

Luton Town Football Club



**LUTON TOWN
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**Official Matchday
Magazine**

**Luton
Town
v
Scunthorpe
Utd**

**Saturday
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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

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Gareth Owen

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

Front Cover



ON SONG: Matthew Spring, part
of a midfield which is helping
Luton Town's promotion push.

Inside Forward

FORMER Scottish international striker Gary McSwegan signed on a month's loan from Scottish Premier League club Hearts on Thursday, and will be in the Town squad for this afternoon's game.

Manager Joe Kinnear made his move after watching the 31-year-old turn in a man of the match performance for the reserves on Wednesday. McSwegan scored twice, and made the other three goals in a 5-1 hammering of Norwich City.

It then became an administrative rush to get all the paperwork sorted out, including international clearance, so that McSwegan could be registered in time to be eligible to play for the Town today.

The deal runs until March 16, but Hearts are ready to let him leave on a permanent basis. He came to Luton at the beginning of this week on trial, and Joe said: "He looked good in training, and when I said I wanted to take him on loan Hearts agreed to let him play in the reserves match.

"He has not been in the Hearts team regularly this season, but he was playing for Scotland only 18 months ago. He had a great game in the reserves, and is keen to play first-team football. He is an intelligent player, a Teddy Sheringham type, and would slot into our team nicely."

Town fans might remember the Glasgow-born player from his days at Notts County. In two seasons at Meadow Lane a decade ago he hit 21 goals in 47 starts.

There could be another striker on his way next week. Nigerian international Adolphus Ofori helped demolish Norwich at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday, scoring twice, but then having to go off with a twisted ankle. He is out of contract at German club FC Magdeburg, and the Town boss said: "I liked what I saw of him, and I hope to have him on loan for a month. But that will have to wait for a few days at least - he has gone back to Germany for treatment on his ankle."

Two trialists who have been at Kenilworth Road have failed to impress: French midfielder Sebastian Dailly played on Wednesday, but has been allowed to leave, and the Town have also decided not to take defender Phil Hardy, who was available on a free transfer from Port Vale.

Meanwhile, Jude Stirling, who has been unable to claim a place in the league squad - his only appearance this season was in the defeat at Bristol in August - is to join Conference club Stevenage Borough on loan, and will be made available on a free transfer.

Death Of A Former Manager

FANS who watched the Town in the 1960s, and suffered as the team slid from top to bottom of the Football League, will remember with great affec-

INSIDE TODAY: Joe Kinnear's column - P 5; Special feature on Joe's first year - P 36; Club captain - P 7; Treatment room latest - P 8; Home fans in Oak Road end? - P 9; Marathon appeal - P 13; News of the reserves - P 49; Youth team latest - P 51; Schools of Excellence news - P 39; Picture and profile of Jean-Louis Valois - P 28/9; Junior Hatters - P 41; Reports and pictures of the Plymouth and Rochdale games: P 42/45; Football in the Community: P 31; Latest ticket office news: P 10/11; Blast from the Past: P 22/23; Battle for promotion: P 53; Town Teaser P 40.



MICK Harford opened a new local sporting facility when Vauxhall Recreation Club unveiled their new Pro-zone five-a-side football pitch. Fully enclosed and floodlit, it uses the latest specification artificial turf, which has come on a fair way since the days when it was used at Kenilworth Road. In the picture with Mick are children from Hillborough School, Luton, who were among of the first to use the new pitch, and Neil Jackson, Vauxhall RC's general manager.

tion Bill Harvey, one of the managers who came through the club in those difficult days. He has died at the age of 82 at his home in Grimsby, where he was also manager for a time, having played for the Mariners as a schoolboy.

We had six managers in that decade, with Harvey recruited in the summer of 1962 after being coach at Bristol City. He inherited a team on the slide, in the old Second Division, and with no money to spend worked valiantly but in vain to stave off relegation, and resigned after two years.

Home Fans In The Oak Road End?

KEEN to offer seats to as many supporters as possible, and to utilise limited capacity to the maximum, the Town are considering a scheme which will allow home fans to watch selected games from the Oak Road stand. It will be experimental, with safety considerations always crucial, and will only happen if the rest of the home seats are sold out. See Cherry Newbery's column on page 9 for details.

Holiday Soccer

DETAILS have now been received of a tournament in which the Town will take part in the Isle of Man in July. Burnley, Wrexham, Darlington and Rochdale will be the other Football League clubs involved, along with the Isle of Man national side.

Town on Tour, the Luton Town Supporters Club travel section, is planning to run a trip for supporters, and we hope to be able to publish full details in Tuesday's programme for the Bristol Rovers game.



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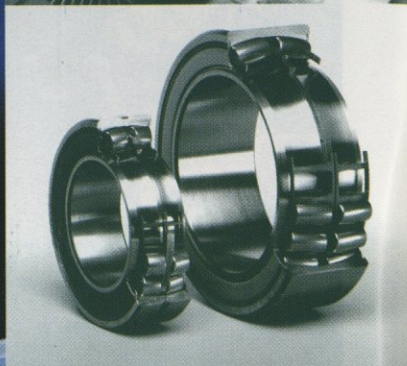
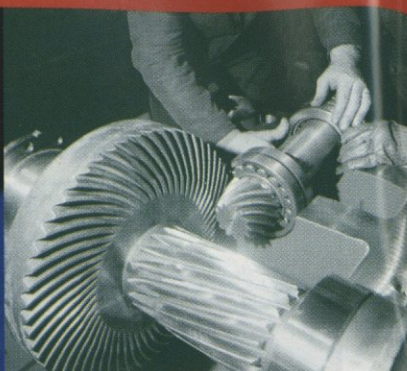
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Joe Kinnear

The Manager

IT NEEDS only a brief look at the fixtures and the league table to appreciate how important the rest of our February programme will be in terms of our promotion and championship ambitions. And, despite the ill-deserved defeat at Rochdale last week, and the gap that has been opened up at the top of the table by Plymouth, we are still chasing the title.

I thought we proved a major point in our last home game, when Plymouth were very lucky to go home with nothing worse than a two-goal defeat. One of their players told me afterwards that we had played them off the park, and he thought we made Plymouth look more like relegation candidates than promotion hopefuls. We had proved to be a far superior team, but as always football has a habit of putting you on top of the world one day, and kicking you in the teeth the next. Plymouth responded to their Kenilworth Road spanking by winning their next two matches, while we went to Rochdale and suffered one of the most unfortunate defeats I have ever experienced.

It is hard to come away from a game with nothing knowing that the result was an absolute travesty, but I am sure all those magnificent fans who went to Spotland will bear me out. We were even considerably better than the home team when we were down to ten men. I felt for David Bayliss on his unfortunate return to his former club. There was a bit of winding-up going on, and the referee was not the best I have ever seen. We thought he made a mistake when he sent Bayliss off, and we are appealing against that red card. Some of our football was superb, and rarely has any team dominated a game so completely without winning. Rochdale's goal was pure fluke, while we had no luck at all. The only worrying aspect, of course, is the old football cliché that possession is no good if it does not lead to goals.

The attack had an off day, while Rochdale's goalkeeper was easily the man of the match. So far this season we have been scoring goals for fun, and our attacking style has brought its rewards more often than not. We will stick with that game plan, but if the players I have are not capable of hitting the net more often, I will bring in others who can do the job.

I am reasonably pleased with what has been achieved in the 12 months since I arrived, and I know that our squad today is far, far better than it was when I got here. But you can never afford to sit back and rest on your laurels: the Luton Town side for next season must be better still, and it will be.

The first and most important target is promotion this season, and we now have a wonderful chance to press our claims, with three home games in eight days. None of them will be easy. Scunthorpe come to Luton this afternoon to try to maintain their push for a play-off place, and Tuesday's visitors, Bristol Rovers, are on the up after an awful start to the season. Then we entertain York next Saturday, who will have every reason to scrap for points to keep them above the relegation line.

On form we should be capable of giving ourselves the chance of maximum points, but of course, the form book does not settle football matches. It needs hard work and commitment. The next three games will even up our home and away fixtures as we prepare for the run-in to the final weeks of the season, so it is obvious we must get points in the bag from them. Scunthorpe are having an excellent season, and will be looking for revenge for the defeat we inflicted on them at their place in October. We played very well that day, and I will be looking for more of the same this afternoon - with a few goals as well, of course!

Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

Joe Kinnear

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Marvin Johnson

Club Captain

AFTER the rotten day out at Rochdale for everyone concerned with Luton Town, we have all been impatient to get back to work this week and get our promotion and championship chase back on track.

As I am still injured – but getting on nicely, thank you, and back in training – I had to miss the game, but as you might imagine I heard plenty about it.

The general dressing room view is that the bad result in no way mirrored the team performance. None of the lads could ever remember playing that well in a game and not winning by a decisive margin. Even with ten men we were, by all accounts, still giving Rochdale the run-around.

It was one of those days when Rochdale had all the luck that was going, and we all felt for David Bayliss, who had been looking forward to his return to his only other league club, only to suffer a wretched afternoon.

As you may know, the club is appealing against his red card, and all of us in the dressing room are hoping the case will be won. He had his eye on the ball, and tried to get in a volley, and the Rochdale player got in where it hurts, a very brave piece of defending. Bayles was gutted when he saw the red card, but we have found one little piece of good humour out of it – we have still never lost a game when David Bayliss has been in the team for a full match!

But the ref's decision was no laughing matter for him, or for the club. For the record, two of the Rochdale players immediately spoke up for Bayles, saying they were sure he did not intend to go for the man. They know, as we are discovering, that he is a tough but fair defender. I don't think Luton Town have ever fielded a player who would deliberately injure an opponent, especially not one of your old pals. It's still a man's game, and accidents will happen, and that was our lads' view of the red card incident. I won't repeat some of the other comments that were made about the referee!

Still, all that is history, and we start afresh this afternoon. Our feeling is that if we keep playing like we did at Rochdale – and at home to Plymouth the week before – we can't fail.

And today is a good opportunity to prove it, as we go into a spell of three home games in eight days. Our target is quite simple, and for my money perfectly reasonable: nine points! Our home form this season has been pretty good, certainly a huge improvement on last season, and while we know visiting teams are always likely to lift themselves because of our league position, we have to go for maximum points from every game.

We realise that we have to go a bit to overhaul Plymouth, but it is by no means impossible, and I believe we are still very real championship contenders. You don't need a long memory to know how quickly things can change: when we beat Plymouth we were four points behind them. Today the gap is ten points. If that can happen in 14 days, who knows what will occur in the next couple of weeks?

The boss is working to improve the squad still further, and I welcome that. He wants men who will be immediate first team contenders, and if he gets them it will be a bonus for the club: not just for the new blood, which is always welcome, but also because it fires up men already here as they realise they must strive that little bit harder to win a place in the team.

Like the gaffer I want to see us pulling out all the stops to try to win the championship, and I will not give up that dream until it becomes mathematically impossible. We have 15 more games to play... 45 points. Which brings me back to the need to maximise home games. Scunthorpe will give us a hard game today, because they too are chasing promotion, but if we are on song like we have been for the past couple of weeks, and if you can help re-create the marvellous atmosphere in the ground that we experienced against Plymouth, all things are possible. Keep shouting and enjoy the game!

Marvin Johnson

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Bruce Sewell

Treatment Room

PERHAPS the only good news from our trip to Rochdale last week was that we came home with no-one added to our injury

list.

I am happy to report that I have only three senior players still ruled out on fitness grounds, and two of them are close to recovery.

But Carl Griffiths is still having to learn to take it one day at a time, impatient though he is to complete his recovery from his stress fracture. He resumed running a couple of weeks ago, but felt some soreness afterwards, and residual tenderness is only to be expected after the sort of injury he suffered. We want to step up the pace gently, and keep a close eye on how his body reacts. He has been running each day this week, with varying degrees of soreness afterwards, but he is making gentle progress. He is still, however, some way off a return to full training.



Carl Griffiths

He will go back for another consultation with the specialist on Monday, and when we see his report we will decide on the next stage in the programme to get Griff ready for a return to league football.



Andrew Fotiadis

Andrew Fotiadis has been out of action for a couple of weeks, after jarring his knee while playing for the reserves. It affected a ligament, but he is doing well, and was able to put in a 25-minute running stint on Wednesday. He will

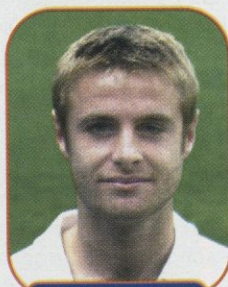
be checked carefully to make sure the recovery is complete before he resumes full training, but with a little luck that will be on Monday.

Marvin Johnson is now back in full training, and was close to being given a run-out in the reserves on Wednesday. As I have reported previously, we were worried that his ankle problem might be a cracked bone. It had not shown up on X-ray examinations, so we organised a bone scan, and that brought good news.

It was a very thorough examination, and all that showed up was the evidence of an old crack, but certainly no new one. At the same time the club captain was able to step up his work in the gym, and he returned to training on Tuesday. His only requirement now is to build up back to full fitness, which means he is not yet ready for league football, not having played a full game since late October. He will continue training hard, and will need at least one game, probably more, in the reserves before he can be considered as back to full match fitness. But, like all our players, he has worked as hard as possible to get himself right and it is good to see him reaping the rewards for his efforts.

Chris Coyne has completed his recovery from his knee ligament injury, and proved it by going on as a sub at Rochdale on Saturday, and then playing for the full 90 minutes for the reserves on Wednesday.

Peter Holmes is also back to full fitness, and celebrated with one of the goals in the 5-1 victory over Norwich.



Peter Holmes

Bruce Sewell

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Cherry Newbery

Club Secretary

IT IS going to be a busy time at Kenilworth Road this week, with three games in eight days, and with the team doing

well it is good to see big crowds at matches. Our away support continues to be tremendous, and as we approach the latter stages of the season we are finding that more and more clubs are making our visits all-ticket. Swansea and Shrewsbury are the latest to take that decision, and details are on page 10 today.

I am still waiting to hear from Shrewsbury what sort of allocation we will get from them for what could be a very important game for both clubs. However, we already know it will be all-ticket, and I will publicise the information as soon as possible.

Perhaps I can remind you that we are still selling season tickets. The price is pro rata, depending on how many matches are left to the end of the season, but in any event they are a saving on normal match day prices, with the extra advantage that your seat is secure for all remaining home matches.

If you buy now, it also guarantees that you can renew next season when we expect to be in the Second Division again, and hopefully going for another promotion.

Home attendances are increasing, and some time ago I told you that we were looking at how we might make more places available for home supporters in the Oak Road stand on days when visiting teams do not fill all 1,900 seats. It was frustrating for everyone, not least for the club, to be in a situation where just about every home seat was sold on days when several hundred were left unused in the away end.

I am pleased to report that we are now ready to try a pilot scheme which could improve our capacity for home supporters by allowing up to 650 into the Oak Road end for care-

fully selected matches. I am sure you will realise that safety is the major priority, and there is no way that will be compromised, even if it means we have to turn would-be spectators away.

There have been very extensive discussions involving myself, Geoff Lovell, our Safety Officer, Bedfordshire Police, and the Safety and Advisory Group.

We have come up with a scheme which we hope will be appreciated by our supporters, but I must stress that if it does go ahead we will be monitoring the behaviour of our supporters in that section of the ground very carefully indeed.

We have decided that we can admit some home supporters into the Oak Road Stand for the games against Kidderminster, on March 16, Halifax on March 23, and Macclesfield on April 13.

But it will be subject to certain conditions. We would not consider the idea for any high-category matches, and the facility will be made available only when all other areas of the home stands are sold out. A decision, on a match by match basis, will have to be made at least four days before the game because of the time needed to organise extra staffing by Police and our own stewards.

If it does happen, we will keep the middle block sterile at all times, to ensure segregation. All tickets for home supporters for the Oak Road end will have to be bought in advance from the ticket office.

In the event of any problem, the facility will be withdrawn immediately.

I hope the new arrangement works well, and following a view in the close season, we will, if possible, continue it for certain matches next season.

Cherry Newbery

You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on:

clubsec@lutontown.co.uk

Latest News From The Ticket Office

FORTHCOMING ALL-TICKET AWAY MATCHES

Nationwide League Division Three

Swansea City v Luton Town

Saturday March 30, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for Luton supporters, with none available on the day. Postal applications only are being accepted from season ticket holders, with Cup Voucher C, one ticket per voucher. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope, and send to: The Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds, LU1 1DH, marking the envelope clearly 65.

Prices: Terracing: £10 adults, £5 senior and junior citizens

Please make cheques payable to Luton Town FC, or give full credit card details, including expiry date and issue number.

Nationwide League Division Three

Hull City v Luton Town

Saturday April 6, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for Luton supporters, with none available on the day. Postal applications only are being accepted from season ticket holders, with Cup Voucher B, one ticket per voucher. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope, and send to: The Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds, LU1 1DH, marking the envelope clearly 64.

Prices: Terracing: £12 adults, £6 concessions.

Please make cheques payable to Luton Town FC, or give full credit card details, including expiry date and issue number.

Nationwide League Division Three

Shrewsbury Town v Luton Town

Saturday April 20, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match will be ALL TICKET for Luton supporters.

We are awaiting full details from Shrewsbury, and will advise supporters of them as soon as possible

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The Ticket Office



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Tuesday February 19, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets are on sale at normal match day prices

Tickets bought for the original date are still valid

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 York City

Saturday February 23, 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.



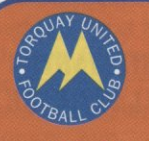
Nationwide League Division Three

Lincoln City v Luton Town

Tuesday February 26, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm

This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters, with no tickets available from Kenilworth Road.

Prices: £12 adults, £8 senior citizens and students, £4 juniors.



Nationwide League Division Three

Torquay Utd v Luton Town

Saturday March 2, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters, with no tickets available from Kenilworth Road.

Prices: Seating: £11 adults, £8 senior citizens, £6 juniors Terracing: £10 adults, £7 senior citizens, £6 juniors



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Leyton Orient

Tuesday March 5, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm

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

Rushden & Diamonds v Luton Town

Saturday March 9, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for Luton supporters and ALL TICKETS HAVE BEEN SOLD



Ticket Office Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10am to 4pm, except on Fridays before Saturday home games when it is 10am to 6pm.

SATURDAY

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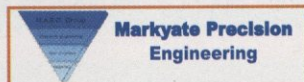
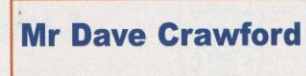
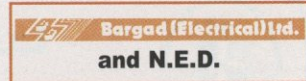
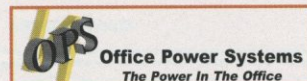
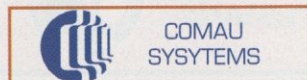
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Our Marathon Man

DAVE Suttle, 46, and his nine-year-old daughter Madeleine look typical Luton Town fans as they pose for the camera in their Hatters strip. But the trainers on Dave's lap are a clue to why we are featuring him today: a supporter for over 30 years, he has been chosen to carry the club's colours in the football section of the Flora London Marathon next month.

Dave has been a Town fan since his late father first took him to the ground in 1967, when his heroes were Terry Branston, Alan Slough, John Moore and Graham French. He and Madeleine are now season ticket holders, while son Joe, 15, divides his loyalties between Luton and Spurs, and daughter Amy, 17, "follows Luton from a distance."

Head teacher at Meridian Primary School in Greenwich, which is on the race route, Dave is confident the whole school community will support him, despite their natural leanings towards local clubs 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 event in the USA in 3hrs 53 mins a couple of years ago.

Dave runs regularly, and says the training for the

race on April 14 is going well, having started in earnest on Boxing Day.

He is collecting sponsorship promises, and we invite all Luton Town fans to back him as he tries to raise money for two charities, the CFRT again,

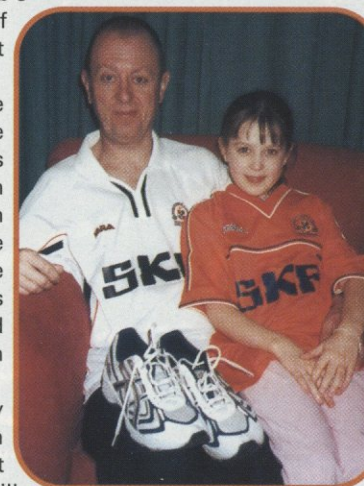
and our local Keech Cottage Hospice, which looks after seriously ill children.

He says he may not be up among the front-runners at the end of the 26-mile slog, but is determined to "finish the course for the sake of Luton Town and the good causes I want to support."

If other supporters would like to add their bit for those good causes, please complete the coupon below and send it, with your cheque payable to the charity of your choice – the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust or Keech Cottage Hospice (or two cheques, one for each!) – to Marathon Appeal, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road

Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton LU4 8AW.

Please post-date your cheque: it will not be banked until after the marathon has been completed. Supporters whose sponsorship is conditional on Mr Suttle completing the course can be assured that their cheques will be destroyed if that happens.



FLORA LONDON MARATHON

I would like to sponsor Dave Suttle, the Luton Town runner, in the Football Challenge, and my post-dated cheque, payable to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust or to the Keech Cottage Hospice, is enclosed.

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*Please destroy my cheque if Mr Suttle completes less than 26.2miles.

Address.....

*I wish to make the donation in any event

Telephone.....

*Please delete as appropriate.

Amount pledged.....

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Linda Layton

to Kenilworth Road.

Based in Leagrave, the company is celebrating its 55th anniversary this year, and throughout that time its green lorries with the red stripe have been a familiar sight in and around Luton.

This afternoon they are offering a warm welcome to their guests, who included many locally-based firms in the construction industry, represented by A. D. Bly Construction Ltd., Connolly Homes plc, GRS (Roadstone) Ltd., H. M. Gazeley Ltd., Jarvis Contracting Ltd., T & E Neville Ltd., Orbell Associates, PLJ (Groundworks) Ltd., and SDC Builders Ltd. and a contingent of supporters from one of the most popular village pubs in the area, The Raven at Hexton. As a club, we welcome them all, and hope they enjoy their time with us, and see a good match, with a result worth toasting! And we put on record our thanks to Thomas Bros for their continued support of our commercial endeavours.

TEN years old today, Vanessa Pullen has been treated to a very special birthday present - she is the match ball sponsor thanks to the generosity of her mum and dad, and brother Darren.

They come from Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard, and are regulars at Kenilworth Road, with loyal support of Luton Town running through the family.

Vanessa has been a Junior Hatter since she was five, and has been lucky enough to have been chosen as a ball girl for a home game.

She has attended several of the Town's coaching courses,

Commercial Corner

THOMAS Bros, earthmoving contractors to the construction industry, and a well-known local company, are once again our match sponsors today, and we are delighted to welcome them back

which she has enjoyed. Matthew Taylor is her favourite in the current Town squad, and we will make sure she gets the chance to meet him, and have her photo taken with him as a permanent souvenir of a very special football occasion.

FOURTEEN-year-old Matthew Thompson will have a cracking day out today, whatever the match result. He is commercial mascot, which means he goes behind the scenes, and meets the players face to face.

Matthew lives at Warwick, and is a Luton supporter by chance. He watches Coventry, his local club, quite a lot, but became interested in Luton when his dad, John Thompson, bought Forward Motors, the local Skoda dealership, 18 months ago.

The showroom is in Dallow Road, just round the corner from the stadium, and having settled in, Mr Thompson couldn't resist coming along to Kenilworth Road.

Today Matthew will arrive earlier than usual for the match, because he will be invited into the dressing room to meet the players while they are getting ready for the game, and then go out with them onto the pitch for the pre-match formalities.

He will find the players are all good company, but doubtless he will most of all enjoy meeting Jean-Louis Valois, because the French midfielder is his personal favourite.

A pupil at Aylesford School, Warwick, Matthew's other hobbies, after football, are cricket and PlayStation.



Matthew Thompson

Linda Layton

Golden Gamble

THE biggest attendance for seven years, at the last home game, set another record on the day: the Golden Gamble paid out a whopping £875 jackpot, the biggest-ever. Needless to say, it made the day even better for Mrs Jackie Doyle, a keen Town fan, when her ticket was picked out of the drum. She lives at Newbold Road, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, and her love of the Hatters means that she thinks the trips up and down the M1 to see the team are well worth while. We are delighted that she has now received something towards the petrol bills!

She was the season's 14th winner, and the average payout has risen to £622, with prizes so far totalling £8,715. Not bad for a stake of just £1.

Another prize is on offer this afternoon, although we cannot guarantee it will be as big as the last one. The size of the prize depends on sales - tickets cost £1, from which half goes into the jackpot and the other half to club funds. As usual, Golden Gamble ticket sellers will be on duty in all parts of the ground today. The draw is made at half time, with the cash available for collection immediately.

Incidentally, we are still looking for the winner from the Carlisle match.

The jackpot that day was £670, but it has not been claimed yet. We are looking for the owner of ticket No. 15860. If the ticket is yours, please contact the commercial department and we will be pleased to hand over the cash.



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Goals Info:



Where



26 Goals



24 Goals



9 Goals

How

Shots.....31
Headers.....17
Volleys.....9
Penalties.....2
Free Kicks.....0
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Crowe.....10
Howard.....9
Taylor.....7
Griffiths.....7
Spring.....5
Nicholls.....4
Valois.....4

2001-2002

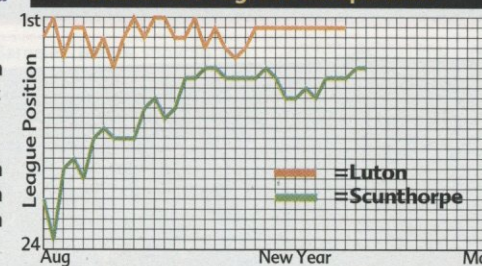
Highest Gate
9,585
vs Plymouth
Lowest Gate
5,066
vs Lincoln
Average Gate
6,927
Players Used 32
Clean Sheets 7
Failed to Score
3
Consec. Wins
3 games
Consec. Defeats
2 games

Hatters' Last 10

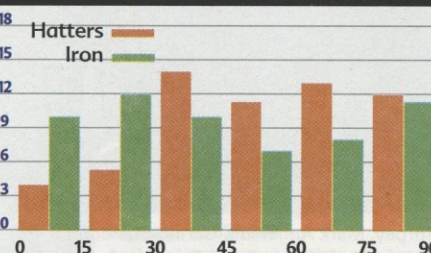
Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
L	Rochdale	A	4th
W	Plymouth	H	1st
L	Darlington	A	19th
D	Carlisle	H	21st
D	Cheltenham	A	7th
W	Kidderminster	A	9th
W	Southend	A	12th
W	Oxford	A	17th
D	Hartlepool	H	12th
W	Rushden	H	8th

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

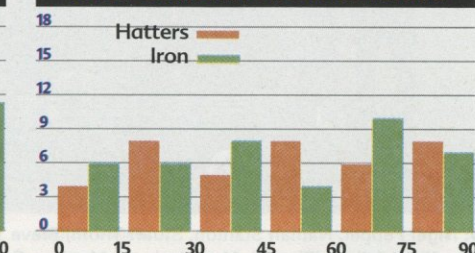
Seasonal Progress Comparison



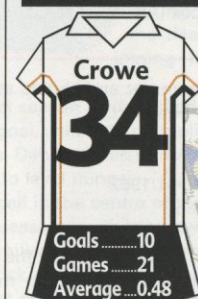
When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded

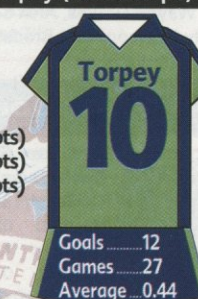


Dean Crowe (Luton)



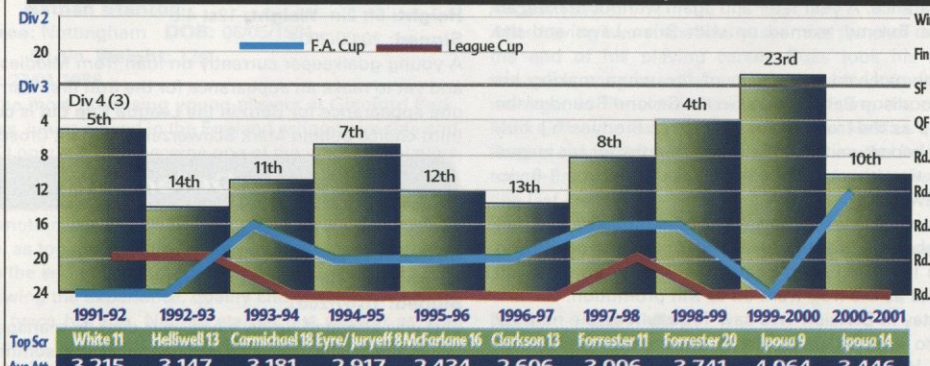
9 games.....Total Games Scored In.....9 games
8 games.....Games Scored 1 Goal.....6 games
1 game.....Games Scored 2 Goals.....3 games
0 games.....Hat-tricks.....0 games
W->L.....0 (0pts)
W->D.....5 (10pts)
D->L.....0 (0pts)
3 games.....Maximum scoring run.....1 game
6 games.....Maximum Dry Spell.....4 games
7.....Shot.....4
1.....Header.....5
2.....Volleyed Shot.....3
0.....Penalty.....0
0.....Direct free Kick.....0
Luton Goals.....59
Luton Games.....31
Luton's Goal Ave.....1.90

Top Scorers Comparison Steve Torpey (Scunthorpe)



9 games.....Total Games Scored In.....9 games
6 games.....Games Scored 1 Goal.....6 games
3 games.....Games Scored 2 Goals.....3 games
0 games.....Hat-tricks.....0 games
W->L.....0 (0pts)
W->D.....4 (8pts)
D->L.....2 (2pts)
1 game.....Maximum scoring run.....1 game
4 games.....Maximum Dry Spell.....4 games
4.....Shot.....4
5.....Header.....5
3.....Volleyed Shot.....3
0.....Penalty.....0
0.....Direct free Kick.....0
Scunthorpe Goals.....58
Scunthorpe Games.....33
Scunthorpe's Goal Ave.....1.76

Scunthorpe United's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



Goals Info:



Where



18 Goals



31 Goals



9 Goals

How

Shots.....26
Headers.....13
Volleys.....12
Penalties.....5
Free Kicks.....2
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Torpey.....12
Carruthers.....11
Beagrie.....10
Quailey.....5
Hodges.....5
Calvo-Garcia.....4

2001-2002

Highest Gate
6,479
vs Hull
Lowest Gate
2,574
vs Swansea
Average Gate
3,570
Players Used 27
Clean Sheets 12
Failed to Score
7
Consec. Wins
2 games
Consec. Defeats
2 games

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Saturday 23 February, Sky Sports 1

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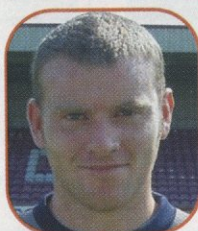
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Welcome to Scunthorpe United F.C.



Back Row: Nigel Pepper, Nathan Stanton, Stuart Thom, Steve Torpey, Mark Anderson, Gareth Sheldon
Middle Row: Nigel Adkins (Physio), Mark Jackson, Matthew Sparrow, Martin Carruthers, Tom Evans, Brian Quailey, Gerald Doherty, James Cotterill, Lee Ridley, Peter Morrison, Paul Wilson (Youth Development Officer)
Front Row: Wayne Graves, Alex Calvo-Garcia, Scott Brough, Brian Laws (Manager), Russ Wilcox (Assistant Manager), Peter Beagrie, Andy Dawson, Carl Bradshaw

In Goal



No.1 Tom Evans
Birthplace: Doncaster
DOB: 31/12/1976
Height: 6ft
Weight: 12st 9lb
Signed: 01/08/1997

Tommy is now in his fourth season with United and in that time has clocked up over 100 league appearances. The 'keeper still only 24, started his career with Sheffield United, but joined Crystal Palace in 1996 without ever making a first team appearance. A year later and again without making an appearance Tommy teamed up with Brian Laws and the Iron.

The 'keeper received a baptism of fire when making his debut at Goodison Park, Everton in the Second Round of the League Cup as the Iron crashed 5-0 to the Premiership outfit. Tommy had to wait a further three months for his league debut, this time though, keeping a clean sheet in a 1-0 victory over Swansea.

The following season, Tommy established himself as Brian Laws' number one, taking over from Tim Clarke on Boxing Day '98. In the concluding games the 'keeper only missed two matches as the Iron went on to win promotion.

Our brief stay in Division Two saw Tommy lose the number one shirt to loan signings Lionel Perez and then Morten Hyldgaard. However Evans did regain the number one spot towards the end of the season and was an ever present in the 2000/01 season playing 54 games for United.

Signed a new contract in the summer and should start this season occupying the number one shirt.

No. 20 Richard Siddall
Birthplace: Sheffield **DOB:** 24/01/1982
Height: 6ft 1in **Weight:** 11st 6lb
Signed: 08/08/2001

A young 'keeper joined United from Barnsley at the start of this season as cover for Tommy Evans. Yet to make an appearance Richard has made the substitutes on a number of occasions. Currently out injured after picking up a knee injury in the reserve game with Stoke City.

No. 29 Chris Bennion
Birthplace: Edinburgh **DOB:** 30/08/1980
Height: 6ft 2in **Weight:** 12st 4lb
Signed: 20/09/2001

A young goalkeeper currently on loan from Middlesbrough and yet to make an appearance for the Iron first team. Made one appearance for Boro in the League Cup but is currently third choice behind Mark Schwarzer and Mark Crossley.

In Defence

No. 2 Carl Bradshaw
Birthplace: Sheffield **DOB:** 02/10/1968
Height: 5ft 11in **Weight:** 11st 11lb
Signed: 16/07/2001

Carl was snapped up on a one year deal by manager Brian Laws after being released by Wigan in the summer. The defender started his career as an apprentice with Sheffield Wednesday where he made 32 appearances. The player



Today's Visitors



then had a spell on loan with Barnsley before moving to Manchester City.

In his one season with City he only managed one start and four substitute appearances before again moving on this time to Sheffield United.

Bradshaw spent four years at United, starting 122 games before Norwich City paid £500,000 for his services in 1994. In his four years at Norwich, Carl notched up a further 65 appearances, before joining his former Norwich boss John Deehan at Wigan in a Bosman free transfer in 1997.

Bradshaw was made Captain at the JJB Stadium and operated in a number of positions, even finishing a match in goal when Wigan 'keeper Roy Carroll could not carry on due to injury. As captain, of their side he lifted the Auto Windscreens Shield at Wembley in April 1999.



No. 3 Andy Dawson
Birthplace: Northallerton
DOB: 20/10/1978
Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 9st 14lb
Signed: 19/03/1999

Andy joined United initially on-loan, but after impressive performances during his three-month spell, made the deal permanent in March 1999, joining from Nottingham Forest for

£50,000.

Later that season Andy picked the perfect moment to score his first goal, with the Iron trailing 1-0 from the first leg of the play-offs, Dawson fired home after only three minutes in the second, to level things.

Had a spell in the centre of midfield during United's unsuccessful season in division two, but switched back to his more familiar left back role last season to great effect.

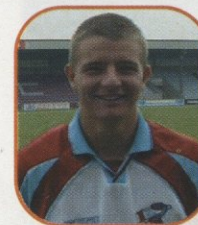
A free kick specialist, Dawson scored a number of timely goals last season including a late equaliser against Burnley in the third round of the F.A. Cup.

Still only 22 years old, Andy's hardworking displays in the left back position have almost earned him an automatic selection in the team.

No.4 Nathan Stanton
Birthplace: Nottingham **DOB:** 06/05/1981
Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 12st
Signed: 27/01/1988

One of the most promising young players at Glanford Park, Nathan as Junior played in the England schoolboys side and while still only a Y.T. he became one of the youngest players to play for the club when he made his debut age 16 at Scarborough in 1997.

The promotion season of 1998/99 saw Nathan continue to improve, as too did his opportunities of first team football. Towards the end of 2000/01 Nathan became a first team regular, showing the experience, quality and leadership skills of a player twice his age. Nathan started last season as first choice center back and captained the side for a short spell. Has set high standards for himself and big things are now expected from the player.



No. 5 Mark Jackson
Birthplace: Leeds
DOB: 30/09/1977
Height: 6ft **Weight:** 10st 14lb
Signed: 09/03/2000

Mark joined United, from Leeds in March of 2001 in the search for first team football.

Under George Graham at Leeds Jackson made a total of 19 appearances for the Yorkshire club, however Graham's departure

and the arrival of David O'Leary, saw Jackson fall out of favour. He was then loaned out to Huddersfield and Barnsley, before joining the Iron.

Jackson started his United career in a midfield role, however at the beginning of last season he switched to right back. Towards the end of the season the player switched again this time to centre back where the player looks most comfortable.

Should start this season as one of Brian Laws' first choice center backs.

No.6 Stuart Thom
Birthplace: Dewsbury **DOB:** 27/12/1976
Height: 6ft **Weight:** 11st 7lb
Signed: 11/09/2000

Stuart joined United initially on loan from Oldham at the start of last season as the Iron looked to fill the role left by captain Chris Hope who joined Gillingham. Brian Laws then made the move permanent signing Stuart for a small fee. However the tall defender suffered a number of injuries throughout the campaign, which limited the number of appearances he made.

No.18 Russ Wilcox
Birthplace: Hemsworth **DOB:** 25/03/1964
Height: 6ft **Weight:** 11st 9lb
Signed: 01/08/1997

Russ has spent much of his playing career in the lower league's, having successful spells with Northampton, Hull, Doncaster and Preston, before teaming up with the Iron in August 1998.

After having two successful seasons at the club and nearing the end of his playing career, Russ took his first steps towards management when he was made United's assistant manager in the close season of '99, filling the role left by Mark Lillis who departed to take over at Halifax.

Russ managed to combine his off and on the field role, in a tough first season and regained his place in the Iron back line last season.

Signed a new one year contract to extend his playing career in the summer but this is likely to be his last season as a player.

No.23 Lee Ridley
Birthplace: Scunthorpe **DOB:** 05/12/1981
Height: 5ft 9in **Weight:** 10st 6lb
Signed: 01/08/2000

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A young full back who has come through the youth team at Glanford Park. Made his debut while still a trainee at Darlington and was offered a professional contract in the close season. Has only played a bit part so far this season coming off the bench.

No.26 James Cotterill

Birthplace: Scunthorpe

DOB: 03/08/1982

Height: 6ft **Weight:** 12st 2lb

Signed: 01/08/2000

Broke into the first team in March when Brian Laws' squad was stretched to the limit with injuries. The young centre back took his opportunity forming a formidable partnership with Mark Jackson.

His performances were rewarded by manager Brian Laws when he was offered professional terms with United at the end of the campaign.

In Midfield

No. 7 Nigel Pepper

Birthplace: Rotherham **DOB:** 25/04/1968

Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 11st 12lb

Signed: 08/06/2000

Nigel is now in his second season as a United player, although he only played 100 minutes of football in his first after breaking his leg in only the second game.

United's club captain is expected to make a big difference to the United midfield adding much needed drive and experience.

Pepper started his career at his hometown club Rotherham as a schoolboy, before joining York. A £100,000 fee took him to Bradford where he played a key role in their First Division relegation fight, however he fell out of favour the following season, prompting Aberdeen to pay £300,000 for his services.

Pepper then joined United on a free transfer in the summer of 2000.

No. 8 Lee Hodges

Birthplace: Newham **DOB:** 02/03/1978

Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 9st 6lb

Signed: 04/07/1999

Brought to the club for £50,000 from West Ham in the summer of 1999, Hodges was seen as a replacement for Jamie Forrester and John Eyre who had departed at the end of the season.

Hodges' is highly rated in the Third Division and won recognition by his fellow professionals by being voted into the Division Three team of the year. Lee, who became a crowd favorite almost immediately after joining United, delighted the fans by signing a one-year extension to his contract, which will keep him at Glanford Park until next summer.

The player has attracted some interest from bigger clubs and if he continues to perform as he has done in the past then a move to a bigger club could be on the cards.

No. 11 Alex Calvo-Garcia

Birthplace: Ordizia **DOB:** 01/01/1972

Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 11st 7lb

Signed: 01/10/1996

Alex will always be remembered for the goal that won the club promotion in the play-off final at Wembley in 99.

Initially brought to the club by Mick Buxton as a striker, Alex was switched to midfield under Brian Laws to great effect. However the 1999/00 campaign didn't prove such a happy season for Alex, breaking his leg in the away game at Reading in November, which ruled him out for the rest of the season.

Returned from injury last season but took time to regained his form, however he proved that he had not lost his scoring touch and will be looking to help get United back into the Second Division.

No. 12 Terry Barwick

Birthplace: Sheffield **DOB:** 11/01/1983

Height: 5ft 11in **Weight:** 10st 12lb

Signed: 05/05/2000

A young YTS midfielder who due to injuries and an impressive pre-season has found himself drafted into the first team reckoning. Made his debut for the Iron as a substitute in a 2-1 home defeat to Burnley in 2000. Struggled with injury for much of last season, but made his first start for the club this season against Rotherham in the League Cup.

No. 14 Peter Beagrie

Birthplace: Middlesbrough **DOB:** 28/11/1965

Height: 5ft 8in **Weight:** 11st 13lb

Signed: 11/07/2001

Peter became United's first summer signing when he joined as player coach in July 2001. The player has spent most of his career in the higher divisions and brings with him a vast amount of experience which Brian Laws hopes he will be able to pass on to the younger members of his squad.

Beagrie's arrival on a two year contract comes following his release from second division Wigan who he had joined from Bradford City. Even though the veteran is at the ripe old age of 35, the midfielder is still threat to his opposition with his mazy runs.

Peter only cost Bradford £50,000 from Manchester City in 1997, and was a very important figure in Paul Jewell's promotion winning side to the Premiership in the 1998/99 season.

The player began his footballing career with his hometown club, Middlesbrough in 1983, but then had spells at Sheffield United and Stoke before landing a £750,000 transfer to Everton, where Peter scored 26 goals in 88 appearances between 1989 and 1994.

In 1994, Peter joined Manchester City for £1.1million and remained there until 1997, before he moved to Bradford where he made 114 league appearances.

No.15 Wayne Graves

Birthplace: Scunthorpe **DOB:** 18/09/1980

Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 10st 9lb

Signed: 01/08/1997

Wayne established himself in the first team towards the end of the last campaign, his introduction to the side coincided with a winning streak for United.

The midfielder has impressed all at United with his hard-working, all action displays, and his eye for goal.

One of the many younger players with the club who could go onto bigger things, however his progress was hampered at the beginning of the 1998/99 season when he suffered a serious head injury, colliding with the perimeter wall during a reserve match. The injury affected his performances on the pitch and Wayne initially struggled to push himself back into

the first team reckoning during that season.

No.16 Gareth Sheldon

Birthplace: Birmingham **DOB:** 31/01/1980

Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 12st 5lb

Signed: 01/08/1997

The 2000/01 season came to disappointing early end for Gareth when he was a victim of a terrible tackle, which cracked a bone in his leg. However Gareth has made a full recovery for the start of this campaign enabling him to win back his place in the side.

A great young prospect, Gareth made a big impact with United at the end of the 1998/99 season. His two goals in the play-off Semi-final at home to Swansea were enough to send United to Wembley, where he set up the winner for Alex Calvo-Garcia.

However the player struggled to find the same form in the 99/00 campaign and drifted in and out of the side.

The young midfielder did win a regular first team place last season though before the injury brought it to a premature end.

No.17 Peter Morrison

Birthplace: Manchester **DOB:** 26/06/1980

Height: 5ft 1in **Weight:** 10st 3lb

Signed: 09/05/2000

Peter is another player who suffered a terrible injury last season. While playing for the reserves the young left-winger suffered a compound fracture of the leg, which means he is unlikely to back in action until after Christmas.

The player joined United initially on trial from Bolton and impressed manager Brian Laws enough to earn himself a contract. The Manchester born lad has got a natural left foot, a rare thing in the English game.

No. 22 Matthew Sparrow

Birthplace: Scunthorpe **DOB:** 03/10/1983

Height: 5ft 11in **Weight:** 10st 6lb

Signed: 01/08/1999

After a handful of appearances for United, Matthew really came to prominence in March this year when he scored three goals in two games.

The young midfielder has come through the centre of excellence at Glanford Park and signed pro-terms early in 2001, a deal, which will keep him at Glanford Park for a further two years.

No.24 Scott Brough

Birthplace: Scunthorpe **DOB:** 10/02/1983

Height: 5ft 6in **Weight:** 9st 6lb

Signed: 01/08/2000

Scott is another of the Y.T's who broke into the first team set-up last season. The young winger who also studies at John Leggott College earned himself a pro contract almost immediately after his debut. He is a player who Brian Laws holds in high regard.

No. 27 Richard Kell

Birthplace: Bishop Auckland **DOB:** 15/09/1979

Height: 6ft 1in **Weight:** 10st 3lb

Signed: 01/09/2001

Richard joined the club on a short term contract after impressing during a trial period. Made his debut at Rochdale and was almost on the score sheet only to be denied by the

hand of a Rochdale defender. Started his career at Middlesbrough before a short spell at Torquay which saw him make 15 appearances. Opted to leave the Gulls in the summer before teaming up with the United in September.

Up Front

No.9 Martin Carruthers

Birthplace: Nottingham **DOB:** 07/08/1972

Signed: 22/03/2001

Martin has scored goals for whichever club he has played for and that's what persuaded United manager Brian Laws to part with £20,000 for his services.

The striker started his career with Aston Villa before moves to Hull, Stoke, Peterborough, York, Darlington and Southend clocking up a total of 276 league appearances and scoring 69 goals.

Still in his 20's the striker is quick direct and skill full and should prove a handful to any third division defence.

United will be looking to Martin to score the goals to help fire them to promotion.

No.10 Steve Torpey

Birthplace: Islington **DOB:** 08/12/1970

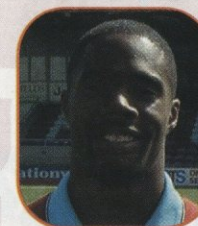
Height: 6ft **Weight:** 14st 12lb

Signed: 03/02/2000

Steve became the club record signing when he joined from Bristol City for £175,000. The big target man was brought to the club to add some strength and height to the attack.

Made captain following an injury to Nigel Pepper, Steve scored eight goals in 46 appearances.

However the player will need to improve his disciplinary record having been shown eight yellow cards and three red last season, the last of which meaning he will miss the first five matches of this season.



No.19 Brian Quailey

Birthplace: Leicester

DOB: 21/03/1978

Height: 6ft **Weight:** 12st 9lb

Signed: 04/02/2000

Brian joined United from West Brom, in February 2000 and proved an instant hit with the Iron fans. He scored 5 goals in 14 games for United, to earn an international call up

for St Kitts & Nevis.

Signed a new contract that summer, but failed to hold down a regular place for much of last season being kept out of the side first by Guy Ipoua and then by Martin Carruthers. However when he did get the opportunity to shine he proved he could still put the ball in the back of the net.

No. 25 Mark Anderson

Birthplace: Scunthorpe **DOB:** 07/10/1981

Height: 5ft 11in **Weight:** 12st 5lb

Signed: 01/08/2000

Mark turned professional in the summer after completing is apprenticeship at Glanford Park. Still to make an appearance for the first team but has featured amongst the substitutes on a number of occasions.



Roger Wash

All our yesterdays

Doherty seals a double

Pulled out of receivership at the 11th hour the Hatters thanked all their lucky stars, breathed

a huge sigh of relief and set to work on giving the supporters something to shout about in season 1999/2000.

Some of us who live away from the area, and not able to tune into local radio, actually arrived at Notts County on the opening day of the campaign not knowing whether the game would be played but a sea of smiling faces at Meadow Lane spoke more than words.

The match against the Magpies was a turgid, scoreless bore but we did not care as our club had been saved and it was surely only a matter of time before we returned to former glories.

The stark reality of the situation then set in when it was remembered that experienced players such as Graham Alexander, Steve Davis, Sean Dyche, Tony Thorpe, Mitchell Thomas and Kelvin Davis were no longer at the club to be replaced by, admittedly promising, youngsters. Seventeen year old Matthew Taylor made his debut at Notts County in what was one of the youngest Town sides in our history with youthful enthusiasm taking the team to one of its best starts for many years as we touched second spot during a glorious autumn of attacking football. Unfortunately, the wheels came off as winter set in and after a run of seven games without a win we were probably glad to say goodbye to 1999 and hope for a resurgence of form in the new millennium.

First opponents of 2000 were Scunthorpe United, making their first visit to Kenilworth Road since 1964, and suffering from the same sort of run that had befallen the Hatters. A run of seven games without a victory had ended with a narrow 1-0 home win over Blackpool in their previous outing but they were still struggling to avoid relegation back to a division they had fought so hard to get out of the previous season.

A crowd of 5,574 turned up to see the visitors start in bright fashion and it took a smart save by

Nathan Abbey to turn over a thundering volley from Lee Hodges. Gradually though, the Town fought back and the first goal of the new century was credited to Stuart Douglas after 34 minutes.

Douglas, showing good anticipation, was well positioned to meet Matthew Spring's cross with a firm header for his fourth goal of the campaign. Two minutes later the lead was doubled when Phil Gray scored with a close range header from Taylor's fierce corner kick.

It was back to those glorious autumn days when Spring fired in a 30 yard spectacular five minutes from the interval to leave the players trooping off at the break with an ovation from the crowd ringing in their ears.

The players had suddenly been transformed and the sluggish play of the previous two months had been replaced with open attacking football with more than a touch of flair.

The Town continued in the same vein in the second period with Douglas and Adam Locke both going close with long range shots. Scunthorpe were to be applauded for making a game of it with constant probing and their efforts were rewarded with ten minutes left when Hodges smacked in a tremendous 30 yard shot that was a goal from the second the ball left his boot. Not to be outdone, Spring curled in a 25 yard effort a minute later to round off a perfect afternoon and give hope for better things ahead in the 21st century.

Luton: Abbey, Boyce, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George, Locke, Douglas, Spring, Gray (Fotiadis), Taylor.

Scunthorpe: Evans, Harsley, Dawson (Wilcox), Logan, Fickling, Graves, Walker (Sparrow), Hodges, Ipoua, Omoyimni, Stanton (Housham). Unfortunately, the form shown could not be maintained and although three wins were recorded in the next six games a disastrous run of six defeats with only one victory recorded in the middle had the more pessimistic of us fearing a relegation fight.

The run was ended with a fighting 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road with Cambridge and was fol-

lowed by wins at Chesterfield and at home to Colchester leaving just one more victory to be free of the spectre of the drop.

The next game up was at Scunthorpe for our first ever visit to Glanford Park, which replaced the Old Show Ground in 1988. Our hosts were, sadly, as good as relegated and had only one point to show from the previous six outings.

A good Luton following in a crowd of 3,811 saw Gary Doherty keep his place in the forward line with the hope that the big Irishman would add to his tally of three goals from three games since moving forward to help the attack after spending several months at centre-half. No-one was ever quite sure of his best position!

Scunthorpe opened the game in barnstorming fashion fully believing that they could still escape the drop and it came as a surprise when the Town opened the scoring after 17 minutes with their first real attack of the game. Gray was given time and space in the area to turn and shoot home with clever effort.

More slack defending from the Scunthorpe rear-guard allowed Doherty to shoot straight at the goalkeeper when he should have scored and the miss seemed costly when Guy Ipoua, who had trials with the Hatters the previous summer, was tripped by Emmerson Boyce in the box.

The big striker had looked suspiciously offside before he was upended and justice was done when his spot kick was smacked against a post. Loanee Luton goalkeeper, Ben Roberts, bravely saved from both Richard Logan and Steve Torpey before Doherty stabbed Scunthorpe in the heart by netting the Town's second goal just



Gary Doherty lets fly at Scunthorpe in April 2000.

before the interval. A miscued effort from Boyce was diverted onto a post by Taylor leaving Doherty to net from the rebound with the Scunthorpe defenders standing and watching. The Scunthorpe players refused to lie down and, after Ipoua clipped the crossbar, Andrew Dawson fired home after 71 minutes following bright play from Hodges who cleverly pulled the ball back.

Doherty had the chance to put the game beyond reach with ten minutes left but he sidefooted wide from close range. The Town defence was never seriously troubled after that, however, so the miss did not prove costly.

Luton: Roberts, White, Watts, Johnson, Boyce, McLaren, Spring, Taylor, George (Locke), Doherty, Gray.

Scunthorpe: Evans, Harsley, Dawson, Logan, Hope, Walker, Hodges, Torpey, Stanton, Sheldon (Graves), Ipoua.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages

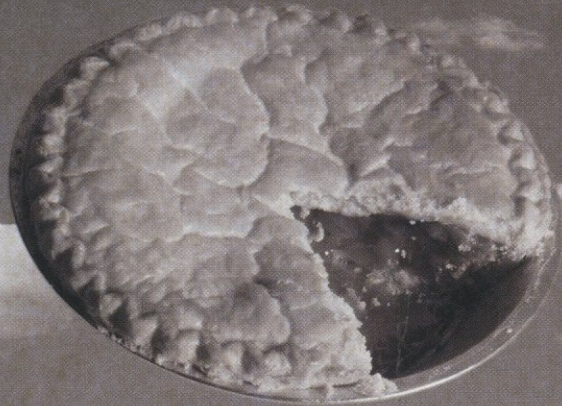


Much of the programme for the visit of Scunthorpe to Kenilworth Road in January 2000 was given over to the happenings of the previous year, one of the most traumatic in our history.

The receivers were called in just before a battling home draw with Reading in March 1999 and after £1.5 million of player sales and much anguish in both the boardroom and the streets of Luton a deal was finally reached between ex-chairman David Kohler and the new board only hours before the opening day of the new campaign.

Looking back it is a minor miracle that we managed to keep up a reasonable playing record on the pitch.

It is interesting to note that Wigan were sitting proudly at the top of the table, unbeaten after 21 games. Unfortunately they failed to go up at the end of the season so watch out Plymouth!



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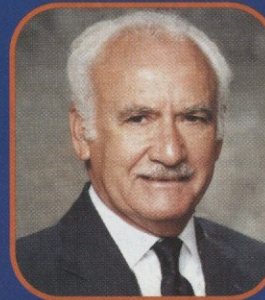
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The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Road Stadium are conducted in such a way that as far as is reasonably practical the safety of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



Who Rocks the Party

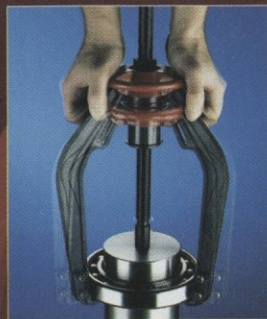
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- Chicago Rock Cafe, Luton is also available for Private Hire Parties, please contact the Duty Manager for further details

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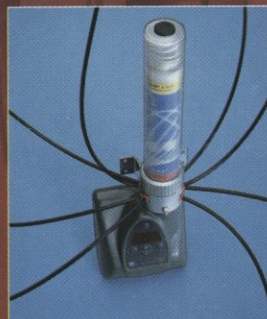
The New Chicago Rock Cafe, Gordon Street, Luton. LU1 1QP.
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EasyPull bearing puller

A new lightweight design of bearing jaw puller with a spring mechanism for faster gripping behind the component is reckoned to be one of the easiest and most efficient pullers currently available and has now been launched by SKF. As part of the design, a shear pin has been included, to ensure operator safety in the event of excessive force being applied.

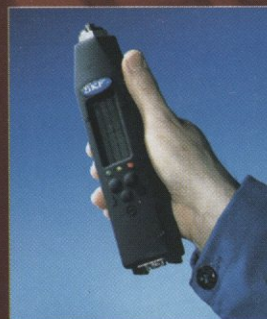
Some 16 per cent of premature bearing failures can be attributed to bad fitting. The most common fault is the use of brute force, while ignorance or laziness regarding use of the correct tools for the task is a major contributor. Available in three sizes to provide maximum withdrawal forces between three and eight tonnes (30 kN to 80 kN), the pullers have been designed in a modular fashion to allow simple replacement of worn or damaged parts.



SYSTEM MultiPoint automatic lubricator

SKF's SYSTEM MultiPoint is a new, automatic lubricator for multiple grease lubrication points. It can automatically lubricate each point simultaneously with the correct amount of lubricant and therefore removes human error and neglect in installations where multiple lubrication points prove to be time consuming and liable to be forgotten. With research showing that 36% of all bearings fail prematurely due to incorrect lubrication, SYSTEM MultiPoint will facilitate longer bearing life and increased uptime.

SYSTEM MultiPoint's high-pressure capability, of 40bar / 600psi, allows grease to be dispensed at the high rates required in multiple bearing applications. Feed lines can be run to five metres in length, with up to eight lines connected to the lubricator. An alarm function warns of blocked feed lines and empty cartridges, and it also stops the lubricator operating when a machine isn't running.

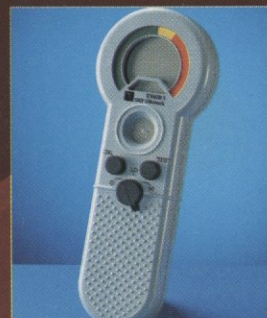


MARLIN condition detector (MCD)

The MCD from SKF enables a simple but extremely effective means of checking the health of a machine. Vibration and temperature are measured to assess the machine's state.

Providing an inexpensive, easily learned first step into condition monitoring, the MCD is ideal for users unfamiliar with machine diagnostic measuring techniques. At the same time, when coupled with an extensive range of sister units and accessories, the condition detector can be integrated into broader plant-wide condition monitoring strategies.

By measuring vibration velocity the user can identify problems such as imbalance, misalignment, mechanical looseness or wear. SKF employs a vibration monitoring technique within the MCD that involves the use of acceleration enveloping, which makes gear and bearing wear easier to detect.



OilCheck monitor

A new hand-held and extremely simple to use method of determining the degree of degradation and contamination of mineral and synthetic oils is now available from SKF, along with the facility to provide a full diagnostic service through detailed lubrication analysis procedures.

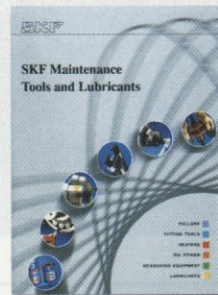
The hand-held monitoring device is a comparative instrument, which enables optimised intervals to be maintained between oil changes. It detects and measures the dielectric constant in a used oil sample, which is compared against results taken from an unused lubricant of the same type and brand.

All that is required is for a few drops of sample oil to be placed in a circular recess from which a sensor will determine the appropriate value. The display is via a green/red grading indicator and a 1-100 numerical readout.

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Top Hatter

Jean-Louis Valois

Born: Lyons, 15.10.73

Joined Luton: From Lille, September 2001.

Were you good at school? I was quite good in most subjects, especially those I liked, and later on I continued my further education in business studies. I soon realised that didn't interest me very much, so I gave it up to do my military service in the Marine Nationale, and that enabled me to travel a lot for a year, which I enjoyed. I had always been good at sport, especially football, and I went on to study sport at my local club, L'Olympique Lyonnais.

I like playing most sports, and I am quite good at tennis, but no other sport gives me the great pleasure I get out of football.

Why join Luton Town? I wanted to play in England because the fans here are so special, creating a good atmosphere at games. I had enjoyed my football in France, but wanted to try something new.

Do you like watching sport? Yes – I will watch any sport on television, but best of all I like to go to grounds to watch football live.

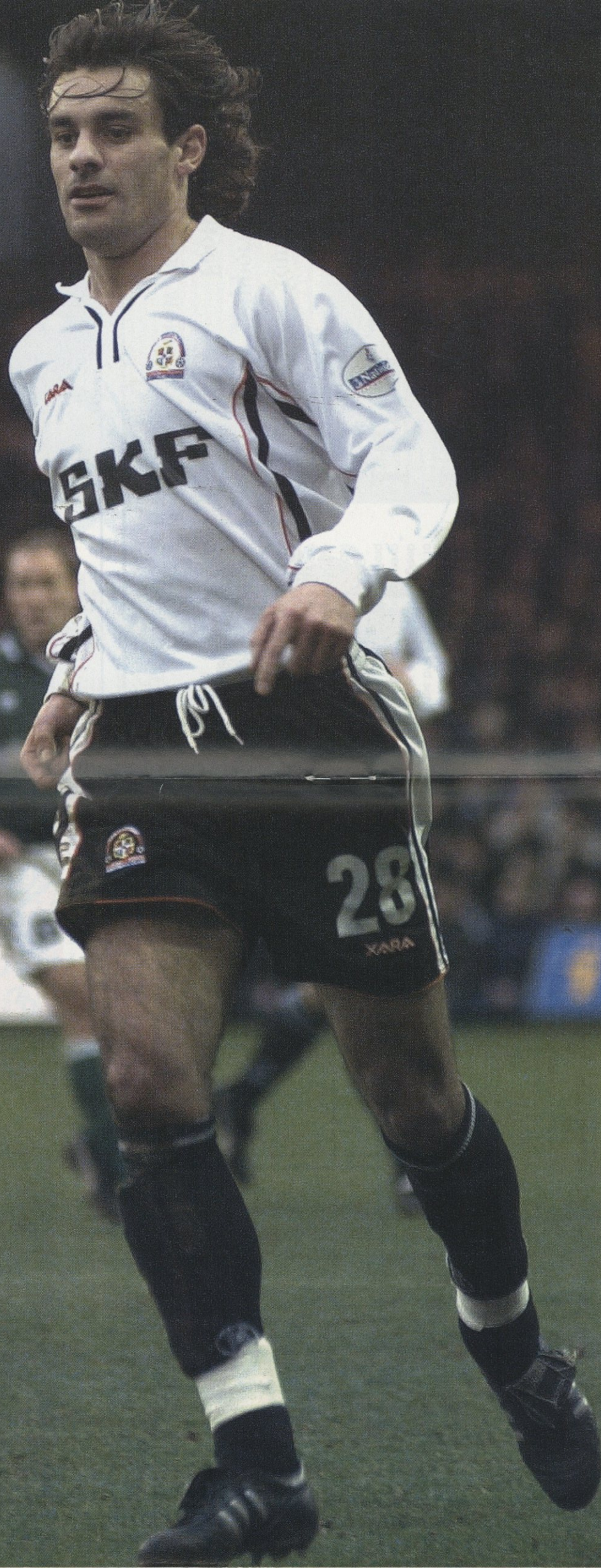
Is there anything in football you would like to change? I would very much like to see more use made of video to help referees in matches. They sometimes make mistakes, which can have a great impact on results, and sometimes on who wins cups or titles, and I think it is important we have justice in sport.

How do you like to relax? I enjoy the company of my girl friend Stephanie. We have been together for six years, and we are planning to have children when we are married. I always enjoy time with my friends and family, and I like travelling, to discover new countries. At home, I like to watch a good film on video with Stephanie and my dog.

Your best experience in football? I would pick out two, so far. The first was the day Guy Roux, manager of Auxerre, phoned me at my parents' home to say I could sign my first professional contract for his club.

The other highlight was when I was with Lille, and we won the French Second Division championship two years ago.

Are there other clubs you support, or particularly like to watch? No. I like to see any football game, especially one that is important, the cup final for instance.



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Stuart Smith



Football in the Community adidas

Good afternoon. Last week saw the area finals of the Railtrack schools year 6 under-11 tournament at the Bescot Stadium, Walsall.

Luton Town were creditably represented by Hillborough Junior School. They were involved in a group that included the representatives from West Bromwich Albion, Shrewsbury and Aston Villa.

In a very tight group where only two games didn't finish in draws, Hillborough were unfortunately eliminated. They drew 0-0 with Shrewsbury and West Brom, and lost 1-0 to the Aston Villa team. The lesson learnt on the day for the lads was that if you don't take your goal-scoring chances against top quality opposition, then you will not progress in these national level tournaments.

However, that said, the lads under the guidance of Mr 'O' (Liam O'Donnell), played some excellent football and were certainly on a par with the other teams in the group.

The boys were a credit to themselves, their parents and their school. Both on and off the field their behaviour was exemplary, and it was a pleasure to be associated with them. For the record the boys that represented Hillborough School and Luton Town, pictured with Liam O'Donnell and myself, were Jere Delpratt, Tom Butterfield, Louis Buckley, Geoffrey Banks-Smith, Sean Sheridan, Alan Greene, Raymond Boyce, Meshach



Hillborough Junior School

Hendrickson and Louis White.

Before I sign off today, I would like to remind you that it is still not too late to register for the Queensbury School soccer courses during next week's half term break. Every child that enrolls will be able to purchase two match tickets at the reduced price of £10 for a first team game in March or April. These tickets are subject to availability, but everybody that enrolls is guaranteed two tickets for one of the games in that period.

Below is a table showing the courses available along with a form for you to cut out and return.

Alternatively if you would rather register by phone, please call me at the club on 01582 411622

I hope you enjoy today's game and I'm sure we will see the lads return to their winning ways

Stuart Smith

COURSE CODE	NO OF DAYS	VENUE	DATE	TIME	COST	COURSE TYPE
DSC2	1	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Wed 20 Feb	10.00am - 3.00pm	£12.50	Coaching 5 - 6 Yrs
DGK1	1	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Wed 20 Feb	10.00am - 3.00pm	£15.00	Goalkeeping 8 - 13 Yrs
DSC3	2	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Wed 20 Feb	10.00am - 3.00pm	£25.00	Coaching 7 - 11 yrs

Please reserve a place on the Course (insert code) for:

Name: Age: Address:

Postcode: Home Tel No:

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Any Health Problem, disorders, or medication? Please ring to give details.

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Hatters Chatter

JOE Kinnear has just celebrated his first anniversary of Luton Town, with his 50th game in charge, the thrilling victory over Plymouth. It has been a year of remarkable change for the club, with last May's relegation misery becoming a distant memory as we enjoy the prospect of an immediate return to the Second Division, hopefully with the championship trophy to celebrate the boss's first full season in charge.

A comparison of the squad he inherited and the one he has built today takes some of us back to the last time we saw such wholesale changes in the staff at Kenilworth Road - in the late seventies, when young David Pleat, was finding his feet as a manager. He unloaded the old guard who were poodling around in Division Two going nowhere - except for an uncomfortable encounter with the relegation zone at one time - and brought in his own men.

He built a team which won the championship of the old Second Division 20 years ago, to lead to the Town's best-ever spell of a decade in the top flight.

Joe was announced as Town boss on February 7 last year, when we were bottom but one of the Second Division, with just four wins from the first 26 league games, and so far adrift of the safety mark that we knew we needed a miracle. We hoped against hope that one might be on the way as the first game after the gaffer's appointment saw a 1-0 victory at Northampton, fol-

lowed by a 3-1 midweek win at Notts County and a 5-3 romp against Swansea in the manager's first home game.

Alas, the miracle never happened, with Joe suffering with the rest of us, his first-ever bitter taste of relegation after 35 years in the game as player and manager.

He turned the misery to advantage: it was, he recalled later, confirmation that the team was not good enough, and the squad needed major surgery.

The team that began the Kinnear era at Northampton was: Ovendale, Boyce, Stirling, Dryden, Taylor, Helin, Mansell, Spring, Rowland, Douglas, and George. On the bench were Fotiadis, Stein, Holmes, Breitenfelder and Abbey.

Before the season ended free transfers had been offered to nine players, but some were still under contract, and could not find other clubs. But it was the start of major changes in the payroll.

Players who have been allowed to go in the year since the manager came in: Nathan Abbey, Andre Scarlett, Gavin McGowan, Rocky Baptiste, Fritz Breitenfelder, Dean Brennan, Dean Standen, Kent Karlsen, Petri Helin, Julian Watts, Mark Stein, Tresor Kandol, Liam George, and Peter Thomson. In addition, Paul McLaren left, by his choice, on a Bosman to earn considerably more money at Sheffield Wednesday. Three



LIFT-OFF: Stuart Douglas heads the goal which gave Joe Kinnear a winning start at Northampton 12 months ago.

One Year On

more players are currently out on loan: Stuart Douglas, Richard Dryden and Jude Stirling.

With 15 players gone, a dozen were recruited, all of whom were immediately contenders for the first team squad: Aaron Skelton, Adrian Forbes, Carl Griffiths, Carl Emberson, Kevin Nicholls, Russ Perrett, Paul Hughes, Ian Hillier, Chris Coyne, Jean-Louis Valois, Dean Crowe and Ahmet Brkovic.

And with the manager knowing he has more money if he needs it, we can obviously stand by for more comings and goings as we move into his second year in charge. And he has put his reputation on the line again. Last summer he promised that if he were given the backing that the board promised - and he has been - Luton Town will be promoted at the first attempt.

He believes the current squad can more than hold its own in the Second Division, but that will not stop his perpetual desire to keep on improving it.

"I am still looking to lose four of the current staff, and bring in three," he said. "This past year has been a lot of hard work, because it is difficult to make so many changes in a comparatively short

time and expect to be successful. I still want us to win the title as well as promotion this year, and I will be very disappointed if we don't do it again next year as well.

"We weren't good enough to stay up last season, and I knew that within a month of my arrival. We hit rock bottom, and it was difficult to change it - players I wanted did not want to come here. But it is different now, and I am pretty confident about the squad we already have, because they are not just good players - most of them are young as well, and that is important."

The statistics suggest that the side Joe Kinnear has built this season is good enough to achieve its promotion ambitions.

The Town's league record in his first year:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Last season:	20	6	6	8	25	29	24
This season:	30	17	6	7	59	38	57
TOTAL:	50	23	12	15	84	67	81

The Second Division Table, February 2001, on the day Joe Kinnear became manager

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	29	19	3	7	61	29	60
Walsall	30	16	8	6	51	30	56
Wigan	30	14	12	4	40	27	54
Rotherham	28	14	8	6	45	34	50
Stoke	28	13	10	5	43	28	49
Reading	27	14	5	8	54	33	47
Bristol City	28	13	8	7	49	28	47
Northampton	29	11	9	9	33	33	42
Notts Co	27	12	6	9	37	40	42
Bournemouth	27	10	9	8	44	33	39
Brentford	28	9	12	7	31	38	39
Wycombe	27	10	8	9	27	27	38
Oldham	30	9	10	11	33	39	37
Wrexham	26	9	8	9	36	38	35
Colchester	27	9	8	10	29	33	35
Cambridge	29	9	8	12	39	45	35
Peterborough	28	9	7	12	34	37	34
Bury	28	9	5	14	24	38	32
Swindon	27	7	6	14	27	45	27
Bristol Rov	25	5	10	10	28	32	25
Port Vale	25	6	6	13	26	32	24
Swansea	26	5	8	13	27	42	23
Luton Town	26	4	6	16	27	51	18
Oxford	27	4	2	21	29	60	14

12 months on, the Third Division, February, 2002

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	30	18	7	5	44	23	61
Luton Town	30	17	6	7	59	38	57
Mansfield	29	16	6	7	46	29	54
Hull	31	14	8	9	44	31	50
Rochdale	30	13	10	7	40	32	49
Shrewsbury	32	13	8	11	44	39	47
Scunthorpe	31	12	10	9	56	40	46
Kidderminster	29	13	6	10	36	28	45
Rushden	31	12	9	10	40	38	45
Cheltenham	28	11	11	6	40	34	44
Exeter	30	11	8	11	33	46	41
Southend	30	11	7	12	36	34	40
Hartlepool	28	11	6	11	41	31	39
Darlington	29	10	7	12	35	40	37
Oxford	31	8	11	12	39	41	35
Bristol Rov	29	9	8	12	29	34	35
Macclesfield	30	8	9	13	27	38	33
Lincoln	29	7	11	11	30	39	32
Swansea	30	8	8	14	36	46	32
Carlisle	28	7	10	11	31	33	31
L. Orient	29	8	7	14	40	52	31
Torquay	31	7	10	14	28	46	31
York	27	7	7	13	30	46	28
Halifax	30	5	10	15	22	47	25

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Youth Development



Dean Rastrick

Firstly today, on behalf of all of us who work to try to develop young talent for Luton Town, congratulations to one of our youth

squad's midfielders, Steven O'Leary.

He is a first-year scholar with the club and he is in his second season as a youth international. He was part of the successful Republic of Ireland team which won the under-16 youth Olympic tournament in Spain. Recently he was selected for the Republic's under-17 squad to play in two friendlies in Dublin against the Czech Republic, and there is every chance he will be in line for further games and tournaments later in the season.

It's nice to see a young player who joined us as a 13-year-old making an impact on the international stage, and we hope for great things for him in the future.

The youth development department at Kenilworth Road involves a number of experienced and qualified staff who provide support, guidance and expertise to the young players and their parents or guardians, and they all play their part in making it a successful operation.

Our ambition is simple enough: to ensure that we continue our successful tradition of producing talented footballers for the future.

The under-16 boys are approaching a crucial period in their careers, because this is the time of year when they discover what chance they have of taking an important step in their hoped-for careers.

The coaching staff are making decisions on which of them will be offered scholarship contracts for the start of next season. We must notify the lads by March 1 of our intentions, or they are free agents to try their luck with other professional clubs.

At that age, of course, they still have a lot of work to do if they are to go on to become full professionals, and they know that only a small proportion of the annual intakes actually make it all the way to the first team squad.

But at Luton they probably have more chance of going all the way than they might have if they

joined other clubs. We are very selective, because we cannot afford to have huge numbers of youngsters in our schools and youth programmes. Boys know that we have a reputation – as well as a need! – to "grow our own talent" and that they have every chance of working through to first team football if they are good enough. We have always been ready to give youth its chance – just as players like Aaron Skelton, Marvin Johnson, Emmerson Boyce, Lee Mansell, Matt Taylor and Matt Spring, who have all played league football after starting their careers as schoolboys with us.

Some have spent time with other and allegedly more fashionable clubs before finding Luton Town is more to their liking. One lad, currently in our first team, had the chance of going to a couple of Premiership clubs when he was much younger. His parents realised that there were "hundreds of other kids" running about in massive training sessions, and that their lad was more likely to get a good football education with us. It is odd, that we, so often known as "little Luton" are more careful and selective when we make our choices of boys to be scholars than some of the glamour club outfits.

Recently we have staged a number of under-17 games on Saturday mornings and the results have been very encouraging, although they are all friendlies, and we are not allowed to publish the results. But we can say we have been, on the whole, pretty pleased after seeing our boys pit their wits and football abilities against young hopefuls from other clubs.

We stage a lot of schoolboy matches, and in February we will be playing teams from Cambridge United, Colchester, Leyton Orient, West Brom, Queens Park Rangers, Northampton Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Notts County. Supporters are welcome to watch the games, if you wish to do so, or would like more information about our youth development work, please contact me at the club (Luton 411622) for further details.

Dean Rastrick

Ever thought about being a match ball sponsor?

Call the Commercial Department on:

01582 411622

TOWN TEASER

AS USUAL we are offering a little prize today in our Town Trivia quiz. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. If you don't know the answer, it can be found elsewhere in this programme.

For the Plymouth game we asked who was the debut boy who scored in the earlier game against Argyle, and the answer was Dean Crowe.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Two players scored their first-ever Luton Town goals at Scunthorpe earlier this season. Who are they

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Happy Harry

Junior Hatters

WELCOME to all young supporters to the first of three home games between now and next Saturday. Hopefully we will enjoy the occasions even more than we did at Rochdale last week.

They were very good hosts, and put on a five-a-side football tournament on the artificial pitch, and we had a McDonald's meal in the Rochdale juniors clubhouse.

The result of the big match was the only blemish on a good day out!

We have found in this division that a lot of clubs do not have organisations like our Junior Hatters club, which means there have been fewer away trips than usual this season. But a popular one is coming up in three weeks' time, when we are away to Rushden and Diamonds. As you know, it is an all-ticket game, and we have a very limited allocation. We have been invited to join our Rushden counterparts for the day, but there will not be enough tickets to satisfy demand.

So at this stage they are on sale to Junior Hatters only, at the usual £10, on a first come, first served, basis. It promises to be a good day out, and tickets can be obtained from the club shop in Kenilworth Road. At this stage they cannot be offered to non-members or parents, but the trip will, of course, be fully supervised. If the allocation is not taken up fully by our members, tickets will be made available for parents, at £13 each, in a couple of weeks. Watch this space for further information.

Happy Harry

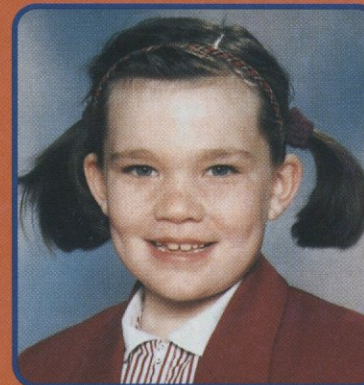


VIP PARTY: As usual, the mascots gathered with the skippers and match officials for the toss of the coin before our last home game. Thirteen-year-old Adam Smith did the honours for the Junior Hatters, while Edward Powell, 8, was the commercial mascot and Jamie Ray, 11, was the Plymouth Argyle mascot.

Today's Mascot

EIGHT-year-old Jessie-May Craig is today's Junior Hatters mascot, which means she will be very close to the day's entertainment, including meeting the team in the dressing room before kick-off and going out onto the pitch with them for the pre-match warm-up.

Jessie-May lives at High Street, Elstree Village, and goes to Manor Lodge School, Shenley, and while Junior Hatters membership and watching Luton



Town is top of her list of hobbies, she also likes playing the piano and violin, swimming, ju-jitsu and anything to do with Harry Potter. Her favourite footballer is Matt Taylor.

We have two ball boys on duty this afternoon, like Jessie-May picked out at random from the Junior Hatters membership list, Charlie Bates, of Ashburnham Road, Luton, and Carter Bright, of Danvers Drive.

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



Action Replay



Luton Town 2 Plymouth Argyle 0 (HT 0-0)

THERE is still a long way to go, but the Town's promotion credentials, and perhaps their title hopes as well, stood out impressively as the league leaders were seen off at Kenilworth Road in front of the first full house in eight years. Argyle, who looked as though they had come to avoid defeat rather than try to win, were lucky to go home with nothing worse than what Joe Kinnear called "a 2-0 massacre." The Town were up for it, and even Argyle boss Paul Strurrock admitted: "Luton had the greater hunger and desire for victory."

A thrilling attacking display saw the Town on top for the whole game, and it you want to nit-pick the only possible moan was that Plymouth were not buried under an avalanche long before the goals came in the last 11 minutes. Good goalkeeping, the woodwork, and amazing luck - every goal-bound deflection went to the keeper instead of wrong-footing him - gave the visitors a little hope. Their formation was 4-5-1, and goodness knows how they might have stifled the game further if they had managed to nick a goal on the break.

Mr Sturrock claimed that the defensive formation was not his idea. He suggested that his team, without an away win since November, was reacting nervously with a safety-first philosophy. His midfield and attack, he said, had not fired, which left Plymouth with little to

hope for beyond the chance of their defence "digging out a result."

Crossbars and posts denied both teams, but the Town were by far the better-balanced outfit, and much the more positive. They took the game to Plymouth from first whistle to last, driven on down the flanks by Matt Taylor and Jean-Louis Valois on the left, and Emmerson Boyce and the recalled Adrian Forbes on the right.

David Bayliss returned after suspension to strengthen the rearguard organisation, and was able to maintain his lucky mascot record - he had yet to play in a losing Town side, although that was before his return to Rochdale.

The late goals were the least the Town deserved, even if the breakthrough was courtesy of a penalty. Kevin Nicholls, so often a Raging Bull in the tackle, was Mr Cool as he slotted home, and the clinching goal was fair reward for Steve Howard, again responding to management pleas to get into the sharp end more, and add goals to his build-up work.

On the day the Town could have had a dozen, but there was huge satisfaction for the fans with the low-score massacre, and even more delight at the manner in which it was achieved. The best game of the season so far, and hopefully one to be repeated next campaign.

Match Details

Luton Town: Emberson; Boyce, Perrett, Bayliss, Taylor; Forbes, Spring, Nicholls, Valois; Howard, Crowe (Brkovic 88 mins).

Unused subs: Ovendale, Skelton, Hughes, Hillier.

Booked: Kevin Nicholls, foul.

Plymouth: Larrieu; Worrell, Coughlan, Wotton, Beswetherick; Phillips (Evers 62 mins), Adams, Friio, Stonebridge (Heaney 83 mins), Hodges; Keith (Evans 73 mins).

Unused subs: Taylor, Adamson.

Booked: David Friio, foul on Kevin Nicholls; Neil

Heaney, foul on Matt Spring.

The Goals: 1-0, 79 minutes - Kevin Nicholls penalty, awarded when Matt Taylor was brought down on the edge of the box by David Worrell's mistimed tackle; 2-0, 87 minutes - Steve Howard header after a left-wing corner was hit to the far post by Jean-Louis Valois, and Adrian Forbes header the ball back across to the other post.

Referee: Phil Joslin, Nottinghamshire

Attendance: 9,585, including 1,900 visiting fans, the first to fill the away end this season.



THE CLINCHER: Steve Howard well above Graham Coughlan, his marker, to knock in the second goal.

THE OPENER: Kevin Nicholls full of composure to convert the penalty.



PRESSURE: Matt Taylor, who had a storming game, high steps into action against Marino Keith.





Action Replay



Rochdale 1 Luton Town 0 (HT 1-0)

EVEN Rochdale manager John Hollins admitted his side had enjoyed a little bit of luck as they became the first team this season to inflict a double on the Town in a match that was not as tempestuous as might be suggested by ten yellow cards and a red for David Bayliss, on his unhappy return to Spotland.

The result was a bad joke on a day when the Town looked far the better team, even when they were down to ten men for the last 15 minutes, and Rochdale enjoyed outrageous luck on a day when they could have been buried under a mountain of goals.

They got away with a smash and grab robbery thanks to a lucky break giving them a goal, a man of the match performance by their keeper, and a lack of composure by the Town when scoring invitations came thick and fast.

The team performance was as complete as the one that destroyed Plymouth, except that it was not as incisive on the flanks. But the Town could not find the goal their superior football deserved, and a sixth away defeat of the season was poor reward for a lot of determined attacking. It was a physical contest at times, with a touch of needle arising in a game that was important to the promotion aspirations of both sides.

Adrian Forbes shot very narrowly wide in the first attack, Bayliss was booked for the first tackle, and Rochdale scored a fluke goal from their first threat. Patrick McCourt was hemmed in on the edge of the box after a strong run down the middle, but was credited with the 12th-minute winner as a deflection

off Bayliss, sent his shot looping over a wrong-footed Carl Emberson.

From then on, it was mostly a matter of the Town driving forward, with Rochdale on the ropes but hanging on as shots and headers went wide, or were saved by Steve Banks. Dean Crowe twice and Matt Spring put good efforts slightly off target as it began to look like "one of those days" when nothing would go right.

The keeper saved well from Steve Howard twice, Forbes and from Matt Taylor, with the final cruel blow for the Town the best save of the game to keep out a thunderbolt drive by Taylor in stoppage time.

The pace of the attacking had been stepped up when Chris Coyne returned after injury, replacing Jean-Louis Valois to enable Taylor to spend even more time upfield. Rochdale were still on the back foot after Bayliss's red card, and rarely has a final whistle been greeted more rapturously than it was by the worried home fans at Spotland.

Hollins said it had been a terrific game, and he was glad to get a result that might have been a little bit fortunate.

Joe Kinnear summed it up well enough: "We dominated the game, even with ten men. The only player they had was their goalkeeper, and it is so disappointing to lose after a performance like that. They have won with an own goal on a day when the referee had a very poor game. We did more than enough to have got something out of it - there was only one team playing football out there and that was us."

Match Details

Luton Town: Emberson; Boyce, Perrett, Bayliss, Taylor; Forbes, Spring, Nicholls, Valois (Coyne 58 mins); Howard, Crowe (Hughes 89 mins).

Unused subs: Ovendale, Skelton, Hillier.

Booked: David Bayliss, Kevin Nicholls and Russ Perrett for fouls; Steve Howard for dissent.

Sent off: Bayliss, 75th minute, for feet too high in competition for the ball with Wayne Evans

Rochdale: Banks; Evans, Jobson, Griffiths, Doughty; Flitcroft, Oliver, McCourt; Jones (McLaughlin 67 mins), McEvilly (Durkin 87 mins), Townson.

Unused subs: Gilks, Coleman, Todd.

Booked: David Flitcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Michael Oliver, Matt Doughty for fouls, Lee McEvilly and Kevin Townson for dissent.

The Goal: Patrick McCourt, shot from the edge of the box, taking a huge deflection off David Bayliss to leave Carl Emberson stranded on a day when the Town keeper was mostly a spectator.

Referee: Matt Messias, Yorkshire.

Attendance: 4,306, Spotland's second highest league gate of the season, thanks to 1,163 Town fans, Rochdale's highest away following.



SHOOTING STAR: Adrian Forbes, one of several Town men who could have had a couple of goals, gets in his shot despite the attentions of Wayne Evans and Richard Jobson.

BEST FOOT FORWARD: Dean Crowe swivels to go for goal as Patrick McCourt tries to close him down.



ON THE BALL: Jean-Louis Valois looking for a way past Steve Jones, with Wayne Evans in support on a day when the Frenchman found himself up against two markers almost all afternoon, until he was subbed.

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Fans on the road

PLYMOUTH became the first visiting team to fill the away end at Kenilworth Road for the big crunch game a fortnight ago, with 1,900 making the 500-mile round trip. But Town's away following is still, on average, twice as big as those of the teams who come here, and it was another four-figure following at Rochdale. The latest figures

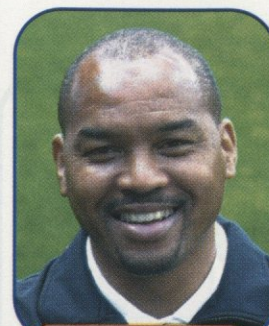
Visitors to Luton

Cheltenham	.467
Southend	.912
Oxford	.869
Lincoln	.217
Torquay	.326
Darlington	.302
Rochdale	.679
Swansea	.395
Shrewsbury	.351
Hull	.887
Rushden	.1,134
Hartlepool	.220
Carlisle	.356
Plymouth	.1,900

Total:9,015
Average: 644

Hatters Away

Carlisle	.1,097
Reading(WC)	.889
Bristol Rov	.761
Exeter	.712
York	.849
Orient	.2,089
Plymouth	.461
Scunthorpe	.961
Halifax	.774
Dagenham(LDV)	.330
Mansfield	.2,166
Southend(FAC)	.1,560
Macclesfield	.741
Hartlepool	.346
Oxford	.2,646
Southend	.1,710
Kidderminster	.1,096
Cheltenham	.1,597
Darlington	.464
Rochdale	.1,163
Luton	.22,412
Barnet	.1,120



Brian Stein

In Reserve



Brentford 2 Luton Town 0

AS IN so many games this season we played really well against Brentford, with nothing to show for it because our finishing let us down, well below the standard of our general play.

We should have had three goals in the first three minutes, and nine or ten by half time.

The goalkeeper made a good save from Andrew Fotiadis, but to evened things up in the second half, but we could not get an equaliser, and were caught out once more to make the result very flattering to the opposition. The lesson, however, is being taught all too often in the Avon Insurance Combination this season - there's not a lot of point in playing good football if you don't turn it into goals.

Our team included trialist Phil Hardy at left back, but while he had a reasonable game, we decided against keeping him any longer - we are now, of course, looking for players for a Nationwide League Second Division squad next season! We also gave a brief run-out to Tom Postan, another trialist.

Luton Town: Emberson, Fraser, Hillier, Dryden, Hardy, Hughes, Skelton, Locke, Mansell (Postan 75 mins), Fotiadis, Jeffrey.

Bristol Rovers 2 Luton Town 1
THIS match was played at Kenilworth Road, but was officially an away game - Rovers asked for the change because their pitch was

waterlogged.

We didn't play particularly well, which was disappointing after the decent performance at Brentford. We had a very experienced mid-field, which should have dominated that department, but didn't. We used Lee Mansell and James Osborn as strikers, with Andrew Fotiadis ruled out by injury, and they did reasonably well.

We looked set for victory when Aaron Skelton headed in a cross by Adam Locke on 35 minutes, and Peter Holmes was unlucky with a shot which hit a post. But our overall performance was lethargic, without the snap and support play we had produced in our previous game.

Our inter-play improved after the break, but we defended poorly and that cost us two late goals. For the first we had three defenders facing two attackers, but still let one of them in, and for the second a man was allowed to run three-quarters of the length of the pitch with no-one making a challenge - an absolute joke of a goal.

Luton Town: Ovendale, Hillier (Mortara HT), Dryden, Coyne (Gillman 67 mins), Fraser, Locke, Skelton, Hughes, Holmes (Murphy 78 mins), Mansell, Osborn

WE WERE at home to Norwich on Wednesday, and a full report will be in Tuesday evening's matchday magazine. Our next scheduled home game is against Colchester on Wednesday February 27, kick-off 2pm at Kenilworth Road

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Fotiadis 15(1), Brennan 14, Fraser 11(2), Holmes 11(1), Locke 8(2), Mansell 8(2), Ovendale 8, Gillman 7(2), George 7, Foley 7, Dryden 7, Stirling 6(2), Bruce 6, Johnson 6, Emberson 6, Skelton 6, Murphy 5(6), Thomson 5(4), Osborn 5(4), Leary 5(2) Brkovic 5(1), Hillier 5, Hughes 5, Ward 4(1), Douglas 3(4), Dogbe 3(1), Mortara 3(1), Everitt 3, Valois 2, Okai 1(2), Jeffrey 1(2), Crowe 1(1), Forbes 1, Spring 1, Perrett 1, Boyce 1, Deeney 1, Coyne 1, Ofori 1, Iagnotal 1, Hogg 1, Bouchuers 1, Djorkaeff 1, Maher 1, Hodges 1, Menetrier 1, Huck 1, Street 1, Bogaczky 1, Martin 1, Fernandez 1, Hardy 1, Davies 0(1), O'Leary 0(1), Dillon 0(1), Hall 0(1), Postan 0(1).

Goals: Fotiadis 8, Brennan 5(2 pens), Thomson 3, Brkovic 2, Murphy 2, Skelton 2, George 2, Hodges 1, Gillman 1, Locke 1, Everitt 1, Holmes 1, Bruce 1, Leary 1

Avon Insurance Combination Results and Fixtures

AUG	Wed 15	Barnet	A	3-0	Fotiadis 2, Hodges
Wed 29	Millwall	H	1-0	Brennan pen	
SEPT	Wed 12	Leyton Orient	A	3-2	George, Brkovic 2
Thur 20	Barton (BPC)	A	5-0	Gillman, Locke, Brennan, Thomson, Fotiadis	
Wed 26	Gillingham	H	0-0		
OCT	Tue 2	Cardiff	A	1-2	Fotiadis
Mon 8	QPR	H	3-3	Everitt, Brennan pen, Thomson	
Mon 15	Crystal Palace	A	0-1		
NOV	Wed 14	Bristol City	H	1-1	Fotiadis
Wed 21	Cambridge(LC)	H	3-1	Skelton, Fotiadis, George	
Mon 26	Leighton Tn(BPC)	A	4-2	Brennan 2, Murphy 2	
Wed 28	Norwich(LC)	A	0-0		
DEC	Wed 5	Oxford	A	postponed	
Wed 12	Swindon	H	1-0	Holmes	
Wed 19	Portsmouth	A	7pm		
JAN	Wed 9	Brighton	A	0-1	
Mon 21	Wooton (BPC)	A	1-2	Thomson	
Wed 23	Bournemouth	H	2-1	Leary, Fotiadis	
Wed 30	Brentford	A	0-2		
FEB	Wed 6	Bristol Rov	A	1-2	Skelton
Wed 13	Norwich	H	2pm		
Wed 20	Cheltenham	A	2pm		
Wed 27	Colchester	H	2pm		
MAR	Wed 13	Peterborough	H	2pm	
Wed 20	Southend	A	2pm		
Mon 25	Cambridge	A	2pm		
APRIL	Wed 3	Reading	H	2pm	
Wed 10	Northampton	H	2pm		
Tue 16	Wycombe	H	2pm		

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	16	10	3	3	30	16	33
QPR	16	9	5	2	39	17	32
Brentford	14	9	2	3	31	20	29
Norwich	16	8	4	4	32	22	28
Crystal Palace	14	8	2	4	27	17	26
Reading	14	7	2	5	25	15	23
Peterborough	17	7	2	6	26	26	23
Gillingham	13	6	3	4	19	12	21
Cardiff	15	6	3	6	25	22	21
Bristol Rovers	14	6	3	5	17	16	21
Millwall	13	5	5	3	22	18	20
Oxford	15	5	5	5	16	21	20
Luton Town	14	5	4	5	18	17	19
Barnet	14	6	1	7	19	21	19
Southend	15	5	4	6	17	21	19
Cheltenham	15	5	4	6	14	25	19
Leyton Orient	15	6	1	8	23	38	19
Wycombe	13	5	2	6	19	20	17
Colchester	17	4	4	9	22	29	16
Brighton	10	3	4	3	12	9	13
Northampton	15	2	6	7	15	28	12
Cambridge	14	3	2	9	18	25	11
Bristol City	11	2	4	5	10	17	10
Bournemouth	13	2	4	7	12	28	10
Swindon	13	2	3	8	12	20	9

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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 A track from the HMV album of the week - ELECRO BREAKDOWN - THE OLD SKOOL

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 track - ENRIQUE IGLESIAS - HERO

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

2.30 Dedications announced.

2.35 HMV single of the week - BRANDY - WHAT ABOUT US

4.55 FULL TIME

Matchday music supplied by

2.40 Town Teaser - Check out page 40 for today's question



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

Arndale Centre.

2.57 Final run down of the teams.

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

3.00 THE BIG KICK OFF

The Best in post-match reports

The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette



ON SALE EVERY
WEDNESDAY



John Moore

Youth Soccer



Rushden &
Diamonds 2
Luton Town 1

HAVING led at the interval, it was disappointing to be beaten by two second-half goals which were both down to poor defending, but over the 90 minutes I felt that Rushden just about deserved their victory.

On a very windy day, the gale was behind us in the first half, but we tried to play our normal passing game, and did quite well, although we didn't get enough shots on goal for my liking.

A good move led to Kevin Foley shooting us into the lead after 38 minutes, and we were worth it at that stage. Rushden looked a good side, but their only threat until then had been a header which went over the bar. We had applied ourselves well, coped with the conditions, and I hoped we had set ourselves to push on for a win after the break.

I always think that playing into a strong wind should be no disadvantage if your attitude and approach is right - if the wind holds the ball up, it can help your passing. But Rushden's main striker raised his game, and our centre-backs did not deal with him too well. We conceded two goals in the first nine minutes of the

second half, both of which were preventable: a poor decision by a defender led to the first, and the second came from some very indecisive defending.

On reflection, I might have made a mistake. Joe Deeney got a knee injury late in the first half, but as he is one of several young players who are hoping to win contracts at the end of the season, he was desperate to stay on the field. Understanding his feelings, I went along with that and allowed him to stay on until ten minutes from time. He was not down for either goal, and his spirit and determination was to be admired. We had another trialist at full-back, Barry Gardener, who is available from Crystal Palace. He did OK, and is probably worth another look.

I thought the key to Rushden's success on the day was that they did slightly better in the second half in terms of handling the conditions than we did in the first, although we got back into the game in the last 20 minutes, without showing real signs that we could save it.

Luton Town: Brill, Gardiner (Dogbe 59 mins), Carroll, O'Leary, Davies, Deeney (Barnett 80 mins), Foley, Osborn, Judge, Jeffrey, Okai.

WE WERE due to be at home to Walsall this morning, and next Saturday we entertain Peterborough United. Kick-off at Luton RFC, Newlands Road, Farley Hill, is 11am, and spectators are welcome.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Okai 16(2), Osborn 16(2), O'Leary 15, Foley 14(4), Carroll 14(2), Davies 14(1), Dillon 13(2), Jeffrey 11(4), Dogbe 11(3), Gillman 11(1), Brill 11, Judge 10(4), Leary 7, Murphy 7, Chatfield 6, Bruce 5(1), Deeney 5(1), Howells 3(1), Barnett 2(4), Roberts 1, R. Mansell 1, Beckwith 1, Shire 1, Garrett 1, Palmer 1, Gardiner 1, Mortara 0(1), Burrell 0(1).

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

John Moore

Football League Youth Alliance Results and Fixtures

AUG	Rushden & D	H 1-2 Leary
25		
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 0-4
JAN		
5	Kidderminster	A postponed
12	West Brom	H 2-1 Osborn, Dillon
19	Notts County	A 4-1 Jeffrey, Osborn, Dillon, Davies
FEB		
9	Rushden & D	A 1-2 Foley
16	Walsall	H
23	Peterborough	H

FL Youth Alliance South Central Conference League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge Utd	16	9	3	4	31	18	30
West Brom	13	7	3	3	23	19	24
Rushden & D	14	7	2	5	24	23	23
Walsall	13	5	5	3	28	22	20
Notts County	13	5	3	5	15	20	18
Northampton	14	5	2	7	19	20	17
Luton Town	13	5	1	7	26	26	16
Kidderminster	12	3	2	7	15	24	11
Peterborough	14	2	5	7	13	22	11

To advertise in the matchday magazine
phone Luton 411622 or e-mail us at:
commercial@lutontown.co.uk

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

Average Attendances

2000 4000 6000 8000 10000

Goals - When Scored

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

Form Guide: Home & Away

Home Form most recent results to left Away Form

Records

Average Gate
4,247
Highest Gate
14,716
Plymouth v
Mansfield
Lowest Gate
1,251
Halifax v
Southend
Highest
Agg Score
Rochdale5
York4
Biggest
Home Win
Scunthorpe7
Darlington1
Biggest
Away Win
Exeter0
Scunthorpe4
Consec. Wins
Plymouth5
Games
Unbeaten
Plymouth19
Consec. Defeats
Orient, Swansea,
Torquay5
Winless Run
Bristol Rov14
Total Games
379
Home Wins
17947%
Away Wins
9425%
Draws
10628%
1-1 Draws
4011%
0-0 Draws
4111%

Bristol Rovers	6,968
Carlisle	3,083
Cheltenham	3,711
Darlington	3,826
Exeter	3,426
Halifax	2,101
Hartlepool	3,530
Hull	9,380
Kidderminster	3,046
Orient	4,779
Lincoln	3,215
Luton	6,927
Macclesfield	2,133
Mansfield	4,349
Oxford	6,476
Plymouth	7,031
Rochdale	3,290
Rushden	4,206
Scunthorpe	3,570
Shrewsbury	3,599
Southend	4,091
Swansea	3,642
Torquay	2,550
York	2,900

BR	1	5	7	4	4	10
CU	7	10	6	6	1	4
CT	3	8	7	5	13	8
Da	2	6	6	6	10	11
EC	5	5	6	5	9	3
HT	3	6	4	3	2	5
HU	5	5	9	5	11	12
HC	5	9	6	9	8	10
KI	4	7	4	8	5	11
LO	4	6	4	9	9	10
LC	1	6	6	5	5	9
LT	4	5	14	11	13	12
MT	3	4	7	4	5	5
MT	8	7	10	6	5	14
OU	6	4	5	10	6	9
PA	5	9	10	9	5	8
Ro	7	6	8	8	8	9
RD	6	8	8	4	5	12
SU	10	12	10	7	8	11
ST	9	3	8	6	10	11
SU	5	3	3	9	5	11
SC	8	9	5	4	5	8
TU	4	4	4	2	5	10
YC	6	3	6	7	4	10

LWWDW	Bristol Rovers	DLWLL
LWWWL	Carlisle	DDDWL
DDDWL	Cheltenham	WWWWW
LDWWD	Darlington	WLDLL
LLDDL	Exeter	WLWWW
DLDWL	Halifax	LLLDL
WWWDW	Hartlepool	WDLWD
WDWWL	Hull	WLLLL
DWWLW	Kidderminster	LDLWL
DLWDW	Orient	DLLLL
LWWLW	Lincoln	LLDLD
WDDWL	Luton	LLDWW
LWLLD	Macclesfield	DLLWD
WDWLW	Mansfield	WLWLW
DDWWL	Oxford	LLDDL
WWWWW	Plymouth	WLLLD
WWDWD	Rochdale	LDWDL
WWWWW	Rushden	LLLWL
DWWWL	Scunthorpe	DLDDL
DWLWD	Shrewsbury	DLLDD
LDWWL	Southend	DDDWL
WLLDW	Swansea	DLLLD
DWLLD	Torquay	LDDDD
WDDDL	York	DWLLL

Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms	Gls/Gm	Pts	Run
Shrewsbury	Luke Rodgers	19	14	1	1	30	0.63	13	4
York	Michael Proctor	10	8	1	0	30	0.33	13	2
Mansfield	Chris Greenacre	17	11	3	0	29	0.59	12	4
Hull	Gary Alexander	15	11	2	0	30	0.50	12	5
Bristol Rovers	Nathan Ellington	13	7	0	2	19	0.68	12	4
Scunthorpe	Steve Torpey	12	6	3	0	27	0.44	10	1
Carlisle	Ritchie Foran	11	11	0	0	24	0.46	10	3
Luton	Dean Crowe	10	8	1	0	21	0.48	10	3
Plymouth	David Friio	8	8	0	0	29	0.28	10	2
Rochdale	Kevin Townson	11	5	3	0	28	0.39	9	3
Cheltenham	Julian Alsop	13	9	2	0	27	0.48	8	2
Oxford	Paul Moody	11	8	0	1	24	0.46	8	3
Exeter	Chris Roberts	8	4	2	0	28	0.29	8	2
Torquay	David Graham	5	5	0	0	26	0.19	8	1
Darlington	Barry Conlon	7	5	1	0	28	0.25	7	1
Macclesfield	Lee Glover	8	6	1	0	29	0.28	6	2
Lincoln	Lee Thorpe	9	7	1	0	23	0.39	5	1
Swansea	Mamady Sidibe	6	4	1	0	19	0.32	5	2
Hartlepool	Gordon Watson	13	8	1	1	21	0.62	4	3
Rushden	Onandi Lowe	7	7	0	0	12	0.58	4	3
Halifax	Paul Harsley	7	5	1	0	32	0.22	4	2
Southend	Tesfaye Bramble	6	6	0	0	28	0.21	3	2
Kidderminster	Dean Bennett	7	7	0	0	29	0.24	2	7
Orient	Steve Watts	9	5	2	0	19	0.47	0	3

Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

Club	Win -vs.	Defeat -vs.
Bristol Rov	4-1 Swansea	1-3 Ornt, Rsh
Carlisle	6-1 Orient	0-3 Plymouth
Cheltenham	4-1 Maccsfield	1-5 Hull
Darlington	4-0 Exeter	1-7 Scunthorpe
Exeter	2-0 Torquay	0-4 Scun, Darl
Halifax	3-0 Lincoln	1-6 Oxford
Hartlepool	5-1 Rushden	0-3 Mansfield
Hull	5-1 Cheltnham	0-4 Hartpool
Kidderminster	4-1 vs 3 clubs	0-4 Shrewsby
Orient	5-0 Lincoln	1-6 Carlisle
Lincoln	3-0 Swansea	0-5 Orient
Luton	5-1 Torquay	1-4 Man, Mac
Macclesfield	4-1 Luton	0-4 Mansfield
Mansfield	4-0 Maccsfield	0-3 Plymouth
Oxford	6-1 Halifax	0-3 Ornt, Hull
Plymouth	3-0 vs 3 clubs	1-3 Shrewsby
Rochdale	3-1 Mansfield	1-4 Kiddermstr
Rushden	3-0 York	1-5 Hartpool
Scunthorpe	7-1 Darlington	0-3 Carlisle
Shrewsbury	4-0 Kiddermstr	0-3 Hull
Southend	4-1 Halifax	0-2 vs 4 clubs
Swansea	3-0 Exeter	1-4 Bristol Rv
Torquay	2-1 vs 5 clubs	1-5 Luton
York	3-0 Torquay	0-4 Hull

Numbers

PU	CS	FS
29	10	13
34	9	10
23	12	6
32	8	11
31	9	12
27	10	16
26	8	9
30	14	10
27	12	10
36	8	7
21	10	9
32	7	3
27	7	15
23	11	7
28	7	12
23	18	7
29	12	5
38	12	12
27	12	7
24	9	7
26	10	10
29	8	14
38	4	13
28	6	8

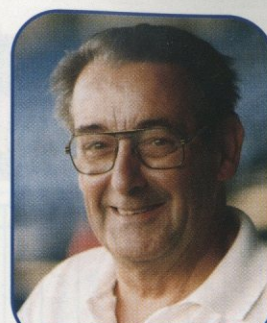
Key: GS=Goals Scored; Sc1=Games Scored 1 Goal; Sc2=Games Scored 2 Goals; HT=Hat-Tricks; Each club's leading league scorer and avg. goals per game (Gls/Gm). Next column shows taking off their goals, how many Points (Pts) lost. Last figure show best scoring Run in consecutive games.

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

To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

Bayer Leverkusen v Arsenal
Tuesday 19 February, ITV Sport Channel
Nantes v Manchester United
Wednesday 20 February, ITV Sport Channel

Norwich City v Preston North End
Friday 22 February, ITV Sport Channel
Manchester United v Aston Villa
Saturday 23 February, Sky Sports 1



Brian Swain

Third Division Scene

PROMOTION rivals
Mansfield gave us the best
and the worst within a few
days this week. On
Saturday they went to
Plymouth and in front of a
crowd of nearly 15,000 held

out for 85 minutes before midfielder David Friio headed the winner for the league leaders.
It put the Pilgrims further ahead of us, and if a ten-point gap for the championship will take some reeling in, it did at least leave Mansfield three points below us.
Rochdale's victory took them back into the promotion frame, ahead of Mansfield.
We then hoped that Kingsley Black and his mates would do us a favour on Tuesday night, but Mansfield used up their game in hand over us by winning 4-1 at Lincoln to reclaim third place, level on points with us, and with a goal difference figure of one worse.
Today's dream scenario calls for a good Town win to wipe out any danger of dropping out of the top three, and a few other results that look a tad less likely: bottom club Halifax to beat Plymouth at The Shay, Mansfield to lose at home to mid-table Darlington, and Rochdale to lose at Rushden.
Plymouth's defeat at Kenilworth Road a couple of weeks ago meant that the Town cut their lead to just four points and they went home knowing they had suffered a major setback to their title aspirations. Manager Paul Sturrock

fired them up afterwards, and they responded with two consecutive wins. Three days after their shambolic performance at Luton they went to Swansea and a single goal gave them their first away win since November. The repeat scoreline against Mansfield last Saturday was Plymouth's eighth 1-0 win of the season.

Hull City are looking strong bets for the play-offs at least after a 2-1 home win over Rushden & Diamonds in front of a crowd of nearly 9,000. Jason van Blerk got their second goal, his first in 18 months, but was sent off seven minutes later for protesting too much when Rushden were awarded a penalty from which they reduced the deficit. Stuart Douglas, incidentally, went on as a second-half sub for the Diamonds.

Scunthorpe come here today needing a win not only for revenge after our victory up there in October, but also to go three points clear of Cheltenham, who currently hold the last play-off position, level on points with The Iron. If they beat the Town, Scunthorpe's three-point advantage over Steve Cotterill's men will still look a touch flimsy. Cheltenham, the last Third Division side involved in the FA Cup, will be busy meeting West Brom at The Hawthorns in the fifth round, and by this evening will have four games in hand over Scunthorpe.

Brian Laws has guided Scunthorpe into a challenging position after an iffy start to the season, and our 2-0 win at Glanford Park left Scunnies just out of the top ten. But they have lost only once at home since. They dropped a couple of points on Tuesday, held 1-1 by David Moss's Macclesfield, but after Saturday's 1-0 victory over Oxford that made it 11 wins, one draw and one defeat in their last 13 home matches.

Their away form is not so impressive, with only three victories on the road, 4-0 at Exeter in August, 1-0 at Oxford in October, and 2-0 at York a month later.

But they are no push-overs, with seven away draws to their credit so far, 2-2 at Rochdale, 0-0 at Torquay Halifax and Rushden, 3-3 at Cheltenham, 1-1 at Bristol and 2-2 at Shrewsbury. Away defeats were suffered at Kidderminster, Macclesfield, Carlisle, Lincoln, Plymouth and Hartlepool. The 2-3 reverse at Hartlepool was their only defeat in their last five matches.

Brian Swain

Today's other Third Division fixtures

Carlisle v Exeter
Halifax v Plymouth
Macclesfield v Bristol Rovers
Mansfield v Darlington
Oxford v Lincoln City
Rushden & Diamonds v Rochdale
Shrewsbury v Leyton Orient
Swansea v Kidderminster
Torquay v Hull
York v Hartlepool

Nationwide League Division Three														
	HOME						AWAY						GD	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A			
Plymouth	32	13	1	2	29	10	7	6	3	17	13	23	67	
Luton Town	31	8	4	2	26	11	9	2	6	33	28	20	57	
Mansfield	31	10	3	2	32	14	7	3	6	18	17	19	57	
Rochdale	32	8	7	1	28	15	7	3	6	18	21	10	55	
Hull City	33	11	5	1	32	8	4	4	8	15	25	14	54	
Scunthorpe	33	10	4	3	35	17	3	7	6	23	24	17	50	
Cheltenham	30	6	8	1	25	16	7	3	5	19	18	10	50	
Shrewsbury	33	8	4	4	25	16	5	5	7	22	26	5	48	
Rushden & D	33	10	4	2	28	14	3	5	9	15	27	2	48	
Hartlepool	31	9	4	4	37	17	4	3	7	10	16	14	46	
Kidderminster	31	9	5	2	25	11	4	2	9	14	21	7	46	
Darlington	32	9	4	3	27	15	2	4	10	14	31	-5	41	
Exeter	31	5	6	6	16	24	6	2	6	17	24	-15	41	
Southend	31	9	3	5	27	16	2	4	8	9	19	1	40	
Bristol Rovers	31	7	4	5	23	19	3	4	8	16	-4	-38		
Swansea	33	4	6	6	15	16	5	3	9	24	34	-11	36	
Oxford	33	6	5	5	26	19	2	6	9	14	25	-4	35	
Lincoln	31	7	3	6	20	19	1	8	6	12	24	-11	35	
Macclesfield	32	4	5	7	17	19	4	5	7	11	21	-12	34	
Carlisle	30	6	3	5	20	13	1	8	7	14	25	-4	32	
L. Orient	30	6	3	5	26	20	2	5	9	16	34	-12	32	
York	30	5	4	6	14	18	3	4	8	22	34	-16	32	
Torquay	32	6	3	7	18	24	1	7	8	11	26	-21	31	
Halifax	32	3	8	4	14	14	2	3	12	9	36	-27	26	

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

Statistics and all the fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Kick Off Time/Result	Score (LT first)	Attendance	Competition/Position	Referee	Yellow Cards (LT first)	Red Cards (LT first)	Mark OVENDALE ok	Aaron SKELTON	Matthew SPRING	Russ PERRETT	Martin JOHNSON	Adrian FORBES	Kevin NICHOLLS	Stuart DOUGLAS Carl GRIFFITHS	Liam GEORGE	Chris COYNE	Stuart FRASER	Andrew FOTIADIS	Matthew TAYLOR	Carl EMBERTSON ok	Emmerson BOYCE	Adam LOCKE	Steve HOWARD	Peter HOLMES	Richard DRYDEN	Dean BRENNAN	Jude STIRLING	Scott WARD ok	Peter THOMSON	Paul HUGHES	Jean-Louis VALOIS	David BAYLISS	Kevin STREET LOAN	Lee MANSELL	Ian HILLIER	Dean CROWE	Ahmet BRKOVIC	Rob GILLMAN	Darryl MURPHY	Steve O'LEARY	James OSBORN	Own Goals								
Sat 11 Aug	Carlisle United	A	W	2-0	4,432	3rd	M Clattenburg	2/2	0/0	sus				x			1x																1				x							0									
Sat 18 Aug	CHELTENHAM TOWN	H	W	2-1	6,177	1st	G Hegley	4/1	1/0								1x										x							1										0									
Tue 21 Aug	Reading	A	L	0-4	5,115	WC1	D Crick	2/1	0/0				x				1x																				x							0									
Sat 25 Aug	Bristol Rovers	A	L	2-3	9,057	5th	C Penton	2/1	0/0								x						1											x				1	x					0									
Mon 27 Aug	SOUTHEND UNITED	H	W	2-0	6,496	2nd	J Ross	1/4	0/1								1						1				x							x										0									
Sat 1 Sep	Exeter City	A	D	2-2	3,088	2nd	B Curson	3/1	1/0								x						x	2																					0								
Sat 8 Sep	OXFORD UNITED	H	D	1-1	6,736	5th	C Penton	3/3	0/0								x																											0									
Sat 15 Sep	York City	A	W	2-1	3,247	3rd	G Salisbury	4/2	0/0								1x																											0									
Tue 18 Sep	LINCOLN CITY	H	D	1-1	5,066	6th	S Baines	0/0	0/0	1x							x	x																										0									
Sat 22 Sep	TORQUAY UNITED	H	W	5-1	6,392	3rd	L Cable	0/3	0/0								3																		x	1x								0									
Tue 25 Sep	Leyton Orient	A	W	3-1	6,540	1st	P Rejer	3/1	0/0								x																											0									
Sat 29 Sep	Plymouth Argyle	A	L	1-2	5,782	3rd	A Hall	5/3	0/1								x																											0									
Fri 5 Oct	DARLINGTON	H	W	5-2	7,219	1st	J Brandwood	4/2	0/0				1				1x																											0									
Sat 13 Oct	Scunthorpe United	A	W	2-0	3,939	1st	H Webb	3/0	0/0					1																														0									
Sat 20 Oct	ROCHDALE	H	L	0-1	7,696	3rd	S Tomlin	2/1	0/0																																			0									
Tue 23 Oct	Halifax Town	A	W	4-2	2,140	3rd	M Pike	1/2	0/0																																			0									
Sat 27 Oct	SWANSEA CITY	H	W	3-0	6,705	1st	P Durkin	0/0	0/0						1																													0									
Tue 30 Oct	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	L	2-3	2,433	LDVT2	D Crick	2/1	0/0																																			0									
Sat 3 Nov	Mansfield Town	A	L	1-4	5,973	4th	D Pugh	7/2	1/2																																			0									
Fri 9 Nov	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H	W	1-0	6,809	2nd	F Stretton	0/2	0/0				1																															0									
Sat 17 Nov	Southend United	A	L	2-3	6,526	FAC1	B Knight	2/2	0/0																																			0									
Tue 20 Nov	HULL CITY	H	L	0-1	7,214	4th	D Elleray	2/3	0/0																																			0									
Sat 24 Nov	Macclesfield Town	A	L	1-4	2,250	5th	R Pearson	1/0	0/0																																			0									
Sat 8 Dec	Hartlepool United	A	W	2-1	3,585	4th	A Leake	5/2	1/0																																			0									
Sat 15 Dec	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	H	W	1-0	7,495	2nd	P Dansón	4/1	0/0				x																															0									
Sat 22 Dec	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H	D	2-2	6,739	2nd	G Cain	1/0	0/0																																			0									
Wed 26 Dec	Oxford United	A	W	2-1	11,121	2nd	M Warren	3/2	0/0				1																															0									
Sat 29 Dec	Southend United	A	W	2-1	5,973	2nd	M Ryan	1/2	0/0																																			0									
Tue 8 Jan	Kidderminster Harriers	A	W	4-1	4,147	2nd	J Ross	1/1	0/0				2																															0									
Sat 12 Jan	Cheltenham Town	A	D	1-1	5,026	2nd	S Baines	1/1	0/0																																			0									
Sat 19 Jan	CARLISLE UNITED	H	D	1-1	6,647	2nd	P Alcock	1/2	0/0					1																														0									
Sat 26 Jan	Darlington	A	L	2-3	3,564	2nd	E Wolstenholme	4/4	0/0																																			0									
Sat 2 Feb	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	W	2-0	9,585	2nd	P Joslin	1/2	0/0																																			0									
Sat 9 Feb	Rochdale	A	L	0-1	4,306	2nd	M Messias	4/6	1/0																																			0									
Sat 16 Feb	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	H	3pm			D3																																						0									
Tue 19 Feb	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	7.45pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 23 Feb	YORK CITY	H	3pm			D3																																					0										
Tue 26 Feb	Lincoln City	A	7.45pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 2 Mar	Torquay United	A	3pm			D3																																					0										
Tue 5 Mar	LEYTON ORIENT	H	7.45pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 9 Mar	Rushden & Diamonds	A	3pm			D3																																					0										
Tue 12 Mar	EXETER CITY	H	7.45pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 16 Mar	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	H	3pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 23 Mar	HALIFAX TOWN	H	3pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 30 Mar	Swansea City	A	3pm			D3																																					0										
Mon 1 Apr	MANSFIELD TOWN	H	3pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 6 Apr	Hull City	A	3pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 13 Apr	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H	3pm			D3																																					0										
Sat 20 Apr	Shrewsbury Town	A	3pm			D3																																					0										
Penalties								Home Avg Gate		6,927	Started Match		13	9	-	28	27	8	10	31	2	11	3	15	1	1	30	21	26	1	30	4	4	2	1	0	-	1	7	21	-	10	1	8	12	21	14	1	0	-	0	0	-
2 (S)cored, 2 (M)issed = 50% Success								Away Avg Gate		5,100	Substitute (Used)		0	0	-	0	1	2	18	0	8	0	3	1	0	9	0	0	2	2	0	3	2	0	1	0	-	0	5	1	-	0	1	5	12	1	4	0	0	-	0	0	-
Total Avg Gate								5,742	Total 2001/2002 Appearances		13	9	-	28	28	10	28	31	16	11	6	16	1	10	30	21	28	3	30	7	6	2	2	0	-	1	12	22	-	10	2	13	24	22	18	1	0	-	0	0	-		
Key								Total 2001/2002 Goals		0	1	-	5	3	1	4	4	0	7	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1 Number of goals scored								Substitute (Unused)		20	5	-	0	0	5	2	0	2	0	0	0</																																

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Today's Squads

Luton Town

■●	Mark Ovendale	1
■●	Aaron Skelton	2
■●	Matthew Spring	4
■●	Russell Perrett	5
■●	Marvin Johnson	6
■●	Adrian Forbes	7
■●	Kevin Nicholls	8
■●	Carl Griffiths	10
■●	Chris Coyne	12
■●	Stuart Fraser	13
■●	Andrew Fotiadis	14
■●	Matthew Taylor	15
■●	Carl Emberson	16
■●	Emmerson Boyce	17
■●	Adam Locke	18
■●	Steve Howard	19
■●	Peter Holmes	20
■●	Scott Ward	24
■●	Paul Hughes	27
■●	Jean Louis Valois	28
■●	David Bayliss	30
■●	Lee Mansell	32
■●	Ian Hillier	33
■●	Dean Crowe	34
■●	Ahmet Brkovic	35
■●	Gary McSwegan	42

Scunthorpe United

1	Thomas Evans	■●
2	Carl Bradshaw	■●
3	Andrew Dawson	■●
4	Nathan Stanton	■●
5	Mark Jackson	■●
6	Stuart Thom	■●
7	Nigel Pepper	■●
8	Lee Hodges	■●
9	Martin Carruthers	■●
10	Steve Torpey	■●
11	Alex Calvo Garcia	■●
12	Terry Barwick	■●
14	Peter Beagrie	■●
15	Wayne Graves	■●
16	Gareth Sheldon	■●
17	Peter Morrison	■●
18	Russ Wilcox	■●
19	Brian Quailey	■●
20	Richard Siddall	■●
21	Jamie McCombe	■●
22	Matthew Sparrow	■●
23	Lee Ridley	■●
24	Scott Brough	■●
25	Mark Anderson	■●
26	James Cotterill	■●
27	Richard Kell	■●
28	Neil Collins	■●
29	Chris Bennion	■●

Today's Officials

Referee: Ray Oliver, West Midlands

Assistants: Martin Dexter, Leicester (yellow flag); Peter Kirkup, Northamptonshire (red flag)

Fourth Official: Trevor Kettle, Berkshire

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Sun 10.30-4.30pm

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tick if playing ☐ tick if substitute ☐