



# The Stag

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## MANSFIELD TOWN

versus

## Luton Town

### Nationwide League Division Three

Saturday, 3rd November 2001

Kick off 3.00pm



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stags Mansfield Town FC



## Chairman's Welcome

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the supporters, directors and players of Luton Town.

This is a special day for myself and my family because of my father's association with Luton Town. As you know my father was manager at Luton for a number of seasons during the time when I was growing up and I very much enjoyed being taken to the Kenilworth Road Stadium by him on match days.

This fixture has arisen because of Luton's relegation from Division 2 last season. However their current league position shows that they have a very good squad and are strong contenders for automatic promotion. Our recent form has been very disappointing after our promising start to the season. I know that Billy, Stuart and the players will be anxious to get back to winning ways and I expect a very competitive game this afternoon.

Finally I am very pleased that our home support has continued to be well above the average of last season. The gate of 3,601 for the LDV Vans Trophy was the second best on the night in that competition and I'm sure today's visitors will draw another above average gate.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the game.

Keith



- Club Address**  
Mansfield Town Football Club,  
Field Mill Ground,  
Quarry Lane,  
Mansfield,  
Notts. NG18 5DA
- Useful Numbers:**  
Main Reception and Ticket Office -  
01623 482 482  
Media Department: - 01623 482 483  
Fax : 01623 482495  
Website - www.mansfieldtown.net  
E-Mail - mtfctagshome@aol.com
- Club Officials:**  
*Chairman and Chief Executive -*  
Keith Haslam  
*Associate Directors -*  
Mike Murphy, Sandy Whetton, Keith Woodcock  
*Secretary/Finance Manager -*  
Christine Reynolds  
*Marketing Manager -*  
Alan Prince  
*Administration -*  
Sandra Baldwin  
*Safety Officer -*  
Barrie Maltby  
*Deputy Safety Officer -*  
Trevor Mitchell  
*Education Officer -*  
Samantha Bradbury  
*Media Co-ordinator -*  
Scott McKay  
*Groundsman -*  
Rob Sprigg  
*Assistant Groundsman/Kit man -*  
Michael Merriman  
*Medical Officer -*  
Dr. Robert Nam MRCCGP  
*Club Photographers -*  
Dan Westwell and Mike Collins - Images of Praise  
*P.A Announcer -*  
Alan Wilson
- Football Officials:**  
*Manager -*  
Billy Dearden  
*Assistant Manager -*  
Stuart Watkiss  
*Youth Team Manager -*  
Neil Richardson  
*Centre of Excellence Director -*  
Neil Richardson  
*Assistant Centre Of Excellence Directors -*  
Mark Hemingray  
*Football in the Community -*  
John Gannon, Mark Hemmingray  
Tel: 01623 625197  
*Physiotherapist -*  
Barry Statham MSTs DipFA  
*Hon Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon -*  
Mr Forster FRCS,  
Mr Uhbi FRCS,  
Mr Newman FRCS  
*Hon Dental Surgeon -*  
Mr. M. Rigby

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## The Boss



Welcome to Joe Kinnear, Mick Harford and the staff, players and fans of Luton Town for this afternoon's big game.

It's nice to see Joe back to the fore after his health problems and with Luton being such a big club, this afternoon's game should prove a big draw.

We expect another bumper crowd and, after the disappointment of Tuesday night's LDV Vans Trophy defeat by Blackpool, we owe it to them to get a result today.

It was a magnificent turn-out on Tuesday, the second biggest crowd on the night, and we know we let you all down a bit. I am not going to comment on the penalty decision. Some go for you and some don't.

But we played all right for the first hour and after that I was disappointed in us. We will be looking to bounce back today against a club that, along with Hull, boasts one of the biggest squads in the league and has spent a lot of money on players.

With that in mind they

are one of the promotion favourites and I am sure they will prove a tough not to crack today.

As I write these notes we are still hoping Chris Greenacre and Les Robinson will be fit to play today. We will certainly need all the players we can muster for this one.

Enjoy the game,

Billy

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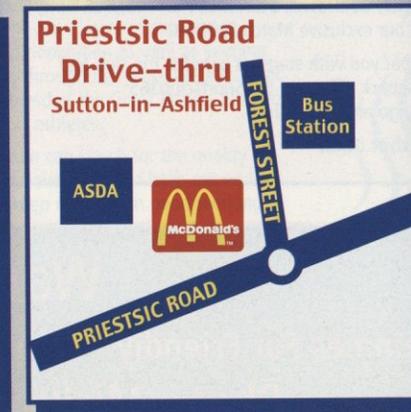


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## Football in the Community



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Members can also take advantage of our exclusive 'Referrals Programme'. Just get 4 friends to open a stagsbet account and you receive free entry to win:

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- or a Mediterranean cruise for two, plus spending money.

Every draw is limited to just 100 people, giving you a great chance to scoop the prize.

To find out more and to view all the terms and conditions, click on the link below. Just enter the site as a guest and click the SportsClub365 splash on the today's highlights page. There are over £100,000 worth of prizes to be won before June and all you need to do is open an account!

Don't forget to place your bets this weekend either. This weekend sees Mansfield take on Rushden at Nene Park. Here at stagsbet we have all your betting needs for the big game. There are prices available on First/Last Goalscorer, Scorecast, Half Time/Full Time, Correct Score and our exclusive Match Specials.

Remember, every bet you with stagsbet benefits the club and with our 50% Cashback offer and the Sportsclub365 opportunities, why go anywhere else?

<http://www.stagsbet.co.uk>

### Saturday Morning Club

Come to our Saturday Morning Club held on the Astroturf and top pitch at Mansfield Town Football Club.

Register 10.00am at the Football in the Community office in the car park.

#### Non-Match Days

10.00am - 12.00pm (small-sided games)

£2.00 members and £2.50 non-members

#### Match Days

10.00am - 5.00pm

£8.00 members and £10.00 non-members

This includes 10.00am - 12.00pm small-sided games and 12.00pm - 2.15pm at St Peters Centre.

Lunch (children will need to bring a packed lunch from home on match days), pool, table tennis, computer games, table football, face painting, making banners and posters.

2.15pm - Walk to stadium to watch match

Pick up from Football in the Community office after the match.

For more details contact

John Gannon or Mark Hemingray on 07977 428147.



## Wanted

Programmes For Friendly - Mansfield v Portsmouth - 9-Aug-1971

Phone Mick:- 02392 240744



## Simon Says



Simon Mapletoft talks Stags  
in association with The Oaklands Clinic

### No need to Panic!

No need to panic! That must be the message following Mansfield's third defeat in four games. Tuesday's 4-0 LDV Trophy reverse against Blackpool was hardly the best preparation for today's tussle with promotion rivals Luton Town.

But let's not forget that manager Bill Dearden was without key players Chris Greenacre and Les Robinson for both the Blackpool and Rushden and Diamonds defeats. What's more, he rested the likes of Craig Disley and Liam Lawrence in midweek, and all four players are likely to be back in the starting line-up this afternoon.

We must also remember that this exciting young Mansfield team is relatively short of experience, so each defeat is a lesson. As long as they draw something from those lessons I am convinced they will soon get back to winning ways - hopefully against Luton today.

Teams have now had the chance to study the way Mansfield play and the last two visiting clubs - Plymouth and Blackpool - had certainly done their homework well enough to stifle their strengths.



### Centre of excellence for sports injuries opens in Mansfield

The team at Oaklands Clinic is made up of Chiropractors and Massage Therapists who have years of experience treating the local Mansfield population as well as keeping several Stags players going through the years. We also treat players from Sheffield Wednesday, the Great Britain athletics team and individual Olympic athletes.

Stags skipper Les Robinson can vouch for the quality of the treatment. "These guys have helped to keep me on top of my game by helping to keep my body in good working order," says Les.

Whether you're a professional athlete or someone with a bad back, we can help put you back on track.

## The Oaklands Clinic

186 Nottingham Road, Mansfield 01623 421 401  
e-mail: [ulrik@sandstrom.com](mailto:ulrik@sandstrom.com) website: [www.backclinics.co.uk](http://www.backclinics.co.uk)

Simon says . . .



## Stags beat the Hatters in 1977 in Division 2

The last time Luton Town visited Field Mill in a league game was in the old Division 2, in November 1977. The Stags had made a poor start to their first ever season in the division with just three wins from their opening 14 games.

## Back in Time

minute. Sharkey played a through ball to Dave Syrett who easily squeezed the ball under Aleksic for his sixth goal of the season (see photo). Mansfield sealed the win in the 69th minute as Johnny Miller rifled home from 8 yards after Kevin Bird's cross was not collected cleanly by Aleksic. Luton grabbed a consolation in the last minute through Ricky Hill but were well-beaten. After the game, Luton manager Harry Haslam, father of current Stags chairman Keith, complained that "Everything went wrong from the time my captain won the toss and chose to kick against the wind instead of with it.". The match marked the 600th league appearance of Stags player-manager Peter Morris, and the league debut of Luton's Brian Stein.

Read the full report of the game, with photos of 2 of the Stags goals, in the Vintage Stags section of [www.Stagsnet.com](http://www.Stagsnet.com)

Martin Shaw

Mansfield took the lead in the 10th minute after a mix up between goalkeeper Melija Aleksic and defender John Faulkner allowed Stags midfielder Pat Sharkey to side-foot the loose ball home. Stags piled on the pressure and added a second in the 31st



Syrett squeezes the ball in for Stags second goal

# ASIS

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### Opening Times:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

12.30pm - 4.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Wednesday Closed



# Head 2 Head



### Goals Info:



### Where



9 Goals



11 Goals



5 Goals

### How

- Shots.....11
- Headers.....8
- Volleys.....5
- Penalties.....0
- Free Kicks.....1
- O.G.s.....0
- Top Scorers
- Greenacre.....9
- Disley.....6
- Corden.....3

### 2001-2002

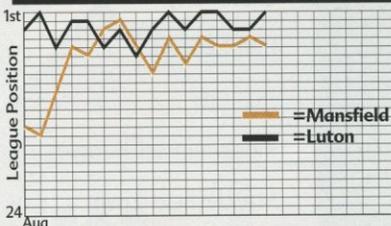
- Highest Gate 5,702 vs Hull
- Lowest Gate 2,681 vs Macclesfield
- Average Gate 4,205
- Players Used 19
- Clean Sheets 5
- Failed to Score 4
- Consec. Wins 2 games
- Consec. Defeats none

### Stags' Last 10

Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
L	Rushden	A	10th
W	Torquay	H	12th
L	Plymouth	H	4th
W	Darlington	A	7th
W	Orient	H	9th
L	Rochdale	A	3rd
W	Hull	H	2nd
D	Scunthorpe	A	13th
L	Halifax	A	15th
W	Shrewsbury	H	2nd

check out the stats @ [www.soccer-stats.com](http://www.soccer-stats.com)

### Seasonal Progress Comparison



### Hatters' Last 10

Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
W	Swansea	H	18th
W	Halifax	A	20th
L	Rochdale	H	2nd
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

### Goals Info:



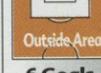
### Where



16 Goals



15 Goals



6 Goals

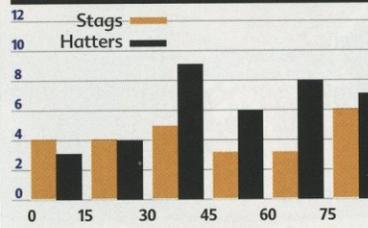
### How

- Shots.....18
- Headers.....12
- Volleys.....6
- Penalties.....1
- Free Kicks.....0
- O.G.s.....0
- Top Scorers
- Griffiths.....7
- Crowe.....5
- Taylor.....4
- Nicholls.....3
- Howard.....3
- Forbes.....3
- Valois.....3

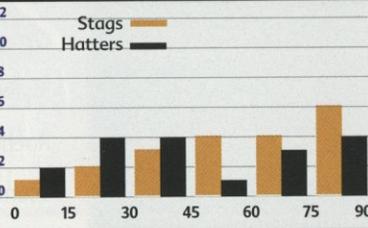
### 2001-2002

- Highest Gate 7,696 vs Rochdale
- Lowest Gate 5,066 vs Lincoln
- Average Gate 6,561
- Players Used 26
- Clean Sheets 4
- Failed to Score 1
- Consec. Wins 2 games
- Consec. Defeats none

### When Goals have been Scored



### When Goals have been Conceded



### Chris Greenacre (Mansfield) Top Scorers Comparison Carl Griffiths (Luton)

9 games ..... Total Games Scored In ..... 5 games  
 9 games ..... Games Scored 1 Goal ..... 4 games  
 0 games ..... Games Scored 2 Goals ..... 0 games  
 0 games ..... Hat-tricks ..... 1 game

W->L ..... 0 (0pts)    Season's Results and    W->L ..... 0 (0pts)  
 W->D ..... 3 (6pts)    (loss of points) without    W->D ..... 2 (4pts)  
 D->L ..... 2 (2pts)    the two goalscorers goals    D->L ..... 0 (0pts)

4 games ..... Maximum scoring run ..... 2 games  
 2 games ..... Maximum Dry Spell ..... 2 games

5 ..... Shot ..... 1  
 1 ..... Header ..... 5  
 3 ..... Volleyed Shot ..... 1  
 0 ..... Penalty ..... 0  
 0 ..... Direct free Kick ..... 0

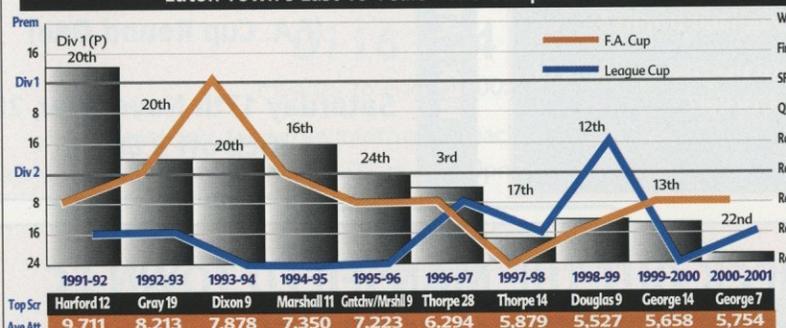
Goals.....9  
 Games.....15  
 Average...0.60

Goals.....7  
 Games.....10  
 Average...0.70

Mansfield Goals ..... 25  
 Mansfield Games ..... 16  
 Mansfield's Goal Ave ..... 1.56

Luton Goals ..... 37  
 Luton Games ..... 21  
 Luton's Goal Ave ..... 2.31

### Luton Town's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

- Liverpool v Manchester United  
Sunday 4 November, Sky Sports 1
- Arsenal v Manchester United  
Monday 5 November, ITV Sport Channel
- Preston North End v Barnsley  
Thursday 8 November, ITV Sport Channel
- Wimbledon v Sheffield United  
Friday 9 November, ITV Sport Select



Subject to coverage, terms and conditions.



### Nationwide Division Three League Fixtures

#### SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

Exeter City	v.	Southend United
Halifax Town	v.	Darlington
Hull City	v.	Cheltenham Town
Kidderminster Harriers	v.	Bristol Rovers
Macclesfield Town	v.	Carlisle United
<b>Mansfield Town</b>	v.	<b>Luton Town</b>
Oxford United	v.	York City
Plymouth Argyle	v.	Hartlepool United
Rochdale	v.	Torquay United
Scunthorpe United	v.	Leyton Orient
Shrewsbury Town	v.	Lincoln City
Swansea City	v.	Rushden & Diamonds

## QUIZ

- Which English rugby union club play at the Memorial Ground?
- Who are the two uncapped players chosen to tour India and New Zealand this winter?
- Which manager was recently dismissed from Oldham Athletic?
- At which horse racing venue is the champion stakes held?
- Which was the first African country to Stage a Formula One Grand Prix?
- Name the Welsh striker who this season moved from Blackburn Rovers to Wolves for one and a half million pounds?
- Between which town and which city is the great north race run?
- Name the only Premiership club in England with a G in its name?
- In which sport do Great Britain play Europe for the Vagliano trophy?
- Who in 1969 were the first sponsors of Sunday League Cricket?

NEXT AT FIELD MILL

**Mansfield Town**  
v  
**Oxford United**

(F.A. Cup Round One)

**Saturday 17th November, 2001**  
**Kick-off 3.00pm**

NEXT AT FIELD MILL

WEBSITE

**CHECK OUT THE MANSFIELD TOWN FC OFFICIAL WEBSITE**  
**www.mansfieldtown.net**

WEBSITE

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Photograph shows a typical Persimmon "Bronte" housetype.



## Looking Forward at Field Mill

We have just completed the first half term of our day release classes at Field Mill. These are proving very popular with both pupils and teachers alike so much so that schools are now contacting the club asking to be included in the scheme. Classes are now booked in as far in advance as next Easter.



The package that the club provides to the school includes transport to and from the school. Pupils are collected at around 9 a.m. by mini bus and then returned to their school at about 2.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Occasionally we require additional staff to drive the mini buses. The club is looking for suitable drivers aged between 25 and 65 with a full driving licence to help with the collection and return of the school children.

If you are interested in driving a mini bus, or know of someone else who is able to help out please contact me at the club.

Alan

## F.A. Cup, Sponsored by AXA FULL FIRST ROUND DRAW

The Stags have been given a home draw in the first round of this season's F.A. Cup, sponsored by AXA. Fellow Division Three outfit, Oxford United will be the visitors to Field Mill on Saturday 17th of November 2001. Oxford, were of course relegated to the third division, at the end of last season, and under new Manager, Mark Wright, have somewhat struggled to make an immediate impact. In the past, however, Oxford, have had a number of cup successes in the both the F.A. and League Cup and an interesting game is in store.

### FULL DRAW

- Hereford United
- Stalybridge Celtic
- Blackpool
- Southend United
- Wigan Athletic
- Mansfield Town
- Torquay United
- Doncaster Rovers
- Cambridge United
- Tamworth
- Colchester United
- Kettering
- Tiverton Town
- Exeter City

- v. Wrexham
- v. Chesterfield
- v. Newport County
- v. Luton Town
- v. Canvey Island
- v. **Oxford United**
- v. Northampton Town
- v. Scunthorpe United
- v. Notts County
- v. Rochdale
- v. York City
- v. Cheltenham Town
- v. Cardiff City
- v. Cambridge City

- Bristol City
- Lincoln City
- Hayes
- Halifax Town
- Reading
- Havant & Waterlooville or Barnet
- Altrincham
- Aldershot Town
- Whitby Town
- Kidderminster Harriers
- Oldham Athletic
- Port Vale
- Lewes
- Bedford Town
- Basingstoke or Dagenham & Redbridge
- Worcester City
- Grays
- Tranmere Rovers
- Brentford
- Swansea City
- AFC Bournemouth
- Brighton & Hove Albion
- Macclesfield Town
- Northwich Victoria
- Swindon Town
- Huddersfield Town

- v. Leyton Orient
- v. Bury
- v. Wycombe Wanderers
- v. Farnborough Town
- v. Welling United
- v. Carlisle United
- v. Lancaster City
- v. Bristol Rovers
- v. Plymouth Argyle
- v. Darlington
- v. Barrow
- v. Aylesbury United
- v. Stoke City
- v. Peterborough United
- v. Southport
- v. Rushden & Diamonds
- v. Hinckley United
- v. Brigg Town
- v. Morecambe
- v. Queens Park Rangers
- v. Worksop Town
- v. Shrewsbury Town
- v. Forest Green Rovers
- v. Hull City
- v. Hartlepool United
- v. Gravesend & Northfleet

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Mansfield Town FC

stags



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Mansfield Town FC



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Oxford United Tickets

Although our game against Oxford United (Away) on the 15 December 2001 is not all ticket - by purchasing tickets in advance the price is cheaper than purchasing on the day.

These will be on sale from our ticket office from Saturday 3 November 2001-10-17

Prices are:- £14.00 - Adults £8.50 - Under 16 / Over 65

There will be cash admission at Oxford on the day from the ticket office only as there will be no cash admission on turnstiles.

Prices are:- £17.00 - Adults £11.00 - Under 16 / over 65

Please note that any lost or stolen tickets will not be duplicated.



STAGS SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Stags Supporters Association (SSA) are to hold their first fund raising function of the season, a Millionaires Night, next Friday 9th November at the Gas Board Club, Ratcliffe Gate, Mansfield. Just 20 tickets are left for the event and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

SSA are also pleased to announce the purchase of a spiker for Stags groundsman Rob Sprigg. The spiker, bought from Notts County for £1,000, will provide much needed assistance to Rob in his never ending battle with the Field Mill playing surface.

SSA currently has over 580 members but are, as always, looking for more. To join SSA you can pick up an application form from the club shop or visit our web site at www.stagsnet.com

Finally, SSA would also like to wish both Michael Sisson and Stuart Hicks the very best as they begin full training after lengthy injury lay-offs. In particular young Michael suffered a terrible injury at Exeter last year and we all have followed his rehabilitation with considerable concern, we are thrilled he has made a full recovery.



Division 3 Stats

Table with columns: Records, Average Attendances, Goals - When Scored, Form Guide: Home & Away. Lists various football clubs and their statistics.

Table with columns: Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won, Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats, Numbers. Lists top scorers, biggest wins, and player numbers.

ITV Digital banner for Division 3 Stats with match listings: Liverpool v Manchester United, Preston North End v Barnsley, Arsenal v Manchester United, Wimbledon v Sheffield United.



# In a League of its own



You've probably heard that the ITV Sport Channel shows a lot of live football. 80 live Nationwide Football League games, 15 Worthington Cup ties and 40 UEFA Champions League matches per season to be precise. But do you know what else is on offer for the Nationwide fan? Here's just a taste:

## FOOTBALL

**1<sup>st</sup>** 8.30pm Saturday Evening.

For the first time ever First Division fans have the chance to see extended highlights of the day's best matches, just hours after the final whistles have blown up and down the country. Innovative and extensive analysis on the games, goals and tactics from the day's action. Presented by Matt Smith with expert analysis from former England manager Graham Taylor and ex-Wimbledon star Robbie Earle.

## FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **3<sup>rd</sup>** 11am and 11.45am Sunday Mornings.

Second and Third Division fans get a detailed, and for the first time ever, separate programme dedicated to the league that matters to them. Presented from a different league ground every week they show the Saturday afternoon action and goals.

## Do I Not Know That?

6pm Every Weekday Evening.

Teams are made up of fans from the Football League, Premiership and the Scottish Premier League clubs. Fans square up to see just who knows their Runcorns from their Russian Linesmen. They compete in a season long quiz to find out just which club has the most clued-up supporters.



## The Matchday Programme

6.30pm Friday Evenings.

A preview show that's not on while you are travelling to the game. It gives you everything you need to know about the weekend's fixtures before you set off for your pre-match pint. Including a Fans Forum where you can have your say.

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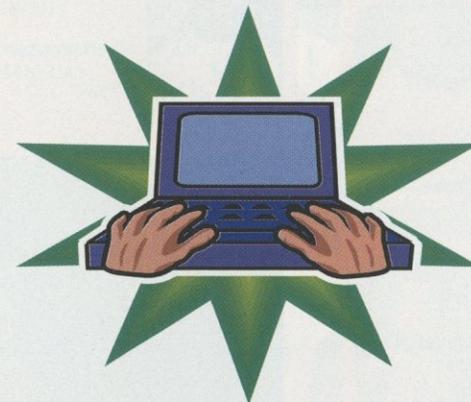


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## History

An unsuccessful battle against relegation last season completed an unwelcome new chapter to the long history of Luton Town - the wheel had turned full circle for the second time. A quarter of a century ago they proudly boasted that they were the first club in the country to sink from the top division to the bottom, then back all the way up again. Now their supporters are hoping that history can repeat itself, after the Hatters once more find themselves in the lowest division of the Football League.

The club has had to cope with all sorts of difficulties in the last few years, including almost going out of existence when they were in receivership in the summer of 1999.

They survived, and a year later an old friend returned as the new owner and chairman - Mike Watson-Challis, who had been a director in Luton's glory years, for a decade when they flourished in the old First Division, now the Premiership.

He and his new colleagues on the board were determined to make a fresh start, but results in the first half of the 2000/01 season were a big disappointment. Former players Ricky Hill and then Lil Fucillo were brought back to be managers, with limited success, with the result that in mid-season Luton were firmly stuck in the relegation zone and the board looked for proven experience. They chose Joe Kinnear, best known for keeping Wimbledon in the Premiership against all the odds - no ground of their own, little money and small crowds. Kinnear's brief was to try to regain former glories for the Hatters. Results did improve, but even Kinnear could not prevent Luton's tumble back to where they came from 33 years previously, then called the Fourth Division.

Luton went into the 1990s as a top club - they had ten glorious years in what is now the Premiership, and won the Littlewoods Cup by beating Arsenal in the 1988 final.

But then came a decline, with a club in an antiquated stadium unable to compete with the big-money outfits. They missed the first season of the Premiership, through relegation just as it was set up in 1992, and the decline continued, with a drop into the Second Division in 1996.

Previous boards of directors took plenty of stick from fans as the Hatters slumped - the club sold at least £1 million worth of talent every year, without bringing in adequate replacements.

But now, with a new board and management team in place, money available for players, and plans taking shape for a new stadium, the supporters hope that at long last the Hatters really are set to move ahead again.

One of the oldest football clubs in England - they were the first in the south to turn professional - Luton have seen just about everything in football in more than a century of ups and downs.

The club was formed in 1885 when Luton Wanderers and Luton Excelsior decided to merge, at a time when Luton was on the threshold of a boom thanks to the growth of the hat-making trade which was to give the club its nickname.

Players were paid for the first time in 1891. Three years later Luton were founder-members of the Southern League, and in 1897 joined the Football League's Second Division.

But patchy results and rising costs led to the Club resigning to return to the Southern League. And there Luton stayed until 1920, when the Southern League became Division Three of the Football League.

They narrowly missed promotion to the old Second Division in 1936, when centre-forward Joe Payne terrorised opposing defences. A wing-half, his first appearance as leader of the attack was near-unbelievable: he scored ten goals in a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth Road. It is a record which is likely to stand forever. The following year Luton did win promotion, with Payne netting 55 league goals.

Luton were comfortable in the Second Division and in 1955 won promotion to the top division - what is now the Premiership. It ended in tears after six years. Luton reached the FA Cup final in 1959, but lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest. The team were all getting too old together, and a slump set in. Within 12 months Luton were relegated, and by the sixth anniversary of their only FA Cup final appearance Luton had tumbled all the way down to the old Fourth Division. In 1967 they were perilously close to having to ask for re-election to stay in the League.

That indignity was narrowly avoided, and a new board injected new life and money into the Club. The Division Four championship was won in 1968 and two years later another promotion was clinched, to the Second Division, with Malcolm Macdonald's goals a major factor.

In 1974 Luton made history again: they won promotion back to the First Division to become the first club ever to drop from top to bottom of the League and then complete the revival in the opposite direction.

That joy ended with relegation after only one season, but in 1982, led by David Pleat, Luton were back among the big boys again, despite operating on a shoestring in an antiquated ground.

Miraculously Luton survived for ten seasons, with the first providing one of the game's classic showdowns. On the last day of the 1982/83 campaign Luton travelled to Maine Road needing a win to stay up and to condemn Manchester City to relegation. City had only to draw, and got

to within four minutes of success. But then Raddy Antic, a Serb who had gone as a substitute, struck the winner, and David Pleat was forever famous after that for his televised victory jig of delight across the pitch.

Luton lost in the 1985 FA Cup semi-final to Everton, but in 1988 a major trophy was landed at last, when Arsenal were beaten 3-2 in the final of the Littlewoods Cup. The Hatters made Wembley their second home that summer: they were also there for the Football League's Centenary Tournament, and for the Simod Cup final, in which they lost to Reading. They nearly got there four times: an FA Cup run ended in defeat in the semi-final to the eventual winners, Wimbledon.

Twelve months later Luton were at Wembley again to defend the League Cup, but they lost to Nottingham Forest, to revive memories for older supporters of the 1959 disappointment.

## Pen Pics

### Emmerson Boyce. Born Aylesbury, 24.9.79

One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995, and made the breakthrough to the League squad at the age of 19 midway through the 1999/2000 season after occasional appearances following a debut in the Auto Windscreens Shield in January 1999.

### Dean Brennan. Born 17.6.80, Dublin

Previous Luton boss Ricky Hill had worked as a youth coach at Sheffield Wednesday before re-joining Luton for a brief and unsuccessful spell as manager in the summer of 2000, and one of his first actions was to go back to Hillsborough for a midfielder he admired.

### Ahmet Brkovic. Born Dubrovnik, Croatia, 23.9.74

Believing a move would be good for his career, the midfield playmaker refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999, and he was a regular in their league squad last season.

### Chris Coyne. Born Brisbane, 20.12.78

The centre-half was playing for Perth Soccer Club when he was selected for the Australian under-17 squad for the 1994 youth World Cup, and came to the notice of Harry Redknapp, then manager of West Ham. An invitation to report to Upton park for trials led to Coyne signing for the Hammers as a teenager.

### Dean Crowe. Born Stockport, 6.6.79

Manager Joe Kinnear moved swiftly to sign Crowe on loan from Stoke City in late September when an injury crisis decimated the Hatters squad. The striker made an immediate impact: he scored on his debut, at Plymouth, and before his month was up had netted four goals in five appearances, and was the signed on a permanent deal.

### Stuart Douglas. Born Enfield, 9.4.78

A striker with excellent pace, Douglas was a 17-year-old trainee when he scored on his league debut for Luton against Oldham in 1995, but a series of injuries delayed his progress before he won a regular place in Luton's league side in the 1998/99 season.

### Carl Emberson. Born Epsom, 13.7.73

Wanting two players to compete for the first team goalkeeper's spot, Joe Kinnear moved swiftly in the summer of 2001 to persuade Emberson to choose Luton instead of Plymouth, who were also interested, when his contract at Walsall ended.

### Adrian Forbes. Born Ealing 23.1.79

After considerable First Division experience, and with an England youth cap to his credit, Forbes was a surprise inclusion on Norwich City's list of players available for transfer in the summer of 2001, and Luton boss Joe Kinnear was delighted to pay £75,000 for a right winger to add much-needed width to his attacking formation.

### Andrew Fotiadis. Born Hitchin, 6.9.77.

A local discovery, Fotiadis chose to stay at school to gain GCSE A-levels before being a full-time soccer professional. He won England Schools caps at under-15 and under-18 level, and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry opposing defences, as an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power, and concentrated determination.

### Stuart Fraser. Born Edinburgh 9.1.80

Stylish defender and former skipper of the Luton youth team who was given his league debut against Carlisle, in a 3-2 win, on the final day of

## LUTON TOWN

the 1997/98 season. Within a year he was established as a regular member of the Luton squad and the Scottish

### Liam George. Born Luton, 2.2.79

Quick, and with tricky footwork, the striker came through the ranks after joining Luton as a schoolboy, and became a regular member of the Republic of Ireland squad that progressed to the European youth championships final in the summer of 1998. George had made his league debut in September 1997, but suffered a broken leg soon afterwards and was out of football for nearly a year. He returned in triumph, to become Luton's leading scorer in his first full season, 1999/2000, and also progressed to win Ireland under-21 honours.

### Carl Griffiths. Born Welshpool, 15.7.71

An impressive scoring record - a goal in every 2.5 starts for seven previous clubs - led to Carl Griffiths becoming a major summer target for Luton after relegation from the Second Division, and they got their man when they signed him from Leyton Orient for a fee reported to be £65,000. His earlier moves had totted up to well over £1 million, starting with a £500,000 transfer from Shrewsbury to Manchester City.

### Ian Hillier. Born Neath, 26.12.79

No-one was more surprised than the Welsh under-21 international himself when he made his league debut for Luton in the second game of this season. The day before he was training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Luton led to Joe Kinnear taking the young right back on loan, and Hillier settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him, for a bargain £30,000 fee.

### Peter Holmes. Born Bishop Auckland, 18.11.80

This season is probably a make-or-break campaign for a midfielder who once seemed destined for soccer stardom. He is a product of the FA's School of Excellence, in the same year as Michael Owen. Sheffield Wednesday were his first club, but relegation from the Premiership in May 2000 left them desperate to cut the pay-roll and Luton signed the two-footed midfielder for a nominal fee a few months later.

### Steve Howard. Born Durham, 10.5.76

Joe Kinnear swooped on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the tall striker away from Northampton for a bargain fee of £50,000. The price was down to the Bosman effect - Howard had cost the Cobblers a then record club fee of £120,000 when they recruited him from Hartlepool two years previously. At Sixfields his height and power as a target man, and a scoring rate of a goal every four games, helped Northampton to win promotion to Division Two.

### Paul Hughes. Born Bhamersmith 19.4.76

A promising career that began at Chelsea was painfully and cruelly interrupted after the gifted midfielder earned the admiration of, among others, Glenn Hoddle, the former England boss. Hughes worked his way up at Stamford Bridge from trainee to Premiership, and Joe Kinnear was one of several managers who marked him out as an outstanding prospect.

### Marvin Johnson. Born Wembley, 29.10.68.

Longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, Johnson is arguably the most popular member of the Kenilworth Road staff with his colleagues and with the fans. Always cheerful, even when recovering from injury setbacks, the defender is in his 14th season as a first-team regular at Luton, his only club, and skipper of the team he joined as a schoolboy.

### Adam Locke. Born 20.8.70, Croydon

Well-travelled in football terms, the midfielder joined Luton on a free transfer from Bristol City to add experience to a predominantly young squad in the summer of 1999. He began as a YTS boy with Crystal Palace, his local club, but could not get into the League team at Selhurst, and moved on to Southend, Colchester and Ashton Gate before joining Luton.

### Lee Mansell. Born Gloucester 23.9.82

An injury crisis at Kenilworth Road thrust the young midfielder into a dramatic debut in an FA Cup-tie. He had to make the transition straight from the youth squad to the first team in January 2001, and was an instant success. He was just 58 seconds into his debut against Queens Park Rangers, in an FA Cup third round replay, when he scored his first senior goal. Luton had looked after him since he was an 11-year-old, and signed him as a soccer scholar (previously the YTS scheme) as soon as he left school.

### Kevin Nicholls. Born Newham, 2.1.79

The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton and quickly made an impact after skipping England youth teams at

under-18, under-19 and under-20 levels. At the time Joe Kinnear, now manager of Luton, was in charge of Wimbledon, and made a note of the young Nicholls, and just before this season started he was surprised - and well pleased - to hear that Nicholls was available for transfer. Charlton had sold him for £250,000 to Wigan in the summer of 1999, but the move did not work out, and Luton's offer of £150,000 led to him moving to Kenilworth Road.

### Mark Ovendale. Born Leicester, 22.11.73

The arrival of a new board of directors at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2000 enabled Luton to break a mould that had been set over the previous three years. Then, with continuing financial problems, including a spell in receivership, Luton had been great sellers of players, and very rarely buyers.

### Russ Perrett. Born Barton on Sea, 18.5.73

Having helped Cardiff City win promotion to the Second Division in May, 2001, the big central defender was the victim of a huge recruitment drive at Ninian Park. Club owner Sam Hammam launched a spending spree which included £600,000 for Spencer Prior, and Perrett knew his first team future at Cardiff might be limited. Luton boss Joe Kinnear had a long-standing friendship with Hammam, from the time when they were manager and owner at Wimbledon, and Hammam allowed Perrett to join Luton a few days before this season began.

### Aaron Skelton. Born Welwyn, 22.11.74

It was a case of going "back home" when the defender, born a few miles from Luton, signed for the Hatters for the second time in July 2001. He had joined the club as a schoolboy, and worked his way up through the ranks to be on the fringe of the league team in 1993, when he was 19. A serious thigh muscle injury struck when he was poised for his senior debut, which was delayed for 12 months as a result.

### Matthew Spring. Born Harlow, 17.11.79.

A competitive midfielder, Spring has been at Luton since he was a schoolboy, and was a driving force in the side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997. After a league debut when still only 17, he soon became a regular in Luton's Second Division team, and as he came into this season he had never been dropped. His first 100 appearances were clocked up while he was only 20.

### Matthew Taylor. Born Oxford, 27.11.81

When Luton were in receivership in the summer of 1999, players had to be sold or given away to save money, while severe restrictions were imposed on new recruits. So once more Luton had to look at the young talent coming up through the ranks, and the wing-back, though still only 17, was thrust into the league team. With his pace and fierce shooting ability, he settled in immediately, and has developed into a top class player, a real crowd-pleaser, and a respected professional.

### Peter Thomson. Born 30.6.77, Bury

Rejected as a teenager by home town club Bury, the striker drifted into non-league soccer with Chorley and then Lancaster before a £25,000 move to Dutch club NAC Breda. He got over a broken leg to score goals in the Dutch Premiership, and Luton brought him home for a £100,000 fee in September 2000, but he is still trying to make the breakthrough as a regular in the Hatters side.

### Jean-Louis Valois. Born Si Priest, France, 15.10.73

Rarely can there have been a more explosive league debut than the one made by the midfielder in September 2001, a day after he joined Luton. The left-winger had turned down the chance to stay at Lille Olympique Sporting Club, despite the lure of European Champions League football, because he was desperate to play in England. Luton were one of several clubs interested in a man with a good reputation in French football, and after a brief trial signed him on a Bosman free transfer. Valois became an instant hero at Kenilworth Road, pulling most of the strings on his debut as Luton hammered Torquay 5-1, with the left-footed midfielder cracking the goal of the game, a stunning 35-yard strike which even the opposition fans applauded.

## THE MANAGER

### Joe Kinnear. Born Dublin, 27.12.46

DESPERATE for an experienced man to try to halt a slide down the Second Division table, Luton's directors persuaded Joe Kinnear to take on the daunting task in February 2001, as Luton's third manager of the season.

He quickly instilled much-needed confidence, and improved Luton's performances and results, but the leeway was too great to make up, with a squad which he admitted was not good enough, and no-one was more gutted than football-mad Kinnear when the season of struggle ended in the Hatters dropping into Division Three. It was the first relegation he had suffered in a long career which made him a household name as a player and then as a manager.



Joe Kinnear



Matthew Taylor



Ahmet Brkovic



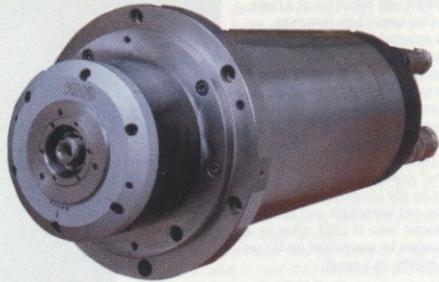
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Last Weeks home game against Chesterfield had to be postponed due to heavy rain making the pitch at the Blackwell Miners Welfare become waterlogged. As yet no new date has been set for the fixture.

Best Wishes  
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#### Fixtures and Results

Sat Aug 18	Lincoln City	Home	3-0
Sat Aug 25	Macclesfield	Away	0-0
Sat Sep 1	Port Vale	Home	0-2
Sat Sep 8	Notts County (YAC)	Home	0-3
Sat Sep 15	Stockport County	Home	2-4
Sat Sep 22	Chester City	Away	1-1
Sat Oct 6	Shrewsbury Town	Home	3-0
Sat Oct 20	Rotherham Utd	Away	3-2
Wed Oct 24	Blackpool (FAYC)	Away	2-3
Sat Oct 27	Chesterfield	Home	P-P
Sat Nov 17	Stockport County	Away	
Sat Nov 24	Chester City	Home	
Sat Dec 15	Shrewsbury Town	Away	
Sat Jan 12	Rotherham Utd	Home	
Sat Jan 26	Chesterfield	Away	
Sat Feb 2	Lincoln City	Away	
Sat Feb 9	Macclesfield	Home	
Sat Feb 16	Port Vale	Away	

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Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
Port Vale	6	5	0	1	17	5	12	15
Stockport County	7	4	2	1	18	7	11	14
Rotherham United	6	4	1	1	9	4	5	13
Mansfield Town	7	2	3	2	10	8	2	9
Macclesfield Town	6	1	4	1	8	6	2	7
Shrewsbury Town	6	2	1	3	9	11	-2	7
Chester City	6	1	3	2	6	10	-4	6
Lincoln City	6	2	0	4	6	14	-8	6
Chesterfield	6	0	0	6	5	23	-18	0

In the unlikely event of an evacuation of the stadium being necessary on match days, you will hear a message over the tannoy system.

# Safety Matters

That will be followed by a further message in relation to the incident. It is in your interests to listen carefully to the instructions which will follow.

Please follow the directions of the police and stewards, who will assist you to make a safe exit from the area.

Mansfield Town FC has a record second to none in the Football League in relation to safety management with spectator safety our first priority.

Co-operation with the emergency services and the Notts County Council safety advisory groups ongoing; in order for the club to discharge its responsibilities on all safety related matters.

Safety requirements have been established and agreed with these bodies.

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All spectators in seated areas to remain seated in their allocated seat during the game.
- All gangways to be kept clear.
- Ensure you are aware of the nearest exit in the event of an emergency.
- Should an evacuation be necessary, leave the ground in an orderly manner and follow the advice of the safety stewards and the police.
- If you see a fire or a suspicious incident, inform the nearest police officer or steward.
- Always assist a steward or police officer if you are requested to move from one area to another.
- If you have any concern in respect of safety within the ground, please inform any safety officer.

Please do not encroach onto the playing surface. This is a criminal offence and all offenders will be arrested by the police, and prosecuted possibly resulting in a ban from all football stadia in the UK.

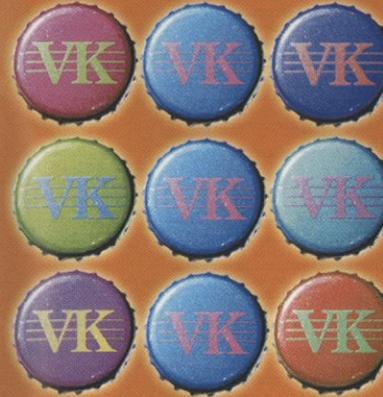
#### SUPPORTERS CONDUCT

The following conduct is not acceptable:

- Obscene chanting, obscene gestures, racist remarks, racist gestures, throwing of missiles, drunkenness or violent behaviour.
- With your co-operation, high profile stewards and police will adopt a positive approach to combating all outbreaks of anti-social behaviour.
- It is the stated and written policy of the club to ensure that Field Mill is a safe and pleasant stadium to visit.

The ground regulations as displayed in all areas of the ground are issued by The Football League and must be adhered to by ALL SPECTATORS.

Thank you for your help and support.



# Just Drink It!



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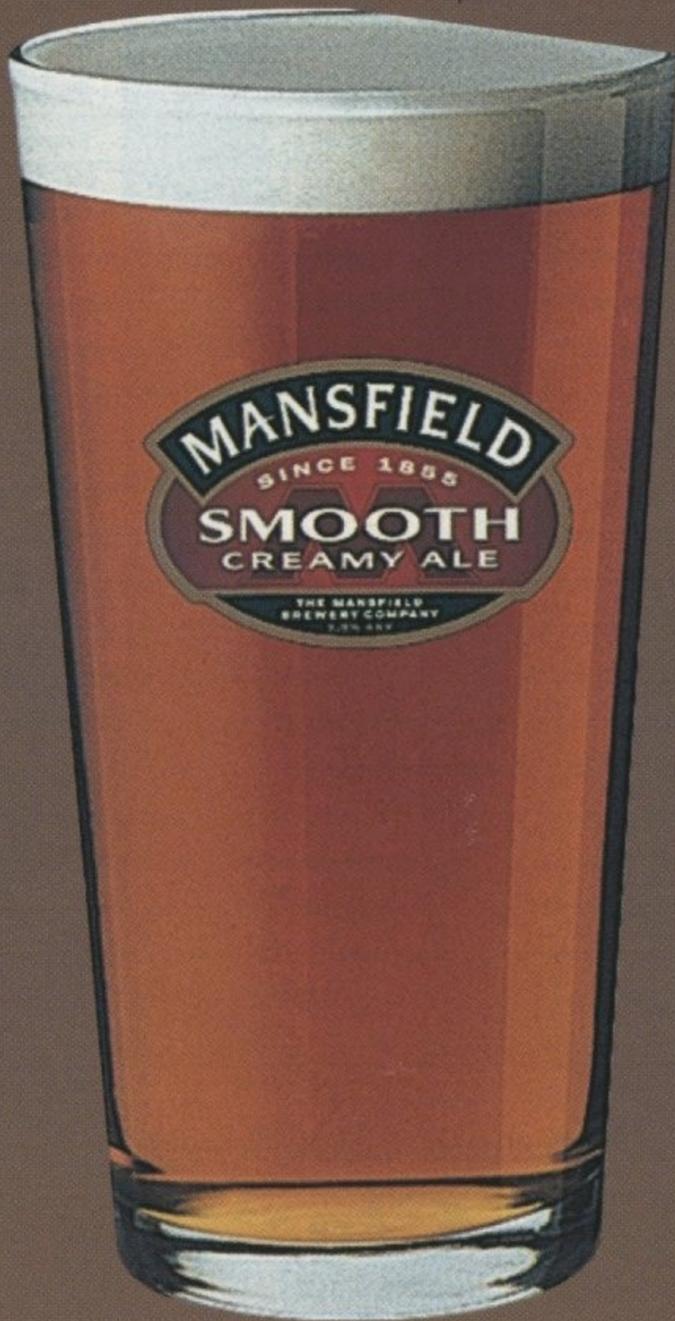
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