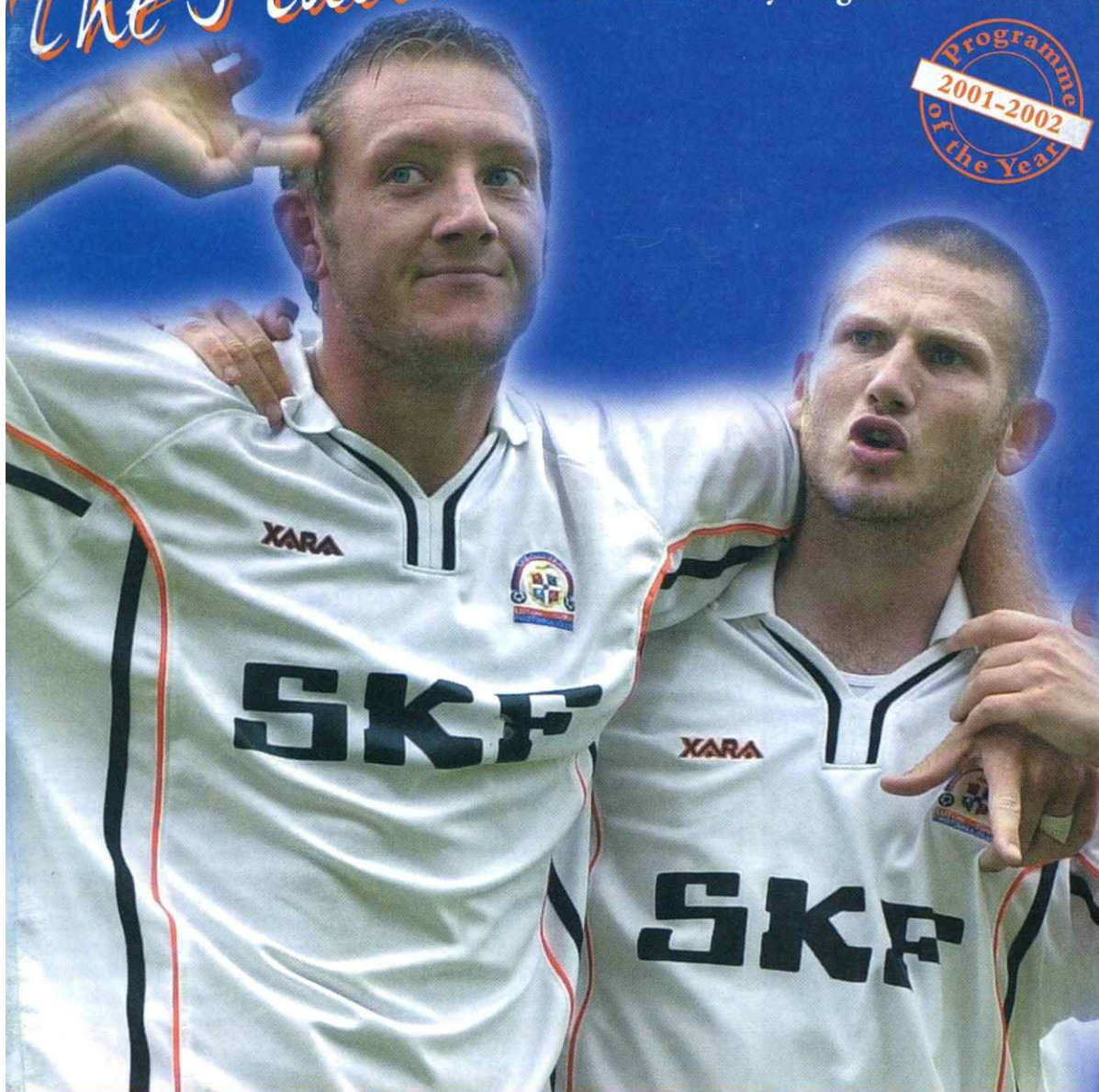


# LUTON TOWN

*The Hatters*

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## Luton Town v Barnsley

Saturday August 24, 2002 Kick Off 3pm

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Champions 1981-82

#### Division 3 (S)

Champions 1936-37

#### Division 4

Champions 1967-68

### Official Matchday Magazine

#### Editor

Brian Swain

#### Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

#### Photography

Gareth Owen

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

### Cover Story



Top Hatters: Steve Howard and Kevin Nicholls share the happiest moment of the Town's game at Plymouth – the big striker has just struck a spectacular equaliser.

# Inside Forward



**Sol Davis**

UNHAPPY with the Town's defensive displays in losing their first three games of the season, Joe Kinnear was yesterday expecting to complete the loan transfer of Charlton goalkeeper Ben Roberts.

Several keepers have been looked at recently, and rejected for various reasons. For 27-year-old Roberts, a move to Luton would be on loan initially, with a possible full transfer to be considered after a month.

Town fans might remember the keeper because this will be his second loan spell at Kenilworth Road. He was with Middlesbrough, having made 16 Premiership appearances, in February 2000 when Lennie Lawrence went back to one of his old clubs to bring the keeper here. Nathan Abbey was going through one of his dodgy spells at the time.

Roberts made 14 league appearances for the Town at the tail-end of the 1999-2000 season in the Second Division. He returned to the Riverside and a few weeks later moved to Charlton on a Bosman.

Subject to the formalities being completed yesterday, Roberts will be in the squad this afternoon, competing with Carl Emberson for a place in the starting line-up. Mark Ovendale is still ruled out while he recovers from a hip operation.

The Roberts deal was the second the boss had worked on in the past eight days. The humiliation of shipping five goals at Blackpool brought a rapid response from the manager, who signed left back Sol Davis in time to put him into the side for his debut at Plymouth. The boss was happy with his performance, especially as Davis has only just come back from a hernia problem.

Former Town player Andy King is not so happy to see Davis in Hatters colours. Now manager of Swindon Town, King wanted Davis to accept another contract there, but the player, who will be 23 on September 4, was determined to leave the County Ground.

Cheltenham-born, Davis joined Swindon as a trainee, and his tough tackling and 100 per cent commitment made him a big favourite with fans.

Although he was out of contract at Swindon, and thus able to join any other club, the Bosman ruling does not apply to him – it kicks in only when players are 24 or older. So the Town will have to pay a fee. They have offered £50,000 in two payments, while Swindon want two cheques for £75,000 each, so unless either club changes its position the fee will be decided by a Football League tribunal.

## INSIDE TODAY...

The manager's column – P 5; The captain's views – P 7; New stadium plans – P 50; Reports and pictures on the games against Peterborough, Blackpool and Plymouth – Pp 33-37; Latest injury news – P 8; Club Secretary's column – P 9; Ticket news – Pp 10 & 11; Cup final disappointment – P.51; Travel offer for local derby – P 27.

One player not signing for the Town is Robbie Winters, the 27-year-old who started the first-day game against Peterborough. To enable him to play in the league he had to have a contract. It was for one week, effectively a trial, and after being subbed after the first half against the Posh the former Aberdeen player was released.

Joe Kinnear had been hoping that goalkeeper Alan Combe would be signed and sorted in time to face Peterborough, having impressed in a trial pre-season game against Southampton. The player and his agent were at Kenilworth Road the day before the season kicked off, with the Town and Dundee United agreeing a £50,000 fee. Joe thought the player and his agent were happy with the terms on offer at Kenilworth Road, but he scrapped the deal when Combe asked for £25,000. He said Dundee United owed him that sum as a loyalty bonus. They declined to pay it, so he wanted the Town to fork out instead. "I was not going to pay it either," said the Town boss. "The player knew he would have been in the side against Peterborough, but he has passed up the chance of a career with us for the sake of 25 grand. I was disappointed."

## Window To Be Kept Open?

Managers trying to strengthen squads face an extra problem with uncertainty about whether or not the Football League will have to operate under FIFA's new rules which introduce transfer windows. As we went to press the League was optimistic that it will receive dispensation to avoid the restrictions which already apply to Premiership clubs.

The edict bans transfers between August 31 and December 31. A one-month transfer window will then be open, but it closes again on February 1 until the end of the season.

The League is lobbying hard to gain concessions for its clubs. They suggest that up to ten professional players should be allowed in during the course of the season, either permanently or on loan. They also want to be able to sign unattached players who would not be subject to the quota restriction.

And while Premiership clubs are already committed to the transfer window restrictions, the FA is asking FIFA to be allowed to authorise Football League clubs who are suffering severe financial problems to sell players to Premiership clubs.

The bottom line, of course, is that a lot of league clubs are already under financial pressure and may have to rely on player sales to stay afloat. Hence this week First Division Ipswich reluctantly agreed to sell their captain, Matt Holland, to Aston Villa for a cut-price £4million. The deal had to be completed before next Saturday's deadline.

The Football League is very hopeful that its proposals will be approved. "We are optimistic because this approach was advocated by FIFA's own officials as the best way forward," said Andy Williamson, the League's Director of Operations.

## International Call-up

MIDFIELDER Steve Robinson received the good news this week that he is in the frame as Northern Ireland prepare for their European Championship campaign. Already the holder of five caps, he was in the squad, on the subs' bench, in Belfast on Wednesday when Northern Ireland drew 0-0 with Cyprus in a championship warm-up game. Their Championship programme kicks off in Spain in October.

*Brian Swain*



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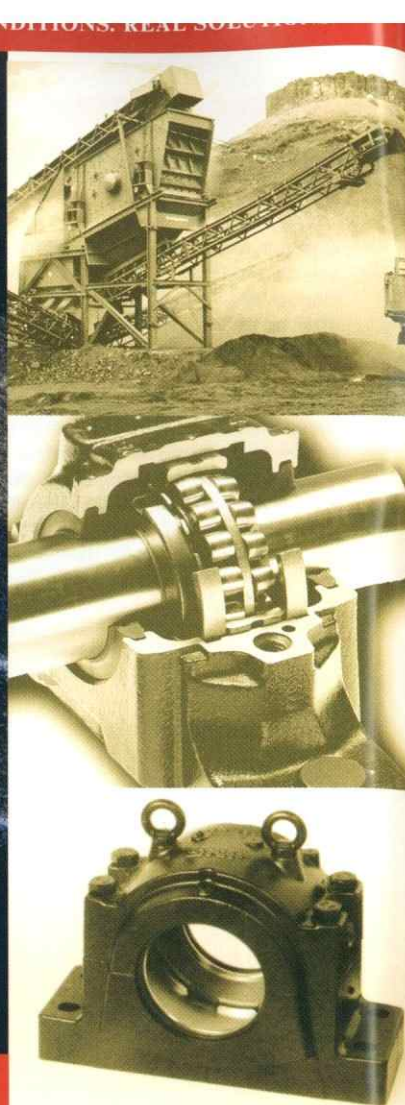
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## Manager's View



WE LITTLE expected that we would be preparing for our second home game of the season without a point from the first three matches. It has been a huge disappointment, and I was bitterly disappointed at our failure to impose ourselves against Peterborough and Blackpool.

At Plymouth the result was another disappointment, but the performance was a lot more pleasing, and we were very unlucky to get nothing from a game which we might easily have won.

The first two games were a bit of a shock. For the opener, we were awful, and it was hard to believe that we could play that badly as a team. Barry Fry must have been delighted to have caught us on an off day, and we did not deserve to win that one.

You can never explain why players fail to perform to their potential. Having gone unbeaten through the last 14 games of last season, I fully expected us to maintain our run, and I was very unhappy that we did not give you a better home display on the first day of the season.

At Blackpool we let ourselves down again, and the fact we conceded eight goals in our first two matches spoke volumes for the problems facing us.

Our defensive performance was not acceptable, and it raised the question of whether some of our squad were good enough for the Third Division, but unable to make the step up to the Second. Overall, I had felt that we had enough ability within the club to do well in this division, but to be embarrassed in our first two games, against sides who were at the lower end of the table last season, delivered a very strong wake-up call.

Peterborough and Blackpool were both much sharper than us, particularly in midfield, and some of our defending was dreadful. The two results highlighted the fact that perhaps we were not as good as we thought we were.

It was obviously time for change, and the first was to bring in Sol Davis. He had a very good debut at Plymouth, and we welcome him to the club, and hope he has a successful career with us. It will not be the only change I will make to put things right.

Players know their jobs are on the line if they don't perform, so having criticised them for poor displays in the first two games I give them credit for the way most of them performed at Plymouth. We were unlucky to lose, because we were the better footballing side. I had asked our players to show a lot more pride in wearing Luton shirts, and they did. Unfortunately we came home with nothing to show from a much better performance. We lost because of two mistakes: Chris Coyne let himself down by collecting a red card. He let an opponent get ahead of him when he should have stayed on his feet. I believe that the referee got the decision wrong, because both our full-backs were in covering positions. Therefore, it was very harsh on Coyne, and on the whole side. The Plymouth player was so far out that he would have had to beat two players to have a chance of scoring.

I am considering appealing against the red card. We will ask the referee to look at the video tape, to see where our other players were, because I don't think he saw it as clearly at the time as it is on the tape.

After Coyne was sent off our players gave everything, and

while Plymouth's first goal was an excellent strike, the reply by Steve Howard was even better. We missed a couple of decent chances, and it was all the more frustrating when Plymouth, who had hardly threatened our goal, were gifted a long-range winner. Carl Emberson put his hand up for that one.

But there were signs in Saturday's game that we are capable of more than holding our own in this division, and I am confident we will finish the season above Plymouth.

I will continue to work to improve the squad, but the good thing is that while our defensive play has got to improve, we are always likely to score goals.

Only once in our last 18 matches have we failed to find the target, and five goals scored in our first three games of this season - three goals in two away matches - is reasonable. However, good work at that end of the field is worth nothing if you fail at the other.

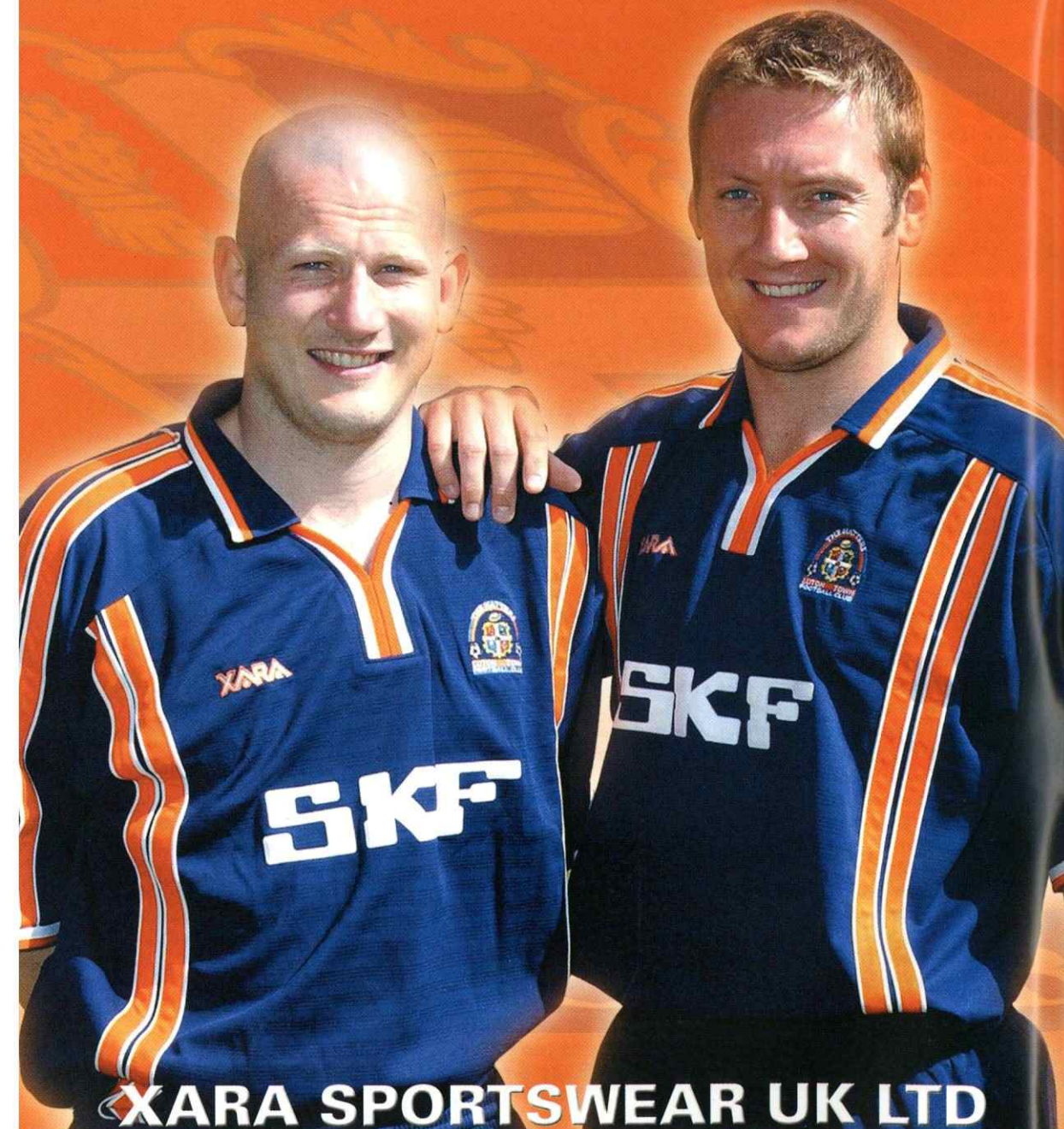
You can be sure I will put things right, and despite our poor start I am still confident that Luton Town can mount a promotion challenge.

They tell me that the last time Luton lost their first three games of the season, they finished that campaign in the play-offs. I would like to see us do even better than that, which means, of course, we have to get back to winning ways quickly. We have had great support in the three games so far, and thanks for that. Stick with us, and I am sure we will give you plenty to cheer about, hopefully starting with a win this afternoon. Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

*Joe Kinnear*

# XARA

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## Captain's View



WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road for a match, which I hope, will see us collect our first points of the season. They are overdue, and while we are unhappy about the first three results of the campaign, we have been upbeat this week in our preparations after a much better showing at Plymouth.

We knew we had to do a lot better than in the first two matches because we let everyone down, including ourselves, in the Peterborough and Blackpool games.

I said in my first column that I felt the gap between the Second and First Divisions was a lot narrower than the step up from Third to Second, and we have been reminded of that all too painfully.

When you look at our squad there are not many of us with a lot of Second Division experience, so we are on a learning curve. But we cannot afford to take too much time in learning the lessons, and I know that all of us have a lot more to offer than you have seen so far.

Without a doubt the standard of play in Division Two is much better than Division Three, and we need to raise our game accordingly.

None of us expected to lose to Peterborough and Blackpool, but as things turned out we got what we deserved in those two games. We have seen that mistakes are punished more regularly, and we must learn

our lesson very quickly.

We nearly got a point against Peterborough, but I felt we were never really convincing against Barry Fry's men.

It was even more embarrassing at Blackpool, and I felt sorry for the fans who made the trip to watch a midweek evening game. You deserved better, because that performance, by the whole squad, was not good enough. The gaffer doesn't mince his words when he gives us his views, and I have no problem with that. I would rather be told the truth, face to face, and we all respect the boss for that. He pointed out our shortcomings in no uncertain terms!

We were in determined mood when we went to Plymouth, and our performance there was much better. If we had kept 11 players on the field we would have won that game.

I thought Chris Coyne's sending-off was harsh. As captain, I went to the referee to suggest that it should be only a yellow card, because Sol Davis was coming across to cover, and so Chris was not the last defender. The ref did not see it that way, and Chris is big enough and strong enough to take it on the chin. He made a mistake, and knew it.

After that the lads gave everything, and to get so close to at least one point after being down to ten men for 80 minutes on a hot afternoon was a tremendous team

effort. Their late winner was a real choker, but we took some consolation in our improved form.

I know there is still room for improvement, and we also know that the boss will not tolerate poor performances.

Sol Davis made his debut for us at Plymouth, and I thought he did really well. He looked strong in defence, and is always looking to use the ball well. He has fitted in straight away, and I wish him a long and happy career with Luton Town.

Today, we must build on the good things from the game at Plymouth. We are strong enough to bounce back from our early season disappointments, and while we have had a sharp reminder not to under-estimate any opponents, I feel that there is no-one in this league who is invincible. I also know we have got to work hard to achieve our aims. Barnsley have made a better start to the season than we have, but I see no reason why, if we play to our potential, we cannot get our first points of the season. We always feel we are capable of getting a goal or two, especially at home, and if we can keep a clean sheet today we ought to be able to provide a result as well as a performance to get our season moving.

*Kevin Nicholls*

Log on to Luton Town's official website at  
[www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)



## Treatment Room

**THANKFULLY** we picked up no further physical knocks at Plymouth, but the medical room is still quite busy with several players at various stages of recovery from injuries. The best news is that Mark Ovendale, having discarded his crutches following his hip operation, is now running again, which has made him a very happy man. He is still some way away from being able to challenge for a place in the team, and knows he has a lot of work to do before that happens. We have to move ahead cautiously, but we might be able to start him on light goalkeeping exercises after he has completed a week or so of daily running.



**HEADACHE CURE:** Matt Spring gets treatment at Blackpool after a clash of heads. You are always doubly cautious with any sort of head injury, but this was only a minor knock, and he was able to continue with the game, and to play at Plymouth.

If that goes OK, the next stage will be more strenuous work, including the crucial matter of jumping and landing, and I cannot yet give him a firm forecast as to when that will be. He is certainly out for a good few weeks. Adrian Forbes goes into a London hospital on Tuesday for an operation. It will be keyhole surgery, with the first objective of checking out exactly what the damage is to his knee. We are fairly sure he has suffered injury to his cruciate and medial ligaments, and if that is so next week's operation will repair the damage. This kind of injury is nothing like as serious today as it was years ago, with medical knowledge much more advanced than it was when

knee damage like this usually ended players' careers. Forbes is not facing that prospect.

He will be in hospital for one or two nights, but is in good spirits, knowing that he is in the best possible hands. He also knows it will be a long and hard road back to fitness, but he is a very good professional, and will be ready to do whatever it takes. Even so, it is impossible yet to say when he might be able to resume training.

Marvin Johnson is slowly getting over a heel injury picked up in training. He has some bruising and soreness which is taking a while to wear off. We had X-rays taken as a precaution, but the injury is not serious. He has been running again this week, and should be able to resume full training quite soon.

My other "customer" this week was Lee Mansell, who suffered a deadleg in the reserves' first game of the season, at Bristol. He came home with a very sore thigh muscle, but it has responded well to treatment this week, and I think he will be back in training on Monday, although probably not fit enough to be considered for the first team squad to travel to Cardiff.

*Bruce Sewell Hobbs*

For the latest news, views and interviews call:  
**CLUB CALL on 09068 121 123** (calls cost 60p per minute at all times)



## Club Secretary

**IN VIEW** of the tragic events of the past fortnight in Cambridgeshire, and in common with many other clubs this afternoon, we are having a minute's silence before today's game. I am sure that as always on such occasions supporters will join together in a quiet tribute, and to show their respect and sympathy for the parents and friends of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman.

It has been another reminder that for all our love of the game, there are things in life more important than football.

At this time of the season we have plenty to keep us busy in the offices, and this week's activities have included the usual wide spread of business.

Firstly, there is a change in the fixture list for our under-17 team, which is playing in the Football League Youth Alliance for the first time. They were due to be at home to Peterborough this morning, but our pitch at Luton Rugby Club was not available, so we agreed with Peterborough to switch the home and away fixtures. Unfortunately, the Football League was unable then to appoint match officials for a game at Peterborough, so the match had to be postponed. It means that the away game, in January, remains as per the fixtures list, and I will advise you of a new date for the home match as soon as possible.

The ticket office has been very busy, with a spate of all-ticket matches coming up, including our next two away games in the Second Division, at Cardiff on Monday and Brentford on September 7. You need to get your orders in quickly this afternoon if you want to see the

game at Ninian Park.

Tickets for the Brentford game are now on sale, and I am sorry that they were not available earlier. The reason is that Brentford were considering a new date or kick-off time for the game, to avoid a clash with England's friendly against Portugal at Villa Park at 4pm the same afternoon. In the event Brentford decided against a change, but obviously they delayed printing of tickets until that decision was made.

Something else keeping the ticket office busy is the continued demand for season tickets. I am delighted to say that at the time of writing we had sold 3,999, and I was awaiting, with baited breath, the arrival of our 4,000th customer. I can't remember us selling so many season tickets, and of course they are still available, at pro rata prices.

There are lots of good reasons for buying season tickets, as I mentioned in my column in the Peterborough matchday magazine, including priority for purchasing tickets for cup-ties. On that subject, may I remind all of you who are not season ticket holders to retain your ticket stubs from each match you attend, because we are planning to introduce a method to reward our most loyal supporters as and when we have limited numbers of tickets available for such games as cup-ties.

However, I have to give a word of warning to some supporters who are tempted to abuse our system for offering concessionary rates for junior and senior citizens, and students. If you have bought such a season ticket you will notice that the season ticket book is marked in red to identify it as a concessionary

ticket. To the small minority who try to cheat, please note that anyone found using a concessionary ticket to which he or she is not entitled will have the ticket confiscated.

Season ticket benefits, incidentally, include free admission to reserve matches, and our home programme in the Avon Insurance Combination gets under way on Wednesday. We play Bristol Rovers, with a 2pm kick-off. Admission, if you do not have a season ticket, is £3 for adults and £1 for concessions.

Finally, on the subject of tickets, don't forget that you have to buy in advance if you want to go to the Worthington Cup-tie at Watford on September 10. Details are overleaf. Can I also back up the police request to supporters intending to go to Vicarage Road: there are now strict parking restrictions around that area of Watford, and you are asked to leave the car in Luton and go by coach. The club has combined with Town on Tour to offer a bargain return fare of just £5. See page 27 for more details, and we are organising plenty of stewarded car parking here, at £4 per car.

Finally, today, I am pleased to report that Stuart Smith, who heads our Football in the Community department, is now settled into his new offices on the corner of Oak Road and Maple Road. It will enable his department to keep growing, and to spread the net ever further as we offer coaching to children who could be stars of the future.

*Cherry Newbery*

You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on  
**clubsec@lutontown.co.uk**

# Latest News From The Ticket Office

**Worthington Cup**

**Worthington Cup, First Round**

## Watford v Luton Town

**Tuesday September 10, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm**

This is an ALL TICKET MATCH for ALL SUPPORTERS, with no tickets available on the day  
Our allocation is 4,500 seats in the Vicarage Road end.

### Season Ticket Holders

**Until close of business on August 31, sales are restricted to Season Ticket Holders only, one ticket per season ticket holder.  
Cup Voucher A must be produced.**

Season ticket holders can send in their orders now by post, including a cheque payable to Luton Town FC, cup voucher A and a stamped self-addressed envelope.

### Members Sale

Any remaining tickets will go on sale to members on  
Monday 2nd September 2002 at 10am.

Any remaining tickets will go on general sale on Saturday 7th September 2002

### Prices

Adults £10 Senior Citizens, under-16s and students in full-time education £5

### 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.

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[ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk)

## Nationwide League Division Two



### Cardiff City v Luton Town

**Monday August 26, 2002, kick-off 3pm**

This is an ALL TICKET MATCH for Luton Town supporters,  
with no tickets available on the day

Terracing Prices: Adults £12 Senior Citizens, Students, Juniors £8  
Seating Prices: Adults £13 Senior Citizens, Students, Juniors £10



### Luton Town v Chesterfield

**Saturday August 31, 2002, kick-off 3pm**

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices

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



### Brentford v Luton Town

**Saturday September 7, 2002, kick-off 3pm**

This is an ALL TICKET MATCH for Luton Town supporters,  
with no tickets available on the day

Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders only  
until 3pm on Saturday August 31.

Tickets will then go on sale to members, until close of business on Wednesday September 4.

Any remaining tickets would then go on sale on Thursday September 5 at 10 am.

Prices: Open Terrace: Adults £11, Senior Citizens and Students £5, Juniors £2  
Seating: Adults £15, Senior Citizens and Students £10, Juniors £2



### Luton Town v Notts County

**Saturday September 14, 2002, kick-off 3pm**

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices

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please remember there are NO CONCESSIONS available on cash turnstiles



### Luton Town v Mansfield Town

**Tuesday September 17, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm**

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices

Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability, but  
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### Huddersfield Town v Luton Town

**Saturday September 21, 2002, kick-off 3pm**

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

Luton Town supporters will be accommodated in the covered South Stand

Prices: Adults £14.50, Senior Citizens £7, Juniors £5



### Luton Town v Swindon Town

**Saturday September 28, 2002, kick-off 3pm**

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices

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## Luton Town v Barnsley

Location <http://www.soccer-stats.com/headtohead>



For/Against



Goalscoring



Home/Away



Top Scorer



Form Guide



Discipline



Attendances



Swings/Margins



Miscellaneous



### Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored		
3	Shots	1
2	Headers	1
0	Volleys	0
0	Penalties	1
0	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	0

### Where Goals Scored



### Where Goals Conceded



### When Goals Scored

1	0-15 mins	0
0	16-30 mins	1
0	31-45 mins	0
1	46-60 mins	2
2	61-75 mins	0
1	75-90 mins	0

### Form Guide

0	Won	1
0	Drawn	1
3	Lost	1
5	For	3
10	Against	4
0	Points	4
-5	Goal Difference	-1
LLL	Sequence	LDW
L	Home Seq.	DW
LL	Away Seq.	L

### Yellow & Red Cards

8	Yellow	5
1	Red	0



### 2002-2003 Attendances

Hatters		Tykes
7,860	Aggregate	19,267
7,860	Highest	9,641
7,860	Lowest	9,626
7,860	Average	9,634
79	% of Capacity	42

### Average Goals per game

1.67	For	1.00
2.00	Home For	1.00
1.50	Away For	1.00
3.33	Against	1.33
3.00	Home Against	0.50
3.50	Away Against	3.00

### 2002-2003 Figures

18	Players Used	16
0	Clean Sheets	1
0	Failed to Score	0
	Goals scored from...	
1	Corners	0
0	Free Kicks	0
	Goals conceded from...	
1	Corners	0
0	Free Kicks	0

### 10 Year Record

Hatters		Tykes
54.8	Avg Pos. among 92 clubs	33.2
7,878	Avg Att 1992	7,596
7,860	Avg Att 2002	9,634
0	+ / - %	27

### Top League Scorers

Howard		Lumsdon
2	League Goals	2
3	Games Played	3
0.67	Lge Goals/Game	0.67
0	Points Gained	2
2	Scoring Run	1
0	Hat-Tricks	0
1	Close Range	0
1	Inside Area	2
1	Long Range	0
1	Shots	1
1	Headers	0
0	Volleys	0
0	Penalties	1
0	Direct FKs	0

### Swings

LT Games Won from:  
0 3 Goals Down  
0 2 Goals Down  
0 1 Goal Down

Lost from:  
0 3 Goals Up  
0 2 Goals Up  
1 1 Goal Up

Drawn from:  
0 3 Goals Down  
0 2 Goals Down  
0 1 Goal Down  
0 3 Goals Up  
0 2 Goals Up  
0 1 Goal Up

### Margins

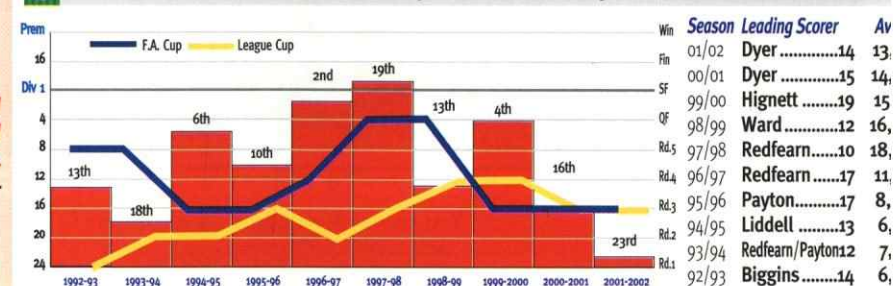
0 Won by 1 Gl  
0 Won by 2 Gls  
0 Won by 3 Gls  
0 Won by 4 Gls  
0 Won by 5+ Gls  
Games

2 Lost by 1 Gl  
0 Lost by 2 Gls  
1 Lost by 3 Gls  
0 Lost by 4 Gls  
0 Lost by 5+ Gls

### Misc stats

16 Highest Pos.  
23 Lowest Pos.  
0 Winning Run  
0 Unbeaten Run  
3 Losing Run  
3 No Win Run

### Barnsley's 10 Year History





## Welcome To

### GOALKEEPERS

**1 Andrew Marriott**  
**DOB:** 11/10/1970  
**Height:** 5ft 12in  
**Weight:** 12st 6lb

ANDY signed for the Reds in March 2001 originally as back up for Kevin Miller following the retirement of David Watson.

A former Arsenal trainee, he moved to Nottingham Forest before a £200,000 move to Wrexham in 1993.

He made his name at the Welsh side, making 278 appearances. Sunderland paid a similar amount for his services in 1998 but found first team opportunities limited at the Stadium of Light.

Made his first team debut at

Grimsby in Sept 2001 following the sending off of Kevin Miller.

**13 Matthew Ghent**  
**DOB:** 05/10/1980  
**Height:** 6ft 3in  
**Weight:** 14st 11lb

MATTHEW Ghent was signed from Aston Villa in August 2001 after impressing Nigel Spackman on trial at the club.

The former England Youth international goalkeeper trained with the squad through the pre-season programme and showed enough to be offered a one-year deal.

### DEFENDERS

**5 Chris Morgan**  
**DOB:** 09/11/1977  
**Height:** 6ft 1in  
**Weight:** 12st 13lb

Brought into the first team as a twenty-year-old during the Premier League season, Chris settled quickly and produced a series of mature performances that belied his tender years. He is a local lad and a product of the Barnsley Academy.

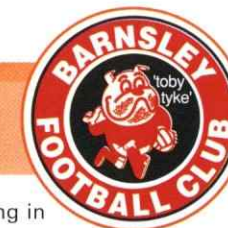
Loved by the supporters for his no-nonsense style of defending, Chris has been a virtual ever present during last season.

**6 Mike Flynn**  
**DOB:** 23/02/1969  
**Height:** 6ft  
**Weight:** 11st 2lb

Mike Flynn signed from Stockport County in March 2002.

Mike started his career as an apprentice with Oldham Athletic in February 1987 and made 45 appearances at Boundary Park before moving to Norwich City in

## Barnsley F.C.



December 1988.

Following a brief spell at Carrow Road the Oldham-born defender returned to his native North West and signed for Preston North End in a six-figure deal.

After well over 150 appearances at Deepdale, Mike moved to Stockport in another six-figure transfer in March 1993.

A tough taking defender, good in the air, dangerous from set plays and possessor of an excellent long throw, Mike played against Barnsley in both matches against Stockport last season and scored at Oakwell in September.

**21 Paul Gibbs**  
**DOB:** 26/10/1972  
**Height:** 5ft 10in  
**Weight:** 11st 9lb

Paul Gibbs signed from Brentford and made his debut against Walsall on March 16, 2002.

Paul made his league debut playing for Colchester after signing from Diss Town in March 1995 and made 56 appearances for the Layer Road club before moving to Torquay United in August 1997.

The 30-year-old made 51 appearances for Torquay before moving to Plymouth Argyle in July 1998. He signed for Brentford in May 2000 and made 67 appearances for the club, scoring four goals.

**22 Dave Mulligan**  
**DOB:** 24/03/1982  
**Height:** 5ft 8in  
**Weight:** 9st 13lb

DAVID Mulligan burst onto the scene in Autumn 2001 after

impressing in the reserves.

The young full back capitalised on an injury to Lee Crooks and a dip in form from Carl Regan to establish himself on the right of the Reds defence, making his first team debut against Manchester City at Oakwell.

David, another of the Reds Kiwi contingent, never looked back following his first game and forged a solid partnership with Kevin Donovan down the flank.

Although small in stature David is as good in the air as he is on the ground and is fast becoming a crowd favourite at Oakwell.

Has won international honours for New Zealand's youth teams.

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## Welcome To

### MIDFIELDERS

#### 4 Mitch Ward

**DOB:** 19/06/1971

**Height:** 5ft 9in

**Weight:** 11st 7lb

Mitch was snapped up by Dave Bassett in the summer for £200,000 from Everton, linking up with his former manager at Bramall Lane for the second time in his career.

He feared it might take time for Barnsley fans to warm to him given his Sheffield United connections, and openly still a supporter, but already the Reds' have warmed to Mitch as he's proved with his battling performances on the field exactly where his alle-

giances lie now.

A wholehearted midfielder who gives his all to the Barnsley cause. Made 41 appearances during his first season.

#### 7 Kevin Donovan

**DOB:** 17/12/1971

**Height:** 5ft 11in

**Weight:** 12st 3lb

KEVIN Donovan signed for the Reds in July 2001 on a free transfer.

The ex-Grimsby player had been courted by a number of First Division clubs before agreeing a contract at Oakwell.

A tricky winger who can also play upfront, Kevin was described as the Mariners best player by manager Lennie Lawrence.

Kevin became a legend at Blundell

Park after scoring the goal that sent the Mariners back into the First Division in the Play Off final. He will provide added depth to the squad and a constant threat to the opposition.

#### 8 Chris Lumsdon

**DOB:** 15/12/1979

**Height:** 5ft 11in

**Weight:** 10st 3lb

Chris Lumsdon signed for Barnsley in early December 2001 after impressing new boss Steve Parkin during a two-month loan spell.

He scored twice in 13 games on loan and the former Sunderland youngster became a firm favourite with the Oakwell faithful following some exceptional performances in the middle of the

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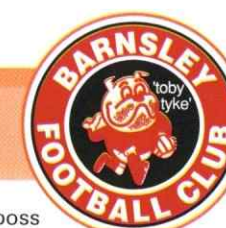
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## Barnsley F.C.

park.

The Newcastle-born player slotted into the Reds midfield and has the ability to turn a game in an instant with the range and quality of his passing

#### 11 Dean Gorre

**DOB:** 10/09/1970

**Height:** 5ft 8in

**Weight:** 11st

DEAN Gorre signed for the club on July 25, 2001, for an undisclosed fee.

He started his career with SVV Schiedam in Holland before moving to Feyenoord Rotterdam, where he helped win the league title in 1993. A brief loan spell at FC Groningen followed before Dean made the move to Dutch giants Ajax in 1997.

Born in 1970, Dean won one cap at Under 21 level for Holland, before signing for Huddersfield Town in September 1999.

He went on to make 68 appearances for the West Yorkshire side, scoring seven goals, before making his move to Oakwell.

Dean is capable of providing the creative spark needed in the Reds midfield.

#### 14 Alex Neil

**DOB:** 09/06/1981

**Height:** 5ft 9in

**Weight:** 11st 2lb

With injuries decimating the Barnsley midfield during the 2000/01 season, Alex stepped in to the fray and virtually established himself as first choice in the middle of the park.

He has proven to be one of Dave Bassett's shrewdest purchases during his time at Oakwell, costing just £25,000 from Airdrie in the summer of 2000.

Alex was originally brought in as a winger, but the 19-year-old has matured into a tough tackling,

combative midfielder with an eye for goal.

#### 15 Kevin Dixon

**DOB:** 27/06/1980

**Height:** 5ft 10in

**Weight:** 12st 10lb

KEVIN Dixon joined Barnsley FC on July 1, 2001 after impressing former boss Nigel Spackman during his time with the England youth set up.

The former-Leeds United midfielder has a reputation as a tough tackling workhorse in the centre of the park and will be looking to impress after never really starting his career at Elland Road.

### STRIKERS

#### 9 Mike Sheron

**DOB:** 11/01/1972

**Height:** 5ft 10in

**Weight:** 12st 6lb

Mike began his career in the junior ranks at Manchester City but actually made his League debut whilst on loan at Bury in April 1991 against Preston North End.

Became a regular in the Manchester City side and his impressive displays won him a call up to the England Under 21 team.

He went on to win sixteen caps at that level.

Norwich City paid £1m for his services in August 1994 but just fifteen months later he joined Stoke City where he switched from his more accustomed midfield role to play as a striker with great success.

In July 1997 though he was on the move again, this time to join Stewart Houston at London club Queens Park Rangers where he became the club's joint record purchase when he signed from Stoke City for £2.35m in July 1997.

Former boss

John Hendrie brought him to Barnsley in the belief that he will be able to continue his proven goalscoring record.

#### 10 Bruce Dyer

**DOB:** 13/04/1975

**Height:** 6ft

**Weight:** 12st 8lb

Bruce was signed by former boss John Hendrie from Crystal Palace for £750,000 in October 1998.

The powerfully built striker hit the headlines in 1994 when Palace made him the most expensive teenager in British football, paying £1.25m for his signature.

Bruce represented England at U-21 level and was the star of a tournament in Toulon in 1993, when one newspaper likened him to a Brazilian centre forward. In and out of the Palace side, former boss John Hendrie had every confidence in him saying: "He is a player who excites me, he is big and strong and has pace."

#### 12 Isaiah Rankin

**DOB:** 22/05/1978

**Height:** 5ft 10in

**Weight:** 12st 8lb

Twenty-two year old Isaiah Rankin was Nigel Spackman's first signing in January 2001. A former Arsenal trainee, Isaiah moved to Valley Parade in August 1998 for a fee of £1.3 million - a club record for Bradford City at the time.

He is a quick forward with an eye for goal and will cause opponents problems.



## Blast From the Past

After surviving a second successive relegation by the skins of our teeth at the end of 1992/93 we all gathered our breath and waited for a summer of comings and goings on the playing side as manager David Pleat made plans to make sure that seasons of struggle were a thing of the past. Surprisingly the close season proved relatively uneventful. Phil Gray, desperate to move to the north east for family reasons got his dream transfer to Sunderland but a large chunk of the £800,000 received by the Town had to be paid to Tottenham as part of the arrangement when he moved from White Hart Lane to Kenilworth Road two years previously. Also on his way to Sunderland was goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain in a move which today would almost be called a 'Bosman'. League regulations stated that a player, at the end of his contract, could not be offered lesser terms otherwise he would be entitled to a free transfer. Pleat was anxious to get the wage bill down especially with many

players still on Division One terms and with Chamberlain being one of these the goalkeeper accepted Sunderland's offer and left Kenilworth Road on a 'technicality'.

The opening game of the new campaign pitted the Town against their near neighbours Watford at Kenilworth Road and a crowd of 9,149 turned out on a sunny day hoping for better fare than had been served up over the past couple of years.

The game started off at a good pace with the Town playing plenty of neat football but being unable to make much impression on a strong Hornets rearguard. When Watford's Barry Ashby was sent off for a knee high tackle on David Preece just before the interval we all looked forward to a landslide victory.

Unfortunately the dismissal galvanised the ten men of Watford and the free flowing game became more of a battle with the Town, surprisingly, unable to make their advantage tell.

Pleat obviously had words at the interval as the players came out for the second half with all guns blazing and took the lead on 51 minutes when Paul Telfer nudged in a Scott Oakes cross.

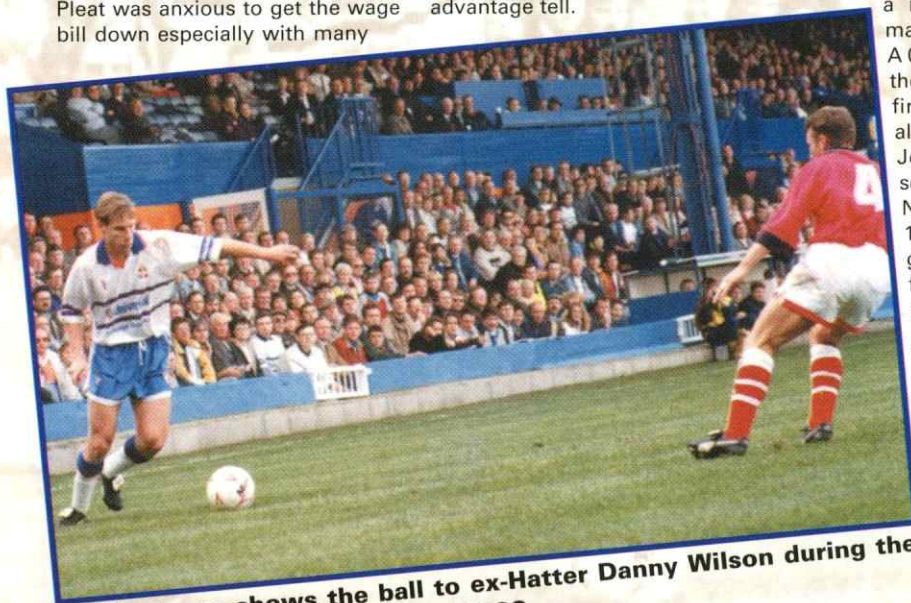
Watford then showed more indiscipline when Jason Drysdale was sent off by referee Paul Alcock for using his elbow on Jason Rees. Even then it was difficult to see which side had the numerical advantage and it came as a great relief when Kerry Dixon expertly fired in goal number two with nine minutes remaining.

Watford refused to give up and reduced the deficit just before the end and gave the Luton supporters a few anxious minutes before the final whistle was sounded, recording the first opening day win since 1984.

Although a victory over the old enemy was always gratefully received most Luton supporters were not convinced by the performance and predicted another season of struggle with the lack of a reliable goalscorer the main cause for concern.

A 0-1 defeat at Portsmouth the following week confirmed the fears and although teenage forward John Hartson made a scoring debut at home to Nottingham Forest in a 1-2 reversal in the next game he was not yet the finished article and therefore not the complete answer.

Newly promoted Bolton won rather too easily in the next game at Kenilworth Road and by now the supporters were becoming restless at the reluctance of the board to spend any of the money brought in by the summer sale of Gray. Privately David Pleat



Julian James shows the ball to ex-Hatter Danny Wilson during the clash with Barnsley in October 1993.

## Hatters finally make the extra man count



knew that money would not be made available and he would have to make do with his crop of promising youngsters and any free transfers or loan signings he could muster.

Experienced campaigner Alan Harper was drafted in on a free from Everton but he was shell shocked on his debut as the Town went down 1-4 at Tranmere although it must be said that the game was a lot closer than the scoreline suggests.

Draws at both Middlesbrough and Birmingham did little to appease the fans and there was talk of a major boycott for the next game, at home to Barnsley, as the Hatters slipped to bottom place in the league.

Only 6,201 turned up for Barnsley's visit, the lowest league attendance at Kenilworth Road since 1979 and with Kerry Dixon still missing through injury the Town were parading the youngest forward line in their history which naturally

needed all the terrace support it could gather.

The game got off to an amazing start when, after three minutes, full-back Julian James intercepted a pass and broke over the halfway line before being clattered by Barnsley skipper and centre-half, Gerry Taggart. After a long break, while both players were attended to, the referee sent Taggart off and immediately Luton supporters thoughts went back to the opening day of the season when the Town found it so difficult to overcome a depleted side.

This time, though, the Hatters were not about to surrender the initiative and aided by a superb performance from Ceri Hughes tore into the Barnsley rearguard.

Still smarting from a last minute miss at Birmingham the previous week, Hughes put on his best display for three years and set up Hartson for the opener after 28 minutes although the big striker still had two players to beat before

putting the ball in the net.

Another brilliant long ball from Hughes ended up with Oakes scoring the important second goal just before the interval and when James burst through to smack in the third on the hour the game was as good as over.

No supporter could remember the last time the Town had made a numerical superiority count and when substitute Scott Houghton and then Oakes again netted late goals to make the final score 5-0 thoughts of a further boycott rapidly disappeared.

**Luton:** Sommer, Johnson, James, Williams (Houghton), Peake, Dreyer, Telfer, Oakes, Hartson, Hughes (Linton), Harper.

**Barnsley:** Watson, Fleming, Anderson, Taggart, Bishop, Redfearn, Wilson, O'Connell (Eaden), Archdeacon, Rammell, Bryson (Liddell).

*Roger Wash*

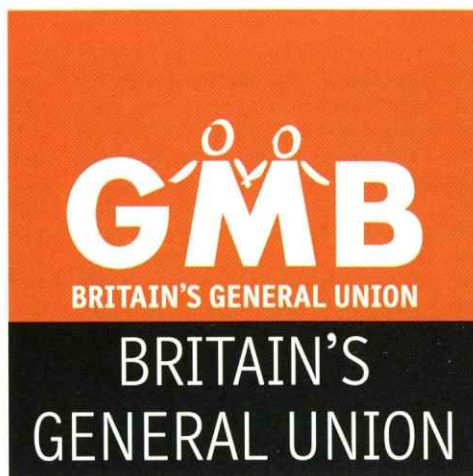
## LUTON TOWN F.C. v BARNSELY



## Yesterday's pages

The Town produced their normal colourful programme for the visit of Barnsley with 40 pages for £1.50.

David Pleat's column makes interesting reading when he points out to all supporters that the recent performances have been nowhere near as bad as the results have suggested. Alan Harper is welcomed to Kenilworth Road (as are his previous team-mates from Everton who were in attendance prior to their trip to Tottenham the following day) while sympathy is extended to Richard Harvey who faced a year out with a cruciate injury.



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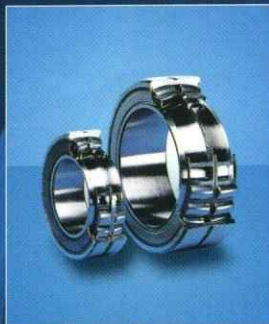


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## Hatters Away

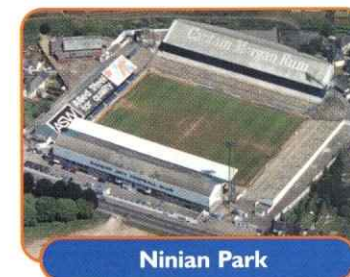
FOR THE third consecutive away game, Town fans have to contend with potential holiday traffic problems for the trip to meet Lennie Lawrence's Cardiff City on Monday. The bank holiday game is all-ticket, and as usual Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club will be offering coach travel on a day when the M4 could be busy with day-trippers heading for the West Country.

The Bobbers service starts from Cranfield at 8.30 am, leaving Luton an hour later, and the fare is £14 for adults and £11.50 for pensioners and under-16s.

Town on Tour depart from Maple Road at 9.30, and their fares are £15 for adult members of Luton Town Supporters Club, £13 for

junior and senior members, and £17 for non-members. You are welcome to join LTSC when you book a ticket, and qualify immediately for the discount.

#### DIY Travellers



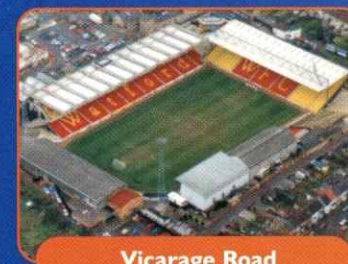
Ninian Park

DRIVING to Cardiff is usually quick and easy, because the jour-

ney is almost all motorway. Leave Luton on the M1 going south, and then take the M25 westwards, signposted towards Heathrow. Near the airport, turn onto the M4, going west, and follow that motorway into Wales, paying a toll to use the Severn Crossing. Leave the motorway at junction 33 and follow the signs towards Cardiff West on the A4232. Six miles after you leave the motorway turn left, to follow the road signposted towards the Leckwith Industrial Estate, and at the first roundabout turn left, into Leckwith Road, and within half a mile you are at Ninian Park and its extensive car park.

**Mileage from Luton: 190.**

### Cheap Travel To Cup-tie



Vicarage Road

WE ARE expecting to take a big crowd to our first cup-tie of the season, an all-ticket Worthington Cup first round game at Vicarage Road on Tuesday September 10, and the Police ask all supporters to travel by coach or public transport rather than by car. Since the Town's last appearance there, many more parking restrictions have been imposed in the streets near the ground.

The Bobbers and Town on Tour are both offering travel deals, and Town on Tour is working jointly with the Football Club to offer a cheap flat rate fare of only £5 to all supporters who want to go to the game, LTSC members or not. They plan to hire a double-decker bus fleet, which enables them to bring down the price, with departures between 5.45 and 6pm from the ground, and a pick-up at Luton Parkway will be offer if there is a demand.

The Bobbers Travel Club will be offering a service to the villages on its regular route, leaving Cranfield at 4.15pm and Luton at 5.15. Fares will be £7 for adults, £6 for concessions. Demand for both services is likely to be high, so early booking is advised.

Bookings for away games travel can be made at LTSC or the Bobbers kiosks in Kenilworth Road, before or after today's match.

Paul Deason on 01234 750996 will take phone bookings for the Bobbers, whose services includes pick-ups at Cranfield, Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and opposite the Travelodge Motel in Dunstable Road, Luton, close to the M1.

Town on Tour is an offshoot of Luton Town Supporters Club, and members get the best deals. You can call in to the club shop to book seats, or reserve them on the phone by calling 07960 567465.

Maple Road car park, which will be stewarded, is available for coach passengers, at £4 per car.

# Photo Special



**BACK HOME:** Tony Thorpe, who returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer, rather than accept a new contract with Bristol City, pictured in typical action at Blackpool, taking on opponents two at a time.



## LTFC in the Community

I START today with some exciting news, hot off the press. The Community Department has been approached by Abu Nasir of Luton Borough Council Regeneration Department, in conjunction with the New Deal for Communities Initiative, with a view to our participation in the Government-backed regeneration programme for the Marsh Farm estate.

We have been asked to deliver a three-year plan for a programme of football-related activities for children from the estate and surrounding area. I am looking at the possibilities and costs for this project.

My initial idea is that we will provide an hour and a half coaching on the AstroTurf surface at Lea Manor Sports Centre twice a week for the full 36 weeks of the school year. This will be supplemented by a series of school holiday events, to include tournaments and fun days as well as coaching.

Emphasis, as with all our events, will be on giving the children the chance to participate in - and enjoy - football.

The age groups covered by this project will be boys and girls from five to 15. As we progress, the idea is to then include an extra night a week where the more talented players will be able to work together with an eye to creating routes for them into local clubs. I would also like to be able to incorporate into this programme the opportunity for children to explore educational opportunities, using football as the tool.

All this, should the proposals be accepted and New Deal for Communities agree to provide the funding, will hopefully be off the ground during November.

For the new school year our department is instigating two more new ideas. We have taken our first bookings for after-school clubs. We are inviting schools to take up the opportunity to use our

coaches at a very cheap rate, between the hours of 4 and 5pm. For a cost of only one pound per child for the hour, we will come to the school and deliver a football session. Hopefully this will provide a solution for parents who have to employ child minders for the hour or so between the time the children leave school and mother or father returns home. We are also offering schools the opportunity to bring coaches in to deliver a day's football activities on inset days.

I know these days can be difficult for parents. All it takes is for the school to donate their field and facilities free of charge and then for a cost of £7.50 per child we will deliver a five-hour programme of football activities between 10am and 5pm.

I am sure these two schemes will be of enormous benefit to schools and parents alike. So if you are interested please arrange for the head teacher of your school to give me a call on the usual number, 01582 411622, and we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Meanwhile we have plenty of other activities going on during the school holidays. Our summer programme, which includes coaching courses as well as fun days and specialist goalkeeping clinics, continues to be very popular, and courses currently on offer are listed in this article.

We have recently launched a Dial-A-Coach scheme, which will enable local clubs can take advantage of the coaching skills avail-



**HAPPY SCHOOL DAYS:** Children enjoying themselves with football in one of our coaching sessions.



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SAFETY IS OUR GOAL



## LTFC in the Community

able within a professional club. Also our Saturday Soccer Clubs are available, and full details can be found in the Community Section of the Luton Town Web Pages.


The courses are in association with The Bedfordshire Football Association, Railtrack, Sportsmatch, Adidas and The Luton News.

If you are interested in enrolling for any of the courses, just check the table to find the course code of the one you want, then fill in the booking form and send it with the appropriate cheque, payable to Luton Town Football in the Community, to Stuart Smith, Luton Town Football Club, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW.

One form per child must be signed by a parent or guardian. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation of your booking. No registration or payment can be accepted


on the day unless by prior agreement. There is a limit to the number of children we can take, so it is first come, first served.

*Stuart Smith*



# LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

## FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



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We can deliver sessions for your whole club, or just the one team that you think needs a little extra help.

The coach can offer a structured course over a period of ten weeks (more or less if you require). Or maybe he can just come to you and deliver a one off session on that problem area.

**For further information please call Stuart Smith, the clubs Football and Community Development Officer on 01582 411622. Or return the form overleaf.**

COURSE CODE	NO OF DAYS	VENUE	DATE	TIME	COST	COURSE TYPE
DGK 2	1	Queensbury School Meadowway Dunstable	Tue 27 Aug	10.00am - 3.00pm	£10.00	Goalkeepers 8 - 13 yrs
DSC 2	3	Queensbury School Meadowway Dunstable	Tue 27 - Thur 29 Aug	10.00am - 3.00pm	£30.00	5 - 6 yrs 7 - 11 yrs 12 - 15 yrs

Please reserve a place on the above course (pls put course code in the box on right).

Name: ..... Age: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Home Tel No: ..... School: .....

Any Health Problem ..... Disorders ..... or Medication? ..... Please ring to give details.

I acknowledge and accept that Luton Town FC, their football in the community scheme, or the organisation providing facilities and their respective agents, servants and employees, are not under any liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage however caused whilst in attendance on the above course.

Signature of Parent / Guardian: .....

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## Action Replay



### Luton Town 2 Peterborough 3 (HT 0-2)

THE TINGLING excitement many of us feel as a new season kicks off was replaced by disappointment and bewilderment as the Town stumbled to their first defeat since February. A poor first-half display enabled Peterborough to help themselves to a two-goal lead, and while it got a little better after the break Peterborough deserved to be the first team to beat the Town since Scunthorpe's success, by the same score, at Kenilworth Road in February.

That nasty shock led to the Town putting together a run of 13 wins and a draw to clinch promotion, and Joe Kinnear said he hoped losing to Peterborough would deliver a similar kick up the backside.

"Truly awful," was his summing up of the first half, when the Town were slower to the ball, outplayed in midfield, and nearly non-existent as an attacking force. The defence struggled against pace as Peterborough looked menacing on the break.

A superb strike by Francis Green gave the Town the unwelcome distinction of being the first league club in the country to concede a goal this season, after only 85 seconds. Half an hour later Adam Newton headed another, and Peterborough nearly got a third when Andy Clarke was played through. Carl Emberson denied him in a one-on-one confrontation.

For the second half Ahmet Brkovic replaced Steve Robinson, and Dean Crowe took over from non-contract winger Robbie Winters. Both subs scored, Crowe shooting home after linking well with Steve Howard on 48 minutes and Brkovic with eight minutes to play, from a cross by the third sub, Andrew Fotiadis.

The trouble was that Peterborough, who made excellent use of the flanks, netted

again between those two efforts, with the Town boss complaining that once more defenders went missing as Andy Clarke, who played for Joe at Wimbledon, stole in for a near-post header.

To clutch at straws, we wondered if Tony Thorpe really was offside when he netted soon after the start of the second half, and there were vain shouts for a penalty when Fotiadis was brought down. The ref gave a free kick just outside the box.

"Our players can hardly believe how bad they were," said the manager. "And no-one can understand why it happened."

**Luton Town:** Emberson; Neilson, Perrett, Coyne, Kimble; Robinson (Brkovic HT), Spring, Nicholls, Winters (Crowe HT); Howard, Thorpe (Fotiadis 72 mins). Unused subs: Boyce, Bayliss.

**Booked:** Steve Robinson, 44 mins, foul; Kevin Nicholls, 90 mins, dissent.

**Peterborough:** Tyler; Gill (Lee 82 mins), Joseph, Rea, Pearce (MacDonald 55 mins), Danielsson, Forsyth, Bullard (Shields 72 mins), Newton; Andy Clarke, Green. Unused subs: Lee Clarke, Connor.

**Booked:** Sub Gary MacDonald, 86 mins, time-wasting.

**Referee:** Brian Curson, Leicestershire.

**Attendance:** 7,860, including 990 away supporters.

**ACCOUNT OPENED:** Dean Crowe salutes the Kenilworth Road end after scoring his first goal of the season to put us back in the game early in the second half.



Fancy a party or reception at Kenilworth Road? Then e-mail us on: [commercial@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:commercial@lutontown.co.uk)



## Action Replay

THE GLOW of expectation took another hammering in the second game of the season, with Joe Kinnear left to fret and fume about another performance which promised a bit, but achieved little. The Seasiders came back from a goal down to become the first team to put five past us since Wrexham did it at Kenilworth Road five years ago.

With Russ Perrett out through injury, David Bayliss returned to partner Chris Coyne in central defence, and while they had games to forget, the Town were for the second time found wanting because they could not cope with pace from midfield and on the flanks.

Eight goals conceded in the first two matches to put us in the bottom three told its own story. The league table says little at this time of the season, but Joe Kinnear said after Blackpool had won at a canter that he is ready to be ruthless to transform his squad.

Peterborough and Blackpool both deserved to beat the Town, and that sounds alarm bells, because neither were world-beaters last season, finishing 17th and 16th respectively in the Division Two table.

The manager's inference was that we had a good squad for the Third Division, but... "The standard of defending in the first two games has been very poor," he said. "We have made the jump up into the Second Division, but it looks as though some are not good enough for this level. That has shocked and surprised me. The squad we thought was good enough, because of last year's performances, is obviously not. And I haven't got enough in reserve."

He has more to say on the subject in his column on page 5, and he promised at Blackpool that he would be straight and honest with

### Blackpool 5 Luton Town 2 (HT 1-2)

the players, and with the fans. Shape up or ship out was the general tenor of his comments at Bloomfield Road.

One slight consolation is that the Town look capable of scoring goals in the Second Division, and for a brief spell at Blackpool the old confidence came back after Steve Howard netted his first of the season when he was left unmarked to head in from a quality sixth-minute corner delivered by Kevin Nicholls. The trouble was that the Town's set-piece defending was even worse. Like the Town they turned their first corner into a goal, with defender Peter Clarke allowed to shoot home through a crowd of players in the 24th minute. Five minutes later the Town watched him head his second, again from a left wing corner, and after that Blackpool played much the better football, with Richie Wellens bossing the midfield.

The manager took swift action after the second goal, replacing Alan Neilson with the quicker and more adventurous Emmerson Boyce, and sending on Dean Crowe in place of midfielder Peter Holmes, who had come into the side ahead of Steve Robinson.

The change from 4-4-2 to 4-3-3 threatened to get the Town back into the game. Just before the break Crowe, operating on the wing, but always willing to cut inside, took a pass from Tony Thorpe and curled a lovely drive towards the far corner. Phil Barnes made the save of the match to dive and push the ball round the post, while at the other end Paul Dalglish nearly embarrassed Carl Emberson, catching him off his line with a powerful

30-yarder which pinged back off the bar.

With the home side 2-1 up at the break, the next goal was always going to be crucial, and for 15 minutes early in the second half the Town looked more likely to get it. Even Coyne was up with the attack, but for all the pressure there was little conviction close to goal, despite some very nervy home defending.

The revival died when sub Scott Taylor, who had been on for barely a minute, danced through a stretched defence to make it 3-1 on 65 minutes. Six minutes later Thorpe headed a beauty on the far post from a cross by Ahmet Brkovic and hope once more flared. The boss was preparing to go for broke by sending on Andrew Fotiadis as another attacker, in place of Spring, believing that a 4-2-4 might do the job in the last ten minutes. Just one goal was needed, but before the substitution could be made Dalglish was presented with a gift goal from a cut-back by Wellens, and a night of embarrassment was ended by Taylor adding his second in injury time.

**Luton Town:** Emberson; Neilson (Boyce 29 mins), Bayliss, Coyne, Kimble; Brkovic, Spring (Fotiadis 85 mins), Nicholls, Holmes (Crowe 29 mins); Howard, Thorpe. Unused subs: Robinson, Perrett.

**Booked:** Ahmet Brkovic, 61 mins, foul.

**Blackpool:** Barnes; Grayson, Peter Clarke, Chris Clarke, Jaszczun; Bullock, Southern, Wellens, Hills; Walker (Taylor 64 mins); Dalglish. Unused subs: Theoklitos, O'Kane, Hughes, Collins.

**Booked:** Richard Walker, 44 mins, playing on after the whistle - time-wasting.

**Referee:** Mark Clattenburg, County Durham.

**Attendance:** 6,377 including 781 away supporters.

**ON TARGET:** Tony Thorpe pulls it back to 2-3 with a perfectly placed header from a far post cross by Ahmet Brkovic.



**HATTERS AHEAD:** The early encouragement for the Town as Steve Howard gives us the lead with a header from the game's first corner delivered by Kevin Nicholls.

**CLOSE CONTROL:** Ahmet Brkovic runs at the Seasiders' defence.





## Action Replay

### Plymouth Argyle 2 Luton Town 1 (HT 0-0)

THE third consecutive defeat was another disappointment, yet the Town came out of this one with considerable credit, unlucky not to take at least a point on a day when they had to play for 80 minutes with only ten men.

After Steve Howard hit a tremendous equaliser, there were times when Plymouth were played off the park, and even their manager, Paul Sturrock, agreed that if he were a Luton man he would be feeling a bit down at playing well and losing.

For Joe Kinnear there were a lot of good signs from the team's improved performance when they had so little going for them - Chris Coyne rightly sent off early on, and a finicky ref who dished out four yellow cards to the Town, one to Plymouth, and sent Mick Harford from the dug-out for asking a linesman if there was any chance that eventually a decision might go our way...

The Town boss pulled no punches in his post-match comments, saying that Coyne did his team no favours by earning a red card, and that Carl Emberson was responsible for the late goal which denied the Town the point they deserved.

As you might expect, Plymouth views were different: Sturrock reckoned it was a wonder-strike by Paul Wotton, which deserved to win the game. He felt sympathy for Coyne, and wished the ref had settled for less than the red card. As Coyne departed, he said, his men seemed to take things too easy, and at the interval he had demanded that they step up a gear.

Both teams did. The first half was poor fare around a dead-

locked midfield. Kevin Nicholls was as dependable as ever in making sure Plymouth's star playmaker David Friio was kept quiet. So it was all the more painful when, having denied any sort of service to the home side's attackers, both of whom were subbed, the Town should be beaten by strikes from two defenders.

Tony Thorpe was sacrificed to enable David Bayliss to go on to partner Russ Perrett in defence, leaving Howard as a lone striker, but given excellent support in the second half by a Town midfield which gained the upper hand.

Sol Davis, making a very solid debut, became part of a rearguard that looked much more convincing than we had seen in the Peterborough and Blackpool games.

The ten men were beginning to outplay Plymouth after the break, but we paid dearly for missing reasonable chances. Spring should have given us the lead six minutes into the second half, but after being put through by Ahmet Brkovic, he dragged a mishit shot wide from a good position.

On 57 minutes Plymouth took a surprise lead, with a tremendous 25-yard strike by left back Brian McGlinchey after a half-clearance from a corner.

The Town refused to buckle, although a very warm afternoon was always going to add extra pressure as ten men tried to do the work of 11. Nice work by Spring set up Howard for the

day's second top quality finish, a thumping drive to make it 1-1 on 67 minutes.

After that the Town were the better side, but Steve Robinson missed a good chance, shooting over the bar from an inviting opening created by Spring. A Town win would not have been hugely flattering. Instead, with seven minutes to go, Wotton received the ball on his left wing from a throw-in, and hit a 30-yard drive which seemed to be going straight to Emberson, but somehow eluded the goalkeeper, leaving his manager to say: "I could have saved that."

**Luton Town:** Emberson; Boyce, Perrett, Coyne, Davis; Robinson, Spring (Crowe 84 mins), Nicholls (Neilson 88 mins), Brkovic; Howard, Thorpe (Bayliss 10 mins). Unused subs: Fotiadis, Kimble.

**Sent off:** Chris Coyne, pulling back Michael Evans by the shirt after a stumble had allowed the Plymouth striker to get slightly ahead of him on a run for goal in pursuit of an over-the-top pass.

**Booked:** Sol Davis, 17 mins, foul on Jason Bent; Russ Perrett, 39 mins, foul on Nathan Lowndes; Matt Spring, 68 mins, foul on Steve Adams; Steve Robinson, 90 mins, dissent.

**Plymouth Argyle:** Larrieu; Worrell, Wotton, Malcolm, McGlinchey; Bent, Adams, Friio, Phillips (Hodges 65 mins); Lowndes (Keith 75 mins), Evans (Sturrock 71 mins). Unused subs: McCormick, Beresford.

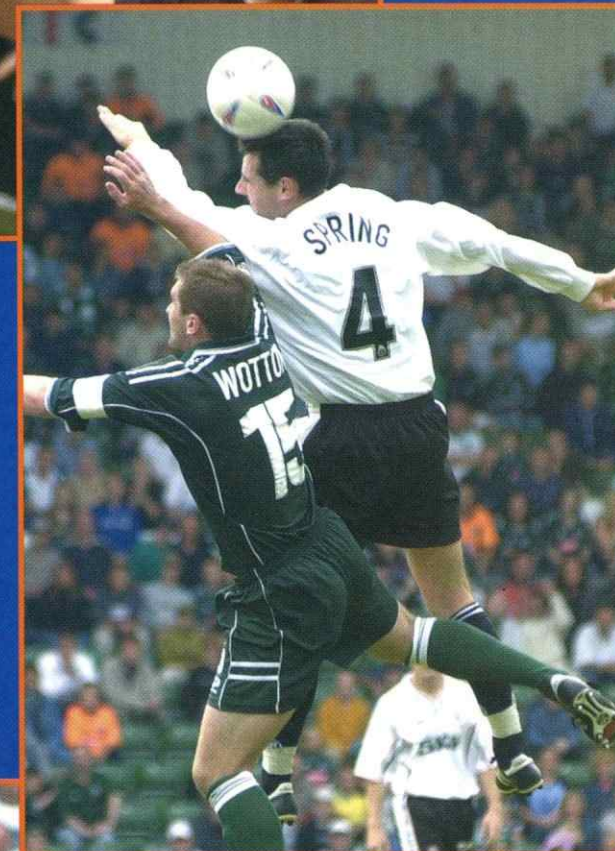
**Booked:** Martin Phillips, 40 mins, foul on Sol Davis.

**Referee:** Trevor Parkes, West Midlands

**Attendance:** 10,973 including 773 away supporters.



Above:  
**FEELING GOOD:** Steve Howard celebrates with the fans after netting the equaliser at Home Park.



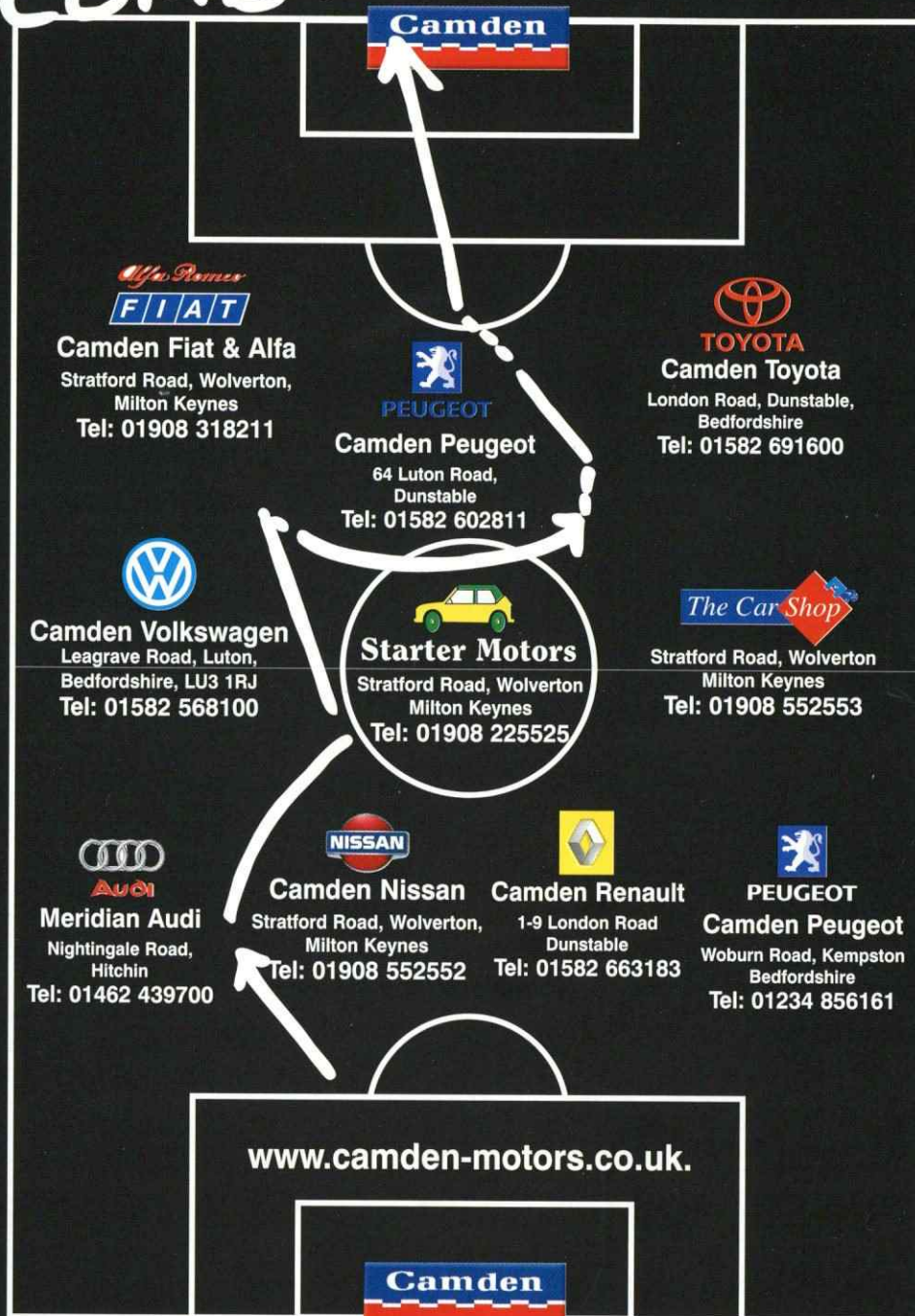
Right:  
**SPRING IN THE AIR:** After a slow start to the season by his standards, Matt Spring hit form at Plymouth, and is pictured getting the better of home captain Paul Wotton.



Below:  
**STRETCHING EVERY SINEW:** Steve Robinson in the thick of the action, making sure he gets ahead of Plymouth's Brian McGlinchey.

# THE WINNING COMBINATION!

Camden



## Hatters Abroad



SIMON Pitts passed on this picture from Canada of Town fanatic Rick Turner. "He is a Luton supporter currently living in Ontario," explained Simon. "If wearing the replica kit with pride isn't sufficient proof of his loyalty to the club surely the number plate on his car is!"

"Rick came back to England in September 2000 and was grateful to be able to see the matches against Swindon and the second leg of the Worthington cup-tie against Sunderland, even though he failed to see a Luton victory. He keeps up to date with events and results via the internet, and also by having regular 'chats' online with fellow Hatters fans, myself included. Rick is hoping to see a few games this season as he is aiming to be back in the UK over Christmas and New Year. "Rick, and his Luton-supporting sons, send their best wishes to Joe Kinnear and all at LTFC for the forthcoming season."



WEAR the shirt and make new friends. That, says Jackie Bostock, of Brian Road, Harlington, was one of the things she noticed when David and Steven Bostock did that on a holiday in Majorca. "The boys are extremely loyal fans, who regularly come to watch their beloved team with their dad Pete and their 79-year-old grandmother Joyce" said Jackie. "All of them are life-long Luton supporters."

"In Majorca, where the picture was taken, I was amazed how easily a conversation can be shared when you wear your club colours abroad."

ARE you a Town fan who wants to be in the picture? We are always pleased to receive photographs of Hatters supporters in their club colours anywhere in the world. If you have an interesting snap you would like to see published please send it, with a few details, to the editor, by post to Luton Town FC, or e-mail to

If you use e-mail, please include your home address and a day-time phone number. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back, but don't offer us anything which is irreplaceable, because with the best will in the world items 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.

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## Junior Hatters



OUR normal match-day activities have got off to a bit of a slow start this season. For reasons which are nothing to do with us, we have been unable to organise trips to away games, but I hope to have news in a week or two about the resumption of this popular service.

Because the schools are still on holiday, our Saturday Club is at present unable to meet, but we hope it will be back in business for the game against Chesterfield next Saturday.

Meanwhile, we are still

accepting members. The Junior Hatters Club is open to all Luton Town Supporters aged 16 or under. The cost is £12 for new members and £7 for those rejoining. Benefits include a free gift when you join, a birthday card signed by your favourite player, a regular newsletter, the chance to be chosen as a mascot or ball boy/girl, subsidised travel to some away games and a Christmas disco.

The Saturday Club, opening at Dallow Road Junior School, offers all kinds of entertain-

ment before and during the game. A sausage-and-chips lunch is included and the price is just £5 for Junior Hatters with season tickets, and £11 for others, to include a match ticket.

For more information, call in at the Junior Hatters HQ, the club shop in Kenilworth Road, or phone the shop on Luton 411622. You can also e-mail us on clubshop@lutontown.co.uk

*Happy Harry*



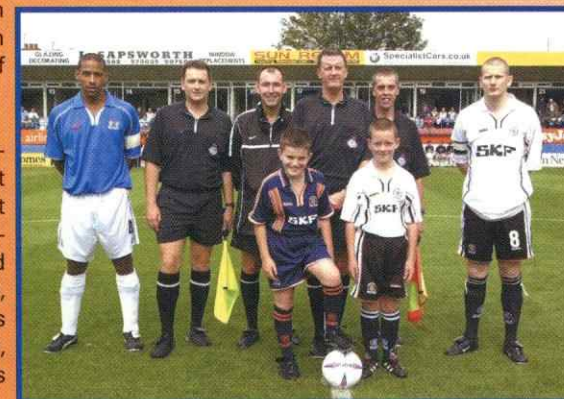
FOURTEEN-year-old Michele - Italian for Michael - Iacono is set for a very special treat this afternoon, because he has been chosen to be the Junior Hatters mascot. Football-mad, he is a regular in the Kenilworth Stand, where he sits with his dad Mike, brothers Antoni and William, and sister Anna.

A pupil at Cardinal Newman School, Michele lives at Cutenhoe Road, Luton, and enjoys all sports. His favourite player is whoever is chosen to be the Town goalkeeper, because that is the position Michele plays. He was with Markyate last season, but they have folded, so he is currently looking for a new team in the Chiltern Youth League.

Today, he will have been one of the first fans in the ground to enable him to meet the Town stars in the dressing room, and then go out with

them onto the pitch for the pre-match formalities, including a close view of the toss of the coin before kick-off.

TOP PEOPLE: Mascots meet the captains and match officials before the first game of the season, against Peterborough. The Junior Hatters mascot was Billy Rogers, who is ten and comes from Littleberries, Marsh Farm, Luton. The other young Town fan is another ten-year-old, Timothy Owen, from Camp Lane, Kissingbury, who was commercial mascot.



# GARETH OWEN Photography

...working **PR** photography

**Tel: 07850 560289**  
**Fax: (01582) 616567**  
**e-mail: gareth@go-photo.co.uk**

## TOWN TEASER

WE HAVE heard a suggestion that our Town Teaser feature is not much of a brain-tester. So, without wishing to appeal to the no-one except complete anoraks, we are trying to be a touch more crafty in today's test of your Town Trivia knowledge.

As usual, one lucky supporter can win a pair of match tickets: listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. For the visit of Peterborough, our first game of the season, we asked about the corresponding match of a year previously, and the answer was that we beat Carlisle 2-0 at Brunton Park, with goals by Paul Hughes and Carl Griffiths, who were both making their Town debuts.

You need a slightly longer memory to solve this afternoon's Town Teaser.

## TODAY'S QUESTION

What is the connection between Barnsley, Luton Town, and a day to remember at Wembley?

## Eagle IPA - Proud to sponsor Luton Town F.C.



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## PRE-MATCH AND HALF TIME ENTERTAINMENT

With Justin Dealey and Steve Faulkner

### TODAYS MATCH:

- 2.15** Team line up to be announced
- 2.25** HMV Single of the Blazing Squad - Crossroads
- 2.35** Dedications announced
- 2.45** Town Teaser - See Page 42
- 2.50** Player Track See Right
- 2.55** Teams run out to - The Blues Brothers "Gimme Some Lovin"
- 3.00** THE BIG KICK OFF

### HALF TIME

- 3.50** Golden Gamble - Winning ticket drawn on pitch
- 3.55** Run down of half time scores from around the country
- 4.00** Dedications
- 4.05** Teams arrive back on pitch to theme song "Gimme Some Lovin"
- 4.55 - FULL TIME**

### Player Track



**Ahmet Brkovic**  
ROBBIE WILLIAMS  
ROCK DJ

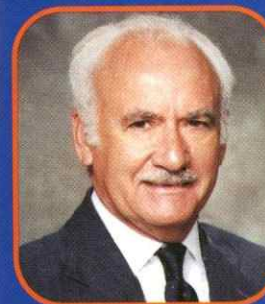
Matchday music supplied by:



Justin Dealey is sponsored by:  
**BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO**  
95.5 FM (BEDS) 104.5 FM (BUCKS)  
03.8 FM (HERTS)

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

## 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, 2002.

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## Hatters Chatter



DID you hear about the 50-year-old granny, a regular Town supporter, who was arrested on the day she went to a match sporting blue, orange and white hair? We speak of Hatters fanatic Rosemary Sellars, who is not normally thought of as a trouble-maker, and is most certainly no lager-lout.

But she drove straight into trouble when she organised a minibus trip to Shrewsbury for the final game of last season, when we were all in celebration mood at winning promotion. She and her chums forgot that celebratory drinks on busses to and from games are banned if they are anything stronger than Tizer. She explains: "We parked at the ground, and Police swooped as

soon as we stopped. Our cold box was there, with about ten empty cans, four alcopops and a bottle of Asti Spumante for the celebrations afterwards.

"As hirer of the vehicle I was taken for a telling-off. Unfortunately, the acting sergeant of the day was not agreeing to that, and said I had to be arrested.

"I was taken away in the grilled back of a police van and interviewed, finger-printed, photographed and officially cautioned.

"It would have been worse but for the lovely policeman at the station who seemed to find it a huge joke that he had arrested a 50-year-old granny with blue, orange and white hair! Luckily,

t h e y processed me very quickly, and took me back to the ground, right to the turnstiles, so that I didn't miss the game.

"Obviously it was quite upsetting for the people I was with to see me taken away. However, I accept that I broke the law, even if a bit of common sense could have been used to save me and them a lot of hassle.

"I wouldn't like to think that someone else will have it happen to them because they don't know these laws exist, so a gentle reminder to supporters wouldn't go amiss, not to have any alcohol on board any bus going to a designated sporting event."

## Absent Friend

EVERYONE at Kenilworth Road sends condolences to the family of Gordon Whitehead, from Padbury, near Milton Keynes, who died in July. He had been a Town supporter for 56 years, and when he was ill we were pleased to meet his wife's request to send a get-well card, signed by the team, while he was awaiting a heart by-pass operation. Mrs Whitehead told us: "He treasured it, but I am afraid things did not go to plan."



LAST season may be over and done with, but we thought this picture, of two of our most loyal supporters, deserved an airing. The silly hats were, of course, worn on the occasion of our final home game of the season, and the two not-so-mad Hatters are Danny and Elsie Clubb.

They live at Blackpool, but rarely miss a game at Kenilworth Road, a round trip of over 400 miles, and are members of the Millennium Club. Danny's fame is spreading – he was named Supporter of the Month in a nation-wide competition and finalist in the Supporter of the Year competition.

A Word of Warning

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Adults

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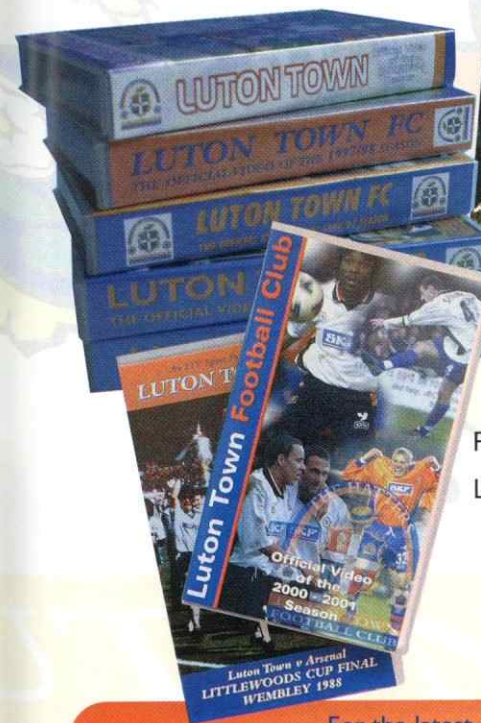
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## Youth Soccer



### FLYA Under-19:

#### Luton Town 0 Walsall 0

I WAS quite pleased with our first competitive game of the season. It was not a bad match, and our squad was not as strong as it might have been - I had only one sub, goalkeeper Dean Brill, and he had to go on as an outfield player for the second half because of an injury.

A missed penalty, a red card and the sight of our lads playing in blue tee shirt training tops all added to the entertainment. Walsall turned up with a white strip, forcing us to make a late change to avoid a colour clash.

Our lads tried to play their football, and got into the game after a slow start. Walsall were bigger and stronger, but we made the better chances without making them count.

In the second half I felt Walsall were trying to batter us into

submission, but they were not allowed to do so. In fact we probably should have won, because we got through them on a couple of occasions, when the finishing failed to match good approach play.

We were down to ten men for the last 13 minutes. James Osborn was a silly boy, getting two yellow cards in one incident, the second for comments to the referee.

Just before that Walsall had failed with the only decent opportunity they had. A miss-timed tackle gave them a penalty, but Robert Beckwith saved it.

**Luton Town:** Beckwith, Howell, Barnett, O'Leary, Davies, Deeney, de Souza (Brill HT), Osborn, Judge, Freeman, Okai.

### Postponed

We were due to be away to Kidderminster today, but the game has been postponed for a week.

Our next scheduled home match is against Oxford on September 14.

### FLYA Under-17:

#### Brighton 3 Luton Town 0

COACH Mark Ridgway was not too surprised to see the Town's first-ever game in the Alliance under-17 section end in defeat. Nor was he displeased with the way his young players handled themselves. "Our squad included four 14-year-olds, and except for one player of 16 we had no-one over the age of 15," he said. "We know it is going to be a long hard season, because we will probably be one of the youngest sides in our league."

"We are working to bring young players through, and in the long term I am sure the club will benefit as lads are put to the test."

"Brighton looked a good side, and I can't complain about the result, but overall our boys did ever so well."

**Luton Town:** Barrett, Smyth, Green (Shea), Deeney, Reid, Mountford, Blake, Ridgway, Maitland, Magdah (Clark), McCarthy (Sinclair).

### Fixture change

OUR apologies to any supporters who went to Luton Rugby Club this morning hoping to see the under-17 team in action. Because of circumstances beyond our control the venue was switched at short notice, and we played Peterborough away instead of at home.

In normal circumstances, you can be fairly certain of seeing a youth match at Luton RFC on Saturdays, because the Newlands Road complex is our usual home ground for all Football League Youth Alliance fixtures. Kick-off is normally at 11am, and spectators are welcome.

*John Moore*

### FL Youth Alliance Under-19

August			
17	Walsall	H	0-0
31	Kidderminster	A	
September			
7	Brentford (LC)	A	
14	Oxford (LC)	H	
21	Wycombe (LC)	H	
28	Northampton	H	
October			
12	Peterborough	A	
19	West Brom	A	
26	Rushden	H	
November			
2	Oxford Utd	H	
9	Cambridge	A	
16	Peterborough	H	
30	West Brom	H	
December			
7	Rushden & D	A	
14	Oxford Utd	A	
January			
11	Cambridge	H	
18	Walsall	A	
25	Kidderminster	H	
February			
1	Northampton	A	
8	Merit Division starts		

### FL Youth Alliance Under-17

August		
17	Brighton	A
24	Peterborough	H
September		
7	Southend	A
14	Portsmouth	H
21	Gillingham	A
28	Cambridge	A
October		
5	Colchester	H
19	QPR	H
26	Wycombe	A
November		
2	L. Orient	A
9	Brentford	H
16	Cambridge	H
23	Colchester	A
30	QPR	A
December		
7	Wycombe	H
14	L. Orient	H
January		
11	Brentford	A
18	Brighton	H
25	Peterborough	A
February		
8	Southend	H
15	Portsmouth	A
22	Gillingham	H

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## Hatters Chatter

THE CLUB marked the new season's kick-off with an announcement about progress on the new stadium which is planned for a site near the M1 junction 10. The picture shows one of the views of the arena, which is to be built on 55 acres of land already bought by Town chairman Mike Watson-Challis.

Guiding the scheme from blueprint to completion is a complex job, and at this stage, with much more detail to be sorted out, there is no firm date for the submission of a planning application to Luton Borough Council. We have good reason to hope that the Council will be helpful – the Town Hall line has been that it believes a new facility on the outskirts of Luton will be an asset to the community, not just to the football club. The council also wants to see the scheme move on for another reason: it owns the Kenilworth Road stadium, and once the Town move out, the site will be released for redevelopment and regeneration.

Eric Hood, the Town's deputy chairman said: "I have had positive meetings with the planners at Luton Borough Council, and I have also met the Leader of the Council, Bill McKenzie. Over the next few weeks, we will be releasing further details of the proposed new stadium design.

"Supporters have been very patient regarding the new stadium, but I feel sure that once they have seen the plans, they will be proud to be associated with Luton Town."



### A Success Story

MEMORIES of last season will last a long time for Town fans, and next month they can all be rekindled when a new book is published, written by Town supporter Caroline Dunn.

Called "A Brand New Bright Tomorrow," it is her chronicle of the season, with travelogues, match reports and chats with the players.

The launch is at the club shop on Thursday September 5, and the book will be on sale at £7.99 from 6pm that evening onwards. The publishers are the Book Castle of Dunstable, who also brought out two other Luton books, Tim Kingston's Kenilworth Sunset, and Kristina Howells' A Hatter Goes Mad. Caroline says: "From Carlisle to Cheltenham, Darlington to Dagenham, this is a diary of ten marvellous months in the life of a supporter."

Caroline says she is a full time Luton Town fan, who in her spare time manages to fit in studying for a degree at King's College London. She has also written features and interviews for the club's official website, as well as providing player profiles and articles for national publications.

Having been indoctrinated into football as a child, she now belongs to the privileged ranks of the season ticket holders in the Kenilworth Road End Lower Tier.

Her favourite players in her time as a supporter are David Moss, Tony Thorpe and Steve Howard, and she names her most memorable moments as the 4-0 win at Hull in April, and, inevitably, the 1988 Littlewoods Cup victory at Wembley.

### Programmes Wanted

WE HAVE had a request from Neil Slater, an avid collector of Town matchday magazines, for help in completing a set. He is looking for two programmes, which might well be of rarity value: one for a home match with Birmingham which was postponed in February 1983, and the other a single-sheet publication when we played Dunkirk in a friendly in the 1975/76 season. Our recollection of that one is that it was played in Northern France in August 1975. Mr Slater says he is willing to pay reasonable prices, and if you can help him in his search please contact him direct at The Hollies, 3 Haven Shaw Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9RG.

## In Reserve



**Bristol City 3  
Luton Town 0**

OUR hopes of winning our first trophy of the season – although this was in fact the final of last season's Avon Insurance Combination Cup – vanished with a

defeat which was not as bad as it sounds, although in the end it was very disappointing.

My major complaint was that our finishing was below par. Apart from that, we played quite well.

We could easily have been ahead at interval, although Dean Brill had to

make one fantastic save to keep us level before City nicked a lead they scarcely deserved.

We should have had a penalty before then, with the home bench looking very relieved when the referee failed to punish a handball.

As the interval approached, I felt we were doing OK, deserving to be level and looking the more threatening attacking side. But Andrew Fotiadis and Carl Griffiths missed chances, and we needed more awareness of where colleagues were. Our choice of options could have been better.

Having done reasonably well for most of the first half, we conceded a sloppy goal just before the break. Aaron Skelton was slow to clear, the keeper shouted for the ball, and a City man nipped in to help himself to a goal.

My half-time talk was on the need to be more positive, and for the midfield to be more dominant. But our second half display was not as good as it should have been.

The home side sat back, and we couldn't break them down, which was very disappointing. They tried to hit us on the break, but we were always in with a chance of getting a result until the 70th minute when a free kick was lashed in from 25 yards for their second goal.

A chance to pull one back quickly came and went – good work by Fotiadis set up Griffiths, but he ballooned the ball over the bar from a good position, and just before the end another mistake, this time in our defence, gifted Bristol City a third goal. It was very disappointing to concede that one, because it followed our corner. They cleared the ball upfield, and one striker was chasing, faced by two of our defenders. Somehow he got the better of them to make the result a touch flattering to the home side.

We know we can do better than this, on a night when I made Fotiadis and Ian Hillier, who played at centre-half, our best players. But I wanted more than I saw from three or four seniors.

**Luton Town:** Brill, Foley, Hillier, Skelton, Deeney, Mansell (Leary 60 mins), Holmes, Hughes (O'Leary 73 mins), Okai (Osborn 70 mins), Fotiadis, Griffiths.

OUR LEAGUE season kicked off at Reading on Wednesday, and there will be a report of that match in next Saturday's programme. We play our first home match of the season on Wednesday, when Bristol Rovers come to Kenilworth Road for a 2pm kick-off.

*Brian Stein*

### AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION LAST SEASON'S FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QPR	24	14	6	4	52	22	48
Crystal Palace	24	14	5	5	50	26	47
Brentford	24	13	6	5	48	33	45
Portsmouth	24	12	6	6	36	22	42
Cardiff	24	11	5	8	41	31	38
Peterborough	24	12	2	10	41	39	38
Millwall	24	10	7	7	43	36	37
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>
Reading	24	10	6	8	35	25	36
Southend	24	9	8	7	35	29	35
Leyton Orient	24	11	2	11	37	53	35
Norwich	24	9	7	8	40	38	34
Oxford	24	9	7	8	30	35	34
Barnet	24	10	2	12	31	34	32
Cheltenham	24	9	5	10	30	43	32
Gillingham	24	8	6	10	31	34	30
Brighton	24	7	11	6	30	27	32
Bristol Rovers	24	9	4	11	31	34	31
Bristol City	24	7	7	10	33	35	28
Colchester	24	7	5	12	32	38	26
Cambridge	24	7	4	13	29	43	25
Wycombe	24	7	3	14	31	44	24
Bournemouth	24	6	5	13	26	47	23
Northampton	24	4	10	10	25	42	22
Swindon	24	4	6	14	22	38	18

### LEAGUE CUP GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Town	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Norwich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Cambridge	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

### Avon Insurance Combination Fixtures

August				January			
Wed 14	Bristol City(LC)	A	0-3	Wed 8	Brighton	A	7pm
Wed 21	Reading	A	2pm	Wed 15	<b>C. Palace</b>	H	2pm
Wed 28	<b>Bristol Rov</b>	H	2pm	Wed 29	Leyton Orient	A	2pm
September				February			
Wed 4	<b>Millwall</b>	H	2pm	Wed 5	<b>Bristol City</b>	H	2pm
Wed 18	Swindon	A	2pm	Wed 19	Cardiff	A	2pm
Wed 25	<b>Peterborough</b>	H	2pm	Wed 26	<b>Cheltenham</b>	H	2pm
October				March			
Wed 2	<b>Bournemouth</b>	H	2pm	Wed 12	<b>Norwich</b>	H	2pm
Wed 9	Plymouth	A	2pm	Wed 25	Brentford	A	2pm
Wed 16	<b>Wycombe</b>	H	2pm	April			
Wed 30	Cambridge	A	2pm	Wed 2	<b>Colchester</b>	H	2pm
November				Wed 16	Gillingham	A	2pm
Wed 13	<b>QPR</b>	H	2pm	Wed 23	<b>Portsmouth</b>	H	2pm
Wed 27	Northampton	A	2pm	Mon 28	Oxford	A	2pm
December							
Wed 4	Southend	A	2pm				
Wed 11	<b>Barnet</b>	H	2pm				

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Average League Position, Last 10 Years

	Pos		Pos
QPR	32.4	Brentford	56.5
Barnsley	33.2	Blackpool	59
Tranmere	36.7	Wycombe	59.3
Huddersfield	42.5	Wigan	62.2
Swindon	43.5	Chesterfield	62.7
Port Vale	45.1	Peterborough	64.1
Stockport	45.5	Plymouth	67.8
Crewe	46.3	Cardiff	69.1
Oldham	48.5	Colchester	69.3
Bristol City	49.5	Northampton	69.3
Notts County	53.8	Mansfield	77.2
Luton	54.8	Cheltenham	94.3

### Goals Scored in Last 15 Minutes

FOR	76-90	Tot	%	AGAINST	76-90	Tot	%
Bristol City	2	2	100	Notts County	1	1	100
Cheltenham	1	1	100	Barnsley	2	4	50
Plymouth	4	7	57	Blackpool	2	4	50
Huddersfield	1	2	50	Oldham	1	2	50
Oldham	1	2	50	Chesterfield	3	8	38
QPR	2	4	50	Bristol City	1	3	33
Blackpool	2	5	40	Colchester	1	3	33
Wycombe	2	5	40	Mansfield	3	9	33
Crewe	1	3	33	Luton	3	10	30
Port Vale	1	3	33	Cardiff	1	4	25
Northampton	1	4	25	Crewe	1	4	25
				Huddersfield	1	4	25
				Peterborough	1	4	25

Ordered by the % of goals

scored/conceded in last 15 mins

## TOP GOALSCORERS

### GOALS INSIDE 6yd BOX

Player	Club	Tot	Player	Club	Tot
Ambrose	Ipswich	2	Barlow	Tranmere	1
Clarke P	Blackpool	2	Bramble	Southend	1
Crawford	Dunfermline	2	Clark	Darlington	1
Darby	Rushden	2	Clegg	Bury	1
Deane	Leicester	2	Dempsey	Dunfermline	1
Faulconbridge	Wycombe	2	Duffield	York	1
Gabbiadini	Northampton	2	Fleming	Cambridge	1
Larsson	Celtic	2	Gabbiadini	Northampton	1
Popovic	Palace	2	Green	Peterborough	1
Thomas	Swansea	2	Legg	Cardiff	1
			Legwinski	Fulham	1
			Parkin	York	1

stats combined  
from all 5 divisions

### Attendance Changes over 10 years

Club	Ave 92-93	Ave 01-02	% +/-
Cheltenham	919	5,138	459
Wigan	1,897	6,193	226
Cardiff	6,588	13,309	102
Mansfield	2,718	5,309	95
Northampton	3,443	5,694	65
Huddersfield	6,365	9,635	51
Crewe	3,833	5,640	47
Blackpool	4,756	6,391	34
Bristol City	8,853	11,891	34
Barnsley	7,596	9,634	27
Colchester	2,859	3,300	15
Brentford	5,570	6,243	12
Plymouth	9,003	9,963	11
Chesterfield	3,141	3,394	8
Stockport	5,094	5,429	7
Wycombe	5,448	5,525	1
Luton	7,878	7,860	0
QPR	14,133	12,603	-11
Tranmere	8,095	7,153	-12
Notts County	8,346	6,012	-28
Peterborough	7,412	5,205	-30
Port Vale	8,323	5,629	-32
Oldham	12,569	8,033	-36
Swindon	15,011	5,702	-62

### Scorers' Points Gained & Scoring Run

Club	Player	Pts	SR
Plymouth	Paul Wotton	4	2
Northampton	Marcio Gabbiadini	4	1
Swindon	Sam Parkin	3	2
Wigan	Nathan Ellington	3	1
Mansfield	Colin Larkin	2	2
Wycombe	Craig Faulconbridge	2	2
Barnsley	Chris Lumsdon	2	1
Brentford	Stephen Hunt	2	1
Cardiff	Robert Earnshaw	2	1
Colchester	Thomas Pinault	2	1
Huddersfield	Dwayne Mattis	2	1
Oldham	Chris Killen	2	1
Peterborough	Andy Clarke	2	1

eg if player scores the goal in a 1-0 win, the goal is worth 2 pts as score would have been 0-0, or if 2 goals in 2-1 win, goals worth 3 pts

### Inside the 6 yard box

Scored from close range		Conceded from close in	
Wigan	4	Luton	5
Wycombe	4	Mansfield	5
Blackpool	3	Blackpool	3
Luton	3	Plymouth	3
Cardiff	2	Port Vale	3
Chesterfield	2	Cardiff	2
Mansfield	2	Cheltenham	2
Northampton	2	Chesterfield	2
Oldham	2	Peterborough	2
Peterborough	2		

## Second Division Scene



TODAY'S league table is hardly one for the scrap book, but at least there is plenty of time for the Town to put things right as we come to terms with the higher standard of football in the Second Division. After all, we are only two wins away from the play-off zone.

Fanciful? Not really – it's been done before. The last time we opened our campaign with three straight defeats was in 1996, when we also started with one game at home and two away – Burnley beat us 2-1 on opening day and we then lost at Brentford and Bristol City.

Our fourth match broke the duck, a 1-0 home win over Rotherham, and we shot up the table after that, becoming league leaders at Christmas before a run of postponements through frost knocked us out of our rhythm. Even so, the team that was in the bottom three six years ago today finished third, before losing to Crewe in the play-offs.

Last season provided proof that such revivals, after poor starts, are

not uncommon: 12 months ago Plymouth were struggling at the wrong end of the table after taking just a point from their first three games, and we know how they fared after that.

For the record, Joe Kinnear thinks that despite our unlucky defeat at Home Park last week, we will finish above Argyll this season.

We are indebted to Port Vale for keeping us off the bottom – it's only a goal difference as we and Brian Horton's team kick off today still seeking the first points of the season.

Wigan are the only side in the division with a 100 per cent record, while six clubs are still unbeaten: Swindon, Brentford, Notts County, Tranmere, Northampton and draw specialists Wycombe.

Stockport and Cheltenham are the most shot-shy teams in the division, with only one goal each so far, while the early leading scorers are Mansfield, despite losing their star striker Chris Greenacre, who went to Stoke as a Bosman free transfer.

The Stags have hit nine goals in their first three

trouble is they have also let in nine, so their matches seem to have a veneer produced good entertainment: a

4-3 home win over Plymouth, a 3-2 defeat at Wigan and a 3-3 draw at Wycombe.

Our visitors today have had a middling start to the season, but their manager, Steve Parkin, knows how to go home with three points from Kenilworth Road: he was boss of Rochdale when they came here last season and became the first visitors to keep a clean sheet, and to beat us on our own pitch.

By the time Dale became the only side to do the double over us later in the season, he had gone to Barnsley to try to keep them in the First Division. He was unable to beat the odds, and Barnsley were relegated after finishing 23rd.

Their first game back in the Second Division was a 3-1 defeat at Swindon, where their goal was a penalty by Chris Lumsdon, but they then took four points out of six in two home games. Londoner Bruce Dyer, whose career began at Vicarage Road, scored in a 1-1 draw with Cheltenham, and last Saturday Lumsdon was on target again in a 1-0 success against QPR.

Town fans will hope that this afternoon's match is a happier occasion than the last time Barnsley came here: it was in April 1996, and Barnsley's 3-1 win - Tony Thorpe got our goal - made our relegation to the Second Division certain.

Brian Swain

### Today's Other Second Division Fixtures

**Bristol City v Wycombe**  
**Cheltenham v Plymouth**  
**Colchester v Brentford**  
**Huddersfield v Crewe**  
**Mansfield v Chesterfield**  
**Notts County v Wigan**  
**Oldham v Tranmere**  
**Port Vale v Stockport**  
**QPR v Peterborough**  
**Swindon v Cardiff**

You can email the programme editor at [brian.swain@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.swain@btinternet.com)

# Statistics and all the fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Kick Off Time/Result	Score (LT first)	Attendance	Competition/Position	Referee	Yellow Cards (LT first)	Red Cards (LT first)	Goalkeepers		Defenders										Midfielders										Forwards					Own Goals																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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# SQUAD CHECK

## LUTON TOWN

Manager: Joe Kinnear

1	Mark Ovendale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Aaron Skelton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Alan Neilson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Matthew Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Russell Perrett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Marvin Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian Forbes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin Nicholls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Tony Thorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Carl Griffiths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Steve Robinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Chris Coyne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Andrew Fotiadis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Dean Crowe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Carl Emberson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Emmerson Boyce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Ahmet Brkovic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Steve Howard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Peter Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	David Bayliss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ian Hillier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Sol Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Alan Kimble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Lee Mansell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Rob Gillman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	Michael Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Steven O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	James Osborn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Kevin Foley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

tick if playing ■ tick if substitute ●

## BARNSELEY

Manager: Steve Parkin

1	Andrew Marriott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Mitch Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Chris Morgan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Mike Flynn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Kevin Donovan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Chris Lumsdon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Mike Sheron	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Bruce Dyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Dean Gorre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Isaiah Rankin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Matthew Ghent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Alex Neil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Kevin Dixon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Lee Crooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Brian O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Gary Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Steve Hayward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Kevin Betsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul Gibbs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Dave Mulligan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Carl Barrowclough	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Antony Kay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Leo Bertos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Jeremy Christie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Rory Fallon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Neil Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Ashley Scothern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	James Dudgeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Today's Officials

Referee: Richard Beeby, Northants

Assistants: Irvine Woodward Kent (yellow flag); Martin Postles, West Sussex (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Norman Appleby, Hertfordshire

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Sun 10.30-430pm

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