

Luton Town Football Club



**LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**

www.lutontown.co.uk

**Official Matchday
Magazine**

**Luton
Town
v
Exeter
City**

**Tuesday
March 12,
2002**

**Kick Off
7.45pm**



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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



UNITED IN THE CAUSE: Kevin Nicholls faces the big Town following at Rushden to share with them the pleasure of the sixth consecutive victory.

Inside Forward

JOE Kinnear has accepted, with considerable sadness, that the Town are unlikely to be able to hold on to Matthew Taylor, who has rejected all offers of a new contract to replace the one that expires at the end of this season.

He understands Taylor's desire to play at a higher level, and had tried to persuade the 20-year-old left-footer to accept a two-year deal to stay here, with the manager forecasting that by the end of it the Town will be in the First Division. See the manager's column on page 5.

Supporters who have followed the Town in recent years will feel the irony of Taylor's decision. Before the current board took control, players were sold off purely for financial reasons. Now the policy is the reverse: the directors have made money available to bring in new talent – and the boss is still looking for more competition for places before the transfer deadline in just over a fortnight.

He has no wish to lose Taylor, nor Emmerson Boyce or Matt Spring, the other first-team men whose contracts expire at the end of the season. But he is also determined to have a realistic wage structure at the club, to keep the total bill within reasonable bounds. Premiership wages and Kenilworth Road pay packets are not going to match each other for a very long time!

The manager's battle over Taylor now moves to a new stage: trying to secure a realistic price for a boy who has been brought through the ranks since joining as a 14-year-old, having been turfed out by his local club, Oxford United, for being too podgy.

We can expect a cat and mouse game between now and the end of the season. Joe's valuation of Taylor is around £2million, a figure he bases on the fact that Matthew Upson was worth £1million plus add-on clauses when he was sold to Arsenal, without ever playing a full league game. Taylor chalked up his 138th appearance for the Town at Rushden on Saturday.

Taylor has attracted numerous enquiries from other clubs, including some from the Premiership, and his agent is aware of that. As he is under 24, the Bosman free transfer ruling will not apply, but if there are serious bids for Taylor, a game of high-stakes bluff and counter-bluff is likely. Buying clubs have to work out if they should haggle to try to reach a compromise figure with the Town, and do a deal in the near future. Or they can wait until the end of the season, when Taylor can walk out, and if no fee is agreed, the price will be settled by a tribunal. And tribunals are not exactly famous for over-valuing players, as Joe admits, having used the system to his advantage as a buyer in the past. The manager said: "Matty is an outstanding talent, and I think he will probably go on to play for England in the future. If he was with a Premiership club he would be a regular in the England under-21 side, and would be pushing for a place in the full England team. I will expect this club to be adequately recompensed if we do lose him."

Striker Loaned Out

RESERVE striker Daryl Murphy, who will be 19 on Friday, has gone on loan to Harrow Borough for a month, to give him the chance of regular and more senior football than he was getting with the Town.

Defender Jude Stirling, who has been on loan to Stevenage, is to make the deal permanent on a free transfer. The new boss of the Conference club is Wayne Turner, former coach at Kenilworth Road, and his first signings have included two former Town players, Jamie Campbell, who was previously with Exeter, and Scott Houghton, who has moved from Halifax.

INSIDE TODAY: Joe Kinnear's column - P 5; Club captain - P 7; Treatment room latest - P 8; From the Secretary's Office - P 9; News of the reserves - P 49; Schools of Excellence news - P 39; Picture and profile of Paul Hughes - P 28/9; Junior Hatters - P 41; Football in the Community: P 31; Latest ticket office news: P 10/11; Isle of Man trip looks on - P 27; Blast from the Past: P 22/23; Orient report and pictures: Pp 42-3; Town Teaser P 40; Battle for the Championship: P 53.



DOUBLE MENACE: Dean Crowe gets in a shot at Nene Park on Saturday, despite the attentions of Rushden's Paul Underwood. Steve Howard, the other Town scorer in a 2-1 victory, is the other man in view. There will be a report and more pictures in Saturday's matchday magazine, for the game against Kidderminster.

Unlucky Break

AN INJURY sustained playing for the Town's youth side has cost Steven O'Leary the chance to play for Ireland in the under-17 European Championships. He was called into their squad for this week's qualifying round games in Dublin against Cyprus, Slovenia and Yugoslavia.

But O'Leary broke his nose in a Football League Youth Alliance match, and the Town were surprised when the Irish FA said they still wanted him to report to Dublin, instead of going into hospital as quickly as possible. With some misgivings, he was allowed to join up with the Irish squad. In their first training session it was obvious O'Leary was having breathing problems, so he was sent back home, and he has now had the operation.

Have Your Say

SUPPORTERS are invited to quiz a Town director on Thursday evening. Yvonne Fletcher, the fans' representative on the board, will be hosting an "any questions" forum in the Eric Morecambe Suite, with a 7.30pm kick-off. Admission is free, via the entrance on Maple Road bridge.

Worth Booking Early

TONIGHT being the first of three consecutive home games, those of us who enjoy a day out to far-off places to see the Town in action have to wait until the end of the month for the next away game, at Swansea on Easter Saturday. The final trips after that are to Hull on April 6 and Shrewsbury a fortnight later, the last day of the season. They are all-ticket matches (see pages 10 and 11 for ticket office news) and there could be a big demand, especially for the trip to Gay Meadow, which should be a continuation of our promotion celebrations.

Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Clubs will provide their usual excellent coach services to the matches, but you would be well advised to book early. Both organisations have kiosks in Kenilworth Road which are manned on match days, where seats can be booked. At other times Town on Tour seats are sold at the club shop, or via their mobile phone on 07960 567465. Bobbers Travel Club bookings can be made on the phone to Paul Deason on 01234 750996.



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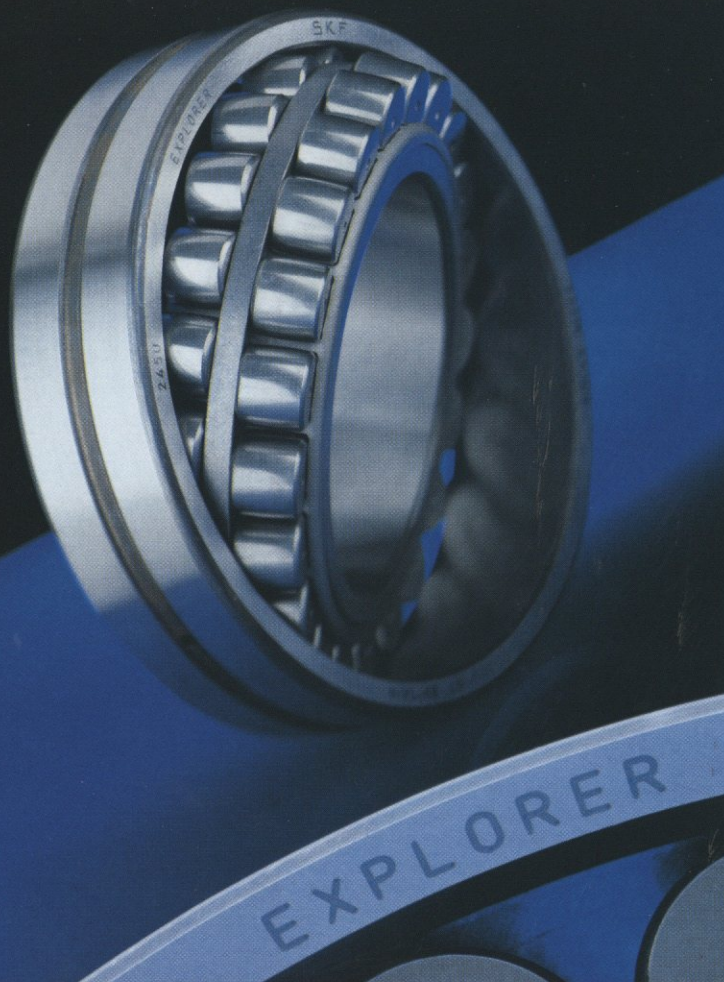
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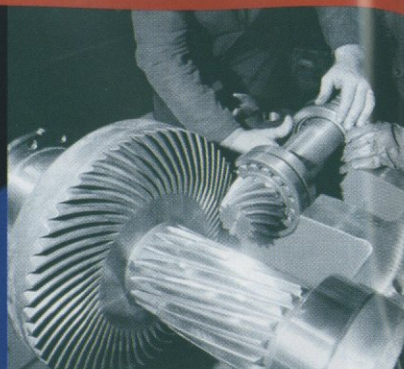
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The Manager



Joe Kinnear

SIX points out of six since we met here a week ago means we are still going well for promotion, and once again I have to thank the fans for another tremendous turn out to watch the game at Rushden. In football terms, a lot of it was not very pretty, because of the gale force wind, and all credit to both teams for the way they battled against the elements.

But I think ours came out with the greater credit, and even when we went a goal down I felt we had enough about us to win. With five consecutive victories behind us, we had plenty of confidence in our own ability, and the squad is not only hungry for a win in every game, but is also keen on winning championship medals.

The performance to beat Leyton Orient here a week ago was exactly what I asked for in home games. Away from home we work first on being hard to beat, knowing that if we are solid at the back we are always likely to get a goal or two. On our own pitch, as I hope we will demonstrate again this evening, we know our major task is to break down teams who will inevitably come here to try to frustrate us. We showed against Orient that we are capable of producing the right performance for the right occasion, and we did that again at Nene Park. I was a touch concerned at half-time that we had allowed Rushden more sights of our goal than I would have liked. We could have been a goal or two down early on. But the strong wind had more to do with it than anything else. It made good passing football very difficult, but I felt that as the game went on we mastered the conditions better than Rushden.

Conceding the first goal was not in our game plan, of course, but it produced the right reaction from the team, and I am sure our supporters thoroughly enjoyed the quality of football served up in the second half.

When I look at goals conceded and goals scored, I put them down to the collective responsibility of the team, but I must say how pleased I was to see Dean Crowe and Steve

Howard get on the end of the chances that won the game for us. Two in two games for Crowe, and one on his return to the side for Howard, who had been sweating as to whether he would regain his place after suspension. The team had done well without him, but Rushden had a few six-footers in their side, and I needed Howie to do a job in defence as well as attack, which was why he got the nod. I brought back Marvin Johnson for a similar reason. Inspired team selections, weren't they?! I was asked after the game if I had worked out when we might have clinched promotion. The answer is not yet: first and foremost we concentrate on winning every match. We don't go into them trying to avoid defeat - I want three points from every game to give us a realistic chance of going up as champions.

We are more solid at the back than we were in the early part of the season, and the greater competition for places is all to the good.

Finally, a word about Matt Taylor, whose likely departure is reported elsewhere this evening. He had another storming game at Rushden, with tremendous crosses producing both the goals. I will be very sad to lose him, but we have to face facts, however unwelcome they may be.

It is the same scenario I went through with Paul McLaren last year. There will be no hard feelings if Matty does move, even though I think his best career decision would be to stay with us for another two seasons while we get back up through the Second Division to win promotion to the First in a year's time. I think he is destined for Premiership football, and good luck to him, even though I would love him to change his mind and stay.

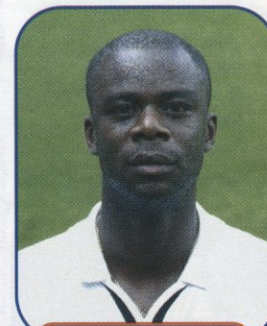
He has been tremendous for us, and as we saw at Rushden remains committed to the cause. We all are, and I know that goes for you, the fans as well.

Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

Joe Kinnear



**OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER TO
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Marvin Johnson

Club Captain

HAVING kept up our winning run in difficult conditions at Rushden, we are all feeling very optimistic about our chances of bringing promotion much closer as we play the first of three consecutive home games this evening.

We are not taking things for granted, of course, but six wins in a row is as good as anything we have done in my time at the club. I am told the record to chase was nine straight wins achieved by Harry Haslam's team in the spring of 1977. I don't see why we should not be capable of at least matching that run, and hopefully going at least one better.

The difference must be that this time it helps to bring promotion, which is what we all crave. I would hate to be like that 1977 squad – set a new club record, and fail to go up. They finished sixth in the old Second Division.

We came home from Rushden well pleased with both the result and the team performance. It was one of the hardest games we have had recently. Rushden were up for it, needing points to get near the play-off zone, and the conditions were awful. The gale force wind was a real problem. Before the game we debated what we should do if we won the toss. Do you gamble to some degree on choosing to face the wind in the first half, hope to keep the score down, and then go for goals after the break? Or do you opt for a wind-assisted first 45 minutes, going for broke to get enough goals to have the result all but wrapped up at half-time?

We talked it over with the gaffer, and the vote was that we should play against the wind in the first half, and try to get to half time still in the game. Even if we had been one down at that stage, we felt pretty sure we would be able to more than redress the balance after the interval. In fact, we thought we would be OK even if Rushden went in two up at half time.

In the event, Rushden won the toss, and made the decision that suited us. And they might well have got the goals they fancied, because Carl Emberson had to come to our rescue twice as Rushden's wind-assisted attack had more first-half chances than we did.

So it was a real bonus to get to half time with the score still 0-0, and at that stage we felt pretty sure we were good for a point at the very least. Mentally we had the advantage, but we nearly lost it when Rushden got the first goal. However, our defending, especially away from home, has been pretty good recently, and their opener left us plenty of time to fight back. We are confident even when we are losing, and I don't think Rushden could have any complaints after we set them the perfect example of how to convert chances.

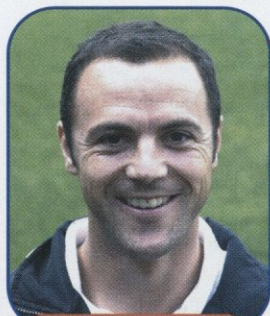
It means we should be well set to cash in over the next couple of weeks, with Kidderminster and Halifax our next opponents, both at Kenilworth Road, after tonight's game. Our hope is that we are very close to certain promotion by the time those matches are played. Then, with luck, we will still be in with a chance of the championship, and we still fancy that. One thing is for sure: I definitely do not want to risk the play-offs – I will never forget the devastating experience we suffered in 1997, when we finished third in Division Two and lost over two legs to Crewe, who finished sixth, in the play-off semi-finals.

My feeling is that today's top three will be the three clubs to win automatic promotion, but quite possibly with Plymouth having to settle for runners-up honours, especially if we win our next three matches. I will certainly be very upset indeed if we don't go up after building such a strong platform.

I will also be sorry to see Matty Taylor leave Luton Town, as seems possible. But no-one here will begrudge him the chance to better himself. His contract situation has obviously been on his mind for some while, but he has done brilliantly in not allowing it to affect his game. He has been in superb form, and remains committed to our cause. He is Luton through and through, and you only had to see his delight at Rushden after laying on the winning goal to realise how true that is. We know other clubs have been looking at him, and if he goes I will be sorry for Luton Town's sake, but will wish Matty all the best.

Marvin Johnson

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Bruce Sewell

Treatment Room

THE squad that played so well at Rushden on Saturday came through the game without giving me any extra work. After

checks on Sunday morning, when once more everyone was in for training, I was able to tell the manager that he had the same players available in preparation for this evening's game.

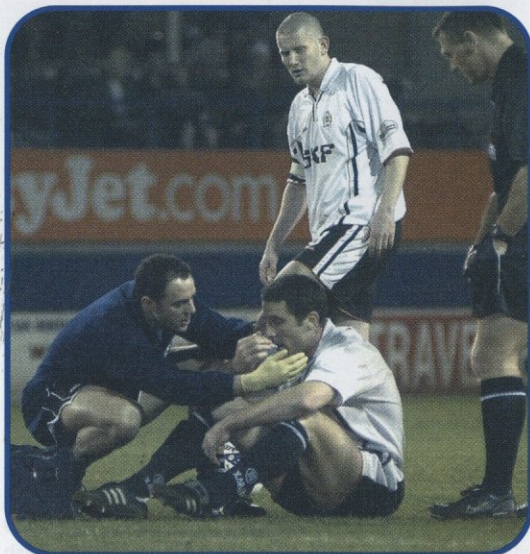
Ahmet Brkovic was hoping to be back in contention, but there was still some soreness in his ankle, where he was kicked in consecutive matches, and he was still under treatment yesterday. He was willing to play despite the pain, but having seen the team perform so well in the two games he has missed, I suspect he would be better advised to take the time needed to make it a complete recovery. It will not be a long job.

Chris Coyne took a boot in the face during the Orient game, when his head and an opponent's boot competed for the same ball. It was a complete accident, and he is tough enough to forget such trifles! There was no way he was going to let it spoil his chances of keeping his place in the team.

Kevin Nicholls was another with similar views. In his case he had to work much harder, having collected a very bruised ankle during the game against Orient. It needed a lot of ice treatment, including walking around with a machine called a cryo-cuff, a portable cold compress device. I must pay tribute to Nicho for the effort he put into his rapid recovery: he worked exceptionally hard to get over the injury in time to take his place in the side at Rushden, and he deserves massive credit for his very thorough professionalism.

He was down to be a guest speaker at a Supporters Club meeting on Thursday, and my advice was to give it a miss. He wouldn't hear of it, and turned up complete with his cryo-cuff.

There is mixed news of our longer-term



FACING THE BOOT: Chris Coyne under careful examination after being kicked in the jaw during the Orient game. Kevin Nicholls, seen keeping an eye on things, later also needed treatment, and was subbed to prevent his ankle injury getting any worse. The decision paid off, because he made a full recovery to enable him to lead the team again at Rushden.

injured men, Carl Griffiths and Aaron Skelton. Griff is not surprisingly getting a bit impatient as he waits for his stress fracture to complete its healing process, and certainly it is a very slow job. But we have access to the very best consultants, and yesterday Griff was due for another specialist examination to ensure that we continue to give him the best possible treatment. The bottom line is that while you can give a helping hand, you can't force nature to hurry its processes.

Skelts is doing well after his knee ligament injury. The soreness has not vanished completely, but he has been stepping up the pace in training, and is now able to do some sprinting, which is a very good sign, and I hope to see him back in full training within a week or so.

Bruce Sewell



Cherry Newbery

Club Secretary

FIRST this evening, I wish to pass on the apologies of Torquay United to supporters who went to watch our game at Plainmoor. It was another magnificent following, well into four figures again, and I know that a lot of our fans were annoyed when they discovered that the admission prices were £1 higher than the ones we had advertised.

I took it up with Torquay on the day, and they told me that they always put up prices by a pound when they have to have police at their matches. They said it happens about four times a season. They apologised that "due to an administrative error" they had not advised us of the higher price. Sad to say, they declined my invitation to honour the advertised price to our supporters!

In last Tuesday's programme I referred in my notes to the details regarding tickets for our game at Shrewsbury which were not in fact printed in that issue. Our apologies for that oversight, but the details are in tonight, on the ticket office news pages overleaf. The good news is that the tickets have now arrived, and if you have previously ordered tickets you should have received them by now in the post. In the event of any query, please telephone the ticket office on 01582 416976.

On the subject of tickets, can I remind you that our game against Mansfield, on Easter Monday, April 1, is ALL TICKET for all supporters, with none available on the day of the match. May I suggest that in view of the huge interest in this game it might be advisable to buy your tickets as soon as possible. And don't forget that it will be a 12.30 kick-off.

There is also some fixture news about our youth team, which has just started its programme in the Merit Division of the Football League Youth Alliance. We are trying to change the dates of the last two games, at home to Leyton Orient and Wycombe, to switch them to Wednesday afternoons and

play them at Kenilworth Road instead of Luton Rugby Club. I will advise you as soon as the new dates are agreed.

Perhaps a more important date for all football clubs is one that is looming shortly: transfer deadline day. Unusually, it will fall three weeks before the end of the season, instead of the usual six. The reason, of course, is that deadline day is fixed by Football League regulation, and this season will finish much earlier than usual because of the World Cup. The deadline is at 5pm on Thursday March 28. The following day is Good Friday, so all paperwork will have to be completed by that Thursday for any players signed to be eligible to turn out for their new clubs in the Easter games.

In case you are unsure about what the deadline means, the regulations stipulate that players registered after the deadline cannot play in league or cup games without permission of the Football League's Board of Directors. And that permission will be granted only when matches have no bearing on promotion or relegation issues. And clubs do not make the decision themselves – any club signing a player after the deadline has to apply to the League for permission to use him in any League game.

There is just one exception allowed by the league: a club can register a short-term loan transfer of a recognised goalkeeper after the deadline, subject to all the other recognised professional goalkeepers at the club being declared unfit to play by an independent medical practitioner.

Finally, to refer to Easter again, the club offices will be closed on Good Friday, but the shop and ticket office will be open from 10am until 2pm, and on Easter Saturday their opening hours will be 10-4. It will, of course, be business as usual on Easter Monday, when we play Mansfield.

Cherry Newbery

Latest News From The Ticket Office

Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Kidderminster Harriers

Saturday March 16, 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 that there are NO CONCESSIONS on cash turnstiles.



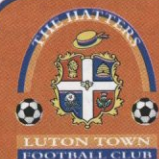
Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Halifax Town

Saturday March 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 that there are NO CONCESSIONS on cash turnstiles.



Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Mansfield Town

Monday April 1, 2002, kick-off 12.30pm

This is an ALL TICKET match, and none will be available on the day of the game.

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices, and supporters are advised to buy early, due to the strong demand for tickets.

Please note that the kick-off time of this match will be 12.30pm



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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. The restriction of sales to season ticket holders only is now over, and if any tickets are still available they are now on general sale, and until sold out will be on offer until 4pm on Friday March 29.

As demand may outstrip supply, we strongly advise supporters to buy as early as possible.

Ticket prices: £10 adults, £5 senior citizens and juniors

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. The restriction of sales to season ticket holders only is now over, and if any tickets are still available they are now on general sale, and until sold out will be on offer until 4pm on Friday April 5.

As demand may outstrip supply, we strongly advise supporters to buy as early as possible.

Ticket prices: £12 adults, £6 senior citizens and juniors

Nationwide League Division Three

Shrewsbury Town v Luton Town

Saturday April 20, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for Luton supporters, with none available on the day. Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders only, by post, or in person, at the ticket office on production of cup match voucher D, one ticket per voucher.

If applying by post, please mark your envelope clearly 66, and enclose a cheque, or full credit card details, including expiry date and issue number, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Season ticket holders have until Friday March 29 to claim their tickets.

Any remaining tickets will go on general sale at 9am on Monday April 1.

Ticket prices: SEATS - adults £12, senior and junior citizens £8

STANDING - adults £10, senior and juniors £6

Ticket Office Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

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

10am to 6pm.

SATURDAY

9am to 5.15pm on match days; 10am until the away coaches depart on days when there is no game at Kenilworth Road.

Luton Town Credit Card Hotline

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

01582 730748

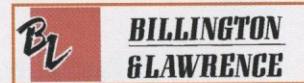
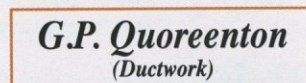
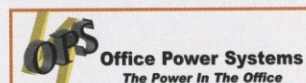
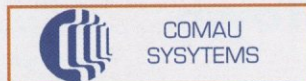
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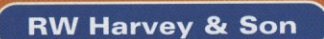
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11

Executive Box Holders



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01582 411622

Hatters Chatter

WE LIKE our matchday magazine to be entertaining and light-hearted, but today we give our support to a very serious subject, and to efforts being made to eradicate a form of cancer which hits young men hardest.

By co-incidence, two campaigns are being launched this month to improve awareness of testicular cancer, which can hit even the fittest young men.

Footballers Alan Stubbs of Everton and Neil Harris of Millwall will testify to that, and to the fact that if it is caught early enough it can be completely cured. Both were able to resume their careers, with considerable success.

Football has certainly taken the message on board, and the FA and the PFA have joined forces in a Keep Your Eye on the Ball campaign, in conjunction with TalkSPORT radio and a couple of cancer charities, everyman and Dads and Lads.

The message is simple: young men need

to check their own bodies, and seek expert medical advice if they have any suspicion of any sort of irregular lump. The fortnight-long campaign also intends to raise money to continue to fund medical and scientific research into testicular cancer.

Slightly overlapping with this campaign is a similar one being run by The Garland Appeal, another cancer charity. Their project is being run in association with the English Schools FA, and with investment company

Gerrard, which is part of Old Mutual plc. Its message, as the illustration shows, is simple and to the point: Check your kit – it could save your life.

Testicular cancer mainly affects men aged between 18 and about 34, and cases have doubled in the last 20 years. But if the symptoms are detected early, there is every chance of a full recovery.

The Garland Appeal is a registered charity formed in 1999 to commemorate the life of Linda McCartney. Its aims are to raise awareness of breast, colon and testicular cancer, and to improve screening techniques to support early diagnosis.

The charity also celebrates the power of music to help those suffering ill-health – at the request of Sir Paul McCartney and his family, none of the funds contributed to the Garland Appeal are used in research involving animals.

Football clubs throughout the country are supporting both campaigns, and everyone in the game is united in face of a common enemy. The Keep Your Eye on the Ball message was headed by a joint statement from Geoff Thompson, chairman of the FA, and Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers Association chairman. Their plea is this: "Please do what you can to help us continue the fight against testicular cancer."

The English Schools' Football Association and The Garland Appeal say

protect your assets

Once we become teenagers, all of us face a slight risk of testicular cancer.

Fortunately over 90 per cent of patients recover because they spotted the danger signals early.

If you are worried, speak to your parent or doctor immediately. Don't be embarrassed.

Checking yourself regularly is a healthy habit to get into. Make it part of your daily routine.

For more information visit www.esfa.co.uk and look for the link to our "check your kit" campaign, or contact: The Garland Appeal, PO Box 1, London EC2Y 8PN. www.garlandappeal.com

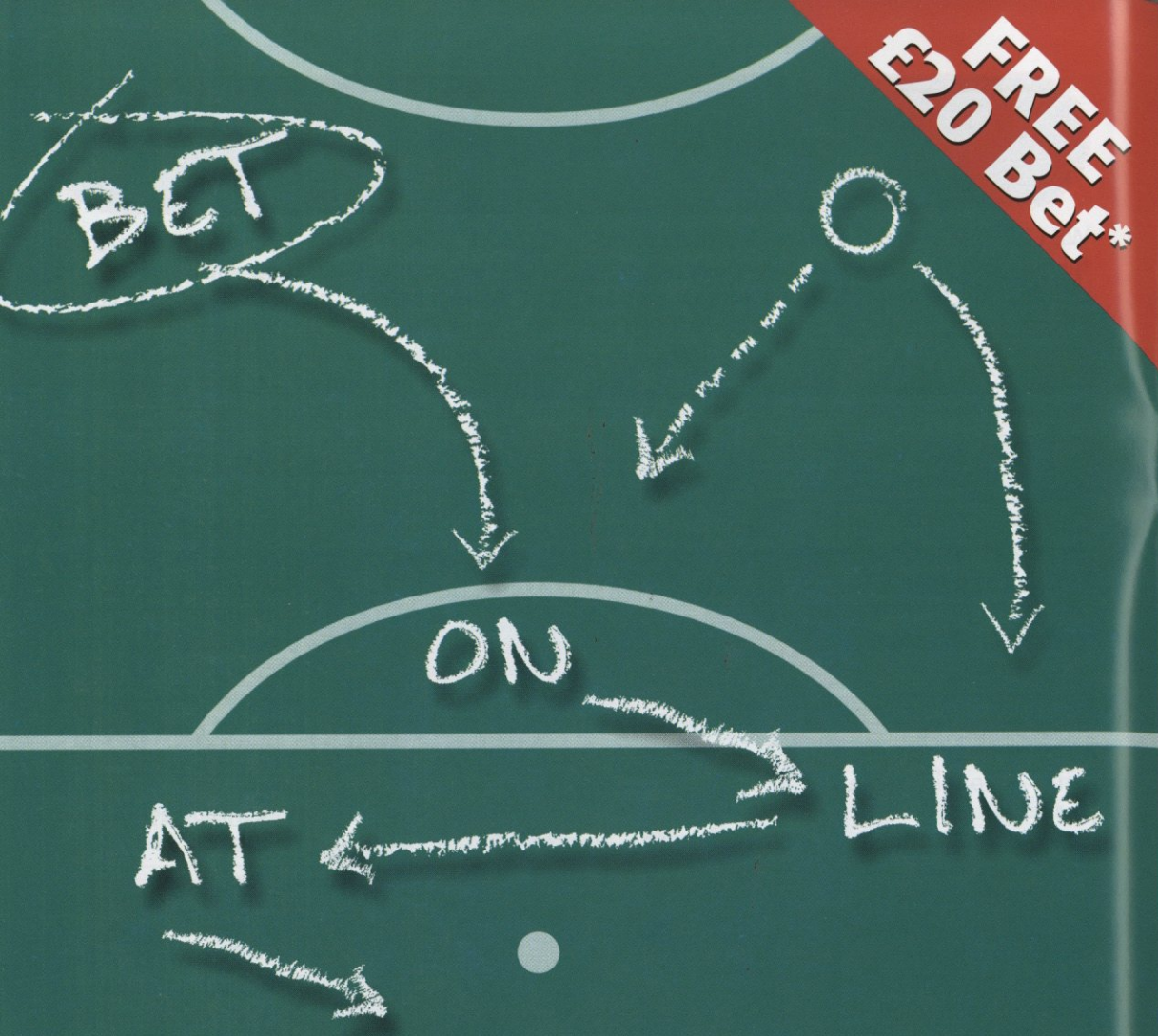
Play for a cure: Gerrard is proud to support this campaign by the English Schools' Football Association and The Garland Appeal to raise awareness of testicular cancer.

The Garland Appeal is a registered charity (number 1075007). The ESFA is a registered charity (number 306003).

Up and Running!

Luton Town's very own official website.

www.lutontown.co.uk



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£20 Bet***

hattersbet.co.uk - official online bookmaker

Could you use your football knowledge to win money? Why not place a bet online at hattersbet.co.uk and prove it? What's more, if you register today, you'll get a free £20 bet* and entry into SportsClub 365 - a draw to win monthly prizes.

Hattersbet, our official online bookmaker, offers an extensive range of club specific bets every time we play. And remember, every time you place a bet, you support the club financially. Go on, get online and put your money where your club is!

*Conditions apply. See website for details

www.lutontown.co.uk



Linda Layton

Commercial Corner

OUR sponsorship lounges this evening are once again crowded with old friends, and we are delighted to have three companies here as joint match sponsors, all paying return visits: G. Owen Ceramic

Tiling Ltd, Belldene Construction Services Ltd, and DAP Consultants.

The Owen Ceramic Tiling organisation has close links with Luton, although it is now based at Northampton, having had to move out of Luton to find larger premises as business increased.

That came about thanks to their reputation for quality and service, supplying and fixing ceramic tiling for the building industry, including most of the big names in house building. Belldene Construction Services UK & Ireland, based at Britannia House in Leagrave Road, is a unique player in the building industry, offering quality trade and labour for price and day-work, giving clients maximum flexibility.

Experienced in supplying labour to the private and public sectors, their clients include Luton Borough Council, prisons, and housing and facilities management companies. Belldene's guests this evening are from various parts of this country and Ireland and if you want to know more about the company Colin Innes is the man to talk to, on Luton 725033. Tonight is a special occasion for our other match sponsors, DAP Consulting partners David and Pauline Cain, from Bishops Stortford.

David has been supporting Luton for 45 years, and as an ex-Lutonian has a large family in the town, many of whom are also regular Hatters fans.

The success of DAP in advising Governments on the funding and creation of huge infrastructure projects has allowed the partners to achieve their dream of being regular sponsors of the team. Their son Jeremy has sponsored player's kit for several years, and is thrilled to have top scoring Steve Howard for the second year running. Tonight DAP welcome more than a football team's worth of their family, especially David and Steven Bostock, with their dad Peter and grand-

mother Joyce.

TONIGHT'S match ball sponsor, Larry Power is a long-time Town fan, and has kept up his love affair with the club despite living abroad. He is a partner in a yacht brokerage business, Sealair Yachts, in Puerto Jose Banus, Marbella, Spain.

A supporter for 30 years, he moved to Spain in 1980, but makes flying visits to watch the Town whenever he can. His happy memories include a Town pre-season visit to Marbella in the mid-eighties, when he enjoyed meeting David Pleat and Brian Horton, among others and a later visit when he had the chance to chat with Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Brian Stein, Mick Harford, Les Sealey and Peter Nicholas. Tonight, he will have the chance to chat with our 21st-century stars, and we hope Larry enjoys his time with us.

SUPPORTING Luton Town is part of the family way of life for this evening's commercial mascot, Matthew Collett, from Truro Gardens, Luton. A pupil at Icknield Junior School, Matthew is nine years old, and comes to matches with his mum and dad. They are season ticket holders - Matthew has been since he was four - in the New Stand.

He has two main hobbies - watching the Hatters, and playing football for Warden Hill Tigers under-10s, for whom he has already scored more than 20 goals this season.

The Galaxy, Luton's top leisure and entertainment centre, is sponsoring Matthew for tonight's VIP visit to the club, during which he will meet the players in the dressing room, and go out with them onto the pitch for the pre-match rituals. Best of all for Matthew will be the chance to meet Matt Taylor, his favourite player.



Matthew Collett

Linda Layton

Golden Gamble

ANOTHER supporter will be quids in tonight as our highly successful Golden Gamble continues to pay out big prizes for a modest outlay. At the Leyton Orient match our 18th happy winner of the season, Linda Quorenton, of Petersfield Gardens, Luton, won £680 after her £1 ticket was picked out of the drum by Steve Howard.

The Golden Gamble jackpots have totalled £11,335, an average of £630 per match. The size of the prize depends on sales - 50p from each ticket goes to the jackpot, and the other 50p to club funds. The draw is made at half time, and the cash is available for collection immediately.



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commercial@lutontown.co.uk

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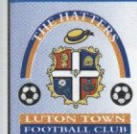
Jean Louis Valois
THE CANE INDUSTRIES (UK) LTD

Robert Gillman
CENTURY CLUB

John Moore
IAN SMITH

Scott Ward
G. OWEN CERAMIC TILING LTD

Goals Info:



Where



29 Goals



34 Goals



10 Goals

How

Shots.....37
Headers.....21
Volleys.....12
Penalties.....3
Free Kicks.....0
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Howard.....14
Crowe.....12
Taylor.....9
Griffiths.....7
Nicholls.....5
Spring.....5
Forbes.....4
Valois.....4
Perrett.....3

2001-2002

Highest Gate
9,585
vs Plymouth
Lowest Gate
5,066
vs Lincoln
Average Gate
6,771
Players Used 34
Clean Sheets 11
Failed to Score
3
Consec. Wins
6 games
Consec. Defeats
2 games

Hatters' Last 10

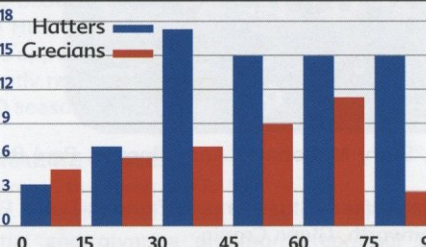
Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
W	Rushden	A	9th
W	Orient	H	22nd
W	Torquay	A	22nd
W	Lincoln	A	20th
W	York	H	20th
W	Bristol Rovers	H	17th
L	Scunthorpe	H	6th
L	Rochdale	A	4th
W	Plymouth	H	1st
L	Darlington	A	19th

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

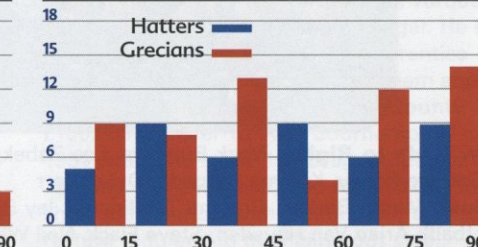
Seasonal Progress Comparison



When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded



Steve Howard (Luton)

13 games.....Total Games Scored In.....7 games
12 games.....Games Scored 1 Goal.....4 games
1 game.....Games Scored 2 Goals.....3 games
0 games.....Hat-tricks.....0 games
W>L.....1 (3pts)
W>D.....1 (2pts)
D>L.....2 (2pts)
3 games.....Maximum scoring run.....2 games
7 games.....Maximum Dry Spell.....7 games
6.....Shot.....9
7.....Header.....0
1.....Volleyed Shot.....0
0.....Penalty.....0
0.....Direct free Kick.....1

Top Scorers Comparison

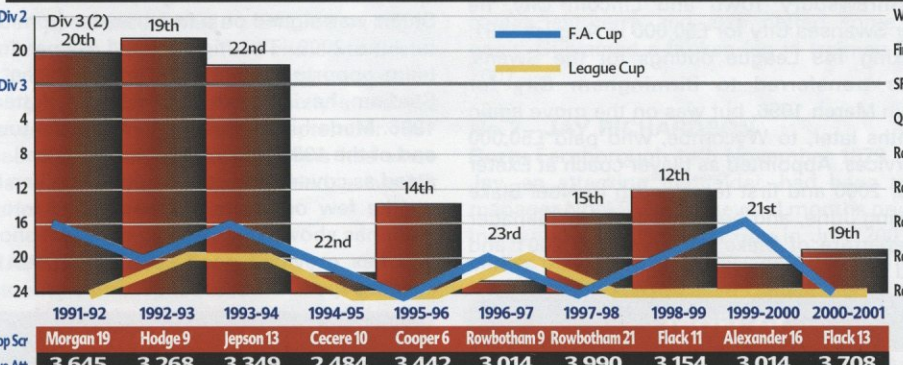
Chris Roberts (Exeter)

7 games.....Total Games Scored In.....7 games
4 games.....Games Scored 1 Goal.....4 games
3 games.....Games Scored 2 Goals.....3 games
0 games.....Hat-tricks.....0 games
W>L.....2 (6pts)
W>D.....2 (4pts)
D>L.....0 (0pts)
2 games.....Maximum scoring run.....2 games
7 games.....Maximum Dry Spell.....7 games
9.....Shot.....9
0.....Header.....0
0.....Volleyed Shot.....0
0.....Penalty.....0
1.....Direct free Kick.....1

Luton Goals.....73
Luton Games.....38
Luton's Goal Ave.....1.92

Exeter Goals.....41
Exeter Games.....37
Exeter's Goal Ave.....1.11

Exeter City's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record

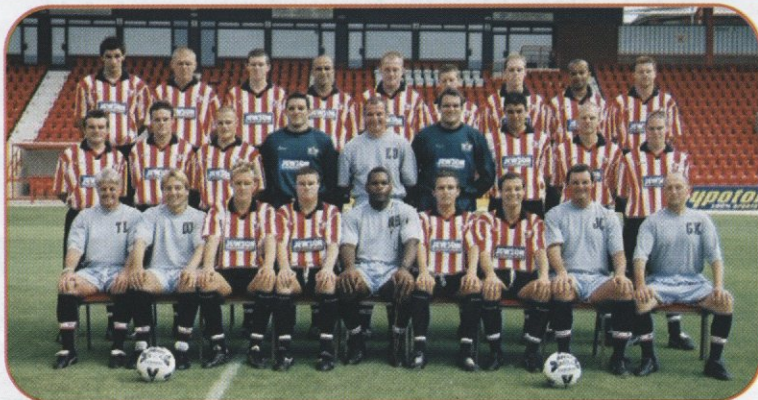


To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

Tottenham Hotspur v Charlton Athletic
Monday 18 March, ITV Sport Select
Liverpool v Roma
Tuesday 19 March, ITV Sport Channel

Boavista v Manchester United
Tuesday 19 March, ITV Sport Plus
Nottingham Forest v West Brom
Friday 22 March, ITV Sport Channel

Welcome to Exeter City F.C.



Back Row (Left to Right): Mark Burrows, Lee Zabek, Barry McConnell, Andy Roscoe, Paul Read, Geoff Breslan, Graeme Power, Kwame Ampadu, Dylan Kerr

Middle Row: Martin Barlow, Graeme Tomlinson, Jay Richardson, Stuart Fraser, Eamonn Dolan Director of Youth Football, Arjan Van Heusden, Steve Flack, Neil Whitworth, Glenn Cronin

Front Row: Tiv Lowe (Centre Of Excellence Manager), Damien Davey (Physio), Jamie Campbell, Sean McCarthy, Noel Blake, Paul Buckle, Chris Curran, John Cornforth (Manager), George Kent (Scout Co-Ordinator)

John Cornforth - Manager



Born: Whitley Bay 7th October 1967.

John was signed on an 18-month deal in February 2000 from Scunthorpe United, where he had been on a monthly contract since joining them from Wycombe Wanderers in the summer of 1999. A full Welsh

international, he commenced his career with Sunderland, and after loan spells at Doncaster Rovers, Shrewsbury Town and Lincoln City, he signed for Swansea City for £50,000 in August 1991. After making 149 League outings for the Swans, John was transferred to Birmingham City for £350,000 in March 1996, but was on the move again nine months later, to Wycombe, who paid £50,000 for his services. Appointed as player-coach at Exeter in October 2000 and first team coach to Noel Blake the following June, and became caretaker manager on the departure of Blake in September 2001 and appointed manager a month later.

In Goal

No.1 - ARJAN VAN HEUSDEN

Born: Alphen. Holland 11th December 1972

Impressive, tall Dutch keeper who was signed on a free transfer from Cambridge United in July 2000 and has been in outstanding form ever since. Had a trial with Barnsley, prior to joining the Grecians, manager Noel Blake having been keen to sign Arjan after his release by Cambridge. Entered the Football League with Port Vale in August 1994, who paid Noordwijk £4,500 for his services. After a loan spell with Oxford United, Arjan signed for Cambridge in August 1998. Has proved a big success since signing for Exeter with a series of excellent displays.

No.24 - STUART FRASER

Born: Cheltenham 1st August 1978.

Stuart was signed on a free transfer from Stoke City in June 2000. The highly rated keeper found first team opportunities strictly limited at the Britannia Stadium, having been signed by the Potters in July 1996. Made his League debut for Stoke towards the end of the 1998-99 season against Walsall. Although acted as cover for Exeter keeper Arjan Van Heusden, on the few occasions he was called into the first team has shown that he is an excellent shot stopper and has provided good competition for the goal-keeping spot.

In Defence

No.2 - NEIL WHITWORTH

Born: Wigan 12th April 1972



Tonight's Visitors



Strong and experienced defender, who joined the Grecians in August 2000 following a successful trial at the club. The England youth international commenced his career with his home town club of Wigan Athletic. He was then snapped up by Manchester United in a £45,000 deal in July 1990. Loan spells followed with Preston North End, Barnsley, Rotherham United and Blackpool, before Neil was transferred to Kilmarnock in September 1994 for £265,000. After making 75 Scottish Premier League outings, he then moved to Hull City, where an achilles tendon injury limited his appearances for several months, and was subsequently released by the Tigers at the end of the 1999-2000 season.

No.3 - GRAEME POWER

Born: Harrow 7th March 1977.

Consistent defender who joined Exeter City for a pre-season trial and given a one-month contract in August 1998. Following a series of steady displays he then signed a contract until the end of the season. Graeme commenced his career with Queens Park Rangers, but had to wait for his League debut until moving to Bristol Rovers in September 1996. Quickly established himself in the Grecians first team and was rewarded with a further contract in the 1999 close season.



No. 5 - CHRIS CURRAN

Born: Birmingham 17th September 1971.

Chris became one of the small band of players who has appeared for all three of Devon's Football League clubs. He commenced his career at Torquay United where he made

152 League appearances. Made a £40,000 switch to Plymouth Argyle in December 1995 and on to Exeter City for £20,000 in July 1997. Made a big impression after signing for Exeter but unfortunately sustained knee ligament injury in the game in September 1997 and missed the rest of the season. Chris has since proved he was a bargain signing. Had a benefit game against Everton in August 2000.

No.6 - MARK BURROWS

Born: Kettering 14th August 1980

A free transfer signing from Coventry City in July 2000, Mark, a tall, powerful defender, had made his way via the youth system at Highfield Road to earn a full contract, having played a prominent part in the

Club's FA Youth Cup Final appearance. Unable to break into the Highfield Road Premiership side, he received two other offers before opting to move to St James' Park. Signed for Merthyr Tydfil on loan in March 2002.

No.18 - ALEX WATSON

Born: Liverpool 5th April 1968

Signed on a free transfer in July 2000, Alex had his contract paid up by his former club, Torquay United, where he was also assistant manager. He began his career with Liverpool as an apprentice and progressed to make a handful of first team appearances. Had a loan spell with Derby County before a £150,000 transfer to AFC Bournemouth in January 1991 where he made 151 League outings. Moved to Torquay in November 1995 for £50,000 following a short loan period with Gillingham, and went on to feature regularly in the Plainmoor side.

In Midfield

No.4 - PAUL BUCKLE

Born: Welwyn 16th December 1970

Now in his second spell at the club, Paul rejoined the Grecians in July 1999 on a two-year contract, having become a free agent after spending three seasons with Colchester United. Paul began his career with Brentford, before moving to Torquay United, and then onto Exeter City in a player exchange deal in November 1995. Due to financial cut backs at the club, Paul left Exeter in the summer of 1996 and subsequently played three league matches for Barnet before linking up with Colchester where he helped them win promotion to Division Two. Having overcome an ankle injury the season before last, Paul played some of the most consistent football of his career last term and also netted some excellent goals. Sustained a broken leg in training December 2001.

No.7 - JAY RICHARDSON

Born: Farnborough 14th November 1979.

Jay, an attacking midfielder, had been tracked by manager Noel Blake for several months prior to signing a two-year deal with City in July 2001. He had earlier played for the Grecians in an end of season friendly against Newcastle United. Jay established a regular place in the Chelsea reserve side, having worked his way through the Stamford bridge youth system., however, could not make a first team breakthrough and was released at the end of his contract.

Up and Running!

Luton Town's very own official website.

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Signed for Stevanage Borough on loan in March 2002.



No.8 - KWAME AMPADU

Born: Bradford 20th December 1970

A former Republic of Ireland youth and Under-21 international, Kwame began his career with Arsenal where he worked his way through the youth scheme. Opportunities were

restricted to two substitute outings at Highbury, and he had a short loan spell with Plymouth Argyle in 1990. Transferred to West Bromwich Albion for £50,000 in June 1991 and onto Swansea City for £15,000 in February 1994. After featuring in over 150 matches for the Swans, Kwame moved to Leyton Orient in July 1998. Although a regular in the O's side, he opted for a free transfer switch to Exeter City in June 2000. Excellent passer of the ball and a good outlet for the strikers.

No.10 - MARTIN BARLOW

Born: Barnstaple 25th June 1971

A free transfer signing from Plymouth Argyle in July 2000, Martin gave tremendous service to the Home Park club having joined them as a trainee and then becoming a full professional in July 1989. Noted for his neat control and passing ability, Martin featured in well over 300 League games for Argyle, as well as enjoying a well deserved testimonial. He lost his first team place last season and was loaned to Yeovil Town in March 2000, but an injury in first appearance ended his short stay there.

No.11 - ANDY ROSCOE

Born: Liverpool 4th June 1973

A free transfer signing from Mansfield Town in June 2000, Andy featured in 250 League and Cup matches for Rotherham United before making the move to the Stags during the 1999 close season. He began his career with Liverpool as a trainee. Such was the competition at Anfield, however, that he had to wait for his League debut until transferring to Bolton Wanderers in July 1991. Moved to Rotherham for a fee of £70,000 in October 1994. Won a regular place in the Exeter City team in his first season at St James' Park.

No.13 - GEOFF BRESLAN

Born: Torquay 8th April 1980

Geoff made the transition from being a trainee to earn his first full contract three seasons ago, and showed so much promise that he was quickly called up into the Republic of Ireland Under-19 squad. Became a regular member of the first team in his

first season, but was in and out of the team in 1999-2000 and struggled to make an impact last term. Plays out wide, and is a player who likes to take on defenders and cross the ball. Went on loan to Tamworth in November 2000.

No.15 - BARRY McCONNELL

Born: Exeter 1st January 1977

Barry has been associated with the Club since first joining as a schoolboy and worked his way through to the senior ranks via the youth teams as a trainee to earn a full contract in August 1995. He can operate in a variety of positions, wing-back, midfield, as a striker. Although he was released at the end of the 1999-2000 campaign, Barry impressed manager Noel Blake with his determination and as a result was re-engaged on a further contract. Joined Weston-Super-Mare on loan in September 2000 and although he only featured on a handful of occasions for the Grecians first team, is a useful, wholehearted versatile player, who can fill in wherever required.



No.27 - GLENN CRONIN

Born: Dublin 14th September 1981

Capped by the Republic of Ireland at Under-18 level last season, Glenn has made excellent progress via the youth ranks at Exeter City, and on completion of his spell as a trainee was signed on a full contract during the summer of 2000. A regular member of the reserve and youth teams, now commencing his second full season as a professional, Glenn is expected to become a valuable member of the first team squad.

No.28 - CHRISTIAN ROBERTS

Born: Cardiff 22nd October 1979

A Welsh youth and under-21 international who was signed on a free transfer by Exeter from his home town club of Cardiff City in July 2000. Originally a trainee at Ninian Park, Chris gained a full contract with the Bluebirds in October 1997 and impressed with his pace and fierce shooting ability. However, he found it difficult to win a regular place in the first team and spent a spell on loan with Hereford United. Exciting player to watch, speedy and not afraid to take on defenders, which has caused more than a problem or two for the opposition.

No.30 - LEE ZABEK

Born: Bristol 13th October 1978.

Lee became manager Noel Blake's fourteenth summer signing as he agreed a two-year deal with the Grecians following his free transfer move from Bristol Rovers in August 2000. A central midfield

ball-winner, Lee was originally a trainee with Rovers, gaining a full contract in July 1997. However, his first team outings had been limited to illness and injury, although was noted by Exeter after he scored against them in the FA Cup in 1998.

Up Front

No.9 - SEAN MCCARTHY

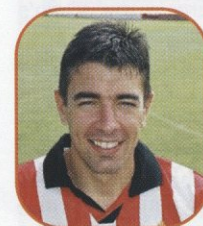
Born: Bridgend 12th September 1967

Signing a two-year contract for City in July 2001 following his release by Plymouth Argyle, Sean adds much experience to the squad and is equally adept at playing in attacking or defensive role, although more noted for the former. He started his career with Swansea City who had spotted him playing for nearby Bridgend Town in October 1985. Sean went on to make 91 League outings, netting 25 goals, before a £50,000 move took him to Plymouth Argyle for his first spell there in August 1988. His value had shot up to £250,000 by the time he signed for Bradford City in July 1990 where he hit 60 goals in 131 League matches. Oldham Athletic was his next port of call, a £500,000 transfer fee taking him there in December 1993 and featuring in the side that played in the Premiership. After being loaned to Bristol City, Sean returned to Plymouth on a free transfer in August 1998.

No.12 - PAUL READ

Born: Harlow 25th September 1973

A player who the Grecians had tracked for over a year, finally signed for the club on a non-contract basis in November 2000 on his return from playing in Sweden with OFK Ostersund. A former Arsenal professional, he was unable to break into the Gunners league side, and as a result had loan spells with Leyton Orient and Southend United. Moved to Wycombe Wanderers for £130,000 in January 1997 where he featured in over 50 League matches. An injury kept him out of the Exeter side at the end of last season.



No.14 - STEVE FLACK

Born: Cambridge 29th May 1971.

Extremely popular amongst the City fans for his wholehearted displays, Steve was a former professional boxer who was signed by Exeter for a fee of £10,000 from Cardiff City in

September 1996. He had previously played for non-leaguers Foxton and Cambridge City, moving to

Ninian Park midway through the 1995-96 season. Was the club's leading goalscorer in 1998-99, and that attracted six-figure offers from Hull City and Bristol Rovers during the course of the campaign, and a further £80,000 bid from Hartlepool United in September 2001. Had a marvellous run of scoring form in the second half of last season and once again topped the scoring charts. Steve is an excellent target man and shields the ball well to enables his team mates to get in the game alongside him.

No.17 - GRAEME TOMLINSON

Born: Watford 10th December 1975

Reunited with Noel Blake at Exeter following his free transfer move from Macclesfield Town in June 2000, the pair having been team mates at Bradford City. Graeme made a £100,000 switch to Manchester United in July 1994, but found first team outings limited at Old Trafford and therefore had loan spells with Luton Town, AFC Bournemouth and Millwall. Moved to Macclesfield in July 1998. Scored on his debut for the Grecians, against Cardiff City, on the opening day of last season, but after that was mainly as a substitute.

Trainees

MICHAEL ARSCOTT (b: Plymouth 27-09-83)

LESLIE AFFUL (b: Liverpool 04-02-84)

SCOTT BOWKER (b: Exeter 30-01-85)

JAMIE BRADFORD (b: Middlesbrough 14-09-83)

JAMES BULL (b: Southampton 21-12-83)

SEAN CANHAM (b: Exeter 26-09-84)

ROSS CASEY (b: Exeter 03-12-82)

DAVID DRAKE (b: Plymouth 25-10-84)

MICHAEL GILLINGHAM (b: Truro 08-11-83)

SHAUN GOFF (b: Tiverton 13-04-84)

BEN HARRIS (b: Exeter 15-09-84)

STEVEN JOHNS (b: Exeter 29-12-83)

MATTHEW LOCK (b: Barnstaple 10-03-84)

KEVIN McSHANE (b: Plymouth 21-12-84)

REINIER MOOR (b: Holland 12-06-83)

LEE PARKER (b: Exeter 25-06-83)

LEWIS REED (b: Plymouth 15-09-84)

RHYS TIPPETT (b: Canberra, Australia 09-03-85)





Roger Wash

All our yesterdays

Ryan blitzes the Grecians

Luton Town supporters had good feelings about the forthcoming 1967/68 season and felt

that finally, after seven years of decline, fortunes were about to turn for the better.

Signs of a revival came about with the appointment of ex-player, Allan Brown, as manager the previous November and he steered a team that had looked odds on to become the first Luton side to need to apply for re-election to a position of safety.

With safety assured, Brown dipped into the transfer market and brought in Terry Branstion, Billy McDerment, Tommy Hare, Micky Brown and Rodney Green all for an outlay of under £20,000. Early season form was patchy with only two points gained from the first three away games but as only six points had been picked up on our travels in the previous campaign we all looked on it as promotion form!

The signing of Ian Buxton from Derby County for £11,000 towards the end of September was, looking back, the final piece in the jigsaw. A clever, ball playing inside forward he provided the perfect foil for the dynamic Bruce Rioch and also weighed in with a fair number of important goals as the season progressed.

It was a slice of good fortune that saw Buxton snapped up by the Town as Allan Brown had gone to watch ex-England striker, Alan Peacock, playing for Leeds reserves but was far more impressed with Buxton, who was turning out for the opposition, and made an immediate bid.

Buxton made his Luton debut, on the day he signed for the club, in a 3-1 home win over Southend. In truth the game probably passed him by as it was a thud and blunder contest played at 100 m.p.h. with the ball spending a considerable time in the air. He no doubt wondered what he was letting himself in for!

Buxton, however, soon got used to the different style of play and was man of the match in his next outing. A 2-2 draw at Rochdale looked good compared to what we had endured previously but we actually threw a point away having been 2-0 ahead at one stage courtesy of a Buxton

overhead kick and a Rioch pile driver.

Next up was a tough trip to Doncaster where in gale force winds and driving rain the Town went down 0-2 and in the process lost Hare with a long term ankle injury. Again the Hatters were well on top in the first half but gifted the points to Rovers after the interval. Playing in shirts borrowed from Watford because of a colour clash obviously did not help the situation!

'Forty-seven loyal Luton fans (including me) who travelled to see their side chalk up their first away win of the season at Chester on Saturday waited outside the dressing room and cheered manager Allan Brown and his victorious team all the way back to their coach.' So reported the 'Evening Post' after the 3-1 victory which finally broke the away duck in our next game. Again Buxton was on the score sheet, along with Keith Allen, as the season truly took off with the away match bogey finally buried.

We maintained our 100% home record with a hard fought 1-0 win over high flying Chesterfield on the following Saturday with Buxton, now beginning to look the bargain of the season, glancing home a header in the 63rd minute to break the deadlock.

With Graham French due to be suspended for three games as a legacy of his dismissal at Wrexham on the opening day of the season, Allan Brown returned to his old club, Wigan Athletic, and came back with winger John Ryan who he secured for £2,000.

Brown obviously knew all about Ryan, who he had signed for Wigan from Tranmere, and had turned down a bid of £10,000 from Oldham for him a year previously.

Ryan went straight into the team in the Town's next game, away at Exeter, replacing French in an otherwise unchanged side.

Because of a rail dispute the Luton party had to drive to the west country where 24 hours of heavy rain had left the St James' Park pitch very soft and spongy. The Grecians had gone seven games without a win and sat in 23rd place in the table which was reflected in the crowd of 3,434, their lowest of the season.

Exeter started very strongly and had the Town on

the back foot and only two smart saves from Tony Read, in the Luton goal, prevented them from taking an early lead.

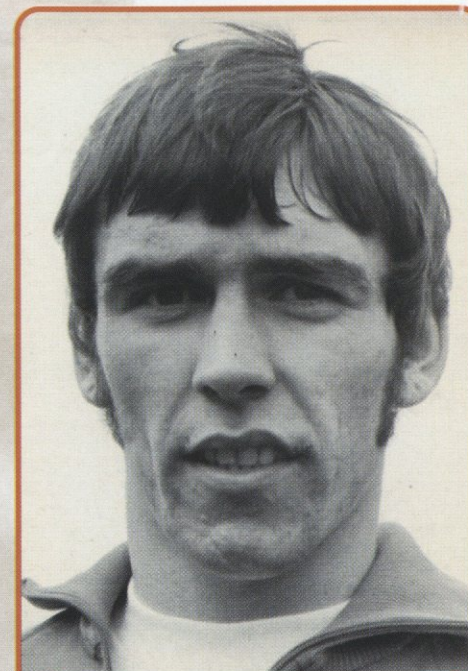
After weathering this initial pressure the Town broke away to steal the lead in the 15th minute. Ryan, who had already served notice of his pace and skill on the wing, played a brilliant pass to Allen who turned the ball into the path of little Ray Whittaker who made no mistake from close range.

Ryan was now in his element and had a field day, leading the Exeter defence a merry dance as he slung over several tantalising crosses which the other forwards were unable to convert. The closest the Town came to increasing their lead in the first half was a shot from Allen which thudded against a post but as the interval whistle went we were well ahead on points but amazingly had only one goal to show for it.

This minor detail was put right in the second period to devastating effect as the Hatters slammed in a further four goals without reply. Ryan had a debut to remember, setting up the Town's second goal, converted by Alan Slough, and the third headed in by Allen.

Goal number four came from clever play on the other wing with Whittaker setting up Allen for his second goal and when the fifth went in via the boot of Buxton with ten minutes left the crowd were already streaming away.

The 5-0 victory was the Town's best on their travels for 12 years and set up the stroll to the eventual championship while Exeter, due to a run of seven games without defeat at the end of the season, finished fifth from bottom at the death and therefore avoided the re-election positions. Unfortunately, John Ryan's fire burned but briefly and after only 17 further league outings



John Ryan who enjoyed a devastating debut for the Town at Exeter in 1967.

for the Town over the next two seasons he was transferred to Notts County.

Luton: Read, Dougan, Jardine, Slough, Branstion, Moore, Ryan, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker.

Exeter: Smout, Smyth, Crawford, Wilkinson, Harvey, Huxford, Hart, Fudge, Blain, Hamilton, Watling.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



The Exeter programme for the visit of Luton carried an identical cover to that issued for the F.A.Cup game against the Town in 1960 but the reading material was varied and interesting due to the input of one of the doyens of football writing, Maurice Golesworthy.

It is interesting to note that the Grecians looked on Luton as one of their bogey sides which was certainly true pre-war when we lost only six of thirty-four games but less so after as we had won only one in four.

The fixture list for that season makes sad reading as six clubs, Chester, Workington, Doncaster, Bradford Park Avenue, Newport and Aldershot are no longer with us in the Football League.



How likely is it that the private sector will improve public services?

GMB Luton office 01582 494492



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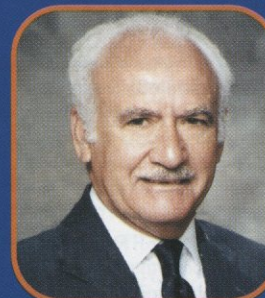


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POLICY STATEMENT - SPECTATOR SAFETY



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

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

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

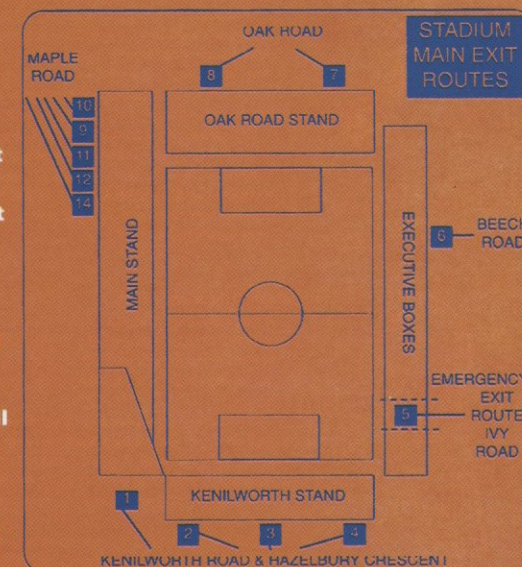
Mike Watson-Challis Chairman

Reviewed August, 2001.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

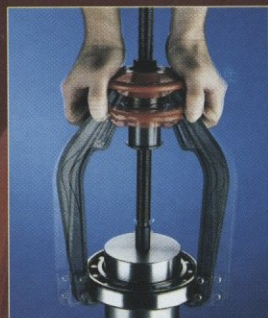
IN THE event of any emergency in the stadium, Luton Town FC and the emergency services have agreed on an evacuation procedure which is designed to ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd, and to ensure their safe dispersal from the area, to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks.

In the event of evacuation from all or part of the stadium, you will receive instructions over the public address system on how you should leave. In an evacuation of the main stand you will be instructed to use the pitch. Stewards will direct you to the nearest exit. It may be that your normal exit route will not be available. On leaving the stadium, you will find some roads closed to pedestrians, to enable swift and unobstructed access for the emergency services. Please leave the area of the ground as quickly as possible, by the route directed. Your co-operation will be most appreciated.



Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.

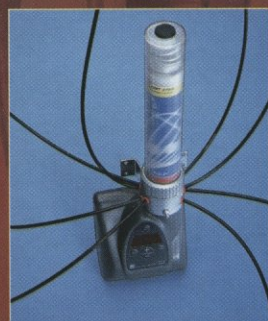
For the latest ticket information call the Luton Ticket Office on:
01582 416976



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.

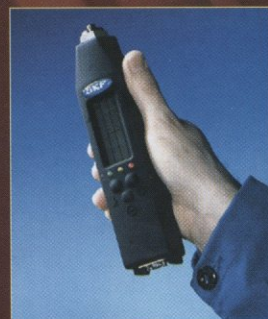
Some 16 per cent of premature bearing failures can be attributed to bad fitting. The most common fault is the use of brute force, while ignorance or laziness regarding use of the correct tools for the task is a major contributor. Available in three sizes to provide maximum withdrawal forces between three 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.

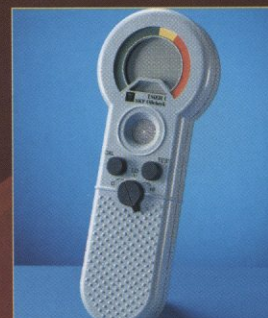


MARLIN condition detector (MCD)

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.

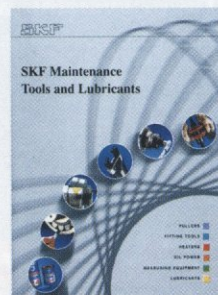
The hand-held monitoring device is a comparative instrument, which enables optimised intervals to be maintained between oil changes. It detects and measures the dielectric constant in a used oil sample, which is compared against results taken from an unused lubricant of the same type and brand.

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.

Added-Value Solutions

SKF's Integrated Maintenance Solutions (IMS) programme consists of an extensive range of quality products and services, designed to maximise your overall plant efficiency and profitability.

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Fans Scene

THE PROPOSED supporters trip to the Isle of Man in July, to watch the Town in a pre-season tournament, looks 99 per cent certain to go ahead. There are already enough fans interested to fill one coach, and if they all confirm and others come in it is possible a second will be laid on.


Town on Tour, part of Luton Town Supporters Club, is organising the package, and is waiting for fixture list details before confirming travel arrangements and prices. The Festival runs from July 21 to 27, and will also feature Burnley, Wrexham, Darlington and Rochdale, and the Isle of Man national side.

Town on Tour are offering a choice of bed and breakfast packages, ranging from £249 in a guesthouse, to £399 in a five-crown luxury hotel. Those prices are based on the assumption that the journey outward will


be made on Sunday July 21, but if the Town have a game that day, departure will be the day before, which will add to the accommodation cost.

If you are interested call at the LTSC kiosk, or contact Mark Chapman by fax on 01296 714073 or e-mail to markchapman65@hotmail.com. You can also leave a message on Town on Tour's mobile at 07960 567465. A £100 deposit will secure your place.

Meanwhile, tickets are now on sale for the player of the year presentation evening run jointly by the Town and the Supporters Club: see below for details. And on Thursday, Yvonne Fletcher, the supporters' representative on the board, will host a fans forum, to answer questions on any Luton Town topic you care to raise. Admission is free – just turn up for a 7.30 kick-off.



Player of the Season Presentation Evening



Sunday 21st April 2002
7.00pm til late
at
The Riverside Suite
Vauxhall Recreation Centre
Gipsy Lane, Luton

Special Guest Speaker
David Croft (Radio 5 Live)

Disco • Hot & Cold Buffet • Presentation Draw
Smart Casual Dress
Tickets: £12 LTSC Members
£15 Non Members

Top Hatter Paul Hughes



Born: Hammersmith 19.4.76

Joined Luton: Summer, 2001, from Southampton

Were you good at school? I was lucky enough to be bright, and I enjoyed learning. I got nine GCSEs, and Chelsea, when I was a trainee, let me carry on with my education and I got a couple of A levels as well. But all I wanted to do was to be a professional footballer, and I was with Chelsea from the age of 11 after they spotted me in schools football. It was a great place to learn your trade.

So how have you landed up at Luton? Mainly because they wanted me, and I wanted a chance to get my career moving again. Glenn Hoddle gave me my first contract at Chelsea, and Ruud Gullit started my Premiership career. Then Gianluca Vialli came in, a new manager wanting new players, and for two years I was stagnating, unable to get into the team. At 24 I was able to go on a Bosman to Southampton and Glenn Hoddle again, but I suffered a terrible groin tear. I was out the game for eight months, Hoddle left to go to Spurs, and I had gone three years without a game. I was given a free transfer, and my choice of clubs eventually boiled down to Burnley or Luton. I spoke to the Gaffer, who had remembered me from his days at Wimbledon and mine at Chelsea, and he easily persuaded me that it would be a good career move to come here.

Do you like other sports? I like to play golf and tennis, and enjoy go-karting, and I love watching good football live or on TV – the Champions League is superb, and I occasionally watch Chelsea and Southampton, because I still have friends at both those clubs.

Your greatest career pleasure so far? My early times at Chelsea, among wonderful players, with excellent coaches. I played in the San Siro, when Chelsea went to Milan for a friendly, and that was something special, even though we lost 2-0.

Biggest drawback? ? Injuries, and my last two years at Chelsea, when I was getting nowhere.

Do you worry about what you will do when footballing days are over? No – I never worry. And I don't know what I will be doing tomorrow, let alone in ten years' time! I haven't yet given much deep thought about another career when I have to give up playing.

Will you become a regular football spectator? Most definitely. I love to watch good football. I don't think I would become a supporter of one club – I will watch any match that gives me good entertainment.

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Stuart Smith



Football in the Community adidas

I WOULD like to begin today by giving you the latest update on the development of the old club shop in Oak Road, which is being turned into the Community Office. The

good news is that we have completed the internal repairs, and decoration is underway.

The not so good news is that the completion date has been set back by difficulties with the upgrading of the electrics. This has now been rectified and we can set about the task of drying out the building, which after such a long period of non-use has acquired some dampness. This is a very small job, and once that is completed the installation of new wiring and heating can be completed. Then finally we can paint, carpet and furnish the building, and moving in will become a reality.

The delay has had one beneficial side-effect: I have been able to secure sponsorship for at least fifty per cent of the costs of the refurbishment. I eagerly



await the opportunity to move, because as I have said before I see this as a major step forward for the department and our ability to be in constant touch with the children of the town. They will be able to pop in and see us, find out what we are doing, and enrol on the courses of their choice.

Recent projects included a ten-week coaching course for children of Marsh Farm. It was a tremendous success, attended by around 70 boys and girls. We promised at the end of the course to bring the children to a game and to present trophies to the winners of the two tournaments we ran.

Our pictures show the under-16 winners, Winchester Rifles, and under-12 winners, Manchester Arrows, receiving their trophies from Ian Hillier. If the team names seem a bit unusual, it's because they had to be named after the road in which one of their members lived.

Finally, as usual, if you wish to enrol on any courses or have any enquiries please call me at the club, on Luton 411622.

Below is a table showing courses currently on offer. We will be announcing the Easter Holiday courses in the next week.



VENUE	AGE GROUP	START DATE	DAY & TIME	TOTAL WEEKS	WEEKS REMAINING	COST
Bramingham Primary Boys & girls	7 - 11	12/1/02	Sat 10.00 -11.30am	10	3	£2.50pw
Ashcroft High Boys	12 - 15	1/2/02	Fri 4.30-6pm	7	2	£2.50pw
Luton Regional Sports Centre Boys & Girls	5 - 6	25/2/02	Mon 4 - 5pm	10	7	£2.50pw
Luton Regional Sports Centre Boys	7- 11	28/2/02	Thurs 4-5pm	10	8	£2.50pw
Luton Regional Sports Centre Girls	7 - 11	28/2/02	Thurs 5-6pm	10	8	£2.50pw

Fancy a party or reception at Kenilworth Road?
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B Official Away Socks

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Code: 030290Y Size: 164 £16.99
Code: 030290 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £19.99

C Official Away Socks

100% Nylon
Code: 030291B Size: B, LB £7.99
Code: 030291 Size: M £8.99

D Jersey Tee

100% Cotton
Code: 030240B Size: 134, 144, 158 £12.99
Code: 030240Y Size: 164 £15.99
Code: 030240 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £17.99

E Woven Short

100% Polyester
Code: 030270B Size: 134, 144, 158 £14.99
Code: 030270Y Size: 164 £17.99
Code: 030270 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £19.99

F Mesh Training Jersey

100% Nylon
Code: 030232B Size: 134, 144, 158 £19.99
Code: 030232Y Size: 164 £21.99
Code: 030232 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £24.99

G Sleeveless Tee

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Code: 030236Y Size: 164 £17.99
Code: 030236 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £19.99

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Our Marathon Man

WE ARE still looking for backing from supporters for our entrant in next month's **Flora London Marathon**, for which schoolmaster **Dave Suttle** is training hard. He is now at the stage of pushing himself through the pain barrier to build up his stamina. The 46-year-old headmaster will carry the **Town's** colours in the football section of the world's biggest athletics event, and hopes to raise a lot of cash for two charities.

Dave lives in **Blackheath**, but has been a **Town** fan since boyhood, following in his father's footsteps, and while his gruelling training regime is hard work, he says he is happy to go through it for the honour of representing **Luton Town** in the race.

If you would like to support him please use the coupon on this page, or a photocopy if you do

not want to mutilate your matchday magazine. Dave intends to help two charities, the **Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust**, and our own local good cause, the **Keech Cottage Hospice**.

To pledge a donation, please complete the coupon 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 run on **April 14**. 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.

Name.....

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

Address.....

Telephone.....

*I wish to make the donation in any event

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Amount pledged.....

*Please delete as appropriate.

Programmes On Offer

THE EDITOR welcomes comments and views from all **Luton Town** supporters: you can contact him via the club, or by e-mail to brian.swain@btinternet.com. A recent correspondent was **Michael Scarratt**, from **5, Kentmere Place, Clayton, Newcastle, Staffordshire ST5 3QL**, and his letter will interest all programme collectors. He writes: "I have followed the fortunes of **Luton Town** for many years. During this time I have collected many of their programmes, dating back to the 1960s, both home and away.

"I have a number that are surplus to my requirements. Rather than throw them away, I was wondering if I could get in touch with fellow supporters who may wish to add to their collection. If they could write to me, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, I would be only too pleased to send them a list."

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Dean Rastrick

Youth Development

OUR youth staff is currently in one of the most difficult periods of the year when hard decisions and choices have to be made as we plan for next season. We work hard at bringing young players up through the ranks in the never-ending search for young talent which might one day blossom into first team potential. Picking the right boys as they approach 16 is one of the hardest jobs we face. Obviously, every youth coach tries to make the right judgement, and perhaps the most difficult job of all is to tell a hopeful young boy, whose heart was set on being a footballer, that you don't think he will make it, and that he will not be taken on by the club as a scholar when he leaves school. It can be a crushing disappointment for the lads involved, but we always wish them well, and if they are really determined they might have better luck elsewhere.

We are now making that decision on our young players. Between now and the end of the season some of the boys in our youth team will be given the bad news that they are not being kept on. But the tough decisions being made now are on our under-16s, as to which of them will join the full-time ranks at the club in July.

We offer a three-year scholarship contract, which has taken the place of the YTS training and apprenticeship scheme. The major differences in the new scheme are that it is a year longer, but the football element is optional for the club at the end of the second year, and it can be terminated at this point, or the player can be offered his third year of football.

The education element is tailored to the young players' qualifications and future career ambitions. We make them think of a life outside football, and remind them that on average perhaps only 25 per cent of the boys who come here with high hopes at 16 are still earning a living from football three or four years later.

We offer almost all courses that would be available if they were to continue on to sixth form college or other higher education.

We currently have 15 players on scholarship contracts, and for the start of next season we have offered scholarship places and a non-contract place to five boys who have already made

some appearances in John Moore's youth team. The lads involved are:

Dean Rastrick (Goalkeeper)

A pupil at Lea Manor High School, Luton, Dean has been associated with Luton Town FC since he was nine, training at our Centre of Excellence. He played for Crawley Juniors in the Chiltern Youth League before joining us, and has represented Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools at a variety of ages, and has also been a regular in our Football League Youth Alliance team this season.

Max Howell (Defender)

Max is from South Ruislip in Middlesex and attends the Douay Martyrs School in Ickenham. He joined the club at 13 from the Hounslow District Schools FA. He has played in a number of positions, and has been involved in the youth squad throughout this season.

Leon Barnett (Defender)

A local lad, Leon attends Icknield High School, Luton, and joined the club from Bushmead Wanderers as a 13-year-old. He has progressed through the Centre of Excellence to the youth team, and has made a number of under-19 appearances for us.

Richard Mansell (Defender)

Like his brother Lee, Richard is from Gloucester, and attends the Beaufort Community College in the town. He was introduced to the club by our South West scout, Stuart White, and has been associated with the club since he was 14. Because he lives a distance away, he has attended training here mainly during the school holidays, and continued to play for his local team, Windsor Drive Youth FC.

John De Souza (Midfield)

John is from Luton and joined the club from Sacred Heart Youth FC, who are managed by Mick Macdonald. He attends Cardinal Newman RC School in Luton and has represented Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools FA at various age groups.

This year's under-16s have been a good and enjoyable set of players to work with, and on behalf of all the staff in the youth department I wish them all every success in their football careers.

Dean Rastrick

Ever thought about being a match ball sponsor?

Call the Commercial Department on:

01582 411622

TOWN TEASER

WE HAVE more free match tickets to give away this evening to a supporter who knows a little bit about Luton Town. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go, and he will pick out an entrant at random. If you don't know the answer, it can be found elsewhere in tonight's programme.

At the Orient match we asked who were the two Town players who were previously with the Brisbane Road club, and the answer was Carl Griffiths and Ahmet Brkovic.

TONIGHT'S QUESTION

Which midfielder made his first appearance of the season for us against Exeter in September, and has been ever-present in the team in the league ever since?

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Happy Harry

Junior Hatters

PRINT deadlines have meant that a report and pictures from the Junior Hatters' trip to Rushden will have to wait until Saturday's game, against Kidderminster, but we can be pretty sure we had a good day out with our friends in Northamptonshire.

This season has not been as good as usual for away match excursions, because not all clubs have junior sections as well organised as ours, and we now have only one more trip to look forward to. But it should be a very good day out, because it is to Shrewsbury, on April 20, for the last game of the season, and we hope that by then we will already be celebrating promotion.

We will publish more details in a later matchday magazine, but as usual the basic price will be £10 for Junior Hatters and £13 for others, including parents.

Meanwhile, don't forget that Junior Hatters can enjoy a full day out at Kenilworth Road on Saturday home games, thanks to our very popular Saturday Club.

We kick off at noon, with Dallow School the first venue for games, usually including football, before adjourning to our family room underneath the Kenilworth Stand for a sausage and chips lunch, and more entertainment. Quite often we have visits from players.

The family room is open again during the interval and at the end of the match, and all activities are fully supervised. The price is a bargain: £5 for Junior Hatters with season tickets, or £9 including a match ticket. Sometimes there are visits to the cinema and bowling alley, for £3 extra.

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

Happy Harry



VIP PARTY: Angus Berry, 9, from Fairfield Road, Biggleswade, was the Junior Hatters mascot for the game against Leyton Orient, while Micheal O'Brien, 13, from North Drift Way, Luton, was the commercial mascot. They are pictured in the centre circle when the skippers and match officials gathered for the toss of the coin.

Tonight's Mascot

EIGHT-year-old Ryan Essam, from Warden Abbey, Bedford, enjoys a real bonus from his Junior Hatters membership this evening, because he has been chosen to be our mascot. It means he will get very close to his favourite footballers, joining the Town team in the dressing room before the



game, and running out onto the pitch with them for the pre-match rituals.

Ryan attends Bedford Prep School, and plays football for them, and he also enjoys swimming, snooker and table tennis. He comes to matches with his dad, watching from the New Stand.



Action Replay



Luton Town 3 Leyton Orient 0 (HT 1-0)

BOTH managers found something to be cheerful about at Kenilworth Road as the Town took their run to five consecutive victories. For Joe Kinnear there was the pleasure of watching a team performance which was well worth three more points towards the promotion target, but with the admission that it might have been a little bit different if Orient had made use of their bright start.

The Town took some time to get into their stride, but the Londoners demonstrated why they had managed just one victory in their last 12 league outings, and only two away wins all season. They should have been two up in the first five minutes, and could have been four to the good before Chris Coyne struck the opener on 36 minutes, after which there was only one side in it.

Visiting boss Paul Brush enjoyed the first half hour or so, but not much more. He said: "We started off ever so well, and created the better chances in the first half. Luton scored with their first shot. But after looking so confident in the first half, in the second we were a shambles."

He was regretting the incidents in the first five minutes when Scott Canham and then Dean Smith were left unmarked in front of goal, but put headers wide when they should have scored. Iyseden Christie shelled a 25-yarder inches wide, and Smith went up for another set piece and headed straight at Carl Emberson.

But once Coyne had struck Orient showed all the

confidence you would expect from a team in the bottom three, and with Paul Hughes and Kevin Nicholls exercising complete mastery of midfield, Orient went west.

Even when Nicholls had to be ordered off by the bench because of injury, the pattern was maintained as the Town's brisk football delighted the fans and baffled the visitors.

Dean Crowe notched his overdue 11th goal of the season to end his blank spell, and Adrian Forbes, another livewire, hit the third as Orient gave way to football which was far too good for them. An offside flag denied Crowe a second goal, but by then, with 20 minutes to go, the Town were on cruise control. And Brush admitted the Town had put on a master class: he said he told his players that if they aspired to being good professionals, they should look at what the Town had done to them, and try to match that standard.

Joe Kinnear agreed that Orient had been given too much scope early on, but added: "We played very well in the second half once we started to force the pace."

A bonus was that the win was achieved without Steve Howard, who was completing his suspension, with the lack of height of Forbes and Crowe no problem thanks to their pace and busy determination. The service from midfield was excellent, and as the boss said: "In the end it was a comfortable win."

Match Details

Luton Town: Emberson; Neilson, Perrett, Coyne, Taylor; Hughes, Nicholls (Bayliss 62 mins), Spring, Valois (Johnson 73 mins); Crowe (McSwegan 86 mins), Forbes

Unused subs: Ovendale, Boyce.

Booked: No-one.

Leyton Orient: Barrett; Hutchings, Smith, McGhee, Lockwood; Canham, Harris, Martin (Gough 66 mins), Brazier; Nugent (Watts 69 mins), Christie (McLean 84 mins).

Unused subs: Bayes, Partridge.

Booked: Matthew Brazier foul on Paul Hughes; Kevin Nugent foul on Kevin Nicholls; Dean Smith

and Iyseden Christie, both for fouls on Matt Taylor.

The Goals: 1-0 36 mins – Chris Coyne, right foot shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the box after being left unmarked to meet a deep free kick by Kevin Nicholls; 2-0 49 mins – Dean Crowe, slotting in his shot between goalkeeper and near post after a super move and sharp passing by Kevin Nicholls and Adrian Forbes set him up to take on and beat David McGhee with nimble footwork; 3-0 66 mins – Adrian Forbes, instant shot after drifting off his marker to take a short pass by Chris Coyne.

Referee: Clive Penton, Sussex

Attendance: 6,683, including 580 visiting fans.



ON OUR WAY: Chris Coyne fires in the opener, with Orient skipper Dean Smith to late to cover after the defender was unaccountably left on his own to meet a free kick by Kevin Nicholls.

TWO UP: Dean Crowe hits his 11th goal of the season with Carl Hutchings too late to intervene.



TREBLE TOPS: Adrian Forbes has just made it 3-0, and the night's three marksmen celebrate together..

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07.03.02 **Offer of the week: 20% off jackets and sweatshirts**
You can save up to 20 per cent of a great range of Luton Town jackets and sweatshirts with this week's offer at the HATTERSSHOP while stocks last.

06.03.02 **Away fans' guide to Rushden**
All you need to know on how to get to Rushden on Saturday to follow the Hatters - and you'll find when you get there.

07.03.02 **Coyne to score first? You w**
Chris Coyne popped up with the first goal on Tuesday night to set the Hatters the way to a fine 3-0 win over Orient. If he will be the first scorer again at Rushden on Saturday. You could win £250 for a £5 HattersBet.

01.03.02 **Vote for the Internet Player**
It's time to get voting for YOUR Internet Player Of The Season. Last year **Matthew Taylor** won the award from votes cast on this site. Who will it be this season?

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WELCOME TO THE OFFICIAL SITE

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

07.03.02 **Rushden preview: diamonds again**
This could be the start of something big for Luton. Barely 40 miles separating Luton from Diamonds' Irthlingborough hatters atmosphere on Saturday at Rushden to watch one of the best in the league taking on THE best. Should be a spicy clash.

07.03.02 **Offer of the week: 20% off sweatshirts**
You can save up to 20 per cent of a great range of Luton Town jackets and sweatshirts with this week's offer at the HATTERSSHOP while stocks last.

Our away form can take us up, says Ahmet Brkovic

To hear the interview, [CLICK HERE FOR AUDIO](#)

Last year, **Ahmet Brkovic** was in the Orient team that reached the play-offs. This season he is with Luton as they fight for a top three spot. And he is in no doubt what is the difference that can turn play-offs into automatic promotion.

"At Orient last year we had a very good team, but sometimes we were winning home games but drawing or losing away games, which is the difference with Luton. Now we have won 11 games away which is a great performance and we play really, really well when we're playing away. That's the big difference at this club."

His goal at Torquay on Saturday gave the Hatters a 1-0 win to make it four wins from four games. It was a great move that led to the goal - was that one from

Hatters Chatter

LUTON Town fans are to be found all over the world, but we have a European selection of Hatters Abroad this evening, with supporters proudly wearing their club colours on holiday trips.

Naturally, they often take in a bit of football as well, and the background to the photo of Andy Barnes is the magnificent San Siro stadium in Milan. His girlfriend, Emma Napper, from Camp Road, St. Albans, wrote: "He has been a keen Hatters fan for the last 26 years, and wears his shirt whenever we go on holiday. The picture was taken at the Champions League final last year. It was nice to see a Luton Town shirt in the crowd!"

WE DON'T know where Happy Harry goes on holiday, but a mascot nearly as famous as ours got in on the act when a Town shirt turned heads at Euro Disney. The proud wearer is Ricky Broadhurst, from Lilburne Drive, Newport, still a staunch Hatters fan despite now living in South Wales.

THE BEST fashion collection we have seen for a long time is pictured being modelled in Fuerteventura, by our long-time friends and supporters from the Downside day centre. Left to right, they are Chris Snook, Lester Salter, Brian Robins, and Marcus Manton, with Nicky Toone in front.



FOR THIS occasional series we are pleased to receive pictures of Town colours anywhere in the world. If you have an interesting snap of Hatters gear in far-off places, please send it, with a few details, to the editor at Luton Town FC. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back, but please remember that with the best will in the world they sometimes go astray.

We are also pleased to hear about very young Town supporters - our "Mini-Hatters" feature will appear occasionally, and any photo of youngsters in the appropriate Hatters kit will be welcome. If you prefer, you can e-mail your items, including pictures, direct to the editor, at brian.swain@btinternet.com

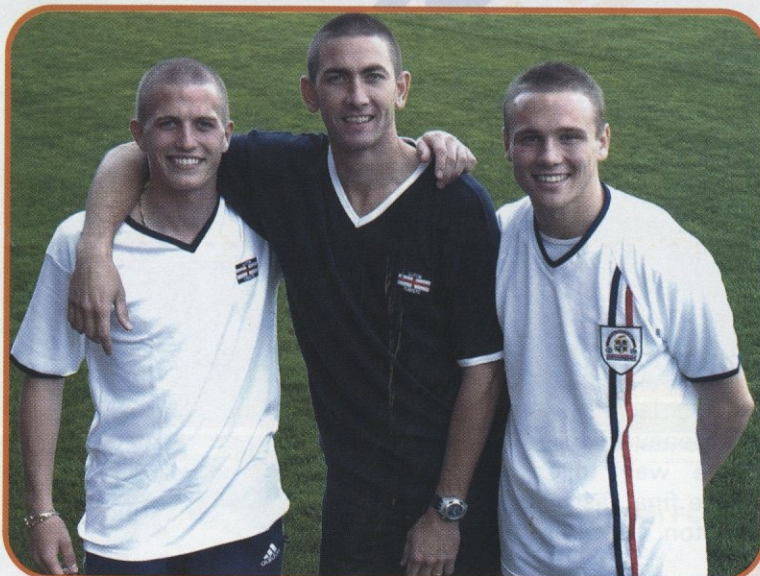
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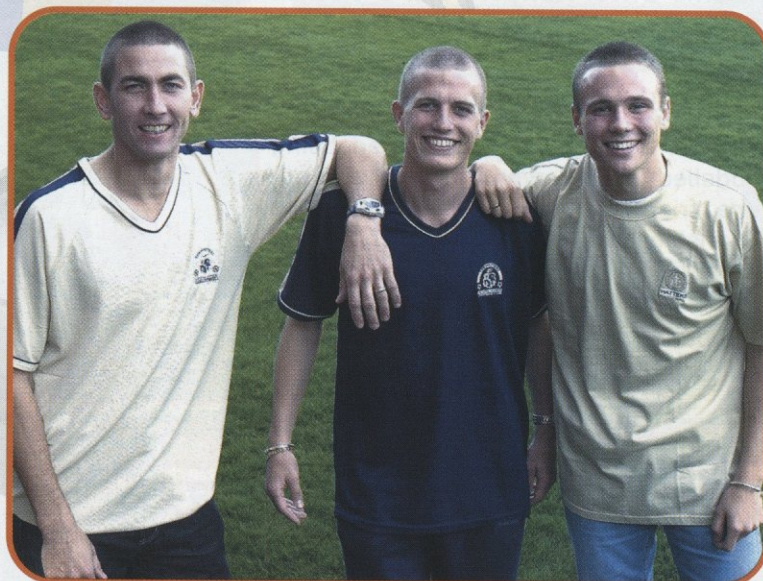
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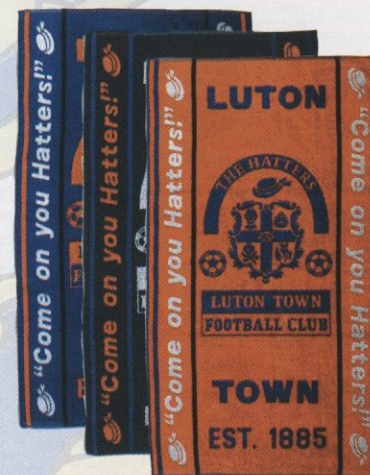
White St Georges - M,L,XL,XXL	£15.00
Navy St Georges - M,L,XL,XXL	£15.00
Patriot Shirt - 28" - 32" chest	£17.50
Patriot Shirt - S,M,L,XL,XXL	£19.50



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Waffle Cream/Navy - M,L,XL,XXL	£19.50
Waffle Navy/Cream - M,L,XL,XXL	£19.50
Stone Laurel - S,M,L,XL,XXL	£15.00

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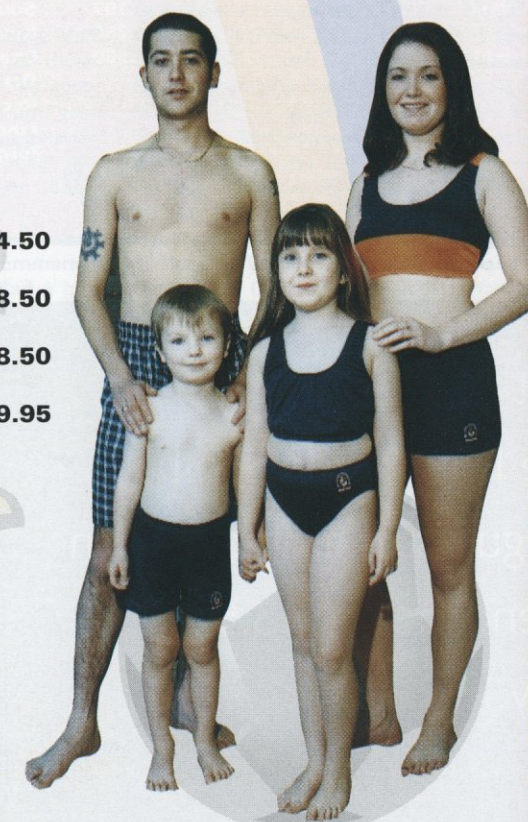


Luton Town Towels

Black, Orange, Navy
£13.00

Swim Wear

Mens Tartan Swim Shorts M,L,XL	£14.50
Ladies Two Piece Sizes 10-16	£18.50
Boys Swim Shorts 2-12 yrs	£8.50
Girls Two Piece 2-12 yrs	£9.95



Bath Robes

3 - 4 Years	£16.00
5 - 7 Years	£18.00
8 - 10 Years	£20.00
11 - 14 Years	£23.00
Adults	£33.00



Fans on the road

THE ten thousandth visiting supporter came through the gates for the Town's game against Orient, the 18th home fixture of the season. The Town's following passed the 10,000 mark after just 11 games.

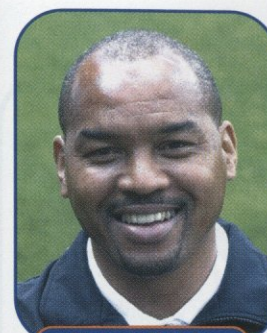
Visitors to Luton

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
Scunthorpe	.359
Bristol Rovers	.197
York City	.280
Leyton Orient	.580

Total:10,431
Average: 579

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
Lincoln	.889
Torquay	.1,100
	.24,401
	.1,109



Brian Stein

In Reserve



Oxford Utd 1 Luton Town 3

ON A difficult pitch on a very blustery afternoon, the win at Oxford was very well deserved. My instructions were to master the ball,

and make time to get it down and play. If that was not on, the need was to knock it towards the strikers, and get the midfielders to feed off them, and it all worked out well, good midfield support producing the first two goals.

The first came after 20 minutes, when the keeper blocked a drive by Andrew Fotiadis, only for the ball to be crossed back in for Michael Leary to control and volley. It was a nice bit of skill, and reward for being in the right place at the right time.

Our second goal, on 35 minutes, was a beauty. Mark Ovendale made a save, and gave the ball to Ian Hillier, who was playing at centre-back. He attacked the space in front of him, passed to Fotiadis, and he in turn gave the ball to Peter Holmes. The midfielder made a god run, hit a cross to match, and Lee Mansell fired a volley into the net. It was an excellent goal, especially on such a poor pitch.

Oxford were restricted to just one shot in the first half, but in the first few seconds after the break Emmerson Boyce brought down a striker, and they pulled a goal

back from the penalty, with Ovendale unlucky, getting a hand to the ball but being unable to keep it out.

For 20 minutes or so after that we lost our rhythm, but we rarely looked like conceding again, and with 15 minutes to go Chris Dillon hit the goal that ended the contest. All round it was a good team performance, with everyone playing well.

Luton Town: Ovendale, Boyce, Hillier, Dryden, Fraser, Locke (Okai 87 mins), Holmes, Leary, Mansell (Osborn 85 mins), Fotiadis, Dillon.

WE ARE at home to Peterborough tomorrow, with a 2pm kick-off at Kenilworth Road.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Fotiadis 17(2), Holmes 15(1), Brennan 14, Fraser 13(3), Mansell 12(2), Ovendale 11, Locke 10(3), Gillman 9(2), Hillier 9, Dryden 8, Skelton 8, Foley 7(1), Johnson 7, Hughes 7, George 7, Stirling 6(3), Leary 6(2), Bruce 6, Emberson 6, Murphy 5(7), Osborn 5(5), Thomson 5(4), Brkovic 5(1), Ward 5(1), Mortara 4(1), Douglas 3(4), Dogbe 3(1), Everitt 3, Valois 3, Boyce 2, McSwegan 2, Coyne 2, Bogaczky 2, Okai 1(4), Jeffrey 1(3), Crowe 1(1), Dillon 1(1), Forbes 1, Spring 1, Perrett 1, Deeney 1, Ofodile 1, Neilson 1, Jeffrey 1, Mendy 1, Dailly 1, Ofori 1, Iagnostal 1, Hogg 1, Bouchuers 1, Djorkaeff 1, Maher 1, Hodges 1, Menetrier 1, Huck 1, Street 1, Martin 1, Fernandez 1, Hardy 1, Davies 0(1), O'Leary 0(1), Hall 0(1), Postan 0(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 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	5-1	McSwegan 2, Ofodile 2, Holmes
	Wed 20	Cheltenham	A	3-2	Mansell, Jeffrey, Fotiadis
	Wed 27	Colchester	H	1-0	Fotiadis
MAR	Wed 6	Oxford	A	3-1	Leary, Mansell, Dillon
	Wed 13	Peterborough	H	2pm	
	Wed 20	Southend	A	2pm	
	Tue 26	Cambridge	A	2pm	
APRIL	Wed 3	Reading	H	2pm	
	Wed 10	Northampton	H	2pm	
	Tue 16	Wycombe	H	2pm	

Goals: Fotiadis 10, Brennan 5(2 pens), Thomson 3, Brkovic 2, Murphy 2, Skelton 2, George 2, McSwegan 2, Ofodile 2, Holmes 2, Mansell 2, Leary 2, Jeffrey 1, Locke 1, Gillman 1, Everitt 1, Bruce 1, Dillon 1, Hodges 1.

Brian Stein

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	18	11	4	3	32	17	37
QPR	18	10	6	2	42	19	36
Brentford	16	9	4	3	34	23	31
Luton Town	18	9	4	5	30	21	31
Crystal Palace	15	8	2	4	32	18	29
Norwich	19	8	5	6	33	34	29
Cardiff	18	7	5	6	27	23	26
Millwall	16	7	5	4	26	24	26
Gillingham	15	7	4	4	22	13	25
Barnet	17	8	1	8	23	24	25
Cheltenham	18	7	4	7	22	29	25
Reading	16	7	3	6	26	17	24
Peterborough	17	7	2	8	27	30	23
Southend	17	6	5	6	21	18	23
Leyton Orient	17	7	2	8	28	42	23
Oxford	19	5	7	7	20	31	22
Bristol Rovers	17	6	3	8	20	22	21
Wycombe	17	5	3	9	21	26	18
Brighton	14	3	8	3	18	15	17
Colchester	20	4	5	11	25	34	17
Northampton	19	3	8	8	20	34	17
Cambridge	16	4	3	9	21	26	15
Bristol City	13	3	5	5	15	20	14
Bournemouth	15	3	4	8	14	30	13
Swindon	15	2	4	9	13	22	10

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Last Season

The Nationwide Football

League saw an Increase in

Attendance of 13.5%;

Why...?



The authority...



The Quality of the Football

Pre-Match Entertainment

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

6.45 Gates Open - music starts

HALF TIME

7.00 Club mascot Happy Harry runs on the pitch.

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

7.10 A track from the HMV album of the week -

8.40 Run down of half time scores from around the country

7.15 HMV single of the week.

8.45 Repeat of dedications

7.20 Team line up to be announced

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

7.25 The UK's No1 track - WILL YOUNG - EVERGREEN / ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

9.35 FULL TIME

7.30 Dedications announced

Matchday music supplied by

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



Arndale Centre.

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

7.43 Final run down of the team's.

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

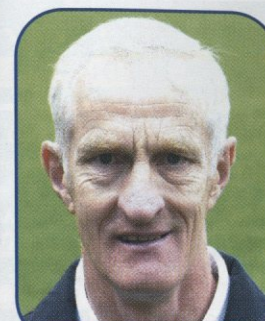
7.45 THE BIG KICK OFF

The Best in post-match reports

The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette



ON SALE EVERY
WEDNESDAY



John Moore

Northampton Tn 0 Luton Town 2

THE last time we went to Northampton, in the Football League Youth Alliance, we were stuffed 4-0, and I was determined that would not happen again in our first fixture in the Merit Division. We were below strength because of injuries, and it was not a day for pretty football, with a high wind and a poor playing surface at an agricultural college.

I demanded that we play it tight, and be more direct than usual, and the players responded. We included Gary Ray, a trialist from Birmingham, who came with a recommendation to use him as a play-maker. Unfortunately, that was not the requirement on this occasion, but he did OK, and we will have another look at him. We are also looking at Drew Roberts, from Leighton Buzzard, who plays for Barton Rovers, and he did well, and took the important second goal with good composure.

We went ahead after 14 minutes, with Steven Dogbe getting the final touch from a corner. We had one or two other chances before the interval, but failed to take them, and in the second half, playing against the wind, we had to defend well. We put in some good challenges and blocking, and had chances on the counter-attack, and with 12 minutes to go Roberts ran through strongly, steadied himself, and drilled in his shot. That helped us considerably, because we were

hanging on until then. On the day it was a deserved result, and fair reward for the effort the lads made.

Luton Town: Beckwith, Mortara (Howells 75 mins), Carroll, Dogbe, Davies, Barnett, Foley, Ray, Roberts (Jeffrey 88 mins), Osborn, Okai.

OUR next two fixtures are away to Cardiff and Rushden, and we will not be at home again until March 30, when we are due to meet Plymouth at Luton RFC, Newlands Road, Farley Hill. Our season in the Football League Youth Alliance South Central Conference is officially complete, even though we have not played a game at Kidderminster which was postponed. We wanted to play it, but have been told that the match will be null and void, which means that the final league table will be incomplete, and we have been denied the chance to finish in third place. If we had beaten Kidderminster, who seem likely to finish bottom, we would have qualified for a higher division in the Merit League set-up. I am not impressed!

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Okai 19(2), Osborn 19(2), Foley 17(4), Davies 17(1), O'Leary 17, Carroll 15(3), Dogbe 13(4), Dillon 13(2), Brill 13, Jeffrey 12(5), Judge 11(4), Gillman 11(1), Leary 7, Murphy 7, Chatfield 6, Barnett 5(4), Bruce 5(1), Deeney 5(1), Howells 4(3), R. Mansell 3, Gardner 3, Roberts 2, Beckwith 2, Mortara 1(3), Ray 1, Shire 1, Garrett 1, Palmer 1, Burrell 0(1), Wright 0(1).

Goals: Osborn 9(2p), Judge 8, Murphy 4, Davies 4, Dillon 4, Jeffrey 3, Foley 3, Carroll 2, O'Leary 2, Gillman 1, Leary 1, Dogbe 1, Roberts 1

John Moore

Football League Youth Alliance Results and Fixtures

DATE	HOME	SCORE	AWAY
AUG 25	Rushden & D	H 1-2	Leary
SEP 1	Walsall	A 4-4	Osborn 2 (1p), Murphy, Davies
8	L. Orient (Cup)	A 0-0	
15	Kidderminster	H 3-1	Carroll, Davies, Murphy
22	Cambridge	A 1-2	Judge
OCT 6	Northampton	H 4-2	Murphy, O'Leary, Osborn, Dillon
11	Cheltenham (FAYC)	A 4-3	Gillman, Judge, Osborn, Jeffrey
13	Colchester (Cup)	H 2-3	Foley, Murphy
20	West Brom	A 2-3	Judge, Davies
27	Peterborough	A 3-0	Carroll, Judge 2
NOV 3	Southend (Cup)	H 2-0	Dillon, Judge
6	Brentford (FAYC2)	H 0-2	
10	Notts County	H 1-2	O'Leary
24	Cambridge	H 0-2	
DEC 15	Northampton	A 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 5-4	Judge 2, Jeffrey, Osborn, Foley
23	Peterborough	H 2-1	Osborn 2(1p)

MERIT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO Results and Fixtures

DATE	HOME	SCORE	AWAY
MAR 2	Northampton	A 2-0	Dogbe, Roberts
9	Portsmouth	H	
16	Cardiff	A	
23	Rushden	A	
30	Plymouth	H	
APRIL 13	Bristol Rov	A	
*22	Wycombe	H	
*24	L. Orient	H	

*Kenilworth Road k.o. 2pm

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	15	8	4	3	28	21	28
Rushden & D	16	7	2	7	26	30	23
Luton Town	15	7	1	7	33	31	22
Walsall	15	5	6	4	33	28	21
Notts County	13	5	3	5	15	20	18
Northampton	14	5	2	7	19	20	17
Peterborough	16	3	5	8	16	24	14
Kidderminster	14	4	2	8	18	27	14

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phone Luton 411622 or e-mail us at:
commercial@lutontown.co.uk

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

Records

Average Gate
4,284
Highest Gate
16,369
Plymouth v
Exeter
Lowest Gate
1,251
Halifax v
Southend
Highest
Agg Score
Rochdale5
York4
Biggest
Home Win
Scunthorpe7
Darlington1
Biggest
Away Win
Exeter0
Scunthorpe4
Consec. Wins
Luton5
Games
Unbeaten
Plymouth19



Consec. Defeats
Bristol Rovers
Halifax6
Winless Run
Bristol Rovers 14



Total Games
451
Home Wins
21948%
Away Wins
11125%
Draws
12127%
1-1 Draws
5011%
0-0 Draws
4410%

Average Attendances

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000
Bristol Rovers					6,841
Carlisle					3,240
Cheltenham					3,762
Darlington					3,863
Exeter					3,409
Halifax					2,126
Hartlepool					3,523
Hull					9,456
Kidderminster					3,006
Orient					4,580
Lincoln					3,173
Luton					6,771
Macclesfield					2,118
Mansfield					4,530
Oxford					6,384
Plymouth					7,811
Rochdale					3,293
Rushden					4,285
Scunthorpe					3,582
Shrewsbury					3,595
Southend					3,958
Swansea					3,683
Torquay					2,522
York					3,020

Goals - When Scored

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
BR	2	6	9	4	5	10
CU	8	12	6	7	2	6
CT	3	10	10	6	16	10
Da	2	7	8	6	13	11
EC	5	6	7	9	11	3
HT	3	7	5	4	2	5
HU	7	6	10	5	16	13
HC	6	11	6	10	8	11
Ki	6	7	6	9	7	13
LO	4	8	5	10	10	11
LC	1	8	7	6	6	11
LT	4	7	17	15	15	15
MT	3	4	7	6	6	8
MT	9	9	12	8	7	16
OU	6	7	7	11	7	10
PA	6	10	13	9	8	9
Ro	8	6	8	8	8	13
RD	6	8	12	5	6	13
SU	11	15	12	8	8	14
ST	10	3	11	8	11	14
SU	6	4	5	10	5	14
SC	10	9	7	4	6	11
TU	4	5	4	3	8	12
YC	6	4	7	7	5	11

Form Guide: Home & Away

Home Form	most recent results to left	Away Form
LLLWW	Bristol Rovers	DLLLD
WDWWL	Carlisle	LDDDW
WDWDD	Cheltenham	WWWWW
LLDLD	Darlington	LDLWL
WLLDD	Exeter	LLLWL
LLLDL	Halifax	LLLLL
DDWWW	Hartlepool	LLDLW
LWLWD	Hull	LDWLL
WWWLD	Kidderminster	DLDDL
WWDL	Orient	LLLDL
WLLWW	Lincoln	LDWLL
WWWLW	Luton	WWWLL
DLWLW	Macclesfield	LWWWD
WWWWW	Mansfield	LLWLW
DLWDD	Oxford	LDWLL
WWWWW	Plymouth	DWWLL
WWWDW	Rochdale	DWLDL
LWWDW	Rushden	DDL
WWDWW	Scunthorpe	WLDWD
WWWWD	Shrewsbury	LLDLL
DDWLD	Southend	DLDDL
WDWWL	Swansea	LLWDL
WLDDD	Torquay	LWLDD
WWDDD	York	LLLWD

Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms	Gls/Gm	Pts	Run
Mansfield	Chris Greenacre	19	13	3	0	35	0.54	14	4
Shrewsbury	Luke Rodgers	20	15	1	1	31	0.65	13	5
Hull	Gary Alexander	16	12	2	0	35	0.46	13	5
Bristol Rovers	Nathan Ellington	15	9	0	2	24	0.63	13	4
York	Michael Proctor	11	9	1	0	34	0.32	13	2
Cheltenham	Julian Alsop	18	12	3	0	32	0.56	11	4
Rochdale	Kevin Townson	12	6	3	0	33	0.36	10	3
Scunthorpe	Steve Torpey	12	6	3	0	33	0.36	10	1
Carlisle	Ritchie Foran	11	11	0	0	27	0.41	10	3
Exeter	Chris Roberts	10	4	3	0	34	0.29	10	2
Plymouth	David Frio	8	8	0	0	34	0.24	10	2
Oxford	Paul Moody	12	9	0	1	29	0.41	8	3
Torquay	Alex Russell	7	4	0	1	26	0.27	8	2
Luton	Steve Howard	14	12	1	0	34	0.41	7	3
Southend	Tesfaye Bramble	9	7	1	0	34	0.26	7	2
Swansea	Mamady Sidibe	7	5	1	0	25	0.28	7	2
Darlington	Barry Conlon	7	5	1	0	32	0.22	7	1
Hartlepool	Lee Glover	8	6	1	0	36	0.22	6	2
Macclesfield	Gordon Watson	14	9	1	1	24	0.58	5	3
Lincoln	Lee Thorpe	11	9	1	0	29	0.38	5	2
Rushden	Onandi Lowe	8	8	0	0	18	0.44	5	3
Kidderminster	Dean Bennett	8	8	0	0	35	0.23	4	7
Halifax	Paul Harsley	7	5	1	0	37	0.19	4	2
Orient	Steve Watts	9	5	2	0	25	0.36	0	3

Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

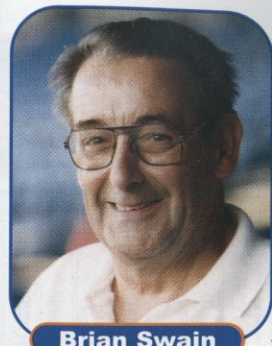
Club	Win - vs.	Defeat - vs.
Bristol Rov	4-1 Swansea	0-3 Luton
Carlisle	6-1 Orient	0-3 Plymouth
Cheltenham	4-0 York	1-5 Hull
Darlington	4-0 Exeter	1-7 Scunthorpe
Exeter	4-2 Darlington	0-4 Scun, Darl
Halifax	3-0 Lincoln	1-6 Oxford
Hartlepool	5-1 Rush, S'end	0-3 Man, Chel
Hull	5-1 Cheltenham	0-4 Hartlepool
Kidderminster	4-1 vs 3 clubs	0-4 Shrewsbury
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 Macclesfield	1-4 Hull
Oxford	6-1 Halifax	0-3 Ornt, Hull
Plymouth	3-0 vs 4 clubs	1-3 Shrewsbury
Rochdale	3-1 Mansfield	1-4 Kidderminster
Rushden	3-0 York	1-5 Hartlepool
Scunthorpe	7-1 Darlington	0-3 Carlisle
Shrewsbury	4-0 Kidderminster	0-3 Hull
Southend	4-1 Halifax	1-5 Hartlepool
Swansea	3-0 Exeter	1-4 Bristol Rv
Torquay	3-1 Darlington	1-5 Luton
York	3-0 Torquay	0-4 Hull, Chelt

Numbers

PU	CS	FS
29	10	14
34	12	11
24	14	6
32	9	13
31	9	14
28	10	19
27	8	11
31	14	13
27	13	11
38	10	11
23	10	11
34	11	3
29	10	17
25	11	8
28	8	12
24	21	7
30	14	6
38	13	12
29	14	7
25	13	9
29	12	12
29	10	15
39	5	16
29	7	10

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

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



Brian Swain

Third Division Scene

THE sixth win in a row, at Rushden, has begun to make a championship chase look more realistic as Plymouth's lead at the top was cut to five points. It was double that a couple of weeks ago, and we can reduce it still further this evening.

The odds must still be on the Pilgrims, because they have a game in hand, thanks to Saturday's match at Darlington being postponed by snow. Paul Sturrock was Division Three manager of the month for the second consecutive time thanks to Plymouth's consistency in February: since they were beaten at Kenilworth Road they have reeled off six wins and a draw.

Joe Kinnear has the maths worked out: win every game between now and April 20, and the title will almost certainly be ours, he says. It would take us to 99 points. Some of us are looking over our shoulders, and a very pleasant view it is, too. As things stand tonight, three more wins guarantees the Town a play-off place at the very least. It's a little early to do the mathematics for automatic promotion, but as things stand now, it still needs seven victories out of the last eight to be absolutely certain. That requirement will become more manageable in the next couple of weeks or so, because it is based on the possibility that all the other teams in

the chasing pack win every game. And some have to play each other.

If the Town can win tonight, to move up to 78 points, two more victories might well be enough to clinch third place at least. They would take the Town to 84 points, which is more than Shrewsbury and Hull can achieve if they win all their remaining matches. Scunthorpe can reach 84 if they win their last seven games, but will need to pump up their goal difference to overtake the Town.

Mansfield dropped further behind the Town thanks to a 4-1 stuffing at Hull a week ago. Hull then very kindly resumed their slide - a last-minute goal by Mark Jackson at Boothferry Park on Saturday enabled Scunthorpe to move up into fourth place. The game attracted over 12,000 fans, with the home contingent in shock as Hull suffered their third home defeat of the season and dropped out of the play-off zone for the first time.

Firmly established in the top seven now are Cheltenham, who have games in hand on all their rivals, and moved up to sixth with a 4-0 thrashing of York at Waddesdon Road. That made it 15 games without defeat. Julian Alsop netted twice to take his total to 23 for the season, and the final goal was scored by John Finnigan, on his debut after being signed from Lincoln to replace Lee Howells, whose season is over because of a broken leg.

PROMOTION RIVALS' REMAINING FIXTURES

Plymouth - HOME: Leyton Orient, Bristol Rovers, Southend, Cheltenham AWAY: Lincoln, Rochdale, Hartlepool, Carlisle, Darlington

Mansfield - HOME: Rushden, Bristol Rovers, Cheltenham, Carlisle. AWAY: Swansea, Leyton Orient, Torquay, Luton, York.

Scunthorpe - HOME: Carlisle, Cheltenham, Rushden, York. AWAY: Southend, Leyton Orient, Darlington.

Rochdale - HOME: Hartlepool, Plymouth, Leyton Orient, Darlington, Hull, Bristol Rovers. AWAY: Cheltenham, Torquay, Lincoln

Cheltenham - HOME: Rochdale, Kidderminster, Hull, Oxford, AWAY: Lincoln, Halifax, Scunthorpe, Macclesfield, Mansfield, Carlisle, Plymouth.

Shrewsbury - HOME: Torquay, Carlisle, Luton, AWAY: Exeter, Rushden, Lincoln, Southend,

Hull - HOME: Darlington, Luton, Lincoln. AWAY: Oxford, Leyton Orient, Cheltenham, Rochdale, Bristol Rovers

Brian Swain

Tonight's Other Third Division Fixtures

Bristol Rovers v Carlisle
Halifax v Kidderminster
Leyton Orient v Southend
Lincoln v Cheltenham

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

To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

Tottenham Hotspur v Charlton Athletic Monday 18 March, ITV Sport Select	Boavista v Manchester United Tuesday 19 March, ITV Sport Plus
Liverpool v Roma Tuesday 19 March, ITV Sport Channel	Nottingham Forest v West Brom Friday 22 March, ITV Sport Channel

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 or Aaron SKELTON	Matthew SPRING	Russ PERRETT	Marvin JOHNSON	Adrian FORBES	Kevin NICHOLLS	Stuart DOUGLAS	Carl GRIFFITHS	Liam GEORGE	Chris COYNE	Stuart FRASER	Andrew FOTIADIS	Matthew TAYLOR	Carl EMBERSON or	Emmerson BOYCE	Adam LOCKE	Steve HOWARD	Peter HOLMES	Richard DRYDEN	Dean BRENNAN	Jude STIRLING	Scott WARD or	Peter THOMSON	Paul HUGHES	Jean-Louis VALOIS	David BAYLISS	Kevin STREET LOAN	Lee MANSELL	Ian HILLIER	Dean CROWE	Ahmet BRKOVIC	Rob GILLMAN	Darryl MURPHY	Sieve O'LEARY	James OSBORN	Gary MCSWEGAN LOAN	Alan NEILSON	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						x		1x										x							1													0																																												
Tue 21 Aug	Reading	A	L	0-4	5,115	WC1	D Crick	2/1	0/0				x				x																													0																																													
Sat 25 Aug	Bristol Rovers	A	L	2-3	9,057	5th	C Penton	2/1	0/0									x																												0																																													
Mon 27 Aug	SOUTHEND UNITED	H	W	2-0	6,496	2nd	J Ross	1/4	0/1								1																													0																																													
Sat 1 Sep	Exeter City	A	D	2-2	3,088	2nd	B Curson	3/1	1/0							sus	x	x																												0																																													
Sat 8 Sep	OXFORD UNITED	H	D	1-1	6,736	5th	C Penton	3/3	0/0						x	1		x																												0																																													
Sat 15 Sep	York City	A	W	2-1	3,247	3rd	G Salisbury	4/2	0/0						x		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																													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				x																													0																																													
Fri 5 Oct	DARLINGTON	H	W	5-2	7,219	1st	J Brandwood	4/2	0/0																																					0																																													
Sat 13 Oct	Scunthorpe United	A	W	2-0	3,939	1st	H Webb	3/0	0/0																																					0																																													
Sat 20 Oct	ROCHDALE	H	L	0-1	7,696	3rd	S Tomlin	2/1	0/0				x																																	0																																													
Tue 23 Oct	Halifax Town	A	W	4-2	2,140	3rd	M Pike	1/2	0/0							1	1																													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																																					0																																													
Sat 17 Nov	Southend United	A	L	2-3	6,526	FAC1	B Knight	2/2	0/0							1	sus																													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																																					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																																					0																																													
Sat 12 Jan	Cheltenham Town	A	D	1-1	5,026	2nd	S Baigies	1/1	0/0																																					0																																													
Sat 19 Jan	CARLISLE UNITED	H	D	1-1	6,647	2nd	P Alcock	1/2	0/0																																					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	L	2-3	6,371	3rd	R Oliver	4/3	0/0																																					0																																													
Tue 19 Feb	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	W	3-0	5,651	2nd	P Walton	1/2	0/1																																					0																																													
Sat 23 Feb	YORK CITY	H	W	2-1	6,188	2nd	R Harris	1/4	0/0																																					0																																													
Tue 26 Feb	Lincoln City	A	W	1-0	2,921	2nd	A Bates	1/0	0/0																																					0																																													
Sat 2 Mar	Torquay United	A	W	1-0	3,280	2nd	D Crick	2/2	0/0																																					0																																													
Tue 5 Mar	LEYTON ORIENT	H	W	3-0	6,683	2nd	C Penton	0/4	0/0																																					0																																													
Sat 9 Mar	Rushden & Diamonds	A	W	2-1	5,876	2nd	M Fletcher	3/0	0/0																																					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	12.30pm			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		6,771		Started Match		13		10		-		35		33		11		15		36		2		11		3		21		1		1		37		28		28		1		35		4		4		2		1		0		-		1		9		25		12		1		8		12		25		18		1		0		0		0		0		2		5		-	
3 (S)cored, 2 (M)issed = 60% Success		Away Avg Gate		4,960		Substitute (Used)		0		0		-		0		1		4		19		0		8		0		0		3		2		0		1		0		-		0		8		2		2		1		5		12		2																																			

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Tonight'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
■●	Alan Neilson	43

Exeter City

1	Arjan Van Heusden	■●
2	Neil Whitworth	■●
3	Graeme Power	■●
4	Paul Buckle	■●
5	Chris Curran	■●
6	Mark Burrows	■●
7	Jay Richardson	■●
8	Kwame Ampadu	■●
9	Sean McCarthy	■●
10	Martin Barlow	■●
11	Andy Roscoe	■●
12	Paul Read	■●
13	Geoff Breslan	■●
14	Steve Flack	■●
15	Barry McConnell	■●
17	Graeme Tomlinson	■●
18	Alex Watson	■●
20	Reinier Moor	■●
21	Matthew Lock	■●
22	Leslie Afful	■●
24	Stuart Fraser	■●
27	Glenn Cronin	■●
28	Christian Roberts	■●
30	Lee Zabek	■●
31	Nathan Murphy	■●

tick if playing ☐ tick if substitute ☐

Tonight's Officials

Referee: Steve Tomlin, East Sussex

Assistants: Jon Beadle, Kent (yellow flag); Kevin Merchant, Surrey (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Steve Tinknell, Hertfordshire

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