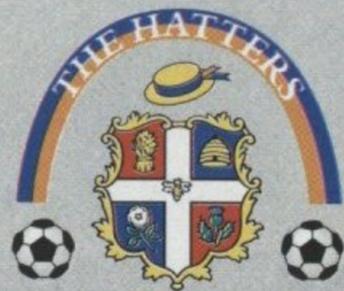


Luton Town Football Club



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FOOTBALL CLUB

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Official Matchday
Magazine

Luton
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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



SHEER DELIGHT: Chris Coyne, one of the stars in the Town's victory at Hartlepool, greets the final whistle after ten men came home with the sixth away victory of the season. Report and more pictures: pages 38 & 39.

Inside Forward

PLEASED that some of his sick and injured players are on the mend, Joe Kinnear has still been busy trying to find reinforcements for the Town's league squad in the run-up to the busy Christmas and New Year period.

Hoping to make a home debut this afternoon after signing from Rochdale, will be centre-half David Bayliss, who played his full part in last week's win at Hartlepool. Liverpool-born, the 25-year-old was the longest-serving player at Spotland, having joined Dale as a trainee. He made more than 200 appearances for them, but had decided he would not accept a new contract at the end of the season, and the Town manager moved in for his signature as soon as he heard that. At the time 12 Town first-teamers were still on the injured list, including Russ Perrett, although he began his comeback with a game for the reserves on Wednesday.

Trialists are still coming through on a regular basis, while two players have gone out on loan since this column last appeared: goalkeeper Scott Ward to Boreham Wood, of the Ryman League, and defender Richard Dryden to Conference club Scarborough.

Bug Holds Up Transfer

Liam George's move to Colchester was expected to go through as we went to press. Everything had been agreed between the two clubs and the player, but George became one of the Town squad laid low by flu, and was sent home to bed before completing the formalities at Layer Road.

Another striker, Peter Thomson, could well be on view this afternoon playing for Rushden, after his loan was extended into a second month.

Fans had a brief glimpse at the last home game of another new recruit, midfielder Kevin Street, who is on loan from Crewe. Unfortunately, after being a sub against Hull City, his first start for the Town ended prematurely with a calf muscle injury at Macclesfield, and he has gone back to Crewe for treatment. He is unlikely to recover before his loan deal expires.

Jude Stirling and Dean Brennan are available for transfer, but turned down offers to join Clyde, of the Scottish First Division.

Striker Bid Rejected

The manager is confident the Football League will take no action when their commission examines the circumstances of the Town's postponement of the game at Kidderminster. He will quote the medical facts, backed up by evidence from three doctors, to show that 24 players were unavailable through flu or injury.

Joe will also outline strenuous efforts made to recruit players at short notice. They included an unsuccessful £250,000 bid for Nathan Ellington of Bristol Rovers, and approaches for, among others, Darren Bazeley of Wolves, Jonathan Fortune and Kevin Lisbie of Charlton, Barnsley's Isaiah Rankin, Jeff Kenna at Wigan, and Millwall's Dave Tuttle. The long search eventually brought one good result, with Rochdale and David Bayliss quickly reaching agreement on his transfer.

Meanwhile Kenilworth Road is looking like a busy set of revolving doors as more and more trialists pass through. "You always hope you will find a gem," said the boss. "But so far, we haven't seen anything better than what we already have in the club, and anyone I sign will have to be first team material."

A French defender and an English forward played as trialists for the reserves against Swindon on Wednesday, but afterwards there were no signs of contracts being waved around.



FUTURE INVESTMENT: John Moore, the Town's youth coach, collects a £552,000 contribution to support youth development work. The money was allocated by Sport England from National Lottery income.

One of the latest players to interest the Town - and several other clubs - is Preston's 26-year-old attacking midfielder Steve Robinson. He made his name in six years at Bournemouth, but injuries interrupted his career after a summer 2000 transfer to Deepdale. He has been unable to regain a regular place in the side, and wants a move to further his league and international career, having won five Northern Ireland caps before losing his place at Preston. Preston are willing to let him go if the right offer is made for a player who cost them £375,000 18 months ago.

Manager Booked

Joe Kinnear has agreed to meet the fans at the next meeting of Luton Town Supporters Club. He will take a question-and-answer session in the Eric Morecambe Suite on Thursday January 17, 7.30. Admission tickets are £2 for LTSC members and £5 for others. For availability, check with the Supporters Club kiosk in Kenilworth Road today.

WE were saddened this week to learn of the death of one of the club's most loyal supporters, Arthur (Bunny) Creamer, at the age of 78. Born in Luton, he started following the Town as a boy, and despite moving to Amersham 40 years ago remained a season ticket-holder. Many in the Kenilworth Stand will recall his entertaining stories and memories, particularly of Joe Payne's ten-goal match, which he attended. Bunny will be much missed, and we send our condolences to his family, and are glad to hear that his son Styles, maintains the Creamer tradition of supporting the Town.



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Joe Kinnear

The Manager

I AM sure that supporters, like all of us in the club, are very pleased that we are playing at Kenilworth Road again today, after recent events

which have been unique in my long experience as a player and manager.

Since our last home game we have gone through the card in terms of mixed emotions: well beaten at Macclesfield, unable to raise a team to go to Kidderminster, and then full value in very trying circumstances for the important victory at Hartlepool.

We needed that, after losing two consecutive league games. I felt we were a little unlucky in going down by the only goal - and a very scrappy one at that - at home to Hull, but there were no excuses for the beating we took at Macclesfield.

We were, of course, well below full strength, but the team we fielded should have been capable of getting a result there, and I let the players know in no uncertain terms that the performance on that day fell a long way short of what I expected. We were looking forward to putting things right at Kidderminster, but as you know we were overtaken by an astonishing list of injuries and illness. I pulled out all the stops in an attempt to find extra players so that we could raise a team. I had just five senior players available from within the club. I made dozens of calls to managers all over the country to try to beg, buy or borrow players, all to no avail. In the end, with 24 of our playing staff ruled out, we had no choice but to call off the game. The Football League wants us to justify our action, and I am confident we will. I was bitterly disappointed that we could not get to Kidderminster, because I fancied us to do well in our first outing after the poor show at Macclesfield.

You may have read that the Kidderminster captain went into print and accused us of running scared. No way - that's not my style! But, for the record, he phoned me after the reports appeared to apologise for any offence that might have been given, and saying that he never offered his alleged comments for publication.

We are content to wait for the new date to be

arranged, and then let our football do the talking. Meanwhile, today is the first of two consecutive home matches, and we need to maximise them to keep up our promotion challenge. We are learning to live with the pressure of expectation, and our performance at Hartlepool was highly encouraging. We needed to win that one, and although we were once again considerably below full strength, the team responded perfectly to the challenge.

I had sympathy with Ian Hillier for his first-half yellow card, but the inexperience showed when he went lunging in to get his second, and that was frustrating because having seen five of our men booked in the first 45 minutes I had made a point in my half-time talk about not getting any more.

As it turned out, the ten men did the business, in a game which was a severe test of their characters. David Bayliss made a good debut, and I welcome him to the club. I moved quickly when I heard he was available, and I am sure he will be a very good acquisition. Unfortunately, we may already have seen the last of Kevin Street, who has made two brief appearances for us after joining on loan from Crewe. He was just one of the many keeping the treatment room busy, and has gone back to Gresty Road to complete his recovery.

In terms of fit senior players we are still thin on the ground, and the search for reinforcements is never-ending. I want a bigger squad as we approach the busy Christmas and New Year programme, because we are nicely poised to put together another winning run, hopefully to clinch a place in the top three. I know we can do it, and, as always, the supporters can help us again this afternoon.

We know Rushden and Diamonds will give us a good test: they are doing well in their first season as a Football League club, and have a tried and tested squad and a good manager in Brian Talbot. We welcome them for their first-ever league game at Kenilworth Road, but I trust the welcome does not extend to giving them any points!

Keep the faith! And enjoy the game.

Joe Kinnear

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Stuart Smith



Football in the Community

WELCOME to my very first match day magazine column. It has been a hectic but very enjoyable first month for me in the club.

Everybody on the staff has made me feel very welcome, and consequently my settling-in period has been very easy. I feel that the department is already on the road to achieving its initial aims.

What are these aims? In the short term I intend to raise the club's profile in and around the schools and clubs catering for the under-11 age groups. The initial approaches made to local schools have received an excellent response. As a result we have already arranged school curriculum time coaching for much of January and February. However the remainder of the academic year is very much free, and any schools interested should give me a call at the club.

In addition to the curriculum time coaching the Community Department will be offering a wide range of tournaments. The first is today at the Regional Sports Centre, Stopsley, where the local heats of the Railtrack Play Safe Trophy 2001/2002 take place. The winners of this tournament will progress to the area finals in Walsall on February 6.

Four other tournaments are planned. One will be indoor football at the Regional Sports Centre, for under-10s and under-12s, on Sunday December 23. This is open to all clubs, and carries an entrance fee of £20 per team. The event will start at 10am and is expected to last until around 5pm, although this will of course depend on the number of teams entering. All you need to do to enter this tournament is call me at the club, on 01582 411622. The deadline for entry is 5pm on Tuesday, December 18.

The New Year will see the local heats of the Smoby Table Football Championships. This

will be open to children under the age of 11, and I would expect it to take place in early February.

Also in early February will be the local heats of the Adidas Community Cup Six-a-Side girls under-13 tournament. Both of these are national competitions, and the winners will progress to area finals, and then, hopefully, onwards. Entry to both these tournaments is free. Information and venues for both these events will be publicised in your match day magazine, on the web pages, and in the local press.

What else is happening? Well, we have established a Saturday morning soccer school in conjunction with Letchworth Garden Eagles FC. This runs in Letchworth on a weekly basis, and caters for boys and girls aged between six and eight. So far it has been a resounding success, with a minimum of 25 children attending each week.

The New Year will see the opening of more similar schools, some of which have attracted initial proposals for some very high profile sponsorship. I have made the decision that we will reinstate the holiday coaching courses effective from the February half term week. This will give me the time to ensure that the quality of the product and venue is up to the standard you expect from Luton Town. The dates for these courses will be from February 18 to 22, and there will be a full range of activities, including girls days, and specialist goalkeeping courses. Again times and venues will be published through the normal channels. In addition leaflets will be circulated via schools and sports centres.

If you have any questions with regard to any of the above items, please don't hesitate to call me at the club. In the meantime I hope you enjoy today's game.

Stuart Smith

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



Marvin Johnson

Club Captain

WE ARE all pleased to be back at Kenilworth Road today for our first home game in nearly a month, and the mood has been pretty upbeat in

the dressing room after last week's win at Hartlepool. I think you could call the feeling one of grim satisfaction at a job well done, when the points had to be earned by a lot of hard work.

There has also been some sympathy for Ian Hillier, who had to learn a hard lesson. There was general agreement that his first-half booking was harsh, but as the boss said at half-time, with five on yellow cards there was a need to be careful not to get into further trouble with the ref.

So I suppose you could criticise Ian for forgetting the warning, and he knew that his second offence was a genuine caution, and that he had to go. Thankfully, his team-mates got stuck in to a difficult task to hold on for victory. He was crestfallen after the first red card of his league career, and grateful that it was not more costly to the team.

If it is any consolation, I can remember my first sending-off in league football, which is why I can feel sympathy for Ian. It happened to me early in my career in a home match with Spurs towards the end of the 1990/91 season. The ball was played above me towards Paul Stewart, and I jumped up to cut off the pass with my hand. A different offence, of course, but I suspect so much else was similar for Ian at Hartlepool. I was young and inexperienced, like him in my first full season. In the heat of the moment you act by instinct. You are committed in a split second to a course of action, and once you start your move there is no stopping, even though you might want to. At the time I felt terrible, but fortunately the ten men stuck it out to earn a 0-0 draw.

Like me, Ian will, I am sure, learn from the experience, and I know he is a good enough player not to let it get him down.

We needed that win last week, after losing two league games on the trot and having another postponed. None of us could explain why we went down to defeat at Macclesfield. It was a game we approached with confidence, despite being at less than full strength, but on the day we

were way below our best, and Macclesfield had a greater hunger for the points. It was not much consolation to know that we had unwittingly done our old mate David Moss a good turn, and I have noticed that since that win over us Macclesfield have picked up nicely, and started climbing the table. Perhaps it is a case of beat Luton Town, and your confidence goes sky high! With six away wins under our belt, we are back on course to get into the thick of the promotion scrap, and obviously we need now to put together a good long winning run at home.

Rushden will have other ideas about that, and they are having a good season in their first campaign in the Football League. I always enjoy the atmosphere of local derbies, and Rushden will be looking for revenge after we beat them in the FA Cup last season. They made us struggle for the 1-0 win, and today they will have one man in the squad with even more reason than most to do well - Peter Thomson.

He is trying to win himself a new contract with Rushden, and I wish him well in that. If he is in their team, he will for sure be very keen to do well. It's a pity things didn't work out for him here, because he is a good player, and a genuine lad. I expect he will be looking forward to the game immensely, and for our part we must bear in mind the way football so often scripts a fairytale return - it was so-and-so's law that Rob Matthews would score the winner for Hull when he came back a few weeks ago, and I still haven't got over the shock of Simon Davies returning with Macclesfield and netting the decider against us. I watched in horror, and don't want to have the experience again this afternoon. So welcome back, Tomo, but don't expect any favours from us!

Finally, today, a warm welcome to our latest recruit, Dave Bayliss. He had a very good debut last week, and he seems to be an excellent addition to the squad. It increases competition for places, and I am all for that - no matter who is in the team, we all want promotion. We believe we will do it, and hopefully we can also give you good entertainment at the same time.

Marvin Johnson

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Bruce Sewell

Treatment Room

AFTER a very hectic period in the treatment room, I am happy to report that not only has the flu bug just about van-

ished, but many of the more usual football injuries are also clearing up, and several players are hoping to return to competitive action for the reserves next week.

We are, however, still unsure of when Carl Griffiths will be able to resume training after his stress fracture. He is still in plaster, and the cast will probably have to stay in place over Christmas. But within two or three weeks he will go back to see the specialist, with everyone hoping that Griff will be given the all-clear to begin rehab work.

Paul Hughes has thrown away his cast after getting over an ankle ligament injury, and is working hard. He is still under my care, but able to do some training, and has started doing ball work. If all goes well he is hoping

to play for the reserves at Portsmouth on Wednesday.

Aaron Skelton has a similar target, and is one of several players coming back for extra treatment and exercise work each afternoon.

Marvin Johnson is getting over his latest injury, having jarred his back while training on the plastic pitch at Vauxhall, and Lee Mansell, who went over on his ankle, is also getting better every day. He and Johnson might both be on the team bus to Portsmouth.

Russell Perrett has recovered from his calf muscle injury, proving his fitness in mid-week with a 60-minute run-out with the reserves, and Adam Locke is doing well. His hamstring is still a little tender, but he has started running again although, not, of course, as fast as me!

Bruce Sewell



Cherry Newbery

Club Secretary

IT SEEMS such long time ago since we were last here at Kenilworth Road, and now we have two home games in eight

days.

Firstly, apologies are due to supporters in the Kenilworth Stand regarding the behaviour of a supporter in Executive Box 28 at the last home game, with Hull City. The ground regulations apply to everyone attending matches at Kenilworth Road, and Executive Box 28 has now been designated for home supporters only, and changes have been made to the stewarding arrangements to ensure this problem does not happen again.

This afternoon we have one of our traditional charity collections: to raise money for two local good causes, the Mayor of Luton's Christmas Appeal, and for the Pasque Hospice, and I am sure you will give as generously as usual.

Much has been said about the decision to call off the match at Kidderminster. It was not done until after the manager had made concerted efforts to seek new players, and with only five

fit first-teamers in the camp the match was simply not possible. It is ironic that a match can be called off with three international call-ups from either team, but we have to face a commission when we had no less than 24 players unavailable for selection.

As yet we have no new date for the Kidderminster match, but two postponed Avon Insurance Combination games have now been re-arranged: away to Brentford on January 30, 2002, and at home to Reading on April 3.

We will be away to Wootton Blue Cross in the second round of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup, but as yet have no date finalised.

We are also waiting for confirmation of our Football League fixture at home to Bristol Rovers on Friday January 4. Rovers have an FA Cup replay with Plymouth on Tuesday, and if they win their visit to Luton will be postponed.

Finally, a reminder of another date: please do join us all at 7.30 on Monday, at St. Mary's, Luton Parish Church (opposite the Arndale Centre) for the club's fifth annual Christmas Carol Concert and enjoy coffee and mince pies with us afterwards.

Cherry Newbery

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You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on:

clubsec@lutontown.co.uk

Ticket News

Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Hartlepool United

Saturday December 22, 2001, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are on sale at normal match day prices

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Nationwide League Division Three

Oxford United v Luton Town

Wednesday December 26, 2001, kick-off 3pm

This is NOT an all-ticket match. However, tickets at discounted prices are available in advance from Kenilworth Road

Prices: Adults £14, junior and senior citizens £8.50

Pay on the day prices, subject to availability: Adults £17, junior and senior citizens £11.



Nationwide League Division Three

Southend United v Luton Town

Saturday December 29, 2001, kick-off 3pm

This is NOT an all-ticket match. However, supporters are advised to purchase their tickets in advance from Kenilworth Road.

Prices: Adults £14, junior and senior citizens £8.



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Exeter City

Tuesday January 1, 2002, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are on sale at normal match day prices

Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability, but please note there are NO CONCESSIONS on cash turnstiles.



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Friday January 4, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm

(Subject to Bristol Rovers not being involved in the FA Cup)

Tickets are on sale at normal match day prices

Cash turnstiles will be available on the night, subject to availability, but please note there are NO CONCESSIONS on cash turnstiles.



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Monday December 24: 10am - 6pm

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December 27 and 28: 10am - 4pm

Saturday December 29: 10am to 12 noon

Monday December 31: 10am - 4pm

Tuesday, January 1, 2002: 9am - 5.30

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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

HALF TIME

2.10 Club mascot Happy Harry runs on the pitch.

3.50 Golden Gamble - Winning ticket picked by Luton Town Player.

2.15 HMV Album of the Week - THE STORY SO FAR, THE BEST OF ROD STEWART

3.55 Run down of half time scores from around the country

2.20 Team line up to be announced.

4.00 Repeat of dedications

2.25 The UK's No1 single - DANIEL BEDINGFIELD - GOTTA GET THRU THIS

4.05 Teams arrive back on pitch to theme song "Gimme Some Lovin".

2.30 Dedications announced.

4.55 FULL TIME

2.35 HMV single of the week - ROBBIE WILLIAMS & NICOLE KIDMAN - SOMETHING STUPID

Matchday music supplied by



Arndale Centre.

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".

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

2.57 Final run down of the teams.

3.00 THE BIG KICK OFF

The Best in post-match reports

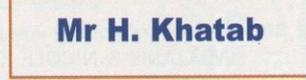
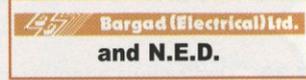
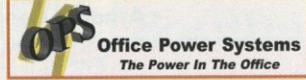
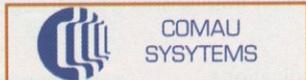
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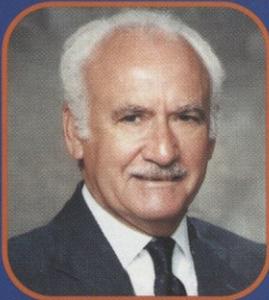
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The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Road Stadium are conducted in such a way that as far as is reasonably practical the safety of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

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Commercial Corner



Linda Layton

WELL known in the local business community, and as loyal supporters of Luton Town, the Ludlow Group are this afternoon's match sponsors, and it is a pleasure to welcome them

back to our executive lounges.

Derek Ludlow has been a Hatters fan for many years, backing the club with his voice and regular generous support, and once more we are grateful for the Ludlow Group's sponsorship.

There are four successful companies within the group. Ludlow's of Luton are Bedfordshire's only industrial and powder coating manufacturer and supplier, and are also welding and engineering distributors in the south of England.

Frank Ludlow Ltd is a motor accident repair company which has built up an enviable reputation in more than 25 years, operating from the corner of Windmill Road and Kimpton Road. They are fully equipped to repair all makes of cars.

Premier Bodyshops is the Ludlow operation at Bilton Way, Luton, an executive vehicle repair business with Porsche, Lexus, BMW and Honda manufacturers' approvals, and like its sister bodyshop company is ISO9001:2000 approved.

Ludlow Hills is a small wine company, selling to corporate and trade customers, offering quality wines from around the world.

TODAY'S match ball sponsors are also old friends,

Beechwood Shirts and Litho Ltd, who produce embroidered and silk screen printed garments for business, sports and casual wear.

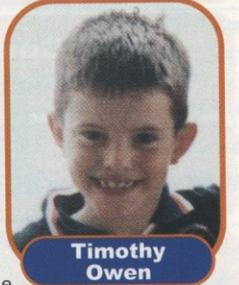
Ron Hedley, a long-time supporter of Luton Town, runs the company, and today is a poignant occasion for him, because Rushden played an important part in his childhood. He is joined this afternoon by Rushden-born cousin John Cook, school friend John Sims and daughter Alex.

And if you are interested in embroidered sweatshirts, polos, and personalised Teddy bears, you can call Ron on 01494 463653.

TODAY'S match will be one to remember for nine-year-old Timothy Owen, because he is this afternoon's commercial mascot, which means he enjoys a VIP visit to his favourite club.

Timothy, of Camp Lane, Kislingbury, is a member of a family who are staunch Town supporters, and comes to games with his dad. Today he will be in the ground earlier than usual, because he will meet the Town stars in the dressing room, and join them on the pitch for the pre-match formalities.

A pupil at Kislingbury Primary School, Timothy's favourite footballer is Carl Griffiths, and as well as football he enjoys reading and all sports.



Timothy Owen

Linda Layton

SUPPORTERS will notice a change in our bars this afternoon, thanks to Charles Wells, the biggest brewery in Bedfordshire. As Number One in the county in their business, they wanted to support the Number One football club, and we are delighted to be associated with them.

We are pleased to be offering the Bedford company's products, especially their very popular Eagle bitter. The name of Charles Wells has been familiar to generations of Luton people - the brewery is still a family-owned independent, and has been satisfying customers with a wide range of beers for 125 years - 12 years before Luton Town FC was formed.

Golden Gamble

IF YOU fancy a spending spree for Christmas, from the drum. It was the tenth prize paid out our Golden Gamble lottery is worth a flutter today: for an outlay of just £1, one lucky supporter will go home several hundred pounds richer.

At our last home game Rob McNally, from Manor Gardens, Westoning, was the latest to find out that our 50/50 draw is well worth supporting: he is pictured after collecting £665 in cash after Lee Mansell picked out his ticket



collection immediately in cash.

It was the tenth prize paid out so far this season, with the jackpots totalling £5,795. Half of each £1 stake goes towards the jackpot prize, and the other half goes to club funds, so we appreciate your support in buying tickets.

Golden Gamble tickets are on sale in all parts of the ground, and the draw is made at half time, with the prize available for

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16

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Goals Info:



Where



20 Goals



16 Goals



6 Goals

How

Shots.....21
Headers.....13
Volleys.....7
Penalties...1
Free Kicks..0
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Griffiths.....7
Crowe.....7
Taylor.....5
Howard.....4
Nicholls.....3
Forbes.....3
Valois.....3

2001-2002

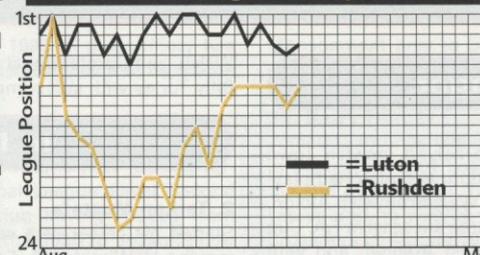
Highest Gate
7,696
vs Rochdale
Lowest Gate
5,066
vs Lincoln
Average Gate
6,651
Players Used 32
Clean Sheets 5
Failed to Score
2
Consec. Wins
2 games
Consec. Defeats
2 games

Hatters' Last 10

Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
W	Hartlepool	A	9th
L	Macclesfield	A	23rd
L	Hull	H	5th
W	Shrewsbury	H	6th
L	Mansfield	A	5th
W	Swansea	H	18th
W	Halifax	A	20th
L	Rochdale	H	2nd
W	Scunthorpe	A	9th
W	Darlington	H	6th

check out the stats @ www.soccer-stats.com

Seasonal Progress Comparison



Diamonds' Last 10

Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
W	Bristol Rovers	H	20th
L	Kidderminster	A	11th
D	Scunthorpe	H	6th
W	Halifax	H	23rd
D	Swansea	A	20th
W	Mansfield	H	4th
W	Shrewsbury	A	6th
S	Hull	H	3rd
D	Rochdale	A	1st
W	Hartlepool	H	22nd

Goals Info:



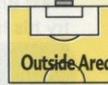
Where



10 Goals



11 Goals



2 Goals

How

Shots.....9
Headers.....7
Volleys.....3
Penalties...1
Free Kicks..0
O.G.s.....3

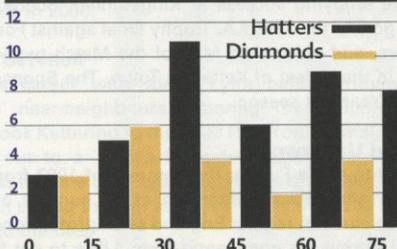
Top Scorers

Darby.....5
Partridge...4
Burgess.....3

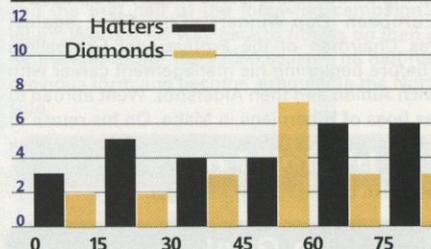
2001-2002

Highest Gate
5,018
vs Lincoln
Lowest Gate
3,258
vs Torquay
Average Gate
4,265
Players Used 31
Clean Sheets 10
Failed to Score
9
Consec. Wins
2 games
Consec. Defeats
4 games

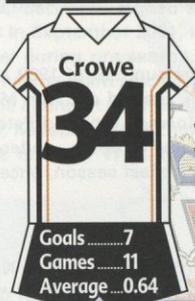
When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded



Dean Crowe (Luton)



6 games.....
5 games.....
1 game.....
0 games.....

Total Games Scored In.....
Games Scored 1 Goal.....
Games Scored 2 Goals.....
Hat-tricks.....

3 games.....
1 game.....
2 games.....
0 games.....

W->L.....0 (0pts)
W->D.....2 (4pts)
D->L.....0 (0pts)

3 games.....
3 games.....

Season's Results and
(loss of points) without
the two goalscorers goals

W->L.....0 (0pts)
W->D.....0 (0pts)
D->L.....0 (0pts)

Maximum scoring run.....
Maximum Dry Spell.....

2 games.....
4 games.....

Luton Goals.....42
Luton Games.....21
Luton's Goal Ave.....2.00

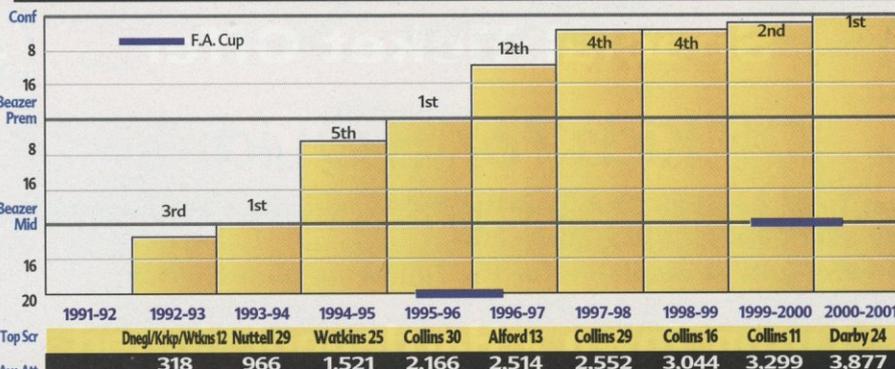
4.....
2.....
0.....
0.....

Shot.....
Header.....
Volleyed Shot.....
Penalty.....
Direct free Kick.....

1.....
3.....
1.....
0.....
0.....

Rushden Goals.....23
Rushden Games.....21
Rushden's Goal Ave.....1.10

Rushden & Diamonds' Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

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Sunday 16 December, ITV Sport Channel
Chelsea v Liverpool
Sunday 16 December, Sky Sports 1

Aston Villa v Ipswich Town
Monday 17 December, Sky Sports 1
Arsenal v Newcastle Utd
Tuesday 18 December, ITV Sport Select

itv
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Subject to coverage, terms and conditions.

Welcome to Rushden & Diamonds F.C.

The Manager

Brian Talbot

Former England international who served Ipswich Town and Arsenal with particular distinction, and also had playing spells with Watford, Stoke City, West Bromwich Albion, Fulham and Aldershot. Played in three successive F.A. Cup Finals - in 1978 with Ipswich against Arsenal, and with Arsenal in 1979 (Manchester United) and 1980 (West Ham United), finishing on the winning side twice. Also played in the 1980 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final against Valencia. Was Chairman of the Professional Footballers Association before beginning his management career with West Bromwich Albion and then Aldershot. Went abroad to try his luck as boss of Hibernians in Malta. On his return to England, took up another job with the PFA before Max Griggs persuaded him to be firstly a coach at Nene Park in 1997, and then take on the role of Manager.

In Goal

1. Billy Turley

Signed from Northampton Town in June 1999 and has proved his worth time and time again with inspirational displays. Started his career with Evesham Town, and had loan spells at Leyton Orient and Kettering Town during his time at Northampton. Voted the Players Player of the Year last season.

16. Tony Pennock

One of just two signings by Brian Talbot during the close-season, ironically both from Yeovil Town, who Diamonds piped to the Conference title. Began his career with Clydach United, then had spells with Stockport County, Wigan Athletic and Hereford United before moving to Yeovil, for whom he made over 300 appearances. A former

Welsh semi-professional international who will provide Billy Turley with stiff competition for the No.1 jersey

In Defence

2. Tarkan Mustafa

Started his career as a schoolboy at Norwich City before moving to Wimbledon. Failed to make the first team with the Dons and had spells with Kettering Town and Barnet before enjoying success at Kingstonian. Scored the winning goal in the 1999 F.A. Trophy Final against Forest Green Rovers, and was voted Man of the Match twelve months later in the defeat of Kettering Town. The Sponsors Player of the Year last season.

3. Paul Underwood

Moved to Nene Park in the summer of 1997 from Enfield, having attracted the attention of a number of Football League clubs. A regular England semi-professional international during his non-league days. Likes to get forward at every opportunity and is a reliable spot-kick taker with three of his four goals last season coming from penalties.

5. Mark Peters

Signed by Brian Talbot in the summer of 1999 after being released by Mansfield Town. Started out with Manchester City, and has also served Norwich City and Peterborough United. Has represented Wales at youth, under-21 and B levels. On the scoresheet twice last season, once apiece in the vital last two games.

6. Ray Warburton

Club captain who had the honour of lifting the Nationwide Conference trophy at Chester City on the final day of last season. A vastly experienced defender who began his career as an apprentice with Rotherham United before moving on to York City and Northampton Town. Captained Northampton in successive Play-off finals at Wembley.



Today's Visitors



Moved to Diamonds in October 1998. A groin injury has kept him sidelined all season, but it is hoped that he will be back in action by March.

12. Jim Rodwell

A solid, no-nonsense centre-half who is now looking forward to his first season as a Football League player. Second longest-serving player at the club having moved from Halesowen Town on the eve of the 1995/96 season, after previous service with Nuneaton Borough and Hednesford Town. Won both the Supporters and Players Player of the Year awards in 2000.

17. Gary Setchell

Began his career with Kings Lynn before moving to Diamonds' near-neighbours Kettering Town. Scored the goal that took Kettering to the 2000 F.A. Trophy Final, where they lost out to a Tarkan Mustafa-inspired Kingstonian. Scored just the one goal last season, but it was the crucial third which sealed the win at Hayes, the start of the fantastic run-in to the title.

22. Andrew Sambrook

Young right-back who signed a three-month contract with Diamonds in September 2001, having been on a month-to-month deal during pre-season. Has impressed enough to hold down a first-team place ahead of Tarkan Mustafa. First came to the attention of Brian Talbot when, as a Gillingham schoolboy, he represented England under-18s in a game at Nene Park in 1997. Went to America to study Business

Management only to be released by Gillingham when he returned to England in February 2001.

35. Barry Hunter

Joined Diamonds initially on a month's loan from Reading in September 2001 before making the move permanent at the end of that spell. Two broken legs hampered his early career, and he was 24 when he moved to Wrexham from Crusaders in August 1993. Moved to Reading in July 1996. Made an instant impact in Berkshire and was soon named club captain, but missed the whole of the 1997/98 season and the first half of the following campaign with a knee injury. Worked his way back to fitness on loan at Southend. By the end of the 1999-2000 season, he had returned to his previous form and become a regular in the Northern Ireland side.

In Midfield

4. Michael McElhatton

Started his career with Bournemouth before moving to Scarborough. Joined Diamonds in the summer of 1998, but his progress has been halted by two serious leg injuries. His first comeback last season ended after less than two games, yet he managed to score three goals during those matches. After a lay-off lasting almost a year, he is now playing reserve team football, and his eventual return to first-team football will provide the side with an extra goalscoring option. A former Irish schoolboy international.

Special Ticket Offer

Kids for a Quid

Luton Town Football Club is delighted to announce the continuation of its ever-popular Kid a Quid Offer.

This offer will be available for the following home match:

Luton Town v Hartlepool United
Saturday 22nd December 2001 Kick-off 3.00pm

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7. Garry Butterworth

Started his career with Peterborough United for whom he made over 100 appearances before joining Dagenham & Redbridge. Moved to Nene Park in 1994, and is now the longest-serving player on the club's books, as well as the club's record appearance holder. Former England semi-professional captain who has been rewarded with a Testimonial year this season, which included a pre-season match against West Ham United.

8. Jon Brady

Australian-born midfielder who began his career with hometown club Newcastle. Toured England with the Australian under-17 side when he caught the eye of Brentford. After a brief return home he moved to Griffin Park. Had spells with Swansea City and Hayes before joining FK Mjølner in Norway. Returned to Hayes and signed for Diamonds in the summer of 1998. Contributed 11 goals from midfield in last season's Championship-winning campaign.

14. Shaun Carey - Midfielder

Northamptonshire-born, but given his debut in League football by Martin O'Neill at Norwich City. Made over 50 appearances for the Canaries before moving to Diamonds in September 2000 after a successful loan spell. A former Irish under-21 international.

15. Gary Mills

Another product of the youth policy who, like Andy Burgess, committed his long-term future to the club during the close-season. A lack of first-team opportunities earlier this season led to him handing in a transfer request, but

that has now been withdrawn. Injury hampered his progress last season but he returned to the starting line-up with a terrific performance in the vital goalless draw at Yeovil Town in April.

18. Stuart Gray

Son of Leeds United legend Eddie. Originally moved to Diamonds on a short-term contract in March after being released by Reading, but signed a more permanent deal during the summer. Started his career at Celtic where he won a Scottish Cup winners medal. A former Scottish under-21 international who can operate at left-back or in midfield. Injury has hampered his progress this season, his last appearance being in the Bank Holiday Monday defeat against Plymouth Argyle.

20. Paul Hall

Jamaican international recently signed on a free transfer from Walsall. A quick player who will give Brian Talbot further options down the right-hand side. Represented his country in the 1998 World Cup finals. Began his career with Torquay United before coming to prominence at Portsmouth. Had a brief spell with Coventry City before moving to Walsall.

21. Ritchie Hanlon

Attacking midfielder who returned to Nene Park in September 2001 from Peterborough United. Had previously spent a six-month spell with the club in 1998. Began his career on the books of Chelsea before moving to Welling United. Joined Diamonds in the summer of 1998 moving onto Peterborough at the end of that year. Returned to Welling on loan on transfer deadline day in March 1999, before returning once again to Peterborough in December.

Up Front

9. Scott Partridge

Signed for Diamonds in September 2001 after being given a free transfer by Brentford who he had helped to clinch the Third Division championship in 1999. Began his career as a trainee with Bradford City, and has also represented Bristol City, Torquay United (loan), Plymouth Argyle (loan), Scarborough (loan), Cardiff City and then Torquay United again, this time on a permanent basis. Moved to Griffin Park in February 1999.

10. Duane Darby

This uncompromising striker finished last season, his first at the club, as leading scorer in the Conference with 24 goals (27 in total), including one in each of his first five games for the club and a hat-trick against Morecambe in April 2001. Played through the pain barrier on more than one occasion and is now a cult hero with the supporters. Has also had spells with Torquay United, Doncaster Rovers, Hull City (for whom he scored six goals in an F.A. Cup replay against Whitby Town) and Notts County, from where he moved to Diamonds. The Supporters Player of the Year last season.

11. Andy Burgess

A product of the club's much-lauded youth system, after initially being released by Luton Town, who signed a new contract last summer to keep him at Nene Park until the summer of 2004. Has the ability to take defenders on and much

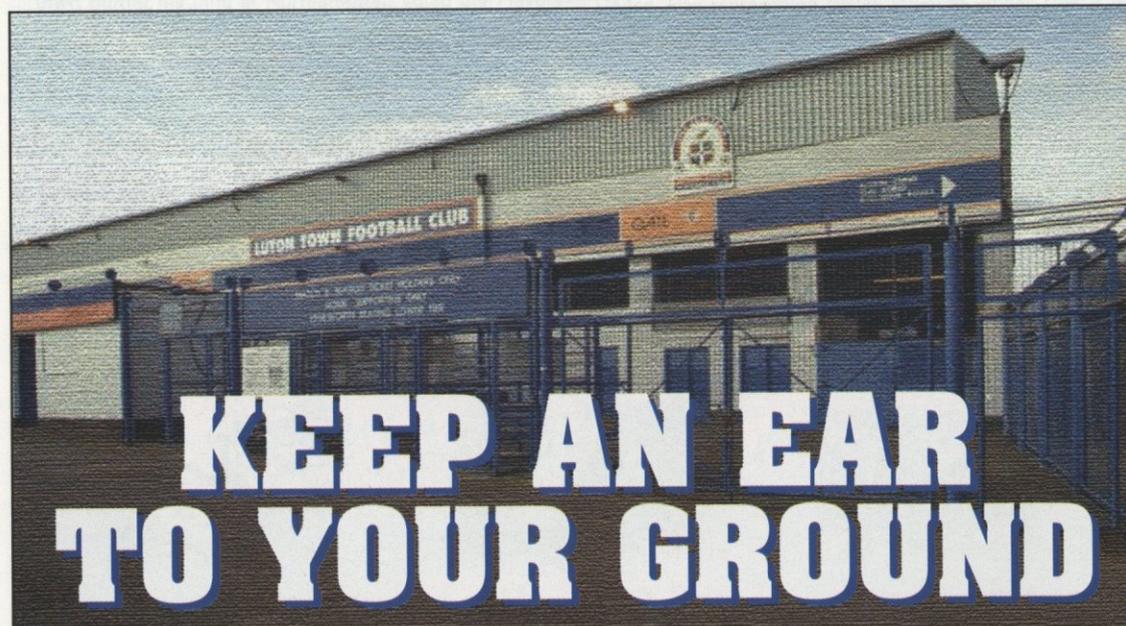
is expected of him in the future. Has been the subject of reported attention from a number of Premiership clubs.

19. Peter Thomson

Joined the club on a month's loan from Luton Town in November, a deal that has now been extended by a further month. Striker who has also played in Holland with NAC Breda. Did his chance of a full-time contract no harm at all when marking his debut by scoring Diamonds' second goal in the 2-1 win against Halifax Town.

31. Onandi Lowe

Jamaican international who joined Diamonds at the start of December on a three-month loan from American side Kansas City Wizards. Scored within 15 minutes of his debut against Bristol Rovers. Had previously been on loan to Port Vale in February, scoring two goals in four matches. Has made over 55 appearances for his country, scoring 21 goals in the process, and was voted Jamaica's Football Player of the Year in 2000. Scored four goals for Jamaica during the 2002 World Cup Qualifying campaign, his goal against El Salvador last September - a 40-yard free kick - said to be the greatest goal in Jamaican Football history. A utility player who has played in defence, midfield and up front throughout his career. Played in two of Jamaica's three World Cup '98 matches in France.



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Hatters Chatter

Our Marathon Man

SCHOOLMASTER Dave Suttle, 46, a Luton Town supporter for over 30 years, has been chosen to carry the club's colours in next year's Flora London Marathon. We faced a difficult choice, with 11 other applicants all putting up very good cases to win the nomination.

We thank them all, and apologise for the fact that we have only one guaranteed place in the Football Section of the race. We are very sorry that we had to disappoint James Beechey, Warren Tomlinson, Paul Phillips, Pete Bostock, John Dalton, Michelle Pratt, Curtis King, Graham Lloyd, Mike Barnes, Kevin Reboul and Les Miller. We know we could have confidently put forward any one of the 12 who made it to the shortlist.

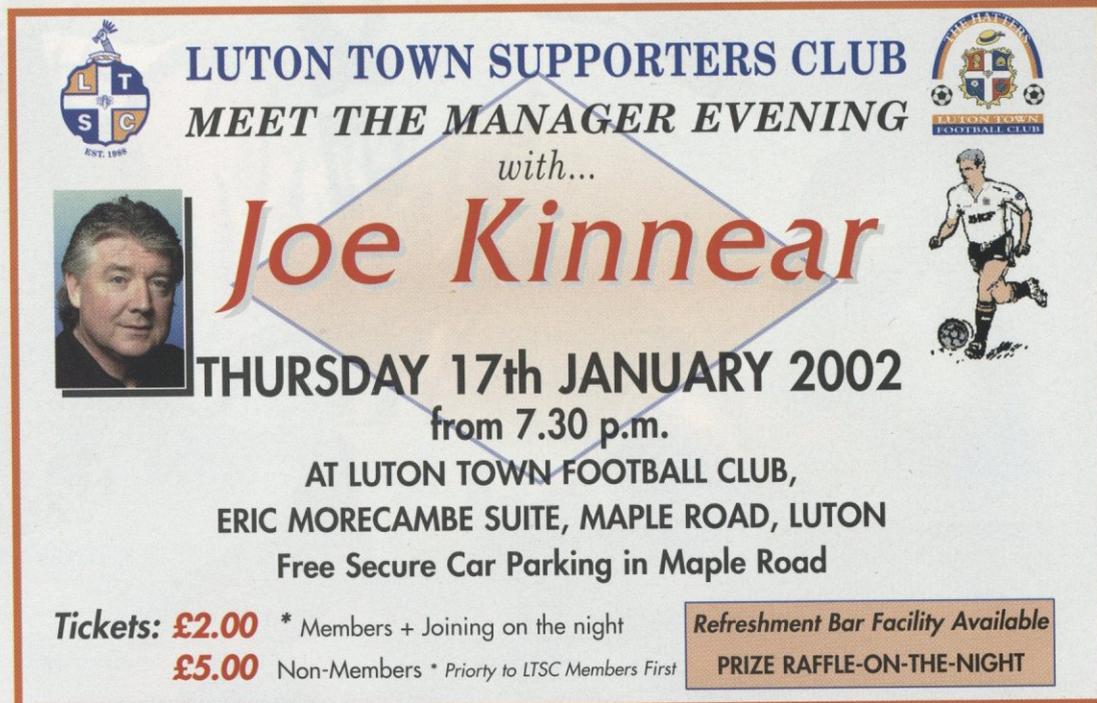
Mr Suttle is a season ticket holder at Kenilworth Road, having been a Town fan since his late father first took him to the ground in 1967, when his heroes were Terry Branston, Alan Slough and Graham French. Dave also remembers John Moore with much affection, not least because as a schoolboy he helped the defender carry his fridge into the Moore

family's new home!

Mr Suttle is head teacher at Meridian Primary School in Greenwich, which is on the race route, and says he is confident the whole school community will support him despite their native leanings towards Millwall and Charlton.

He has run just one marathon so far, when he raised £790 for the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust by completing the Washington marathon in the USA in 3hrs 53 mins a couple of years ago. Father of three, Dave still runs regularly, and would like to support two charities in next April's London event, the CFRT again, and our local Keech Cottage Hospice, which looks after seriously ill children.

He is already in training for April's race, and promised: "I don't know what time I will do, but I will be trying to improve on my previous one. But most of all, I am deeply honoured to be chosen to run for my club, and will make sure that whatever happens, I will finish the course for the sake of Luton Town and the good causes I want to support."

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with...
Joe Kinnear

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Top Hatter Ian Hillier



Born: Neath, 26.12.79

Joined Luton: On loan, August 2001, and signed permanently in October

Were you good at school? Only at sport - football in particular, but I loved all sports. I was a winger when I moved up through town and district teams to play for Wales schoolboys. I was still under 16 when I was playing for Wales under-18s. Spurs watched me as a boy, and took me as a YTS when I left school. David Pleat changed me from winger to full-back.

Why join Luton? I was a regular in Spurs reserves, captain of the side, and had been on the bench for Premiership games several times without getting on. Luton came in to take me on loan, and I was glad to make the move for the chance of first team football. I enjoyed being here, and when Luton wanted me to make the deal permanent, I said yes straight away, to make progress in my career - far better to be playing in the Third Division, than in the reserves. The atmosphere at games is a million times better.

How do you relax? I like watching football, one-day cricket, and rugby - I was scrum-half for my school rugby team. I also like my computer and its games, and DVDs.

What's the greatest pleasure football has given you? The best moment so far was when I scored my first-ever league goal, at York. It was unbelievable to see the ball scream into the net, a wonderful feeling, especially as we won. No prizes for guessing my worst moment in football so far: last week's red card at Hartlepool. I was gutted. I didn't think I deserved my first booking, but I knew the second was a formality when I miss-timed a tackle. It felt awful going to the dressing room on my own, and when I get back to see the end of the game it was the longest 20 minutes of my life. I was so pleased the lads held on to win - if they hadn't, I would have felt even worse because I had made things that much harder for them.

Do you worry about your playing days ending? Not very much - I am still only 21, and I think positive about having a good long career, even though we all know one serious injury could end it all. I would like to stay in the game when I finish playing, and intend to get coaching qualifications. I have been lucky so far in the coaches who have dealt with me, and would like to think I could be as good as David Pleat, Glenn Hoddle, Chris Hughton, Mick Harford and Joe Kinnear. They are all brilliant coaches.

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Roger Wash

All our **yesterdays**

Alan West reaches a half century!

Next Tuesday our former skipper Alan West celebrates his 50th birthday and when asked which was

his most memorable game amongst the more than 300 in our colours he hesitated, which was something he never did on the football pitch.

It was eventually narrowed down to the string of barnstorming home victories at the back end of the 1974/75 Division One campaign when teams such as Arsenal and Leeds were steamrollered at Kenilworth Road and a brilliant 4-0 win over Chelsea a couple of years later. The thrashing of the Blues finally won the day.

Before recounting the story of that famous Luton victory during which Alan and the rest of the side skated over a snow covered Kenilworth Road surface to embarrass Chelsea, it is worth recalling that by rights the clever midfielder should not have been on a football pitch.

After being spotted by a Burnley scout while playing for his school team in Hyde, Cheshire the 14 year old Alan West went for trials at Turf Moor and ended up joining one of the best youth set-ups in the country and was part of the Clarets side that lifted the F.A. Youth Cup in 1968.

Making his league debut in Division One in 1969/70, Alan went on to make over 50 appearances for Burnley as well as gaining England under-23 recognition. Burnley, much like the Hatters in the past, needed to sell to survive and when Sunderland stepped in with a £100,000 bid in 1973 it seemed a foregone conclusion that he would be off to Roker Park.

After three days of medical checks, however, Alan was given the devastating news that he had a vertebrae in his back out of place and if he continued playing he would be in a wheelchair inside two years. Alan was convinced that nothing was wrong and when Luton manager Harry Haslam came in with an offer he jumped at the chance and made his debut for the Hatters in a 0-2 defeat at Orient in October 1973.

This defeat turned out to be a blip on the way back to the top flight at the season's end and although the stay lasted only twelve months it was full of cavalier performances during which Alan played a full part. The Town finished in seventh position in Division Two in 1975/76 and on their day were more than a

match for any side in the division and it was only an amazing string of 0-3 defeats on our travels that prevented us bouncing straight back first time.

We had a good side at the time and it was therefore all the more surprising that we struggled in the early part of the following campaign and by Christmas we were down to 14th position with thoughts of promotion a million miles away.

On Boxing Day we had gone down 0-1 to a Laurie Cunningham inspired Orient at Brisbane Road although we had more than enough chances to win the game which epitomised our season so far.

Next up were league leaders Chelsea who had lost only three times in the campaign and who had attracted a massive 55,003 to Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day to witness a 2-0 win over Fulham.

Snow had fallen on December 29th, 1976 and the evening game with Chelsea was in doubt, but once the referee had passed the pitch fit for play in the afternoon Harry Haslam set about geeing the players up. "I told the lads that I knew it was Christmas but I didn't want any fairies out there."

The Chelsea players arrived fully expecting the game to be off and were therefore not mentally prepared to play on a hard, snow covered pitch in the freezing cold.

Their body language during the pre-match kickabout said it all but that is to take nothing away from a superb Town performance where every player was on the top of his game.

Making light of the conditions the fleet footed Luton players swarmed all over Chelsea and took the lead in the first minute with Lil Fuccillo first to a knock back from Jimmy Husband. The lead was doubled after 12 minutes with Brian Chambers thundering in a volley which gave Chelsea stand in goalkeeper John Phillips no chance.

The Luton midfield threesome of Chambers, West and Fuccillo were everywhere harrying, tackling and passing as the Town put on a performance we all knew they were capable of. The Chelsea defenders were unable to keep their footing and giant centre-half, Micky Droy, later to have a spell at Kenilworth Road, was at a distinct disadvantage against the much smaller Luton forwards.

The Hatters had enough clear cut chances to score ten but had to settle for second half strikes from Husband and Steve Buckley to make it a memorable occasion and send the 17,107 crowd home happy.



Alan West salutes the Oak Road end after netting one of his rare goals for the Hatters.

The win certainly kick started the season as the Town embarked on a long unbeaten run that sent them up to the fringes of the promotion pack.

Alan West continued to grace Kenilworth Road with his cultured midfield performances until 1981 when he joined his old playing colleague, Peter Anderson, at Millwall.

For many years Alan has been a minister in the Luton Christian Fellowship and was turning out for the local Christians in Sport football team.

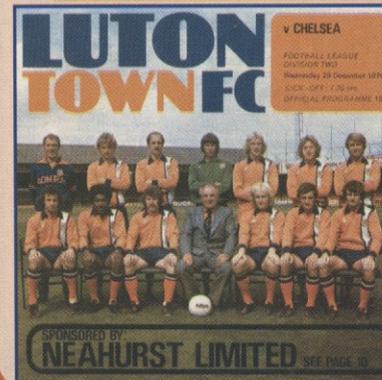
After hanging up his boots for a couple of years he

became inspired after reading Stanley Matthews' autobiography and was determined to pick up playing again and to go on past 50. As such he is once again showing the youngsters how it is done as player manager for his old team although admitting that, "The mind is willing but the legs aren't."

Not bad for someone who was told 28 years ago that he would be crippled within two years! Happy birthday, Alan, and many more of them.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



The Town introduced their new look programme four games into the 1976/77 campaign. A full colour team group on the cover was repeated throughout the season but this was seen as a vast improvement on the tired looking issues of the previous year.

In truth there was not a great deal to read in the Chelsea issue but Alan West was prominent lending his name to a new building development in Leighton Buzzard where prices started at £8,300!

Elsewhere, young reserve team goalkeeper Tony Knight was featured after a couple of excellent displays replacing the injured Keith Barber. By the time of the Chelsea game, however, the Town had signed Milija Aleksic to play in goal and it is hoped that Knights' choice of 'sausage and chips' as his favourite food had nothing to do with it.

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Fixture	Date	Kick-Off	Venue
England v Sweden	Sun 2 June	10.30am	Saitama, Japan
Argentina v England	Fri 7 June	12.30pm	Sapporo, Japan
Nigeria v England	Wed 12 June	7.30am	Osaka, Japan

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Happy Harry

Junior Hatters

AFTER nearly a month without a home game, we are glad to be back at Kenilworth Road today, and welcome all young supporters, including our friends from Rushden, who were joining us in our Saturday Club. We were taking them on in a football tournament, and hope they enjoy a happy day with us - except, of course, for the result of the big game.

Our highlight since we last met was the annual Christmas Party, held in the Century Club, and it was a huge success. It was difficult to know who was the most popular visitor - Father Christmas or the Town players who came to join in the fun!

We hope to have space for pictures in next week's matchday magazine. We might also be able to confirm details of forthcoming trips to away matches. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer Junior Hatters visits to Oxford or Southend during the Christmas holidays, and Cheltenham Town have no similar organisation to ours, so it looks as though we won't be going there, either.

However, don't forget that Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club go to all away games, and they give discounts to under-16s.

Today is our first Saturday home game since late October, so the Saturday Club has been out of action for some time, but it was back in business this afternoon. All Junior Hatters are welcome to join in as we make home games a real day out for young supporters. We start at 12 noon for an afternoon packed with games and entertainment, with lunch included, and the price is a bargain: £5 for Junior Hatters with season tickets, or £9 including a match ticket.

Junior Hatters membership is open to any boy or girl aged from 0 to 16 who supports Luton Town, and if you want to know more please contact the club shop. There are lots of advantages, including value for money trips to away games, and the chance to be picked out as mascot at home matches - the choice is made at random, with names drawn out of the computerised drum.

Happy Harry



ONE FOR THE SCRAPBOOK: Barry Close, 7, from River Way, Luton, was the Junior Hatters mascot at our last home game, and is pictured with the skippers and match officials before kick-off.

Today's Mascot

THIRTEEN-year-old Danielle King, from Verity Way, Stevenage, will enjoy her visit to Kenilworth Road today even more than usual, because she has been selected as Junior Hatters Mascot. It means she will go behind the scenes to meet the players before kick-off, and run out onto the pitch with them for the kick-about and toss of the coin. Her favourites are Matt Taylor and Lee



Mansell, and as well as football, Danielle likes hockey, athletics and singing. She plays football for Stevenage Borough Juniors, Hertfordshire Youth, and for Heathcote School, Stevenage, where she is a pupil.

Today's ball boys are Alex Palmer, from Barns Dene, Harpenden, and Oliver Webb, of Orchard Mead, Broadwindsor, Dorset.

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Luton Belles

A CUP disappointment was followed by a quick recovery as Luton Belles got back among the goals in the league. They were knocked out of the FA Cup in the first round, although could count themselves unlucky to be on the end of a 4-0 defeat to East London side Redbridge Raiders.

Returning to league action, Luton travelled to Holmer Green, and destroyed the home side with fine attacking football which brought an 8-0 victory.

Leading the way was captain Kim Hide, with a hat-trick of long-range strikes, and leading scorer Rhiannon Morgan hit a double. The other goals came from Stacey Connell, Kaylee Owen and Louise Evans.

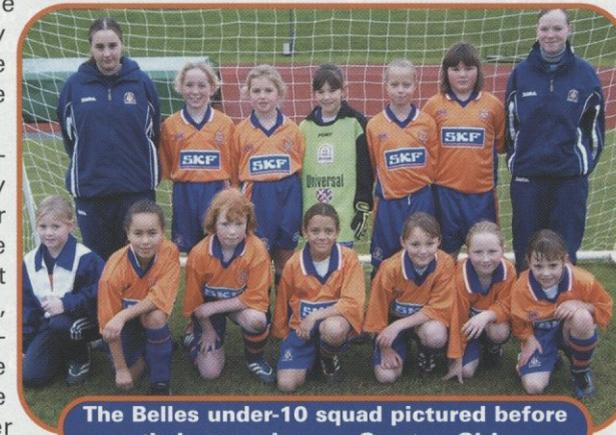
The Belles under-13s were obviously inspired by their recent half-time display at Kenilworth Road, and have since rattled in an incredible 43 goals in five games. Wins over Hoddesdon Owls (11-0), Harpenden Colts (4-0) and Hatfield (22-0) were interspersed with two visits to Cambridge United, which resulted in a 3-3 draw in the league and a 4-3 defeat in the league cup, with the winning goal coming via a cruel deflection in the last minute.

Among the goals in these games were Michelle Byrne with 11, Holly Flynn with nine, Theresa McMullen with seven, Rebecca Kane with six, and Fay Rolls with five. Also on target were Gemma Vale, Emma Wells, Chloe Fensome, and Natalie Forbes, who netted the goal of the season so far, running from just outside her own area down the right wing and finishing with a shot into the far corner. The Belles currently lie second in

the Hertfordshire Girls League.

The under-12s are also chasing a league title, and a 3-0 away win over St Martins, with goals by Chloe Fensome (2) and Natalie Burchnell, was followed by a 2-1 home victory over fellow title contenders Sundon Park. In a close-fought match Luton were trailing with just five minutes left, but Theresa McMullen struck a shot which looped under the crossbar for the equaliser, and as Luton piled on the pressure Chloe Fensome hit the winner in stoppage time.

While the goal scorers are nearly always given the plaudits, special mention should be made of Hatters season ticket holder Charlotte Bland, who is the goal-keeper - had it not been for her heroics, pulling off a string of superb saves, Belles would not have been in a position to pull off the last-gasp win.



The Belles under-10 squad pictured before their cup win over Garston Girls

The under-10s suffered their first

reverse of the season, going down to Arsenal Ladies, but returned to winning ways with a 5-0 success over Stevenage Borough, with a Lauren Bruton hat-trick and a double from Stephanie White. Success in both cup competitions followed, as Belles blasted their way into two semi-finals, with a 5-0 win over Garston Girls and an 11-2 success over Hatfield Youth. Stephanie White scored two against Garston, with the other goals coming from Sian Hall, Yasmin Hickling and Lauren Bruton, and in the romp against Hatfield Stephanie helped herself to four goals, with Lauren getting a hat-trick. The other scorers were Samantha Joiner, Yasmin Hickling, Kelly Moss and Jade McEntaggart.

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For The Record

Luton Town 0 Hull City 1

THE second home defeat of the season was inflicted by one of the better sides we have seen at Kenilworth Road, although on run of play the Town could well have collected a point. Inevitably it was former Town utility man Rob Matthews - signed by David Pleat and unloaded by Terry Westley - who enjoyed a happy return, poking home the 51st-minute winner after the Town failed to deal with a long throw.

After a poor first half show, when the passing was well below the usual, the Town improved after the break, but with the goal to defend Hull packed the midfield, defended in numbers, and got away with it, aided by poor finishing by the Town.

Kevin Street, on loan from Crewe, made a brief debut for a couple of minutes at the end, and may not be seen at Kenilworth Road again. A few days later, after his first start for the Town, at Macclesfield, he was injured and had to be subbed, and was sent back to Crewe for treatment.

Luton Town: Emberson; Hillier, Perrett (Boyce 58 mins), Coyne, Taylor; Brkovic (Forbes 61 mins), Nicholls, Spring, Valois, Howard, Crowe (Street 88 mins). Unused subs: Ovendale, Boyce.

Booked: Brkovic, Hillier, for fouls

Hull City: Glennon; Edwards, petty, Whittle, Goodison; Williams, Whitmore, Johnsson, Matthews; Dudfield, Alexander. Subs, all unused: Musselwhite, Lee, Price, Tait, Mohan.

Booked: Alexander and Williams for fouls, Edwards for diving in the penalty area.

Referee: David Elleray, Middlesex

Attendance: 7,214, including 887 away fans.

Macclesfield Town 4 Luton Town 1

JOE Kinnear offered a public apology to the travelling supporters who suffered as the Town slumped to their third defeat in eight days. David Moss, Macclesfield's new manager, desperately needed a result to ease relegation worries, and the Town presented it to him to give Macc only their second home win in ten attempts. Shambolic was the Town manager's description of an inept display in every part of the field. Decent scoring chances were passed by, while the defence, missing injured Russ Perrett, and later denied the services of Aaron Skelton, was all over the place as Ricky Lambert helped himself to the first hat-trick Macclesfield have notched in the Football League. Chris Byrne regained the lead for Macclesfield early in the second half after Steve Howard had headed our equaliser for a brief moment of hope in the 33rd minute.

Lambert had knocked in a header from a right wing cross to open the scoring on ten minutes. Macclesfield upped the pace after the break, and chances came and went at both ends, especially in the last ten minutes. Chris Byrne's 53rd-minute 35-yarder over Carl Emberson was followed by a similar effort by Lambert ten minutes later, and in injury time, after Howard, Adrian Forbes and Andrew Fotiadis had all missed reasonable chances, Lambert added another goal which was typical of the way things went at the Moss Rose: his low drive was going wide until Matt Taylor tried to intervene, and deflected the ball into the net.

Luton Town: Emberson; Boyce, Skelton (Hillier 43 mins), Coyne, Taylor; Street (Fotiadis 73 mins), Spring, Nicholls, Valois (Crowe HT); Forbes, Howard. Unused subs: Ovendale, Brkovic

Booked: Kevin Nicholls, after 70 seconds, for a foul.

Macclesfield: Wilson; Hitchen, Tinson, Ridler, Adams; Keen, Priest, Byrne, Smith; McAvoy (Tracey 77 mins), Lambert. Unused subs: Martin, Abbey, O'Neill, Whitehead.

Referee: Roy Pearson, Cumbria

Attendance: 2,250 including 741 frustrated Luton supporters.

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Action Replay



Hartlepool Utd 1 Luton Town 2 (HT 0-2)

THERE was immense satisfaction in the Town camp after the losing run was ended by a spirited and defiant performance at Victoria Park, where the Town were down to ten men for more than half an hour, and had to battle hard to keep out a home team that piled on intensive late pressure.

Ian Hillier was quick to join the celebrations, grateful that the first red card of his career had not been more damaging to his team, thanks to the way the other ten stuck to their rearguard action with massive determination.

The Town had had the best of the first half, on a day when strength and bravery often seemed to be more necessary than skill, and Hillier got no thanks from his manager for not responding better to the half-time warning. Finicky referee Tony Leake booked five Town men in the opening 45 minutes, and at the interval Joe Kinnear told his men to be careful, stay on their feet, and do nothing silly.

Hillier's first yellow card looked very harsh, but at the interval the bookings seemed much less important than the other statistic: the Town were two up, and comfortable, thanks to goals by Dean Crowe and Matt Taylor.

Hillier knew his match was over when he was late with a 57th-minute tackle, and then it was game on, with Hartlepool rejuvenated and the Town forced more and more onto the defensive.

Dave Bayliss had come in for his debut, a day after being signed from Rochdale, and he and Chris Coyne

were magnificent in the centre of defence. But so were the other eight, with Steve Howard the lone attacker, and everyone else manning the barricades. Mark Ovendale, recalled after Carl Emberson took the rap for two of the goals conceded at Macclesfield, might have been partly to blame when Hartlepool reduced the deficit seven minutes after Hillier's departure, but produced two outstanding saves in the closing minutes.

By then, the game should have been sewn up, because a rare break out of defence saw Howard surging forward down the inside right channel after being put away by Matt Spring. The midfielder kept running, and was unmarked and waiting for Howard's return pass, but the striker opted to go for glory, and the angled drive was easy for the goalkeeper.

Both sides had missed other chances, with Spring wasting a free header early on, and Tony Lormor also off target just before Hartlepool scored.

The last 20 minutes was nail-biting stuff, with the ref dragging out the agony for the Town by finding an extra four minutes after 90. It made the final whistle all the more welcome. The manager expressed the fans' thoughts - "At two up I was never in any doubt that we would win, but the sending-off changed everything. It was backs to the wall, but that was a great three points, especially with two home games to come. We had to work very hard for it, but the team gave everything for the cause."

Match Details

Luton Town: Ovendale; Boyce, Coyne, Bayliss, Hillier; Brkovic, Spring, Nicholls, Taylor; Howard, Crowe (Forbes 80 mins).

Unused subs: Emberson, Douglas, Fraser, Holmes.

Booked: Kevin Nicholls, Steve Howard, Ahmet Brkovic, Ian Hillier, Dave Bayliss, all for fouls in the first 37 minutes.

Sent off: Ian Hillier, 57 minutes, for a second yellow card offence, a lunge at Paul Smith

Hartlepool: Williams; Bass (Arnison 65 mins), Barron, Simms (Robinson 70 mins), Westwood; Clarke, Tinkler, Widdrington, Smith; Humphreys, Lormor (Boyd 61 mins).

Unused subs: Hollund, Parkin.

Booked: Jon Bass, 52 mins, Micky Barron, 88 mins, both for fouls

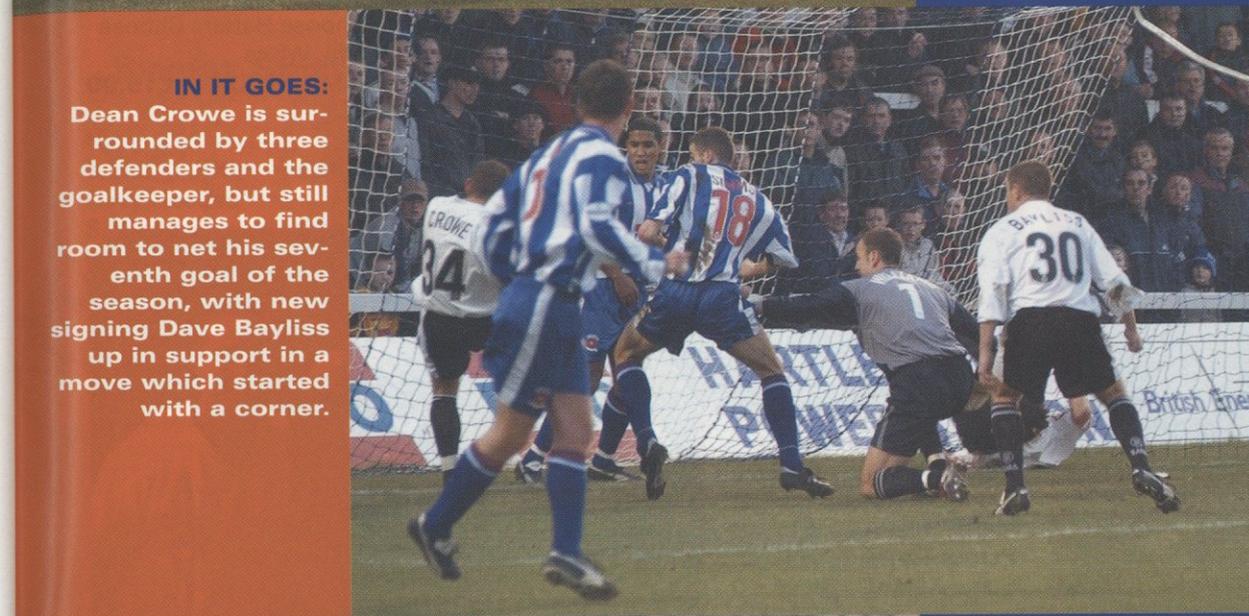
The Goals: 0-1 30 mins - Dean Crowe hooking in from close range after goalkeeper Williams dropped a cross by Ahmet Brkovic; 0-2 in stoppage time at the end of the first half - Matt Taylor on the blind side to meet a driven cross by Matt Spring; 1-2 64 minutes - Ritchie Humphreys, easy shot after Mark Ovendale parried a drive by Darrel Clarke.

Referee: Tony Leake.

Attendance: 3,585, including 346 very happy Town fans



TWO UP: Matt Taylor knocks in his fifth goal of the season, two minutes into stoppage time at the end of the first half.



IN IT GOES: Dean Crowe is surrounded by three defenders and the goalkeeper, but still manages to find room to net his seventh goal of the season, with new signing Dave Bayliss up in support in a move which started with a corner.

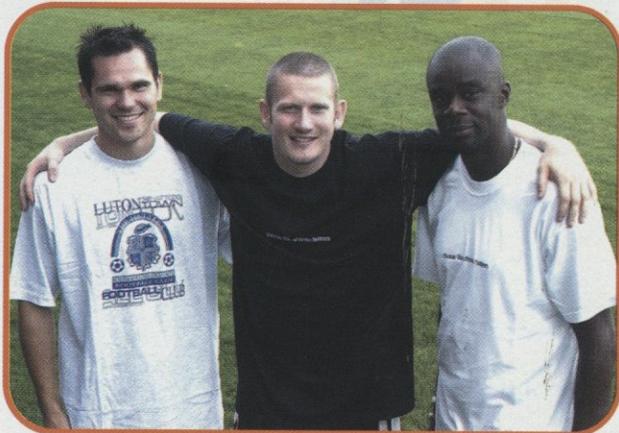


BEST FOOT FORWARD: Steve Howard gets stuck in.

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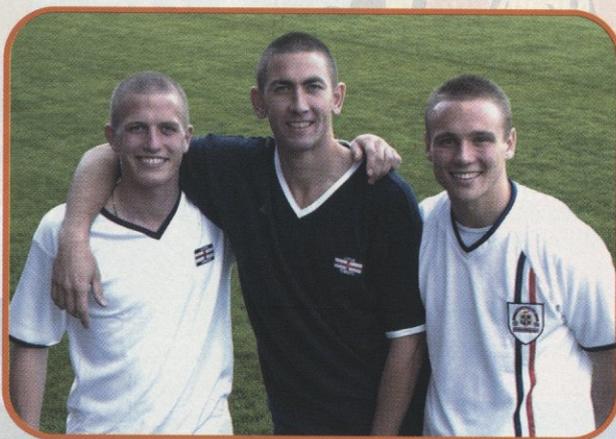


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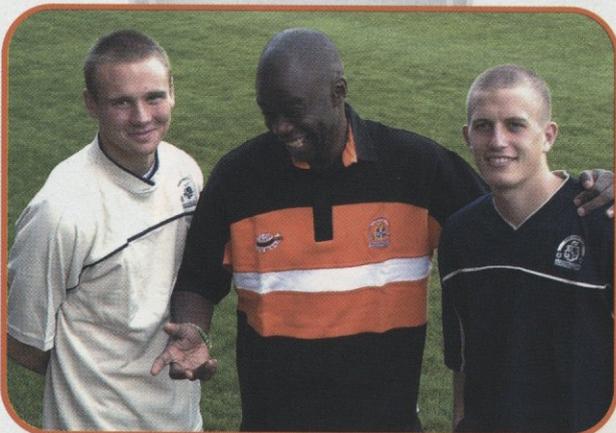
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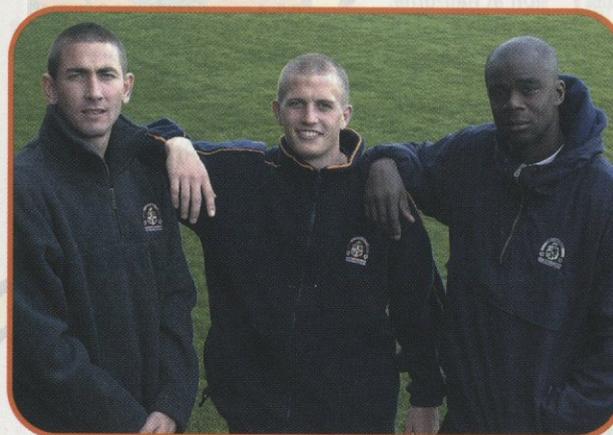
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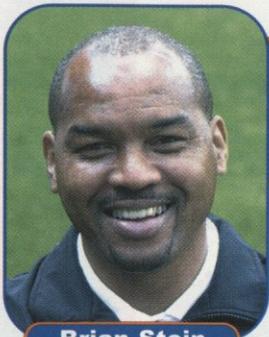


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Brian Stein

In Reserve



THE illness and injury crisis that led to the first team's game at Kidderminster being postponed claimed another match a few days later, when we were still unable to

raise a team for our Avon Insurance Combination fixture at Oxford.

But we have agreed new dates for two other games which had to be postponed: we will be away to Brentford on January 30 next year, and at home to Reading on April 3.

We were back in action on Wednesday, at home to Swindon, and won 1-0, with a goal by Peter Holmes. Because of shortage of space this afternoon, with so many games taking place since our last matchday magazine, the report has been held over until next Saturday's issue.

Bedfordshire Premier Cup Leighton Town 2 Luton Town 4

THIS was a remarkable victory in our first defence of the Cup, because Mark Ovendale was sent off in the first five minutes, and defender Stuart Fraser had to be goalkeeper in a ten-man team that showed the value of

fighting to the bitter end in difficult conditions. We were two down until Darryl Murphy gave us hope on 78 minutes. He scored again with four minutes to go, and two goals by Dean Brennan settled it in extra time. Ovendale was given a red card for bringing down a striker, and Fraser's first action as goalkeeper was to retrieve the ball after Leighton scored from the penalty. Not for the first time this season, we created chances, and wasted them, and Leighton scored again on 26 minutes.

Fraser did well as emergency keeper, and Murphy, who had replaced injured Andrew Fotiadis, lobbed in from the edge of the box with 12 minutes to go, and on 86 minutes broke through to shoot the equaliser. That lifted us, and Dean Brennan completed the recovery with two goals in the first five minutes of extra time.

Luton Town: Ovendale, Foley, Stirling, Fraser, Johnson, Gillman, Mansell (Osborn 75 mins), Brennan, Fotiadis (Murphy 40 mins), Douglas (Okai 65 mins), Leary.

Luton Town 3 Cambridge Utd 1

A DECENT team performance was rewarded with victory in the Avon Insurance Combination League Cup, where we had considerably more experience than the visitors. Our side included Adam Locke, Marvin Johnson, Richard Dryden, Aaron Skelton and Liam George.

A good move down the left, with Johnson crossing for Andrew Fotiadis to head down set up George for the opening goal on 32 minutes, and Fotiadis headed in from a corner by Peter Holmes to give us a good cushion at half-time.

Skelton fired in a long-range third on the hour after a corner was cleared to him, and although Cambridge pulled one back we did not look like losing.

Luton Town: Ovendale (Ward 58 mins), Locke (Fraser HT), Johnson (Mansell 53 mins), Gillman, Dryden, Skelton, Brennan, Holmes, Fotiadis, George, Bruce.

Norwich City 0 Luton Town 0

WE came home with a draw which had to be worked for against good opposition in our second Combination Cup game. Norwich probably feel they should have made better use of their possession, but we put up a very good defensive performance, and Mark Ovendale made a couple of good saves when Norwich did managed to find a way through on a night when we fielded a young side who showed the right attitude.

Luton Town: Ovendale, Fraser, Stirling, Mortara, Deeney, Mansell, Leary, Holmes, Murphy, Brennan, Osborn.

Brian Stein



John Moore

Youth Soccer



Luton Town 0 Cambridge Utd 2

A DRIVE by Chris Dillon hit a post in the first half, leaving us to wonder about what might have been had that become the opening goal. We fielded a youngish team, and enjoyed the better of the first half, without being able to finish off some promising work.

But having done reasonably well until the interval without taking our chances, defensive errors cost us the game. We needed someone to show real leadership, but had no-one to lift the side, which included a couple of schoolboys and an 18-year-old trialist from Letchworth, Paul Garrett. He did reasonably well, but in boys of that age we are looking for players with the potential to be signed as young professionals. We are more likely to find what we need if they come to us as earlier in their careers, which is why we put a lot of time and effort into running teams for younger boys. Against Cambridge we could not find the right blend to take the initiative in the second half, and

the goals conceded were most unsatisfactory, because both should have been prevented. We fell behind on 65 minutes, when a shot went through the goalkeeper, and the second goal in the last minute was a gift - a corner kick was hit low and went straight into the net at the near post.

Luton Town: Brill, Barnett (Dogbe 73 mins), Okai, O'Leary, Davies, Deeney, Foley, Judge (Jeffrey 73 mins), Dillon, Osborn, Garrett (Carroll 69 mins).

OUR away fixture against Kidderminster was postponed because they could not find a pitch, and they turned down our offer to stage the game on our ground. The game has now been rearranged for January 5.

We were due to be away to Northampton Town today in the Football League Youth Alliance, and then have a Christmas break before the trip to Kidderminster.

Our next home fixture is against West Brom, scheduled for January 12 at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Farley Hill, with an 11 am kick-off. Admission is free, and spectators are welcome.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Okai 12(2), Osborn 12(2), Gillman 11(1), O'Leary 11, Foley 10(4), Carroll 10(2), Dillon 10(2), Davies 10(1), Jeffrey 9(3), Judge 9(3), Dogbe 8(2), Brill 7, Leary 7, Murphy 7, Chatfield 6, Bruce 5(1), Howells 3(1), Barnett 2(3), Deeney 1(1), R. Mansell 1, Beckwith 1, Shire 1, Garrett 1, Burrell 0(1),

Goals: Judge 6, Osborn 4(1p), Murphy 4, Davies 3, Carroll 2, O'Leary 2, Dillon 2, Gillman 1, Jeffrey 1, Foley 1, Leary 1.

John Moore

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	2-3	Judge, Davies
27	Peterborough	A	3-0	Carroll, Judge 2
NOV				
3	Southend (Cup)	H	2-0	Dillon, Judge
6	Brentford (FAYC2)	H	0-2	
10	Notts County	H	1-2	O'Leary
24	Cambridge	H	0-2	
DEC				
15	Northampton	A		
JAN				
5	Kidderminster	A		
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
West Brom	10	6	2	2	19	17	20
Notts County	8	5	1	2	12	11	16
Cambridge Utd	9	4	2	3	15	10	14
Walsall	10	3	4	3	19	18	13
Northampton	9	3	2	4	12	13	11
Rushden & D	8	3	2	3	12	13	11
Luton Town	9	3	1	5	19	18	10
Kidderminster	8	2	2	4	10	12	8
Peterborough	9	2	2	5	11	17	8

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Records

- Highest Gate 10,755 Hull
- v Plymouth
- Lowest Gate 1,356 Macclesfield v Hartlepool
- Highest Agg Score Scunthorpe7
- Darlington1
- Biggest Home Win Scunthorpe7
- Darlington1
- Biggest Away Win Exeter0
- Scunthorpe4
- Consec. Wins Plymouth5
- Games Unbeaten Plymouth18
- Consec. Defeats Torquay5
- Winless Run Bristol Rov13
- Total Games 252
- Home Wins 11646%
- Away Wins 6626%
- Draws 7028%
- 1-1 Draws 229%
- Draws 3313%

Average Attendances

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000
Bristol Rovers					7,064
Carlisle					2,920
Cheltenham					3,558
Darlington					4,047
Exeter					3,519
Halifax					2,034
Hartlepool					3,523
Hull					9,742
Kidderminster					2,842
Orient					4,870
Lincoln					3,091
Luton					6,651
Macclesfield					2,014
Mansfield					4,339
Oxford					6,214
Plymouth					5,153
Rochdale					3,392
Rushden					4,265
Scunthorpe					3,454
Shrewsbury					3,626
Southend					3,901
Swansea					3,791
Torquay					2,525
York					2,675

Goals - When Scored

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
BR	0	2	4	1	2	6
CU	3	4	4	4	0	3
CT	2	5	4	2	10	7
Da	1	5	4	2	9	6
EC	5	5	5	2	4	2
HT	2	4	3	2	1	3
HU	1	1	7	4	7	6
HC	3	6	4	9	4	10
KI	1	3	1	4	3	7
LO	2	5	4	7	3	7
LC	1	4	2	3	5	7
LT	3	5	11	6	9	8
MT	3	2	3	3	5	3
MT	5	6	6	5	4	9
OU	6	1	1	7	4	1
PA	4	6	7	4	5	5
Ro	4	5	4	5	7	7
RD	3	6	4	2	4	4
SU	7	6	7	3	7	6
ST	6	1	6	2	8	8
SU	4	2	2	5	2	8
SC	4	7	4	2	3	6
TU	3	2	3	2	2	4
YC	3	1	5	4	4	8

Form Guide: Home & Away

Home Form	most recent results to left	Away Form
LLLLD	Bristol Rovers	LDDLL
WLLDW	Carlisle	LDDLL
WWDDD	Cheltenham	LDDDW
WWWLL	Darlington	LLDLL
DWWWD	Exeter	WWLDL
WDLDD	Halifax	LLLDL
LDWWW	Hartlepool	WLWLL
WDWDW	Hull	WLLWD
WWWDL	Kidderminster	WWLLW
DWLWL	Orient	DLDWL
LWDWL	Lincoln	DDDLW
LWWLW	Luton	WLLWW
WDLLL	Macclesfield	WLLLW
WDWWL	Mansfield	WWLWL
WDDL	Oxford	LLLWL
WWWWW	Plymouth	DWDWW
DWDDW	Rochdale	DLWLW
WDWWD	Rushden	LDWDD
WWWLW	Scunthorpe	LDWDW
LWWDL	Shrewsbury	WLLWL
DLWWW	Southend	LLLLL
LDWLL	Swansea	LWWLL
LLLWW	Torquay	LLLLW
LLWWL	York	LDDLL



Brian Swain

Third Division Scene

THE incentives are clear for both sides this afternoon in the first-ever Football League meeting between the Town and Rushden & Diamonds. A home win could see the Town rise to second place in the table, while Rushden are chasing points which could take them into the play-off frame for the first time this season. The Town's hopes of a return to the top three need a little help from Oxford and Scunthorpe, who are at home today to, respectively, second-placed Mansfield and Hull, who are third. Rushden probably hope that Scunthorpe lose to Hull, because the Iron currently hold seventh place, two points ahead of the Diamonds. All the promotion-chasers are still waiting for Plymouth to slip up, and whatever happens in their home game against Darlington today they still be top of the table tonight. They lost their first two home games of the season, but have since gone 19 league games without defeat to open up a four-point gap at the top - three months without a loss, and still in the FA Cup after a home draw with Bristol Rovers. The Town will be interested in Tuesday's replay - if Rovers win it means their visit to Kenilworth Road on January 4 will be postponed

- they will be away to Derby County in the FA Cup third round on the following Sunday. Plymouth, Mansfield and Scunthorpe are the only top seven teams still in the cup, with Mansfield producing one of the best performances of the second round, hammering Second Division Huddersfield 4-0 at Field Mill. Chris Greenacre, a target for Joe Kinnear and an ever-growing number of other managers, netted a hat-trick to take his season's tally to 20 goals. In the league, Mansfield's surge to second place began with their 4-1 win over the Town, and their current form shows four wins and one draw in their last five games. Hull's cup hopes vanished in a home defeat against Oldham, but they and Rochdale remain the only teams in the division still to lose at home in the league. Rochdale's cup dream ended at Blackpool, but they resume their promotion bid today with a new manager in place. John Hollins, Swansea boss until September, has been appointed to replace Steve Parkin, who has gone to Barnsley. Rochdale went top of the table briefly when they became the first visitors to win at Kenilworth Road, but have been inconsistent since, with two wins, three draws and two defeats in their seven games since then. Rushden, going well after a slightly iffy start to their first season in the Football League, were beaten 2-1 at Brighton in the FA Cup last week, but their recent league record demands respect. They were in the relegation zone in mid-September after only one win in their first seven league matches, but have been making steady progress ever since, losing only once in their last 14 league outings. That was at Kidderminster three weeks ago. Their only other away defeats came in September, at Oxford and Leyton Orient. Rushden chalked up victories at York on the first day of the season and at Shrewsbury in late October. Their other five awaydays all ended in draws, at Macclesfield, Exeter, Darlington, Rochdale, Swansea and Scunthorpe. It was 1-1 at Exeter, with the other four all being 0-0.

Brian Swain

Nationwide League Division Three

	HOME					AWAY					Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A			
Plymouth	21	7	0	2	17	5	6	6	0	14	6	45
Mansfield	21	8	2	1	25	11	4	3	3	10	11	41
Hull City	21	8	3	0	24	5	3	4	3	12	15	40

Luton Town	21	6	2	2	20	8	6	1	4	22	20	39
Rochdale	21	5	0	5	18	8	6	1	4	14	13	39
Shrewsbury	21	6	2	3	18	11	4	2	4	13	13	34
Scunthorpe	21	5	3	2	21	10	3	5	3	15	13	32

Rushden & D	21	5	4	2	16	11	2	5	3	7	9	30
Kidderminster	20	5	4	1	12	4	3	1	6	7	14	29
Cheltenham	21	5	5	1	21	13	2	3	5	9	17	29
Darlington	21	7	2	2	17	5	1	3	6	10	25	29
Hartlepool	22	5	3	4	20	10	3	1	6	6	10	28
L. Orient	21	5	2	4	19	16	2	4	4	9	15	27
Exeter	21	4	4	3	13	16	3	2	5	10	18	27
Lincoln	21	4	2	4	11	9	1	7	3	11	14	24
Southend	21	6	2	3	18	10	1	1	8	5	16	24
Swansea	21	2	4	4	11	12	4	1	6	15	22	23
Oxford	21	3	3	4	13	12	2	4	5	7	13	22
Macclesfield	21	2	4	4	11	12	3	3	5	8	16	22
York	21	4	1	5	9	12	2	3	6	16	25	22
Bristol Rovers	21	3	3	4	10	13	2	3	6	5	12	21
Torquay	21	5	1	5	11	14	1	2	7	5	17	21
Carlisle	21	4	3	4	10	9	0	4	6	8	18	19

Halifax	21	2	6	2	8	9	2	1	8	7	21	19
---------	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms/Gls/Gm	Pts	Run	
York	Michael Proctor	8	6	1	0	21	0.38	11	2
Mansfield	Chris Greenacre	14	10	2	0	20	0.70	10	4
Hull	Gary Alexander	13	9	2	0	20	0.65	10	5
Shrewsbury	Luke Rodgers	13	8	1	1	21	0.62	9	4
Cheltenham	Julian Alsop	9	5	2	0	19	0.47	7	2
Carlisle	Ritchie Foran	6	6	0	0	15	0.40	7	3
Torquay	David Graham	4	4	0	0	20	0.20	7	1
Darlington	Barry Conlon	6	4	1	0	20	0.30	6	1
Plymouth	Martin Phillips	6	6	0	0	20	0.30	6	1
Macclesfield	Lee Glover	7	5	1	0	20	0.35	5	2
Exeter	Chris Roberts	6	4	1	0	19	0.32	5	2
Luton	Dean Crowe	7	5	1	0	11	0.64	4	3
Halifax	Paul Harsley	5	3	1	0	21	0.24	4	1
Rochdale	Kevin Townson	7	3	2	0	19	0.37	3	3
Lincoln	Lee Thorpe	6	4	1	0	14	0.43	3	1
Swansea	Mamady Sidibe	5	3	1	0	13	0.38	3	2
Scunthorpe	Martin Carruthers	10	6	2	0	20	0.50	2	2
Oxford	Jamie Brooks	6	4	1	0	14	0.43	2	1
Orient	Jeff Minton	5	5	0	0	19	0.26	2	3
Southend	Mark Rawle	4	2	1	0	15	0.27	2	1
Bristol Rovers	Martin Cameron	4	4	0	0	18	0.22	2	2
Kidderminster	Dean Bennett	4	4	0	0	18	0.22	2	4
Hartlepool	Gordon Watson	8	5	0	1	14	0.57	1	3
Rushden	Duane Darby	5	1	2	0	12	0.42	0	2

Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

Club	Win - vs.	Defeat - vs.
Bristol Rov	3-2 Luton	1-3 Ornt, Rush
Carlisle	3-0 Scunthorpe	0-3 Plymouth
Cheltenham	4-1 Macclesfld	1-5 Hull
Darlington	4-0 Exeter	1-7 Scunthorpe
Exeter	2-0 Torquay	0-4 Scun, Darl
Halifax	2-0 Swan, Trqy	1-4 Southend
Hartlepool	4-0 Hull	0-2 Ornt, Linc
Hull	5-1 Cheltenham	0-4 Hartpool
Kidderminster	4-1 York	0-4 Shrewsbury
Orient	3-0 Oxford	1-4 Scunthorpe
Lincoln	3-0 Swansea	1-3 York
Luton	5-1 Torquay	1-4 Man, Macc
Macclesfield	4-1 Luton	0-4 Mansfield
Mansfield	4-0 Macclesfld	0-3 Plymouth
Oxford	3-0 Cheltenham	0-3 Ornt, Hull
Plymouth	3-0 vs 3 clubs	1-2 Rochdale
Rochdale	3-1 Mansfield	2-4 Orient
Rushden	3-1 Mans, Bstl R	0-3 Kiddmnstr
Scunthorpe	7-1 Darlington	0-3 Carlisle
Shrewsbury	4-0 Kidderminster	1-3 Hart, Scun
Southend	4-1 Halifax	0-2 vs 4 clubs
Swansea	4-2 Exeter	0-3 vs 3 clubs
Torquay	2-1 vs 5 clubs	1-5 Luton
York	3-0 Torquay	0-4 Hull

Numbers

PU	CS	FS
27	6	11
33	6	9
23	6	5
29	7	6
29	7	7
22	8	11
24	7	8
26	10	5
27	9	9
32	7	5
21	6	5
32	5	2
24	6	11
22	8	4
23	6	9
21	13	6
26	8	3
31	10	9
25	9	7
21	8	4
25	6	8
29	5	9
35	3	11
27	4	6

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

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Today's Squads

Luton Town

1	Mark Ovendale
2	Aaron Skelton
4	Matthew Spring
5	Russell Perrett
6	Marvin Johnson
7	Adrian Forbes
8	Kevin Nicholls
10	Carl Griffiths
12	Chris Coyne
13	Stuart Fraser
14	Andrew Fotiadis
15	Matthew Taylor
16	Carl Emberson
17	Emmerson Boyce
18	Adam Locke
19	Steve Howard
20	Peter Holmes
22	Dean Brennan
23	Jude Stirling
27	Paul Hughes
28	Jean Louis Valois
30	David Bayliss
32	Lee Mansell
33	Ian Hillier
34	Dean Crowe
35	Ahmet Brkovic

Rushden & Diamonds

1	Billy Turley
2	Tarkan Mustafa
3	Paul Underwood
4	Michael McElhatton
5	Mark Peters
6	Ray Warburton
7	Garry Butterworth
8	Jon Brady
9	Scott Partridge
10	Duane Darby
11	Any Burgess
12	Jim Rodwell
14	Shaun Carey
15	Gary Mills
16	Tony Pennock
17	Gary Setchell
18	Stuart Gray
19	Peter Thomson
20	Paul Hall
21	Ritchie Hanlon
22	Andrew Sambrook
31	Onandi Lowe
35	Barry Hunter

tick if playing tick if substitute

Today's Officials

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Assistants: Martin Postles, West Sussex (red flag); Gary Ives, Essex (yellow and red flag)

Fourth Official: Graham Horwood, Bedfordshire

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