

# Luton Town Football Club



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Official Matchday  
Magazine

Luton Town  
v  
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**Official Matchday  
Magazine**

**Editor**

Brian Swain

**Design & Printing**

Regal Litho Ltd

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Gareth Owen

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

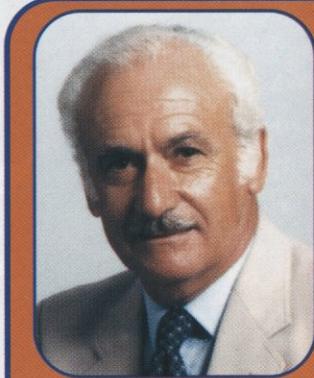
**Front Cover**



THE FIRST OF MANY: Celebrations at Carlisle after the Town's opening goal of the new season, with scorer Paul Hughes enjoying the moment with Matthew Taylor, Kevin Nicholls and Lee Mansell.

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# Inside Forward



**WELCOME** back to the start of another league season. As I said in my notes for the pre-season friendlies programme, it will be a momentous season for us all - that's a promise.

I am glad to see the very good start to the campaign with victory at Carlisle a week ago, and I know Joe Kinnear and the team all appreciated the magnificent support you gave. He is a very professional manager, and has succeeded in signing up some great new talent. It's good to see Mick Harford, our ex No. 9, back at Kenilworth Road, and he and Daley

Thompson, a double Olympic champion, spent many hours making sure your team is absolutely fit and strong.

I have learned to take nothing for granted in football but I am confident your team and club is poised for great success. We have a brighter future off the field as well, with plans for our new stadium still progressing. I wish we could move things forward more quickly, but there is a lot of red tape involved, and I promise we will get there in the end. We will keep you informed. Meantime, thank you for your support and interest, and please keep shouting for our team!

*Mike Watson-Challis*

**Chairman**

very unlikely to come back after doing well in trials. The boss quite liked the 32-year-old, who has been released by Lille - until the player's agent spelled out his terms. "He wanted four grand a week, and help with living accommodation," said Joe. "I told him no-one here gets even half that amount. The last I heard he was being hawked around in Italy."

WE THINK Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford might have set a record at Brunton Park - the shortest-ever distance for a series of mobile phone calls. Today the boss completes his banishment from the dug-out, following FA displeasure over his comments to a match official in the game against Rotherham late last season. Joe has to sit in the stand, and here at Kenilworth Road there is a direct phone line to the bench on the other side of the ground.

At Brunton Park, Joe and Mick, all of 20 yards apart, kept in touch on their mobiles. The exchanges were all the more fascinating to spectators as words were accompanied by the appropriate one-armed gestures so that each could be absolutely sure what the other was saying.

SUPPORTERS will see some changes in our matchday programme this season, including a new format for the results and stats section. We are indebted to Town and stats fanatic Dave Newman, from Milton Ernest, for his expert help in producing it. Advantages include a much clearer idea of when players come in and go out of the team, and an easier-to-see indication of winning runs. We will, once again, report away attendance figures as a separate item.

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**Joe Kinnear**

HAVING won our first game of the season, there is some satisfaction around Kenilworth Road today as we prepare for the visit of Cheltenham Town, and my old friend Steve Cotterill, their manager who was a player at Wimbledon when I was in charge there.

I am not sure that his team will pose the same problems we faced at Carlisle, where the result was very pleasing in view of the hard work we had to do before we could make our football count. It gave us a chuckle to hear our fans chanting "We're going up" some while before the end of the first game of the season! I hope you're right, but obviously there is a very long way to go. Promotion is our aim, and fans can help us, home and away. It was a fantastic turn-out by Luton supporters at Carlisle, and it was much appreciated.

We fielded a team which was vastly different from the one that played last season, with six players going straight into the side after being signed during the summer. I hope that a seventh, Adrian Forbes, might be available for selection today after getting over injury.

In terms of re-building the squad we are getting there slowly, but the jig-saw is not complete yet. A total of 11 players of varying ability have left the club since we last played here, and a couple more might be on their way by the time you read this.

I have not finished recruiting: Hopefully there will be up to six more brought in to complete the squad. Basically, I am working to gather a group with higher standards than the one I inherited. Carlisle gave us a decent test, but I suspect we will meet better teams than that, starting today. In the first half we had a good look at them, and in the second we moved up a gear. We played some good football, and kept possession well, and by the end we were looking comfortable.

I was glad to get that long journey done in August - I wouldn't like to have to go to Carlisle in the depths of winter. The pitch was excellent, as is ours, and that is a help to us because good playing surfaces suit our style. But we will have

## The Manager

to adapt to other conditions before the final league table is published, and I think we are putting together a combination of players capable of seeing us through.

Ideally I would like to see a lot of matches like the friendly against Spurs, where both sides were able to play their passing games and put on good entertainment for the crowd. However, I do not expect too many teams in our league to play with a swagger like Spurs did.

There will certainly be times when we will need a bit of steel in the side, and we will need strong characters. Carlisle were pretty determined, and did their best to put up a fortress around their goal, and other teams will opt for the same, especially if we can embark on a good winning run early in the season. In the end 2-0 was a perfect result. Our performance got better the longer it went on, two of the new boys scored, and we kept a clean sheet.

It is all credit to the team that they settled into a winning unit so quickly - Paul Hughes and Russ Perrett, for instance, did not sign for us until 48 hours before the game. All the new players have shown the right attitude, and I am delighted with the way Mick Harford has settled into his coaching role. You don't need me to tell you he is dedicated to Luton Town's push for success.

So my first column of the new season is about optimism, with a promise that we are united in our determination to do well. Today we must try to start the way we finished at Carlisle. Team selection, I hope, is going to be a head-ache for me every week this season. I already have to make choices between players available in all parts of the team, and that is important. Last season the side picked itself too often. This time, players in the team will be looking over their shoulders, knowing others are waiting for the chance to replace them. We must all be on our toes, and hopefully supporters will respond. We need good backing, home and away, and if the support we had at Carlisle turns out to be typical this season we will be well pleased. It really does make a difference.

Enjoy the game, and the season.

*Joe Kinnear*

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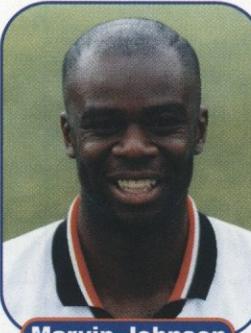


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Marvin Johnson

## Club Captain

IT IS going to be a very different Luton Town team that takes the field today compared to the squad that finished last season.

I can't remember a summer that has seen more changes in the club, and it is already looking certain that they are all for the better. We had been in decline for some time - our problems didn't suddenly arise last year out of the blue. It needed a shake-up on and off the field, and it has all happened, with the new manager able to put his ideas into practice, and a chairman willing to back him with the necessary finance to build a better squad. Players already know that it is going to be harder to get into the first team this season, and that is important. Too often last year you came to the ground knowing what the side would be, because there was so little scope for the manager to make changes.

That allows complacency to creep in, but there will be no danger of that now that the boss has brought in his first seven new signings, with the promise of more to come. All of us know our places are under threat, and that sort of pressure will bring better performances.

And yes, I realise that at my age I am probably under more pressure than most! Even so, I want to see Luton Town successful, and after the pain of relegation we are all desperate to do well this season.

All the new men have settled in really well, and we are already a very happy dressing room. I was particularly pleased to see Aaron Skelton return. We know what a good player he is, and I have no problem with him being named as team captain. It won't make any difference to my style of play - I will still be doing a bit of shouting, and, I am sure, so will others. One man wears the armband, but invariably every team has several unofficial captains, and we all of us do our best to raise each other's spirits.

Naturally, we were in very good heart coming home from Carlisle, although I had to be subbed in the second half because of a hamstring niggle. But we were one up at the time, and I felt pretty confident we had the points safely locked up.

I was probably not 100 per cent match fit after my long lay-off last season, but I can promise you that was not Daley Thompson's fault! He was an inspired "signing" by the boss although I am not sure we all really appreciated it at the time we were being stretched through the pain barrier. Pre-season training under Daley and Mick Harford was very tough, one of the hardest pre-seasons I have endured since I came here. We put up with the suffering because we know that fitness is so very important in today's game, perhaps especially at this level of the Football League.

It is going to be a long hard campaign, and probably the real dividend from the fitness work we have done in the summer will become apparent in the depths of winter, when the pitches get heavy and we don't have the sun on our backs.

Without being disrespectful to Carlisle, I think we will have harder games than we had a week ago. I thought that in the first half we were a bit anxious, with everyone trying too hard to do well. In the second half the early goal settled us, and gave us the confidence to play, and we were never in real danger of losing. But we don't kid ourselves that one good result means we are going to run away with the league. I see we are second favourites with the bookies, and after the changes the gaffer has made that is probably a reasonable judgement. We are quietly confident that we can justify the odds and I will be very upset if we are not there or thereabouts next April.

First, we have to produce much better home results than we did last season, starting this afternoon. I hope that the new confident air sweeping through the club is felt by supporters as well, and we send a big thank-you to the wonderful following we had at Brunton Park. I hope that home crowds will swell week by week. I know they will if we can keep winning, so that is our immediate ambition today, and with your help we are capable of having a very good campaign this season. I hope we all enjoy it.

Marvin Johnson

## Treatment Room



Bruce Sewell

THREE players who would have been probable team selections are likely to miss this afternoon's game because of injuries:

Matthew Spring, Aaron Skelton and Marvin Johnson.

The only one with any hope of making it is Johnson, who felt a twinge or two in his hamstring at Carlisle. We subbed him during the second half as a precaution.

It does not look like a serious problem, but it was a race against time to try to get him completely fit for today.

Skelton looks certain to miss this afternoon's match after injuring a leg muscle at Carlisle. He has worked hard to get over it, but on Thursday he was still a little short of complete fitness, and was unable to strike a ball at full power. I think he might have a chance of being ready to play again in Tuesday's Worthington Cup game at Reading.

Spring is getting over a cartilage operation fol-

lowing a knee injury sustained in a pre-season friendly at Dundee. The surgery was routine and went well, and he is already able to run comfortably. It looks as though he will be back in full training in a couple of weeks, and then able to play first team football soon after that. Adrian Forbes, who missed the chance of his Luton debut at Carlisle because of a groin strain, is very much better now. In fact, he was probably only a day short of making it for the trip to Brunton Park. We did not need to take a risk with him, but he is now completely fit, and hoping to play today.

My other patient is Stuart Fraser, who is continuing to work hard to get over a broken leg, suffered at QPR in January. He is training but is not allowed to kick a ball, and must wait for the bone to get stronger before he can think about practice games. The surgeon will have another look at him next month, and we will then have a better idea of when he might be ready to compete for a first team place.

Bruce Sewell

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## Club Secretary



Cherry Newbery

WELCOME to the new season, which, I am sure like me you are very excited about, especially after the fantastic support, and result to match, at Carlisle.

It seems strange to start the new season with thanks even before a ball is kicked, but they are thoroughly deserved: the groundsman, Richard Bird, and his assistant Ken Everitt, have worked extremely hard through the summer to produce the superb pitch here at Kenilworth Road, and also at the training ground.

Fred Marchant, in the maintenance department, and his band of men also worked tirelessly through the close season to paint and clean the stadium, and it is looking its best for years.

On a more sombre note, I need to remind supporters of the need to adhere to the Ground Regulations, which are posted in various parts of the stadium. You will have seen that we have had to put in place a tunnel cover for the protection of players and officials. We had two unfortunate incidents last season of officials being spat on. Please be aware that the Football Association has the power to deduct points, a fact we were reminded of when Geoff Lovell, our safety officer, Pc Peter Palmer, football liaison officer and myself met Adrian Titcombe, from the Football Association, during the close season.

The Avon Insurance Combination home games will all be played at Kenilworth Road this season, and needless to say we hope that with the season being shorter, due to the World Cup next year, that the weather will be kinder to us than it was last season (can it possibly be any worse!?) and we don't get any postponements. Season ticket holders will again get free entry to matches in the Avon Insurance Combination.

The weather was not very kind to us last Thursday, when last season's much-postponed final of the Beds Premier Cup against Barton Rovers was called off again due to torrential rain. At the time of writing we are still waiting for a new date to be arranged.

I am pleased to give you good news on the scoreboard front - an order for a new one has been placed, and it will be installed in the near future. I don't know if, like me, you still look at where the scoreboard should be to check the time played! The old board, sadly, could not be repaired, because it was impossible to obtain spare parts for it.

Finally today, we are pleased that the Downside Centre are again going to help us with the cleaning of the ground after a game. We thank them for their help.

Enjoy the game, and the season.

Cherry Newbery

## TALK AND TOUR

WE'RE hoping to attract big crowds to Kenilworth Road games this season, and supporters might also find it interesting to attend an open evening at the stadium on Tuesday September 4. We will open up as many of the facilities as possible for conducted tours between 6 and 8.30 pm, and all supporters are invited to come and talk to match day staff, have a good look round. You can see something of what goes on and behind the scenes, and tours will include the changing rooms and control room, subject to availability because they can take only limited numbers. It will also be a chance to meet players, and there will, for the first time, be a limited supply of the new away kit on sale in the shop, which will be open that evening. The Nick Owen bar will also be open, along with the main stand catering unit and the ticket office. There will be free stewarded parking at Hazelbury Crescent car park, and entrance to the ground will be via Kenilworth Road. Everyone will be made very welcome, and we will be very interested to hear your views.

You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on:  
[clubsec@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:clubsec@lutontown.co.uk)

# Ticket News

Worthington Cup, First Round

## Reading v Luton Town

Tuesday August 21, 2001, kick-off 7.45pm

Advance tickets, offering a discount, are now on sale at our ticket office in Kenilworth Road.

Prices: Adults £11, senior citizens and juniors £6

Prices on the night at Reading: Adults £13, senior citizens and juniors £8



Nationwide League Division Three

## Bristol Rovers v Luton Town

Saturday August 25, 2001, kick-off 3pm

This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters.

No tickets are available at Kenilworth Road.

Admission prices: Adults £11, senior citizens and juniors £5.50



Nationwide League Division Three

## Luton Town v Southend Utd

Monday August 27, 2001, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices

Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability

Reminder: There are NO CONCESSIONS available on the cash turnstiles.



Nationwide League Division Three

## Exeter City v Luton Town

Saturday September 1, 2001, kick-off 3pm

This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters.

No tickets are available at Kenilworth Road.

Admission prices: Seats: Adults £13, senior citizens and students £10, juniors £7

Terracing: Adults £10, senior citizens, students and juniors £7



Nationwide League Division Three

## Luton Town v Oxford Utd

Saturday September 8, 2001, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices

Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability

Reminder: There are NO CONCESSIONS available on the cash turnstiles



## Matchday Ticket Collection Point Kenilworth Road

Supporters collecting tickets from the Kenilworth Road Collection Point, must collect their tickets at least 30 mins before kick-off

Supporters entering via the Maple Road Bridge turnstiles can now collect their pre-ordered tickets from the Eric Morecambe Lounge Foyer. Please advise the ticket office staff when ordering your tickets that you wish to collect at the Eric Morecombe Lounge Foyer.

Tickets must be collected at least 30mins before kick off.

## Luton Town Credit Card Hotline

By using our telephone hotline system you can order match tickets up to 48 hours prior to any game by ringing

**01582 730748** 24 HOURS A DAY

You can order tickets via email on:

[ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk)

# Hatters Away

WE HEAD west down the M4 twice in five days for two games before our next home match. We are at Reading on Tuesday, in the first round of the Worthington Cup, and on Saturday we go to the Memorial Ground to take on Bristol Rovers for a league game.

As usual two coach services will be in business this season to get supporters to matches, one run by the Bobbers Travel Club and the other by Town on Tour.

The Bobbers cater for customers in outlying Bedfordshire villages as well as from Luton, and on Tuesday they set off from Cranfield at 3.30. They call at Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and the Travelodge at the junction of Dunstable Road and the M1. Kenilworth Road departure time is 4.30, and the fare will be £8.50 for adults, and £7 for junior and senior citizens.

Town on Tour, part of Luton Town Supporters Club, will leave the Maple Road car park at 4.30 and their fares are £10 for LTSC members, £9 for senior and junior members, and £11 for others. You can join the Supporters Club on the coach and claim a discount immediately - LTSC subs are a minimum donation of £7.

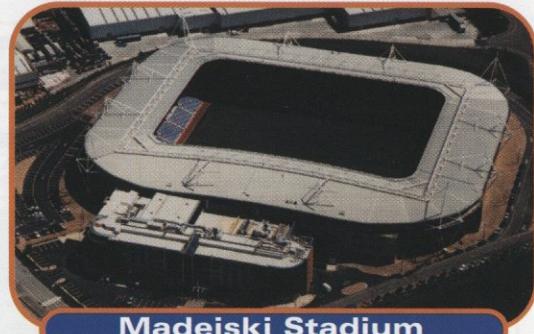
On Saturday, Town on Tour will set off at 10.30 for Bristol, and the fares will be £12 for LTSC members, £11 concessionary members and £13 for others.

The Bobbers departure times are 9.30 Cranfield, 10.30 Luton, and the fare will be £11.50 for adults, £9.50 for under-16s and pensioners.

Bookings for any of the services can be made at the two organisations' kiosks in Kenilworth Road, before or after today's match. Or you can book for the Bobbers by phone call to Paul Deason on



Memorial Ground



Madejski Stadium

01234 750996. Town on Tour bookings are also taken during the week at the club shop in Kenilworth Road, and the Town on Tour mobile number for out of office hours calls is 07960 567465.

## DIY Travellers

DRIVING to Reading and to Bristol is simple, mainly on motorways, although on Tuesday evening fans going to the magnificent Madejski Stadium should remember that the M25 and M4 can be clogged by traffic even more than usual

because of the homeward rush hour from London. Leave Luton on the M1 south, then make a right turn onto the M25 west. Near Heathrow leave M25 to join the M4.

Leave M4 at junction 11, and turn right, following the A33, signposted to Reading. Keep to the left hand lane, resisting any temptation to take the right fork. Go straight ahead at the first roundabout, and left at the next. The route to the Madejski Stadium is signposted, and it has a big car park.

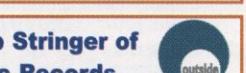
**Mileage from Luton: 64.**

For Bristol on Saturday follow the same route to join the M4, but continue on that road to junction 19, where you turn left onto the M32. Leave the M32 at junction 2, and turn right, signposted to Fishponds and Horfield. Bear right where the road forks, and at the sixth set of traffic lights, about a quarter of a mile further on, turn left into Filton Avenue. The ground is on your left, and there is ample street parking in the area.

**Mileage from Luton: 150.**

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Kenilworth Suite Membership details can be found on page 42 or contact the Commercial Department on **01582 411622**



# Supporters Club



IF OPTIMISM is the key, we are in for a very good season, and Luton Town Supporters Club has enjoyed a welcome increase in membership since the end of the last campaign.

There are also signs that the away games will also be well supported, with over a thousand fans making the long trip to Carlisle last week. Many of those travelled with Town on Tour, the coach service set up by LTSC a couple of years ago, and now firmly established as one of the best ways to follow the Hatters. The aim is to keep improving the service, and prices will be pegged at last season's level wherever possible.

Fans who go to all the away matches will cover the best part of 8,000 miles between now and next April, and with some new grounds to visit Town on Tour hopes to attract plenty of customers, and also increase membership of the Supporters Club.

The best deals are offered to LTSC members, and if you want to know more please call in at the Supporters Club kiosk in Kenilworth Road on any match day.

Subscriptions to the Supporters Club are a minimum donation of £7 a year, and the benefits include first option on the popular series of guest speaker nights - the chairman, manager, first team coach and several players are among those being lined up for the new season's schedule.

Not least of the Supporters Club endeavours is the push to make profits to put into Luton Town, and this season they will sponsor Richard Dryden.

Highly popular with members, especially exiles in far-flung parts of the country, is the quarterly newsletter, which carries an interesting mixture of news, views, and features.

It is hoped to revamp the newsletter later this year, and there is a vacancy for a volunteer to help with production. The newsletter will come off professional printers' presses, but it a pre-production volunteer

is needed to provide computerised pages. John Pyper has done an excellent job on the newsletter for a long time, but pressure of work means he was to cut back on his voluntary labours. The job would be ideal for a young supporter, perhaps a university student, with computer skills willing to give up a little time to bring together items provided by various sources. If you are interested, please write to the LTSC chairman, Mark Chapman, c/o Luton Town FC.

We would also love to hear of anyone willing to sponsor the newsletter.

Mr Chapman was re-elected chairman at the AGM in July, at which Nick Owen was also re-appointed President.

The Supporters Club, founded in 1988, has close links with the football club, with Cherry Newbery a valued committee member as LTFC representative.

Yvonne Fletcher, a former chairman of the Supporters Club, and still a committee member, is, of course, now a director of Luton Town, the voice of ordinary fans in the boardroom. She holds regular open meetings to tell LTSC members what is going on behind the scenes.

The LTSC committee meets monthly, and any member is eligible to come along and help on the admin side - again contact Mark Chapman for further information.

And just to prove that football supporters sometimes have other things on their minds, our congratulations go to Adie Shotbolt and the former Beccy Hutchison. Our picture shows them at their wedding at All Saints Church, Chalgrove, in July.

They are both keen Town fans and Supporters Club members, and Adie is on the LTSC Committee. They first met at a Supporters Club player of the year presentation night. We look forward to seeing them, and many other Town fans, at the next one - the date is Sunday April 21, 2002, at the Riverside Suite. It will, of course, be a party to celebrate promotion!



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Luton Town's very own official website.  
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John Bailey

## Commercial Corner

AT THE start of a new season, it is a great pleasure to welcome back old friends as sponsors of this afternoon's match. They are a group of fans who follow the team home and away, and call themselves the Regular Rabble.

We hope Sue and Les Miller and their friends enjoy their afternoon with us, preferably with a result as good as the one most of them saw last week when they were on the Bobbers Travel Club coach to Carlisle.

They are certainly not, needless to say, a rabble, but very good ambassadors for Luton Town, and their sponsorship is just one way in which they express that support. As a club we need every penny we can earn from commercial activities, and we would be very much the poorer in all senses of the word without very good friends prepared to back our efforts.

Match sponsorships are just one of the many packages on offer to make your football day out something special, and you may be pleasantly surprised at our ability to tailor a budget to suit your needs - ring the Commercial Department on Luton 411622 to find out more.

WE HAVE one of our youngest-ever match ball sponsors today, because something of a family tradition is being maintained for Darren Pullen. The sponsorship is a belated birthday present for Darren, who was 12 last month, from his mother and father, Andy and Georgina, and his sister Vanessa.

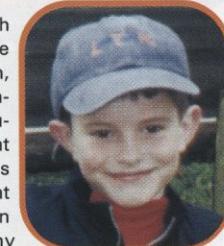
They live in Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard, and the Pullen

name was in this slot in February, when we played Swansea - Mrs Pullen bought the package as a surprise 40th birthday present for her husband.

Darren has been a Junior Hatter since he was five, with the highlight so far the day when he was chosen as their mascot against Bournemouth on New Year's Day. He frequently attends the Town's coaching courses, and thoroughly enjoys them, and he says his dream is to play professional football for the Hatters.

A BOY who loves coming to watch Luton Town will be much more involved than usual this afternoon, because Timothy Owen is our commercial mascot. He was nine a couple of weeks ago, and is a regular at Kenilworth Road along with his father and mother. The family live at Hall Close, Kislingbury, in Northamptonshire, and Timothy attends Kislingbury Primary School. We asked him what his hobbies were, and he replied: "Just football!" It will be a day to remember today, because he will meet all the Town players in the dressing room before kick-off, and then go out onto the pitch with them for the pre-match rituals, including a close-up view of the toss of the coin.

He hopes Stuart Douglas will keep his lace in the squad, because the striker is Timothy's favourite player.



John Bailey

## Golden Gamble

ONE OF the most popular features of football at Kenilworth Road is the Golden Gamble, which gives supporters the chance to help the Hatters and go home with a nice cash bonus. It's a simple lottery: tickets cost just £1 each, and the prize at each match depends on sales. The lucky ticket is drawn out of a drum at half time, and last season 27 winners collected an average of £477 each.

Half the income from ticket sales goes to the jackpot winner, with the other 50 per cent going to club funds, so even losers can take some consolation from knowing their money has gone to a good cause.

Three fans have already collected pay-outs this season, from the friendlies. At the QPR game Mrs Tracy Devine, of Sunridge Avenue, Luton collected £195, while the Norwich City pay-out was £210 to Mike McClelland, of Ravenbank Road, Stopsley. The big crowd at the Tottenham game resulted in the prize reaching £385, and the buyer of the lucky ticket was Ken Delaney, of Half Way Avenue, Luton, who is pic-

tered receiving his prize after his number was picked out of the drum by Adrian Forbes. As usual today the draw will be made at half-time, with the cash available immediately. Golden Gamble ticket sellers are on duty in all parts of the ground, and at a pound a go we reckon it is a decent flutter.



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## Goals Info:



**Where**

**Close Range**

**17 Goals**

**Inside Area**

**30 Goals**

**Outside Area**

**5 Goals**

**How**

Shots ..... 25

Headers ..... 15

Volleys ..... 7

Penalties ..... 3

Free Kicks ..... 0

O.G.s ..... 2

## Top Scorers

George ..... 7

Mansell ..... 5

Watts ..... 4

Spring ..... 4

Douglas ..... 4

**2000-2001**

## Highest Gate

7,405

vs Bristol Rovers

## Lowest Gate

4,362

vs Walsall

## Average Gate

5,754

Players Used 33

Clean Sheets 7

Failed to Score 15

Consec. Wins 3 games

Consec. Defeats 4 gms (2 times)

## Conf

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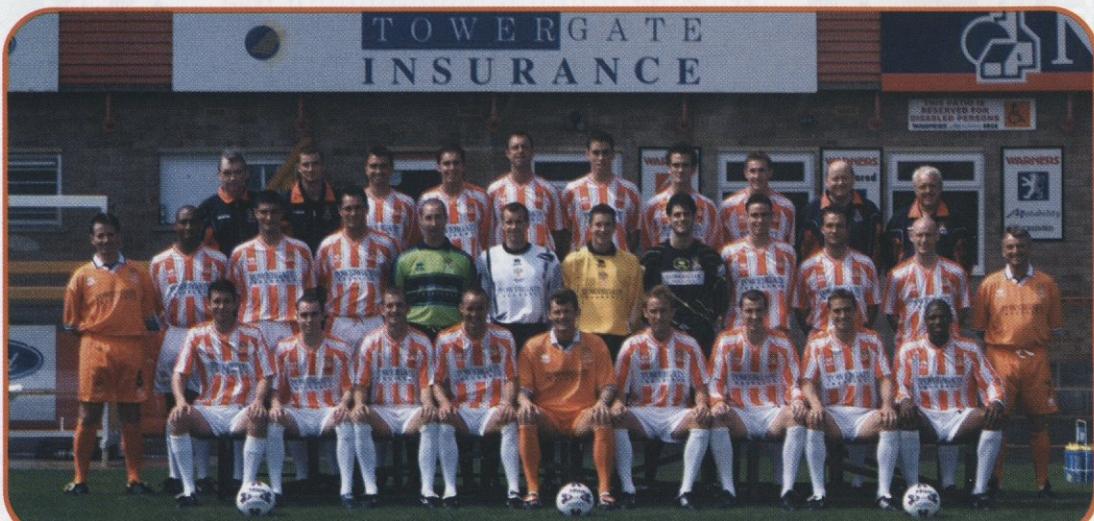
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# Welcome to Cheltenham Town F.C.



**Back row (left to right):** Brian Tarren (Kit manager), Andrew Mitchell (Physiotherapist), Russell Milton, Hugh McAuley, Keith Hill, Shane Duff, Martin Devaney, Antony Griffin, John Atkinson (Reserves Physiotherapist), Mike Heather (Groundsman).

**Middle row:** Mike Davis (Assistant manager), Jamie Victory, Gareth Hopkins, Julian Alsop, Carl Muggleton, Steve Book, Steve Benbow, Shane Higgs, Michael Duff, John Brough, Neil Grayson, Graham Allner (Coach).

**Front row:** Steve Jones, Michael Jackson, Lee Howells, Chris Banks, Steve Cotterill (Manager), Mark Yates, Neil Howarth, Richard Walker, Jason White.

## No.1 Steve Book - Goalkeeper

**Born:** 7.7.69, Bournemouth

Now in his fifth season with Cheltenham Town, Steve has been virtually ever-present since joining the club from Forest Green Rovers in July 1997. He missed only 64 minutes of league action in Cheltenham's first two seasons in the Nationwide League after going off with a knee injury in the 2-2 draw at Barnet last season. A confident, agile goalkeeper and a fine shot-stopper.

## No.21 Carl Muggleton - Goalkeeper

**Born:** 13.9.68, Leicester

A major summer signing for the Robins, Carl is a vastly experienced goalkeeper who began his career with Leicester City. He made over 50 appearances for the Foxes and gained first team experience during loan spells with Chesterfield, where he made his Football League debut, Blackpool, Hartlepool, Stockport and Stoke City. Carl won an England under-21 cap against France in 1990 and made a £150,000 switch to Glasgow giants Celtic in January 1994.

## No.12 Shane Higgs - Goalkeeper

**Born:** 13.5.77, Oxford

6ft 3ins goalkeeper, signed from Worcester City for £10,000 in the summer of 1999. Shane began as a trainee with Bristol Rovers, signing a professional contract in 1995 and going on to make 10 League appearances for the Pirates before being released in 1998.

## No.2 Michael Duff - Defender

**Born:** 11.1.78, Belfast

Michael joined Cheltenham Town as a youth trainee after spending time with both Darlington and Swindon Town as a schoolboy. He began his career as a right-back but has spent much of the past two seasons operating on the right-hand side of midfield where his height and pace have been an effective attacking weapon for the team. However, manager Steve Cotterill believes Michael will eventually settle into the centre of defence, a position where he made a handful of appearances last season. Despite his relatively young age, Michael has made over 200 appearances for the Robins, dating back to his club debut in the Dr Martens League aged 17.

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# Today's Visitors

## No.5 John Brough - Defender

**Born:** 8.1.73, Ilkeston

John is looking to re-establish himself in the Cheltenham Town line-up during season 2001-2002 after missing most of last season with a serious knee injury. After several months of rehabilitation he took his first steps towards full training over the summer. John is one of several players in the Cheltenham Town squad enjoying his second crack at League football. He was a YTS player at Notts County before signing professionally for Shrewsbury Town. After a short spell in the Conference with Telford United, he joined Hereford in November 1994. He joined the Robins from Hereford in July 1998 and has been an important member of the squad since then, operating as either a central defender or emergency striker.

## No.6 Keith Hill - Defender

**Born:** 17.5.69, Bolton

The first of Cheltenham Town's summer 2001 signings, Keith joined the club on a free transfer from Rochdale. A hard-working and consistent central defender, Keith began his career with Blackburn Rovers and progressed from the junior ranks to make over 100 appearances at Ewood Park. He was a member of the Blackburn side that won promotion to the Premiership via the play-offs in 1992 before moving south to join Plymouth Argyle. He then helped the Devon side win the Division Three play-offs during a four year spell that spanned nearly 150 games.

## No.17 Neil Howarth - Defender

**Born:** 15.11.71, Bolton

Tall, strong and adaptable defensive player signed February 1999 to operate in any position along the back four or five. Neil began his career with Burnley but made just one League appearance before joining Macclesfield Town in the Conference. He captained The Silkmen to success in the FA Trophy, two Conference championships and promotion from Nationwide League Division Three, finally leaving Moss Rose to join Cheltenham for a £7,500 fee.

## No.3 Jamie Victory - Defender

**Born:** 14.11.75, London

One of Cheltenham Town's most highly-rated players, his absence with a knee ligament injury was a huge blow to the team last season. A stylish left-footed player with a cool temperament, Jamie operated mostly at left-back but also in midfield and in the centre of defence

during his first five seasons with the club. He began his career as a trainee with West Ham, winning the young Hammer of the year award, but was then released to join AFC Bournemouth in 1995. He made a number of appearances for the south coast club before joining Cheltenham Town in 1996 and winning the supporters player of the year award in his first season at Whaddon Road.

## No.15 Richard Walker - Defender

**Born:** 9.11.71, Derby

A solid and dependable defensive player, Richard has bounced back from a series of injuries to become a regular selection in the Cheltenham back line. A versatile player who can operate at left-back or in the centre of defence, he joined the Robins from Hereford United in October 1998. Richard began his career with Notts County, joining them straight from school as a YTS player. He spent a number of years at Meadow Lane, making 67 Football League appearances before joining Hereford United in the summer of 1997 and was a regular in the Edgar Street team, where he made several appearances as captain before his move to Cheltenham.

## No.20 Steve Jones - Defender

**Born:** 25.12.70, Bristol

Steve re-joined Cheltenham Town from Swansea City in the summer, having originally left Whaddon Road in 1995. A tremendous athlete with great natural heading ability, Steve began his career in the Gloucestershire County League with Wotton Rovers. He moved on to Fairford Town then Forest Green Rovers before joining the Robins in the summer of 1993. After two and a half successful seasons he was transferred to Swansea City for £25,000.



## No.14 Antony Griffin - Midfielder

**Born:** 22.3.79, Bournemouth

Antony joined Cheltenham in the summer of 2000 for a tribunal-set £25,000 fee. He was previously with his home town club AFC Bournemouth, where he progressed from the junior teams through the youth and reserve set-up to make five first team appearances. A quick and skilful right-sided player, Antony can operate at either right-back, right wing-back or in midfield.

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### No.7 Lee Howells - Midfielder

**Born:** 14.10.68, Fremantle, Australia

Cheltenham Town's longest serving player joined the club for a nominal fee from Australian club Brisbane United in December 1991. Born in Australia of English parents, 'Archie' was a trainee with Bristol Rovers before returning down under to spend four years with Brisbane. Since arriving at Whaddon Road Lee has remained loyal to the club despite offers from elsewhere and is now the third highest appearance maker in Cheltenham Town history with over 400 games to his credit. He was a member of the Cheltenham side that won promotion from the Dr Martens League and claimed the FA Trophy and Conference title.

### No.11 Russell Milton - Midfielder

**Born:** 12.1.69, Folkestone

Russell is widely regarded as one of the most talented players in the Cheltenham team, yet his four seasons with the club have been heavily disrupted by injuries. A left-footed midfield player with delicate touch, vision and passing ability, Russell joined the Robins in the summer of 1997 from Dover Athletic and went on to help Cheltenham achieve success in the FA Trophy and Conference. He made his Football League debut the following season (1999-2000) and was voted supporters' player of the year.

### No.8 Mark Yates - Midfielder

**Born:** 24.1.70, Birmingham

Mark was voted supporters' player of the season last term in recognition of his high standard of performances throughout the campaign. A central midfielder with a non-stop workrate, whose tackling, passing and box-to-box running have been a key feature of the Cheltenham side for the past two and a half seasons. Mark began his career as a striker with Birmingham City but had dropped back to midfield by the time he joined Burnley. A brief spell with Doncaster Rovers followed before spending a number of years in the Conference with Kidderminster Harriers, making over 250 appearances, many of them as captain.

### No.10 Hugh McAuley - Midfielder

**Born:** 13.5.77, Plymouth

Hugh is a talented young player who made the successful transition from striker to midfielder last season. He began as a trainee at Liverpool and was a regular in the youth and reserve set-up without making the first team. He played in the Conference for Northwich Victoria and in the League of Wales and UEFA Intertoto Cup for Conwy United before settling at Leek Town. Hugh scored 33 goals in two seasons in the Conference for Leek and Cheltenham had to fight off competition from other clubs to capture his signature for a £20,000 fee.

### No.18 Michael Jackson - Midfielder

**Born:** 26.6.80, Cheltenham

Now into his fourth season as a professional with Cheltenham Town, Michael has had to be patient in waiting for a regular first team chance. A local lad who played for both the club and county youth teams, Michael has been virtually ever-present in the reserves for the past three seasons, operating in a wide variety of different positions. However, his preferred place is in the centre of midfield and it has been in this role that his first team appearances to date have been made.

### No.16 Martin Devaney - Forward

**Born:** 1.6.80, Cheltenham

Exciting young striker now in his third season with Cheltenham Town, Martin scored the club's first ever Football League hat-trick in the 5-2 defeat of Plymouth Argyle last season. Born in Cheltenham of Irish parents, Martin trained with the Republic of Ireland at under-16 level and began his career as a schoolboy with Birmingham City.

### No.22 Gareth Hopkins - Forward

**Born:** 14.6.80, Cheltenham

Gareth is a tall, strong central striker who progressed from the club's youth and reserve sides to the first team squad. He scored twice on his first team debut against Hayes in the Endsleigh Trophy in 1999 and made his full Football League debut against Chesterfield last season.

### No.9 Neil Grayson - Forward

**Born:** 1.1.64, York

A living legend at Whaddon Road, Neil Grayson won all three player of the year awards in the season Cheltenham won promotion to the Football League. Fittingly, Neil scored Cheltenham's first ever Football League goal and last season finished as top scorer for the third season running. A



strong, fit father of four sons whose appetite for the game shows no sign of dimming with age, Neil joined Doncaster Rovers from local football in Yorkshire and went on to play for Boston United, Chesterfield, York City, Northampton Town and Hereford United before joining Cheltenham in March 1998.

### No.19 Julian Alsop - Forward

**Born:** 28.5.73, Nuneaton

Cheltenham beat off interest from several other clubs to capture 'Big Jules' on a Bosman free transfer in the summer of 2000. A towering striker and powerful physical presence, Julian is a useful player to have in both attacking and defending situations. He makes up for his lack of pace with a high workrate and the ability to hold onto the ball and link others into the attack.



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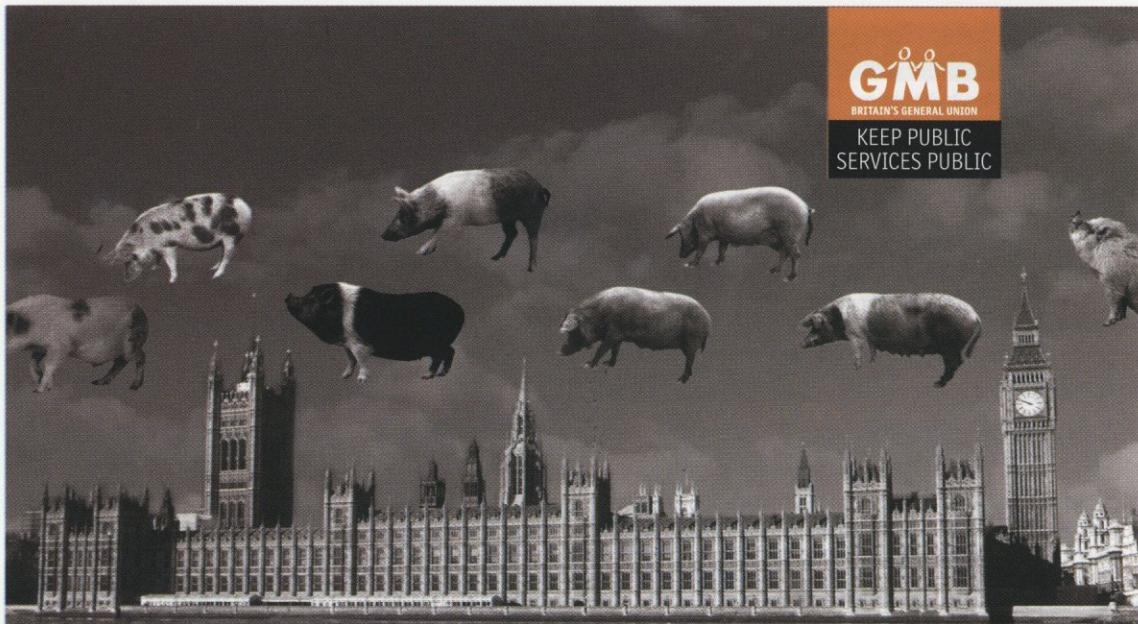
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## Hatters Chatter

WE HAVE a new kit this season, necessary because the previous suppliers went out of the business, but we are delighted to report that the sponsor's name on the front of the shirt is the same again.

The club is very grateful for the continued sponsorship of SKF (UK) Ltd, who have just agreed their second consecutive two-year deal.

The world's leading manufacturers of rolling bearings, and for many years part of the community in and around Luton, SKF's staff have always included a lot of Hatters fanatics, and one of them is in the picture. Left to right, at the signing of the new agreement, are Cherry Newbery, Joe Kinnear, John McCormack, managing director of SKF, and John Bailey from our commercial department.

Mr McCormack's clenched fist salute is a sign of his confident belief that he will be watching a promotion team this season - it matters to him because he is a life-long Luton supporter. He said: "We at SKF are delighted to continue our close working association with the club, providing us with the opportunity to enhance



**Sponsors sign on again**

our support and commitment to events in the community, and at the same time raise our profile."

Town chairman Mike Watson-Challis said: "We are extremely pleased that SKF have once again re-affirmed their commitment to the club by signing this new agreement. Both SKF and ourselves are looking forward to continuing to build on our established close relationship as the club moves forward, both on and off the field, to better times."

THE Luton Town Belles are ringing the changes this season, moving up into adult football for the first time. They will play in the Northern Division of the Southern Region,



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and have also entered the women's FA Cup. The squad first came together in 1997, and remained undefeated in four years in youth football, finishing last season as triple champions. They took the titles in the Hertfordshire under-15 Girls League and in the under-14 and under-16 sections of the Milton Keynes League.

Now their ambition is to rise as rapidly as possible through the leagues to put Luton Town on the map in women's football.

They are already earning a reputation at international level, with leading scorer Nicole Emmanuel and captain Kim Hide both invited to take part in England trials during the summer.

In the picture Kim is the happy Luton skipper taking a drink from the cup after the Belles title-clinching 5-3 victory over Stevenage Borough.



In the net: the team captain scores against Spurs in the pre-season friendly.

## Hatter Profile - Aaron Skelton

**Born:** Welwyn Garden City, 22.11.74

**Joined Luton:** As schoolboy, then YTS and pro in December 1992

**Previous clubs:** Luton 1987-1997, Colchester Utd 1997- 2001

**Good at school?** I was always best at sport, but I managed to get 6 GCSEs. I always wanted to be a professional footballer.

**Second choice of career?** Perhaps an architect - I quite liked drawing, and was reasonably good at it.

**Home and family:** Still a bachelor, but engaged to Kate, and we plan to marry next May.

**Why play for Luton?** At 13 I was training at Tottenham and at Kenilworth Road, but I enjoyed myself more at Luton. This summer, after four years at Colchester, I decided there were more exciting times ahead here than at Layer Road, so I returned.

**Do you play other sports?** I am keen on golf (handicap 12),

and also play a bit of tennis and snooker.

**Is there any change you would like to see in the laws of football?** I wish referees were given more discretion about giving yellow cards - they could be more lenient to help the game flow better.

**Greatest pleasure in the game so far:** Playing at Wembley in the Colchester team which won the play-offs 1-0 against Torquay. Carl Emberson was in goal for us, and man of the match.

**Any superstitions?** I never put on my shirt until the buzzer sounds to tell us to go onto the pitch.

**Do you worry about your career after football?** A little. I have taken a couple of computer courses at college but at present I have no firm ideas about what I will do for a living after I finish playing.

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## All our yesterdays

### Promotion - the last time.

**Roger Wash**  
In the hope of not tempting fate, while joining in on the strong feeling of optimism coursing through Kenilworth Road, today is an ideal time to look back at the start of our last promotion campaign twenty years ago.

Hatters manager, David Pleat, was hoping for third time lucky as he put behind him the disappointments of the two previous seasons when his talented side had narrowly failed to win promotion back to the top flight.

The close season transfer merry-go-round had left many supporters scratching their heads when popular local lad and Wales international, Paul Price, was allowed to go to Tottenham for £250,000, while former skipper Alan West, nowhere past his best, went to Millwall for £45,000. To top it all the swap deal with Brighton involving Republic of Ireland international, Tony Greasham, and veteran Brian Horton smacked of stupidity according to the fans. Pleat, however, knew best and Horton turned out to be the final piece in the jigsaw.

The team built by Pleat was now complete, with a superb blend of youth and experience. In goal, Jake Findlay was catching the eye of the Scottish International selectors with his shotstopping abilities while at full-back both Kirk 'Basher' Stephens and Mark Aizlewood had become crowd favourites for their cavalier forays down the wing and their biting tackles when forced to defend.

Mike Saxby, signed from Mansfield a couple of years before, had proved to be an excellent 'stopper' centre-half ably assisted by Mal Donaghay who effectively swept up along the back line.

Horton immediately slotted in to the holding midfield role where his abilities as skipper, forceful tackler and cunning user of the ball allowed Ricky Hill to get further forward where he formed an almost telepathic understanding with ace goalscorer Brian Stein.

Up front alongside Stein, Steve White, after a fairly slow start to his Luton career following his big money transfer from Bristol Rovers, had now found his feet and his brave play was to be

rewarded with goals galore. Making up the regular side were ace winger David Moss with his ability to turn any game and play anywhere Yugoslav, Raddy Antic.

Moss was absent from the opening game of the season through injury and his place on the wing was taken by Godfrey Ingram. Dunstable boy Ingram had been predicted to go all the way to the top after a series of scintillating performances for the England Schoolboy team but had somehow lost his way and was destined to become only a bit part player at Kenilworth Road.

The Town's opponents on a sunny afternoon were newly promoted Charlton, along with their new manager Alan Mullery, back in Division Two after a twelve months absence. Six players, John Phillips, Steve Harrison, Don McAllister, Leighton Phillips, Billy Lansdowne and Phil Ferns were making their debuts for Charlton and it was no real surprise that they took some time to tune in with each other.

The Hatters opened the scoring after 22 minutes when Donaghay headed a rare goal from Horton's left wing corner and when, only nine minutes later, McAllister put an Aizlewood cross into his own net the game was as good as over.

Charlton had a good spell early in the second half with ex-Hatter Derek Hales hitting a good chance wide and future Hatter Paul Walsh firing against a post but the Town's third on 57 minutes finished the match as a spectacle. Horton, who had a brilliant first outing, threaded an inch perfect pass through to White who held the ball up waiting for the goalkeeper to advance before slotting it home. Although the Luton fans in the crowd of 8,776 went away happy, manager Pleat refused to read too much into one result suspecting that the Town would face much stronger opposition as the season progressed.

**Luton:** Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Saxby, Donaghay, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Ingram.

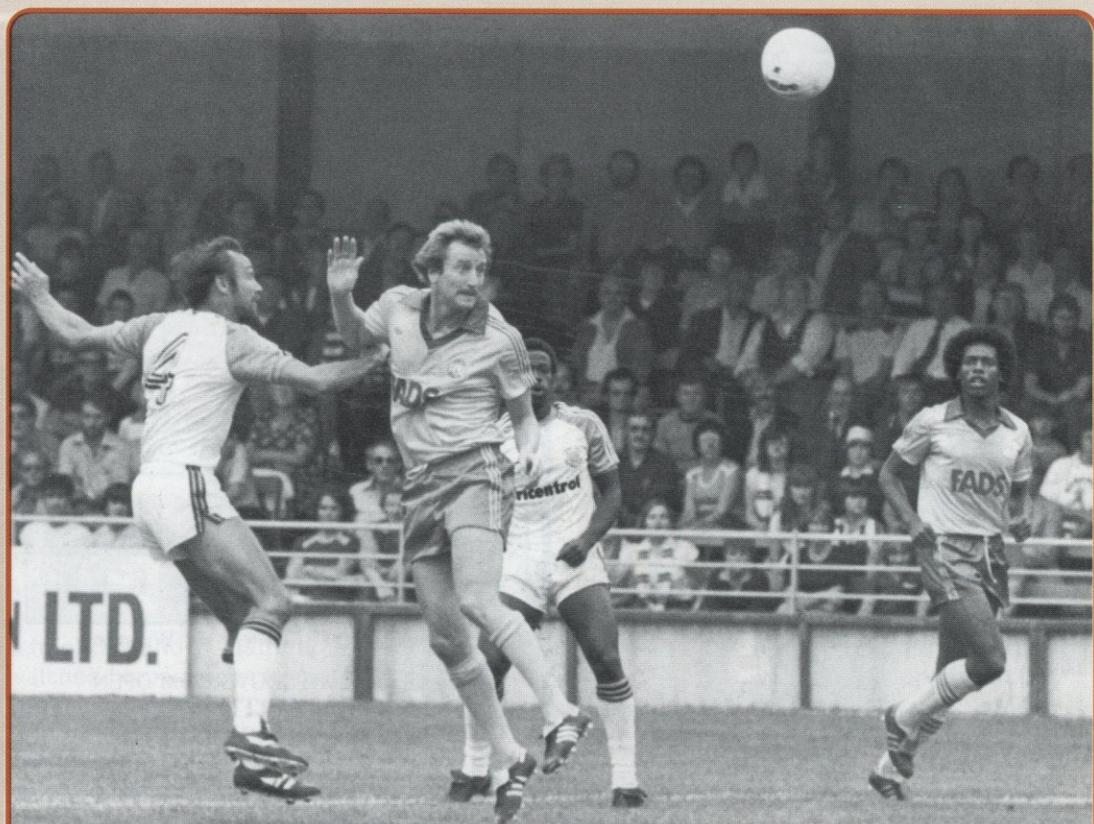
**Charlton:** J.Phillips, Naylor, McAllister, L.Phillips, Harrison, Gritt, Walker, Lansdowne, Ferns, Walsh, Hales.

*Roger Wash*

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New Luton skipper, Brian Horton, tussles with Charlton's Terry Naylor at Kenilworth Road in August 1981.

### Pages from the past.

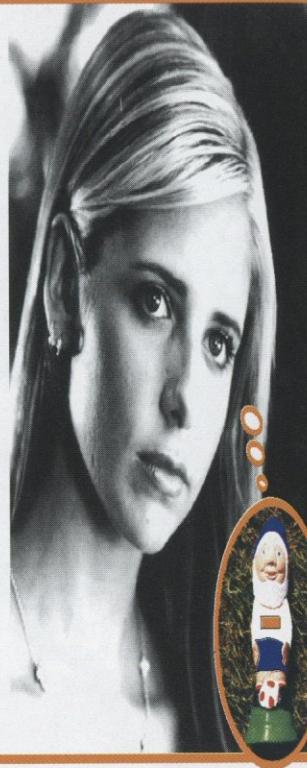


The programme from the game against Charlton on 29th August 1981 featured a front page photo of manager David Pleat welcoming Brian Horton to Kenilworth Road and in his 'David's Diary' inside went on to talk about the three points for a win system that was making its introduction that afternoon. There was a long apology for the decision to increase the price of the programme to 50p but you were now getting 32 pages for your money and a chance to win prizes from games put out on the electronic scoreboard!

Elsewhere we learnt that Raddy Antic liked a 30 minute nap before each game and that he rated Oleg Blockhin of Dynamo Kiev as the best player he had ever faced.

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## Hatters Chatter

### Absent friends

THE summer postbag to Kenilworth Road included letters giving news of the sad passing away of several loyal Luton Town fans, and we send our sympathies and condolences to the families of all concerned.

Perhaps the most tragic loss was that of 29-year-old Steve Hughes, of Spoodell Road, Dunstable, who was killed in a works accident just a few weeks before he was due to be married.

A Markyate boy, he had been a Town fan since he was at school, and latterly watched home games from The Enclosure.

One of his pals, Carl Robson, from Parkfield, Markyate, said: "For years there were a group of us who followed the Town home and away, going everywhere and taking it in turns to do the driving to away games. Steve always had a Hatters sticker in his car, and was a really dedicated supporter. It was awful to hear that he had died. The funeral was at the Priory, Dunstable, where the wedding was due to take place three weeks later, which made it all the more heartbreaking. A lot of wreaths were in Luton Town colours, because everyone knew Steve was a Luton fanatic.

"A lot of people miss him dreadfully, but if you could mention him in a programme it would mean a lot to his friends and family." We hope this tribute will be of some slight comfort to those who mourn.

The club also conveys its sympathy to families of other supporters who have died since we last met at Kenilworth Road.

Peter Savic, of Elstow Road, Bedford, told us of the loss of his very good friend, Dennis Lethbridge, 65, of Bedford, who had been a

supporter for 40 years. "He took me to my first Luton game back in 1973, when I was 17," wrote Peter. "At that time I did not follow any club, but because of that first visit I have grown to love the club like he did. I am so very sad that he has passed away."

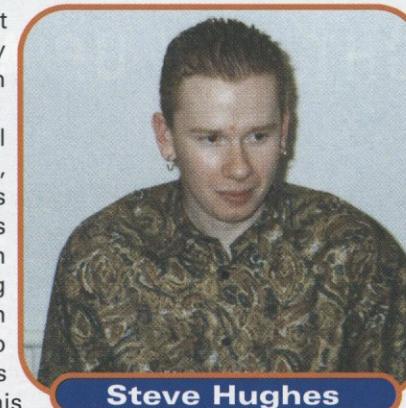
Mark White, of Lothair Road, Stopsley, shared similar thoughts with us after giving us the news that his father, Harry Edwin White, 74, of Sowerby Avenue, Luton, had died in June.

"He has followed Luton Town since the 1930s, and was looking forward to this season," wrote Mark. "Unfortunately, he passed away in his sleep in June. "He was born in Bletchley, but moved to Luton when he was young. He lived for football and cricket, and always supported Luton, travelling to away games as well as home matches before he got married.

Afterwards he was a regular season ticket holder."

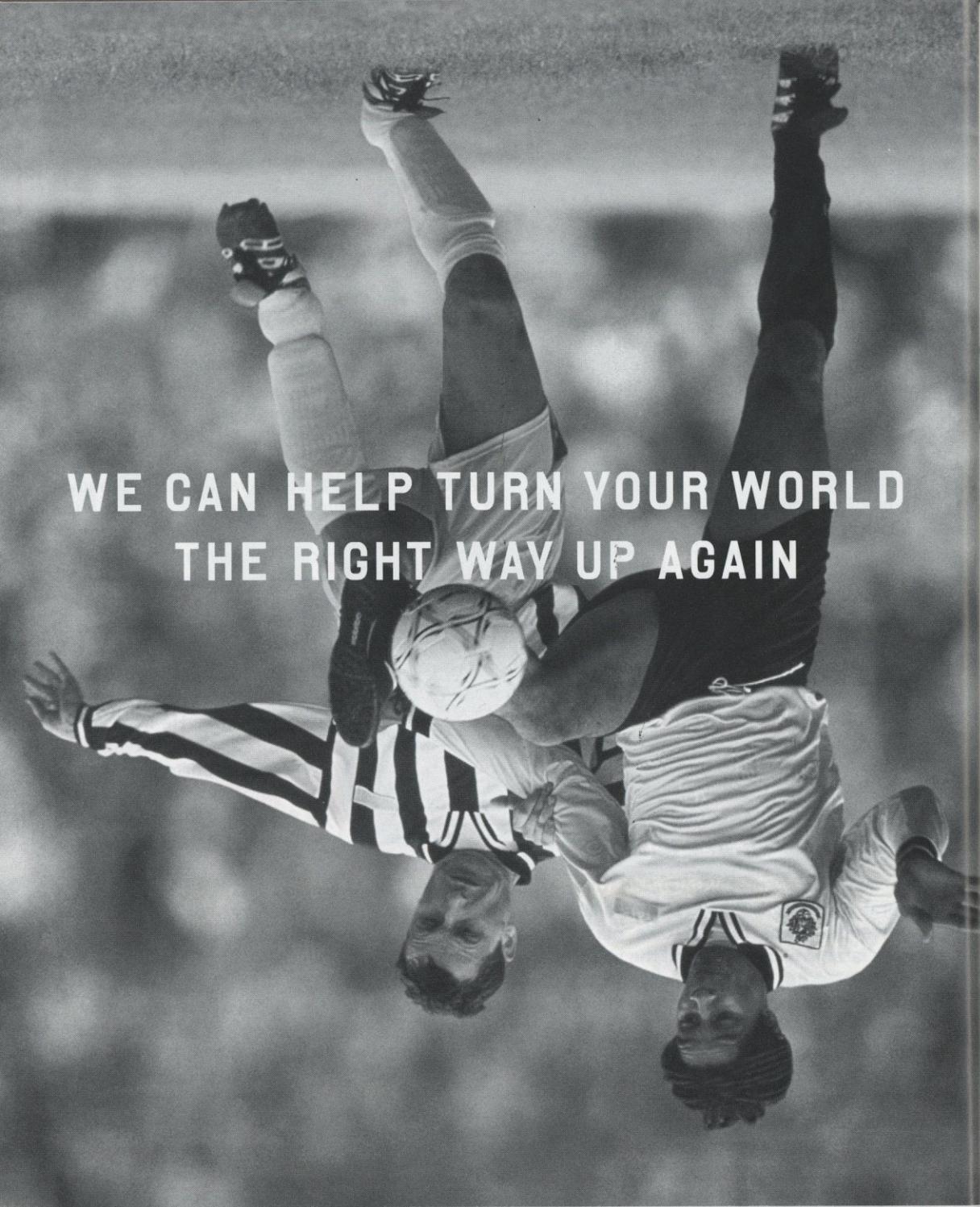
AFTER 40 years as a keen Luton Town supporter, Maurice Willis, of Woburn Sands, who died at the age of 63, left a big collection of Hatters memorabilia, and his family is ready to dispose of it. The collection includes programmes dating back to the 1960s, up to September last year, and a few other magazines. There is also the 1985 Luton Town Story, the book published to mark the Town's centenary.

If you would like to know more, the person to contact is Mr Willis's sister, Mrs. M. Holmes, of 11, Green Lane, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, LU6 2BH.



**Steve Hughes**

You can e-mail the programme editor at  
**brian.swain@btinternet.com**



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## Junior Hatters

WELCOME to all young supporters for our first home league game of the season, and especially to our Junior Hatters. Lots of boys and girls have re-joined, and we are also delighted to welcome new members. We are still able to offer renewal of memberships at £6 for a year, or for new members the joining fee is £10. You qualify for membership if you are a Town fan, boy or girl, aged between 0 and 16.

Among the many advantages are subsidised travel to away games, complete with entertainment on the way there and back, and a meeting with our opposite numbers.

Next Saturday, for instance, we have a Junior Hatters coach going to Bristol, and we are always entertained very well by the Young Pirates, our opposite numbers and very good friends at Bristol Rovers. We will join them in their club room, and the fare is a bargain £10 for Junior Hatters, or £13 for others, including mums and dads. Seats are sold on a first come, first served, basis, and

can be booked through the club shop. We usually play football against the Pirates, but this time that is impossible, because the school pitches are unavailable. For the same reason, our popular Saturday Club is not yet in business - we use Dallow School, which is still closed for the summer holidays, but we hope to resume on September 8, when we are at home to Oxford.

The Saturday Club price will again be £5 for Junior Hatters with season tickets, or £9 including a match ticket. We play football and other games, and often entertain the away team's juniors. We sometimes also have visits to the cinema and bowling alley, and a supplement of £3 covers the cost of that.

A sausage and chips lunch is provided, with entertainment before the game in our club room under the Kenilworth Stand. The Saturday Club is, of course, fully supervised.

Happy Harry

## Today's Mascot

ONE of the benefits of Junior Hatters membership is the chance of being selected to be a mascot on match days, and we can promise it is a real treat for any young supporter.

The choice is made through the luck of the draw, and we often also have ball boys and ball girls, selected the same way.

Our first mascot of the new season is Daniel Chaplen, who is 11 and comes from Crabtree Way, Dunstable. He goes to Ashton Middle School, Dunstable, and as well as cheering for Luton Town he



enjoys playing roller hockey, swimming and judo.

He comes to the games with his dad and brother, and they will enjoy seeing him carrying out his VIP duties, going into the dressing room to meet the players before the match - his favourite is Stuart Douglas - and joining them on the pitch for the warm-up and toss of the coin.

We also have two ball boys today, Thomas Smith, from Dalby Close, Luton, and Jamie Dickinson, of Buchanan Drive, Luton.

If you would like to join the Junior Hatters,  
call the Club Shop on:  
**01582 411622**

## Pre-Match Entertainment

This afternoons pre-match and half time entertainment is managed by our PA announcers Justin Dealey and Steve Faulkner.

- 1.45** Gates Open - music starts
- 2.10** Club mascot Happy Harry runs out on pitch.
- 2.15** 21 Seconds by So Solid Crew - the current No1 single to be played.
- 2.20** Track from HMV Album of the Week - NOW THATS WHAT I CALL MUSIC 49
- 2.25** Team line up to be announced.
- 2.30** Hatters Hot Hit - Sophie Ellis Bextor "Take Me Home".
- 2.35** Dedications
- 2.40** Town Teaser - Its always good fun!
- 2.45** HMV's Single of the Week - New Order "Crystal".
- 2.55** Teams runout to our new song - The Blues Brothers " Gimme Some Lovin".
- 2.57** Final team check - Scream your head off.
- 3.00** THE BIG KICK OFF

### HALF TIME

- 3.50** Golden Gamble - Winning ticket picked by Luton Town Player.
- 3.55** Half time score check - Every half time score announced from all 92 league clubs.
- 4.00** Repeat of dedications.
- 4.05** Teams arrive back on pitch to theme song "Gimme Some Lovin".

### 4.50 FINAL WHISTLE

Matchday music supplied by



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If you would like your dedication read out, please contact the Club prior to matchday's.

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## The Friendlies

### Luton Town 1 QPR 0

A CHEERFUL crowd enjoyed their first Kenilworth Road look at a new Town formation, with winger Adrian Forbes and striker Carl Griffiths becoming instant heroes, the first for his whole-hearted enthusiasm and willingness to take on opponents, and the latter for a hard-working performance and the only goal of the game. It came two minutes after the break, and the visitors were lucky to escape a heavier defeat - a number of close calls included a header by Forbes which came back off a post with the goalkeeper beaten. Overall, it was good entertainment, with several trialists trying hard to make impressions.

The Town's line-up was also experimental in terms of substitutions - a total of 21 players were used on the night. The starting formation, 4-4-2, was: Emberson; Boyce, Perrett, Dryden, Taylor; Forbes, Mansell, Skelton, Brazier; Howard, Griffiths.

**Attendance:** 3,049, 409 in the away end.

### Luton Town 1 Norwich City 3

BIG Welsh striker Iwan Roberts was the difference between the sides as Norwich and the Town each gave the other a good work-out. For Joe Kinnear, it was a case of wanting to see his team stretched far enough for deficiencies to become apparent, and, he said, he had not been disappointed. He added: "We didn't defend well enough, but in the Third Division we won't come up against too many teams as good as Norwich, nor too many strikers like Roberts."

The lanky centre-forward was left on his own to head in a 28th-minute left wing cross from Adam Drury, and in the second half showed a deft bit of footwork to tap in a 65th-minute goal after Carl Emberson blocked a close-range volley by Gary Holt. The second Norwich goal had come two minutes before the break, neatly stroked home by Zema Abbey, with the Town believing he was two yards offside.

Andrew Fotiadis headed the deserved consolation from a diagonal ball into the box by Aaron Skelton, and Norwich boss Nigel Worthington sounded just like our Joe - "That was awful defending!"

Both sides played decent football in patches, and a bonus for the Town was the easy-going debut of Kevin Nicholls, a day after he had been signed from Wigan.

**Luton Town:** Emberson; Boyce, Santini (Karlsen 70 mins), Morrow (Dryden 70 mins), Taylor; Forbes, Nicholls, Skelton, Brazier; Howard (Fotiadis 70 mins), Griffiths (Douglas HT).

**Attendance:** 3,294, with 294 singing for the Canaries.

### Luton Town 1 Tottenham 1

THE most satisfying performance of the pre-season programme was a well-earned draw against a Spurs squad which included several very expensive Premiership stars. Only a late disputed penalty saved them from defeat in an entertaining game watched by the biggest crowd at Kenilworth Road for nearly three years. For Joe Kinnear the major pleasure was seeing his new men settle into the side, with Kevin Nicholls and Paul Hughes adding steel and brains to midfield.

Hughes it was who spotted the possibilities when the Town's first corner was won. Matthew Taylor was equally alert, pulled the ball back to Hughes, and he in turn set up Aaron Skelton to sweep in a 22nd-minute volley.

Carl Emberson had to make a top class save to keep out a header by Gus Poyet, but otherwise the Town were rarely embarrassed by the visitors. Both sides used a lot of subs as the pace dropped towards the closing stages, and a famous victory was in sight until French trialist Didier Santini and John Piercy tumbled near the edge of the box. No foul, and outside the area, were the Town cries, but the ref would have none of it and Sergie Rebrov netted from the spot.

The Town never looked out of their depth against a good side, and Glenn Hoddle said he was impressed by the way the Town played.

**Luton Town:** Emberson (Ovendale HT), Boyce (Dryden 86 mins), Maher (Santini 36 mins), Perrett, Johnson; Hughes (George 81 mins), Skelton (Locke HT), Nicholls (Holmes HT) Taylor; Griffiths (Fotiadis HT, Molinier 78 mins) Howard (Douglas 64 mins).

**Attendance:** 9,175, 1,816 of them Spurs fans.

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# Action Replay



## Carlisle Utd 0 Luton Town 2 (HT 0-0)

THE second half was only a few minutes old when the magnificent Town following at Brunton Park raised its voice in a united chorus of "We're going up, we're going up..." A touch premature, perhaps, but the fans had every reason to be cheerful, after suffering some foreboding in the first half.

Carlisle, as has been usual in recent years, have plenty of problems, and for the opening league fixture of the season could not even find 11 seasoned pros, and included a couple of first-year trainees. The Town had a potential problem of their own: six men were making debuts, if you count the return of Aaron Skelton in his first Hatters match for four years.

By the interval, we were getting worried. The Town did not look like being beaten, but Carlisle set out their stall to defend in numbers, scrap for every ball, and make every tackle count. The result was a less than attractive spectacle, and a reminder that we might see plenty of the same in this division as the season progresses. But the Town showed a strong willingness to match muscle with muscle when they had to, and a confident team display eventually bagged the triumph it deserved.

Neither side offered any real attacking threat for the first 45 minutes. Carlisle, fielding five defenders, had guts and bravery in huge measure, but in the end it counted for nothing because they could not match the two best flashes of football that

brought goals for the Town.

It was all over as a contest when Paul Hughes gave us the lead less than a minute into the second half. Carlisle were on the back foot after that, and were finished off 12 minutes later when another sweet move brought a second close-range goal, this time for Carl Griffiths.

It was easy for the Town after that, with Carlisle mustering their one and only on-target shot three minutes from time, a long-range effort straight at Carl Emberton.

Joe Kinnear felt the Town looked a little apprehensive in the first half, feeling their way in uncharted territory and with players still getting to know each other. "We paid Carlisle too much respect, but in the second half we got amongst them. I was reasonably confident we could do that, and in the end we were playing well within ourselves. It was a bit physical at times, but players were all working for each other. They are comfortable with each other and at times we played some good football even though Carlisle made it difficult for us. The best thing that came out of it was two well-worked goals.

"We came here to get a result and I was quite pleased with the way it went. We worked for that result and deserved it. It's a good start, but there is a long way to go yet."

## Match Details

**Luton Town:** Emberton; Boyce, Perrett, Skelton, Johnson (Locke 53 mins); Mansell (Douglas 72 mins), Nicholls, Hughes, Taylor; Howard, Griffiths (Fotiadis 89 mins).

**Unused subs:** Dryden, Ward.

**Booked:** Kevin Nicholls, 78 mins, clash with Steve Halliday; Stuart Douglas, 89 mins, late tackle on Lee Maddison.

**Carlisle:** Weaver; Andrews, Morley, Thurstan (Willis 84 mins), Winstanley, Maddison; Halliday, Whitehead (Murphy 58 mins), Hopper, Soley; Allan (Stevens 68 mins).

**Unused subs:** Varty, Keen.

**Booked:** Stuart Whitehead, 20 mins, foul on Steve

Howard; Steve Halliday, 78 mins, for mixing it too much with Kevin Nicholls.

**The Goals:** 0-1 46 mins - Paul Hughes close range shot after Matthew Taylor sent Lee Mansell on a charge down the left wing to deliver a low driven cross which begged for the finishing touch and got the one it deserved; 0-2 57 mins - Carl Griffiths, close range header after Taylor sent a free kick from the right to beyond the far post for Russ Perrett to elude all markers and head the ball back into the danger area.

**Referee:** Mark Clattenburg.

**Attendance:** 4,432 including 1,097 happy Hatters fans.



### MIXED EMOTIONS:

Carl Griffiths is all smiles after making it 2-0 to finish off Carlisle, and even with his back to the camera United defender Lee Maddison looks well cheesed off.



**DOUBLE FIRST:** Paul Hughes, on the left, has just hit the Town's opening league goal of the season, and his first for the club, and Lee Mansell and Kevin Nicholls are celebrating with him.

**ACTION MAN:** Steve Howard in rumbustious style, taking on centre-halves two at a time on a day when Carlisle fielded five of them, and only one striker.

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## Football in the Community

ONE OF the "transfers" into Kenilworth Road this week made no headlines, but could have a big impact on Luton Town.

Scott Stackman, 25, who was once a player with Northampton Town, has joined us as our new Football in the Community Officer, charged with the task of getting local people, especially ethnic minorities and youngsters, involved with the game and with Luton Town.

As we reported in the final programme of last season, the idea is to strengthen links between the club and the local community, by building on good work already done in the field.

The club has re-entered the national Football in the Community programme, which is sponsored by the Football Association, Premier League, Football League and the Professional Footballers Association. Chairman Mike Watson-Challis said the change would give the club's efforts extra resources and support which the

national scheme can offer. He added: "It is vital for us to demonstrate our commitment to the local grass roots from which we will derive our future supporters. Emphasis will be placed on the ethnic minorities, and those subjected to social exclusion, in fostering long-term links with the club."

The search for a new Community Officer saw Scott Stackman beat other very good candidates to land the job.

His qualifications were impressive. He joined Northampton as a YTS boy in the summer of 1992, and while still a trainee won his FA coaching certificate. He made his league debut for the Cobblers at the age of 17 before signing full professional forms. But the club was struggling

through financial problems, and the team suffered - in the reserves he found himself playing sometimes as a centre-half, his preferred position, and at other times in midfield and occasionally as a centre-forward. "I got into the first team squad because I was adaptable," he said. But he could not win a regular place in the league side, and when Northampton had to make cut-backs he moved into the role that was to lead to his appointment at Luton. For the past six years he has been Northampton's Assistant Football Community Officer.

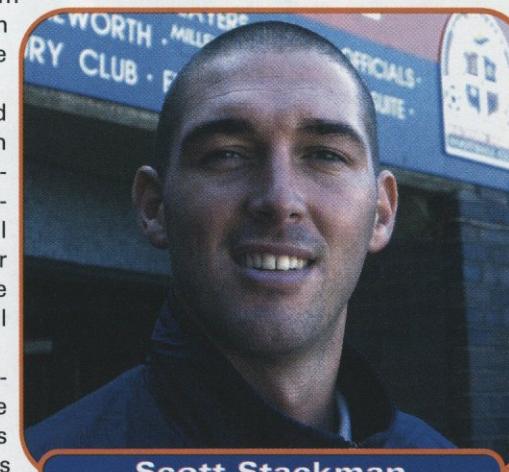
Now, he says, he wants to build on that experience for the benefit of the community around Luton. He is keen to get all kinds of groups involved, especially by visiting schools to encourage boys and girls of all ages to take part in football, and to play the game in the right manner. Sportsmanship, he added, was an important part of the coaching work

with youngsters.

Scott added: "One of the most rewarding projects was coaching Northampton Town girls and ladies teams, and I am very keen on women's football." One of his ladies teams at Northampton pulled off a national league and cup double in its first season.

Scott also wants to help disabled organisations - "It can be testing, but it's very enjoyable and gives great job satisfaction."

He added: "I have been fortunate to be involved in football, as a player and then through my community work. I still enjoy it, and am very much looking forward to playing my part in helping Luton Town and the local community come closer together."



**Scott Stackman**

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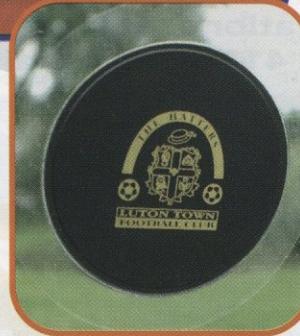
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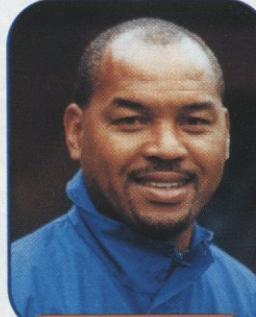
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**Brian Stein**

## In Reserve



WE KICKED off our Avon Insurance Football Combination campaign at Barnet on Wednesday, and two goals by Andrew Fotiadis

and one from trialist Lee Hodges gave us a comfortable win. There will be a full report in next Saturday's matchday magazine.

We had expected our first serious game to be at Barton Rovers, for the delayed final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup. It over-ran last season because of the heavy spring rainfall, and once more we were frustrated because torrential rain forced another postponement. We are still waiting for a new date.

Our Combination season will follow the usual format, but there is one change in disciplinary procedures this season which managers are likely to appreciate - bookings and most red cards picked up by players in reserve football will bring suspensions restricted to that level of the game.

Nearly all disciplinary points incurred by players within both the Avon Insurance Combination and Avon Insurance League will

be ring-fenced within each competition. This will mean that players will no longer miss first team matches in the Nationwide League through offences committed in reserve team games.

The only exceptions to this will be for players guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play or spitting at an opponent, who will still be banned from matches in all competitions.

Alan Harris, General Manager of Avon Insurance commented: "As the sponsor of the two national reserve team leagues for Football League clubs, we would like to express our delight at this decision by the Football Association, which has largely come about as a result of the intensive lobbying by members of the Management Boards of the Avon Insurance Combination and Avon Insurance League."

Neville Chamberlain, General Secretary of the Avon Insurance Combination, said: "We have been pushing for this change in the rules for several years. The net result will be an improvement in the standard of reserve team football this season, as managers will be able to field first team squad players without worrying about them missing first team matches."

### Avon Insurance Combination

#### Results and Fixtures

<b>AUG</b>	Wed 15 Barnet	A 3-0 Fotiadis 2, Hodges
	<b>Wed 29 Millwall</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
<b>SEPT</b>	Wed 12 Leyton Orient	A 2pm
	<b>Wed 26 Gillingham</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
<b>OCT</b>	Wed 3 Cardiff	A 2pm
	<b>Wed 10 QPR</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
	Mon 15 Crystal Palace	A 7.30pm
	<b>Wed 24 Cambridge(LC)</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
	<b>Wed 31 Reading</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
<b>NOV</b>	Wed 7 Brentford	A 7pm
	<b>Wed 14 Bristol City</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
	Wed 28 Norwich(LC)	A 7.30pm
<b>DEC</b>	Wed 5 Oxford	A 2pm
	<b>Wed 12 Swindon</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
	Wed 19 Portsmouth	A 7pm
<b>JAN</b>	Wed 9 Brighton	A 7pm
	<b>Wed 16 Wycombe</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
	<b>Wed 23 Bournemouth</b>	<b>H 2pm</b>
<b>FEB</b>	Wed 6 Bristol Rov	A 7pm
	<b>Wed 13 Norwich</b>	<b>H 7pm</b>
	Wed 20 Cheltenham	A 2pm
	<b>Wed 27 Colchester</b>	<b>H 7pm</b>
<b>MAR</b>	Wed 13 Peterborough	H 7pm
	Wed 20 Southend	A 2pm
	Mon 25 Cambridge	A 2pm
	<b>APRIL</b> Wed 10 Northampton	<b>H 2pm</b>

### Avon Insurance Combination

#### Last season's final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	24	18	3	3	66	17	57
Norwich	24	16	6	2	73	27	54
Reading	24	17	2	5	43	22	53
QPR	24	15	2	7	36	22	47
Cambridge	24	13	4	7	37	30	43
Millwall	24	12	5	7	33	18	41
Crystal Palace	24	11	6	7	42	35	39
Brighton	24	11	5	8	47	41	38
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>
Portsmouth	24	9	7	8	31	29	34
Gillingham	24	10	4	10	33	35	34
Brentford	24	8	10	6	28	33	34
Swindon	24	9	6	9	34	31	33
Oxford	24	9	5	10	37	40	32
Peterborough	24	8	5	11	32	32	29
Bristol Rovers	24	7	7	10	24	34	28
Bristol City	24	6	9	9	26	30	27
Southend	24	7	6	11	36	42	27
Barnet	24	7	5	12	29	40	26
Colchester	24	6	6	12	25	38	24
Cheltenham	24	5	9	10	28	44	24
Bournemouth	24	5	6	13	27	51	21
Northampton	24	5	5	14	20	40	20
Wycombe	24	4	5	15	21	55	17
Leyton Orient	24	2	5	17	22	50	11

## Up and Running!

Luton Town's very own official website.

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## Last Season's Stats

## Average Attendances

2000 4000 6000 8000 10000

## Records

Highest Gate

13,602

Cardiff

vs Chesterfield

Lowest Gate

1,322

Barnet vs Exeter

Highest

Aggregate

Score

Mansfield.....4

Macclesfield.....4

Brighton.....6

Torquay.....2

Rochdale.....1

Shrewsbury.....7

Biggest

Home Win

Barnet.....7

Blackpool.....0

Biggest

Away Win

Rochdale.....1

Shrewsbury.....7

Consec. Wins

Chesterfield,

Cardiff.....6

Games

Unbeaten

Hartlepool.....21



Consec. Defeats

Carlisle.....7

Winless Run

Carlisle,

Rochdale.....12



Total Games

552

Home Wins

273.....49%

Away Wins

122.....22%

Draws

157.....29%

1-1 Draws

80.....14%

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000
Barnet					2,406
Blackpool					4,459
Brighton					6,585
Cardiff					7,962
Carlisle					3,699
Cheltenham					3,695
Chesterfield					4,846
Darlington					3,844
Exeter					3,708
Halifax					2,214
Hartlepool					3,423
Hull					6,684
Kidderminster					3,422
Orient					4,633
Lincoln					3,273
Macclesfield					2,064
Mansfield					2,667
Plymouth					4,945
Rochdale					3,249
Scunthorpe					3,446
Shrewsbury					2,898
Southend					4,306
Torquay					2,556
York					3,026

## Clubs' top scorer &amp; the points their goals won

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms	Ave	Pts	Run
Mansfield	Greenacre	19	8	4	1	46	0.41	19	2
Orient	Griffiths	15	13	1	0	37	0.41	19	2
Hartlepool	Henderson	17	13	2	0	40	0.43	16	4
Brighton	Zamora	28	12	5	2	43	0.65	15	6
Halifax	Kerrigan	18	12	3	0	41	0.44	14	2
Cheltenham	Grayson	13	8	1	1	31	0.42	13	2
Chesterfield	Beckett	16	14	1	0	41	0.39	12	3
Shrewsbury	Jemson	15	7	4	0	41	0.37	12	3
Exeter	Flack	13	11	1	0	40	0.33	12	5
Carlisle	Stevens	12	12	0	0	41	0.29	11	4
Southend	Abbey	8	2	3	0	24	0.33	11	2
Blackpool	Ormerod	18	14	2	0	41	0.44	10	3
Torquay	Williams	9	7	1	0	37	0.24	10	2
Kidderminster	Durnin	9	7	1	0	31	0.29	8	3
Hull	Rowe	6	6	0	0	21	0.29	8	3
Lincoln	Holmes	11	11	0	0	38	0.29	7	4
York	McNiven	8	8	0	0	41	0.20	7	1
Cardiff	Earnshaw	19	12	2	1	35	0.54	6	3
Plymouth	Stonebridge	11	5	3	0	31	0.35	6	2
Macclesfield	Glover	9	5	2	0	37	0.24	6	1
Scunthorpe	Ipoua	14	6	2	1	25	0.56	4	2
Darlington	Naylor	11	11	0	0	44	0.25	4	4
Barnet	Currie	10	7	0	1	45	0.22	4	2
Rochdale	Connor	10	5	1	1	14	0.71	4	3

Key: GS=Goals Scored; Sc1=Games Scored 1 Goal; Sc2=Games Scored 2 Goals; HT=Hat-Tricks; Each club's leading league scorer and their goals per game (Ave). Next column shows taking off their goals, how many Points (Pts) lost. Last figure show best scoring Run in consecutive games.

## Goals - When Scored

0-15 16-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90

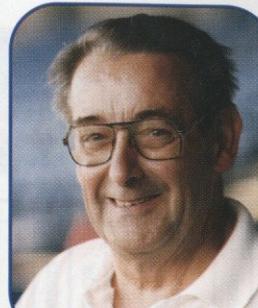
Be Bk CC CU CT Ch Da EC HT HU HC KH LO PA Ro SU ST SU TU YC

## Form Guide: Last 5 Home &amp; Away

Home Form most recent result on right Away Form

WDLWL	Barnet	LLLLL
WDDWW	Blackpool	LWLLW
WWWWW	Brighton	DWDDL
WWWDW	Cardiff	LLDLL
WWWDD	Carlisle	DLLDD
DWWLW	Cheltenham	DDDDD
DDWLW	Chesterfield	LLDLL
DWLL	Darlington	DLLLL
DWDDD	Exeter	LLLW
DLWWD	Halifax	DLDL
WDLWW	Hartlepool	DWLW
WWWDW	Hull	DWWDD
DDWWL	Kidderminster	LLLWL
DWDWD	Orient	DDWLW
DWWDD	Lincoln	LLWLD
WWDWL	Macclesfield	DLLL
DWWWW	Mansfield	LDLL
WLWDD	Plymouth	WDLLL
WWWW	Rochdale	LDLDD
WLWW	Scunthorpe	LLWLL
WLWW	Shrewsbury	DLLLD
LWDDW	Southend	DDLDL
DWDWD	Torquay	LLDLW
DLWDW	York	DDDD

NUMBERS : PU=Players Used CS=Clean Sheets FS=Games Failed to Score

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Brian Swain

## Third Division Scene

TRADITION suggests that of teams relegated one year, at least two will win back at the first attempt. Doubtless the bookies were thinking along those lines when they announced their odds as we went into the first game of the season. The betting is that the four promotion teams in April will be Hull City, Bristol Rovers, Luton Town and Rushden & Diamonds.

The judgement on Hull follows their amazing transformation. Just over a year ago they were on their beam ends, deep in debt, and in dispute with their landlords. New owners changed everything. Last season Hull were beaten in the play-offs, and having sorted out their boardroom, money was made available to experienced manager Brian Little. He became the Division's biggest spender in the summer, splashing out around £800,000 on four players, and taking another nine on free transfers.

William Hill installed them 9-2 favourites to win the title, and they got off to the right start with a 3-1 victory at Exeter. The Town and Bristol Rovers both kicked off at 6-1, and after both won on Saturday - Rovers scraped it 1-0 at home to Torquay - the best we found for either side to win the title had drifted to 9-2.

Hard-hearted bookies don't hold out much hope for the other two teams who came down with us, although Swansea might be worth a flutter at 14-1 after opening with a 3-1 victory at Macclesfield. You can have 20-1 or more on Oxford, who were bottom of the Second Division throughout last season. They have at last moved into their brand new Kassam Stadium, but the celebrations as the first league game was staged were short-lived. Rochdale spoiled the party by winning 2-1.

Today's visitors, 25-1 for the championship, began their campaign with a 1-1 home draw with 16-1 shots Leyton Orient. Jason White saved the day for Cheltenham after they had gone behind to a penalty awarded for a foul by Richard Walker. White was sent on as a sub, and got the equaliser within a minute.

As usual this season, we are likely to meet a few old friends as we cover around 8,000 miles to away grounds, with a whole host of ex-Luton names featuring in summer moves.

We were sad to see Andy King get the elbow as man-

ager of Swindon, and several former players have gone out of the professional game after being released. Mike Newell has left Blackpool and Sean Farrell was freed by Notts County, and so far as we can discover neither has found a new club.

Paul Showler retired at Peterborough, and Rochdale released Simon Davies, who cost us £200,000 from Manchester United four years ago. Injury forced the retirement of Tim Brecker, but he stays at QPR, as a coach. John Dreyer left Cambridge to sign for Conference Club Stevenage, who also recruited Martin Williams on a free from Peterborough.

David Greene has left Cambridge to try to get over a bad injury and Scott Oakes is still trying to get his career moving again - released by Sheffield Wednesday, then by Cambridge, he has joined Leyton Orient.

We might meet up again with Adrian Whitbread in the Worthington Cup on Tuesday, because he has been signed by Reading on a free from Portsmouth. Other names which cropped up in another summer which saw a reduction in the number of professional footballers included Kingsley Black, who went from Grimsby to Lincoln on a free, and Kim Grant, who failed to live up to expectations here after Lennie Lawrence paid Charlton £250,000 for him five years ago. We did well to recoup £200,000 from Millwall, but they unloaded him to Lommel, in Belgium two years ago. Now he is back in the Nationwide League, having joined Scunthorpe on a free.

John Hartson's £6.5million move from Coventry to Glasgow Celtic makes him the most expensive player ever to come out of Kenilworth Road: his career through Luton, Arsenal, West Ham, Wimbledon, Coventry and Celtic have racked up transfer fees of around £28.5million.

Brian Swain

## Today's Other Third Division Fixtures

Darlington v Kidderminster
Halifax v Exeter
Hull v Plymouth
Leyton Orient v Carlisle
Mansfield v Southend
Rochdale v Macclesfield
Scunthorpe v Bristol Rovers
Shrewsbury v Hartlepool
Swansea v Oxford

You can e-mail the programme editor at  
[brian.swain@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.swain@btinternet.com)

# Statistics and all the fixtures

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# Todays Squads

## Luton Town

1	Mark Ovendale	1
2	Aaron Skelton	2
4	Matthew Spring	4
5	Russell Perrett	5
6	Marvin Johnson	6
7	Adrian Forbes	7
8	Kevin Nicholls	8
9	Stuart Douglas	9
10	Carl Griffiths	10
11	Liam George	11
13	Stuart Fraser	13
14	Andrew Fotiadis	14
15	Matthew Taylor	15
16	Carl Emberson	16
17	Emmerson Boyce	17
18	Adam Locke	18
19	Steve Howard	19
20	Peter Holmes	20
21	Richard Dryden	21
22	Dean Brennan	22
23	Jude Stirling	23
24	Scott Ward	24
25	Dean Standen	25
26	Peter Thomson	26
27	Paul Hughes	27
29	Kent Karlsen	29
32	Lee Mansell	32

## Cheltenham Town

1	Steve Book	1
2	Michael Duff	2
3	Jamie Victory	3
4	Chris Banks	4
5	John Brough	5
6	Keith Hill	6
7	Lee Howells	7
8	Mark Yates	8
9	Neil Grayson	9
10	Hugh McAuley	10
11	Russell Milton	11
12	Shane Higgs	12
14	Antony Griffin	14
15	Richard Walker	15
16	Martin Devaney	16
17	Neil Howarth	17
18	Michael Jackson	18
19	Julian Alsop	19
20	Steve Jones	20
21	Carl Muggleton	21
22	Gareth Hopkins	22
23	Jason White	23

tick if playing  tick if substitute

## Todays Officials

Referee: Grant Hegley, Herts.

Assistants: Trevor Pollard, Suffolk (red flag) Mike Thorpe, Suffolk (yellow and red flag)

Forth Official: Gary Evetts, Herts

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