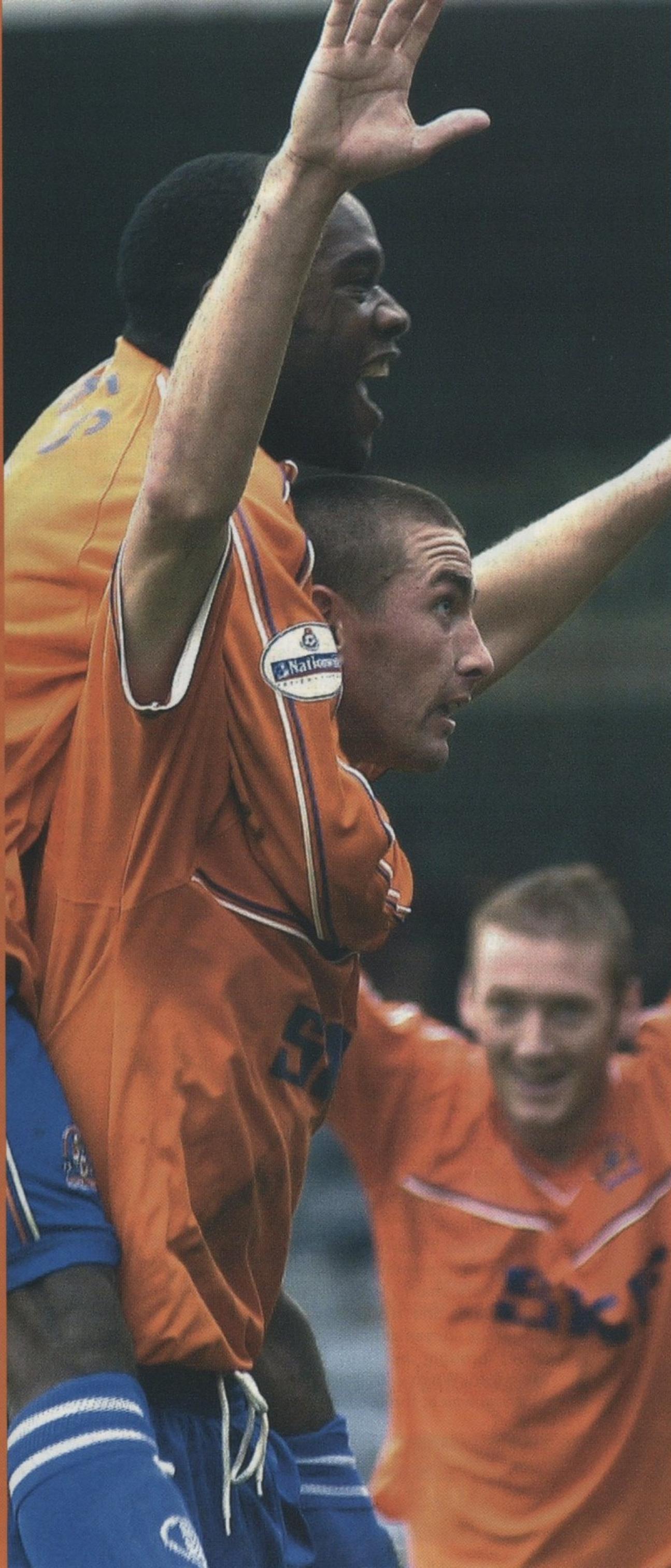


Luton Town Football Club



LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB
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**Official Matchday
Magazine**

**Luton
Town
v
Rochdale**

**Saturday
October 20,
2001**

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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

Photography

Gareth Owen

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

Front Cover



DOUBLE DELIGHT: Russ Perrett has just scored his first Luton Town goal, to finish off Scunthorpe last week, and first to join in the celebrations is Adrian Forbes, who also netted his first for the Hatters after going on as sub. Steve Howard is the other happy Hatter in shot.

Inside Forward

MIDFIELDER Ahmet Brkovic is the latest recruit to the Luton Town squad, and was hoping to make his home debut this afternoon, having got on as a sub in the second half at Scunthorpe a week ago.

Aged 27, and born in Dubrovnik, the Croatian midfielder, declined to accept a new contract at Leyton Orient at the end of last season. In two years at Brisbane Road, following a transfer from HNK Dubrovnik, he won a reputation for being very composed, able to make time for himself on the ball, and capable of creating and taking goals. Club skipper Marvin Johnson says Brkovic has settled in quickly, and knew what to expect at Kenilworth Road because one of his best friends is Carl Griffiths, who was also at Orient until the summer.

The arrival of Brkovic leaves some of us still rubbing our eyes in wonder - when was the last time you can remember seven new players coming into the club in the summer, with five more following in the first two months of the season?

Executive recruited

THE off the field team was also strengthened this week, with the appointment of Linda Layton to be commercial manager, following the departure of John Bailey, who has returned to the United States.

Some of the local business community might know Linda better as Linda Parker, her name before her recent marriage.

In the commercial department she heads a team with one of the most vital jobs within the club, drawing in finance through advertising and sponsorships.

She has had a good training, having worked in marketing and sales for some years, mainly in the local newspaper field. She worked for a wide range of organisations, and her career brought her into the Luton Town fold. When with the Herald and Post she was at the ground regularly,

entertaining clients in the executive boxes, and at the same time finding herself hooked on football in general, and Luton Town in particular.

Old friends in the stands

EVEN after they leave Luton, most players retain a special feeling for the club, and we were reminded of it at Scunthorpe last week, when we met up again with Graham Rodger, the centre-half who came from Coventry to replace Steve Foster in the summer of 1989. He moved on to Grimsby three years later, and three years ago, at the age of 31, had to retire because of injury.

He took his coaching badges, and now runs Grimsby's Football in the Community operation. He was busy with that on Saturday morning, but rushed over to Scunthorpe in the afternoon to see his old team in action. He still rates his time at Luton as one of the happiest periods of his life.

Another old friend was at the Darlington match - Darren Salton, whose highly promising career was cruelly cut short by a road accident nine years ago. Edinburgh born, he was a Scottish schools, youth and under-21 international centre-half, and at 20 an established member of our First Division squad.

His career ended prematurely with a life-threatening accident, but it was a treat to see him again last week, full of beans, a very happy young man, and with no complaints about what has happened to him. Being a husband and father of two young children, he said, means he has everything he could want in life. It was a pleasure to meet him again.

Trophy reunion

WE ARE likely to meet another old friend in the LDV Vans Trophy second round, having received a bye in the first. We have been drawn away to Conference club Dagenham and Redbridge, for whom Mark Stein is



Luton Town wants its stewards to be like the team, top of the league, which is why at the last home game National Training Scheme certificates were presented to ten match day volunteers, who have won a qualification approved by the Football Association and the Football League. All stewards - currently 110 on the books, and 80 at an average match - will go through the scheme, a confirmation that the football authorities know the club is getting it right in terms of crowd safety. With the stewards are club safety officer Geoff Lovell, on the left, and Town director Graham Kelly, on the right.

now knocking in the goals after leaving Kenilworth Road in the summer. The game is likely to be on Tuesday October 30, but the arrangements were still being worked out as we went to press.

Cup final hero dies

A LOT of us were sad to hear the news last week of the death of Stuart Imlach, a winger who broke our hearts at Wembley in 1959 before coming to Luton as a player.

The Scot's best days were at Nottingham Forest from 1955 to 1960. He gave Brendan McNally a torrid time in the 1959 FA Cup final when Forest, despite being down to ten men, beat us 2-1. At Nottingham they still say he was their man of the match.

Twelve months later Imlach, then 28, signed for the Town, but was not happy in a team that was already on the slide, having started on the drop from top to bottom of the Football League in five years. Within three months the winger had moved on to Coventry, before finishing his career,

in 1966, at Crystal Palace. He died of cancer a fortnight ago at the age of 69.

Welcome, freshers

THE Town were in quickly to make themselves known to the latest intake of students at Luton University, organising a stall at the Freshers Fayre. In two days around 300 students signed up for LTFC membership, and each received a match ticket, some for the Darlington match, others for today, and some for the visit of Swansea.

Those who came to see us hammer Darlington will, presumably come back hoping to see more of the same, and the club offers a warm welcome this afternoon to all our student guests who are here for the first time. We also thank the volunteers who staffed the stand - Audrey and Christine Bray, Fred Maine, Mark Chapman, Tim Kingston and Caz Meers.

Brian Swain



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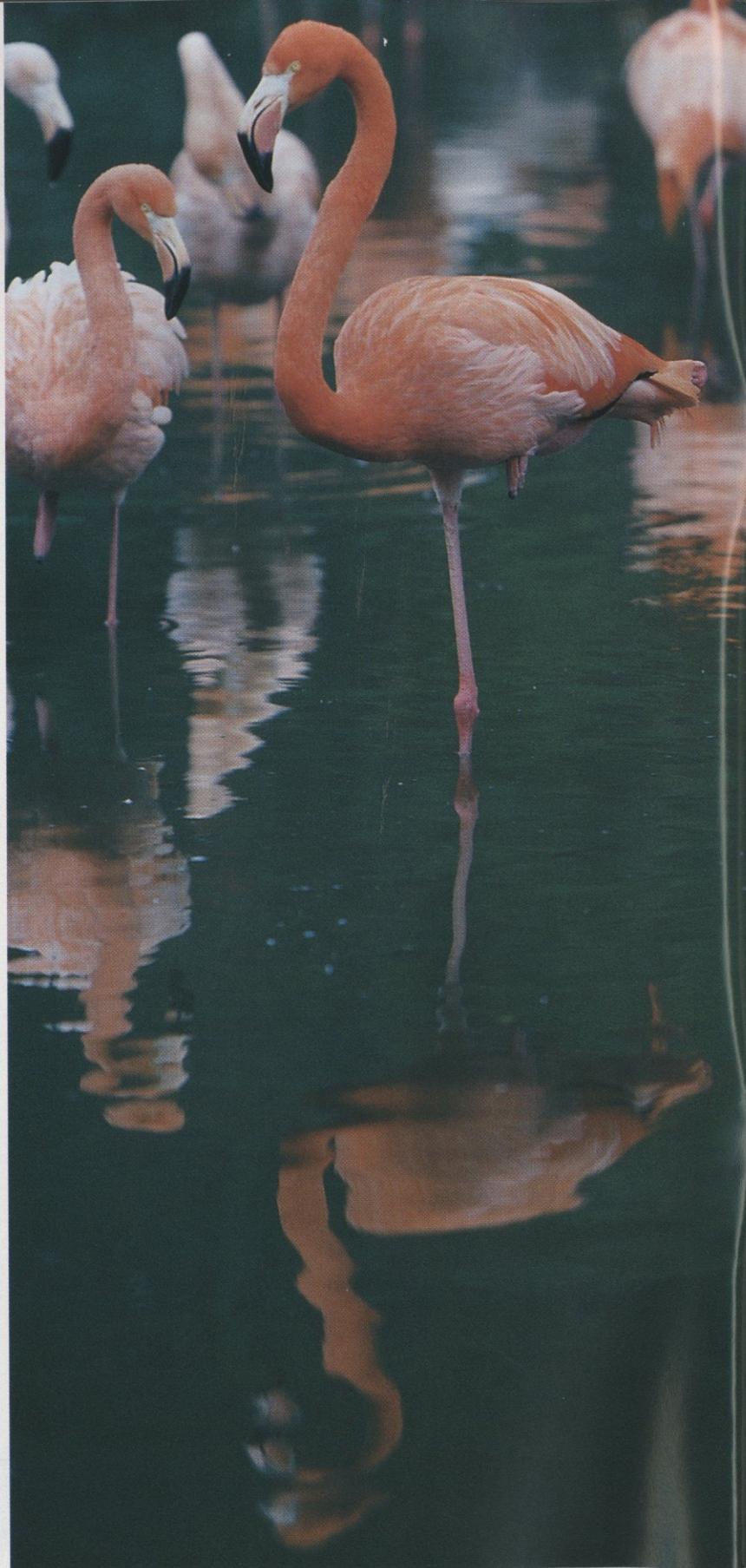
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Joe Kinnear

The Manager

WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road for the first of a series of matches which will go a long way to showing if we can achieve this season's ambitions. Rochdale are the first of three top teams due to come here in the next month and we can be sure they too realise the importance of today's game. They have been in very good form of late, and a glance at the league able testifies to that, so it will be a tough test today.

The stakes are obvious: today's winners go three points clear of the opposition, and nothing less than victory will satisfy me. I know a draw is better than a defeat, but that is two points lost, and the key to success is to maximise home advantage.

Obviously away points must be gathered as well, and we were pleased with our performance and the victory at Scunthorpe. We had to fight hard for it, but once we had got our noses in front with a well-taken goal by Adrian Forbes I couldn't see us getting beaten. And well done Forbes and Russell Perrett for bagging their first goals for the club. An added plus, of course, was the clean sheet.

Once again we had a massive following, and our thanks to everyone who continues to travel up and down the country to help the team. It is well appreciated.

A good result at Glanford Park was needed to capitalise on our previous home success, when we hit five goals for the second consecutive home game. Darlington were no pushovers, but the crucial difference was that once again we looked a real threat every time we moved forward. The strikes by Matthew Spring and Jean-Louis Valois were something special, and perhaps the only disappointment was that we failed to keep a clean sheet.

We have worked extremely hard in training as a team on this area of our game, which showed to good effect at Scunthorpe.

Having said that, because we are so attack-

minded there are bound to be times when we risk being caught on the break, and so long as we keep scoring a lot more than we concede I will be content. It is also extremely pleasing to see that not only are our strikers hitting the target regularly, but goals are flying in from all other departments as well. To date, 14 players have been on the score-sheet for us, and I doubt if many other teams in the country can match that. One reason is that we have already used 26 players this season, mainly because of injuries. That highlights the dramatic improvement in the depth of our squad this year. We have had a terrible run of injuries, but have coped with them remarkably well, and indeed perhaps we are all the stronger for the experience.

Players have had to come in to do a job, and everyone has tried to grab his chance. Look at the men who have been unavailable, and you can see that as they recover we will have a very welcome problem on our hands, selecting what I consider to be the best 16-man combination for the job in hand.

The latest to make his debut for us was Ahmet Brkovic, and we welcome him to the club. He is a very experienced player who can operate in a variety of positions and also weigh in with the odd goal or two.

The immediate task this afternoon is to maintain our unbeaten home record, with a good win which will guarantee that we are still top of the table tonight. Rochdale have a similar incentive, so it will not be a day for the faint-hearted.

The steady rise in attendances has been very encouraging. Indeed, our last home game produced the biggest gate of the season. I sincerely hope we have another good crowd giving us their vocal backing today, and we will have every reason to have confidence in our ability to do the business this afternoon.

Keep the faith!! And enjoy the game.

Joe Kinnear

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Marvin Johnson

Club Captain

THERE has been a nice cheerful atmosphere around Kenilworth Road this week as we prepare for what will probably be one of our toughest games of the season. It's a real six-pointer, with Rochdale coming to Luton level on points with us, and doubtless very hopeful of pegging us back by becoming the first visiting team to win here this season.

I imagine they would be content with a draw, knowing there are still a lot of games to play, including another one against us on their ground later in the season. Our feeling is that if we draw today we will be very disappointed. I know it's better than being beaten, but the mood we are in anything less than victory will feel like failure.

Strangely, although we realise the importance of this afternoon's match, we are pretty relaxed, and reasonably confident, as we should be after results so far this season. After the dreadful times we suffered last season, and the pain of relegation, it's nice for the atmosphere now to be so different.

A lot of it is down to the boss, and the changes he has made. The biggest one of all is in the size of the squad: when everyone is fit we will have several pretty good players who cannot get into the team, and it's a long time since that was true.

For instance, I am coming back after injury, and came through a run-out with the reserves this week. Not so long ago, that would have put me straight back into the frame for a rapid return to the league team. Not any more! To be honest, while I have got over the thigh muscle problem that I suffered at York, I am not 100 per cent match fit, and much as I would like to be involved this afternoon I suspect I will be a spectator again.

While I was pleased for myself to be playing again, there was another player in the reserve team on Monday who probably got even more pleasure from performing for 90 minutes - Stuart Fraser. We are all so very pleased for him,

to see him fully recovered from his broken leg. Like me, he hopes to be pushing claims for a place in the league team before long, but in all honesty when I look at how the team has been performing recently I have to admit I would be lucky to get in, especially after the clean sheet at Scunthorpe.

It might be tough on individual players who suffer frustration because they cannot get into the team, but it must be very good for the club. Today we have one of the biggest squads of good players I can ever remember at Kenilworth Road.

Too often in the past our team has picked itself, with players under no real pressure for their places. All that is very different now, and it is reflected in team performances. We know it's a case of do the business, or make way for someone else who can.

Doing the business must include maintaining our unbeaten home record, although I don't think we can promise to score five goals yet again this afternoon! To be honest, I would cheerfully settle for a 1-0 win. The league table shows that Rochdale are the best team to come here so far, but if we play like we did in our last two home games, against Torquay and Darlington, Rochdale will be hard pressed to keep us out. When we settle down to our game and start stringing the passes together we always look like creating scoring chances. And as we have proved, we can take a good percentage of them.

We all believe we can achieve promotion, and if we play consistently to the best of our ability we will get there. But there is still a long way to go, and plenty of other teams capable of squeezing us out, so for the time being all I can ask is that the team continues to perform well, and that the home results are kept up. We know that's what the fans want too, and it is good to see attendances growing steadily as the season progresses. The following at away games continues to be tremendous, and on behalf of all the players thanks for that as well. Keep on shouting, and we'll do our best to keep on winning!

Marvin Johnson



Bruce Sewell

Treatment Room

AFTER our wretched run of injuries, a reserve match at Selhurst Park this week brought good news for Stuart Fraser,

Marvin Johnson and Liam George. They all returned to competitive football, and came through well.

It was a particularly happy occasion for Fraser, because it was his first full 90 minutes after breaking a leg at QPR last January. He had a sore ankle afterwards, but is well on the way to being available for the league squad. But first I would expect him to have three or four more games for the reserves while we continue to monitor his progress. Johnson is back in full training after his thigh injury, and showed no adverse reaction to the game at Selhurst. He is still having some treatment, but is very close to full fitness.

George still has a tender ankle, but he was

able to train normally this week, and the signs were that he could be available to the manager for this afternoon's game.

The same goes for Mark Ovendale, who has had a hip problem. He saw a specialist this week, who confirmed that it is nothing major.

Four others are still ruled out, but are making good progress. Aaron Skelton is training, but is not quite there yet. He is close, however, and possibly in line to return next week. Carl Griffiths is some way off because of his tendon problem, but it is responding to treatment, and Adam Locke is also coming on well after a hamstring injury.

The one who has to be patient is Paul Hughes. His operation to cure ankle ligament damage was successful, and he has been able to discard his plaster of Paris cast. He is now wearing a moveable air cast and working hard in the gym.

Bruce Sewell



Cherry Newbery

Club Secretary

I WISH to pass on apologies to supporters who got wet at the Darlington match when the pitch sprinklers managed to spread their efforts

into the edge of the stand. Groundsman Richard Bird says it was caused by a blustery wind, and he has now adjusted the sprinklers to stop it happening again.

I am sure you will agree that our pitch is in very good condition, and may I pass on our thanks to those who answered our appeal in this column a while ago for helpers to assist Richard Bird on match days. We had a good response, and now have a reliable team of people to do first-aid repairs to the turf after games.

Another item which has figured on this page recently was about complaints from our supporters after the match at Leyton Orient, where arrangements for visiting fans were not as good as they should be. As promised we contacted Leyton Orient, and we have now received their reply.

We had advised them that there would be a very big away following - it turned out to be over 2,000 - and because of that Leyton Orient decided to switch the home and away ends.

Unfortunately this information did not reach all their stewards, gatemen and the police, with the result that Luton supporters were sent all over the place as they tried to gain entry to the stadium. Even the official Supporters Club coach was directed to the wrong end of the ground at the end of the match. Apologies to everyone for the problems that were caused.

It was only a week or two ago that we finally disposed of last season's final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup, but we are about to begin the new campaign in the 2001/2002 tournament. In the first round we have been drawn away to Leighton Town, on Monday November 26, with a 7.45pm kick-off. Admission will be £4 for adults, £1.50 for concessions.

We should shortly also have details of another cup-tie. Our youth team beat Cheltenham in the first round of the Axa FA Youth Cup, and in

the second round will be at home to Brentford early next month. I will advise you of the date as soon as it is confirmed.

Today sees the last day of the Nationwide national Kick Out Racism week, which we are pleased to support. We have distributed match tickets to local children, and will be distributing literature in the ground today explaining our firm stand against racism in football.

I have good news about our new scoreboard: we have been promised that it will be delivered and installed next week. Don't we miss it!

Finally, today, we have been taking note of comments from supporters about how to accommodate more Luton fans in the ground as attendances rise. At the Darlington game, for instance, our biggest gate of the season was a near sell-out of parts of the ground available to home supporters, while there were well over a thousand empty seats in the away end.

The Oak Road stand is a self-contained section of the ground, and has proved invaluable in terms of safety and segregation, and safety will always be the first and foremost consideration. Supporters have asked if there is some way of utilising part of the Oak Road end for home fans, and we are looking into that possibility. There are problems to be overcome if it is to happen, but we are discussing the matter with the Safety Advisory Group and I will keep you advised on developments. Meanwhile, it underlines the need to buy your tickets early to come and see a good winning team! And please don't rely on the availability of cash turnstiles at every game. More and more fans are very sensibly booking early, and I suspect that for some games, perhaps those against Shrewsbury and Hull next month, there may be no seats left to put on cash sale on the day. The best way to be sure of a seat, and to support the club, is to buy a season ticket, available at discounted prices at the ticket office. Season ticket holders enjoy a number of advantages, including preferential treatment for cup-tie tickets.

Cherry Newbery

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Ticket News

Nationwide League Division Three

Halifax v Luton Town

Tuesday October 23, 2001, kick-off 7.45pm

This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters.
No tickets are available at Kenilworth Road.

Admission prices: Seats - Adults £11, senior citizens and juniors £5
Terracing - Adults £10, senior and junior citizens £5



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Swansea City

Saturday October 27, 2001, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices

We would advise supporters that there is already a big demand for tickets for this game, and you are advised to buy early.



LDV Vans Trophy, second round

Tuesday October 30 or Wednesday October 31

Tuesday October 30 or Wednesday October 31

The draw for this match took place on Wednesday evening (see page 2).

Please check with the Luton Town website, ClubCall, local press and radio for ticket arrangements, which will also be published in the matchday magazine next Saturday.

Nationwide League Division Three

Mansfield Town v Luton Town

Saturday November 3, 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 £12, senior citizens and juniors £6



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Shrewsbury Town

Please note this fixture is now to be played on

Friday November 9, 2001, kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices

We would advise supporters that there is already a big demand for tickets for this game, and you are advised to buy early.



AXA FA Cup, first round

Weekend of Saturday November 17

The draw for this match will take place on Sunday October 28

Please check with the Luton Town website, ClubCall, local press and radio for ticket arrangements, which will also be published in the matchday magazine on November 9.

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10

Pre-Match Entertainment

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

1.45 Gates Open - music starts

2.05 HMV Album of the Week - STEPS
GREATEST HITS

2.10 Club mascot Happy Harry runs out on pitch.

2.15 HMV Single of the week - AFROMAN with
BECAUSE I GOT HIGH

2.20 The UK's No1 single KYLIE MINOUGE with
CANT GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD

2.25 Team line up to be announced.

2.30 Hatters Hot Hit - MIS-TEEQ with ONE NIGHT
STAND

2.35 Dedications announced.

2.40 Town Teaser - Check out page 46 for
today's question

2.55 Teams run out to our new song - The Blues
Brothers " Gimme Some Lovin".

2.57 Final run down of the teams.

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".

4.55 FULL TIME

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Kenilworth Suite Membership details can be found on page 14 or contact the Commercial Department on

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Hatters Chatter

SOME of the money given by supporters to help Luton Town when a financial crisis threatened has now found its way to its target, with a presentation to the club by the Fans of Luton Action Group. The original idea of the combined fans organisation was to raise money to buy the club when it was in receivership, but Mike Watson-Challis came to the rescue, and the cash raised by FLAG is to be used to fund its current aim of promoting football in the community. A major part of the Town's work in that field is with local youngsters, with Youth Development Officer Dean Rastrick heading a busy department encouraging boys and girls to play football. Before the game against Darlington, he was presented with a cheque from



FLAG for £1,500, which will be spent on a comprehensive medical skip for his department. He was, he said, absolutely delighted, and he offers his thanks to FLAG and to all the fans who donated money to the cause.

POLICY STATEMENT - SPECTATOR SAFETY



The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Road Stadium are conducted in such a way that as far as is reasonably practical the safety of everybody at the stadium is assured.

It is the policy of the Chairman and Directors to ensure that the conditions set out in the General Safety Certificate, issued under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975, are fully complied with.

It is the Club's policy to provide at any activity sufficient and competent staff and management systems to ensure as far as humanly possible the safe admission, accommodation and exiting of spectators attending the stadium. These systems will be subject to continual monitoring, testing and updating where necessary.

Mike Watson-Challis Chairman

Reviewed August, 2001.

Commercial Corner



Linda Layton

CLOSE links with our local community are much valued at Kenilworth Road, and the commercial department more than most has reason to appreciate them as time and again local companies do business with us.

A case in point are this afternoon's match sponsors, John Eastaff (Builders Merchants) Ltd., whose name and reputation have been part of the local business scene for many years. They have been supporters of the club, and of our commercial activities, for a long time, and it is a pleasure to welcome them back for today's game.

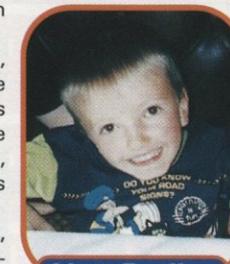
Based at Elstow Storage Depot, at Kempston Hardwick, the company supplies a comprehensive range of building materials - bricks, blocks, paving blocks, clay and plastic drainage equipment, paving slates, plywoods and much, much, more. They sell to the trade and to the DIY customer, and a wide range of plant hire is also available. The company is also a registered firearms dealer.

We welcome everyone from Eastaff and their guests, and hope they enjoy their time with us today.

ANOTHER loyal supporter in our sponsorship lounges this afternoon is Philip Cagnetta, from Potters Bar. His wife Martine wanted something special as a present for his 40th birthday, and hit upon a gift she knew would please - she arranged for Philip to be today's match ball sponsor.

He said: "I have supported Luton for 30 years and was introduced to the club through Peter Anderson's father.

My friends here today include Liverpool, Leicester, Walsall and Arsenal supporters, and I hope we can educate them... I have fond memories of baiting Joe Kinnear as Wimbledon manager in a cup replay here - I hope he doesn't recognise me!"



Liam Bayliss

YOUNG Town fan Liam Bayliss is back for a third special birthday present today, having enjoyed the first two so much. He is our commercial mascot, a few weeks before his seventh birthday.

Liam spent six weeks in hospital in the spring, for spinal surgery, and he and his parents were delighted when Joe Kinnear invited him to a training session

shortly afterwards. Liam still requires surgery every three months, and has just returned home after his latest hospitalisation. We know how well he copes with adversity, and hope he has another wonderful day to remember, and a very happy birthday on November 29. Liam attends Great Gaddesden School, and his favourite player is Liam George. His hobbies are football, golf, and cooking lobsters in Guernsey with his grandmother! He comes to games with his parents and two uncles, and is a fully paid-up member of the barmy-army from the Bricklayers Arms crowd (coke only)! Sadly, he will not be here so regularly in future, because the family is moving to Guernsey to work and live, but David Bayliss has promised his young son that they will be back several times each season.

Linda Layton

Golden Gamble

WHATEVER the result on the pitch today, one the draw at the Darlington game. So far this season six winners have picked up a total of £3,115, an average of £519 each. Another wedge of cash will be won today - the size of the prize depends on sales, because out of each £1 ticket half goes to the jackpot kitty, and half to club funds. The draw is made at half time, and the cash is



He is pictured with Aaron Skelton, who made handed over there and then.

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Goals Info:



Where



12 Goals



13 Goals



5 Goals

How

Shots.....14
Headers.....10
Volleys.....5
Penalties...1
Free Kicks..0
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Griffiths.....7
Taylor.....4
Howard.....3
Valois.....3
Nicholls.....2
Hughes.....2
Crowe.....2

2001-2002

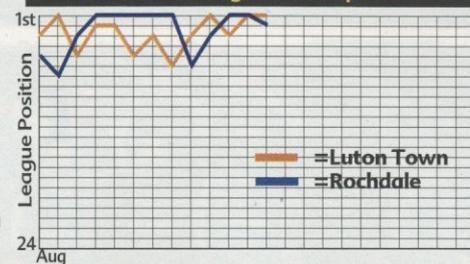
Highest Gate 7,219
vs Darlington
Lowest Gate 5,066
vs Lincoln
Average Gate 6,348
Players Used 26
Clean Sheets 3
Failed to Score 0
Consec. Wins 2 games
Consec. Defeats none

Hatters' Last 10

| Res | Opp | Ven | Opp Pos |
|-----|------------|-----|---------|
| W | Scunthorpe | A | 9th |
| W | Darlington | H | 6th |
| L | Plymouth | A | 7th |
| W | Orient | A | 9th |
| W | Torquay | H | 18th |
| S | Lincoln | H | 19th |
| W | York | A | 10th |
| S | Oxford | H | 11th |
| S | Exeter | A | 24th |
| W | Southend | H | 2nd |

visit our website at www.soccer-stats.com

Seasonal Progress Comparison



Dale's Last 10

| Res | Opp | Ven | Opp Pos |
|-----|---------------|-----|---------|
| D | Rushden | H | 14th |
| W | Swansea | A | 14th |
| W | Mansfield | H | 4th |
| W | Halifax | H | 10th |
| L | Shrewsbury | A | 2nd |
| L | Hull | A | 7th |
| S | Scunthorpe | H | 13th |
| W | Kidderminster | A | 12th |
| W | Carlisle | A | 22nd |
| W | Exeter | H | 23rd |

Goals Info:



Where



6 Goals



11 Goals



3 Goals

How

Shots.....8
Headers.....5
Volleys.....5
Penalties...2
Free Kicks..0
O.G.s.....0

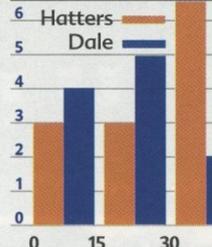
Top Scorers

Jones.....4
Platt.....4
Griffiths.....2
Ford.....2
Oliver.....2
Townson.....2

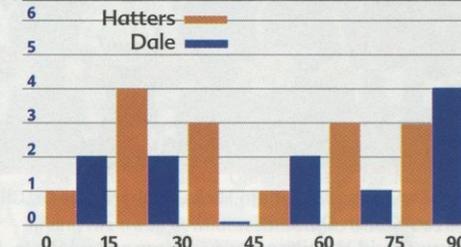
2001-2002

Highest Gate 4,345
vs Rushden
Lowest Gate 2,885
vs Kidderminster
Average Gate 3,489
Players Used 23
Clean Sheets 5
Failed to Score 2
Consec. Wins 4 games
Consec. Defeats 2 games

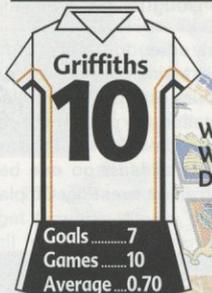
When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded



Carl Griffiths (Luton)



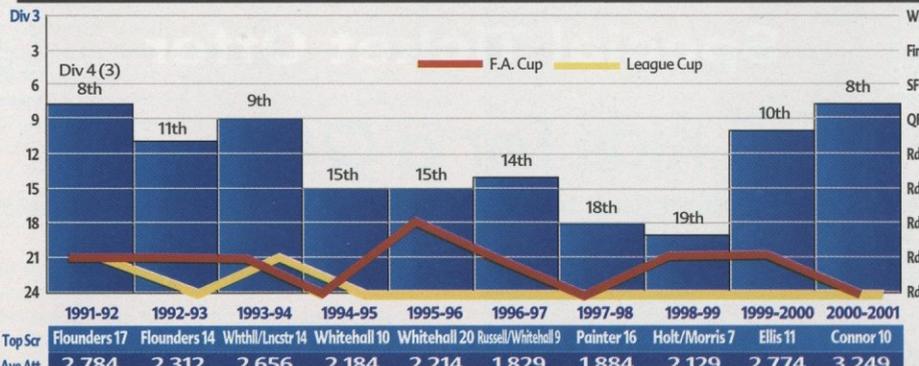
Top Scorers Comparison

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 5 games | Total Games Scored In | 3 games |
| 4 games | Games Scored 1 Goal | 2 games |
| 0 games | Games Scored 2 Goals | 1 game |
| 1 game | Hat-tricks | 0 games |
| W->L.....0 (Opts) | Season's Results and (loss of points) without the two goalscorers goals | W->L.....0 (Opts) |
| W->D.....2 (4pts) | | W->D.....2 (4pts) |
| D->L.....0 (Opts) | | D->L.....0 (Opts) |
| 2 games | Maximum scoring run | 2 games |
| 2 games | Maximum Dry Spell | 4 games |
| 1 | Shot | 1 |
| 1 | Header | 1 |
| 0 | Volleyed Shot | 2 |
| 0 | Penalty | 0 |
| 0 | Direct free Kick | 0 |



| | | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Luton Goals | 30 | Rochdale Goals | 20 |
| Luton Games | 13 | Rochdale Games | 13 |
| Luton's Goal Ave | 2.31 | Rochdale's Goal Ave | 1.54 |

Rochdale's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



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Middlesbrough v Sunderland
Monday 22 October, Sky Sports 1

Manchester United v Olympiakos
Tuesday 23 October, ITV Sport Channel
Boavista v Liverpool
Wednesday 24 October, ITV Sport Channel

Welcome to Rochdale F.C.



Back Row: Gary Jones, Graham Hicks, Richard Green, Clive Platt, Gareth Griffiths, Simon Coleman, David Flitcroft, Michael Oliver, Kieron Durkan.

Middle Row: David Hamilton, Andy Thorpe, Paul Ware, Dave Bayliss, Neil Edwards, Paul Connor, Matthew Gilks, Sean McAuley, Wayne Evans, Keith Hicks, Jamie Hoyland

Front Row: Lee Duffy, Lee Todd, Steve Parkin, Kevin Townson, Tony Ford, Matthew Doughty, Graeme Atkinson.

Steve Parkin - Manager



Born: Mansfield 7-11-65
Joined Rochdale in the summer of 1999 after quitting his post at home town club Mansfield having guided them to the fringes of the Play Offs despite financial constraints. As a player Steve gained England Schools, Youth and Under 21 caps in a career that saw him give service to Stoke City and West Bromich Albion

before ending prematurely due to injury problems at Mansfield at the age of 31. In taking the hot seat at Field Mill he became the League's youngest manager and since then has built an excellent reputation for putting out teams that play neat, attractive football. In this, his third season in charge, he will be looking to at least go one better than when his side missed out on a first ever Play Off place by the narrowest of margins.

In Goal

1. Neil Edwards

Born: Aberdare 5-12-70
Hugely popular figure at Spotland and a virtual ever present

Today's Visitors

since joining from Stockport County for £25,000 in November 1997. A former Welsh Youth and Under 21 international, Neil served his apprenticeship at Leeds United for whom he made one appearance, prior to signing for Stockport in September 1991 for a fee of £5,000. An excellent stopper, Neil has no problems in the air despite his lack of inches.

13. Matthew Gilks

Born: Rochdale 4-6-82
In his third scholarship year last season, Matthew progressed rapidly and after spending some time on the bench, he made an impressive debut in a 1-1 draw at Chesterfield in March. An extremely confident individual, Matthew is good on crosses and an excellent shot stopper and his progress was rewarded in the summer with a two year professional contract.

In Defence



2. Wayne Evans

Born: Abermule 25-8-71
Arriving in the summer of 1999 from First Division Walsall, Wayne has been a splendidly consistent player throughout his career. For his first five seasons at Walsall, having moved there from non-league Welshpool, he was virtual ever present before losing his place due to injury.

Made over 200 appearances for The Saddlers and though he likes to get forward, Wayne didn't score his first goal for them until his 165th appearance. He bettered that almost immediately by scoring for Dale in only his fourth game.

12. Lee Todd

Born: Hartlepool 7-3-72
A major signing for the club, Lee arrived from Premiership Bradford City on the eve of last season having played his part in The Bantams' Inter Toto Cup games. Originally a trainee at hometown club Hartlepool, Todd moved to Stockport County as a teenager and made over 200 appearances for them before following manager Dave Jones to Southampton for a fee approaching £500,000. Just a season later Todd joined Bradford for £250,000 and helped them gain promotion to the big time. Lee is a very attacked minded left back whose move to Spotland was no doubt influenced by the fact that he would be re-joining three of his former Stockport colleagues. He was named the Supporters Club Player of the Year last season.

16. David Bayliss

Born: Liverpool 8-6-76
Despite his tender age this popular Scouser is the club's longest serving player, now working under his fourth manager since breaking into the first team squad in 1995. A former trainee, he is primarily a no nonsense defender who despite his stature relishes the physical aspects of the game. David has also been used from time to time in both full back positions but much prefers a central role. Once described by previous manager Graham Barrow as 'the best tackler' he'd ever seen, David passed the 200 appearances mark for the club last season.



3. Sean McAuley

Born: Sheffield 23-6-72
An experienced defender, Sean arrived at Spotland in February 2000 from Scunthorpe United. Started his career at Manchester United but with his way forward blocked by Dennis Irwin, Sean moved to Scottish Premier League side St. Johnstone in 1993. After three good

years north of the border he came back to England, joining Harlepool with whom he was soon made captain. An ill-fated move to Scunthorpe followed soon after, prior to arriving at Spotland.

4. Simon Coleman

Born: Worksop 13-6-68
This vastly experienced defender arrived in the summer of 2000 from Southend United where he had been captain. Started out at Mansfield before big money moves saw him plying his trade at Middlesborough, Derby County, Sheffield Wednesday and Bolton Wanderers.

5. Gareth Griffiths

Born: Winsford 10-4-70
Tremendously strong in the air as you would expect from a 6' 4" defender, Gareth was signed from Wigan Athletic in the summer of 2001 as manager Steve Parkin looked to rebuild his defence. Started his career with Rhyl before moving into the Football League with Port Vale, for whom he appeared 116 times, in 1993. Signed for Wigan in 1998 and during his

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time there proved himself to be an invaluable squad member who was unlucky not to appear more times than he did.

6. Richard Green

Born: Wolverhampton 22-11-67

The vastly experienced defender became manager Steve Parkin's third signing of the summer when he joined the club from Northampton for his second spell at Spotland, having played six games on loan in 1999/2000. In his first season at Sixfields he helped the Cobblers win promotion from Division Three and in his second made over 40 appearances as they established themselves in the higher league. He started his career at Shrewsbury and has also given service to Swindon Town, Gillingham and Walsall in a career spanning over 500 first team appearances. Tremendously strong in the air and in tackle he is also an excellent organiser as well as being a big threat at set pieces.

In Midfield

7. David Flitcroft

Born: Bolton 14-1-74

Signed in the summer of 1999 when he elected to leave Chester City under the Bosman Ruling, David is the brother of Blackburn Rovers star Gary Flitcroft. Playing either wide on the right or in his preferred central midfield role, he always provides a battling performance making tackles and getting forward at every opportunity. Started his career at Preston where he made 10 appearances, before moving to Chester as a teenager after a loan spell at Lincoln City. Made the best part of 200 appearances for Chester before his move to Spotland. David is a popular figure in the dressing room and was awarded the Clubman of the Year Trophy at the end of last season.

18. Gary Jones

Born: Birkenhead 3-6-77

Joined the club initially on loan from Swansea City in January 1998 but it wasn't until the appointment of manager Steve Parkin that he established himself in his favoured central midfield role. Gary has a tremendous engine and loves to get into the opposition penalty area at every opportunity. Last time around he gained the club's Player of the Year Award for his remarkably consistent performances.

8. Paul Ware

Born: Congleton 7-11-70

Yet another growing band of former Stockport County players in the Dale squad, Paul is a creative midfield player noted for his long range shooting and ability at set piece situations. He had a spell at Conference side Hednesford before returning to the Nationwide League with Macclesfield., Refusing The Silkmen's offer of a new contract, Paul joined Dale in the summer of 2000.

9. Michael Oliver

Born: Middlesborough 2-8-77

All action midfielder who joined the club in the summer of 2000 after refusing the offer of a new contract at Darlington despite helping them to the previous season's Play Off Final. Started his career as a trainee at Middlesborough but it wasn't until he too joined Stockport County in 1995 that he made his League bow. After two years he moved back to his native North East to join Darlington where he was a virtual ever present for four seasons.

11. Graeme Atkinson

Born: Hull 11-11-71

Became Steve Parkin's first signing in June 1999, joining the club for the second time having had a loan spell in

December 1997. A cultured left wing back or winger, he was part of the Scarborough side that regrettably lost its League status in 1998 after short spells at Brighton and Scunthorpe. Started his career with hometown club Hull City for whom he made 172 appearances, scoring 26 goals, before a move to Preston North End in 1994 for whom he appeared 92 times.

15. Kieron Durkan

Born: Chester 1-12-73

Capable of playing on either flank, but preferring the right, the former Republic of Ireland Under 21 international joined Dale in the summer of 2001 after refusing the offer of a new contract at Macclesfield. Started as a trainee at Wrexham, he moved to Stockport County for a fee of £95,000. After 85 appearances for Stockport he moved to the Moss Rose for a fee of £35,000 in March 1998. Kieron Has great ability from set pieces and is a tremendous crosser of the ball.

10. Matthew Doughty

Born: Warrington 2-11-81

This highly rated teenager became Steve Parkin's forth summer signing when he snapped him up from Conference club Chester City. Even though he was plying his trade in the Conference it was reported that several Premiership sides were looking at him and only an ill-timed injury stopped him from going to Southampton for a trial. Able to perform equally well as either wingback or further forward, Matt is a speedy and determined player who delivers a great cross.

Up Front

21. Clive Platt

Born: Wolverhampton 27-10-77

Tall, rangy striker who became the club's first ever £100,000

player when he joined the club from Walsall in September 1999 after a highly successful loan period. As good in the air as you expect for someone of 6'4", Clive also has the ability to hold the ball well and allies that to tremendous pace of the mark.



19. Kevin Townson

Born: Liverpool 19-4-83

Young striker for whom 2000/01 was his first season as a professional, Kevin was spotted playing county football on his native Merseyside and jumped at the chance of a full-time contract. Very much in the livewire category and as he benefits from full time training and coaching

he can only get better. Kevin was the leading scorer in both the Youth and Reserve teams last season and was rewarded with a call up to the England Under 17 squad.

27. Paul Connor

Born: Bishop Auckland 12-1-79

Paul became the club's new record signing when he arrived from Stoke City in March 2001 for a fee of £150,000, and immediately started to pay back the investment as his goals so nearly took his new side into the Play Offs. The Dale boss had been on his trail for some four months and eventually got his man when his three month loan spell at Cambridge ended. A former Middlesborough trainee, Paul signed for Stoke in March 1999. Tall and good in the air, Paul has two excellent feet and also shows a good turn of pace. In just 14 appearances for Rochdale last season Paul scored 10 goals and everyone at Spotland will be hoping that he carries that ratio into the new season.

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Hatters Away

ON TUESDAY we go to Halifax, for the first time since January 1977, when John Aston netted in a 1-0 FA Cup third round game. Our last league trip to The Shay was in April 1970, for a scoreless draw in a Division Three match a few weeks before we were promoted to the Second Division as runners-up to Orient.

For Tuesday's game, Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club are both offering transport to Yorkshire. The Bobbers service leaves Cranfield at 2pm and Kenilworth Road an hour later, and the fare is £14 for adults and £11.50 for pensioners and under-16s.

Town on Tour, part of Luton Town Supporters Club, leave Maple Road at 2.30, and call at Milton Keynes

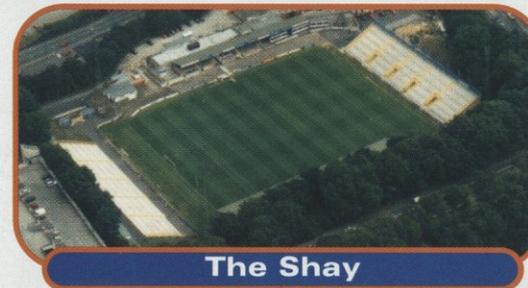
Coachway about 20 minutes later. The fare is £13 for LTSC members, £11 for junior and senior members, and £15 for others.

The Bobbers and the Supporters Club have kiosks in Kenilworth Road where seats can be booked this afternoon. Town on Tour also sell through the club shop in Kenilworth Road. Their mobile number for out of office hours is 07960 567465. Bobbers bookings can be made by ringing Paul Deason on 01234 750996.

DIY travellers

GIVEN a good run, you can drive to Halifax in three hours comfortably, but that depends on the motorways running freely. From Luton head north up the M1 and keep going until you are deep into Yorkshire, past Sheffield, Barnsley and Wakefield. to junction 42, where you turn left onto the M62, the trans-Pennine motorway. Leave the M62 at junction 26, and take the A58 signposted to Halifax. Head towards the town centre, and after going straight on at a roundabout where the A629 branches off to the right, take the fourth on the left, then right at the T junction, and you will see the ground on your right.

Mileage: 175.



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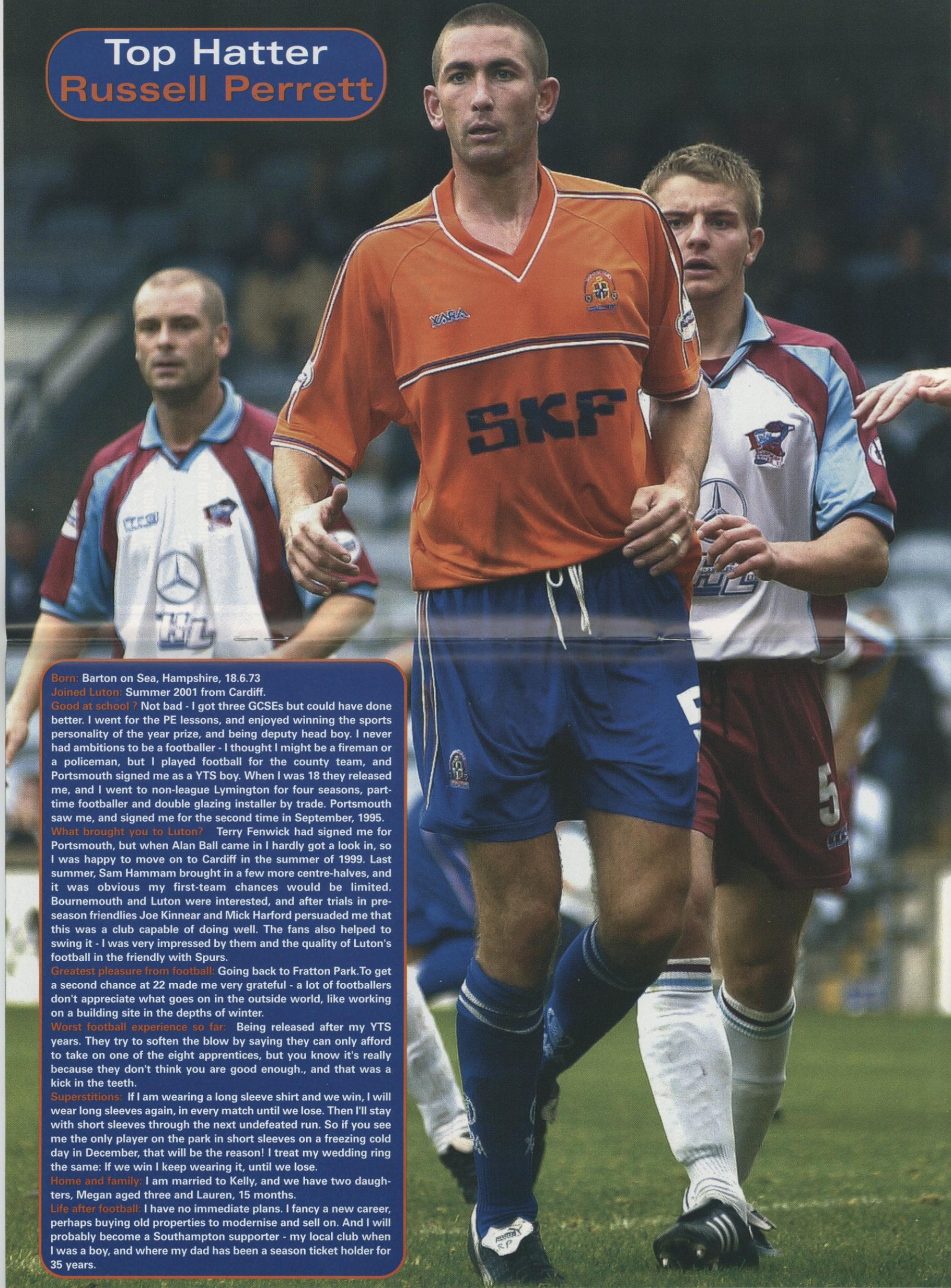
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Top Hatter Russell Perrett



Born: Barton on Sea, Hampshire, 18.6.73

Joined Luton: Summer 2001 from Cardiff.

Good at school? Not bad - I got three GCSEs but could have done better. I went for the PE lessons, and enjoyed winning the sports personality of the year prize, and being deputy head boy. I never had ambitions to be a footballer - I thought I might be a fireman or a policeman, but I played football for the county team, and Portsmouth signed me as a YTS boy. When I was 18 they released me, and I went to non-league Lymington for four seasons, part-time footballer and double glazing installer by trade. Portsmouth saw me, and signed me for the second time in September, 1995.

What brought you to Luton? Terry Fenwick had signed me for Portsmouth, but when Alan Ball came in I hardly got a look in, so I was happy to move on to Cardiff in the summer of 1999. Last summer, Sam Hammam brought in a few more centre-halves, and it was obvious my first-team chances would be limited. Bournemouth and Luton were interested, and after trials in pre-season friendlies Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford persuaded me that this was a club capable of doing well. The fans also helped to swing it - I was very impressed by them and the quality of Luton's football in the friendly with Spurs.

Greatest pleasure from football: Going back to Fratton Park. To get a second chance at 22 made me very grateful - a lot of footballers don't appreciate what goes on in the outside world, like working on a building site in the depths of winter.

Worst football experience so far: Being released after my YTS years. They try to soften the blow by saying they can only afford to take on one of the eight apprentices, but you know it's really because they don't think you are good enough, and that was a kick in the teeth.

Superstitions: If I am wearing a long sleeve shirt and we win, I will wear long sleeves again, in every match until we lose. Then I'll stay with short sleeves through the next undefeated run. So if you see me the only player on the park in short sleeves on a freezing cold day in December, that will be the reason! I treat my wedding ring the same: If we win I keep wearing it, until we lose.

Home and family: I am married to Kelly, and we have two daughters, Megan aged three and Lauren, 15 months.

Life after football: I have no immediate plans. I fancy a new career, perhaps buying old properties to modernise and sell on. And I will probably become a Southampton supporter - my local club when I was a boy, and where my dad has been a season ticket holder for 35 years.

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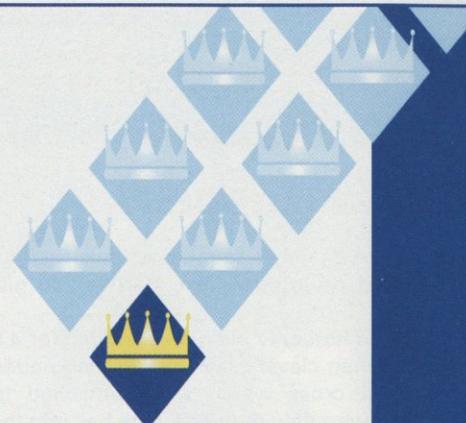
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The last time.

The Hatters shook off the disappointment of the narrow failure to win promotion to the old

Division Two at the end of the 1968/69 season by starting the following campaign in championship winning form.

Nine wins and four draws from the opening 13 games marked us out as early pacesetters and it was not until match 14, at Doncaster, that defeat was eventually suffered but most supporters looked on this as a minor blip on the road back to the top.

Unfortunately, after a brilliant win at Brighton on the Saturday following the Doncaster defeat, the next three games, including two at home, ended in draws giving the chasing pack an opportunity to catch up.

Amongst the chasing pack was Rochdale who sat in second place level on points with the Town but having played one game more. They had won promotion at the end of the previous campaign for the first time in their history and had taken to the higher level like a duck to water, banging in three or more goals in ten of their 19 games at that stage.

Such was the interest in this first versus second clash that the 'Match of the Day' cameras visited Kenilworth Road for the first time and joined an apprehensive crowd of 15,876 who, given the Town's recent form, were fearing the worst.

A late fitness test was given to mercurial winger, Graham French, and it was a good job that he passed as he proved to be the only Luton forward playing at anything like his normal form as Rochdale took control of the game from the opening minutes.

Time and time again their fast, accurate football gave the Luton defence all sorts of problems but they missed many opportunities through over eagerness. The closest they came to scoring was when Dennis Butler crashed a shot against the crossbar but many other efforts just shaved the woodwork.

With 15 minutes left, Luton supporters were urging the referee to blow his whistle glad of a point when a defeat seemed on the cards. Manager Alec Stock responded to the crowds anxiousness by taking off top scorer Malcolm Macdonald, who had got

nowhere against a tough Rochdale rearguard, and bringing on winger Mike Harrison to give more width.

Harrison had only been on the pitch for a few seconds when clever play from French ended with a chipped cross which was controlled by John Collins who then thundered the ball into the net for a fortuitous lead.

The introduction of Harrison on the left wing had now given more space to French on the other flank and another of his crosses four minutes from the end finished with Keith Allen nodding the ball over Rochdale goalkeeper Chris Harker into an empty net.

The final scoreline certainly flattered the Town and most Luton supporters were glad that the match was relegated to brief snippets on the television that evening behind the Arsenal versus Manchester City main feature.

The return game was due to be played in early March and a trainload of supporters set off to find the Spotland pitch covered in snow. Despite a valiant effort by the Rochdale supporters to clear the snow the referee had little option but to call the match off.

As the train was chartered we could not just turn around and come home but had to wait for the allotted slot of 6.00 p.m. for the return journey. I am sure it is far different now but 30 years ago there was not a lot to do in Rochdale on a Saturday afternoon apart from go to the Co-Op to watch the bacon slicer!

The game was eventually played at the end of April in what was to be the final game of the campaign for both sides. The Hatters had huffed and puffed over the winter months and had made extremely hard work of attempting to win promotion with what was, by Division Three standards, an expensively assembled side.

The point they needed for promotion had come five days before the Rochdale clash in a hard fought 0-0 draw at Mansfield and the trip to Spotland was therefore seen as party time.

This time two trainloads travelled to boost the Luton support to over 2,000 in a crowd of 5,886 but when they arrived at the ground they found the pitch to be a sea of mud.

An 18 hour deluge had left the pitch under water



John Collins (7) tries to knock the ball over Rochdale goalkeeper, Chris Harker, at Kenilworth Road in November 1969.

three hours before kick-off and again local fans had made great efforts to mop up the worst of it. After their great early start to the season, Rochdale had fallen away with the loss of leading goalscorer, Tony Buck, and a change of manager not helping their cause.

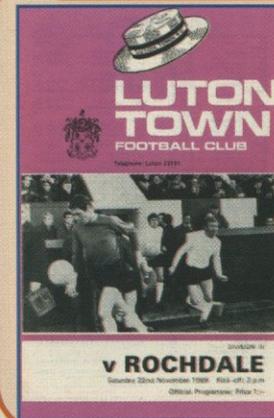
As such, with nothing riding on the outcome of the game, experienced referee Ken Burns allowed the contest to go ahead when, if anything, the conditions were worse than they had been in March.

The game itself was a non event as the thick mud

made football of any kind impossible. Viv Busby fired the Town into the lead after 15 minutes following a goalmouth scramble with Macdonald netting his 28th goal of the campaign soon after half-time. Reg Jenkins pulled one back shortly after the hour mark but try as they might Rochdale could not force an equaliser leaving the Town to secure their tenth away victory of the season and a final lap of honour to thank the supporters.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



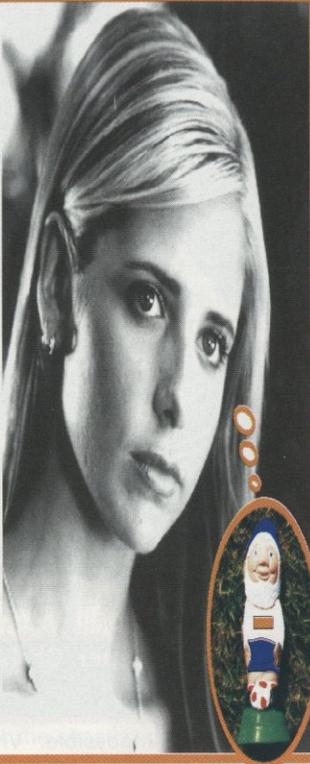
For the first time since the immediate pre-war days the supporters had a programme to be proud of with photographs and articles and with no adverts on the front cover!

Making its debut for the pre-season friendly against an Italian under-21 side the programme had matured by the time of the visit of Rochdale and was now regarded as one of the best in the Football League.

Although Rochdale were given fair coverage, much of the programme was taken up with preparations for the forthcoming F.A.Cup tie against Southern League leaders Hillingdon Borough who proudly boasted an unbeaten home record stretching back 52 games.

In one of the less than glorious days in our history we allowed Hillingdon to make it 53 when suffering a 1-2 defeat. At least we could be heartened by the knowledge that the Supporter's Club dominoes team was top of its league!

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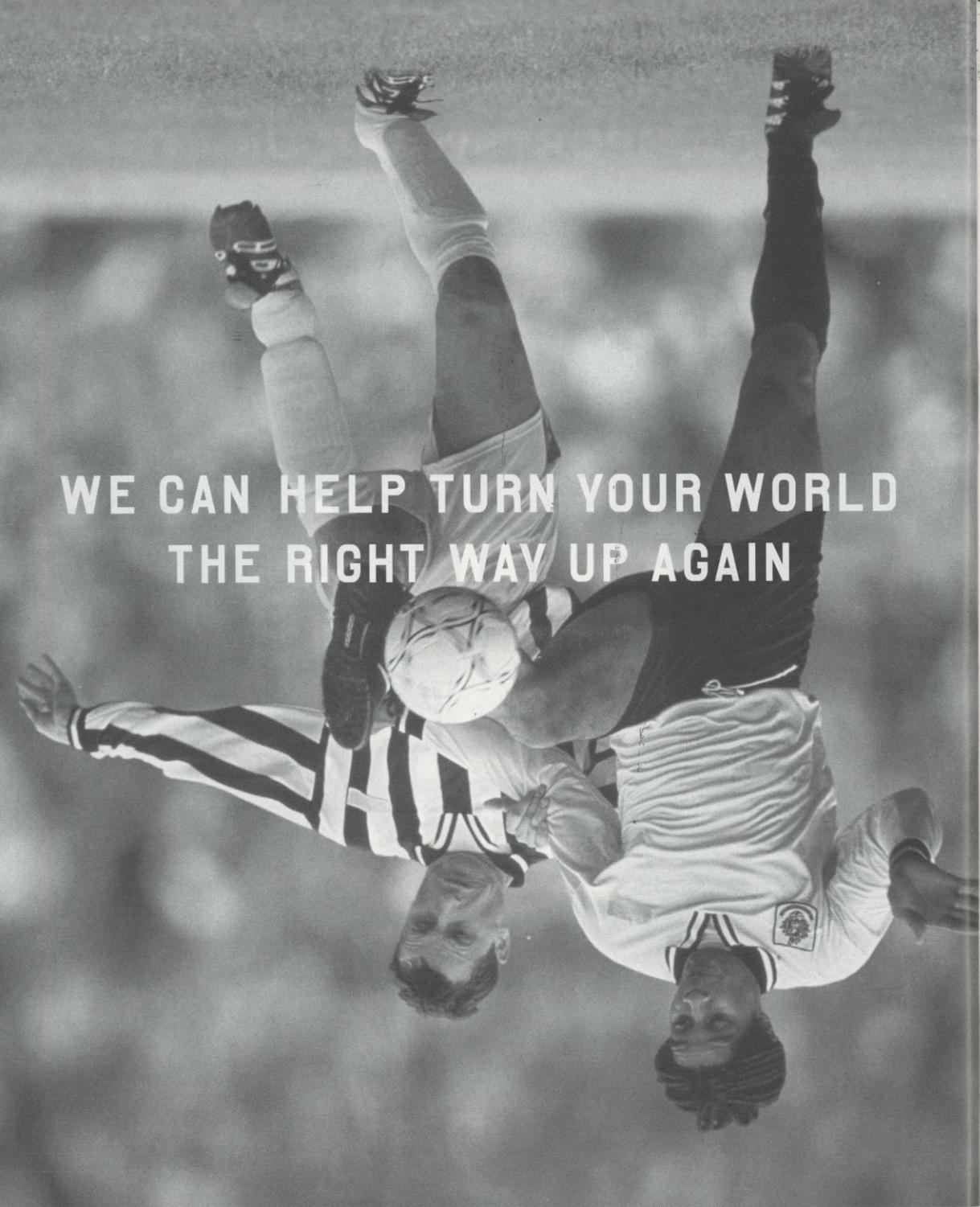
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Happy Harry

Junior Hatters

WE HAVE to offer heartfelt apologies today to all the Junior Hatters and friends and families who booked for the trip to Scunthorpe. It was not our fault, but the coach failed to turn up, and after much chasing around Dunn-Line came to our aid, at very short notice.

They managed to get a coach to us at 11am, and we thank them for their help. But it meant that we did not arrive at Glanford Park until just before kick-off, so we missed all the pre-match entertainment that had been laid on for us by our Scunthorpe opposite numbers. We are negotiating with the company who should have provided the coach, and there will be compensation for all our disappointed customers.

It was particularly unfortunate for Charles Day, who was due to be our mascot, but missed out for the second time. He was originally chosen to do the honours at York, but we arrived late there as well, because of motorway traffic jams.

Hopefully it will be third time lucky for him with our next trip: to Mansfield in a fortnight's time. We have been invited to join their equivalent of our Saturday Club, so it should be a good day out. The fare will be the usual bargain: £10 for Junior Hatters and £13 for others, and you can book at the club shop.

Happy Harry



ONE FOR THE SCRAPBOOK: Two mascots were on duty at the last home game, against Darlington, and are pictured with the team captains and match officials when they gathered for the toss of the coin before kick-off. Twelve-year-old James Tapping, from Harlington, was the Junior Hatters mascot, while Tyler Buckley was the commercial mascot.

Today's Mascot

SEVEN-year-old Tom LeMaire is probably the happiest Junior Hatter in the ground today, because his name was picked out of the computerised hat to be this afternoon's mascot.

He lives at Salters Way, Dunstable, and goes to Lancot Lower School, Dunstable, and plays for his school's soccer team. His other main hobby is karate.

Tom comes to games with his dad, grand-dad and uncle, and they watch from the Main Stand,



although today the young supporter will get close to all his heroes, meeting the team in the dressing room before running out onto the pitch with them for the pre-match formalities. His favourite player is Jean-Louis Valois.

We also have two ballboys on duty this afternoon, Gary Bygate, of Five Oaks, Caddington, and Mitchell

Glen Toyer, from Westbury Lane, Newport Pagnell.

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

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■ New team

The ITV Sport Channel provides a lot more than just live football though. There will be extensive coverage of the Nationwide League, including Football 1st – the Nationwide League's first ever dedicated prime time highlights programme. Just switch over to ITV Sport Channel at 8.30pm after The Premiership on ITV1 and it's non-stop football on Saturday nights. Anchored by Matt Smith, with expert analysis from Graham Taylor and Robbie Earle, the 90-minute programme will give the First Division the attention it deserves.



■ Action

Football 2nd and Football 3rd, on Sunday lunch-times will do the same for their respective divisions, again for the first time ever. Add to this a country-wide footy quiz featuring supporters from Manchester United to Carlisle, a travel show to make the life of the away fan that little bit easier, preview and review shows not to mention goal round-ups from the week's action and you can see that the channel takes its football seriously, and all for £6.99 a month.

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If you want the full ITV Digital football package though, you can add 40 FA Barclaycard Premiership games and 20 pay-per-view Nationwide matches to your package for £3.00 a month through ITV Sport Select. That's £30 a season, 50p a game. And if that's not enough football you can always add Sky Sports 1, 2 & 3 to your channel line-up.

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Ladies Football

THE Luton Belles have been involved in some very tense and exciting matches in recent weeks, beginning with a 3-2 league victory over Mansfield Road, of Oxford.

Luton stormed into a 3-1 half-time lead with goals from Stacey Connell, Louise Evans and Alex Orr, but were pegged back after the interval and held on for a narrow victory.

The Belles WFA Cup debut was against Stocklake Ladies, and it saw Luton produce their finest performance of the season so far. They took a one-goal interval lead through a brilliant strike by Rhiannon Morgan. Louise Evans added the second with a left-foot volley, and further goals from Stacey Connell, Amy Gray and Morgan again rounded off a 5-2 win. It puts the Belles into the first round proper of the WFA Cup, when they will face a big test, away to Greater London Premier League leaders Redbridge, on October 28.

Hopefully the team will have a touch more luck and go one better than they did in an incredible League Cup tie away to Gosport Borough, who are leaders of the Southern Region Premier League. It was tremendous excitement for over two hours, with Luton leading five times before going out in a penalty shoot-out. Thanks to two goals by Stacey Connell, and strikes by Rhiannon Morgan and Amy Gray, plus an own goal, the Belles were 5-4 up in the 119th minute, just seconds away from a famous victory. But they then conceded a penalty which was converted, and the tie went to a shoot-out in driving rain. Despite the heroics of keeper Sarah Gately, who saved two spot kicks, Gosport sneaked home 3-2 on penalties.

Luton returned to league action last week, visiting previously unbeaten MK Wanderers, and winning a hard-fought match 1-0. An excellent team performance included a flowing move in the 75th minute which was finished in style by leading scorer Rhiannon Morgan for the decider.

The under-10 squad have had an excellent start to the season, winning all their matches to date, and running neck and neck with Arsenal at the top of the table.

Last week's victims were Hatfield, who were hammered 11-0, thanks to four goals by Lauren Bruton, hat-tricks by Jasmine Hall and Samantha Joiner, and a strike by Kelly Moss.

The Belles under-12s have also been in the goals, with a 10-0 win over Crawley Green. Chloe Reeves led the way with a hat-trick and the others on target were Nicola Shephard (2), Alice Burbury (2), Chloe Fensome, Emma Wells and Kayleigh Watkins. Fensome (2) and Wells were the scorers in a 3-0 success over Kempston West End.

Today on the pitch, weather permitting, you will see a display by the Luton Town Belles under-13 squad, who are currently doing very well in the Hertfordshire Girls League, having strung together four consecutive victories, over Watford 2-0, Belmont Utd 4-0, Royston Town 3-1 and Harpenden 4-1. In among the goals so far are leading scorer Michelle Byrne, Rebecca Kane, Fay Rolls, Holly Flynn, Tanya Blacksley and skipper Gemma Vale.

Dave Baker

Come and join us!

LADIES football is the fastest-growing sport in the UK, and Luton Town is delighted to be associated with the club that carries its name and colours locally. The Luton Town Belles are providing regular football for girls of all ages, from eight years old upwards. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please ring Dave Baker on Luton 896140.

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www.lutontown.co.uk



Action Replay



Luton Town 5 Darlington 2 (HT 1-1)

SEVEN goals, three penalties, the biggest crowd of the season, and top of the table again. It was nice to be a Luton Town fan on the night we hit five goals for the second consecutive home match. The second-half performance, following a 1-1 interval scoreline, was magical. "The goals were flying in from all angles," said manager Joe Kinnear. The best, perhaps inevitably, came from Jean-Louis Valois, this time with his right foot, to round off the scoring.

Darlington manager Gary Bennett called that, and the earlier strike by Matthew Spring, "world class" and was probably right when he said the most important goal of the night came from Dean Crowe, which put the Town 3-2 ahead, to kick off a remarkable last half-hour.

Spring's thunderbolt of a shot, his first goal of the season, cancelled out a Danny Mellanby opener which was an inadvertent gift from recalled goalkeeper Carl Emberson.

The Town really got into their stride in the second half, and the excellent team performance came from an allegedly weakened squad - unavailable were Aaron Skelton, Marvin Johnson, Paul Hughes, Carl Griffiths, Stuart Douglas and Liam George.

The Town shook off the shock of giving the visitors a 25th-minute lead, and picked themselves up again when Darlington replied with a quick equaliser after Steve Howard had put the Town ahead for the first time with his third goal in four matches.

Crowe's goal, on his home debut, punished bad defending, and the Darlington boss complained that his men subsided after that.

The first of the night's penalties, converted by action man Kevin Nicholls, came after Howard was pushed over by Craig Liddle as he went for a ball played in by Emmerson Boyce. Valois got his third goal in four games to make it 5-2 on 83 minutes, but there was still more entertaining excitement to come.

Nicholls was penalised for a push on Neil Wainwright, but Emberson saved Barry Conlon's spot kick, before the Town were robbed of what would have been a goal to remember. Valois collected the ball deep in his own half, and set off on a one-man demolition of the visiting midfield and defence. No-one could get near him until Simon Betts did, with a foul just inside the box. By then Nicholls had been subbed, so Spring took the penalty, hit it almost straight, and saw it saved by the keeper's legs. Thankfully, it didn't matter at all.

Match Details

Luton Town: Emberson; Boyce, Perrett, Coyne, Taylor; Mansell (Hillier 86 mins), Spring, Nicholls (Forbes 88 mins), Valois; Howard, Crowe.

Unused subs: Fotiadis, Dryden, Ovendale

Booked: Steve Howard, foul, 30 mins; Dean Crowe, foul, 73 mins; Kevin Nicholls, foul, 75 mins; Jean-Louis Valois, delaying free kick, 89 mins.

Darlington: Collett; Betts, Liddle, Jeannin, Heckingbottom; Wainwright, Atkinson, Brumwell, Hodgson (Jackson 78 mins); Mellanby, Conlon.

Unused subs: Convery, Harper, Pearson, van der Geest.

Booked: Neil Wainwright, foul on Matt Taylor, 54 mins; Barry Conlon, fouled on Carl Emberson, who had just saved his penalty after

87 mins.

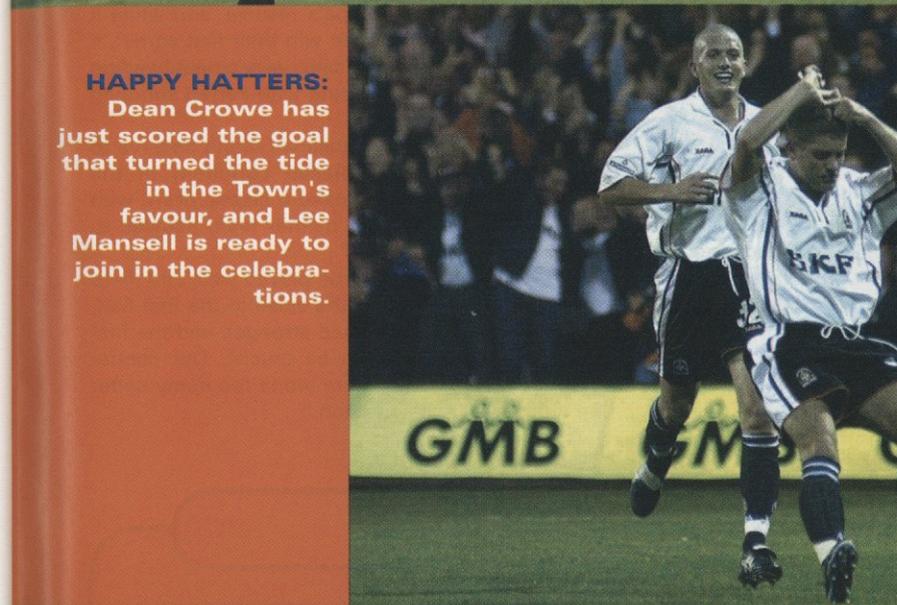
The Goals: 0-1 25 mins - Danny Mellanby, gift after Carl Emberson hit a weak clearance straight to him; 1-1 35 mins - Matthew Spring, thumping 25-yarder after a defender half-cleared from Dean Crowe; 2-1 48 mins - Steve Howard header from Valois's left wing corner; 2-2 50mins - Neil Wainwright, excellent drive from 20 yards; 3-2 66 mins - Dean Crowe, shot from the edge of the box after two defenders tangled with each other to let Steve Howard's flick-on header reach him; 4-2 73 mins - Kevin Nicholls penalty after Liddle fouled Howard; 5-2 83 mins - Jean-Louis Valois special, 30 yards, right foot.

Referee: John Brandwood, Staffordshire.

Attendance: 7,219 best of the season, with 302 supporting Darlo.



UP FOR IT: Jean-Louis Valois, specialist in extraordinary goals, shows he will compete for the ball as well, in this case against Darlington's Neil Wainwright



HAPPY HATTERS: Dean Crowe has just scored the goal that turned the tide in the Town's favour, and Lee Mansell is ready to join in the celebrations.



SHOOTING STAR: Matthew Spring, who scored a wonder goal against Darlington.

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



Action Replay



Scunthorpe 0 Luton Town 2 (HT 0-0)

TWO goals in the last 25 minutes settled a tight contest at Glanford Park, and took the Town back to the top of the table after being deposited in midweek when Rochdale won at Swansea. The result was right, but you had to feel for home manager Brian Laws, who said his team competed well with one of the best in the Third Division but got nothing because Luton showed the finishing touches his team lacked.

For the Town there were plenty of reasons to enjoy the day, including first goals for the club by Adrian Forbes and Russ Perrett, and the first clean sheet in ten outings, since Southend's visit in late August.

The manager's substitutions also played a big part in the fourth away win of the season. In a tight first half neither side could dominate the other, and in veteran Peter Beagrie, playing wide on their left, Scunthorpe had a potential match-winner. Indeed, he nearly notched the first goal early on, with a cracking 25-yarder which Carl Emberson athletically tipped round the post.

Emmerson Boyce found Beagrie a handful, collected a booking for fouling him, and was replaced at the interval by Ian Hillier. The Spurs man was also cautioned for a foul on Beagrie, but played well to dampen down Scunthorpe's only real attacking threat. Ahmet Brkovic went on for his Luton debut as the interval replacement for Lee Mansell, who struggled a little on the right of midfield, and the Croatian showed touches that might light up matches in future.

Jean-Louis Valois was out of sorts after a busy week travelling to and from France to bring furniture over for his new home, and Forbes replaced him on the hour mark.

In terms of football enterprise, the two teams were remarkably evenly matched, but the Town's back four was more dependable than Scunthorpe's. Even so, after the first hour it looked as though the Town would fail to score in a league game for the first time this season, until Kevin Nicholls produced the pass of the match to by-pass two defenders and set Forbes free on the run that ended with a decisive finish. It seemed to break Scunthorpe's resolve, and while it took the Town 72 minutes to win their first corner, it was made to count dramatically, with a neat heading routine near both posts ending with Perrett shooting home from close range.

"I feel for our players, because we didn't deserve to lose," was the slightly biased comment of the Scunthorpe manager. "It looked a classic draw, with two defences on top, with neither team allowed to create many clear chances."

Joe Kinnear said: "Scunthorpe played well, and there wasn't too much between the sides in the first half, but in the second we finished stronger, and the first goal was always going to be crucial. Our centre-halves were very solid - there aren't too many better than those two in this division."

Match Details

Luton Town: Emberson; Boyce (Hillier HT), Coyne, Perrett, Taylor; Mansell (Brkovic HT), Spring, Nicholls, Valois (Forbes 59 mins); Howard, Crowe.

Unused subs: Ovendale, Dryden.

Booked: Matthew Taylor 14 mins, foul on Carl Bradshaw; Emmerson Boyce 28 mins and Ian Hillier, 57, both for fouls on Peter Beagrie

Scunthorpe: Stanton, Jackson, Cotterill, Dawson (Sheldon 73 mins); Hodges, Bradshaw, Kell (Calvo-Garcia 73 mins), Beagrie; Quailey (Torpey 66 mins), Carruthers.

Unused subs: Wilcox, Bennion.

Booked: No-one

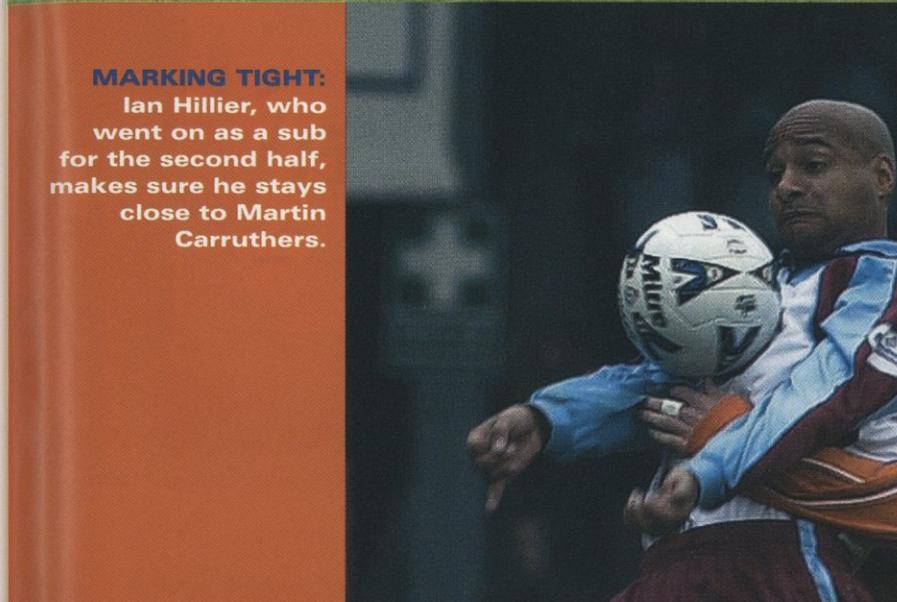
The Goals: 0-1 65 mins - Adrian Forbes, collecting a pass by Kevin Nicholls and skipping past Andy Dawson before firing his shot beyond the advancing goalkeeper; 0-2 72 mins - Russell Perrett close range drive, after Scunthorpe were pulled apart by a corner routine - Matt Taylor's flag kick from the right, Steve Howard's flick-on at the near post, Dean Crowe's header back across the goal and defenders all over the place as Perrett helped himself to his fourth league goal in six years.

Referee: Howard Webb, Yorkshire.

Attendance: ,959, Glanford Park's best of the season except for the local derby with Lincoln, thanks to another magnificent Town following of 961.



CRUCIAL: Adrian Forbes shoots his first Luton Town goal, one which both managers agreed was the defining moment in a closely-fought contest.



MARKING TIGHT: Ian Hillier, who went on as a sub for the second half, makes sure he stays close to Martin Carruthers.



DRIVING FORCE: Kevin Nicholls in typical action, taking on Peter Beagrie and James Cotterill

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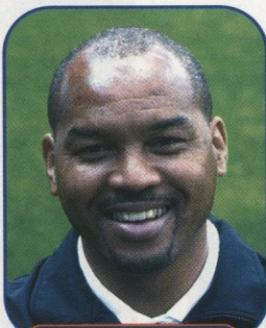
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If you are the manager or are in charge of a local Saturday/Sunday park team what better chance could you have in replacing your old playing/training kit with a new one. If you are interested contact the club shop on 01582 411622 or email: clubshop@lutontown.co.uk



Brian Stein

In Reserve



Luton Town 3 QPR 3

THE good news was that we created chances. The bad news was that we did not take enough of them, and that our defending was sloppy, with poor concentration being punished.

We murdered Rangers for the first 35 minutes, but were only one up, through Adam Everitt after 20 minutes. We were never ahead after that, with the mixture of schoolboy defending and embarrassingly poor finishing allowing the visitors to take a point they did not really deserve. It was 1-1 at the interval, 1-2 after 50 minutes and 2-2 on 62 when Dean Brennan converted a penalty. We ought to have pushed on to win after that, but instead were behind again on 68 minutes, until four minutes from time, when Peter Thomson took one of the several chances that came his way after he went on as a second-half sub for injured Andrew Fotiadis. Perhaps the most pleasing feature of the game was that Stuart Fraser, out since January with a broken leg, began his comeback, with ten minutes as a substitute.

Luton Town: Ovendale, Locke (Stirling 75 mins), Brennan, Hillier, Dryden, Holmes, Brkovic, Forbes (Fraser 80 mins), Dogbe, Everitt, Fotiadis (Thomson HT).

Crystal Palace 1 Luton Town 0

IT IS hard to find anything good to say about our performance at Selhurst Park on Monday. We fielded our strongest team for a long time, but turned in our worst display of the season. The only good news was that men coming back from injuries got through the game - Stuart Fraser with his first 90 minutes after his broken

leg, plus Marvin Johnson, Liam George and Stuart Douglas. Palace fielded a young side, kids hungrier for success than we were, and I was particularly disappointed that our senior players did not do much better.

We didn't create much in attack, did not have enough enthusiasm, and were short on commitment and effort. The only goal came midway through the second half, when a Palace striker was allowed to out-muscle us down the middle. Andrew Fotiadis netted for us in the closing minutes, but was given offside, and to be honest we did not play well enough to deserve a draw.

Luton Town: Ward, Fraser, Johnson, Dryden, Bruce (Stirling 77 mins), George (Murphy 86 mins), Brennan, Holmes, Fotiadis, Thomson, Douglas (Osborn 77 mins).

WE WERE due to be at home to Cambridge next Wednesday, but that match has been postponed at their request, so we have no Avon Insurance Combination game until Wednesday week, October 31, when we play Reading at Kenilworth Road, kick-off 2pm.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Brennan 8, Fotiadis 7, Holmes 6, Foley 5, Stirling 4(2), Brkovic 4(1), Gillman 4, Ovendale 4, Locke 4, George 4, Thomson 3(4), Ward 3, Everitt 3, Bruce 3, Dryden 3, Osborn 2(2), Douglas 2(1), Dogbe 2, Murphy 1(3), Fraser 1(1), Crowe 1(1), Emberson 1, Forbes 1, Mansell 1, Johnson 1, Hillier 1, Spring 1, Ofori 1, Iagnostal 1, Hogg 1, Bouchuers 1, Djorkaeff 1, Valois 1, Maher 1, Hodges 1, Leary 0(2), O'Leary 0(1), Okai 0(1), Jeffrey 0(1), Hall 0(1).

Goals: Fotiadis 4, Brennan 3(2 pens), Thomson 2, Brkovic 2, George 1, Hodges 1, Gillman 1, Locke 1, Everitt 1.

Brian Stein

Avon Insurance Combination Results and Fixtures

| AUG | Wed 15 | Barnet | A | 3-0 | Fotiadis 2, Hodges |
|-------|---------|----------------|---|--------|--|
| | Wed 29 | Millwall | H | 1-0 | Brennan pen |
| SEPT | Wed 12 | Leyton Orient | A | 3-2 | George, Brkovic 2 |
| | Thur 20 | Barton (BPC) | A | 5-0 | Gillman, Locke, Brennan, Thomson, Fotiadis |
| | Wed 26 | Gillingham | H | 2pm | |
| OCT | Tue 2 | Cardiff | A | 1-2 | Fotiadis |
| | Mon 8 | QPR | H | 3-3 | Everitt, Brennan pen, Thomson |
| | Mon 15 | Crystal Palace | A | 0-1 | |
| | Wed 31 | Reading | H | 2pm | |
| NOV | Wed 7 | Brentford | A | 7pm | |
| | Wed 14 | Bristol City | H | 2pm | |
| | Wed 21 | Cambridge(LC) | H | 2pm | |
| | Wed 28 | Norwich(LC) | A | 7.30pm | |
| DEC | Wed 5 | Oxford | A | 2pm | |
| | Wed 12 | Swindon | H | 2pm | |
| | Wed 19 | Portsmouth | A | 7pm | |
| JAN | Wed 9 | Brighton | A | 7pm | |
| | Wed 16 | Wycombe | H | 2pm | |
| | Wed 23 | Bournemouth | H | 2pm | |
| FEB | Wed 6 | Bristol Rov | A | 7pm | |
| | Wed 13 | Norwich | H | 7pm | |
| | Wed 20 | Cheltenham | A | 2pm | |
| | Wed 27 | Colchester | H | 7pm | |
| MAR | Wed 13 | Peterborough | H | 7pm | |
| | Wed 20 | Southend | A | 2pm | |
| | Mon 25 | Cambridge | A | 2pm | |
| APRIL | Wed 10 | Northampton | H | 2pm | |

Avon Insurance Combination League Table

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Portsmouth | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 18 |
| Q.P.R. | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 5 | 14 |
| Cardiff | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 14 |
| Crystal Palace | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 9 | 13 |
| Millwall | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 13 |
| Wycombe | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Luton Town | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 11 |
| Oxford | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 11 |
| Leyton Orient | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 10 |
| Reading | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| Bristol City | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| Gillingham | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| Southend | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Bristol Rovers | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Norwich | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 7 |
| Peterborough | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 7 |
| Cheltenham | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 6 |
| Colchester | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 5 |
| Brentford | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 4 |
| Swindon | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| Brighton | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Cambridge | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 3 |
| Barnet | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 3 |
| Bournemouth | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 2 |
| Northampton | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 2 |



John Moore

Youth Soccer



Football League Youth Alliance Luton Town 4 Northampton 2

WE WERE too strong for a young visiting side, and deserved to win, although we had to keep going right to the end, with the last two goals coming in the final ten minutes. It was encouraging to see the team finish the game so strongly, although overall we had enough of the play to have won more comfortably. Northampton pegged us back to equalise twice after first-half goals by Darryl Murphy and Steve O'Leary, but James Osborn gave us the lead for the third time on 83 minutes, and Chris Dillon rounded it off in the last minute.

Luton Town: Chatfield, Dogbe, Carroll, Leary (Foley 55 mins), Bruce, Gillman (Jeffrey 55 mins), O'Leary, Dillon, Murphy (Judge 55 mins), Osborn, Okai.

one stage held the lead, and it was not until the closing minutes that we got the winner we just about deserved. But Cheltenham should take credit for making it difficult, and we were pleased to hear the final whistle.

Rob Gillman headed us in front after six minutes, from our first corner, but Cheltenham came back with a good equaliser before the interval. They went ahead five minutes after the break when we were caught out by a quick free kick. Matthew Judge completed a good move by dinking the ball over the keeper to make it 2-2 on 64 minutes, and within a minute James Osborn volleyed us into the lead again from a cross by Parys Okai. Back came the home side to make it 3-3 on 77 minutes, and it was anyone's game then, but Marcus Jeffrey produced a powerful cross-shot into the top corner for an 83rd minute winner.

Luton Town: Chatfield, Foley, Okai, Howells, Gillman, Barnett, Jeffrey, O'Leary, Dillon, Osborn, Judge.

FL Youth Alliance Cup Luton Town 2 Colchester Utd 3

WE DIDN'T show any real desire to win until it was too late, and a very poor defensive performance meant that we got what we deserved. We were three down after 75 minutes because we did not apply ourselves properly, and allowed the opposition forwards to take the initiative.

Some players had been involved in the FA Youth Cup game two days earlier, so there might be some excuse for them, but those who came back into the side, mainly senior boys, should have done much better. Our late goals, scored by Kevin Foley and Darryl Murphy, made the scoreline flattering - Colchester were deserving winners.

Luton Town: Chatfield, Dogbe, Carroll, Leary (Osborn HT), Bruce, Gillman, Shire (Foley HT), O'Leary, Murphy, Dillon, Okai

Appearances (as sub in brackets):

Okai 7(1), Carroll 7, Leary 7, Murphy 7, Osborn 6(2), Jeffrey 6(1), Gillman 6(1), Chatfield 6, O'Leary 6, Bruce 5(1), Dogbe 5, Foley 4(4), Dillon 4(2), Davies 4(1), Judge 3(3), Brill 2, Howells 1, Barnett 1, Shire 1, Burrell 0(1).

Goals: Osborn 4(1p), Murphy 4, Davies 2, Judge 2, Leary 1, Carroll 1, O'Leary 1, Dillon 1, Gillman 1, Jeffrey 1, Foley 1

Football League Youth Alliance Results and Fixtures

| AUG | 25 | Rushden & D | H | 1-2 | Leary |
|-----|------------------|----------------|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SEP | 1 | Walsall | A | 4-4 | Osborn 2 (1p), Murphy, Davies |
| 8 | L. Orient (Cup) | A | 0-0 | | |
| 15 | Kidderminster | H | 3-1 | Carroll, Davies, Murphy | |
| 22 | Cambridge | A | 1-2 | Judge | |
| OCT | 6 | Northampton | H | 4-2 | Murphy, O'Leary, Osborn, Dillon |
| 11 | Cheltenham(FAYC) | A | 4-3 | Gillman, Judge, Osborn, Jeffrey | |
| 13 | Colchester (Cup) | H | 2-3 | Foley, Murphy | |
| 20 | West Brom | A | | | |
| 27 | Peterborough | A | | | |
| NOV | 3 | Southend (Cup) | H | | |
| 10 | Notts County | H | | | |
| 17 | Kidderminster | A | | | |
| 24 | Cambridge | H | | | |
| DEC | 15 | Northampton | A | | |
| JAN | 12 | West Brom | H | | |
| 19 | Notts County | A | | | |
| 26 | Peterborough | H | | | |
| FEB | 9 | Rushden & D | A | | |
| 16 | Walsall | H | | | |

FL Youth Alliance South Central Conference League Table

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Rushden & D | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 11 |
| Cambridge Utd | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| Peterborough | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 8 |
| Luton Town | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 7 |
| Notts County | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Kidderminster | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Walsall | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 14 | 6 |
| West Brom | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 5 |
| Northampton | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 |

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Records

- Highest Gate 10,755 Hull
- v Plymouth
- Lowest Gate 1,556 Macclesfield v Darlington
- Highest Agg Score Luton5
- Darlington2
- Macclesfield...4
- Scunthorpe...3
- Biggest Home Win Darlington4
- Exeter0
- Hull4
- York0
- Luton5
- Torquay1
- Mansfield4
- Macclesfield...0
- Shrewsbury...4
- Kidderminster...0
- Biggest Away Win Exeter0
- Scunthorpe...4
- Consec. Wins Rochdale, Orient..... 4
- Games Unbeaten Plymouth.....10
- Consec. Defeats Rushden, Orient 4
- Winless Run Kidderminster 8
- Total Games 154
- Home Wins 6844%
- Away Wins 3925%
- Draws 4731%

Average Attendances

| | 2000 | 4000 | 6000 | 8000 | 10000 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Bristol Rovers | | | | | 7,576 |
| Carlisle | | | | | 3,193 |
| Cheltenham | | | | | 3,357 |
| Darlington | | | | | 4,089 |
| Exeter | | | | | 3,524 |
| Halifax | | | | | 2,071 |
| Hartlepool | | | | | 3,594 |
| Hull | | | | | 9,805 |
| Kidderminster | | | | | 2,831 |
| Orient | | | | | 4,932 |
| Lincoln | | | | | 2,999 |
| Luton | | | | | 6,348 |
| Macclesfield | | | | | 2,026 |
| Mansfield | | | | | 4,160 |
| Oxford | | | | | 6,251 |
| Plymouth | | | | | 4,702 |
| Rochdale | | | | | 3,489 |
| Rushden | | | | | 4,220 |
| Scunthorpe | | | | | 3,510 |
| Shrewsbury | | | | | 3,722 |
| Southend | | | | | 4,048 |
| Swansea | | | | | 3,865 |
| Torquay | | | | | 2,588 |
| York | | | | | 2,866 |

Goals - When Scored

| | 0-15 | 16-30 | 31-45 | 46-60 | 61-75 | 76-90 |
|----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| BR | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| CU | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| CT | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Da | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| EC | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| HT | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| HU | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| HC | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Ki | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| LO | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| LC | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| LT | 3 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| MT | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| MT | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| OU | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| PA | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Ro | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| RD | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| SU | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| ST | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| SU | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| SC | 4 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| TU | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| YC | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

Form Guide: Home & Away

| Home Form | most recent results to left | Away Form |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| LDDWD | Bristol Rovers | LWLLW |
| WDWLD | Carlisle | LLLLD |
| WWDL | Cheltenham | DWLWL |
| LDWWD | Darlington | LDDLW |
| WDDLW | Exeter | WLLLD |
| DDWDL | Halifax | LLLWL |
| WWDLL | Hartlepool | LDLL |
| WWWWW | Hull | DLDDW |
| DLDDD | Kidderminster | WDLLL |
| LLLWW | Orient | LDLWL |
| WLWLD | Lincoln | LDDLD |
| WWDDW | Luton | WLWWD |
| LDDWD | Macclesfield | WDLWD |
| WWWWW | Mansfield | WDLWD |
| DWLWL | Oxford | LDDLD |
| WWWL | Plymouth | DDWDW |
| DWWDW | Rochdale | WLLWW |
| WWDLL | Rushden | DDLL |
| LWDDW | Scunthorpe | DDLLW |
| DDWWW | Shrewsbury | WDLWD |
| WLWDL | Southend | LLLWL |
| LDLWD | Swansea | LWLDL |
| WDWLW | Torquay | LWLDD |
| LDLWW | York | LWDL |

Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won

| see key below | Leading Scorer | GS | Sc1 | Sc2 | HT | Gms | Gls/Gm | Pts | Run |
|----------------|-------------------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|--------|-----|-----|
| Shrewsbury | Luke Rodgers | 12 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 0.92 | 9 | 4 |
| Mansfield | Chris Greenacre | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0.62 | 8 | 4 |
| Hull | Gary Alexander | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 0.58 | 6 | 2 |
| York | Michael Proctor | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0.31 | 6 | 1 |
| Macclesfield | Lee Glover | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0.54 | 5 | 2 |
| Torquay | Alex Russell | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0.38 | 5 | 2 |
| Luton | Carl Griffiths | 7 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0.70 | 4 | 2 |
| Carlisle | Ritchie Foran | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0.44 | 4 | 3 |
| Darlington | Barry Conlon | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0.31 | 4 | 1 |
| Plymouth | Martin Phillips | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0.31 | 4 | 1 |
| Rochdale | Clive Platt | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0.31 | 4 | 2 |
| Bristol Rovers | Kevin Gall | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0.25 | 4 | 2 |
| Halifax | Paul Harsley | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0.23 | 4 | 1 |
| Southend | Kevin Maher | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0.23 | 4 | 1 |
| Exeter | Chris Roberts | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0.33 | 3 | 1 |
| Lincoln | Lee Thorpe | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0.42 | 2 | 1 |
| Swansea | Stuart Roberts | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0.38 | 2 | 2 |
| Orient | Scott Houghton | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0.36 | 2 | 1 |
| Cheltenham | Julian Alsop | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 0.30 | 2 | 1 |
| Kidderminster | Mark Blake | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0.18 | 2 | 1 |
| Oxford | Martin Thomas | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0.15 | 2 | 1 |
| Scunthorpe | Martin Carruthers | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0.42 | 1 | 1 |
| Rushden | Duane Darby | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0.67 | 0 | 2 |
| Hartlepool | Mark Tinkler | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0.33 | 0 | 2 |

Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

| Club | Win - vs. | Defeat - vs. |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Bristol Rov | 3-2 Luton | 1-3 Orient |
| Carlisle | 2-1 York | 1-3 Hartlepool |
| Cheltenham | 2-0 Carlisle | 2-3 Mansfield |
| Darlington | 4-0 Exeter | 2-5 Luton |
| Exeter | 3-2 Oxf, York | 0-4 Scun, Dar |
| Halifax | 2-0 Swansea | 1-4 Southend |
| Hartlepool | 3-0 York | 0-2 Ornt, Linc |
| Hull | 4-0 York | 2-4 Mansfield |
| Kidderminster | 1-0 vs 3 clubs | 0-4 Shrewsbury |
| Orient | 3-1 Bristol Rov | 0-3 Darlington |
| Lincoln | 3-0 Swansea | 1-3 York |
| Luton | 5-1 Torquay | 2-3 Bristol R |
| Macclesfield | 2-0 Oxf, Bstl R | 0-4 Mansfield |
| Mansfield | 4-0 Macclesfld | 1-3 Rochdale |
| Oxford | 2-0 Hfx, Sthnd | 0-2 Maccsfd |
| Plymouth | 3-0 Halifax | 1-2 Rochdale |
| Rochdale | 3-1 Mansfield | 1-3 Hull |
| Rushden | 2-1 Hartlepool | 2-3 Plym, Oxd |
| Scunthorpe | 4-0 Exeter | 0-2 Luton |
| Shrewsbury | 4-0 Kiddermstr | 1-3 Hart, Scun |
| Southend | 4-1 Halifax | 0-2 Lutn, Oxd |
| Swansea | 4-2 Exeter | 0-3 Lincoln |
| Torquay | 2-1 vs 4 clubs | 1-5 Luton |
| York | 3-0 Torquay | 0-4 Hull |

Numbers

| PU | CS | FS |
|----|----|----|
| 23 | 3 | 4 |
| 29 | 3 | 5 |
| 23 | 4 | 2 |
| 19 | 5 | 3 |
| 28 | 2 | 4 |
| 18 | 5 | 8 |
| 23 | 2 | 5 |
| 22 | 6 | 3 |
| 22 | 6 | 7 |
| 26 | 3 | 3 |
| 19 | 4 | 2 |
| 26 | 3 | 0 |
| 21 | 6 | 7 |
| 17 | 4 | 3 |
| 21 | 4 | 5 |
| 19 | 6 | 4 |
| 23 | 5 | 2 |
| 28 | 7 | 6 |
| 22 | 5 | 5 |
| 20 | 5 | 1 |
| 22 | 4 | 5 |
| 21 | 2 | 4 |
| 30 | 2 | 7 |
| 24 | 3 | 4 |

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

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



Brian Swain

Third Division Scene

IF TODAY'S six-pointer turns out to be a case of history repeating itself, Town fans will go home well pleased this evening. The last time Rochdale were here was in November 1969, in the old Third Division, and then, as now, the Town were top of the table, with Rochdale second, level on points, but behind on goal average. John Collins and Keith Allen scored in a 2-0 win. Today, Rochdale come to Luton having been top of the table more than any other club this season, and with a record that almost exactly matches the Town's - unbeaten at home, and with four away victories already under their belt. They would have stayed top but for a surprise 0-0 home draw with Rushden last Saturday, while we were winning at Scunthorpe. Hull City continue to look menacing, in third place, two points behind us and Rochdale, and with a game in hand. Michael Reddy, the Sunderland striker Joe Kinnear tried to recruit on loan, scored in a 1-0 home win over Torquay. Plymouth, the only team to beat us in our last 10 games, continued their march up the table, a 3-0 home win over Halifax taking them to fourth, level on points with Hull and with fifth-placed Mansfield. A number of old friends featured in the week's action, and

few will begrudge Lee Glover his emergence as one of the Third Division's leading marksman. Ten years ago he came to Luton on loan from Nottingham Forest, only to suffer a serious injury in his first game. That snuffed out his hopes of joining the Town permanently - Brian Clough was offering him in part-exchange for Kingsley Black. Glover is now the mainstay of Macclesfield and scored his eighth goal of the season to help the Silkmen to a 2-0 victory at Bristol Rovers, for whom it was the first home league defeat of the season. Macclesfield need his goals - their only other scorers are Richard Tracey and Kyle Lightbourne, with two each. Another man who suffered bad luck on loan to the Town was Graeme Tomlinson, who came from Manchester United on deadline day in March 1996. On his full debut for us he broke a leg in a defeat at Port Vale, and never got near the top flight again. He is now at Exeter, and had been out of the side while Noel Blake was manager, but after Blake was replaced by John Cornforth the midfielder is back in favour, and struck a vital winner in a 1-0 home win over Carlisle, which lifted Exeter off the bottom, and put Carlisle back in 24th place. Blake is one of six Third Division managers to have lost their jobs so far this season. The latest was Tommy Taylor, of Leyton Orient. We heard home fans calling for his head when we went to Brisbane Road last month and won 3-1. That was Orient's third game without a win, and by Saturday it was six, when they were turned over 4-2 by Shrewsbury. Orient have slipped from fourth place to 14th in little over a month, and Taylor resigned on Sunday. New boss Paul Brush hardly had a brilliant start - Orient lost 3-2 at Dagenham and Redbridge in the LDV Vans Trophy on Tuesday. Rochdale avoided a potential banana skin in the same competition with a 2-0 home win over Southport with a goal by Clive Platt and a penalty by Gary Jones. That made it five games without defeat, and Rochdale's away record is impressive, with only two defeats on six trips so far, at Hull and Shrewsbury last month. Four wins on the road came at Oxford, Plymouth, Carlisle and Swansea.

Brian Swain

Nationwide League Division Three

| | HOME | | | | | AWAY | | | | | Pts | |
|----------------|------|---|---|---|----|------|---|---|---|----|-----|----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | P | W | D | L | F | | |
| Luton Town | 13 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 27 |
| Rochdale | 13 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 27 |
| Hull City | 12 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 25 |
| Plymouth | 13 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 25 |
| Mansfield | 13 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 25 |
| Shrewsbury | 13 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 24 |
| Darlington | 13 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 19 |
| Bristol Rovers | 12 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 18 |
| Southend | 13 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 |
| Cheltenham | 12 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 16 |
| Scunthorpe | 13 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 15 |
| Rushden & D | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 15 |
| L. Orient | 13 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 15 |
| Macclesfield | 13 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 15 |
| Torquay | 13 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 15 |
| Lincoln | 13 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Oxford | 13 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 14 |
| York | 13 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 14 |
| Kidderminster | 13 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Swansea | 13 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 13 |
| Halifax | 13 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 13 |
| Exeter | 13 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 13 |
| Hartlepool | 12 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Carlisle | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 10 |

Today's other Third Division fixtures

Carlisle v Kidderminster
 Cheltenham v Exeter
 Halifax v Bristol Rovers
 Macclesfield v Lincoln
 Mansfield v Plymouth
 Oxford v Scunthorpe
 Rushden v Hull
 Shrewsbury v Darlington
 Swansea v Leyton Orient
 Torquay v Hartlepool
 York v Southend

To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

| | |
|---|---|
| Leeds United v Chelsea Sunday 21 October, Sky Sports 1 | Manchester United v Olympiakos Tuesday 23 October, ITV Sport Channel |
| Middlesbrough v Sunderland Monday 22 October, Sky Sports 1 | Boavista v Liverpool Wednesday 24 October, ITV Sport Channel |

Subject to coverage, terms and conditions.

Today's 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 |
| 12 | Chris Coyne | 12 |
| 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 |
| 26 | Peter Thomson | 26 |
| 27 | Paul Hughes | 27 |
| 28 | Jean Louis Valois | 28 |
| 32 | Lee Mansell | 32 |
| 33 | Ian Hillier | 33 |
| 34 | Dean Crowe | 34 |
| 35 | Ahmet Brkovic | 35 |

Rochdale

| | | |
|----|------------------|----|
| 1 | Neil Edwards | 1 |
| 2 | Wayne Evans | 2 |
| 3 | Sean McAuley | 3 |
| 4 | Simon Coleman | 4 |
| 5 | Gareth Griffiths | 5 |
| 6 | Richard Green | 6 |
| 7 | David Flitcroft | 7 |
| 8 | Paul Ware | 8 |
| 9 | Michael Oliver | 9 |
| 10 | Matthew Doughty | 10 |
| 11 | Graeme Atkinson | 11 |
| 12 | Lee Todd | 12 |
| 13 | Matthew Gilks | 13 |
| 14 | Tony Ford | 14 |
| 15 | Kieron Durkan | 15 |
| 16 | David Bayliss | 16 |
| 17 | Graham Hicks | 17 |
| 18 | Gary Jones | 18 |
| 19 | Kevin Townson | 19 |
| 20 | Lee Duffy | 20 |
| 21 | Clive Platt | 21 |
| 22 | Steven Parkin | 22 |
| 27 | Paul Connor | 27 |

tick if playing tick if substitute

Today's Officials

Referee: Steve Tomlin, Sussex

Assistants: Ray Lee, Essex (red flag) Irvine Woodward, Kent (yellow and red flag)

Forth Official: Gary Young, Bedfordshire

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