



WATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB'S OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2002/03

www.watfordfc.com

Worthington Cup Round One • Tuesday September 10 • Vicarage Road Stadium • Kick-off: 7.45pm



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vs

LUTON TOWN

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WATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

The Vicarage Road Stadium,
Watford, Herts WD18 0ER

Official website:

www.watfordfc.com

Club e-mail address:

yourvoice@watfordfc.com

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inside today...



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The latest news from around our Division



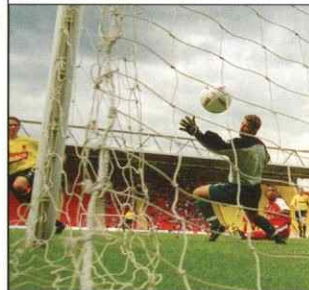
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Our MISSION STATEMENT:

- To produce a successful first team which competes in the top-flight of the domestic game.
- To recruit and develop home-grown, local talent for the club's first team, via an outstanding Football Academy.
- To provide attractively-priced spectator facilities, so the entire family can support Watford Football Club in safety and comfort.
- To be a positive force for progress in the community which we'll serve in every way we can.

LOOKING back at Saturday's game with Walsall, I have to admit that for the first 20 minutes we looked like we had just been introduced to each other.

Walsall came out from the off with the intention of matching our system - unbeknown to them we had changed to 4-4-2 because of having to switch Marcus Gayle from defence to attack.

To be honest, Walsall played the 3-5-2 system very well and gave us lots of problems, and we were somewhat fortunate to survive that opening period unscathed. We gradually clawed our way back into the game without ever being spectacular, although we did start to get grips with things. For their commitment and never-say-die attitude, the players deserved a pat on the back, although we were rather lucky to still be level at the break. The game turned on young Anthony McNamee coming on and producing what he does best, some magical wing play and, more importantly,



"People have told me a lot about it, and I certainly can't wait for the game to start. I love matches where there is a real atmosphere..."

some superb crossing. The obvious question is, and I was asked it after the game, who not play Macca from the start?

I think we have to be careful with Macca. As you can see, he is a very small, young lad, who is quite quiet and introverted. When he does play for 90 minutes in the Reserves or youth team, he tends to drift in and out of games. It is well documented that he suffers from asthma, and therefore his stamina needs to be improved. So for me, at the present time in Macca's career, coming on as a substitute when the game is slowing down is the perfect time to have him show what he can do best. Obviously there will be times when he does start games and we hope that he becomes a regular in the not too distant future.

It was also nice to see Dominic Foley score our second goal. Dom is a gentleman and very softly spoken, but he sometimes lets himself down in games with his reactions. Having said that, no-one likes to see players getting a bad time from the crowd, and so to see him score that goal was very satisfying.

Although he was sent clear, it was not an easy goal to score. He had a lot of time to think about what he was going to do, and sometimes that can be harder than the goals where the ball comes to you and you have to do something instantly. So now attention turns to tonight, and a cup tie that I know a lot of you have been looking forward to since the moment the draw was made.

It will be my first taste of a Watford-Luton derby. People have told me a lot about it, and I certainly can't wait for the game to start. I love matches where there is a real atmosphere, and the local rivalry tonight will surely create that.

It's a one-off game and it doesn't matter what division you are in or what you're form is like, cup ties bring the best out of people.

Rest assured, we all know how important tonight is to our supporters and we'll be doing all we can to win. However, it works both ways, and I would really ask you - our fans - to give us some serious vocal support tonight. I must admit, I was disappointed at the level of noise when we were 5-0 up against Coventry the other week.

Having been to Portsmouth and Norwich recently, I've seen the sort of effect a loud home support can have.

You can never underestimate the difference supporters can make - and if what I'm told about the Watford-Luton derbies is true, then I would think tonight is the ideal opportunity to show me and the players what you are capable of.

If we're all giving 100%, on and off the pitch, then we really can achieve things.

Best wishes,

Ray Lewington

TODAY'S MASCOT



THERE'S just the one mascot for tonight's Worthington Cup Round One tie against our local rivals Luton Town.

And he's Simon Roissetter, who's enjoying an early birthday present, as he'll be 12-years-old this coming Sunday. Simon lives in Crookham, near Fleet in Hampshire. He goes to Courtmoor Secondary School and his sporting hobbies include football and motor racing. Simon's favourite Watford players are Tommy Smith and Espen Baardsen. Have a great day with us today, Simon, and help get behind the Golden Boys!

WATFORD'S pre-match music, managed by Radio Hornet's Richard Short and Tim Coombs, is brought to you in association with **HMV Watford** in the heart of the Harlequin Centre.



WATCH WATFORD PLAY ARSENAL FOR FREE!



THE HORNETS will be throwing the doors open in the Rous Stand for the visit of Arsenal on Wednesday September 18, in the Barclaycard Premiership Reserve League - and the added bonus is it's free admission on the night. Supporters usually sit in the East Stand to watch Reserve matches, however the Rous Stand will be used for this match as a trial. There have been a number of requests over the years for the Rous Stand to be opened for Reserve games, and with a large number of supporters likely to attend this fixture there's no better time for a

switch of stands.

If successful, it's likely the Rous Stand will be open for future Reserve matches. The Hornets' Nest bar in the Lower Rous Stand will also be open on the night for all those wanting refreshments, including a pay bar and bar snacks. On first-team matchdays, this area is an Executive Club and restaurant, so it will add extra comfort to the Reserve match experience. It's a 7pm kick-off a week tomorrow so now there really has never been a better time to show your support for Nigel Gibbs' lads.

GET A RESULT WITH THE WATFORD SCORECARD

COMING SOON - we've produced a 'Retail Scorecard' which will work in much the same way as a store loyalty card.

More details will appear in the next home match programme, but the scorecard will reward spending in the club's shops.

They'll be available from the World of Watford in the Harlequin Centre and the Vicarage Road shop (on matchdays only).

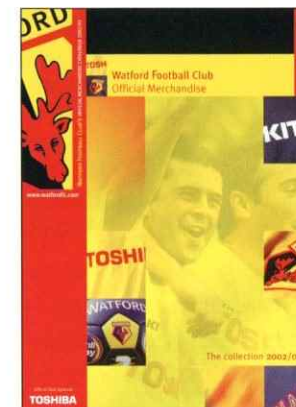
Merchandising manager Dene Myers says of the new initiative: "We're looking to reward Watford fans for shopping with us regularly."



GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS!

AS you read this, you'll hopefully already be in possession of a copy of the new Hornets' 2002/03 merchandise catalogue.

Packed with all your Watford kit essentials for that true Golden Boys' look, it contains the new season's range of trainingwear - the two-colour blue as worn by manager Ray Lewington and his coaching and playing staff every week - and the new leisurewear range which gives you the chance to prove you're a Hornet every day of the week. Distributors are around the stadium this evening, so please help yourself



to a copy of the club's new merchandise catalogue. Whether it's a track-suit or a t-shirt, a manager's coat or a mobile phone cover, there's something for everyone at the club shops right now.

HOT HORNETS NEWS IS ONLY A CALL AWAY

WATFORD'S official ClubCall service is still the perfect way for supporters to keep up-to-date with the very latest



news from Vicarage Road.

By calling 09068 104 104 (calls cost 60p per minute) you can hear the following:

- Live updates from every first team match, home and away
- Ray Lewington's views within minutes of the final whistle
- Pre-match opinions from Ray and the players before every game
- Exclusive player interviews
- Reserve team match reports
- Ticket information
- Official club statements and news

Other phonelines may offer you rumours, but Watford ClubCall will always give you the facts fastest. It is the only phone line that Ray and the players talk to, with ClubCall reporting live with regular pre-match, in-game and post-match updates and reaction from every first-team fixture. To stay up-to-date with the news, call 09068 104 104 every day.

AS YOU LEAVE THIS EVENING

THE following measures have been drawn up and agreed by Watford Football Club in consultation with Hertfordshire Constabulary in the interests of spectator and general public safety, and will be enforced this evening:

At the end of the game, all Watford supporters in the stadium will be asked either to leave by the south exits down to Cardiff Road, or wait in their seats for approximately 10 minutes.

Because of the very narrow concourses in the Vicarage Road Stand, coupled with the fact that all exit gates lead immediately on to Vicarage Road, it is dangerous to request that supporters remain in this part of the ground. Therefore Luton Town fans will be asked to leave the stadium immediately after the game. They will be guided towards a waiting fleet of coaches or to other forms of transport. Once the Luton fans have dispersed, those Watford supporters who have waited inside the stadium will be able to leave through their normal exits.

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WATFORD MATTERS

Tim Shaw, Chief Executive



THE HORNETS' SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM KEEP IN TOUCH

GOOD evening and welcome to tonight's game.

Obviously there has been quite a build-up to this game, and whilst I'm sure that each club desperately wants to win, I hope we can all remember that when all is said and done it is just a game.

I've seen a lot of messages referring to our 4-0 win at Kenilworth Road during our last season in Division 2, and that somehow Luton should be seeking some kind of revenge for that day. I must admit that I find this surprising given that we did play each other again here at Vicarage Road later in the season, and the result was a 1-1 draw. As

there must be a winner tonight, no doubt previous history will be forgotten (at least for a little while), whilst one set of supporters gloat and the others go on holiday for a while!

This is what it should be about - humorous banter between two sets of supporters. And before anyone says that it can't be possible, I'd like you to cast your minds back to the 1982/83 season, when Luton needed to go to Manchester City and win to avoid relegation. However, four days beforehand, David Pleat brought a full-strength Luton team to Vicarage Road for Ross Jenkins' testimonial - what a brilliant gesture. When it was announced at Watford that Luton had indeed won 1-0 at Manchester City, a cheer went up around the ground. So don't tell me that you can't have intense but friendly rivalry. Naturally, David Pleat's run on to the Maine Road pitch at the end of the game is also one of the funniest football moments.

I'd like to use these notes to clear up a couple of things. The ticket arrangements for tonight's game have been organised to try and ensure everyone's safety. It just wasn't feasible to put the tickets on general sale, however if you are on the Watford database, you should have been able to get tickets.

I have also received some complaints about the fact that Harry's Bar is not open to be used by children. This does not mean that we are trying to destroy our family club image. It is simply that it is a sports bar facility mainly serving alcohol, and it does not have the space for us to reasonably set aside an area for children, so that we can get the appropriate licence. I remember the late 1970s when we last had a supporters club, and I don't remember children being in that club either. Does that mean that GT was any less in support of a family image? Surely the fact that we have spent £350,000 on this facility should be seen as a good thing that the club has done? And the plans for the East Stand include a dedicated family area for 1,900 supporters with probably the best family lounge facility in the country. The directors may be guilty of some mistakes over the last few months, but losing sight of the family ethos - I don't think so.

Let's hope for a good game tonight and please please please - let Watford win!
Best regards,

We are delighted to be associated with Watford FC

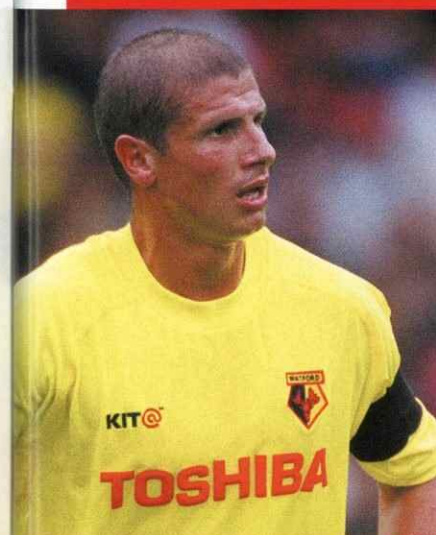
Have an enjoyable evening



BARCLAYS

NEIL COX
Club Captain

"I KNOW lots of you out there have had your minds fixed on this match since the draw was made. One or two of the players here have been involved before in the derby game and have told us what a good atmosphere we can expect tonight. "But we've had our minds focused on the League, as you'd expect us to. It's only now, after the Walsall game's gone, we can really start looking forward to being part of it. "I know it's going to be electric here tonight. I'm sure there'll be the normal banter between the two sets of fans and I hope we can put on a performance to make you proud. I'm already aware from fans I've spoken to that if we win this one, it means Watford supporters are happy for about five or six years afterwards!



CAPTAIN COX

CLUB CAPTAIN NEIL COX SPEAKS TO HORNETS' SUPPORTERS
EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH WATFORD'S MATCH PROGRAMME.

"I've played in a lot of derbies and they're always the best games to play in. I was lucky enough to play for Aston Villa against Birmingham in a two-legged League Cup tie a few years back now. We won the first one 1-0 at St. Andrews then, back at Villa Park, there was a 45-minute delay to the kick-off because of the crowd congestion - Blues brought about 12,000 fans that night! The tension was massive, and I was always looking behind me to see if anything was kicking off in the stands - it was that sort of evening.

"When I was at Middlesbrough, there was a fair amount of hatred towards Sunderland in Division One days, before both clubs got promoted. It was great in the dressing-room after the game if we'd put one over on Sunderland and, like Watford-Luton or any derby, you knew you'd given your own fans something to talk about for weeks to come.

"At Boro', we spent most of the time playing Sunderland but, after promotion, all the talk among the fans was of playing Newcastle and how we had to beat them now! The fixtures meant our third game of the season was at St. James' Park. We lost 1-0 but we really did give them a hard time - it was the season they'd just signed David Ginola, Keith Gillespie and a number of other players so the atmosphere was out of this world. Our travelling supporters cheered us off, I still remember that clearly, they recognised the effort we put in that day.

"Tonight just shows how important the Worthington Cup is. With money so tight among clubs, a good cup run is vital - you can't afford to pick and choose which competition it's in. Every extra round the club appears in is more much-needed money into the coffers.

"But all we'll be thinking of tonight is winning the match. Let's make it a derby match to remember!"

"I'm already aware from fans I've spoken to that if we win this one, it means Watford supporters are happy for about five or six years afterwards!"

Vauxhall Motors
wishes Ray Lewington and
the team the best of luck
for the new season.



Official Vehicle Partner of Watford FC



FACT OR FICTION

tribalfootball.com,
August 21, 2002:

"Aston Villa manager Graham Taylor is reported to have made an enquiry with his former club Watford regarding the services of Allan Nielsen."

watfordfc.com,
August 22, 2002:

"I don't know where these stories start," said Hornets' boss Ray Lewington. "If the fee that was mentioned had been offered I think that Tim Shaw would probably have driven him up there!"

The Sun,
August 22, 2002:

"Dennis Wise has been offered a lifeline by Watford."

watfordfc.com,
August 22, 2002:

Lewington said: "It's no secret that Dennis has been training at our training ground. But to say we're going to sign him, especially on a £10,000 or £12,000-a-week contract, really is nonsense."

WHAT'S ON WATFORD'S WEB

A LOOK AT THE LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM THE HORNETS' OFFICIAL WEBSITE, WWW.WATFORDFC.COM - GET ON-LINE AND CLICK HERE

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

SPECULATION is great fun, nobody would deny that. But when you find your club linked to every Italian over-31 who happens to be out of contract, it can start to get on your nerves.

Of course the odd rumour comes true - for instance Terry Burton joining the club - but the vast majority are just filling the gaps in an editor's page plan.

Remember Roberto Baggio? Trading his Italy shirt for the yellow of Watford. Or the one about David Ginola being forced to turn his car round as he was halfway down the M1. And who can forget Di Canio? So what can you do to find out the truth? Simple, log on to watfordfc.com. Not only do we carry all the speculation from the national press and major websites, but we also get the official response from the Watford boss. True or false - who better to ask than Ray Lewington?

No other website or newspaper can bring you the truth by simply picking up the phone and asking the boss. We can. We do - and we bring you all the answers.



WE'VE GOT IT ALL COVERED

watfordfc.com covers the Hornets from every angle:

- Manager's comments both pre-match and at the final whistle
- Player interviews and profiles
- Full post-game match reports
- SMS text alerts - goals, scores, news
- Pre-match analysis and guide to the next big Hornets' match
- The very latest stats and facts
- Ticket news and information, including on-line purchasing facility
- 'Match Action' - pictures from every Watford first-team game
- Reserve team stats, news & views
- Commercial offers and information
- Betting, auctions and shopping

Neal Ardley tries his luck from distance.



Having run clear from halfway, Dominic Foley is about to round Watford's victory off with the second goal.



Micah Hyde battles with Walsall's Danny Sonner.



the team

Watford: Chamberlain, Ardley, Robinson, Vernazza, Cox, Dyche, Hyde, Smith, Glass, Doyley, Gayle.

the subs

McNamee and Hand for Vernazza and Glass after 58 mins; Foley for Gayle after 68 mins; Ifil and Lee not used

WATFORD 2 | 0 Walsall
Nationwide League Division One
Saturday September 7, 2002
Kick-off: 1.00pm
Scorers: Smith 71, Foley 90
Referee: C Penton (Sussex)
Attendance: 10,528

Two views of Tommy Smith's 71st-minute strike that gave Watford the lead over Walsall on Saturday.



Neil Cox contests a cross in the Walsall box.



A common sight in the last 30 minutes - Anthony McNamee skips away from a tackle, and this time it's giant Saddlers' centre-half Ian Roper in hot pursuit of the 18-year-old winger.

stay in the picture

For all the latest fixture information and ticket availability contact the Ticket Office online at www.watfordfc.com or call direct on: 01923 496010

Emin Alibey ▶
Business
Development Manager

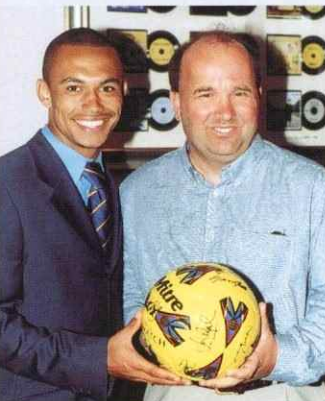


◀ **Ian Davies**
Marketing Services
Manager

SPONSORS PICS



▶ **Just Insurance** receive an autographed football from Sam Swonnell, Jamie Hand and Stephen Hughes before the Coventry game.



▶ A guest of **Just Insurance** takes a closer look at the autographed football with Coventry 'Man-of-the-Match' Danny Webber.

SO, the eagerly-awaited local derby is finally here after what seems like months rather than a few weeks. The phones have been red hot with sponsorship and hospitality enquiries ever since the fixture was drawn out of the hat. Let's hope everyone who has placed a booking for tonight's fixture comes back again for similar packages at more games during the course of the season. If you're interested in any form of matchday hospitality at Vicarage Road Stadium we'd be delighted to post a copy of our hospitality brochure to you. Just call us on (01923) 496006. We have been extensively promoting our Sporting Lunch with Tommy Smith on these pages in previous programmes. The lunch takes place this Friday and my colleague Emin Alibey has the last few places available. However, if you fancy coming along you'll have to be quick. Call Emin on his direct number (01923) 496287. I mentioned the win 'Beer for a Year' promotion in the Walsall programme. Carlsberg, the new Official Beer of Watford Football Club, will give away a full 12 month's worth of what is probably the best lager in the world to a Watford supporter during the half time interval at the Crystal Palace game using the roving camera and the giant screen. If you'd like to win this unique prize, make sure you're at the Palace game on Saturday, September 21. It's time to give this evening's sponsors a mention...

Tommy Smith

BARCLAYS

MATCH SPONSOR BARCLAYS

Welcome to Barclays, our Match Sponsor for this evening's encounter with Luton Town. As the banking partner of the club for several years Barclays has built a strong relationship with Watford Football Club and is proud to be the sponsor of today's match.

Atlantic Joinery

HERITAGE SUITE SPONSOR ATLANTIC JOINERY LTD

Atlantic Joinery Ltd are an expanding carpentry/joinery contractor based in Hemel Hempstead, who have developed a pro active approach to managing & servicing medium to large sized projects within London & the Home Counties. Specialising in high quality commercial & residential projects for leading clients, Atlantic's MD, Michael Masterson, is a firm believer that teamwork is a key to their success. Watford Football Club extends a warm welcome to Michael and his guests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY SPONSORSHIP, ADVERTISING OR HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITY, PLEASE CALL (01923) 496006.

Media

MARKETING AND PRINT

MATCHBALL SPONSOR MEDIA MARKETING & PRINT

We trust Paul East, Managing Director of Media Marketing and Print, and his guests have a thoroughly enjoyable evening at Vicarage Road. One of our two Matchball Sponsors this evening, Watford-based Media Marketing and Print provide pre-press reproduction, re-touching and printing for many of the UK's leading companies. Established for over 40 years, from the trade's conventional beginnings to today's high-tec digital environment, the company also welcomes personal printing requirements too. Give them a call on (01923) 444557.

MATCHDAY HOSPITALITY v CRYSTAL PALACE



HOSPITALITY places are available for our next home league game against Crystal Palace on Saturday, September 21. This package includes a three-course carvery lunch, tea / coffee and cakes at half time, a reserved seat in Block 'K' of the Upper Rous Stand, as well as many other features. The price for this Category 'A' game is £65 per person.

SALES AND MARKETING



MATCHBALL SPONSOR PEARL FIRE & SECURITY LTD

Based in Waltham Abbey, Pearl Fire and Security are our second Matchball Sponsor for tonight's game. Pearl provide award-winning design, installation and maintenance of all aspects of fire detection and security, including CCTV, Access Control and Vehicle Licence Plate Recognition. They boast an unflinching commitment to providing 'Total Client Satisfaction' on all projects from single premises to multi-site international operations. Welcome to Jon Roadnight and his guests. Let's hope they all enjoy the game.

PLAYERS' AWAY SHIRT SPONSORSHIP

YOU can put your name to one of the player's away shirt and receive



it at the end of the season!

For £150 you get a 20-character message (including spaces) in each home programme and the actual black shirt worn and autographed by your sponsored player after the season has ended.

At the time of writing, Neal Ardley, Micah Hyde and Heidar Helguson are among those available for away shirt sponsorship. Call (01923) 496006 for bookings or further details.



CHRISTMAS AT THE VIC!



It may be September right now, but have you started thinking about the festive season yet?

We're hosting Christmas Party Nights at Vicarage Road Stadium throughout December. If you're looking for a venue with a difference, 'The Vic' is the place to be.

You have a choice of two packages. For £24.50 including VAT you get a hot 'n' cold finger buffet, disco, party hats and crackers.



A three-course dinner, disco,

party hats and crackers option is available for £32.50.

Both sets of menus can be viewed on-line on the 'Club Announcements' page of the official website, www.watfordfc.com.

Dates available are December 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 23. For bookings (between the minimum party size of eight through to 160 people!) or further information, please call Watford Catering on (01923) 496002.



FOR ALL THE LATEST DETAILS OF WHAT'S ON OFFER FROM THE HORNETS' SALES & MARKETING TEAM, CLICK ON TO THE 'CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS' SECTION OF WWW.WATFORDFC.COM.

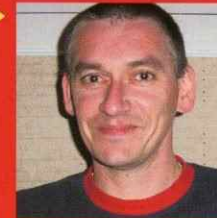


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fan is the early leader



FANTASY LEAGUE has returned for another season - and it's bigger than ever before!

And it's Steve Hayden from Harrow in the coveted top spot as the new campaign kicks off.

Steve's been a season ticket holder since 1977 and sits in the Upper Rous Stand with dad Brendan, brother Kevin and eight-year-old son Ben.

Testament to the care with which Hornets' fans make their Fantasy League team choices, Steve admitted:

"I can't even remember the teams I entered. I've got them on a piece of paper somewhere." Nice one, Steve! So, as you can see, the competition looks like being held in high regard by all the entrants again this year!

Over 600 people have once again taken up the fun challenge posed by the Hornets, all looking for their five minutes (or longer if you've chosen well!) of fame at the top of the table. Just to explain, entrants had 24 points allocated to select eight sides, two from each of the four English League divisions - with each team rated between one and six points. Each side's score is their current league points total plus or minus current goal difference.

FANTASY LEAGUE

THE FIRST 2002/03 HALL OF FAME: (up to & inc. Thursday September 5)

POSITION	NAME	POINTS
1	Steve HAYDEN	134
2	Ian FRENCH	132
3	Carrie DAY	129
4	Mike LEWIS	128
5	John LILLEY	125
6=	Andrew FRENCH	124
6=	Chris HYDE	124
6=	Gary SARTIN	124
9=	Trevor BAILEY	123
9=	Janet CLARKE	123
9=	Jenny HODGE	123
9=	Ben HOLDEN	123
13=	Frank PARKER	122
13=	Andy PARSLow	122
15=	Adam CHAMBERS	121
15=	Peter WATKINS	121
17=	Andrew CLARKE	120
17=	Andrew FELDMAN	120
19	Tristan BARNES	119
20=	Ben AINSWORTH	118
20=	Julie HALL	118
20=	Sue PORTHOUSE	118
20=	Nigel THOMPSTONE	118
24=	Jack DELANEY	117
24=	Aidan FRENCH	117
24=	Julian HODGE	117
24=	Jerry LADELL	117
24=	Neil MILLER	117
29=	Katie BACK	116
29=	Andrew BRADING	116
29=	Kevin HULLS	116
29=	S PINDER	116
29=	Stewart SHARP	116
29=	Emma SMITH	116
29=	Giles STEVENSON	116
29=	Andrew TAYLOR	116
37=	David FEARNside	115
37=	Peter SPENCER	115
39=	David FELDMAN	114
39=	Bob HARBOUR	114
39=	Andrew TAYLOR	114
39=	Gary THOMAS	114
43=	Bob CHAMBERS	113
43=	Michael DAY	113
43=	Doug SMITH	113
46=	Michael HARRIS	112
46=	Martin NICHOLLS	112
48=	Janet BRADING	111
48=	Andy CROOK	111
48=	Matt TURNER	111

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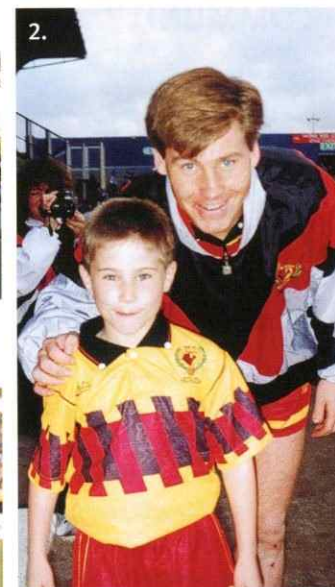
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Office, Vicarage Road Stadium,
Watford, WD18 0ER - or e-mail:
richard.walker@watfordfc.com



You 'ORNS!

1. SIMON'S JAPANESE JOY

Hornets' supporter Simon Devon (far right) flies the Watford flag while cheering on England in this year's Japan/Korea World Cup.

2. HAPPY 18th MATT!

Many happy returns to Hornets' fan Matt Bonnick for a week tomorrow. The picture shows Matt (some years ago!) preparing to be Watford's mascot away at Portsmouth under the guidance of club captain Nigel Gibbs.

3. MASCOT'S PRESTON RETURN

Here's a five-year-old Vicky Hirst pictured before the 1987 New Year's Day home game against Manchester City (to the left of Luther). Having recently turned 21, Vicky's here tonight before returning to a university course in Preston where, in the face of a lot of stick, she proudly continues to support the Hornets.

4. CHRIS(TINA) CUMMINS

Who's this nubile young female? Watford's Academy players, especially, will be interested to learn that it is in fact Academy Assistant Director Chris Cummins looking remarkably voluptuous enjoying a recent holiday.

5. LINEKER'S UPDATED BY DAVE

Golden Boys' fan Dave Smith recently linked up with Watford to ensure the Hornets' image - in Lineker's Bar, Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote - is bang up-to-date. Dave, left, is presenting the signed Toshiba home top, donated by the club's FYC initiative, to bar manager, Man United fan Craig Baldini.



FAMILIES, YOUTH & COMMUNITY CONTACT US ON (01923) 496231.

Glen Calverley ▶
Families, Youth
& Community
Manager



GOOD evening and welcome to
Vicarage Road for tonight's
Worthington Cup tie against
Luton Town.
Enjoy the game,

Glen

PLAYERS TAKE TIME OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



AT our recent home victory against
Coventry City a group of over 60
people from the Christian youth
group, 'Crusaders', visited Vicarage
Road as part of their week long stay
in Hertfordshire. During their visit to
Vicarage Road they toured the SKY
Television outside broadcast units
along with a tour of the ground prior
to the kick-off.
'Crusaders' were in the middle of a
week-long football residential
course for youngsters from all
around the country. Their home for
the week was Lockers Park School



in Hemel Hempstead, and the week-
long football tour took in trips to
Chelsea, Arsenal and the exciting
5-2 Hornets' victory over Coventry.
A few days later Tommy Smith and
his younger brother Jack, a first year
professional, visited Lockers Park
School and spent nearly two hours
with the youngsters in a question
and answers session followed by
autographs and photos.



On Friday August 30, Stephen
Hughes and Gavin Mahon visited
Welwyn Garden City for the
annual 'Hertfordshire Action on
Disability' awareness day at the
Woodside Centre.
This year's event was themed on
children with disabilities. The open
day allows adults and parents to see
what facilities and services are on
offer to the residents of Hertfordshire.
Stephen and Gavin presented a
signed ball and family ticket
voucher from Watford Football Club
to the organisers to raffle to raise
funds for the centre.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF.....

GOOD evening and welcome to the
match and what an evening it's
going to be!
Tonight's notes launch a theme we
will be running throughout the
season. It's an opportunity for you,
the fans, to find out more about the
people who make Watford Learning
tick. To start, it's Imran Malik, our
longest-serving (21 months!)
member of staff. I'm sure you'll find
it interesting.

Imran Malik

Hello, I'm Imran
Malik, the ICT
(Information
Computer
Technology)



Manager for Watford Learning and
Hertfordshire County Council here at
Vicarage Road. I am going to kick off
this new series by describing a
typical day in my working life.
My responsibilities here are to look
after our computer network which
consists of a server, 14 PCs, and all
the other technical equipment such as
active boards (interactive whiteboards
linked to computers), digital
cameras, video equipment and all of
the software on the workstations.

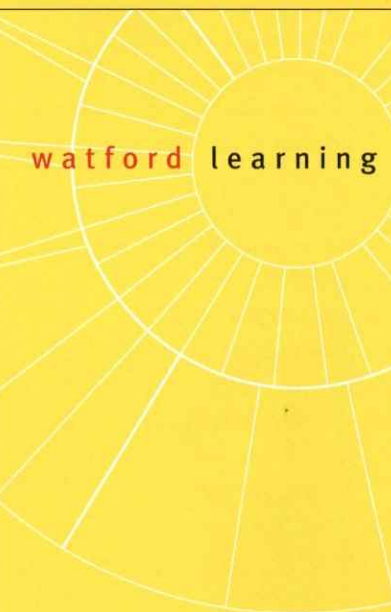
I am also responsible for the
teaching of the ICT in the Learning
Centre to both children and adults -
a task I thoroughly enjoy due to its
rewarding and yet challenging nature.
When not busy dealing with the
network, I am also the Health &
Safety representative, the Risk
Assessment Officer and a qualified
first aider for the centre - which
keeps me on my toes!
Due to the way computers behave,
there is never a day without a
problem to be solved, and this keeps
my 'thinking cap' on at all times.
With my contacts in the
technological industry, I am also in
charge of purchasing our hardware,
software and keeping Watford
Learning Centre at the forefront of
today's technology. Most recently,
the Learning Centre has bought the
latest version of RM 'SuccessMaker',
an educational-based skills
software package which I am
currently preparing to train our PFS
tutors and other staff members on.
I hope you have enjoyed this insight
into my working life,

Imran

All it remains for me to say is:
Come on you Golden Boys,

Imran

▶ **Julia Bateson**
Study Support
Centre Manager
and Playing for
Success
Co-ordinator



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Premier Lodge, Watford, are proud to sponsor all the Hornets' supporter groups
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Vicarage Road, call 0870 700 1570 and let Premier Lodge help plan your trip.



Many thanks to our Funding Partners for their continued support.

JUNIOR HORNETS TO BECOME A MEMBER, CALL THE JUNIOR HORNETS' HOTLINE: (01923) 496256.

Rob Clarke ▶
Junior Hornets
Co-ordinator



GOOD evening and welcome to tonight's fixture.

Are you a member of the Junior Hornets? If the answer is no, then why not? It's completely FREE OF CHARGE to join!

Yes, we've decided to make membership of our junior supporters club, the Junior Hornets, absolutely free for the 2002/03 season. That means we'd like to YOU to sign for Watford right now - and it won't cost you a penny!

Call me now on (01923) 496256 for details.

Best wishes,

Rob Clarke.

Junior Hornets is part of the Families, Youth & Community Initiative of Watford FC, sponsored by:

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OF THE
JUNIOR HORNETS

INTERNATIONAL DEBUTS

THE India v Jamaica fixture last week was the first time in Watford FC's history that a full international football fixture had been played at Vicarage Road Stadium. It was also the first time members of the two groups representing the respected teams had been involved in a half-time penalty shoot-out.

For the two Hertfordshire-based groups, it was a night of firsts for many of the youngsters from the Afro-Caribbean Development Project (Watford) representing Jamaica and the Connexions Partnership (Hertford) / Sopwell Youth Project (St Albans) who represented India. The two groups, who have both been involved in development projects under the guidance of Watford FC's Family Youth and

Community Department. Football in the Community's Gareth Jones - in his capacity as Watford FC's SRB Officer - and Chris Andrews as RAILTRACK Officer have delivered practical coaching sessions and support over the summer, with the climax of the programme being the shoot-out.

For many, it was their first visit to Vicarage Road, the first time they have been a spectator at a live match, and the first time they had graced the hallow turf with a penalty kick in front of an audience! Both sets of boys didn't let the occasion get to them, with well-placed and well-saved efforts. After six penalty attempts each, it was the Jamaica team that triumphed.



In keeping with the spirit of the friendly fixture, both sets of players pose for a group photo after a successful shoot-out in front of the Rookery.



Insurance with Assurance

YOU CAN E-MAIL US DIRECT AT: junior.hornets@watfordfc.com

TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANY OF OUR ACTIVITIES OR COURSES, CALL US ON (01923) 440449 **FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY**

YOUNG HORNETS ACHIEVE A BEST EVER FINISH FOR BRITISH IN PARIS

WATFORD'S Football in the Community Advanced Centre - made up of attendees of the Watford and Hemel Hempstead advanced training sessions - enjoyed a European adventure on their way to finishing fourth at the international football tournament in Paris, France.



The team, playing against fellow advanced centres and Academy sides, topped their league on the way to the semi-finals where they were finally beaten by French side Guadeloupe - the top four finish the the highest-ever placing for a British side.

On route to the semi finals, Watford defeated Kiev of Ukraine and Blanc-Mesnil of France, with Mickelle Farrell netting the vital strike in both matches. Farrell scored his third of the tournament in the 1-1

draw with Quimperle. An Alex McCarthy goal saw the Hornets to a 1-1 draw with Czech Republic side Mlada Boleslav in the quarter-finals, Tom Allnutt, Ben Butler and McCarthy easing Watford through on spot-kicks.

However, against Guadeloupe, the Hornets suffered penalty shoot-out heartbreak after a 0-0 draw. All the successful players were recently presented with their medals and trophy during the interval of our recent home match versus Coventry City (as pictured below) before cheering the first-team to another splendid victory. Best wishes,

Kirk Wheeler



▶ **Kirk Wheeler**
Football in the
Community Officer



▶ **Rob Smith**
Assistant Football in
the Community Officer

WATFORD
FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

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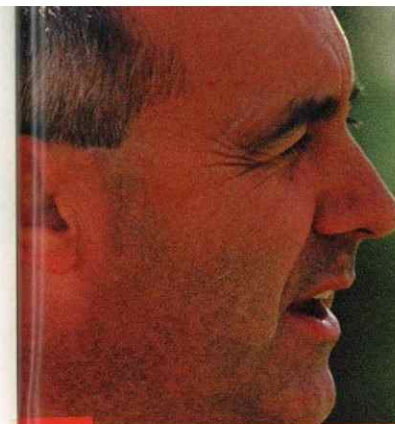
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Remember your first
Watford kit?

LAUNCHING IN LATE OCTOBER...

'Team Shirts to Ticket Stubs' is a fantastic new book for Hornets' fans taking a look back at the last 25 years of club history through an evocative mix of Watford memorabilia and archive photography.



Academy Director Peter Trevivian

IN THE ACADEMY

LATEST NEWS FROM INSIDE WATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB'S ACADEMY

WELL, it's that time of the year again, and all the Academy boys aged between nine and 16 are back in regular training, and have already played their first match against Coventry City.

I have been here at Watford for 10 years now, and every year the summer break seems to get shorter and shorter - it feels like we have never been away.

Since we have been back, the younger boys (the nine to 11-year-olds) have competed in two mini festivals.

The first one we took part in was the 'Graham Taylor International Festival' at Parmiters School, Garston, where we played in six games of 10 minutes each, spread throughout the day.

The second was hosted by the Football League and played at Kimbolton School in Huntingdon.

No parents were allowed to attend this mini-festival so I was in for a long day with (potentially) 12 little monsters.

We set off from Vicarage Road at 8am and finally arrived at Kimbolton at 10.15 after fighting our way through heavy traffic on the A1.

Once there, we met a friendly face in the shape of Steve Sims (who a few of you might remember), who made us very welcome. I introduced Steve to the boys and he introduced himself as an old has-been (I didn't know he had a sense of humour!).

We started our first game at 11am against Ipswich, and went on to play Birmingham, Leicester, Coventry, Derby and Tottenham, before finally leaving at 3pm. We headed back to Vicarage Road, where the boys were picked up at 4.30pm by their parents. The boys were full of smiles and enthusiasm after their day out - and I was knackered!

The days were a great success and the boys turned out not be monsters after all.

Well done to the Under-9/10/11 lads - you were a credit to your mums and dads as well as to Watford FC.

On a final note, may I congratulate Nigel Gibbs on his second testimonial game, and I must apologise for Jimmy Gilligan's performance during the Old Boys' match, although the effort was there for all to see.

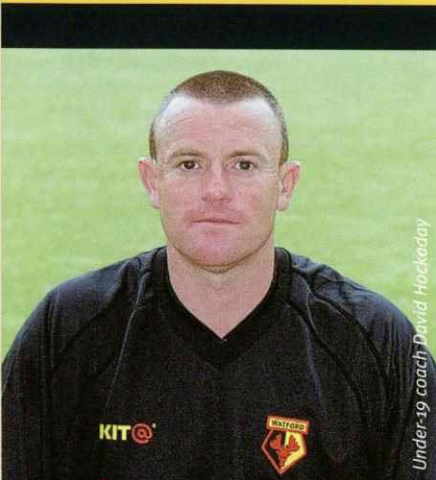
Jimmy was finally saved when Nigel gave me a shout of: "Get Gilly off and put Harry the Hornet on!"

Good luck,



Academy Assistant Director
Chris Cummins

WANT TO KNOW THE ACADEMY SCORES? - CALL WATFORD CLUBCALL ON 09068 104 104: (calls charge at 60p per minute)



Under-19 coach David Hockaday

WATFORD 0 | 3 BLACKBURN ROVERS

FA Premier Academy U'19 League
Saturday August 31

"WE didn't play well," lamented Hornets' Under-19 coach David Hockaday after seeing his team rolled over in tame fashion by fairly average visitors from Blackburn. David added: "It was a sub-standard performance from us, following a good pre-season and a creditable goalless draw at Middlesbrough last week." Watford enjoyed two chances to go ahead, both from set-pieces, but such was the nature of the day neither was converted. A period of scrappy play by the Hornets followed in which possession, and the initiative in midfield, was given away all too readily. Golden Boys' goalkeeper Liam Watson produced two fine saves

short of half-time to send the teams in goalless at the break when David decided to alter his formation to cope better with Rovers' midfield prominence. "For the first hour of the game, we were still well in things, but then a rash challenge let in Blackburn for a penalty and the game seemed to change on that." Watford, to no avail, had two chances to effect a quick reply, then two further late individual errors accounted for the Hornets.

WATFORD 1 | 2 BLACKBURN ROVERS

FA Premier Academy U'17 League
Saturday August 31

IN contrast to colleague David Hockaday, Under-17 boss David Dodds was in bullish mood describing a 17's performance which, but for better finishing, could have seen the Hornets well ahead. "I've already watched the tape of this game to confirm what I suspected," said David. "We could have been seven or eight goals up from the first hour's play. But we only had Chris Chase's goal to show for our excellent approach work," added the 17's coach. Chase did well for his goal, latching on to a diagonal ball forward, then using his pace to get to the byeline. He cut back towards the penalty spot before applying a rasping left-foot finish to give the Hornets a deserved lead.

It was so nearly two immediately after the goal. Watford wrested possession back straight away and Chase got in again only to be denied by a fine save from the keeper.



Under-17 coach David Dodds

"In this first hour, before our bad patch which cost us the result, our forward players were consistently getting in behind the Blackburn defence, and Chris Chase was the pick of the wide players on show for us today," added David, who watched his team weaken somewhat towards the end as they conceded the two crucial goals.



Chris Chase deserved his goal for the 17's

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE 2002/03 - UNDER-19

Aug 24	Aug 31	Sep 7	Sep 14	Sep 21	Sep 28	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16
Middlesbrough	Blackburn Rovers	West Ham United	Bristol City	Crystal Palace	Reading	Tottenham Hotspur	Wimbledon	Leicester City	Arsenal	Charlton Athletic	Aston Villa	Ipswich Town

Home games shown in **bold**
Group winners enter Academy play-offs

Watson	Buxton	Mead	Boothie	Williams	Coyne	Cohen	E'beyer	Young	Collins	Blizzard	Martin	Walsh	Hammond
0-0	0-3	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-4

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE 2002/03 - UNDER-17

Aug 24	Aug 31	Sep 7	Sep 14	Sep 21	Sep 28	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16
Middlesbrough	Blackburn Rovers	West Ham United	Millwall	Wimbledon	Leicester City	Tottenham Hotspur	Fulham	Reading	Arsenal	Charlton Athletic	Aston Villa	no future

Home games shown in **bold**
Play-off group winners enter the final Academy League knockout stages.

Tinkler	Tinkler	Tinkler	Marappa	Wood	Harrington	Newing	Elliott	Hewitt	Cader	Gilligan	Catchpole	Dean	Chase	Clark	Kirk	Frost	Bunting	Chatterpaul
0-4	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

FA YOUTH CUP 2002/03 (UNDER-18)



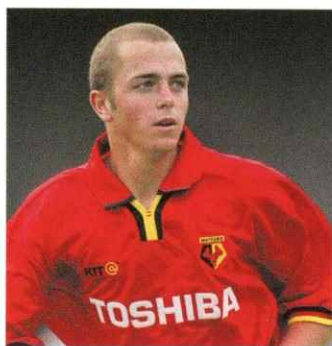
Nigel's thoughts...
...about **Leicester**:

"There were a number of positives for me to take from the Leicester game.

"I thought, defensively, our shape was good. The back three in particular played very well. It wasn't the most entertaining game you'll ever see, but that must say something about both defences. We only conceded from a penalty and restricted their forwards, who were much more experienced than our defenders, to only a handful of chances.

“Going forward, we can improve in terms of our passing and support play, Leicester were a big physical side and looked to dominate us and break up our play.

"But that's nothing new in this League. We know now that we have to be quicker and stronger - and that's something for us to work on for the next game."



Jack Smith was in fine form as part of a diligent Hornets' back three

LEICESTER CITY 1 | 0 WATFORD
Barclaycard Premiership Reserve League
Tuesday September 2

WATFORD went down at The Walkers Stadium to a lone Leicester City goal - a penalty just three minutes into the second-half. With little quality in possession from either side, Gibbsy will be able to take the positives of decent performances from the back three - Jerel Ifil, Lloyd Doyley and most notably Jack Smith, the first-year professional giving an excellent account of himself up against lively Foxes' front-runner Jon Stevenson. The hosts had much the better of the first half-hour, and it was Stevenson who forced Watford keeper Richard Lee into a smart low save just after the 10-minute mark. Five minutes later Stevenson was the problem man again, his low ball across the six-yard box well cut out by Academy wing-back Ben Herd. After 21 minutes, Lee was again called into action, this time reacting

low to his right to smother a smartly struck Stefan Oakes free-kick from around 25 yards. Three minutes afterwards, Watford's first on-target attempt was a good one. Jamie Hand intercepted a City pass before feeding Lee Cook on the right flank. He sped nearly 50 yards before surprising Foxes' goalie Michael Price with an early right-foot volley which forced a reaction save. After 32 minutes, Hornets' striker Elliott Godfrey saw a half-chance go begging when unable to control a sharp volley. Then Oakes again made Lee go full-length seven minutes before the break, this time to hold a deflected left-foot drive. Leicester took the lead just three minutes after the interval when Trevor Benjamin, put through by a precision Oakes pass and bearing down on goal, was hauled down by Lee. Oakes stepped up to send Lee the wrong way from the spot. Watford were nearly back on level terms only five minutes later when a fine flowing move down the left ended with Sam Swonnell's header from Godfrey's cross requiring Price to spring across to his left to make a catch. And moments later, Richard Johnson was only narrowly wide with a low 30-yarder that had the City stopper beaten for pace. That, sadly for the Golden Boys, was as close as it came to an equaliser against a Leicester side that had more experience, were physically dominant, but never threatened to overrun the Hornets.

AS you may have seen on 'View from The Vic' (pages 4 & 5) in today's match programme, we're opening up the Rous Stand for the next Barclaycard Premiership Reserve League (South) home game, which comes up against Arsenal a week tomorrow, Wednesday September 18, 7.00pm kick-off.

The Hornets are opening the Rous Stand for the prestigious Reserve League fixture - and, what's more, it's free to get in! Admission charges have been dropped for the evening, although season ticket holders and members are always able to watch home Reserve matches for free.

Find out more by turning to 'View from The Vic' now - it's your chance to support the Reserves in the comfort of the Rous Stand facilities!



KEY:

Player name : underline denotes player name, figure denotes number of goals scored

1 : First player subbed/first sub used

2 : Second player subbed/second sub used

3 : Third player subbed/third sub used

4 : opposition own-goal

BARCLAYCARD PREMIERSHIP RESERVE LEAGUE (SOUTH) 2002/03																		
Aug 20	Derby County	1-3	Lee	Herd	J Smith	Vernazza	Doyley	ifil	Swonnell	Cook	Godfrey 1	Hughes*	McNamee	Blizzard*	Baardsen	Matthews	N Williams	Buxton
Aug 28	Coventry City	3-1	Lee	Herd	J Smith	Vernazza	Doyley	ifil	Swonnell	Foley 2	Helguson*	Johnson	McNamee	Blizzard	Baardsen	Godfrey*	Cook	Williams
Sep 3	Leicester City	0-1	Lee	Herd	J Smith	Swonnell	Doyley	ifil	Swonnell	Cook*	Godfrey^	Johnson	McNamee	Blizzard	Baardsen	Forde*	Patterson^	Williams
Sep 18	Arsenal																	
Sep 25	Charlton Athletic																	
Oct 7	Tottenham Hotspur																	
Oct 16	Wimbledon																	
Nov 6	West Ham United																	
Nov 13	Fulham																	
Nov 20	Chelsea																	
Nov 25	Arsenal																	
Dec 11	Ipswich Town																	
Dec 18	Nottingham Forest																	
Jan 7	Southampton																	
Jan 15	Derby County																	
Jan 21	Coventry City																	
Feb 3	Charlton Athletic																	
Feb 12	Leicester City																	
Feb 24	Wimbledon																	
Mar 5	Tottenham Hotspur																	
Mar 11	West Ham United																	
Mar 19	Fulham																	
Mar 24	Chelsea																	
Apr 9	Ipswich Town																	
Apr 16	Southampton																	
Apr 23	Nottingham Forest																	
Home games shown in bold																		
HERTS SENIOR CUP (SPONSORED BY ICIS CLUBWEAR) 2002/03																		

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8 ▶ MICAH HYDE



9 ▶ TOMMY SMITH



10 ▶ STEPHEN HUGHES



11 ▶ STEPHEN GLASS



12 ▶ GAVIN MAHON



13 ▶ ESPEN BAARDSEN



14 ▶ RICHARD JOHNSON



15 ▶ GIFTON NOEL-WILLIAMS



16 ▶ ANTHONY McNAMEE



17 ▶ NICK WRIGHT



18 ▶ HEIDAR HELGUSON



19 ▶ JEREL IFIL



20 ▶ LLOYD DOYLEY



21 ▶ DOMINIC FOLEY



22 ▶ LEE COOK



23 ▶ JAMIE HAND



24 ▶ JASON NORVILLE



25 ▶ GARY FISKEN



26 ▶ FABIAN FORDE



27 ▶ MARCUS GAYLE



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SQUAD NUMBER: 3



Player Poster sponsored by





MEET...PAUL ROBINSON

NUMBER FIVE IN THE SERIES: SQUAD NUMBER 3

"It's a full-time job, changing nappies rather than hitting a three-wood!"

WHICH part of another player's game would you like to have?

In my position, I'd like to have a left foot like Roberto Carlos. It would be brilliant to have the ability to ping the ball 50 yards and know it's going to end up with your own man - that doesn't always happen for me!

WAS there a time you felt negative about your chances?

I don't think I can remember any negative thoughts about my career. I always thought I would make it in my own mind and I think that's the attitude you've got to have. I enjoy it, take every day as it comes, and look forward to doing my job.

WHAT'S been your best moment at Watford?

Definitely playing at Wembley. That will be the highlight of my career until we go back into the Premiership again. Close at number two is winning at Anfield in the Premier League but nothing will beat playing in front of 70,000 making sure of your place in the Premier League.

WHAT part of your game would you say is the weakest?

Concentration, I'd say. For example, if we've just gone ahead in a game I've tended to lose a bit of concentration in the past. I realised that I had to stay focused better and be part of not letting the other team back in the game too easily. There's no one can help me with that. Now I just block everything out of my mind - even if it's me that's just scored (!) - and get on with my job.

WHAT position did you play for your school team?

I played in central midfield. Was I good? Well, I wasn't bad but I think I'm a better bet at left wing-back. I don't know why I got put there really, my schoolteacher thought I was best at it. I must have done alright for him to stick with me.

AWAY from football, what do you do to relax?

I did like to play golf but now I've got a little 'un, my attention turns to my wife and child. It's a full-time job, changing nappies rather than hitting a three-wood! It's brilliant, I enjoy it. It's made me the happiest man around and it's put other parts of my life into perspective.

IF you had to rate yourself for a football computer game, which aspect of your play would you give yourself 9/10 for?

That's a difficult one. Ten out of ten for finishing of course! Seriously, I'd say my tackling and determination to succeed would be the strongest parts of my game.

WHICH individual opponent has caused you the most problems?

David Thompson at Liverpool when we played them in the Premiership. He just didn't stop running the whole game. He caused me problems all day down at our place. Even though we lost 3-2 it could have been a handful more, he got past me and delivered so many crosses. He's a Premiership quality player so I was pleased to see him line up on Coventry's left side the other week!

KIT SPONSORS

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ISN'T it time you got closer to your favourite Watford player by filling one of the gaps on this page?

Items are priced as follows:

£75 Match Boots, Match Kit or Tracksuit

(Sponsorship of these items guarantees two tickets to the club's end-of-season Kit sponsors' evening)

£50 Training Boots, Training Kit or Training Top

(Sponsorship of these items gives the chance to purchase a limited number of tickets for the club's end-of-season Kit sponsors evening).

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Richard JOHNSON	MATCH BOOTS	MATCH KIT	TRACKSUIT	TRAINING BOOTS	TRAINING KIT	TRAINING TOP
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Matthew LANGSTON	MATCH BOOTS	MATCH KIT	TRACKSUIT	TRAINING BOOTS	TRAINING KIT	TRAINING TOP
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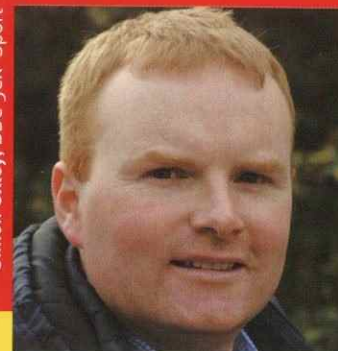
...consider the choice



THE
HARLEQUIN
WATFORD

OVER 150 STORES. SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Simon Oxley, BBC 3CR Sport



I WAS given a light-hearted ticking-off about 'sitting on the fence' re. tonight in programme notes a fortnight ago...but that quite simply is the case. I may cover Watford on a regular basis now, having covered Luton for eight years, but my job as Sports Producer at BBC 3CR demands that we want success for all our sides.

The sports output on the station has grown enormously in recent years as we have inherited the likes of Saracens, Wycombe Wanderers and Wasps. Stevenage Borough aim to join the clubs in the Football League, and, of course, at Christmas we are set to welcome Wimbledon into the fold.

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO
95.5 FM (BEDS.), 104.5 FM (BUCKS.),
103.8 FM (HERTS.)

TUNE IN YOUR TRANNY...

Nottingham Forest | **WATFORD**
Saturday September 14, 3.00pm
MW (630 and 1161 AM)

Preston North End | **WATFORD**
Tuesday September 17, 7.45pm
MW (630 and 1161 AM)

WATFORD | Crystal Palace
Saturday September 21, 3.00pm
MW (630 and 1161 AM)

LINES FROM OUR LOCAL

THE THOUGHTS OF **SIMON OXLEY**, SPORTS EDITOR AT BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO

Whatever the rights and wrongs, that's great news for our station, and wouldn't it be marvellous to have Watford, Wycombe, Luton and the MK Dons in the same division. That said, there is still something special about Watford versus Luton and the two teams remain at the core of our sports output.

There are so many memories from the matches I have covered, so goodness only knows how many the likes of Press Box colleagues Oliver Phillips and Brian Swain can recall. They, and many of you, go back to the Taylor versus Pleat epics. My memories are more recent, but include Luton's 4-2 win here in 1994, followed by a televised 1-1 draw later that season when 18-year-old Kelvin Davis marked his home debut by saving a penalty from Gary Porter. I was looking back at the match programme last week and was astonished to see Mick Quinn in the Watford line-up! Hatters' fans may recall Ian Benjamin playing in a 2-0 televised win in season '92/'93, a game played in the aftermath of a fatal road accident which ended the career of Luton defender Darren Salton. The following season started with a derby at Kenilworth Road, with Hornets' duo Barry Ashby and Jason Drysdale sent off. In '96/'97 the league meetings ended in draws, but I recall the FA Youth Cup meetings after Watford had knocked out Manchester United. Luton won the quarter-final replay on penalties at Vicarage Road, before losing in the semi-final to a Leeds side containing Messrs Woodgate and Kewell.

The season '97/'98 provided us with the last two meetings...of course it was one-all here with Marvin Johnson and Paul Robinson the unlikely scorers. That draw was the follow-up to the famous, or infamous, 4-0 scoreline in October - a day which showed us the darker side of what a derby can be about.

So now we square up again, in the often derided Worthington Cup...but a competition which gave Luton its greatest day back in 1988, and which perhaps gave Watford its biggest single disappointment last season - the quarter-final defeat at Sheffield Wednesday.

So many derby memories. So many cup memories. Let's hope tonight gives us a football match and an occasion to savour. Let's show that there is life beyond the Premiership. Ultimately this season may be about promotion or relegation battles ahead, but for many of you the events tonight will have a bearing on your view of the season come May.

Three Counties Sport is on the air until 11pm tonight to enable you to have your say on the way home from the match. Tune in on FM (95.5, 103.8 or 104.5) or MW (630 or 1161) and call in on 08459 455555.

Best wishes,

Simon Oxley

Worthington Cup

The First Round is on us...

To celebrate the new season and in anticipation of plenty of goal-mouth action, Worthington's are giving away a can for every goal scored in the 35 First Round ties to one lucky winner. To be in with a chance to win, call now on

020 7898 3377

Calls should cost no more than 25p. Please give us your name, age, address, daytime telephone number and the team you support.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- (1) All entrants must be over 18.
- (2) Telephone entries must be received by 30/9/02.
- (3) One prize winner will be drawn at random.
- (4) Editor's decision is final.

There were 132 goals scored in last years...

Round One

THE HEART OF THE GAME



MITCHELL KAYE
REVIEWS THE LATEST
NEWS FROM AROUND
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE



City are set to formally come out of administration soon - the Football League returning the club's 'share' after ratifying the CVA.



Loan signing Graham Barrett looks set to miss Albion's next five games after it emerged Arsenal don't want him cup-tied.



Stan Ternent has rubbished speculation linking the Clarets with a £400,000 move for Wolves ace Michael Branch.



Mo Konjic is backing 19-year-old Calum Davenport to be a regular in the Sky Blues' starting line-up for years to come.



Goalkeeper Matt Clarke is set to see a specialist about the knee injury that caused him to come off during the Burnley draw.



Finance director Andrew Mackenzie is confident Derby's players will be paid after it emerged they'd not received August's wages.



Guy Butters says the prospect of regular first-team football was why he decided to leave Priestfield and join rivals Brighton.



Town have handed 12-month deals to defender Greg Strong, Graham Hockless and young midfielder Stephen Downes.



Town youngsters Darren Bent and Darren Ambrose both failed to make it into David Platt's recently-named England U-21 squad.



Division Two Peterborough have confirmed that former Foxes' boss Peter Taylor is coaching for them on a non-contract basis.



Midfielder Tim Cahill is hoping his team can use the recent win over Grimsby as a platform for further success this term.



Nigel Worthington has confirmed winger Mark Rivers pulled a hamstring against Watford and will be out for three weeks.



Forest's Riccardo Scimeca believes his side have now found the answer to their lack of goals - a killer instinct within the side.



Goalkeeper Dave Beasant has left Portsmouth after the club decided they could not keep him on their wage bill.



Physio Mick Rathbone has joined David Moyes' Everton after the two clubs agreed a compensation package.



Highly-rated Arsenal defender Matthew Upson is a Royals' loan target as boss Alan Pardew bids to strengthen his squad.



Captain Stewart Talbot will have to wait a couple of weeks before discovering whether he requires an operation on his knee.



Fears are mounting that experienced defender Steve Yates could be ruled out for a month with a groin injury.



Owls' striker Owen Morrison has returned to Hillsborough after having his loan spell cut short by Hull City.



Misfit Bjarni Gudjonsson has turned down the chance to resurrect his career in Germany after a trial with MSV Duisberg.



Boss Colin Lee has warned fans not to think that the imminent return of Martin O'Connor to the side will cure the team's problems.



Midfielder Hakan Mild is set to return to Gothenburg when the transfer window opens in January, after an unhappy spell in London.



Ivar Ingimarsson believes competition for places and the signings of Denis Irwin and Paul Ince is good for Wolves' promotion chances.

ONE VISION



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The FA Cup



The Community Shield



The Worthington Cup



The Nationwide League

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HORNETS DIARY

KEEP UP TO SPEED WITH ALL THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AROUND VICARAGE ROAD

SATURDAY 24

Watford's second away trip of the season ends in disappointment as they are beaten 3-0 at Portsmouth. To make matters worse, midfielder Allan Nielsen is sent off late on.

MONDAY 26

The Hornets turn on the style in front of the Sky TV cameras, giving an outstanding display on their way to a 5-2 victory over Coventry City. Stephen Glass starts the rout with a third-minute goal and it was 3-0 before half-time thanks to goals from Tommy Smith and Danny Webber. Allan Nielsen and Paul Robinson made it 5-0, before the Sky Blues gave the final score a somewhat flattering look by pulling two back in the dying minutes.

TUESDAY 27

The club announce that a video of the win over Coventry will be sold in the World of Watford.

WEDNESDAY 28

Nigel Gibbs enjoys his first victory as Reserve Team Manager as the Hornets complete a double over Coventry City with a 3-1 win in the Barclays Premiership Reserve League (South). Dominic Foley netted twice with City's Sean Cooney supplying the third courtesy of a memorable own-goal. However, the one down-side to the evening is that Heidar Helguson suffers a reaction to his thigh injury and comes off at half-time.

THURSDAY 29

Vicarage Road hosts its first full international, with Jamaica claiming a 3-1 victory over India.

FRIDAY 30

Allan Nielsen's ban for his red card at Portsmouth is confirmed as two games - but there is good news as Manchester United give permission for Danny Webber to play for Watford in the Worthington Cup.

SATURDAY 31

Another day to forget on the road for Watford - they are beaten 4-0 at Norwich City and have Paul Robinson and Dominic Foley sent off.

MONDAY 2

Former Wimbledon manager Terry Burton officially takes up his post as the Hornets' first-team coach.

TUESDAY 3

Paul Robinson and Dominic Foley are given one-match bans for their dismissals at Carrow Road. In the evening, Watford Reserves are beaten 1-0 at Leicester City by a Stefan Oakes penalty after 48 minutes.

FRESH NEWS EVERY DAY - CALL WATFORD CLUBCALL ON 09068 104 104:
(calls charge at 60p per minute)



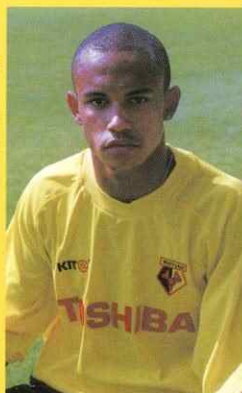
August 26
Stephen Glass started the goal glut.



August 27
Coventry match video is produced.



August 30
Danny Webber - allowed to play tonight.



AUGUST 2002

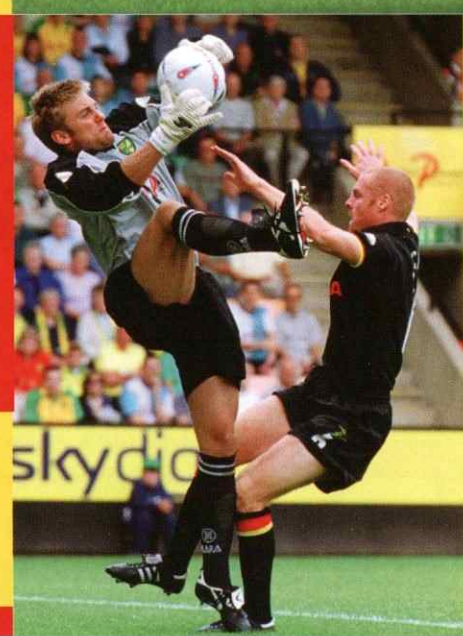
SEPTEMBER 2002



▲ Allan Nielsen battles with Craig Fleming.



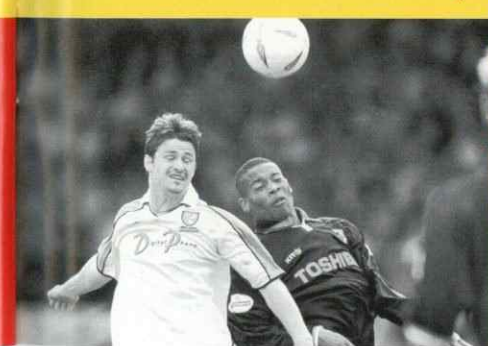
▲ Neil Cox and Sean Dyche contest a ball in the City box.



▲ Stephen Glass sends a pass beyond Gary Holt.



▼ Micah Hyde and Phil Mulryne in aerial combat.



the team

Watford: Chamberlain, Ardley, Robinson, Cox, Dyche, Nielsen, Hyde, Smith, Glass, Foley, Gayle.

the subs

Vernazza, McNamee, Doyley, Hand and Lee not used.



▲ Neal Ardley goes past former Hornet Clint Easton.

▼ Tommy Smith unleashes a shot.



stay in the picture

For all the latest fixture information and ticket availability contact the Ticket Office online at www.watfordfc.com or call direct on: 01923 496010

Norwich City 4 | 0 **WATFORD**
Nationwide League Division One
Saturday August 31, 2002
Kick-off: 3.00pm
Referee: P Danson (Leicestershire)
Attendance: 20,563

Sean Dyche challenges
Canaries' keeper Robert Green. ▶

STATS



NAME
Worthington's Creamflow

BIRTH PLACE
Burton-on-Trent,
the home of great bitter

POSITION
Versatility is this player's
strength. Can be found
at your local and all
leading supermarkets

ADAPTABILITY
Comfortable at home,
at the bar or at the match

ATTITUDE
A well balanced
bitter with a truly
distinguished taste

STRENGTH
3.6% ABV



NAME
Worthington's Classic

BIRTH PLACE
Burton-on-Trent,
the home of great bitter

POSITION
After a promising debut,
will be found playing
everywhere this season

ADAPTABILITY
Likes to play at home, but
has proved to be a match
winner away

ATTITUDE
A traditional bitter full of
sparkle, vigour and flavour

STRENGTH
3.8% ABV

Worthington's

70's SCENE

THE WATFORD OBSERVER'S **OLIVER PHILLIPS** RECALLS ONE OF THE HORNETS' CLASSIC 1970'S MATCHES

TUESDAY APRIL 22, 1975

Preston North End 2 (Burns, Bird) Watford 2 (Bond, Scullion)

PRESTON: Tunks; Lawrenson, Williams,
Doyle, Bird, Baxter, Thomson, Burns,
Treacy, Coleman, Morley. Substitute:
Elwiss for Thomson after 68 mins.

WATFORD: Rankin; How, Garner,
Goodeve, Williams; Scullion, Bond, Joslyn,
Keen, Downes; Greenhalgh. Substitute:
Mayes for Keen after 85 mins.

Referee: J Taylor (Wolverhampton), **Attendance:** 5,819.

Dennis Bond scored the first equaliser



WHEN Watford commenced the 1974-75 season, having played so well the previous campaign, there were thoughts of promotion. But by the time they emerged from their Easter programme, they found themselves deep in trouble in Division Three, one of four favourites for the drop.

A goalless draw at Southend on Good Friday, was followed by a home defeat at the hands of Wrexham (2-1). A 2-2 draw with Chesterfield did not ease their fears and then followed a 3-0 home defeat, their heaviest of the season, at the hands of Plymouth Argyle. Yet just as Watford looked doomed, they travelled to Preston and scored

two away goals for the first time that year.

On a Deepdale pitch that looked as if the tide had only just gone out, Watford found themselves a goal down after 15 minutes. With only Brian Greenhalgh up front, Watford's cause looked particularly forlorn and the fact the visitors survived until the interval without conceding further goals was down to the brilliance of Andy Rankin and a little help from Johnny Williams, playing his final season for the Hornets.

One second-half save from the keeper, when he changed direction after a shot had deflected off Ken Goodeve, must rank among his best until 'that night' at Old Trafford, three years later.

The home side took the lead after 15 minutes when the £100,000-rated Tony Morley rounded Trevor How and slipped the ball through for Burns to race clear and score.

Gradually, Watford came into the game with Bobby Downes making progress on the left but, even so, it was something of a shock when the Hornets equalised after 62 minutes. The ball was cleared by Rankin to Williams and on to Downes. He slipped the ball through to Greenhalgh who, in turn, knocked it on to the overlapping Dennis Bond. From a diminishing angle, Bond moved in and then stabbed the ball beyond Tunks into the net.

Rankin excelled to defy the substitute Elwiss who then met the subsequent corner with a header. The ball was cleared off the line but only as far as Bird who hit the rebound home.

Watford, who had fielded a largely defensive formation, battled back and when Downes sent the ball down the touchline, substitute Alan Mayes beat his man and sent over a precision cross, which left Stewart Scullion with only a formality header to beat the stranded Tunks.

It was a lifeline, but Watford fans were told that no matter what division the team appeared in for the next season, ticket prices would go up with ground admission rising to 65p and a seat in the Main Stand costing around £1.20p. Pop star Elton John said one day, when he retired, he would like to be chairman but retain close communication with fans.

TREFOR JONES TAKES A LOOK AT SOMEONE WHO PLAYED FOR WATFORD BUT ENJOYED GREATER 'SUCCESS ELSEWHERE'



▲ Jimmy Trotter - a £375, 1931 signing from Torquay United

At centre-forward for Watford:

Jimmy Trotter

Full Name:

James Trotter

Born:

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, January 3, 1899

Died:

Kent, February 11, 1985

Clubs:

Parsons Turbine Works, Bury, Sheffield Wednesday, Torquay United, Watford.

Football League appearances (gls):

Bury 48 (20), Sheffield Wednesday 154 (109), Torquay 56 (36), Watford 4 (1).

Club Honours:

Division Two Championship 1925/26 and Football League Championship 1928/29 (both Sheffield Wednesday).

Representative Honours:

England Youth

"Not yet 33, and still banging 'em in for Torquay United, Trotter was a man with a goalscoring pedigree..."

Watford 2 Coventry City 0
Football League Division 3 (South)
Saturday December 19, 1931

IN December 1931 Watford lost a perfect home record (played nine, won nine) in emphatic fashion, going down 4-1 to Brentford. A fortnight later, against Coventry City, they set out to re-establish their Vicarage Road dominance with a new centre-forward.

With the prolific George James out injured, Jimmy Trotter was signed for £375 to replace Bob White, who, despite an outstanding scoring record in his spasmodic appearances, for some reason never had a decent first-team run.

Not yet 33, and still banging 'em in for Torquay United, Trotter was a man with a goalscoring pedigree, having been one of many forwards to cash in on the change to the offside law in 1925. He hit 37 in the League (including nine in two consecutive home games) when Sheffield Wednesday took the Second Division title in 1925/26, and the same number again in the top-flight the following season, both times heading the divisional scoring lists.

The transfer took place on Thursday December 17, and two days later the free-scoring Geordie - who had begun his League career at Bury - led the attack against a Coventry side which would finish the season in mid-table, one place behind Watford. Tommy Barnett, a class act in midfield, was the inspiration behind a 2-0 victory. The new man was well-policed for most of the game, but he did open the scoring just before half-time, heading in a Billy Chapman centre.

It was Trotter's last goal in League football, cartilage trouble bringing his career to an end. Bob White was back a week later and then discarded again when James was restored to fitness. Jimmy Trotter had another couple of games the following season, and that was it. As a trainer, he was to have a very long association with his former Hillsborough colleague Jimmy Seed, whom he eventually succeeded as manager of Charlton Athletic, having also acted as England trainer on many occasions.

FANZINE CHAT: HORNETS' FANS LOOK BACK ON BRIEF VICARAGE ROAD CAREERS. DAVE MESSENGER REMEMBERS...



KERRY DIXON

about his game, despite his advancing years.

Dixon's career was almost at an end by the time he came to Watford, but Roeder was desperate. Feeling the pinch of the last years of the Petchey era, there was little money to spend, so Dixon was about all Watford could afford. The signing came as a shock to the Hornets' faithful - after all, who wants to see someone who played for and supported your dreaded local rivals wearing a Watford shirt, especially as Luton were also in the thick of the relegation battle.

Dixon was quick to try and diffuse any antagonism towards him and on the day he signed, he was quoted as saying that he'd have walked to Watford to sign for the club and that, being a professional footballer, his commitment was to the club who paid his wages. It cut little ice with a large section of Watford's support and as he made his debut against Huddersfield, his name was roundly booed. This caused dissent in the ranks, and those supporters who felt he should be given a chance sang his name.

The years had caught up with Dixon and while I would not doubt that he made an effort to overcome the obstacles placed in front of him, he was clearly no longer a player to be reckoned with. Watford struggled all over the pitch and needed their fans behind them, but Dixon's signing had split the faithful so much, that his detractors and supporters clashed at most games and even came to blows during a defeat at Southend. The writing was on the wall, and, following only eight starts, no goals and Watford's relegation, Dixon's short and controversial Watford career ended when he took up the managerial reigns at Doncaster. When he signed, some said it would end in tears. They were right.

"...after all, who wants to see someone who played for and supported your dreaded local rivals wearing a Watford shirt..."

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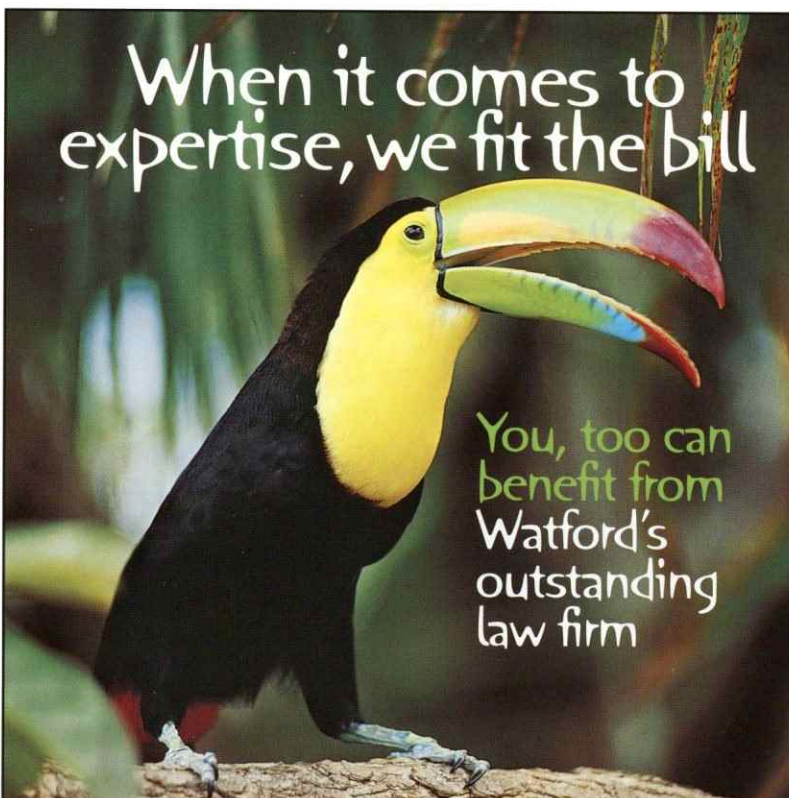
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**A VISUAL HISTORY OF
WATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB
1977-2002**

DAVID LLOYD



VISITING 'THE VIC'

luton town

The Hatters this season (as @ 09/09/02)

UNLIKE the usual trend for promoted clubs, Luton Town weren't able to use the momentum of their promotion last term to rack up some early-season points. Instead, the first four games of the campaign provided the Hatters with a timely reminder of their new-found status - four straight defeats coming against a mixture of seasoned Division Two sides along with promoted and relegated clubs. However, the Bedfordshire side have now kept three clean sheets in their last three games - gleaning their first League point with a fine goalless draw at Cardiff before beating Chesterfield 3-0 at home and, Saturday just gone, earning a very respectable goalless draw at high-flying Brentford.

	Games	Goals
David BAYLISS	3 (1)	0
Emmerson BOYCE	5 (1)	0
Ahmet BRKOVIC	6 (1)	1
Chris COYNE	5 (0)	0
Dean CROWE	3 (4)	2
Sol DAVIS	5 (0)	0
Carl EMBERSON	3 (0)	0
Andrew FOTIADIS	0 (3)	0
Peter HOLMES	1 (0)	0
Steve HOWARD	7 (0)	3
Paul HUGHES	3 (0)	0
Alan KIMBLE	2 (0)	0
Alan NEILSON	2 (3)	0
Kevin NICHOLLS	7 (0)	1
Russell PERRETT	6 (0)	1
Ben ROBERTS	4 (0)	0
Steve ROBINSON	3 (3)	0
Matthew SPRING	7 (0)	1
Tony THORPE	4 (0)	1
Robbie WINTERS	1 (0)	0

THE MANAGER

JOE KINNEAR

JOE KINNEAR has slowly rehabilitated himself both in terms of reputation and health since he suffered a heart attack over three years ago while at Wimbledon. It was with the Dons that he really made his name as a tactician and wily motivator of players. However, when his health deteriorated he had to leave in 1999. A brief spell at Oxford did not cover him in glory but, after taking over in January 2001, he took Luton to promotion last season and will relish the spice of today's encounter.



Stuart Slater and Harry the Hornet help Paul Robinson celebrate his strike against Luton.

how they lined up

watford:

Chamberlain, Gibbs, Palmer, Page, Millen, Mooney, Slater (Noel-Williams 85), Hyde, Lee, Johnson, Robinson. Subs not used: Ward, Lowndes.

luton town:

Davis, Patterson, Thomas, Waddock (Marshall 71), White, Johnson (Davies 87), Allen (Evers 71), McLaren, Oldfield, Thorpe, Alexander.

The seven before last...

Luton Town	0	4	WATFORD	Division Two, October 4, 1997
Luton Town	0	0	WATFORD	Division Two, January 27, 1997
WATFORD	1	1	Luton Town	Division Two, October 29, 1996
Luton Town	0	0	WATFORD	Division One, April 20, 1996
WATFORD	1	1	Luton Town	Division One, November 21, 1995
Luton Town	1	1	WATFORD	Division One, March 26, 1995
WATFORD	2	4	Luton Town	Division One, September 17, 1994

When we last met...

WATFORD 1 | 1 Luton Town Nationwide League Division Two, February 14, 1998

THE last M1 derby came at a time when the combatants were at opposite ends of the Division Two league table, working towards very different things.

The Hornets were just beginning a run which would see them suffer a dip in form before clinching the Division Two title. The Hatters, meanwhile, were more intent on securing their Second Division status at the other end of the table, but a game against their deadliest rivals normally provides a point or three.

The only blot on that copybook - and reason for Luton's players to have any doubts about tradition not continuing - was the 4-0 Kenilworth Road drubbing the then injury-ravaged Hatters suffered at the hands of the Golden Boys back in October. This time, Watford were to miss the influential Peter Kennedy, as Steve Palmer and a youthful Paul Robinson struggled to hold a lively Luton right flank.

The first-half problems at the back for the Hornets were all of their own making. Palmer's underhit back-pass forced Keith Millen into a mistake which allowed David Oldfield to get in a shot. Alec Chamberlain responded with an excellent save to maintain the half-time deadlock.

The closest brush with calamity for Watford came in first-half injury-time. An innocent through-ball resulted in a near-disastrous mix-up between Robert Page and Alec Chamberlain, the ball trickling wide after the centre-half had headed over his advancing goalkeeper - only Oldfield's surprise prevented him reaching the ball to turn it into the unguarded net. From the corner, Chamberlain denied Tony Thorpe (now back again with the Hatters) with a superb reflex save. An open second-half saw Watford in control, taking the lead seven minutes in when Luton's off-side trap was exposed. Robinson found himself with space to measure a 12-yard finish after Jason Lee had chested the ball down. It looked like being the home side's day - and the completion of an unlikely league double - but, as so often before, the Hatters had the last laugh when long-serving Marvin Johnson (still on the books today) deflected a harmless shot past Chamberlain.



SQUAD REVIEW

luton town

AUTOMATIC promotion from Division Three last season finally put a smile on faces at Luton Town after a run of several barren seasons. Relegation in May 2001 came after five seasons in Division Two, a spell which also saw them miss out on promotion via the play-offs. It seemed as if they were stuck in a downward spiral when Joe Kinnear was the latest in a long list of managers recruited to restore some pride to the Hatters' cause. Ricky Hill and Lil Fuccillo had patently failed to turn the club around but Kinnear's appointment - even at a time of financial difficulty - proved inspired, even though their start to this campaign has been sluggish.

CARL EMBERSON
Goalkeeper
Age 29

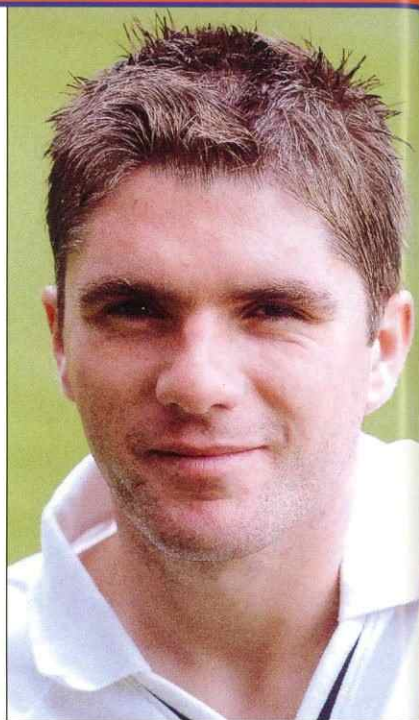
He made the keeper's jersey his own last season, despite starting as back-up to Mark Ovendale. The ex-Colchester man will play tonight with loan signing Ben Roberts, the current first choice, not released to play by Charlton Athletic.

DAVID BAYLISS
Defender
Age 26

The central defender had played almost 200 games for Rochdale before joining Luton last December on a free transfer, despite the two clubs being promotion rivals. It proved a good acquisition, the Scouser is now a regular first-teamer.

EMMERSON BOYCE
Defender
Age 22

The versatile player has come up through the ranks at Kenilworth Road. Though he prefers operating down the right, he can also move into the centre of defence and can also deputise in midfield, such is the nature of his high-energy game.

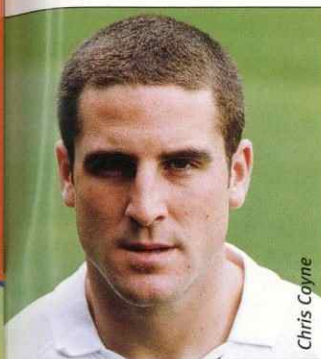


FOCUS ON...

TONY THORPE:
Striker
Age 28

Luton is Tony Thorpe's spiritual home, having first signed as a junior from Leicester City in 1992. After six years at Kenilworth Road when he left in 1998, he was scoring a goal every two games. After two moves that year - to Fulham and Bristol City - he failed to settle, resulting in loan spells back at Luton. He's now signed on a permanent basis.

CONRAD LEACH TAKES A LOOK AT TODAY'S VISITORS FROM KENILWORTH ROAD



ALAN NEILSON
Defender
Age 29

The German-born left-back started at Newcastle before joining Southampton, then joined the Kevin Keegan Fulham revolution but that move turned sour. The Welsh international joined Grimsby last term, moving to Luton for free in February.

CHRIS COYNE
Defender
Age 23

West Ham signed the Aussie centre-half but chances at Upton Park were limited. After loan spells at Brentford and Southend, a move to Dundee arrived, before Luton signed the defender for £50,000 around this time last year.

RUSSELL PERRETT
Defender
Age 29

The central defender was signed at very early last season on a free transfer from Cardiff City. That was despite two seasons of injury worry for Perrett at the Welsh club but he rewarded Joe Kinnear's faith with a strong, consistent campaign.

SOL DAVIS
Defender
Age 23

He came up through the ranks at Swindon Town but the left-sided player's last season in Wiltshire was interrupted by a series of injuries, notably to his groin. Joe Kinnear gambled and signed him this summer for a fee set by a tribunal.

ALAN KIMBLE
Defender
Age 36

Now nearing the end of his career, the full-back was released by Wimbledon in June. Kimble might have expected a call from Kinnear at Luton having served him so faithfully at the Dons. A one-year deal was duly completed this summer.



AHMET BRKOVIC
Midfielder
Age 27

The Croat brings a touch of exotica to deepest Bedfordshire as well as some of east London's charms. The skilful, right-sided player spent two years in E10 with Leyton Orient before joining Joe Kinnear's men on a free transfer last October.

KEVIN NICHOLLS
Midfielder
Age 23

Possibly Joe Kinnear's best acquisition in his relatively short time at Kenilworth Road, the Luton manager quickly installed the tough-tackling midfielder as captain. He was a virtual ever-present last season after joining from Wigan for £25,000 last August.

MATTHEW SPRING
Midfielder
Age 22

One of a few players to have come up through the ranks at Luton and become a first-team regular, the midfielder signed a new two-year contract this summer. He is now nearing the 200-game mark for the Hatters.

PAUL HUGHES
Midfielder
Age 26

Part of a potentially promising batch of players to emerge at Chelsea in the Glenn Hoddle-Ruud Gullit period, he's been plagued by injuries since his league debut in the mid-1990s and he joined Luton for free a year ago.

STEVE ROBINSON
Midfielder
Age 27

The Ulsterman joined Luton this summer for £50,000 from Preston North End, putting pen to paper on a two-year deal. Operating on the right-hand side, the former Bournemouth player, who started out at Spurs, has been given a fresh chance.

DEAN CROWE
Striker
Age 23

He made an excellent early impact by scoring on his debut after joining Luton for free from Stoke City last September. In between he has had loan spells at Northampton, Bury and Plymouth Argyle, but he settled well last season and scored 15 goals.

STEVE HOWARD
Striker
Age 26

The striker finishing the campaign as the club's top scorer with 24 goals. He topped that off with the 'Players' Player' and Supporters' Player of the Year' awards, despite only costing £50,000 in March 2001 from Northampton.

ANDREW FOTIADIS
Striker
Age 25

The Hitchin-born forward has been hit hard by injuries in the past two seasons, stopping him challenging for a first-team place. On his day he is a skilful player with a good burst of pace, a product of the youth system at Luton.



SCOUTING ABOUT... the hatters

APPROACH

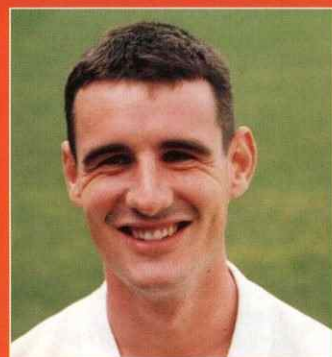
THUS far Luton have struggled to come to terms with the loss of Matthew Taylor and Jean-Louis Valois and therefore have adopted a slightly more direct style. The goalkeeper will generally kick the ball

long aiming for Steven Howard who is powerful in the air. Dean Crowe will look for any flick-ons and attempt to utilise his pace by pushing onto the last defender.

However, there remains the Luton trademark of quick passing movements from the midfield department if the Hatters are allowed the time and space. If, as expected, a diamond shape to the midfield is on view Matthew Spring will support the front players and wide midfielders Ahmet Brkovic and Paul Hughes will come inside on their runs. Steven Howard will be looking to escape his marker at the back post and Spring will advance into wide positions and deliver good crosses. Expect to see a slightly more compact and solid Luton Town - minus the cavalier attacking facet of last season.



PROBABLE LINE-UP (4-4-2)



KEY PLAYER

MATTHEW SPRING

SPRING has been an integral cog in the Hatters' midfield since making his debut in 1997-98. An almost ever-present for the following four seasons, it is hard to imagine Luton taking the field minus the 22 year-old. At 6ft, he can handle any aerial battles, but his passing and link-up play attract the attention of scouts. Spring loves to probe opponents' defences with subtle short passes before opening them up with a telling through-ball. He keeps possession intelligently and expect to see plenty of one-twos with Spring attempting to latch on to the return ball for an attempt on goal.

PERSONNEL

IN goal, on-loan Ben Roberts - the current Hatters' first-choice - won't be released by his club Charlton for the tie so Carl Embersson will deputise tonight. David Bayliss and Russell Perrett are steady types in central defence, the latter can be a danger from corners. Chris Coyne deputises well when either are out. Right-back Emmerson Boyce has pace and has also operated at centre-back - after progressing through the ranks other clubs have shown an interest. While on the opposite flank Sol Davis has a good left foot and delivers inswinging corners from the left-wing.

It is in midfield where Luton will aim to take control. Kevin Nicholls will sit in front of the back four and keep things tight whereas Matthew Spring will seek to support the front players. The two wide midfield men, probably Ahmet Brkovic and Paul Hughes, will both work hard up and down the pitch, however both will progress with the ball inside as opposed to down the flanks. Matthew Spring will make runs past the front strikers and also puts in good crosses from either flank. Up front, Steven Howard has a good scoring ratio (75 in 288). He is a target man with strength and a danger in the air. His foil will be the pacy Dean Crowe who likes to push right up onto the opposition's last man, looking for flick-ons.

WATCHING US...

"My single favourite memory is of Gary Porter's penalty being saved at Kenilworth Road by a young Kelvin Davis..."

IT'S definitely a difficult job remembering instances when Watford have beaten the mighty Hatters. In being asked to recall previous Luton-Watford meetings, my mind seems to be going somewhat blank about the 1997-98 season - I've got a memory block happening, I just can't think why?

Seriously, it would be a bit over-the-top to suggest that either set of fans live or die by the result of the M1 derby but, like us, I'm sure you've missed playing us in recent years - the games are always eagerly anticipated at this end, I can assure you.

Having not seen our near-complete dominance of the matches in the 1980s, my first visit to Vicarage Road came in 1994 when we won 4-2.

What was all the better about the result that day is that you took the lead only for our class to tell as we cruised to victory, sewn up mainly in the first-half. Amazingly, that's been our last one against you lot! It seems almost unbelievable that we didn't beat you in any of the more recent matches but, like Arsenal v Tottenham games before Arsenal just became too good, the string of derby draws only goes to show why we all still look forward to this fixture like mad.

My single favourite memory is of Gary Porter's penalty being saved at Kenilworth Road by a young Kelvin Davis, who I think was making his home debut for us that day. It was at an important time during a match which formed part of long list of draws between the two teams - but it can't be a draw tonight...Come on you Hatters!

...WATCHING YOU

THE way most Luton fans talk you'd think that the 4-0 drubbing in 1997 was the only time we'd ever beaten them. For me the game was something of a disappointment as scoring seven or eight would have been far more reflective of our superiority that day. I prefer to think back to 1983 when Mo Johnston climbed high at the far post to head our FA Cup winner having been 2-0 down in the first game at The Kennel. Or earlier that year when Antic's sending off gave Luton a convenient excuse for a 5-2 mauling in a game that saw Richard Jobson score his first Watford goal. But then I think of how disappointed Luton fans would be if we didn't remind them of how poor they were on that day in October 1997.

We were favourites to win the game as they had a couple of players out and were languishing near the bottom of the division. We of course were on our way to the title and you have to concede that a full strength Luton team might have kept the score down to two or three.

Johnno opened the scoring after just four minutes firing past the hapless Davis and Dai Thomas doubled it a quarter of an hour later when a defender hesitated allowing him to embarrass Davis further. The soon to be football hooligan later confessed that he'd shouted "Keeper!" to make the defender let the ball run through. Nice one Dai.

Peter Kennedy added two more within a couple of minutes just before the half hour and their misery was complete. Don't be bitter though, Luton. Just remember how lightly you got off.

"...how disappointed L*n fans would be if we didn't remind them of how poor they were on that day in October 1997."**

Watford v Luton Town

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



Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored

5	Shots	5
2	Headers	4
1	Volleys	0
0	Penalties	1
0	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	0

Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored

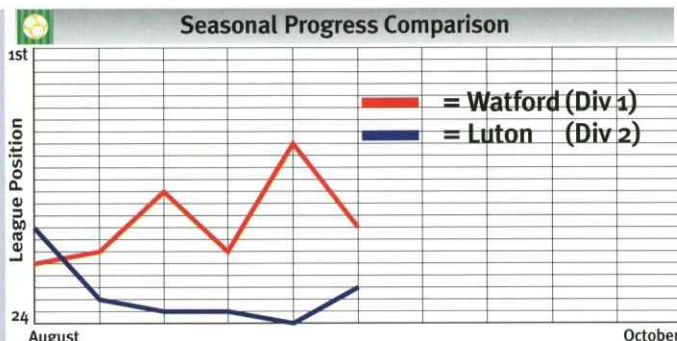
1	0-15 mins	1
0	16-30 mins	0
4	31-45 mins	2
0	46-60 mins	1
2	61-75 mins	4
1	75-90 mins	2

Form Guide

2	Won	1
1	Drawn	1
3	Lost	4
8	For	10
13	Against	13
7	Points	4
-5	Goal Difference	-3
LDWLWL	Sequence	LLLLDW
DWW	Home Seq.	LLW
LLL	Away Seq.	LLD

Yellow & Red Cards

6	Yellow	14
3	Red	1



2002-2003 Attendances

Hornets	Aggregate	Hatters
32,615	20,150	
11,187	Highest	7,860
10,292	Lowest	6,060
10,872	Average	6,717
52	% of Capacity	67

Average Goals per game

1.33	For	1.67
2.67	Home For	2.33
0.00	Away For	1.00
2.17	Against	2.17
1.33	Home Against	2.00
3.00	Away Against	2.33



2002-2003 Figures

17	Players Used	20
1	Clean Sheets	2
4	Failed to Score	1
0	Goals scored from...	
0	Corners	2
0	Free Kicks	0
0	Goals conceded from...	
0	Corners	1
2	Free Kicks	0

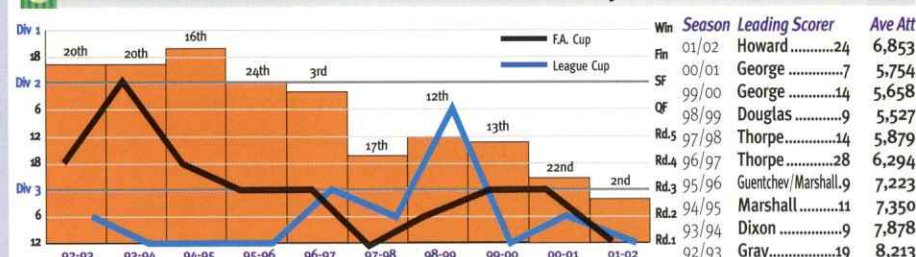
10 Year Record

Hornets	Avg Pos.	Hatters
36	among 92 clubs	54.6
7,915	Avg Att 1993	7,878
10,872	Avg Att 2002	6,717
37	+ / - %	-15

Top League Scorers

		
2	League Goals	3
4	Games Played	6
0.50	Lge Goals/Game	0.50
2	Points Gained	0
1	Scoring Run	2
0	Hat-Tricks	0
1	Close Range	1
1	Inside Area	1
0	Long Range	1
1	Shots	1
1	Headers	2
0	Volleys	0
0	Penalties	0
0	Direct FKs	0

Luton Town's 10 Year History



Swings

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

Margins

0	3 Goals Down	0
0	2 Goals Down	0
0	1 Goal Down	0
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
0	1 Goal Up	0

Misc stats

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

"...Watford had already claimed the points in the League fixture at Vicarage Road..."

WATFORD 3
LUTON TOWN 1

- FA Cup Round Two
- Saturday December 13, 1930
- Attendance: 17,770

YOU'RE NOT SINGING ANY MORE

WATFORD 3 LUTON TOWN 1 - THE HORNETS' RECORD VICTORY, IN CUP COMPETITIONS, OVER THE HATTERS
RECALLED BY PAUL LEVENE

FOLLOWING a series of FA Cup defeats at the hands of their rivals from Bedfordshire in the turn-of-the-century period, Watford finally gained local derby success in the game's premier knockout competition during the 1930-31 season. The game took place at Vicarage Road a couple of weeks before Christmas after Watford had reached this stage with a 5-1 away victory over Walthamstow Avenue, largely thanks to a hat-trick from George James. The Hatters earned their trip 'across the border' with a 4-2 replay victory against Clapton Orient, the match played at Arsenal's Highbury Stadium, after a 2-2 draw in the initial encounter at Kenilworth Road. Both sides played in Division

Three South in 1930-31 and Watford had already claimed the points in the League fixture at Vicarage Road in September with a George James goal dividing the teams. The FA Cup meeting attracted almost 18,000 fans and George James again proved to be a thorn in the Hatters' side, netting the opening goal of the game with only four minutes gone. Billy Chapman created the opening with a good run down the right wing and his cross was converted emphatically by the Watford centre-forward. The early boost put further pressure on the visitors' defence and Tommy Barnett and Chapman continued to create chances for player-manager Neil McBain's team. Watford even had a strong claim for a penalty overlooked before McNestry came close for the Hatters. Watford keeper Joe Hewitt was injured in a clash with Yardley, but was able to continue after treatment and then demonstrated that no long-term damage had been done with a great save from Rennie at the expense of a corner! The importance of Hewitt's tip-over was underlined before half-time when Arthur Wooliscroft doubled Watford's advantage. Luton goalie Banes was caught in possession and, from the resulting scramble, Wooliscroft's shot was deflected over the despairing opposition defenders into the back of the net. Luton stepped up the pressure after half-time and were back in the game just 10 minutes later. Yardley netted the goal after Fraser's pin-point pass and the visitors continued to press for an equaliser immediately afterwards. Fortunately Watford started to create chances again, and seven minutes from time sealed victory after gaining a free-kick 20-yards out. It was left to boss Neil McBain to float the ball to Tommy Barnett and Watford's ex-Manchester United forward headed past Banes to earn a trip back to Lancashire against Oldham Athletic.

OH ALRIGHT THEN...

Luton Town's biggest margin of victory in cup clashes with Watford was a 4-1 home success in the 1903-04 FA Cup. More recently, a 3-0 win was achieved in the League Cup in August 1968. The Hatters scorers were Mike Harrison (two - including a penalty) and Brian Lewis.

Joe Hewitt - made a vital save



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Category A

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Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders and members in person and via postal applications & telephone bookings. General Sales will be available from Monday September 16 at gam.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION



Nationwide Division 1
Sat Oct 5, 3.00pm
Category B

Admission Prices: £20 Upper Rous Stand; £15 Adults, £10 Concessions East, Lower Rous & Rookery Stands; Family Areas: £15 Parents, £5 Under-16*.

Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders and members in person and via postal applications. Telephone bookings from season ticket holders and members will be taken from Monday September 23 at gam. General sales will be available from Monday September 30 at gam.

AWAY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST



Nationwide Division 1
Sat Sep 14, 3.00pm
City Ground

Admission Prices: £19 Adults, £10 Under-16/Over-60.

Tickets are on sale to personal callers and via postal applications & telephone bookings.

Coaches will leave Greenhill Crescent at 10.45pm and Watford Football Club at 10.50am, costing £13.

PRESTON NORTH END



Nationwide Division 1
Tue Sep 17, 7.45pm
Deepdale

Admission Prices: £15 Adults, £10 Senior Citizens, £8 Under-16.

Tickets are on sale to personal callers and via postal applications & telephone bookings.

Coaches will leave Greenhill Crescent at 1.30pm and Watford Football Club at 1.35pm, costing £17.

For further ticket information call the **WATFORD FC TICKET OFFICE** on: (01923) 496010

Season tickets are still available for all areas of the ground.

For further information call the **WATFORD FC TICKET OFFICE** on: (01923) 496010

Ticket information is also regularly updated on-line. Click 'Ticket Office' on our official website, watfordfc.com.

COMING SOON - HOME

GRIMSBY TOWN



Nationwide Division 1
Sat Oct 12, 3.00pm
Category C

Admission Prices: £15 Upper Rous Stand; £10 Adults, £5 Concessions East, Lower Rous & Rookery Stands; Family Areas: £10 Parents, £1 Under-16*.

Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders and members in person and via postal applications. Telephone bookings from season ticket holders and members will be taken from Monday September 30 at gam. General sales will be available from Monday October 7 at gam.

COMING SOON - AWAY

SHEFFIELD UNITED



Nationwide Division 1
Sat Sep 28, 3.00pm
Bramall Lane

Admissions Prices: £16 Adults, £10 Under-16/Over-65 - if purchased in advance of the day of the fixture.

Matchday Prices: £18 Adults, £12 Under-16/Over-65.

Postal applications from season ticket holders and members are now being taken. Applications in person and via telephone bookings from season ticket holders and members will be taken from Monday September 17 at gam. General sales will be available from Monday September 23 at gam. Coaches will leave Greenhill Crescent at 10am and Watford Football Club at 10.05, costing £15.

FOLLOWING THE HORNETS ON THE ROAD? HERE'S SOME JOURNEY NOTES



NOTTINGHAM FOREST SEPTEMBER 14, 2002

CITY GROUND, PAVILION RD, NG2 5FJ

By car: M1 north exit Junction 24. Take A453 (Nottingham (south)) past the big power station funnels. Straight over a roundabout then



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after a mile leave the A453 (signed Grantham A52, Newark A45 - don't go over the flyover). Left at roundabout then right at mini-roundabout on to A52. Follow A52 for five miles and at third roundabout left on to the A6011. Get in right-hand lanes and go over flyover then after a mile keep left into Radcliffe Road then Colwick Rd.

Nearest station: Nottingham Mid'd
Club Tel.: (0115) 982 4447
Hornets go in: Bridgford Stand

LAST SEASON: **NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0 | 0 WATFORD**

DEEPPALE, DEEPPALE RD, PR1 6RU

By car: Midweek trips north-west aren't easy. M1 J19 then M6 through Birmingham can be replaced by M1 J23A then A50 west across to and



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through Stoke (becomes A500) to join M6 J16 if rush-hour traffic dictates. Either way, exit M6 J31 to join the A59. After a mile, take the second exit at a mini-roundabout by The Hesketh Arms onto Blackpool Road. Go straight on for one mile before taking the left filter at the next set of traffic lights into Deepdale Road.

Nearest station: Preston
Club Tel.: (01772) 902020
Hornets go in: Bill Shankly End

LAST SEASON: **PRESTON NORTH END 1 | 1 WATFORD**

BRAMALL LANE STADIUM, S2 4SU

By car: M1 north exit Junction 33. Join Sheffield Parkway towards city centre. At 'Park Square' roundabout, take the third exit



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(signed Ring Road) into Sheaf St. Pass Sheffield Midland station on left, go through two sets of traffic lights and over roundabout into Shoreham St. Pass BBC Radio Sheffield building on right, through two more sets of lights and turn right at the third on to Ring Road. With a church on your left, turn left into Bramall Lane.

Nearest station: Sheffield Midland
Club Tel.: (0114) 221 5757
Hornets go in: Bramall Lane Stand

LAST SEASON: **SHEFFIELD UNITED 0 | 2 WATFORD**

* There MUST be a full paying adult in the party.
Concessions = Over 65, Students Under 22.
Young Adults are between the ages of 16 and 19 years.

Golden BUYS

www.watfordfc.com



The complete WFC official merchandise is available from the World of Watford, 44a, The Harlequin Centre, Watford. Tel: 01923 229859

SEAN DYCHE

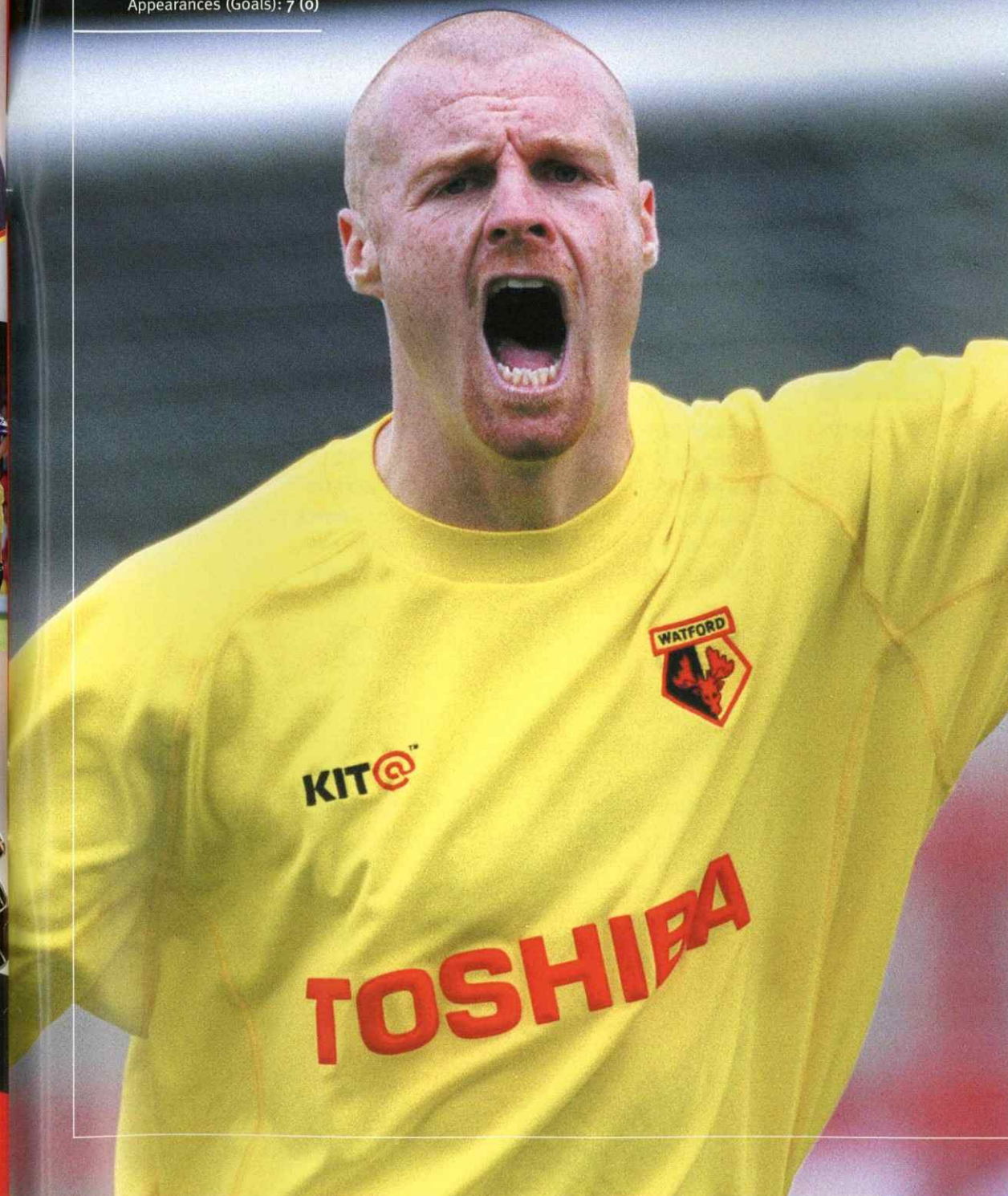
SQUAD NUMBER: 6

Date of birth: June 28, 1971

Place of birth: Kettering

Hornets' début: August 2002

Appearances (Goals): 7 (0)



TODAY'S TWO SQUADS

WATFORD

LUTON TOWN



Neil COX

Alec CHAMBERLAIN	1	1	Mark OVENDALE
Neal ARDLEY	2	2	Aaron SKELTON
Paul ROBINSON	3	3	Alan NEILSON
Paolo VERNAZZA	4	4	Matthew SPRING
Neil COX	5	5	Russell PERRETT
Sean DYCHE	6	6	Marvin JOHNSON
Allan NIELSEN	7	7	Adrian FORBES
Micah HYDE	8	8	Kevin NICHOLLS
Tommy SMITH	9	9	Tony THORPE
Stephen HUGHES	10	10	Carl GRIFFITHS
Stephen GLASS	11	11	Steve ROBINSON
Gavin MAHON	12	12	Chris COYNE
Espen BAARDSEN	13	14	Andrew FOTIADIS
Richard JOHNSON	14	15	Dean CROWE
Gifton NOEL-WILLIAMS	15	16	Carl EMBERSON
Anthony McNAMEE	16	17	Emmerson BOYCE
Nick WRIGHT	17	18	Ahmet BRKOVIC
Heidar HELGUSON	18	19	Steve HOWARD
Jerel IFIL	19	20	Peter HOLMES
Lloyd DOYLEY	20	21	Paul HUGHES
Dominic FOLEY	21	22	David BAYLISS
Lee COOK	22	23	Ian HILLIER
Jamie HAND	23	24	Sol DAVIS
Jason NORVILLE	24	31	Alan KIMBLE
Gary FISKEN	25	32	Lee MANSELL
Fabian FORDE	26	34	Ben ROBERTS
Marcus GAYLE	27	36	Rob GILLMAN
Sam SWONNELL	28	38	Michael LEARY
Danny WEBBER	29	39	Stephen O'LEARY
Richard LEE	30	40	James OSBORN
		41	Kevin FOLEY



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