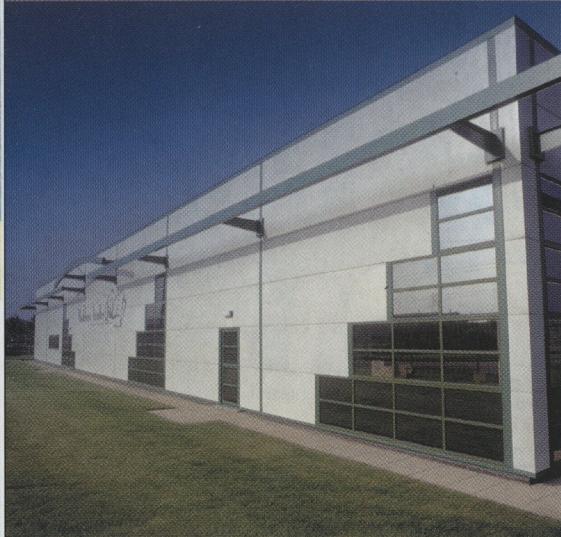
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Take a look around the Oldham of the 21st century and you won't fail to be impressed with what's been achieved. There are now huge efforts taking place to ensure that the Borough remains in its rightful place at the hub of the North West region.

Two hundred million pounds and more has been invested in turning the town centre into a modern and vibrant place to shop and work. Money has also been spent regenerating and renewing areas like Westwood, Glodwick, Fitton Hill and Hathershaw, and building 23 new schools in just 20 years. An exciting new town centre Cultural Quarter is taking shape; new industry, new investment and more tourists are coming to the Borough and a state-of-the-art Business Management School is being built.

Oldham is already at the heart of the motorway network, but will undoubtedly benefit from the completion of the M60. Metrolink is also coming to the town, and the brand new £3.4 million central bus station is completed this year.



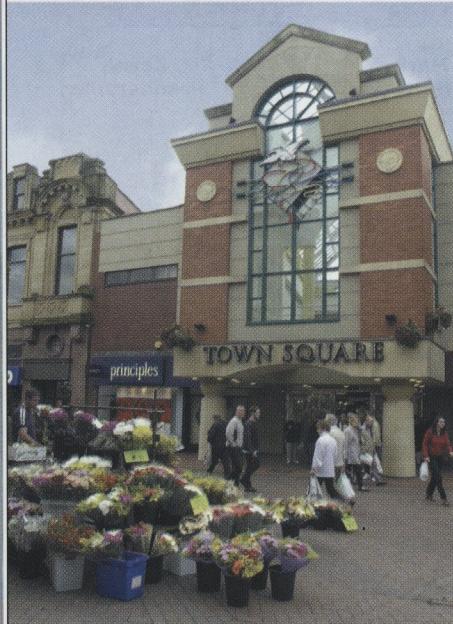
Huddersfield Narrow Canal

There are many other reasons which make Oldham a desirable place to live, work and visit - its reputation for hard work, commitment and down to earth friendliness are just some of them.

Put them all together and they make Oldham a leading player at the heart of the North West.

Enquiries about projects being undertaken by the Council, or any of its policies, to the Marketing and Communications Unit, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG,

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Oldham Metropolitan Borough

Goalden Boys

Darron McDonagh spent most of his career stopping opposing strikers from scoring.



But there was a spell when Latics manager Joe Royle switched McDonagh from back to front because of an injury crisis.

What had been envisaged as a stand-in spot became a permanent striking slot for most of the 1982/83 season and early part of the next campaign.

McDonagh, who was a central defender for the most part, took to his goalscoring brief with some aplomb finding the net 11 times in 1982/83 and proving an effective foil for Rodger Wylde who hit 19 that season.

Later McDonagh's career took him to tonight's visitors Luton and Newcastle where a snapped Achilles tendon ended his playing days after only three appearances.

Here McDonagh, who is a foreman with Oldham building firm Maysand, recalls some of the goal-den moments from his career.

STRIKING BRIEF

Like most kids I always fancied myself as a striker, but attacking midfield had been the furthest forward I had been. The team was struggling for strikers and Joe asked me if I fancied a go. I didn't need asking twice and things started very well. But after seven or eight games of the

second season the goals dried up and I requested a return to centre half or midfield.

BEST GOAL

I was lucky to score on my League debut in a 2-0 win at Notts County on December 13, 1980. I was playing on the left side of midfield and received a long ball from Ged Keegan. I cut in and curled a shot from 20 yards into the top corner. Sadly the Oldham Chronicle photographer's camera wasn't working so he didn't capture the goal. I was gutted that I had no record of it.

IMPORTANT STRIKES

We made a great start to the 1982/83 season and were unbeaten in our first nine League games. We won 2-1 at Norwich and I scored with a header from the corner of the penalty area. It was my only goal that season, but an important one. Joe Royle was playing for Norwich that day.

OTHER GOALS TO SAVOUR

When I was at Luton I put £10 on myself to score the opening goal against Derby at 22-1 and I got the only one in a 1-0 win. What made it even more special was that it was against Peter Shilton. My first goal for Luton was past Ray Clemence in a 3-1 victory over Tottenham, so I have scored against the top two 'keepers of that era.

HONOURS

I was a substitute in the League Cup Final of 1989 when Luton lost 3-1 to Nottingham Forest, and came on for the last 20 minutes. The second time I played at Wembley Luton lost 4-1 to Reading in the final of the Simod Cup.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

I ought to have played in the 1988 League Cup Final when we beat Arsenal 2-1. Five minutes before the end of our last training session before Wembley I snapped knee ligaments. It was the biggest disappointment of my career.

HIGHLIGHTS

When Kevin Keegan took his first job in management at Newcastle I was his first signing which is something nice to look back on. But the dream move became a nightmare as I only played three games. I had a hernia operation and after two reserve games snapped my Achilles, the injury which finished my playing days.

BEST STRIKE PARTNER

Rodger Wylde and I struck up a good understanding and had some good times. I did the kicking and he picked up the scraps. I can claim to have made the 100th League goal of Rodger's career.

TOUGHEST DEFENDERS

I had a couple of run-ins with Mick McCarthy when he was at Manchester City and Barnsley. But I preferred playing against somebody like that because you knew what you were up against. I also had a right tussle with Kenny Burns.

TOP STRIKER CONFRONTED

When I was playing centre half we played Liverpool in the League Cup when they were the top team in the land. We lost 3-0 at Anfield then 5-2 here and Ian Rush, who was then at his peak, was frightening. Rush was the best, though I have also played against Kenny Dalglish, Mark Hughes and Gary Lineker.

FAVOURITE GROUND

I loved playing at Anfield, Highbury, Old Trafford, Villa Park and Hillsborough, all great stadiums. I found Wembley more of an occasion, but preferred the feel of those other grounds.

FUTURE GOALS

After I finished playing I built my own home and that is how I came to work in that trade. I am a foreman with Maysand, an Oldham-based firm and I am enjoying working for them. It is different to being a footballer, but I find it interesting and they are a good company to be with.

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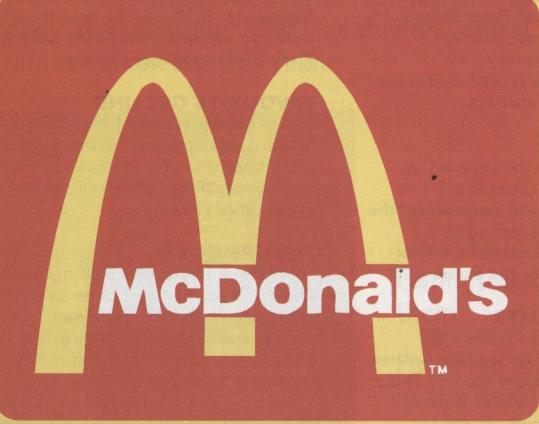
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Stats & Facts

Stats compiled
by Football
Information
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Goalscoring Head 2 Head

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

Where

9	12
15	12
4	3

(CLOSE RANGE, INSIDE AREA, OUTSIDE AREA)

How

5	8
7	4
2	0
0	2
2	1
12	12

(HEADERS, VOLLEYED, FREE KICKS, PENALTIES, OWN GOALS, SHOTS)

Latics' Results

OLDHAM GOALS	LUTON GOALS
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 2 1
0 4 2 2	1 2 3 2
1 2 6 1 1	2 2 3 1
3 1 3 1	3 3 2 1
4 1	4 1 1 1
6	5
7	6

OPPOSITION GOALS

OPPOSITION GOALS</

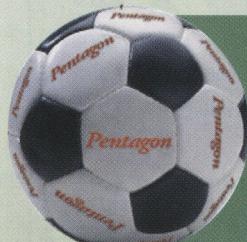


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FIFA Favours Football Shutdown

Tony Bugby's Football Focus

It is beginning to look inevitable that football in this country will soon have a mid-winter break. And it has nothing to do with the recent icy blast, though that inevitably brought about renewed calls for a cessation.

As FIFA draws up plans to co-ordinate an international calendar, a mid-season halt to playing is likely to be incorporated. That would put England in line with the other major footballing nations in Europe who all have a breather.

But the length of the stoppage varies enormously from 13 days in Italy to Germany who have a shutdown lasting 40 days. France, Spain, Portugal and Belgium all enjoy winter breaks which essentially cover the Christmas/New Year period. Scotland's Premier League is the exception as they close down after the Festive period on

January 3 and don't resume playing until January 30. If FIFA stipulate a mid-season break here has to cover the holiday period it is going to bring about a change to football culture. Christmas/New Year is traditionally a time for football - there were four fixtures in a 10-day period this year.

The main argument for the break, surprisingly, is not to avoid the icy chills of winter, but to give leg-weary players the chance to rest. If the prime reason for the shutdown was to avoid the worst weather, how could FIFA find a perfect time?

It is impossible to forecast when the big freeze will arrive - it can be anytime between early December and mid-March.

This season has seen an additional problem caused by the wettest autumn on record causing untold havoc to the fixture list.

The worst scenario is to have break and then to have the resumption delayed through bad weather, a distinct possibility in our unpredictable climate.

It appears the prime motive, however, is to give players a well-earned break.

The demands of today's top players are enormous, both physically from playing and mentally as they are also under the constant glare of the media in its many guises.

There are a couple of downsides to a midseason break with the 'season as a result likely to encroach further into our summer.

Long gone are the days - and in

the not-too-distant past - when the season started in the last week in August and finished on the last Saturday in April with the F.A. Cup Final on the first weekend in May.

Today the F.A. Cup Final is usually in the third week of May while the campaign kicks off in the first half of August.

To incorporate a mid-season break the season would have to extend into June.

There is also one lobby in FIFA which favours a world-wide season from February to November and playing throughout the summer.

That would mean a complete change in our outlook - summer rugby hasn't been huge hit. That was introduced because it was envisaged more would turn out in the better weather.

We are traditionalists in this country, however, and change doesn't go down well.

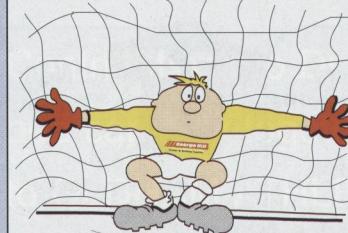
A switch to summer soccer would surely also have a detrimental effect on cricket should the two sports clash directly.

The overlapping of the seasons has increased and undoubtedly has hit cricket for six.

In the past there were a handful of professionals who excelled at both sports - Chris Balderstone, Phil Neale, Arnold Sidebottom, Steve Ogrizovic from recent times.

But today such occurrences are unheard of because it is now impossible to double up because of the ever-increasing length of the football season.

SAFE HANDS



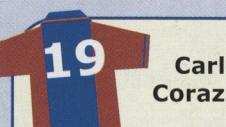
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The Sett

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Football in the Community



OLDHAM POLICE DIVISION MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS

P.C. David Watson from Oldham Police contacted me prior to Christmas requesting 200 complimentary tickets. These would be given out to groups of 11 to 18 year old youngsters at an awards ceremony on Wednesday 10th January. Oldham Police have been involved in the Make a Difference project for some years.

The scheme is about groups of young people being actively involved in improving their communities.

Examples of these initiatives include in the Royton area youngsters from Royton & Crompton School providing 50 senior citizens with Christmas hampers and a package containing Christmas emergency numbers for all the utilities, local services and UV marker pens and crime prevention literature.

From the Sholver area of town two classrooms of a local school re-decorated by the local youth group

St Marys local youth have produced a short play that deals with issues of racism in the community At Derker a kick pitch created by local youth in the Afghan St area for children.

These are just some of the excellent projects carried out by the borough's young people who were all gathered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on

Wednesday 10th January.

Make a Difference is sponsored at force level by Norman Stoller of SSL International and provided the local winning team with a prize of £400 and the force winner with £4000. Locally the Roxy Cinema provided the winning team with a bundle of cinema tickets.

I was on hand to represent Oldham Athletic to hand over the 200 complimentary tickets to all the children that took part. The evening was very uplifting and just shows what youngsters will do when given the right encouragement.

SENIOR CITIZENS TEA DANCES

Last Wednesday 17th January was the date for our first monthly dance of the year in the Clayton Arms at Oldham Athletic.

The Christmas dance held on the 3rd December was a success with approximately 50 people taking part in the festivities.

The dances are all free of charge and take place between 1pm and 4pm.

The next dance will take place on Wednesday 14th February and if you know of anyone interested in attending please let them know.

AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

Last week saw the resumption of the regular weekly after-school football and games sessions at St Margarets, Mather St and St Thomas, Werneth junior schools.

Each week approximately 20 children stay after school to take part in the games sessions. When the lighter nights and hopefully dryer weather arrives further after schools sessions will be arranged.

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Lowest Gate
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vs Cambridge

Highest
Aggregate
Score
Brentford 2
Bristol Rovers .6
Bristol City 6
Cambridge 2

Biggest
Home Win
Cambridge 6
Rotherham 1

Reading 5
Oldham 0
Millwall 5
Oxford 0
Millwall 6
Colchester 1

Biggest
Away Win
Brentford 2
Bristol Rovers .6

Consec. Wins
Walsall 5

Games
Unbeaten
Wigan 18

Consec. Defeats
Bury 5

Winless Run
Cambridge 12

Total Games
306

Home Wins
134 44%

Away Wins
88 29%

Draws
84 27%

1-1 Draws
37 12%

0-0 Draws
26 8%

Nationwide2Stats

Div.2 Results Grid

HOME GOALS							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	26	31	17	11	8	2	
1	31	37	23	17	5	3	2
2	13	15	17	12	1		1
3	8	6	5	4	1		
4	4						
5		1					
6		1					
7							
8							

clubs below, read
across row to right
for Big Wins/Defeats
and last 5 results

for clubs below, read
across row to right
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3000 6000 9000 12000 15000

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Bristol City

Bristol Rovers

Bury

Cambridge

Colchester

Luton

Millwall

Northampton

Notts County

Oldham

Oxford

Peterborough

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Stoke

Swansea

Swindon

Walsall

Wigan

Wrexham

Wycombe

Win - vs.
Defeat - vs.

LWWLW

LDWDW

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Last 5 Home
Results

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Referees Report

G	RC	YC	Av.Yell
17	10	78	4.59
13	4	58	4.46
8	4	35	4.38
16	4	70	4.38
13	0	56	4.31
16	8	64	4.00
14	2	56	4.00
11	5	43	3.91
15	3	58	3.87
16	9	61	3.81
16	2	61	3.81
12	0	45	3.75
14	3	50	3.57
7	2	25	3.57
15	4	53	3.53

Hotshots - Div.2 Clubs' most prolific marksmen, inc. the difference their goals made

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	1st Gl	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms Ave	W:L	W:D	D:L	Pts	Run	Dry	Numbers	Last 5 Away Results
Bournemouth	Defoe	11	3	7	2	0	9	1.22	1	2	1	8	9	0	LWWWD
Brentford	Evans	4	0	4	0	0	25	0.16	0	2	1	5	1	9	WLWDL
Bristol City	Thorpe	14	3	6	1	2	24	0.58	1	2	2	9	2	5	WWLLD
Bristol Rovers	Ellington	6	2	4	1	0	21	0.29	0	0	4	4	3	10	WLDLL
Bury	Barnes	4	3	4	0	0	11	0.36	0	2	1	5	3	4	LLLLL
Cambridge	Youngs	10	2	6	2	0	24	0.42	0	3	2	8	3	5	DLLLW
Colchester	Duguid	4	2	4	0	0	21	0.19	0	1	1	3	2	7	WWWDL
Luton	Stein	3	3	3	0	0	18	0.17	0	0	0	0	1	8	DLWLL
Millwall	Harris	20	7	7	2	3	25	0.80	1	4	1	12	3	3	29 9 2
Northampton	Forrester	15	8	11	2	0	25	0.60	1	4	5	16	5	4	25 7 7
Notts County	Stallard	11	6	11	0	0	23	0.48	0	5	2	12	3	4	WLDWD
Oldham	Allott	5	3	5	0	0	23	0.22	0	1	2	4	2	7	DDDDL
Oxford	Beauchamp	5	1	3	1	0	23	0.22	0	1	0	2	1	7	LWLLL
Peterborough	McKenzie	7	3	5	1	0	13	0.54	0	1	1	3	2	3	22 8 8
Port Vale	Naylor	6	2	2	2	0	20	0.30	0	1	0	2	2	5	LLLLW
Reading	Cureton	14	4	8	0	2	23	0.61	0	4	1	9	3	4	23 6 9
Rotherham	Robins	11	5	9	1	0	22	0.50	0	1	3	5	2	2	WLLDD
Stoke	Thorne	9	4	4	1	1	19	0.47	1	3	2	11	2	6	26 9 5
Swansea	Savarese	9	2	3	3	0	15	0.60	1	0	4	7	2		

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Away The lads



Nationwide League Division Two Notts County v Athletic Saturday 3rd

February, 2001
Kick off 3pm

Ticket details and prices
We have been allocated 5,500 seats in the Kop Stand. Prices: £13 adults, £7 Senior Citizens, Special Price for Juniors of just £2. Pay at the turnstiles on the day.

Travel by coach:
Standard Coach return fare: £8 Supporters Association Members £7.20
Coach departs from rear of Lookers Stand at 11.15am

Suggested Route
A627(M) to join M62 (Leeds). Leave M62 at junction 29 to join M1 South. Exit M1 at junction 26 (signposted Nottingham, Ilkeston A610). Follow signs for Nottingham then Melton Mowbray and Trent Bridge (A606), Before River Trent turn left into Meadow Lane.



Nationwide League Division Two Bristol City v Athletic

Saturday 17th February, 2001
Kick off 3pm

Ticket details and prices
We have been allocated 2,800 seats behind goal. Prices: £13 adults £10 OAP/Student (student) £8 juniors

NO TICKETS - ALL PAY AT THE TURNSTILES ON THE DAY

Travel by coach
Standard Coach return fare: £12.50

Supporters Association Members £11.25

Executive Coach return fare: £15.00
Supporters Association Members £13.50

Both coaches depart from the rear of the Lookers stand at 9.15am

Suggested Route
M6 South to join M5. Continue with M5 to junction 16 then take A38 to Bristol City Centre and follow A38 Taunton sign. Cross swing bridge (approx 1.1/4 miles) and bear left into Winterstoke Road.

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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO																		
	P	D	W	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	G.D.	Pts				
Millwall	26	9	1	3	31	10	8	2	3	26	18	29	54					
Wigan	27	10	3	0	19	7	3	8	3	17	16	13	50					
Walsall	26	10	3	0	29	10	4	3	6	14	17	16	48					
Rotherham	25	6	4	3	24	16	7	3	2	16	11	13	46					
Stoke	26	7	3	3	18	10	5	6	2	22	17	13	45					
Reading	25	9	2	2	40	15	3	3	6	12	18	19	41					
Bristol City	26	6	3	4	30	17	5	5	3	14	10	17	41					
Northampton	26	5	4	3	16	14	6	3	5	16	16	2	40					
Wycombe	25	7	1	3	18	12	3	6	5	9	13	2	37					
Notts County	25	4	4	3	18	17	6	2	6	14	22	-7	36					
Brentford	25	5	6	2	17	17	3	5	4	13	18	-5	35					
Wrexham	25	5	3	5	15	17	4	4	4	20	20	-2	34					
Bournemouth	24	4	4	4	15	12	4	4	4	24	19	8	32					
Cambridge	26	5	5	3	22	15	3	3	7	15	27	-5	32					
Colchester	24	5	3	4	14	12	3	4	5	12	18	-4	31					
Oldham	26	5	4	4	16	15	2	6	5	11	20	-8	31					
Peterborough	25	6	3	3	17	12	2	3	8	12	21	-4	30					
Bury	25	5	4	4	12	14	3	1	8	10	19	-11	29					
Bristol Rovers	23	0	7	4	8	15	5	3	4	20	13	0	25					
Port Vale	23	4	5	4	18	12	2	1	7	5	17	-6	24					
Swansea	24	3	5	4	14	13	2	3	7	11	21	-9	23					
Swindon	25	3	4	6	16	24	3	1	8	7	20	-21	23					
Luton	25	3	1	9	13	24	1	5	6	14	25	-22	18					
Oxford	25	3	2	8	13	18	1	0	11	14	37	-28	14					

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Key to symbols

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- |¹⁷ sub & player replaced

club & player
replaced

17/1 sub & player
replaced/scorer

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The Final Word

Carlisle Chief Taken For a Ride

Writes Tony Bugby

One of the most bizarre footballing stories of the season was Stephen Brown's audacious bid to buy a 25-percent stake in Carlisle United.

Brown, who boasted of acquiring a £6 million fortune, was discovered to be a former curry house barman whose wife is a janitor at an old folks' home in Peebles.

And to demonstrate the true state of his finances we learned that he drives an elderly Vauxhall Cavalier. Suffice to say Brown could not come up with the required amount of cash and the deal collapsed.

So Ian Atkins' job is safe because he had threatened to sack the manager even though he had only seen them play once.

Though Brown didn't attend football matches regularly he professed to understand the game and money could guarantee success.

Brown, described as a "blustering optimist" by one columnist, believed bottom place in the entire league was not a trap door but a springboard.

Carlisle owner Michael Knighton

professed to be shocked saying Brown had heaped horrendous embarrassment on him.

The incident mirrored something similar back in 1989 when Knighton tried to takeover Manchester United in a £10 million deal.

Who will ever forget Knighton, convinced he was the new chief, ball juggling pre-match on the Old Trafford pitch.

Then days late it emerged Knighton could not raise the revenue and the deal collapsed.

How Martin Edwards must have since sighed with relief with United's valuation soaring to £1 billion at one stage, though it has since slipped. It still makes £10 million look like loose change.

But looking back Knighton came within a whisker of taking over the world's biggest football club.

When Knighton breezed into Brunton Park he announced grandiose plans for Carlisle.

His goal was to bring Premiership football to Cumbria within 10 years.

Carlisle did win promotion to Division Two but, after a disappointing start to the next campaign, manager Mervyn Day was sacked in a panic.

I has been downhill ever since and who will ever forget that incredible finish to the 1998/99 campaign.

Carlisle were minutes from losing their League status until on-loan goalkeeper Jimmy Glass ventured upfield in a do-or-die move to score the dramatic goal which kept them up as Scarborough were relegated.

It looks like being another nail-biting finish with Carlisle bottom of the pile again.

So it is hardly surprising Knighton, who once claimed to have met aliens in an 'UFO', is so reviled in Carlisle as promises and dreams were unfulfilled. And it is somewhat rich when Knighton talks of Brown embarrassing him.

Judging from the stories you read - and providing they are as accurate as portrayed - the pair seem made for one another.

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2 ■ Scott McNiven
3 ■ Andrew Holt
4 ■ Shaun Garnett
5 ■ Lee Duxbury
6 ■ Paul Rickers
7 ■ John Sheridan
8 ■ Matthew Tipton
9 ■ Mark Innes
10 ■ Mark Allott
11 ■ David Miskelly
12 ■ Phil Salt
13 ■ Danny Walsh
14 ■ Ryan Sugden
15 ■ Craig Dudley
16 ■ Danny Boshell
17 ■ Carlo Corazzin
18 ■ Mark Hotte
19 ■ Barry Prenderville
20 ■ Andy Ritchie
21 ■ Neil Adams
22 ■ Jamie Campbell
23 ■ Ben Futcher
24 ■ David Eyres
25 ■ Paul Jones
31 ■ Tony Cars

Manager: Andy Ritchie

1 ■ Mark Ovendale
2 ■ Gavin McGowan
3 ■ Matthew Spring
4 ■ Julian Watts
5 ■ Marvin Johnson
6 ■ Peter Thomson
7 ■ Paul McLaren
8 ■ Stuart Dougles
9 ■ Mark Stein
10 ■ Liam George
11 ■ Adam Locke
12 ■ Stuart Fraser
13 ■ Andrew Fotiadis
14 ■ Matthew Taylor
15 ■ Nathan Abbey (GK)
16 ■ Emmerson Boyce
17 ■ Tresor Kandol
18 ■ James Ayres
19 ■ Peter Holmes
20 ■ Andre Scarlett
21 ■ Dean Brennan
22 ■ Jude Stirling
23 ■ Scott Ward (GK)
24 ■ Dean Standen
25 ■ Friedrich Breitenfelder
26 ■ Rocky Baptiste
27 ■ Kent Karlson
28 ■ Petri Helin
29 ■ Lee Nogan
30 ■ Lee Mansell
40 ■ Adrian Whitbread

Manager: Lil Fuccillo

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next games at Boundary Park

Nationwide League

Division Two

Saturday 27th

January, 2001

Athletic v Brentford

Kick off 3.00pm



Nationwide League

Division Two

Saturday 10th

February, 2001

Athletic v Wrexham

Kick off 3pm

