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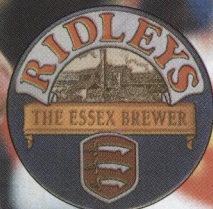
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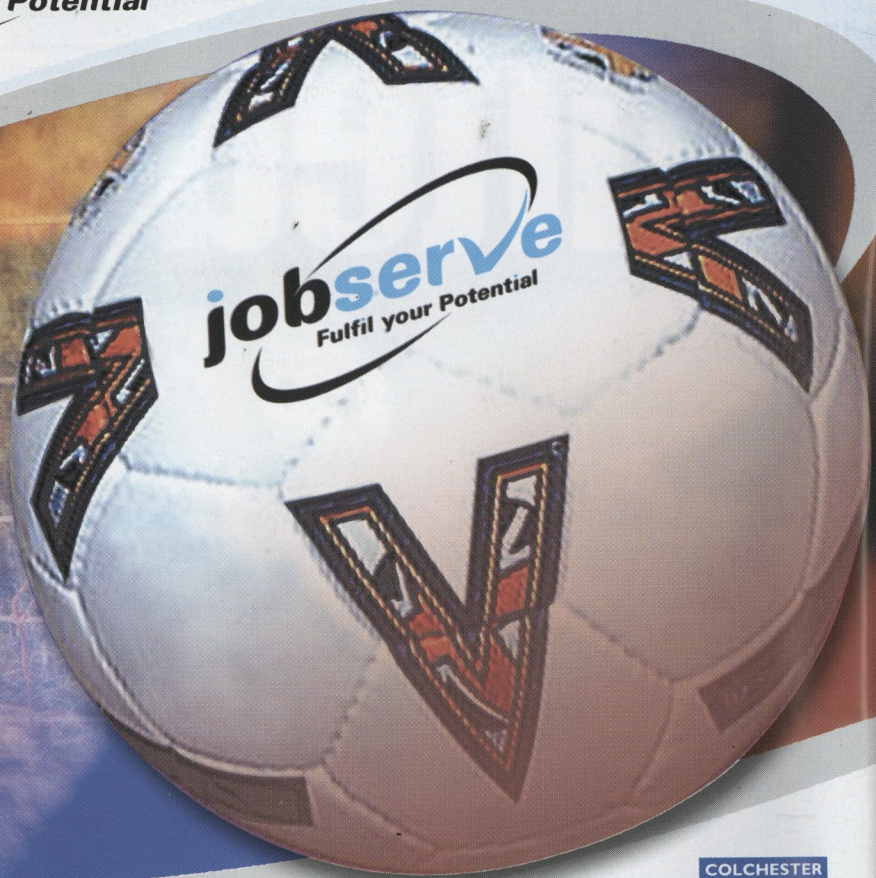


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v **Luton Town** Saturday 31st March 2001, Kick-Off 3.00pm, Nationwide League Division Two - Price £2.00



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U's News

DUCKS NOT FOOTBALL!

The U's trip to the Abbey Stadium, which was cancelled on March 23 due to a waterlogged pitch, has been re-arranged for Tuesday May 1.

The new date will mean the U's have to play three games in the final week of the season. The side will face Reading at home on April 28, the Cambridge game and then on May 5 travel to Wycombe Wanderers.

Manager Steve Whitton is confident the side will have secured Division Two status before then, having played hosts to three fellow-strugglers - Luton, Swansea and Peterborough - by then.

The Cambridge fixture was postponed early on the morning of the game, with rain forecast for much of the region before kick-off. There were even reports that the local duck population had taken occupancy of The Abbey Stadium - so that indicates how bad conditions were!

WYCOMBE GAME ALL-TICKET

COLCHESTER'S final game of the season, away to Wycombe, will be all-ticket for U's fans. What promises to be an exciting climax to this year's campaign are now available for purchase at the Layer Road offices.

SLOW PROGRESS FOR JASON

U's midfield star Jason Dozzell looks set to be sidelined for several more weeks as he is recovering slowly from his long-term toe injury.

The influential midfielder was hoping to be back some time during March but the problem has still not healed, and boss Steve Whitton will now be lucky to have him back for the U's hectic schedule at the end of April.

He said: "Jason's still having trouble putting his shoe on, the injury is in a nasty spot." Dozzell has not

played for the first team in the League since December.

Fellow midfielder David Gregory was boosted by the news that the fractured bone in his foot is not as bad as initially thought. The 31-year-old picked up the injury in the game against Port Vale earlier this month. After a scan in Cambridge, he is now getting around without the aid of crutches, although the foot is still sore.

U's physio Brian Owen said: "He's obviously very relieved and will be hoping to return

before the end of the season."

QUIET DEADLINE DAY

Two players came in and two went out in the run-up to a relatively quiet transfer deadline day at Layer Road.

The arrival of striker Keith Scott on March 19, was followed by Charlton youngster Kemi Izzet (brother of Leicester's Muzzy) putting pen to paper (full story on page 15).

Striker Tony Lock, 24, joined Conference side Dagenham and Redbridge on a free transfer. This is the second time the front man has left the club, after being released by former U's boss Mick Wadsworth in the summer of 1999. In his second spell he made 38 appearances for the U's, 23 as substitute, and scored four goals.

Midfielder Sam Okafor joined Lock on the way out of Layer Road and headed off to Dover Athletic on loan with a view to a permanent move. Meanwhile, former U's defender Jack Wignall has joined Lock at Dagenham and Redbridge on an 18-month deal.

Another deal on deadline day saw former U's centre-back David Greene move back to East Anglia and sign for our rivals Cambridge United. Greene had been unable to pin down a regular place with Third Division Cardiff City.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO A 'CELEBRITY' SUPPORTER!

This afternoon's game against Luton Town sees the birthday of one of the U's most celebrated fans as Liberal Democrat MP Bob Russell celebrates reaching his 55th year.

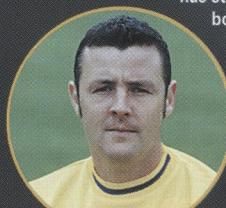
Bob has followed the U's for 45 years now - his first game was a home match against Newport County and with United winning 1-0 that day, Bob was hooked.

Having supported the club for so long, he's experienced plenty of highs and lows. He claims his most memorable moment was the win against Leeds in 1971, and is particularly proud of the fact that there is pictorial proof in the Vice Presidents' Lounge that he was at the game!

The many years spent on the Barside terrace have provided Bob with several heroes over the years, and whilst he finds it hard to select just one name out of the hundreds that have passed through Layer Road, Peter Wright is one player who he remembers particularly fondly.

Currently, his favourite player is Joe Dunne, and Bob was particularly relieved to see the Irish full back return to the club for a second spell. He told us: "When Mick Wadsworth released Joe, I was furious! I wrote a letter to the Evening Gazette stating my anger at the decision, I seem to remember. However, Joe's back at the club now, and Mick's gone, so all's right with the world!"

Happy Birthday Bob from everybody at Colchester United, along with your children Nicola, Mark and Andrew. Here's to three points to celebrate your birthday!



David Gregory -
boosted by news



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Good afternoon and welcome to Joe Kinnear and everyone connected with Luton Town Football Club for today's game.

In our last game here at Layer Road, expectations were high after collecting six points in our previous two games. Our opponents, Swindon were on a terrific run of results and were a very confident and positive side on the night. Once they took the lead through a mix up by us at the back, we found ourselves chasing the game. In the second half, although we created three or four half chances, we never really forced their keeper to make a save of any note.

Once again, today's game promises to be very tight with Luton fighting for their lives to get out of the bottom four. I watched them draw 1-1 at Peterborough in the week and if you had not seen the league table, you would have thought that both teams were fighting for promotion.

There are many teams on or around the same number of points as ourselves at the moment and with nine games and 27 points to play for, it's now time for us to roll up our sleeves and battle in whatever way we have to in order to secure as many of the points as we possibly can to climb above them.

As you will be aware by now, just before the transfer deadline, we took Kemal Izzet on a months loan from Charlton Athletic to have a closer look at him and for him to see if he likes it here at Colchester United. We've also taken on Keith Scott on a contract until the end of the season to add to the competition for places up front. I wish them both the very best whilst they are with us.

As we all know, there are no easy games in this league, but with your encouragement and vocal support, even when things don't go as we would all like, if we stick together as a club, we can achieve our goals for the season.

Enjoy today's match.

STEVE

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STEVE

Whitton

*...if we stick
together as a
club, we can
achieve our goals
for the season.*

Hatters bidding to get out of trouble

FACING THE U'S

Luton Town

It's been an eventful season so far for Luton Town - and you get the feeling that there is still plenty of drama to come!

There was much optimism last August when new chairman Mike Watson-Challis appointed the popular former Town player Ricky Hill as manager to replace Lennie Lawrence. Things have not gone quite according to plan since then, however, and the Hatters find themselves deep in the heart of the relegation battle.

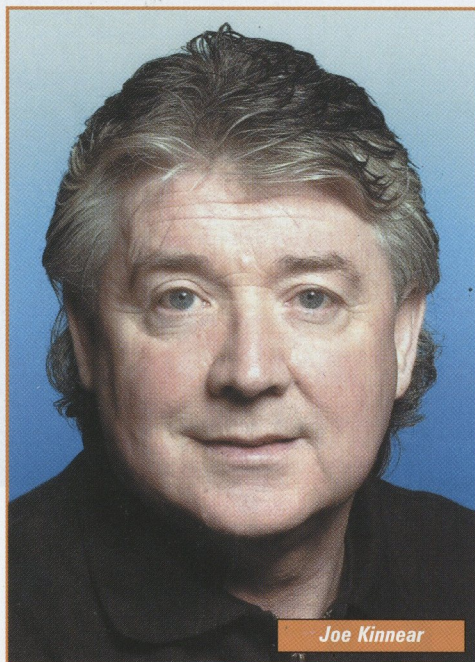
Luton have not been in Division Four since 1968 and new manager Joe Kinnear is determined they won't be

back there in 2001. Assisted by Lil Fuccillo - who had a short spell as team manager after Hill departed - and coach John Moore, Kinnear is hoping to carry out a rescue act reminiscent of Luton's many escapes from the drop between 1983 and 1991 when they were up in the top flight.

Several of Ricky Hill's purchases have not proved big successes at Kenilworth Road, and Luton fans witnessed a number of disasters before Christmas. One of the least palatable was the home match with Wrexham which saw the Hatters lose 4-3, having earlier been 3-0 up.

Hill left the club in November and Fuccillo attempted to steady the ship. He was in charge when the Hatters were desperately unlucky to go out of the FA Cup. Against QPR they were leading until the closing minutes when a bizarre handball by Lee Nogan gave away a penalty which led to a replay.

In the re-match teenager Lee Mansell made his debut and scored after 37 seconds. Luton hung on to this lead until injury time, when Rangers scrambled home an equaliser that was disputed by Luton on three different counts - (1) Mansell had clearly been fouled in the build-up, (2) the game should have been stopped because he had a head injury, and (3) Chris Kiwomya was clearly offside when he scored!



Joe Kinnear

Within a month of that painful evening, former Wimbledon boss Kinnear had arrived at the club and inspired the side to four victories during February, including away wins at Northampton, Notts County and Swindon, plus an entertaining 5-3 home win over Swansea.

Cambridge were beaten at Kenilworth Road earlier this month by a single late goal from Matthew Taylor, who volleyed the ball home from the halfway line when keeper Lionel Perez became stranded off his line.

Recent results have given the Hatters real hope of escaping the drop, but they still have a lot to do to reach the safety mark of approximately 52 points.

Like Colchester, Luton have announced plans to relocate to a new stadium. The club has recently acquired land close to Junction 10 of the M1 and is hoping to make further announcements soon. Meet the men from Kenilworth Road:

MARK OVENDALE

Mark Ovendale was Ricky Hill's first big-money signing as manager and Luton's first since coming out of receivership, costing £425,000 from Bournemouth. Ovendale was drafted in when last season's loan keeper Ben Roberts decided that his future lay elsewhere. Ovendale cost Bournemouth £30,000 from Barry Town in July 1998 and made 111 appearances with the Dean Court club, keeping an impressive 40 clean sheets on the way.

MATTHEW SPRING

Luton's main playmaker and midfield

driving force, Matthew Spring has had to bear a great weight of responsibility and yet at the start of the 2000/2001 season, he was still only 20 years old. A competitive midfielder, Spring was a major reason why the Luton youngsters reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997, and it was no surprise when he was called up for a league debut, when still only 17, as a sub against Bristol City in September 1997. Since then, Spring, a tough tackler and an inspired passer, has been ever-present and has scored some spectacular long-range goals, one earning him a place in one Goal Of The Month competition on BBC's Match Of The Day.

JULIAN WATTS

Signed on a month's loan from Bristol City at the start of the 1999/2000 season, and keen to get his career moving again after falling out of favour at Ashton Gate. Rotherham gave the defender his first taste of league football, and it was ambition achieved when he signed for the home-town club Sheffield Wednesday. Changes in managers have not helped his progress: Trevor Francis bought him for Wednesday, but new manager David Pleat sold him off to Leicester for £200,000 in 1996. Two years later, he left Filbert Street as a Bosman transfer, and John Ward signed him for Bristol City.

MARVIN JOHNSON

The longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, Captain Johnson is the rock at the heart of Luton's defence. At the beginning of 2000/2001, he started his 13th season as a first-team regular at Luton, his only club. Injuries have been a problem, but he has always bounced back and is now a fixture of the team he joined as a schoolboy. He took over the captaincy when Steve Davis rejoined Burnley at the end of December 1998, and did much to keep morale high as a young team went through the trauma of receivership. Johnson has not scored many goals, but all Luton fans will remember his dramatic injury-time winner in the Worthington Cup against Ipswich in 1998.

PAUL McLAREN

The midfielder was still a schoolboy when Luton realized he had enough

talent and strength to play regularly in their youth team. A YTS offer was a formality, and he was offered pro terms while still only 17. Forceful and always ready to back up attacks, he soon became a regular after a 1994 debut. Today, McLaren has developed into a cultured and tenacious midfielder, with good vision and a strong tackle, who can also play sweeper.

STUART DOUGLAS

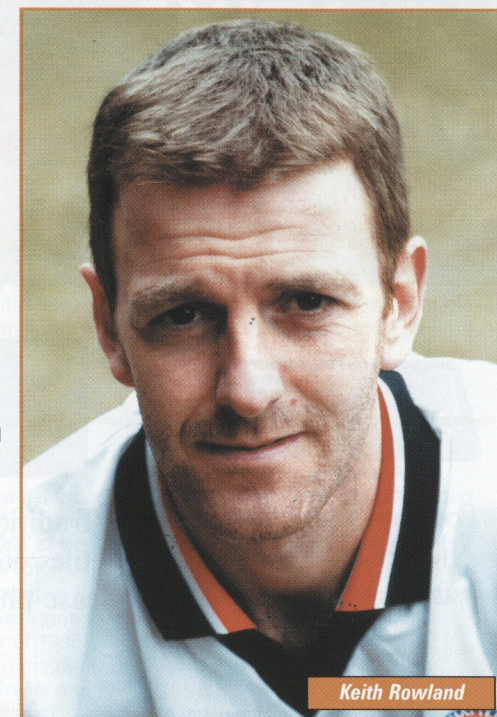
A real hot-shot in youth and reserve team football, Douglas was a 17-year-old trainee when he made his league debut for Luton against Oldham in 1995, but had to battle to overcome injuries before winning a regular place in Luton's league side. His tenacity and willingness to chase every lost cause for 90 minutes has made him a fans' favourite, and although his goals-per-game ratio is lower than he would like, his persistence and effort have made many important goals for teammates.

MARK STEIN

Nearly 20 years after joining Luton as a schoolboy, the striker returned to Kenilworth Road last summer to help out his old playing pal, new Luton manager Ricky Hill. Brother of Brian, another noted Luton striker, Mark had four years at Luton before enjoying a career as a popular goalscorer with QPR, Oxford, Stoke, Chelsea and Bournemouth. He was poised to join Swansea as a Bosman transfer in the summer, but rapidly agreed to go "back home" when the call came from his old mate Hill, and he became the new manager's first signing. A natural goalscorer, Stein is also fast and tricky with the ball, while his vision and running off the ball pulls defences out of shape.

LIAM GEORGE

Pre-season rumours of a million-pound move to Burnley, Wolves or Sheffield Wednesday came to nothing, but interest in Luton's top scorer surprised



Keith Rowland

no-one. Full of pace and nimble footwork, striker George was a regular member of the Republic of Ireland squad that progressed to the European youth championships final in the summer of 1998. He made his league debut against Bristol City in September 1997, and started the 1998/1999 season as an established first choice. He broke a leg at Wigan early on and the season was nearly over by the time he had recovered. He established himself in 1999/2000, playing mainly just behind the front two, where he has more freedom to run at defenders.

ANDREW FOTIADIS

Another local discovery, Fotiadis chose to stay at school to gain his A-levels before becoming a full-time pro. He won England Schools caps at Under-15 and Under-18 level, and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry opposing defenses, as an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power, and concentrated determination to score goals.

KEITH ROWLAND

Northern Ireland-born midfielder who signed for the remainder of the season from QPR in January. A left-sided

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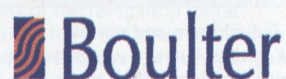
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midfielder who used to play for Bournemouth and cost West Ham £110,000 to sign. Has more than a dozen Northern Ireland caps to his name and is a calm and skilful operator in the middle of the park.

MATTHEW TAYLOR

When Luton were in receivership throughout the summer of 1999, they had to look at the young talent coming up through the ranks, and wing-back Taylor, though still only 17, was given his chance. Impressive performances in pre-season friendlies saw him leap from youth team to league squad. He soon became first choice at left wing-back, where his attacking runs and fierce shooting promised a great future. An impressive 44 appearances last season, capped with the Young Player Of The Season trophy says it all and Taylor, still only 18 is one of the first names on the teamsheet.

TANNY ABBEY

Nathan has had a career at Luton full of highs and lows, from being jeered by his own fans, to winning TV Save Of The Month and Man Of The Match plaudits. He joined Luton as a YTS boy

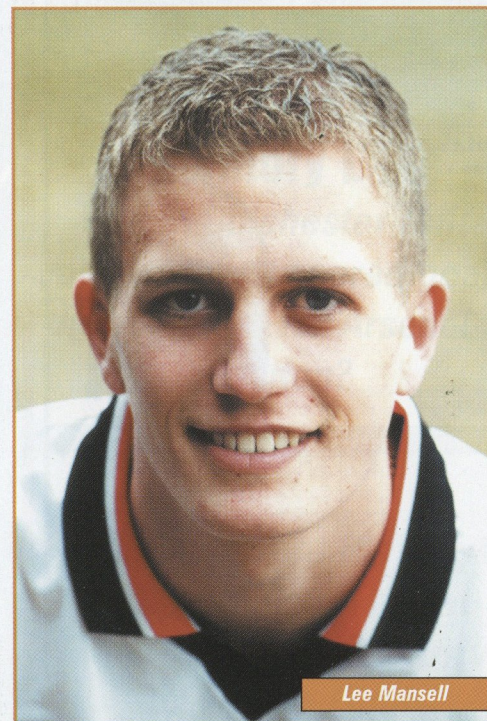
after being spotted in local schoolboy football, but a succession of good keepers at the club left him as a near-permanent understudy. He accepted a free transfer move to Holland in the summer of 1999, but then returned as first choice keeper before the season began when Luton sold Kelvin Davis to Wimbledon. After a bright start, some costly blunders and a loss of form meant that Luton had to bring in Ben Roberts on loan by February 2000 but he worked at his game and did enough to convince Luton to give him another chance. When new signing Ovendale was rested in October. Nathan immediately won back the fans with a series of incredible saves.

EMMERSON BOYCE

A strong, calm and intelligent defender, Boyce could well develop into one of Luton's stars of the future. One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995. On Boxing Day 1999, he won the right wing-back slot from Stuart Fraser and kept it for most of the rest of the season, winning a lot of support from the fans. Boyce can play wing-back or central defender, is quick on the break, a good crosser of the ball and has a fierce shot.

PETRI HELIN

Ricky Hill snatched Finnish international midfielder Petri Helin from under the noses of several British and European clubs to strengthen Luton's midfield shortly after it was over-run by Wrexham, when a 3-0 lead became a 4-3 defeat. Helin played against England in Finland's World Cup qualifying draw in September and was asub in last Saturday's return at Anfield. Helin signed from FC Jokerit, who had just finished runners-up in the Finnish Premier League. He was their captain, and had played 18 times for his country. His international career got off to the best possible start with a 7-0 win over Estonia in 1994.



Lee Mansell

LEE MANSELL

Made a sensational debut for Luton in the FA Cup Third Round replay at QPR in January, scoring after just 37 seconds of the game, and playing a fine aggressive role in a superb Luton performance. Mansell has won praise during a successful season in the Youth Team and was handed a squad number only the day before the QPR replay because Luton had so many injuries. Much is expected of Mansell, a tenacious right-sided midfield player with good vision and good passing range.

RICHARD DRYDEN

Joined on a three month contract in February 2001 after being out of contract at Southampton. An experienced 31-year-old left-footed central defender, he was brought in by Lil Fuccillo after the departure of Adrian Whitbread to help shore up Luton's leaky defence, with 20 games left to try to stay in the Second Division.

STEVE HOWARD

Steve Howard became manager Joe Kinnear's first signing for Luton, a bargain £50,000 capture from Northampton Town on deadline day. Howard, 24, had scored eight times for the Cobblers this season, including one of the goals that beat Luton at Kenilworth Road. He brings experience as well as height to the Hatters, having made 231 League appearances and scored 44 times. He began his career at Tow Law Town and then went on to make 145 League appearances for Hartlepool, before moving to Northampton in February 1999.

PAUL SHEPHERD

Full-back Paul, 23, signed for the Hatters on deadline day until the end of the season. A former Leeds United youngster, he had played for England at Under-20 and Under-18 level. He joined Ayr United in October 1999 and played six games on loan and helped them to avoid relegation. Dundee United then tried to sign him in March 1999, but he went instead to Tranmere, before returning to Elland Road. When his contract expired Ayr boss Gordon Dalziel picked him up on a free and he made 27 appearances in 1999-2000, becoming a free agent at the end of the season.

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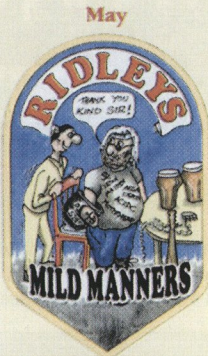
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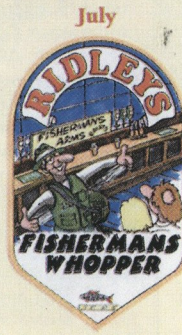
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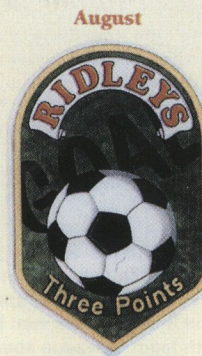
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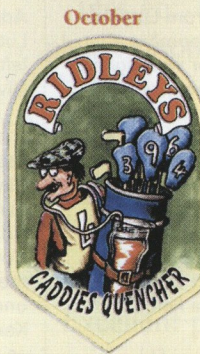
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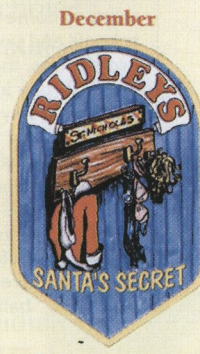
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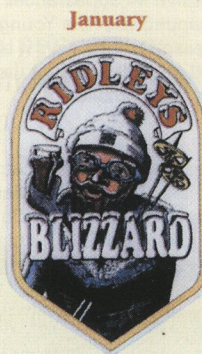
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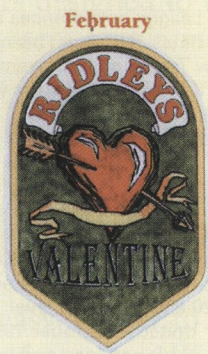
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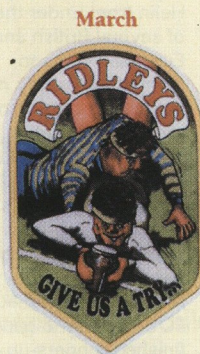
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half-time break

Name Today's Visitor

He featured in the recent Finland-England World Cup game and wears the Luton No.30 shirt. Can you name him?

Around the Division

Can you name the two Second Division clubs who have recently qualified for the LDV Vans Trophy final?

Strange But True

Luton have had four managers in the last 12 months. Who took over last summer from Lennie Lawrence?

He played for both

Renowned for his fierce shooting, he made his name at Ipswich but had spells at Luton and Colchester in the sixties. Who is he?

Memory Lane

Which Colchester United youth product scored goals in the top flight for Arsenal and Luton?

Stat Attack

In 14 years, Luton went from Div 1 to Div 4 and back again! But in which season were the U's and Hatters relegated together?

Hidden Identity

Which current U's player started his career at Middlesbrough, but arrived here from Luton?

● Answers will be on the Half-Time Break page in the Colchester v Swansea programme on Tuesday April 3.

● Answers to the questions in the Swindon programme of Tuesday March 20 were as follows: **Name Today's Visitor** - Andy King; **Strange But True** - Dave Mackay, Les Allen, Ossie Ardiles, Glenn Hoddle and John Gorman; **Memory Lane** - Brian Lewis; **Hidden Identity** - Paul Rideout; **Around the Division** - Northampton; **He Played for Both** - John McLaughlin; **Stat Attack** - 54 points.



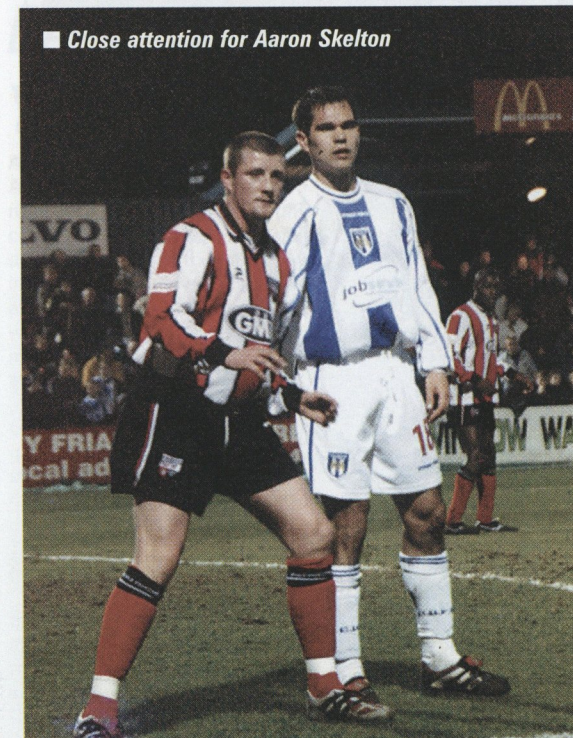
■ Joe Keith skips past a Brentford defender



■ Unusual goal celebrations by Karl Duguid (left) and Joe Keith



■ Steve McGavin sends a cross over



■ Close attention for Aaron Skelton

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United 3
Brentford 1

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16th March 2001

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DAILY UPDATES ON YOUR WEBSITE

Afternoon everybody!

As the more web literate among you may have noticed, Colchester United's official website, colchesterunited.net, is now being updated on a daily basis with all the latest news, views and interviews from Layer Road. Match reports are available on-line within an hour of the full-time whistle, and whether it's the lowdown from the injury room, or Steve Whitton's views on goings-on at the club, it's all available on the club's official site.

Not only that, you can order your U's home shirt or compete against fellow football fans on our online quiz. On the right we've shown you just two of the stories that have broken this week, exclusively on the official website. And with the end of the season upon us, we're asking for your votes for Player Of The Year, so log onto www.colchesterunited.net and cast your vote!

Don't forget, if you've got ideas for stories or features, or if you just want to say something about affairs on and off the pitch at Layer Road, you can e-mail me at editor@colchesterunited.net - it's your site, so have your say!

Cheers,

Matt - Editor, colchesterunited.net.

GRAINGER AIMING FOR TOP-FLIGHT ACTION

The U's could have a third ex-player turning out in the Premiership next season, with former defender Martin Grainger looking in good shape to join Mark Kinsella and Lomana Lua Lua in the top flight.

Grainger is currently turning out for high-flying Birmingham, and despite recent slip-ups, the tough-tackling left-back is confident that the Blues can make it this year.

He told colchesterunited.net in a recent interview: "The aim for the whole season has been to reach the Premier League. Since the Worthington Cup final, we haven't really produced the level of performance that we had shown earlier in the season, but it's not just us that's hit a rocky patch - Bolton are also a bit shaky. To be honest, a lot of the fans are looking for automatic promotion, but I wouldn't mind making it to the play-off final, just to get back to Cardiff and exorcise the ghosts of the cup final defeat.

It'd be a great day out for the fans, so it wouldn't be the biggest disaster in the world if we had to get promoted that way."

Grainger is just one of a series of former U's players to speak to the club's official website, and we've got plenty more lined up in the weeks to come!

IZZET: A POTENTIAL STAR

It was a quiet transfer deadline day at Layer Road this year, but the signature of Kemi Izzet on loan caught the attention of many U's fans. The ink had barely dried on his contract when the 20-year-old sat down and spoke with the club's official website.

He said: "I'm very pleased to join Colchester - it's been a long time coming, and I can't wait to play first team football. I've come down here and trained the last few days and Steve's been impressed with what he's seen and offered me a move.

"I've enjoyed it this week - it's been different, but in a good way. If you stay at a club for too long, like I did at Charlton, you become complacent, and I needed a fresh challenge. I learnt a lot there, don't get me wrong, but I was getting nowhere and it was frustrating.

"I wanted to get away, start again and try and establish myself as a first team footballer. I'll miss the people there, but this is a great opportunity and I've got a good feeling about the move."

And Izzet's team-mate at Charlton Shaun Newton believes the U's have a star on their hands. Shaun told colchesterunited.net: "He's not afraid to get stuck in, and his tackling is superb for someone his size. But he is also a clever passer of the ball and his distribution is second to none.

"He's keen to get involved in a game, and he'll do a very good job for Colchester, I have no doubt about that. Sooner or later, he'll be on the way back up, whether it be with Colchester or not - he's certainly a star for the future."

 Andy Arnott Catlins Boarding Cattery 01206 825200	 Joe Keith CUFC Swedish Branch home.swipnet.se/cufc	 Tony Lock TGJ Engineering
 Andy Walker Strident Computers	 Karl Duguid In memory of U.F.O.	 Simon Clark Singlerapid Ltd
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with the Reserves

with Reserve Team Manager Geraint Williams

Clinical finishing by Scott and Keeble.

The U's Reserves took on Southend United Reserves at Layer Road on Monday March 26.

Simon Brown was in goal, Olly Blackwell, Ross Johnson, Simon Clark and David Hadrava were the back four. Thomas Pinault, Richard Kennedy, Kemi Izzet and Chris Keeble were in the 'engine room' and Keith Scott and Steve McGavin were up front.

The U's started the game quite well but it was soon obvious that the surface was not going to help our usual passing game.

The players persevered but Southend's direct style of play looked a better tactic early on. Ross and Simon were put under pressure by Southend's front two but stood up well and made some important challenges.

As half-time approached, Steve swung in a corner,

Thomas weaved a bit of magic in the box and set up Chris who finished clinically from inside the six yard box. A chat at half-time resulted in an emphasis on supplying quality balls to the forwards a little earlier.

The U's carried those tactics onto the pitch and scored an excellent second goal. Chris, feeding Steve down the left, his cross cushioned

down by Richard for Keith to swivel on to and fire the ball into the corner of the net. The midfield were now totally on top and The U's dominated possession without managing to add to their score. In the dying minutes a mis-placed pass in the midfield led to Southend scoring on the break. They could have equalised right at the end, but missed a good chance.

The U's should have scored more goals, but a fine second half performance by the whole team. Final score: U's Reserves 2 Southend Reserves 1

GERAINT WILLIAMS



Ross Johnson - important challenges



Chris Keeble - opening goal



Simon Clark - early pressure

Reserve team fixtures 2000-2001

Avon Combination League

AUGUST

Wed 16: QPR (H)L1-4
Wed 30: C.Palace (A) 7.30L0-1

SEPTEMBER

Wed 13: READING (H) 2pmL1-2
Wed 20: Brentford (A) 2pmL0-2

OCTOBER

Wed 4: BRISTOL CITY (H) 2pmW1-0
Wed 11: SWINDON (H) 2pmD1-1
Wed 18: Peterborough (A) 2pmW2-1
Wed 25: Gillingham (A) 2pm Lge Cup.....L1-2
Tue 31: Oxford (A) 7.30L0-2

NOVEMBER

Wed 15: Brighton (A) 7pmL1-3
Wed 22: CAMBRIDGE (H) 2pm Lge CupW2-1
Mon 27: NORWICH (H) Lge Cup 7.30L0-2

DECEMBER

Wed 6: AFC BOURNEMOUTH (H) 2pmW4-0
Wed 13: LUTON (H) 2pm Lge Cup.....P-P

Mon 18: NORWICH (H) 2pmL0-2
JANUARY 2001

Wed 10: Cheltenham (A) 2pmD2-2
Wed 31: Peterborough United (A) 2pm.....L1-2

FEBRUARY

Wed 7: CAMBRIDGE (H) 2pmP-P
Tue 13: Northampton (A) 2pm.....P-P
Wed 21: Bristol Rovers (A) 7pm.....W1-0
Mon 26: LUTON (H) 2pm

MARCH

Wed 14: Barnet (A) 2pm.....P-P
Wed 21: MILLWALL (H) 2pmP-P
Mon 26: SOUTHEM (H) 2pmW2-1
Wed 28: Leyton Orient (A) 2pm.....L0-2

APRIL

Wed 4: GILLINGHAM (H) 2pm
Wed 11: Fulham (A) 2pm
Wed 18: Portsmouth (A) 7pm
Wed 25: WYCOMBE (H) 2pm

MAY

Wed 2: Barnet (A) 2pm

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EAST ANGLIAN
DAILY TIMES



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Goalscoring Head 2 Head

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

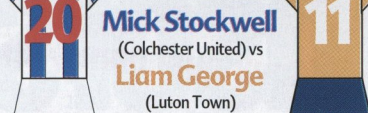
Where



How



Top League Scorers



41 in 37 games 1.1 goals Team Goals 42 in 35 games 1.2 goals Ratio per Game

7 in 37 games 0.19 goals Player's Goals 5 in 32 games 0.16 goals Ratio per Game

Games Scored In
Games Scored 1st Goal 5
Games Scored 1 Goal 0
Games Scored 2 Goals 0
Games Scored 3 Goals 0

IMPORTANCE OF GOALS

(Taking out top scorers, how would results be affected)
0 (0pts) Games Won -> Drawn 0 (0pts)
1 (3pts) Games Won -> Lost 0 (0pts)
2 (2pts) Games Drawn -> Lost 1 (1pts)
5 Number of points gained 1

SCORING SEQUENCES

Consecutive Games Scored 2 Games 2
3 Games 0
1 game Maximum Scoring Run 2 games

CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITHOUT SCORING

2 Games 2
3 Games 1
4 Games 5
16 games Maximum Dry Spell 9 games

The U's' Results

COLCHESTER GOALS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
OPPOSITION GOALS	0	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
	1	7	5	1	2			
	2	3	3	1	1			
	3	4	1					
	4							
	5							
	6							
	7							

shows the number of results for each scoreline.
eg. Colchester have drawn 5 games 1-1

Hatters' Results

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

eg. Luton have won 1 game 5-3
and lost 2 games 2-3

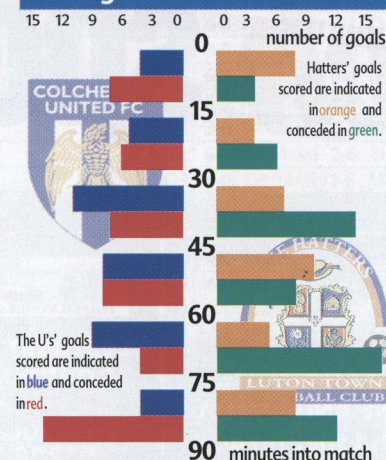
Seasonal Progress Comparison



Stats&Facts

Stats compiled by Football Information Services

When goals scored & conceded



Average time of Scoring / Conceding

81 mins All Goals for 75 mins
78 mins Home Goals For 76 mins
85 mins Away Goals For 74 mins
72 mins All Goals Against 52 mins
90 mins Home Goals Against 53 mins
60 mins Away Goals Against 50 mins
Table shows average time taken for both teams to score and concede goals in home and away games.

Last 10 Games Form Guide Comparison

The U's : LLSWLLWLWLF 12 A 13 Pts 10

Hatters : LWWWLWDWLSF 15 A 12 Pts 17

Form Guide shows last 10 results. W = Won, L = Lost, S = Score Draw, D = No Score Draw. Most recent result to the right

Luton Town's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record

	DIV	FAC	WC	LS	Gls	Ave Att
90/91	1	4	2	Elstrup	15	10,275
91/92	1	3	2	Harford	12	9,711
92/93	1	4	2	Gray	19	8,213
93/94	1	SF	1	Dixon	9	7,878
94/95	1	4	1	Marshall	11	7,350
95/96	1	3	1	Guentchev/Marshall	9	7,223
96/97	2	3	3	Thorpe	28	6,294
97/98	2	1	2	Thorpe	14	5,879
98/99	2	2	5	Douglas	9	5,527
99/00	2	3	1	George	14	5,658

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Campaign Records

Highest Gate	22,133
Stoke v Port Vale	
Lowest Gate	1,584
Wrexham vs Cambridge	
Highest Aggregate Score	
Brentford2	
Bristol Rovers .6	
Bristol City6	
Cambridge2	
Luton5	
Swansea3	
Wrexham5	
Oxford3	

Biggest Home Win	
Cambridge6	
Rotherham1	
Reading5	
Oldham0	
Millwall5	
Oxford0	
Millwall6	
Colchester1	
Port Vale5	
Peterborough .0	

Biggest Away Win	
Brentford2	
Bristol Rovers .6	
Peterborough .0	
Stoke4	
Consec. Wins	
Walsall, Rotherham5	
Games Unbeaten	
Wigan18	



Consec. Defeats	
Bury, Swansea 5	
Winless Run	
Bristol Rovers, Cambridge ...12	

Nationwide2Stats

Statistics Compiled by Football Information Services
Tel: 0151-632 5679

Div.2 Results Grid

	HOME GOALS	AWAY GOALS
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
0	38 42 27 19 10 3	
1	49 56 36 24 5 5 2	
2	19 21 21 15 3 1	
3	8 10 9 6 2 2	
4	1 4 4	
5	1	
6	1	
7		
8		

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

Division 2 Ave. Attendances

	3000	6000	9000	12000	15000
Bournemouth					4,111
Brentford					4,918
Bristol City					10,295
Bristol Rovers					7,253
Bury					3,324
Cambridge					4,274
Colchester					3,435
Luton					5,866
Millwall					10,711
Northampton					5,749
Notts County					5,398
Oldham					4,617
Oxford					5,056
Peterborough					5,779
Port Vale					4,372
Reading					11,851
Rotherham					5,331
Stoke					13,394
Swansea					5,646
Swindon					6,114
Walsall					5,539
Wigan					6,583
Wrexham					3,584
Wycombe					5,413

Biggest Wins & Losses

Win - vs.	Defeat - vs.
4-0 Bristol City 1-3 Clch/Rth	
3-0 Oxford 2-6 B Rovers	
6-2 Cambridge 0-4 Col/Bmt	
6-2 Brentford 0-3 3 clubs	
3-0 Swansea 0-4 Millwall	
6-1 Roth'am 2-6 Brstl City	
4-0 Bristol City 1-6 Millwall	
5-3 Swansea 0-4 Swansea	
6-1 Colchester 2-3 3 clubs	
2-0 4 Clubs 0-3 3 clubs	
4-1 Roth'am 1-5 Walsall	
5-1 Wrexham 0-5 Reading	
3-1 Nthmptn 0-5 Millwall	
4-0 Swindon 0-5 Port Vale	
5-0 Oldham 0-4 Brstl City	
3-0 5 clubs 1-6 Cambridge	
4-0 Oxf'd/Stke 0-3 Walsall	
4-0 Luton 1-5 Rdg/Wal	
3-0 Bury/Oldh 0-4 P'boro	
5-1 3 clubs 1-3 Wy/Swa	
3-1 3 Clubs 1-3 Millwall	
4-1 Bury 1-5 Oldham	
3-1 3 Clubs 1-5 Walsall	

Last 5 Home Results

DLWWW
DLWWD
WDLWD
DDWWD
WWWWDW
LLWLW
DWLWL
LLWDW
LWWDW
LDWWW
LWWDL
WLWLW
LDLLW
LWWDW
WDWWL
WWWWW
DDWLL
DDLLD
DLWDL
LWLLW
DDDDD
WWWLL
DLWLD

Referees Report

	G	RC	YC	Av. Yell
Fletcher	21	1	97	4.62
Olivier	21	4	88	4.19
Prosser	18	7	75	4.17
Hall	24	11	96	4.00
Mathieson	24	2	96	4.00
Dowd	22	8	83	3.77
Foy	22	5	82	3.73
Riley	10	3	37	3.70
Cooper	13	5	47	3.62
Knight	12	5	43	3.58
Harris	7	2	25	3.57
Ryan	18	4	63	3.50
Winter	9	0	31	3.44
Jones P	14	0	48	3.43

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

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	1stGl	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms	Ave	W/L	W/D	D/L	Pts	Run	Dry	Numbers	Last 5 Away Results
Bournemouth	Defoe	14	5	10	2	0	21	0.67	1	3	2	11	10	6	31 10 4	LDLLD
Brentford	Owusu	7	2	7	0	0	24	0.29	0	2	3	7	2	6	28 9 10	DLDDL
Bristol City	Thorpe	18	3	10	1	2	35	0.51	1	2	2	9	2	5	32 9 10	DLLLW
Bristol Rovers	Ellington	10	3	6	2	0	30	0.33	1	1	4	9	3	10	34 12 16	DWDL
Bury	Newby	5	3	3	1	0	12	0.42	0	4	0	8	1	3	27 12 12	DDLWL
Cambridge	Youngs	11	2	7	2	0	32	0.34	0	3	2	8	3	5	36 9 10	LLLLW
Colchester	Stockwell	7	1	5	1	0	37	0.19	1	0	2	5	1	16	27 11 13	DLLLW
Luton	George	5	0	5	0	0	32	0.16	0	0	1	1	2	9	31 6 13	WLWLD
Millwall	Harris	24	8	11	2	3	37	0.65	1	4	2	13	3	3	31 17 6	DWLLD
Northampton	Forrester	16	9	12	2	0	36	0.44	1	5	5	18	5	8	31 9 11	DLDDL
Notts County	Stallard	14	7	14	0	0	34	0.41	0	5	3	13	3	5	35 12 9	DWLDD
Oldham	Corazzin	8	3	4	0	1	33	0.24	0	2	0	4	1	10	28 10 12	LLLLD
Oxford	Beauchamp	6	1	4	1	0	33	0.18	0	1	0	2	1	7	38 3 15	LLDLL
Peterborough	McKenzie	11	3	7	2	0	22	0.50	1	1	2	7	2	3	26 11 12	LDLDD
Port Vale	Naylor	9	4	5	2	0	31	0.29	0	2	0	4	2	7	25 11 11	LDWWW
Reading	Cureton	18	7	12	0	2	34	0.53	0	6	2	14	3	5	28 15 6	WWWWD
Rotherham	Robins	19	6	13	3	0	34	0.56	1	5	3	16	2	2	27 15 3	DLWWL
Stoke	Thorne	14	6	7	2	1	29	0.48	1	4	2	13	3	6	27 12 6	DLDWL
Swansea	Savarese	12	2	3	3	1	22	0.55	1	0	4	7	2	4	29 8 15	LLLWD
Swindon	Invincible	8	2	4	2	0	34	0.24	0	2	1	5	2	12	35 11 15	WDWWD
Walsall	Leitao	15	8	15	0	0	37	0.41	0	4	1	9	3	5	25 11 8	WDDLW
Wigan	Liddell	9	4	7	1	0	35	0.26	0	5	0	10	3	8	31 15 12	WLWLD
Wrexham	Trundle	7	0	4	0	1	8	0.88	1	2	0	7	5	2	27 7 9	LLWWL
Wycombe	Rammell	10	3	4	3	0	22	0.45	2	2	1	11	2	4	32 9 16	DWWLL

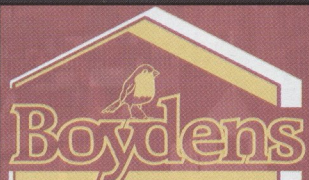
Key: GS=Goals Scored; 1st Gl=Games Scored 1st Goal; Sc1=Games Scored 1st Goal; Sc2=Games Scored 2 Goals; HT=Half-Time; Each club's leading league scorer and their goals per game (Ave). Next 3 columns show taking off their goals, how many games change from Win to Loss (W/L), Win to Draw (W/D), Draw to Loss (D/L) and Points (Pts). Last 2 figures show best scoring run, and longest dry spell in consecutive games. NUMBERS: PU=Players Used CS=Clean Sheets FS=Games Failed to Score

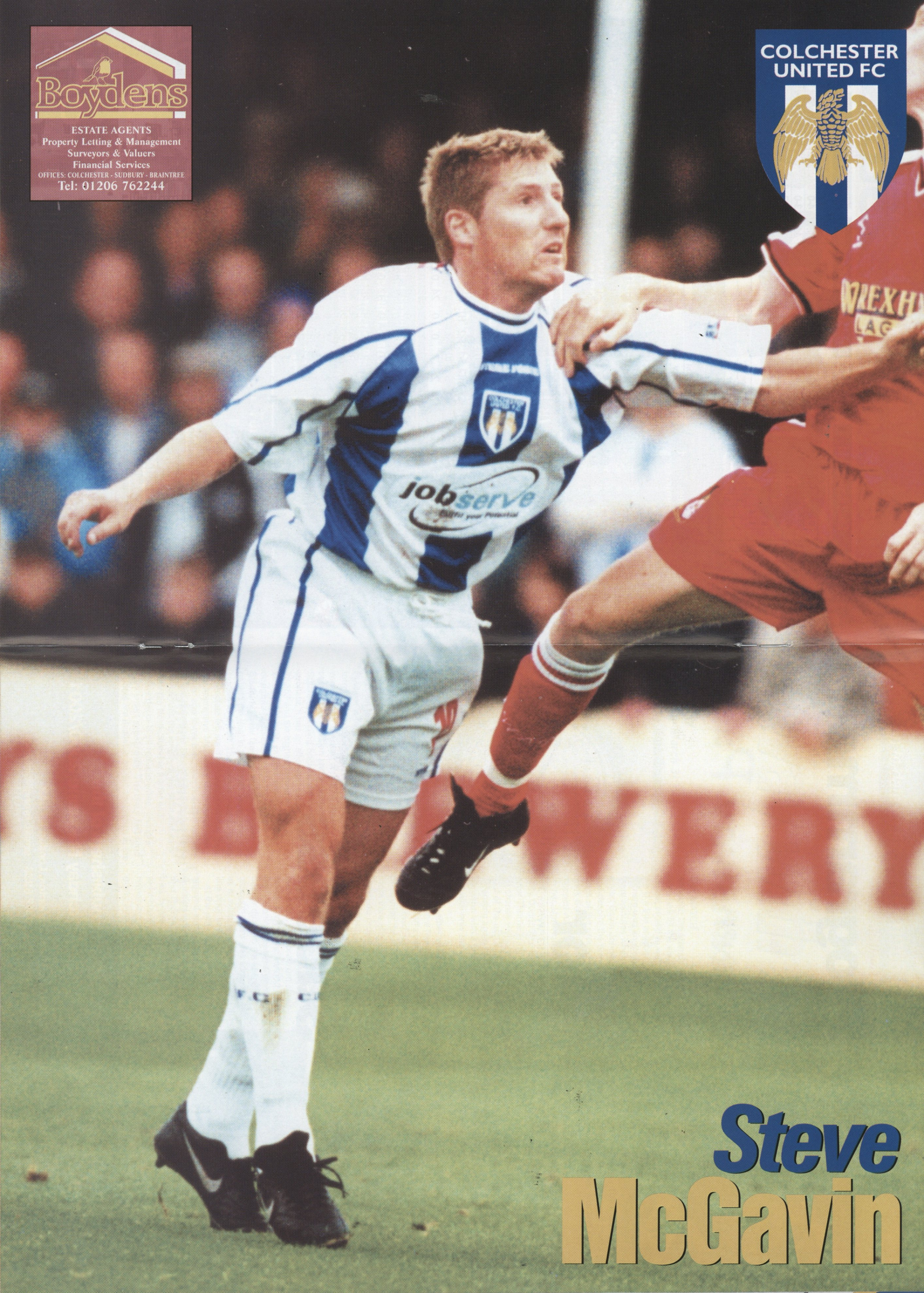
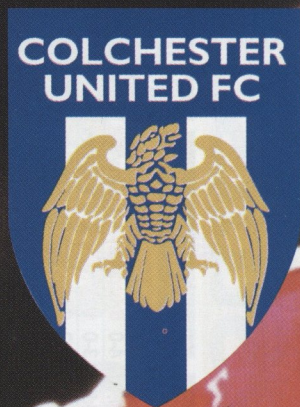
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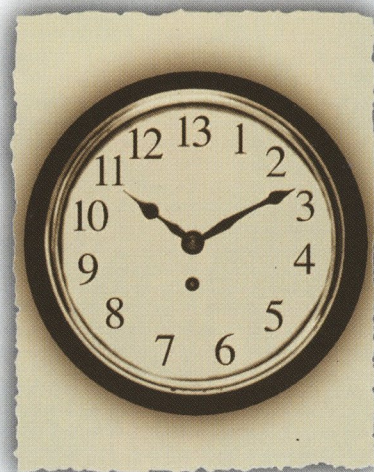
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Away with The U's

Stranded on the edge of town

Stoke City
(Saturday March 3)
Report by Alan Dews of CUSA

OUTWARD JOURNEY

Our two coaches departed from Layer Road at 8.30am on a bright but bitterly cold day following overnight snow and frost. Road conditions were not the best for the first 20 miles or so, but soon improved and we enjoyed a clear run via the A120/M11/A14/M6.

The mid-morning break was taken at Corley services and we arrived at Stoke at 1.30pm. Coaches park at the ground but unfortunately there are no catering facilities outside the stadium and the pub on the adjacent business park does not welcome football fans. Being an out-of-town site, it is a good 20 minutes walk to the city outskirts for the fit and healthy. For those of more mature years there is nothing to do except wait for the turnstiles to open.

THE GROUND

Situated at Trentham Lakes Business Park, a development area on the edge of the city adjacent to the motorways, the Britannia Stadium is built within sight of Stoke's former Victoria Ground, now demolished. It was built for the start of 1997-8 season at a cost of £14.7 million and is named after the Britannia Building Society, the club's main sponsor. It has an all-seater capacity of 28,353 and the highest crowd to date is 26,664. Although smaller, it is similar in design to Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium. Away fans are accommodated behind the goal in the South Stand with seating for 5,000. The view is superb. To the immediate left are the dressing rooms, then the impressive McEwan's Main Stand with upper and lower tiers, plus hospitality boxes. To the right is the Sentinel or Britannia Stand which runs the length of the pitch and joins with the North Stand at the far end.

The decor is all red and white, giving a very smart appearance. The usual fast food outlets are available on the concourse at the usual prices. On the down side, it is built at quite a high altitude and with the three corners of the stadium open, it is not the warmest environment to watch football.

THE MATCH

Although the attendance of 11,714 didn't even half fill the stadium, it was still the largest crowd to watch a match involving the U's this season.

There was an encouraging start inside three minutes when defender Thomas up-ended Gavin Johnson just inside the area, and despite the howls of protest from three sides of the ground and the dug-out, ref Mark Cowburn pointed to the spot. Up stepped Aaron Skelton to fire into the top corner. Unfortunately the lead lasted just five minutes as sloppy defending allowed a Tony Dorigo free-kick to fall to the unmarked Peter Thorne and he gave Andy Woodman no chance with a powerful shot into the roof of the net. Within a minute, poor defending again presented Michael Hansson with a chance to put City ahead, but with only the keeper to beat, he shot wide.

At the other end Mick Stockwell went close with a header, following keeper Kristensson's parry from a Skelton shot. The home crowd, who had been attempting to pressurise the officials throughout, became more irate after 35 minutes when ref Cowburn ordered Stoke assistant manager Nigel Pearson from the dugout for persistent abuse to the fourth official.

No sooner had order been restored than Stoke took the lead, again a Dorigo free kick doing the damage. Thomas headed on for Thorne, again unmarked, to score from close range. Early in the second half Barry Conlon sent in a powerful header direct to the keeper, although there was some doubt as to whether the ball crossed the line prior to the save.

At the other end the U's enjoyed some luck when Gunnarsson's shot rattled the bar and Thorne was denied his hat-trick by the woodwork. The U's went close with nine minutes remaining, Skelton's shot just going over.

Stoke's third goal to seal the win came with just two minutes remaining, sub Graham Kavanagh heading in via the post after the

U's had needlessly given the ball away in midfield. A disappointing finish and a first-ever defeat at Stoke.

RETURN JOURNEY

Departing just after 5pm, we enjoyed a trouble free return, taking a break for fish and chips at Fenstanton. The trip ended at Layer Road just after 9.30pm and thanks go to drivers Tony and Chris, Ivor and Kevin.

HISTORICAL NOTE

There hasn't been too much history between these two clubs as the U's first visit to Stoke was just two years ago. 12,507 watched a 3-3 draw with Simon Betts, David Gregory and Jason Dozzell scoring for the U's. Among the players to appear for both sides down the years were Brian Sherratt, Tony Kelly, Peter Bullock, Ian Allinson and Mark Sale. Possibly the best known connection is Neil Franklin, who played 162 games for Stoke between 1939 and 1950 and later managed the U's from November 1963 to May 1968.

DETAILS

Stoke 3 (Thorne 8, 39, Kavanagh 88)
Colchester 1 (Skelton pen 3). Attendance: 11,714. U's star player: Aaron Skelton. Referee: Mr Mark Cowburn (good performance). Admission: £16. Programme £2, 60 pages (excellent).



Stoke City's Britannia Stadium

Essex County Cricket Club



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Essex V

Middlesex-BH Cup

Date

Mon 7 May-Bank Holiday

Venue

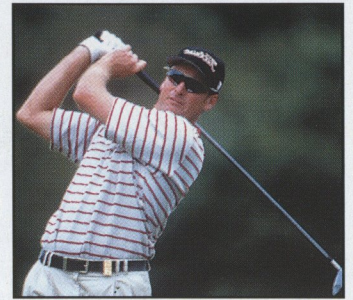
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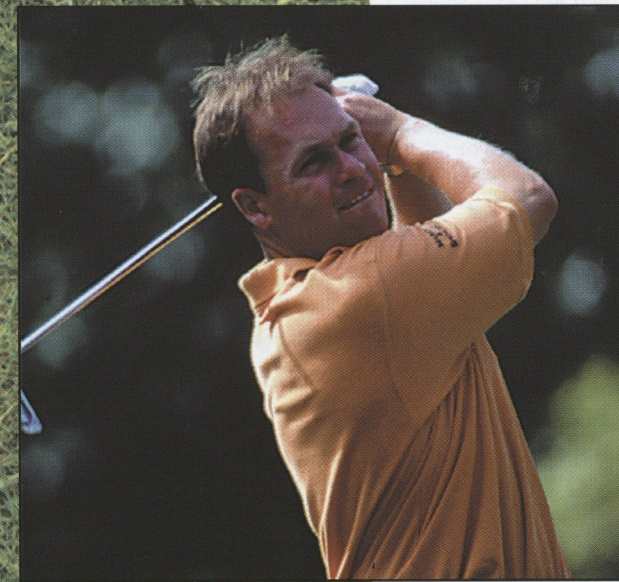
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**Away
with
the U's
Ticket &
Travel News**

Colchester United Supporters' Association

Our fate is in our own hands...

Good afternoon everyone and on behalf of Colchester United Supporters' Association, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Luton Town FC, their manager Joe Kinnear and of course their travelling fans.

Nine games to go and the fate of Colchester United is well and truly in our own hands. More than half of these games feature teams positioned below us in the League, so we know what we must do. At least a point from each game would see us through comfortably. Come on lads, you can do it!

More of the same fighting spirit and passion that you showed against Brentford would help. It was a tremendous fightback and well worth the ovation at the final whistle. Sadly we slipped back into the old habit against Swindon, one bad error costing us dear yet again. It was very sad because Swindon were nothing special and if we had been on our game, we would have run out easy winners.

It was good to see that Keith Scott is back playing football again. No disrespect to Barry Conlon, who is very popular with many of the fans, but Scott could make all the difference for the U's. Who knows, perhaps we might see a front two of Scott and Conlon before the end of the season?

I managed to take in the second-half of the reserve game on Monday against the Shrimpers. Scott, McGavin and Monsieur Pinault all played very well for 90 minutes. As too did our transfer-deadline day loan signing Kemi Izzet, who was very impressive. Don't be fooled when you see him, he makes up for his lack of

height with great skills and awareness and is a strong tackler too. By the way, we beat them 2-1.

On to News, and a message for the supporters who had booked seats on the CUSA coaches to Cambridge last Friday. For the re-arranged date of May 1, you will need to re-book with us to guarantee your seat as we will obviously start a new list. If you have paid, you can obtain a refund from Keith in the CUSA hut, which is behind the Main Stand, either before or after the game today or Tuesday. If you have paid and still wish to travel on the new date, then all you need to do is re-book as your money/ticket will still be valid. Any queries, please call 0402 196409 or 0771 2489305.

Don't forget that the Wycombe game at the end of the season is ALL-TICKET. As before, for CUSA members only, if you would like us to obtain your ticket for you, please ring the above numbers or contact me direct on 07752 531600. As soon as possible please!

Another reminder for you - Thursday April 19 is the AGM for the CUSA. All members are welcome to the Corner Bar at 8pm. On Saturday May 19 the Football Club will be opening its doors for the OPEN DAY. There will be loads of activities taking place, and if the weather stays fine then it will be a fantastic day!

Lastly, on Friday May 4, the CUSA have once again thrown down the gauntlet to Hedinghams Omnibuses and challenged them to a game of footy at Layer Road. More details will follow.

OK, let's get behind the team and spur them on to a very important victory today.

See you in the Corner Bar!
Up The U's,

JON BURNS

NOTTS COUNTY

Saturday April 7
Coach departs
Layer Road at 9.30am
Adult members £16
Concessions, members £13
Adult non-members £21
Concessions, non-members £17

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BRISTOL ROVERS

Saturday April 14
Coach departs
Layer Road at 8.30am
Adult members £15
Concessions, members £12
Adult non-members £20
Concessions, non-members £16

NORTHAMPTON TOWN

Saturday April 21
Coach departs
Layer Road at 11.00am
Adult members £10
Concessions, members £8
Adult non-members £14
Concessions, non-members £11

CommercialBreak

Welcome to this afternoon's sponsors

Good afternoon and welcome everyone to today's match v Luton.

I would like to give a warm welcome to all of our Sponsors this afternoon.

Gold Sponsors

We are pleased to have as our Gold Sponsors, Falcon Plumbing & Heating who are one of Colchester's leading suppliers to trade and retail, supplying everything from tap washers to luxurious bathroom suites. Falcon has been established for sixteen years and very supportive of the club for the last five years. We hope that Darren and his guests have a great time with us.

Silver Sponsors

Our Silver Sponsors today are Carpet Comfort of Great Dunmow in Essex and we thank Mr. Terry Ponder for his continued support.

Bronze Sponsors

Our Bronze Sponsors are Singlerapid and we welcome Mr. A. Jones together with his two "football crazy" daughters, Kylie and Roanna to this afternoon's match against Luton.

Pie & Mash Night

Following on from our successful "theme nights" we are having another "Pie & Mash" evening in our Hospitality Lounge for the Swansea game. All for £22-00 + VAT - for details / bookings please telephone Julie on 01206 508804



Commercial Snaps v Brentford
Above: Eddie the Eagle joins in the Comic Relief fun whilst below our Gold Sponsors Falcon Plumbing & Heating are presented with a memento before the game.



Lynne Atkin



John Schultz

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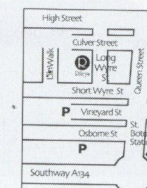
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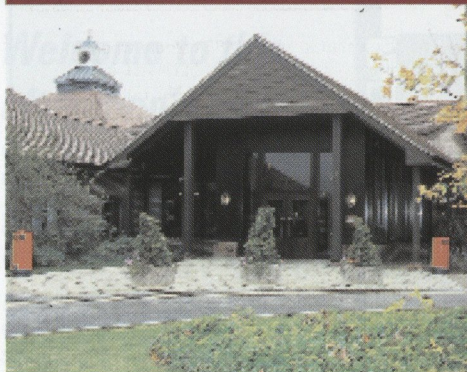
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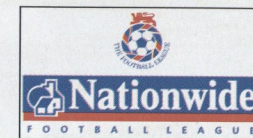
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around the League



Rob Hadgraft takes a look at the news emerging from the Second Division clubs this week...

RARE DELIGHT AT OXFORD

Manager David Kemp praised Manny Omoyinmi after **OXFORD**'s shock 4-3 win over **ROTHERHAM** last Saturday, and has urged his side to repeat the display.

The amazing win over a side 58 points and 23 places above them gave Oxford only their second league win of the year, and their first since January 13. The manager paid a special tribute to two-goal Omoyinmi. He said: "Manny got two terrific goals and it was a superb performance he gave."

Kemp was also thrilled that Andy Scott finally got his first goal in a Oxford shirt, three months after his move from **BRENTFORD**. The manager added: "I was very pleased for Andy. He's worked his socks off in a number of games for us and now he's got his reward."

The games are coming thick and fast for Oxford as the end of the season, and their inevitable relegation, draws near. Their three games after the Rotherham fixture are all away from home and started with a midweek trip to the Abbey Stadium to play Cambridge United.

Kemp is looking for more of the same from

his side: "We've got to find a level of consistency. We've got to repeat the same level of performance." Andy Scott is hoping younger brother Rob will be celebrating promotion with **ROTHERHAM** at the end of the season.

Scott senior was thrilled at Saturday's win, when he faced his brother for only the third time, and he admitted he was pleased to gain a measure of revenge after the Millers beat his then side **BRENTFORD** 3-0 last season. He admitted: "It's nice to get one back on him, but I hope Rotherham go up. Their manager has done very well on limited resources." Despite the fact that Scott's former team are now looking forward to the LDV Vans Trophy final in Cardiff, the striker said he has no regrets about his move to the Manor Ground and insisted that the future is still bright for Oxford.

He said: "I'm not unhappy at Oxford and if we can get the players in that we've been promised, I'm sure we'll have a very good chance of coming straight back up next season."

KINNEAR REMAINS POSITIVE

Despite the teams above them all picking up points in recent weeks, **LUTON TOWN** boss Joe Kinnear is optimistic that they can avoid relegation. **BRISTOL ROVERS** are Luton's closest competitors and were four points above The Hatters last weekend, having played the same number of games.

CAMBRIDGE remain just outside the relegation zone and were seven points better off than Luton but had played three more games than The Hatters. But Kinnear said: "It is so-unpredictable in this league. Everybody is capable of beating everyone else when they are scrapping like hell to stay in this division. "You would drive yourself mad trying to work out what other results would be best for you. We have got two or three games in hand over some of the others and face two games a week now. "You pray that you steer clear of injuries, but when I was a player every game I played in, I went in with a positive attitude and six of our last eight matches are at home. It is in our own hands."

MARSH KEEN TO GET GOING

New signing Chris Marsh was in line for his

first start in **WYCOMBE** colours when The Chairboys entertained **MILLWALL** in midweek. Wanderers' £30,000 right-back, recruited from **WALSALL**, missed the chance to make his debut last Saturday because The Saddlers inserted a clause in the deal prohibiting him from playing against them.

Now, after enduring from the stands The Chairboys' 5-1 defeat at the club he served for 13 years, Marsh is itching to get going. The 31-year-old said: "It was disappointing not to be able to play against my old club but I'm looking forward to getting started soon. I've been at Walsall all my life and this is the fresh challenge that I need."

Marsh will not, however, be able to stake a claim for the FA Cup semi-final because he is cup-tied after turning out for Walsall in earlier rounds against Exeter and West Ham. Wycombe boss Lawrie Sanchez is calling on his side to bounce back from their 5-1 mauling at Walsall. Speaking after the heaviest defeat he has ever suffered as a manager, Sanchez said: "You are as only as good as your last result."

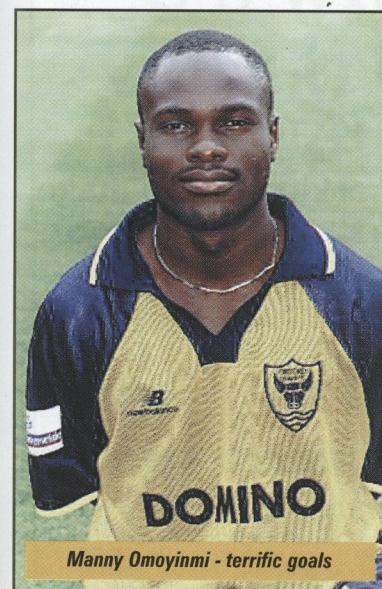
At this moment I'm a crap manager but hopefully by next week I'll be good again. It's a strange game." Despite the defeat Sanchez still seemed upbeat: "I'm very disappointed to lose 5-1 but something like this was always going to happen with all what's been going on in the cup. "It's happened there is nothing we can do about it and we've just got to put it out of our minds and get on with it. But the Wycombe boss praised his opponents: "Walsall were excellent and the quality of their finishing was excellent while we weren't very good."

NEW MAN BOOSTS ROVERS

New **BRISTOL ROVERS** recruit Richie Partridge reckons he has already seen enough of the club to be convinced they can avoid relegation. The young winger, signed on loan from Liverpool until the end of the season, made an encouraging debut in last Saturday's goalless draw with **SWINDON TOWN** at the Memorial Stadium.

Partridge lit up an often dour game with some exciting runs on the right flank, immediately proving a hit with the home fans. Afterwards he gave his first impressions of life in the Second Division, and was full of praise for his new team-mates. "To be honest, I didn't know what to expect, but I've been really impressed by the ability in the squad,"

continued on page 37...



Manny Omoyinmi - terrific goals



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continued from page 35...

said the Dublin-born player. "Coming out of reserve team football with Liverpool, I wasn't sure what the standard would be like, but I soon saw in training that Rovers have some very talented players. "It was disappointing not to beat Swindon, but I felt we were the better side and could draw encouragement from the game."

Partridge may be a reserve player at Anfield, but that still means he is used to playing in illustrious company. He added: "With such a big squad you always get a fair sprinkling of name players in the reserves. I've played along side Patrick Berger recently because he has been coming back from injury. "Probably the biggest influence on me was Steve Staunton before he left the club. He took me under his wing a bit and is a player I really admire."

Rovers boss Garry Thompson has no doubts that Partridge will build on his efforts against Swindon. He said: "Richie is bright and lively. He will always take opponents on and showed he can produce dangerous crosses. Our supporters will love him." Thompson was aiming to make the most of a free midweek from matches - because it will be his last until the end of the season.

Despite a heavy backlog of fixtures, Rovers did not resume action until they visited **STOKE**

CITY today. From now it will be at least two matches a week for Thompson's men, with the prospect of three when they rearrange the last postponed game at home to **PETERBOROUGH**.

The midweek clashes begin when **BRISTOL CITY** visit the Memorial Stadium on Tuesday. A week later Rovers travel to **PORT VALE** and the following week brings an Easter Monday trip to **BURY**. Thompson was therefore using last week as his main opportunity to work on the training ground and said there was plenty to concentrate on following the draw with Swindon.

BECK TO IMPROVE FITNESS LEVELS

Manager John Beck is bringing in a fitness consultant to help **CAMBRIDGE UNITED** get into the best physical shape for the last six weeks of the relegation battle. Eddie Baronoski, who has worked with Leeds United and Blackburn Rovers, is now advising on fitness regimes at the Abbey Stadium.

"Getting the squad to the fitness level we want is likely to take until Christmas," said Beck. "But even in the short space of time we have left we could make a significant improvement. "If the worst happened and we got relegated I'd hate to look back and think being just 10 per cent fitter might have made the difference."

"Shane Westley is a fully qualified psychotherapist, and he'll be able to carry out the programmes Eddie Baronoski will produce. He is a top man in his field who has worked with a lot of big clubs and the best players. "It won't be a case of over-working the players, but making the best use of the time we have until the end of the season. We are well aware that resting players at the right time is just as important now that we are going to have two games most weeks." He said:

"When we put pressure on the ball and closed them down we looked a decent side. But after Simon Bryant was sent off we had to change things because we were looking a bit lightweight. "There is a lot to work on. But the players are willing and we have more than enough ability to get out of trouble."

PRaise for Petterson

Andy Petterson, formerly with **COLCHESTER** and **LUTON**, put in a magnificent performance on his debut for Torquay last weekend, but couldn't prevent Carlisle winning 1-0 to condemn the Gulls to the bottom spot in the Nationwide League. Petterson, who began his career nearly 13 years ago at Luton, had five games on loan at Colchester in 1996. Carlisle's manager Ian Atkins, the former U's player-boss, said Petterson gave the finest goalkeeping display he'd seen all season.

Follow the U's with your truly local daily Evening Gazette

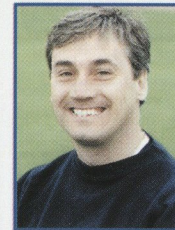


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First rule of football. Get into the box.



Football in the Community



with Steve Bradshaw

ALEX WINS A PLACE AT ANFIELD

Alex Buckmaster aged nine, was our local winner in this year's Smoby Table Football Competition won his way through to the Grand Final by winning the area final here at Layer Road on Friday March 16.

Alex competed against local winners from Southend, Cambridge, Norwich, Leyton Orient, Crystal Palace and West Ham.

The children, all aged below 12, played in two groups. Alex finished second and qualified for the semi-finals. He was drawn against the unbeaten Cambridge player and a great game saw Alex cruise through at 6-2 to make it a local derby final against the Southend representative. A close game for the entire five minutes saw Alex maintain a narrow lead and eventually he won the game by 4-3.

All of the players were presented with a medal and book token before the game and Alex was also presented with the winners trophy.

Alex will now represent Colchester United in the Grand Final to be held at Anfield on Tuesday April 24. We wish him all the best and will keep you all posted of his progress via the matchday programme.

SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Currell and 200 pupils from Coppins Green Primary School, Clacton-on-Sea as our "School Of The Week" for today's game.

PREMIERSHIP DAY OUT AT WEST HAM v LEEDS

Colchester United Football In The Community are offering you the chance to go out for the day to Upton Park, home of West Ham United.

Colchester's very own champion!
Alex Buckmaster who won the
Smoby South East Area Final



This trip will be a fantastic opportunity for the young fans of Colchester United to see some of the future stars of England such as Joe Cole and Michael Carrick of West Ham and Rio Ferdinand and Lee Bowyer of Leeds United. On the day, children will also get a two hour coaching session with the West Ham Football In The Community Coaches and also receive a match day programme.

There are a limited number of tickets and we must operate on a 1 child, 1 adult basis - ensuring that every child is accompanied by and adult. Bookings taken will be "first come first serve".

For further information and to book your places, please contact our Community Officer on 01206 572378.

Community Soccer Holiday Programme Coaching Courses For The Easter Holidays

9th April - Girls only

Time: 1pm-3pm
Age: 6-12 years
Cost: £2

11th-12th April - Player Soccer School

Time: 10am-3pm
Age: 7-14 years
Cost: £20 (£17 Blue Eagles)

17th-18th April - Infant Development

Time: 10am-12 noon
Age: 4-6 years
Cost: £9

19th-20th April - Leyton Orient "The Second Leg"

Time: 1pm-3pm
Age: 7-14 years
Cost: £20 (£17 Blue Eagles)

■ **SPECIAL OFFER** Book on both the Player Soccer School and the Leyton Orient Second Leg for ONLY £30.

All of our courses offer:

- Free Tickets to see Colchester United against Peterborough
- Certificates for all participants
- A Colchester United OR Adidas gift for all participants
- Trophies or Medals for selected players
- Grand tour of the Layer Road stadium
- Fun & Educational practices

For further information or to book your places - please telephone 01206 508810

Youth Team Scene



A touch of the John Kurilas!

Welcome to today's game, and a very warm welcome to Luton Town players and officials.

I am sure we are in for a very entertaining match, as both teams will be chasing those valuable three points. I have to say that when the decisions were made to go from two points for a win to the system of three points I wasn't convinced it was a good thing.

Wrong

Well, how wrong can you be, it has kept the season alive right up to the wire. Promotion and relegation issues continue to exit or alarm as the case may be. A run of three consecutive wins can take you from the bottom to mid-table from mid-table to the play offs or automatic promotion spots.

Three consecutive losses

can send you plummeting in the other direction. Hang on to your seat for 90 minutes of excitement!

Last week the youth teams played against Exeter City at the garrison A & B grounds. The Under-17s won 2-1, scorers D. Ash and D. Edwards. Once again Adrian was very pleased with the

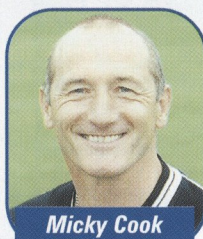
"sometimes you have to resist the physical intimidation that occasionally comes your way."

lads' performance remembering that we had four 15-year-olds and four triallists.

Physical match

The Under-19s were beaten 2-3 in what I can only describe as a very physical match where at times the Exeter lads stepped outside of the laws of the game.

I approached their manager



after the game asking him if he was happy with the way in which his team had played. His glib answer was: "Not really, but it's up to the referee".

Long memories

I can only try to paint the picture if I said to those of you with long memories that John Kurilla played in this type of game every week! I was disappointed with the referee for not being strong enough and I was disappointed with the attitude of the Exeter Youth Development Officer. All of that said, once again a very valuable learning curve for my players that sometimes you have to resist the physical intimidation that occasionally comes your way.

I can assure you that we will always coach our lads to play football within the laws of the game.

Up the U's,

MICKY COOK

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For more details on how to sponsor the kit of a U's Youth Team player contact Lynne Atkin on 01206 508806



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U's Nostalgia

Percy's farewell is a season of sadness

The 1964-5 season saw many changes at Layer Road as new manager Neil Franklin settled in and began building a new-look squad. Long-serving winger Peter Wright left for Romford along with teammate Keith Rutter and Ronnie Hunt retired on medical advice.

Franklin signed Gareth Salisbury from Luton, Barrie Aitchison from Tottenham, Pat Connolly from Macclesfield and Ray Price from Norwich. Local lads John Mansfield and goalkeeper Alan Buck were elevated to the senior ranks. Franklin only wanted to keep a handful of players from the group that he inherited on taking over from Benny Fenton. These included Duncan Forbes, John Fowler, John Docherty and Mike Grice.

The huge turnover of players continued during the season, with record goalscorer Martyn King going to Wrexham in part-

exchange for Tec Jones, Brian Hall arriving from Mansfield and goalkeeper Sandy Kennon from Norwich. Arthur Longbottom, who would change his name by deed poll to Langley, was signed from Oxford.

Climate of change

Perhaps not suprisingly, the climate of change meant the side was never settled and results in Division Three were poor and the U's found themselves near the wrong end of the table for most of the season. The popular goalscorers Bobby Hunt and Martyn King had clearly not been adequately replaced and only 30 goals were scored in the first 27 games - just five of which were won.

It was a nervous and off-form group of players who took the field at home to little Bideford Town in

the first round of the FA Cup. If ever the scene was set for a giant-killing, then this was it! The minnows from Devon found themselves 3-2 up with just a few minutes on the clock and it took a late equaliser from the hard-working U's wing-half Derek Trevis to save the home side's blushes. In the days before the M25, M4 and M5, the trip to the south-west for the replay was a nightmare that took more than seven hours. The U's had to battle hard and eventually scraped through by 2-1, with Billy Stark, soon to be out of favour with Franklin, getting the winner.

Long haul

After the long haul back to Essex, the trip had to be repeated in the second round, for the U's drew at home to Torquay and had to trek to Devon again for the replay! This

time they went down by 2-0. By this time the squad was truly sick and tired of the roads to the English Riviera, for earlier they'd had to venture there for another Torquay clash in the League Cup - that one ending in a 3-0 defeat.

Skipper

Gritty Scotsman Forbes was the U's skipper for the season and he played in all 46 League games, along with the reliable Trevis. After the poor first-half to the season, things failed to improve after the turn of the year. There were heavy defeats by Hull, QPR, Shrewsbury and Peterborough and frankly relegation was on the cards for pretty much all the campaign.

Three successive victories gave a flicker of hope that the U's could save themselves. They beat Southend 3-1 at home in front of a

paltry crowd of 2,929 and then went to Barnsley the following week to win 2-1 with the winner coming from local lad Mick Loughton. The crowd crept up to more than 3,000 the following week when Scunthorpe were beaten 2-1 at Layer Road and hopes were raised that maybe a late escape was on the cards.

Experienced

The recovery coincided with the arrival of the experienced Kennon in goal and Hall, who gave some dynamic displays down the left flank. However, it proved a false dawn and the final five games of the season all ended in defeat, meaning the club finished in 23rd place and were duly relegated alongside Luton, Port Vale and Barnsley.

Some fans called for Franklin to

resign, but the Board kept faith in the former England centre-half and renewed his contract for another year. He would reward them a year later by leading the U's to instant promotion out of the Fourth Division. So the summer of 1965 was an unhappy time at Layer Road, and there was additional sadness when the highly-popular goalkeeper Percy Ames left the club. He'd been on the U's books for ten years and had made 423 first team appearances. Aged 33, Percy hailed from Bedford and had been signed from Tottenham. He left to join a couple of other ex-U's players at Romford. Perhaps appropriately, Percy was voted 1964-5 Player of the Year in March, despite twice being dropped during the season when Buck and Kennon had spells between the sticks.

RGH



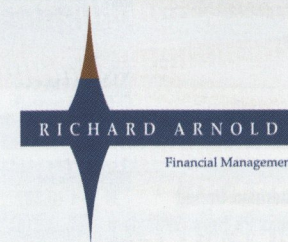
Goalkeeper Percy Ames (second right) with his 1964-5 U's Player of the Year trophy, alongside Mick Loughton (left), Derek Trevis and Billy Stark (right).



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Nationwide League Division Two - Latest Table

Colchester United Roll Call 2000/2001

Up to and including Friday March 30
Key: A - Lge Apps; B - Lge Subs; C - Lge Goals; D - W.Cup/LDV Apps; E - W.Cup/LDV Subs; F - W.Cup/LDV Goals; G - F.A. Cup Apps; H - F.A. Cup Subs; I - F.A. Cup Goals; J - 00/01 Apps; K - 00/01 Goals

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Evening Gazette & ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD

The Teams

Colchester United

Colours: Blue & White
Manager: Steve Whitton

1. Simon **BROWN**
2. Joe **DUNNE**
3. Joe **KEITH**
4. Gavin **JOHNSON**
5. Ross **JOHNSON**
6. Simon **CLARK**
7. Karl **DUGUID**
8. David **GREGORY**
9. Scott **McGLEISH**
10. Steve **McGAVIN**
11. Jason **DOZZELL**
13. Andy **WALKER**
14. Chris **KEEBLE**
15. Thomas **PINAULT**
18. Aaron **SKELTON**
19. Alan **WHITE**
20. Mick **STOCKWELL**
21. Keith **scott**
22. Sam **OKAFOR**
23. Matt **HEARN**
24. Kemi **IZZET**
26. Scott **FITZGERALD**
27. Dean **MORGAN**
28. Barry **CONLON**
29. Andy **WOODMAN**

Luton Town

Colours: Orange & Blue
Manager: Joe Kinnear

1. Mark **OVENDALE**
2. Gavin **McGOWAN**
3. Matthew **SPRING**
5. Julian **WATTS**
6. Marvin **JOHNSON**
7. Peter **THOMSON**
8. Paul **McLAREN**
9. Stuart **DOUGLAS**
10. Mark **STEIN**
11. Liam **GEORGE**
12. Adam **LOCKE**
14. Andrew **FOTIADIS**
15. Matthew **TAYLOR**
16. Nathan **ABBAY**
17. Emmerson **BOYCE**
20. Peter **HOLMES**
21. Andre **SCARLETT**
23. Jude **STIRLING**
26. Fritz **BREITENFELDER**
30. Petri **HELIN**
32. Lee **MANSELL**
33. Richard **DRYDEN**
34. Steve **HOWARD**
35. Paul **SHEPHERD**
39. Keith **ROWLAND**

The Officials

Referee:

Mr P. Warren (W.Midlands)



Assistants:

Mr P. Crossley (Kent)



Mr R. Brayne (Essex)



Fourth Official:

Mr G. Lewis (Cambs)

Next here...

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Nationwide League
Division Two
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Kick Off 7.45pm

