

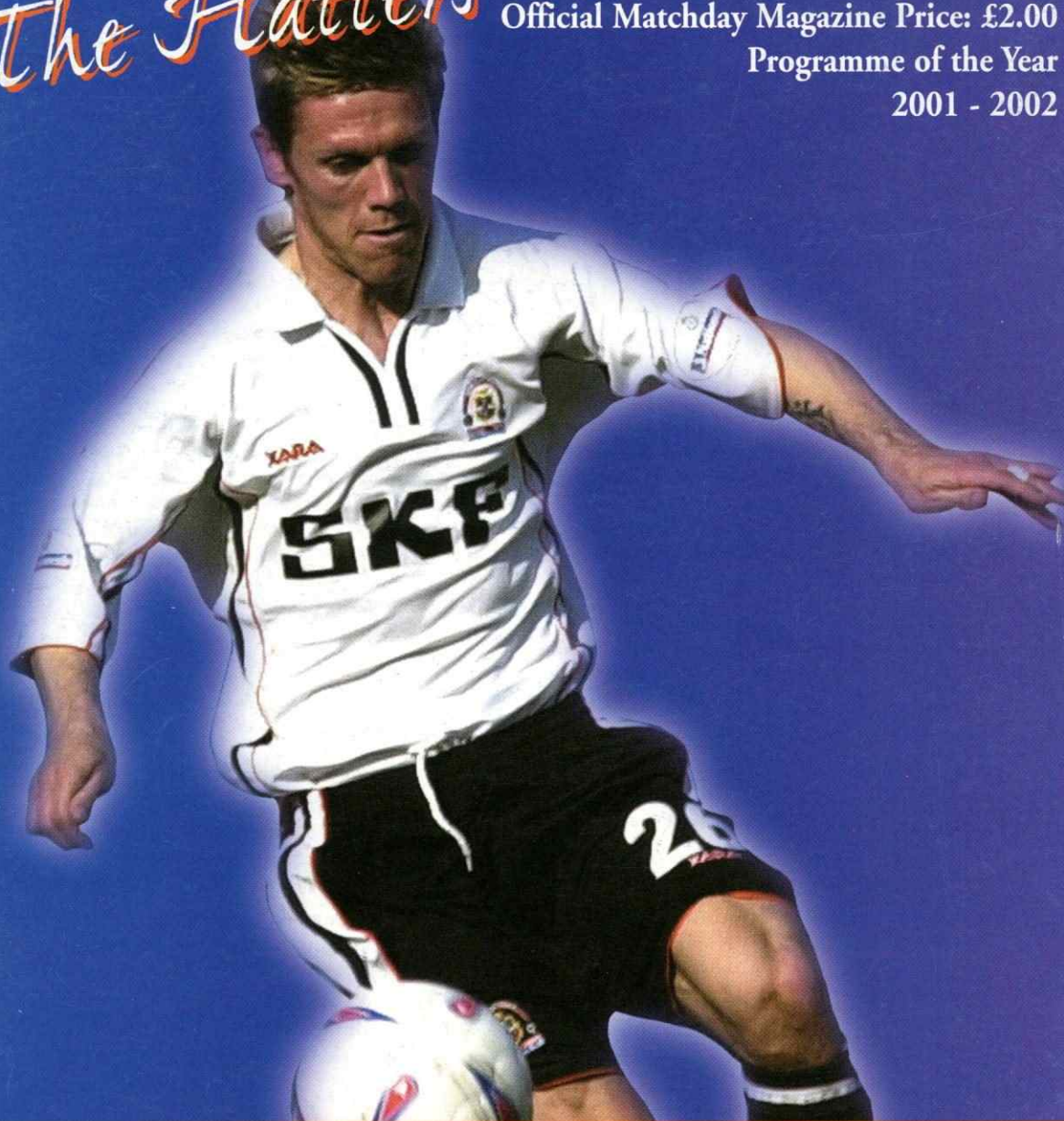
LUTON TOWN

The Hatters

Official Matchday Magazine Price: £2.00

Programme of the Year

2001 - 2002



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Luton Town v Bristol City

Saturday, April 19, 2003 Kick Off 3pm

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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

Photography

Gareth Owen

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

Cover Story



Star recruit: Sammy Igoe in
action for the Town, before
becoming the latest to be
sidelined by injury.

Inside Forward

WE MIGHT be disappointed at failing to achieve a second successive promotion, but Joe Kinnear was given an ovation by fans this week after he fielded their questions for a couple of hours. He spoke of his determination to make whatever changes are necessary to build a team capable of winning a First Division place next season.

And to illustrate his team-building philosophy, he listed 25 players he has moved out of the club since his arrival a couple of years ago. Only two are still playing league football, with others now part-timers or even unemployed.

He admitted that lack of wingers has been a drawback to this season's efforts, and although the Town picked up a hefty transfer fee we had missed Matty Taylor's efforts down the left. The boss hopes to recruit a replacement or two during the summer, but said it would not be easy – "Even England are crying out for left-sided players."

Keeper To Return?

THE MANAGER watched the reserves on Monday, and one or two youngsters could well be set for league debuts in the final couple of weeks of the season, particularly in view of the horrendous injury list. Joe was also watching the opposition: Crystal Palace were the visitors, and Cedric Berthelin, no longer in their First Division team, kept a clean sheet as the Avon Insurance Combination champions won 3-0.

The Frenchman played nine league games for the Town at the turn of the year on a short-term contract, and the only defeat in that sequence was away to Northampton.

At the time the board felt it was unreal for a Third Division club to have three senior goalkeepers on its books, so the manager was unable to sign Berthelin on a contract to run to the end of the season.

Now, however, the boss intends to have a bit of a summer clear-out, and he told the Luton Town Supporters Club meeting that he had spoken to Berthelin after Monday's game, and might well offer the keeper a deal for next season.

Players Sweating It Out

HAVING rebuilt his team once to win promotion from the Third Division, Joe says he is now set to do it again in the hope that he will complete his "business plan" by earning another promotion in 12 months time, when his contract will be up for renewal.

He said money for transfer fees was tight, but forecast that within the next



HAPPY HATTER: Joe Kinnear at this week's talk-in with members of Luton Town Supporters Club.

few weeks hundreds of players, possibly a thousand, will be released and competing for new clubs. Agents might still be asking silly money in some cases, he said, but players were likely to be more realistic in their wage demands as they see clubs everywhere cutting back.

The knack at Kenilworth Road, he said, would be to end the summer transfer dealing with a smaller senior squad than at present. He was thinking of releasing up to ten players, keeping 14 of the current first team squad, and bringing in perhaps four new men, perhaps more. With fewer players on the pay-roll, he said, he could afford to offer a little more to attract quality performers, but still stay within the wages budget.

He hopes that the loan deals for Sammy Igoe and Chris Willmott will become permanent transfers in the summer, and meanwhile the Town are still looking at trialists, as is reported in Brian Stein's column elsewhere today.

Come On You Scunnies!

WE OFFER our best wishes today to Dave Flett, who is leaving after covering the Town for six years for the Luton News and Herald and Post. We appreciate the way he has done his job in Luton and hope he enjoys his new beat – he is returning to his home patch and will be reporting on Scunthorpe United next season. He had been hoping to return to be back once next season because, when he passed the interview for his job on the local paper at Scunthorpe the Iron were in the third automatic promotion place in the Third Division. They have since taken two points out of the last 12 and are now two points adrift of the play-off places.

After buying his farewell round in the Kenilworth Road press bar today, he intends to support Scunthorpe in their last three games in the hope that they can yet offer him the chance of an expenses-paid trip to Luton next season.

Brian Swain



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Manager's View



YOU might think that having missed the play-off boat we have nothing to play for this afternoon because we can neither go up nor down, and already know we will be in the Second Division again next season.

But I promise that we are not looking on this game as one that doesn't matter. There are plenty of reasons why it does, starting with the need for our players to remind supporters that we can be much better than we were at Loftus Road on Saturday.

There was a tremendous Luton following, and you deserved better than you got, because we were below par and allowed Rangers to help themselves to the points. There were mitigating circumstances, because we went into the game with a dozen players on the injured list. The last straw was when Sammy Igoe got hurt in training, because he has been a revelation since he came here, and was certainly much missed against Rangers.

Our performance overall was not good enough, but you have to remember that it was the third tough game in eight days. Failure to beat Tranmere was a bitter disappointment, because we had enough of the game to have taken the three points we needed to stay in with a realistic chance of the play-offs. I thought we were the better side, but we couldn't find the goal we needed, and of course we suffered major blows when Adrian Forbes was sent off

and Tony Thorpe went off injured, and became yet another long-term

injury victim. On another day, to see ten men well deserve at least a draw against a good side would have been very respectable. Taking four points off Tranmere this season is no mean achievement. But the failure to win was a blow to our hopes, and we knew that it needed a miracle in the remaining games if we were to grab a top six finish.

At Cheltenham we faced a team desperate for every point as they try to avoid dropping straight back into the Third Division, so the draw was no good to either side. I was not too displeased with our team performance, and delighted to see Sammy Igoe in good form once more, but it was disappointing that we could not finish them off, and allowed the opposition to fight back after we deservedly held the lead twice. The first equaliser was from a debatable penalty, and the second was down to our inability to deal with a routine cross by a full back towards a lanky central striker who was left unmarked to head a soft goal. It was a game we should have won, but we fell short again, and once more the injury jinx struck. I suspect Alsop would not have scored the late equaliser if Russell Perrett had not been forced to leave the field earlier, and, typical of our luck, we also had Ian Hillier stretchered off.

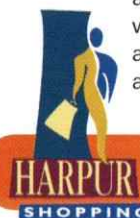
It was therefore a bit of a makeshift team sent out at QPR, but even so we should have saved a point at the very least. Rangers were nervous and on edge, but unfortunately we helped them by twice conceding goals from set pieces.

I know we can play a lot better than we did at Loftus Road, and today our players will be reminded that they owe you a decent performance. This afternoon's game matters for all sorts of reasons: we owe it to football, and to other teams, to do our very best to put one over a team chasing a play-off spot. We have already dropped too many home points this season, and that part of our record needs to be improved. Our players want to regain professional pride, and they all know that while this season is all but over, they are playing for their futures.

After our poor start to the season, we have done well in a division which has proved to be a harder test than we faced last year. We raised expectation by mounting a promotion challenge, and to miss out narrowly is disappointing but not the end of the world. The league table has confirmed that of the four teams who came up a year ago, we and Plymouth were by far the best, with Mansfield and Cheltenham looking set for an immediate return to Division Three.

For our last four games, we can relax a little, play our football, and hopefully go out in a blaze of glory by winning them all. Finally, I want to offer a warm welcome to everyone from Bristol, especially my old friend Danny Wilson, who is returning to the club where he used to be a popular player and skipper. Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

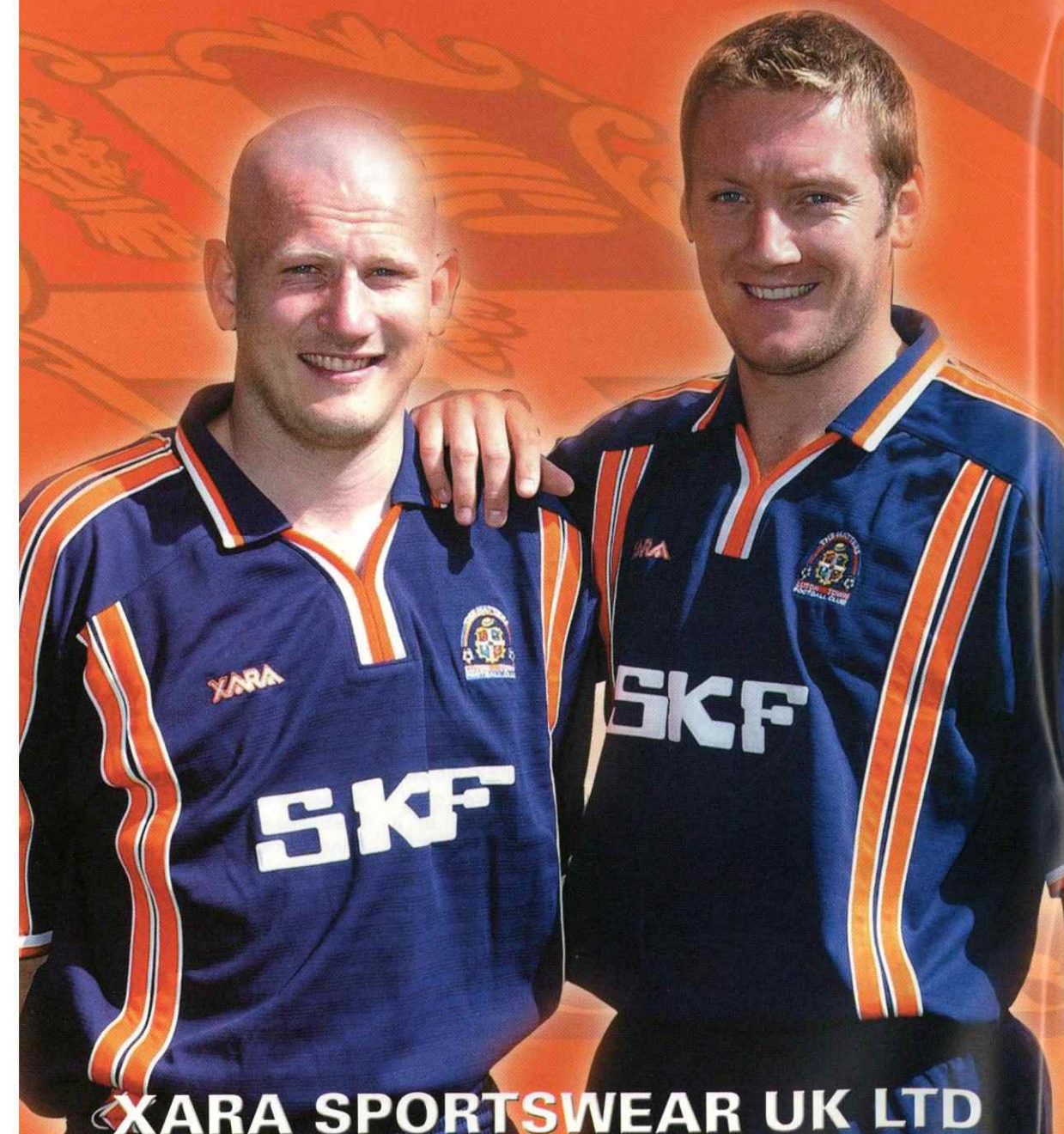
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Captain's View



I HAVE found it much more difficult than usual to decide what to put into my column today. My emotions and feelings about the past few weeks are decidedly mixed, and quite possibly that reflects on the views of our supporters.

Should we be downcast because we have blown the chance of a second consecutive promotion? Or should we be delighted that we have consolidated our position in the higher league, and avoided the situation in which Mansfield and Cheltenham find themselves today, battling to prevent dropping straight back down again?

A year ago, when we knew we had clinched our return to the Second Division, my feeling was that the squad we had, with perhaps a little tuning here and there, could well go straight through the league and win a place in the First Division.

With a little more luck, particularly in terms of injuries that cost us key players, we might well have done it, but the league table doesn't lie, and it shows that we have been found wanting in terms of being genuine promotion prospects. I hate accepting defeat, so for me the season has been a disappointment.

The loss of Adrian Forbes was a big blow, because it is no secret that without him we had no-one to give us attacking power down the flanks. We didn't replace Matt Taylor or Jean-Louis Valois, and the gaffer has said that he too was disappointed on that score: he spent most of the season trying to find replacements, and is still

looking, but as he says everyone is searching for good left-sided players. It's a problem for England, let alone Luton Town! I think my biggest disappointment is that we got so close, then failed to deliver when the chips were down. Last year our best run of the season was at the end of the campaign, to clinch promotion. We needed to do it again, but poor results through March left us with too much to do in April.

Only a fortnight ago, when we entertained Tranmere, we were still in with a reasonable chance, because we were in a position to take nine points in eight days, and to take only two was a real disappointment.

The draw against Tranmere effectively killed off our hopes. We missed too many chances, and, as always, the team collectively takes responsibility for not getting the win we wanted. And who knows what might have happened if we had kept 11 men on the field. Adrian Forbes was crestfallen about being sent off. He knew he had reacted badly, and should not have肘ed their man, but he was acting under severe provocation.

Without Forbsey we were back to playing with no winger, but we still ought to have won the game, even though Tranmere were a decent side.

I felt we were not playing enough football in that game, but it was a different story at Cheltenham, where we passed the ball really well. But the result, another draw that should have been a victory, was a reminder of where we have gone wrong too often this

season.

The match at QPR was a huge disappointment, a real anti-climax. I had thought that with the pressure off we might be able to turn it on, but our performance left a lot to be desired. Fortunately it was a much more sporting game than when they came to Luton – a bit of verbals here and there, but at the end we shook hands with them and wished them all the best. I have a feeling that we are likely to be playing them again next season.

My guess is that Wigan and Crewe are going up. Of the other play-off contenders, you have got to fancy Cardiff, and today's visitors Bristol City are also in with a real chance. So have Oldham: they might not have the most talented bunch of players in the division, but perhaps they should be a lesson to us. They were the most organised team we have met, very hard to break down, and very much a united team, determined to stick together. The great frustration for me is that we have shown this season that we are capable of living with the best teams, but failed too often against the so-called "lesser" outfits.

Today we meet another top team. I want to see us beat them and end the season with consecutive victories, to give us something to build on for next year. And in 12 months time who knows, we could be on the doorstep of the First Division. I believe we can do it if we play to our potential.

Kevin Nicholls



Treatment Room

THERE has been an incredible and very unwelcome transformation on the injury front over the past couple of weeks. In my column at the last home game I was delighted that we had all our pros, except Deane Crowe and Steve Robinson, available for selection. But now we have ten players undergoing treatment, and the manager's selection for today and Monday is very much restricted.

Sammy Igoe pulled a muscle in training the day before we went to QPR, and he will not be available for the Easter games. Nor will Tony Thorpe, who is getting better after an ankle injury sustained in the Tranmere match, but at the time of writing had still not resumed training. Russell Perrett suffered a thigh

strain at Cheltenham, and although a scan has shown that it is not too bad it needs more time to settle down, and he will not be available this weekend. Nor will Ian Hillier, although his injury is not as serious as you might have thought if you saw him stretched off at Cheltenham. His leg was numb after a nerve was hit, but the problem now is a pulled hamstring, and he needs more time for recovery and treatment. Ahmet Brkovic took a painful kick on the bridge of the foot against Tranmere. It is healing slowly and with luck he might be able to resume training next week.

Carl Emberson suffered a dead leg in the Cheltenham match, but writing three days before today's game I was hopeful it would have cleared up in time

for him to be considered for selection this afternoon.

Duncan Jupp has a knee injury picked up playing for the reserves on Monday, but I do not think it is serious, and he could well be all right for today and Monday.

The surgeon has said he is pleased with the progress Dean Crowe is making, and he has done well to follow the strict diet and exercise regime I set him while he was laid up with his broken leg. The fear is always that players will put on weight in such circumstances, but he actually took some off, which is a credit to his professionalism.

I know Steve Robinson will also do everything he can to get over his injury, and he will undergo lower back surgery next week.

Lee Taylor

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Club Secretary



WE HAVE all been very disappointed to see the end of our play-off hopes, but hopefully we will have a promotion to enjoy in 12 months time, and meanwhile we still have more football to enjoy this season. And can I please remind you that the last three fixtures, starting with Monday's game at Colchester, are all-ticket matches, and today is the last time you can buy tickets for the game at Layer Road.

While we were trying to win a top six place in the league we were unable to make firm plans for our very popular annual Open Day, but we are now completing the arrangements. I will give more information in next Saturday's programme, but meanwhile you might look to book the date in your diary. Kenilworth Road will be thrown open to all supporters, with the usual mix of entertain-

ment, including tours of the stadium, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, from noon until 4pm.

I can now confirm another pre-season friendly, away to Barnet on Saturday July 19, at 3pm. As already reported, we will be at home to Wimbledon on Tuesday July 29 (7.45pm) and at the time of writing we were expecting to arrange at least one more pre-season game.

It is hard to believe that we have now reached the final fortnight of the season, but there is still plenty going on behind the scenes. We have at long last been able to fix up all but one of our outstanding reserve fixtures, as a result of which Brian Stein's men will have a hectic end to their Avon Insurance campaign. They had two games in three days this week, and will have three in nine days by the time they end their

season next month. The home games with QPR and Cheltenham have been re-arranged for Tuesday May 6 and Thursday May 8 respectively, with a 2pm kick-off at Kenilworth Road on each occasion.

Another item on a busy May diary is the annual presentation night organised jointly by the Football Club and Luton Town Supporters Club, and as I write there are a few tickets left and on general sale – see page 37 for more details. It is always an excellent night out, giving supporters the chance to meet management and players in a relaxed atmosphere. One popular feature of the evening is the prize draw, and this afternoon hard-working and enthusiastic members of LTSC will be offering draw tickets for sale. There are some excellent prizes, and of course it is for a very good cause!

Also asking for financial help today are volunteers organising a bucket collection for the Pasque Hospice, and I am sure supporters will be as generous as usual in helping one of our very valuable local charities.

Happy Harry is also feeling generous today – he has gathered a collection of Easter Eggs to give away to mark the holiday weekend.

Finally, today, I would like to ask all supporters to follow the tradition we have set in recent years in treating the last home game of the season as a party occasion. We are at home to Stockport on Saturday so make it a real Hatters day out – wear a hat, the sillier the better, paint your faces in Luton Town colours or come in costume. We will be handing out prizes for those who make the best effort.

Cherry Newbery



WE DON'T often have a chance to pay proper tribute to the many people who work hard behind the scenes at Kenilworth Road. They are all genuine Luton Town supporters, like Wendy Tyler, who is pictured after receiving our grateful thanks for 25 years loyal service in the accounts department. Well done, and thanks, Wendy!

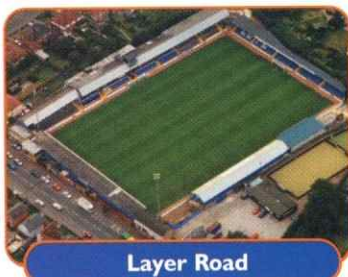
You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on
clubsec@lutontown.co.uk



Hatters Away

BANK holiday trippers heading for the east coast might make travel to Monday's all-ticket game at Colchester a little more difficult than usual, and might make the idea of coach travel more attractive. The Bobbers Travel Club and Town on Tour are running services to Layer Road. The Bobbers set off from Cranfield at 10.30am and leave Luton an hour later, and their fares are £9.50 for adults and £7.50 for senior and junior citizens.

Town on Tour leave Luton at 12 noon, and will charge £12 for members of Luton Town Supporters Club, £10 for conces-



Layer Road

sionary members, and £14 for others.

DIY to Layer Road

THE QUICKEST drive to Colchester is go south on M1, then M25 east towards Dartford, leaving at junction 28 to take the A12, signposted towards

Chelmsford. Follow the A12 signs towards Colchester, and as you approach the town, take a right turn, signposted to Colchester West and Halstead. Then follow signs towards Mersea. At the Tollgate roundabout take the second exit, still heading towards Mersea, into London Road, and if you stick with the Mersea signs you will soon see a sign to Layer. Follow that, and at a double roundabout turn left, signposted towards the town centre and you are in Layer Road, with the ground a mile further on. On a good day you can do the trip in about an hour and a half.

Mileage: 90.

AWAY games travel can be booked at the LTSC or Bobbers kiosks in Kenilworth Road, before or after home games. Paul Deason on 01234 750996 will take phone bookings for the Bobbers, whose service includes pick-ups at Cranfield, Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and opposite the Travelodge Motel in Dunstable Road, Luton. Town on Tour seats can be booked by phoning 07960 567465. Maple Road car park, which is stewarded, costs £4 per car.

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Ticket Office News

Nationwide League Division Two



Colchester Utd v Luton Town Monday April 21, 2003, kick-off 3pm

This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game. In the interests of safety we have been allocated 375 seats and 650 terracing tickets.

Tickets are on general sale, subject to availability, until close of business today.

Prices:

TERRACING: Adults £12, senior and junior citizens £6

SEATING: Adults £14, senior and junior citizens £8



Luton Town v Stockport County Saturday April 26, 2003, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for ALL SUPPORTERS, with no tickets available on the day of the game.

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices and supporters are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.



Swindon Town v Luton Town Saturday May 3, 2003, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game.

Tickets are now on general sale.

Prices:

Arkells North Stand (covered seating): Adults £19, senior citizens and students £12, under-16s £6

Stratton Bank (uncovered seating): Adults £13, senior citizens and students £9, under-16s £7



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Commercial Corner

May I extend a very warm welcome to all of our commercial sponsors and their guests to today's game against Bristol City.

Match Sponsor - Town Tub Enterprises

Town Tub are pleased to be celebrating their 40th anniversary in the Joe Payne Sponsors Lounge today, and wish to thank their customers for their support, and hope that everyone has a great afternoon. Specialising in dry cleaning, laundry and state-of-the-art aunderettes, Town Tub provide a service which really cares for your clothes, throughout their branch network in Luton, Dunstable, Hemel Hempstead and Loughborough. As founder Monty Cushing states: "It's great to be able to compliment our success with a great club like Luton Town." See their advert below for a special birthday offer.



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Match Ball Sponsor - Peter Johnson

Today's match ball sponsor is Peter Johnson, a lifelong Hatters fan, who is in his 40th year of coming to Kenilworth Road. Peter also reached his half-century yesterday, and is using today's match to celebrate with some of his football-crazy friends. Peter manages to get to most of our home matches, but as GM European



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Warehousing Director, he has found recently that his overseas travelling has kept him away from a few games. We are therefore delighted that he was able to join us today as part of his celebrations.

Commercial Mascot - David Foxen

We welcome today 13-year-old David Foxen, of Lalleford Road, Luton, as this afternoon's commercial mascot. David, whose hobbies include, go-karting, rugby and swimming, as well as football, attends Cardinal Newman High School and names Tony Thorpe and Adrian Forbes as his favourite players. He comes to games with his Uncle Keeran, himself a season ticket holder. And for today, David has chosen our superb 3rd blue strip for his appearance this afternoon.



Mathew Westwood - Commercial Mascot for Tranmere

Pictured amongst some very hallowed company, is 15-year-old Mathew receiving his certificate commemorating his appearance as our commercial mascot.

Kit Sponsors Dinner, Thursday May 1, Chiltern Hotel Luton

Our Kit Sponsors dinner is now confirmed and will be held on May 1 at the Chiltern Hotel, Luton, with reception at 7pm for dinner at 8. Sponsors can book their places direct with Amelia in the commercial department. Sponsors guests are welcome, and their tickets can be purchased for £49.50 including VAT. Please ensure you let us have your booking no later than Friday April 25, so that we can allocate players and finalise table plans.

Meanwhile, have a great day today.

Peter Davis



Neale Cannon - Match Ball Sponsor for Tranmere

Neale, who was also celebrating his birthday with us, is on the left at our pre-match sponsors' photocall



Sammy Igoe - Luton Man of the Match against Tranmere

Sammy is pictured collecting his Man of the Match Award from our Kit Sponsors, who were enjoying their hospitality day at the club as part of their sponsors' package.

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



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Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored	
34	Shots 40
10	Headers 10
10	Volleys 14
3	Penalties 4
1	Free Kicks 4
0	Own Goals 1

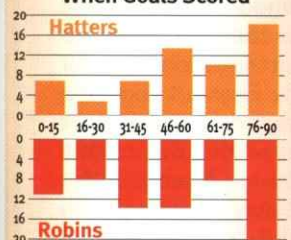
Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored

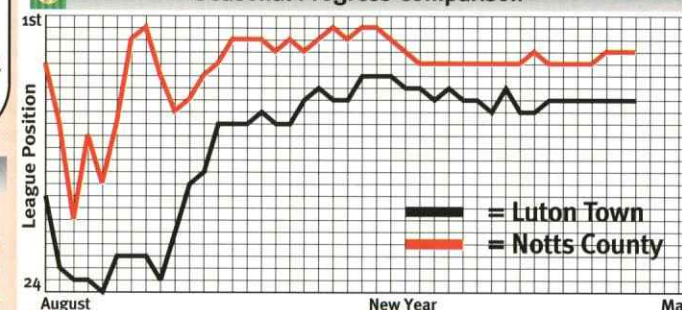


Form Guide - Last 6

0	Won	4
4	Drawn	2
2	Lost	0
3	For	12
9	Against	5
4	Points	14
-6	Goal Difference	7
DDLDL	Sequence	WDWWWD

Yellow & Red Cards	
80	Yellow 53
6	Red 3

Seasonal Progress Comparison



2002-2003 Attendances

Hatters	Robins
142,786	Aggregate 245,439
9,477	Highest 18,085
5,890	Lowest 9,084
6,799	Average 11,688
68	% of Capacity 54

Average Goals per game

1.38	For	1.74
1.38	Home For	1.86
1.38	Away For	1.62
1.36	Against	1.05
1.19	Home Against	0.71
1.52	Away Against	1.38

2002-2003 Figures

	Hatters	Robins
38	Players Used	25
14	Clean Sheets	14
10	Failed to Score	10
7	Goals scored from...	7
4	Corners	8
5	Free Kicks	3
7	Goals conceded from...	7
	Corners	3
	Free Kicks	7

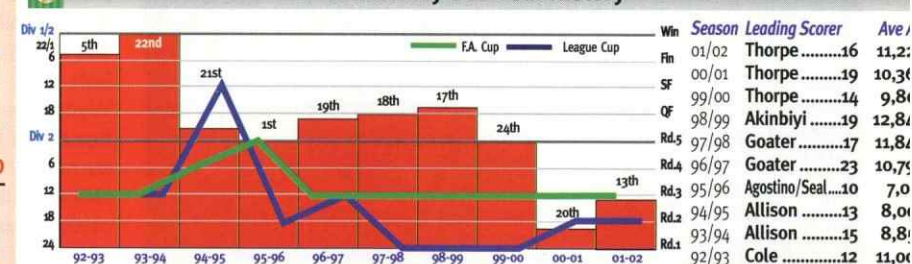
10 Year Record

Hatters	Avg Pos. among 92 clubs	Robins
53.3	8.853	48.1
7,878	Avg Att 1993	8,853
6,842	Avg Att 2002	12,074
-13	+ / - %	36

Top League Scorers

Howard	Murray
16	League Goals 17
37	Games Played 41
0.43	Lge Goals/Game 0.41
4	Points Gained 9
0	Scoring Run 3
5	Hat-Tricks 1
9	Close Range 2
2	Inside Area 13
6	Long Range 2
6	Shots 15
4	Headers 0
0	Volleys 2
0	Penalties 0
0	Direct FKs 0

Bristol City's 10 Year History



MORE PAGES THAN SVEN'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK...





Welcome To

GOALKEEPERS

1 STEVE PHILLIPS BORN: BATH, 6.5.78

Goalkeeper who joined City in November 1996 from local non-league side Paulton Rovers. A good shot-stopper, he made steady progress at Ashton Gate under goalkeep-

ing coach Mike Gibson, and earned his first-team debut in December 1998. Is now firmly established as the club's number one goalkeeper.

14 MIKE STOWELL BORN: PRESTON, 19.4.65

Experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year deal with City in July 2001 after serving 11 years at Wolverhampton

Wanderers, during which time he clocked up a club record number of appearances for a goalkeeper and set a mark for clean sheets. His long service was rewarded with a testimonial versus Aston Villa in July 2000. Competing with Steve Phillips for a spot in the senior side.

DEFENDERS

2 LOUIS CAREY BORN: BRISTOL 20.1.77

Versatile defender who is a product of the club's youth system. Has never looked back since making his first-team debut in October 1995. Began his career as a right-back, but feels more at home in central defence from where he is capable of making some devastating forward runs. Gained international recognition when he played in a friendly for Scotland under-21s, for whom he qualifies through his grandparents, but is still available for selection by England. Signed a new four-year deal in July 2000 and skippered the side for the first time in March 2001. Recently played his 300th game for the club.

3 MICKEY BELL BORN: NEWCASTLE 15.11.71

Left-back snapped up from Wycombe Wanderers for a tribunal-set fee of £150,000 in the summer of 1997. Formerly with Northampton Town, he can operate as wing-back or a conventional full-back. A member

CITY manager Danny Wilson should be assured of a very warm welcome this afternoon, because he was a popular player here during some of the greatest days in Luton Town's history. The highlight was 15 years ago, when the Town won a thrilling Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal. Danny scored a goal, with Brian Stein netting the others, in a 3-2 victory after the Town had been 2-1 down.

Born in Wigan, to an Irish mother, Danny began his playing career with Bury, before moving on to Nottingham Forest, Scunthorpe on loan, and Brighton. When Ray Harford became Town manager, his first signing was Wilson, for a £150,000 fee in July 1987. We were in the old First Division, now the Premiership, and Danny became an established Northern Ireland international while with the Town, eventually winning 24 caps.

He was appointed club captain at Kenilworth Road after Steve Foster left, but in the summer of 1990 he was sold to Sheffield Wednesday for £200,000. The midfielder had made 142 league and cup appearances for the Town, scoring 30 goals.

Three years later he became player-coach at Barnsley, and manager a year later. He took Barnsley into the Premiership for the first and only time in their history, and in the summer of 1998 he was head-hunted by Sheffield Wednesday after they got rid of Ron Atkinson. That job lasted a couple of years, but the Wednesday board had had enough when they suffered the humiliation of seeing their team beaten at home by fellow relegation strugglers Watford.

Within three months he was in demand again, and became manager of Bristol City in the summer of June 2000, their fifth boss in 18 months, tasked with bringing some stability into a club that had seen better days. And while we hope to see the Town enjoy a rare win against City this afternoon, those of us who remember Danny in his pomp as a player will wish him every success in his effort to take the Robins back into the First Division. -BS.



Bristol City

of City's 1997/98 Second Division promotion-winning side, he is a threat in dead-ball situations, having scored a number of goals from free-kicks. Signed a new four-year deal in May 2000. Has been named in the Division Two PFA Select XI for the past three seasons.

5 TONY BUTLER BORN: STOCKPORT, 28.9.72

Central defender who was a free transfer signing from West Bromwich Albion in November 2002, after completing two-month loan spell, signing a two-year deal. Started his career as a trainee with Gillingham, before moves to Blackpool and Port Vale.

6 MATTHEW HILL BORN: BRISTOL 26.3.81

Defender who can play at left-back or in the centre of defence. Progressed through the ranks to make his first team debut at the age of 17 in the First Division in November 1998. Has featured regularly in the first team squad since the latter half of the 1999/2000 season. Scored his first goal for the club in the 2-1 win at Swindon Town in January 2002 and was voted Player Of The Year and Young Player Of The Year for 2001/2 by the Supporters Club.

8 JOE BURNELL BORN: BRISTOL 10.10.80

Central defender/midfielder who can also play at right-back. Joined City as a schoolboy

where he played for the club's under-19/reserve sides. Showed maturity beyond his years when he made his first-team debut in January 2000, and scored his first goal for the club during City's Auto Windscreens Shield run. Established himself as first team regular last season in midfield and has captained the side in Tommy Doherty's absence.

19 DANNY COLES BORN: BRISTOL, 31.10.81

Young central defender who has worked his way up through the Academy since joining City as a schoolboy. He was rewarded with his first team debut in April 2000 and has signed a four-year contract keeping him at the club until the summer of 2004. Made his full senior debut in December 2000 at Plymouth in the LDV Vans Trophy and last season enjoyed his best season to date in the senior side.

20 KEVIN AMANKWAH BORN: KENTON (LONDON), 19.5.82.

Pacy right-back, who can also play in central defence. Signed schoolboy forms with City after being spotted playing for Middlesex Youth and has since progressed through the club's Academy. Made his first-team debut in March 2000 and was used as a substitute at Wembley in the Auto Windscreens Shield Final versus Stoke City in the same season. Capped a fine year with a call-up to the England under-17

side in May 2000 and signed a four-year deal in the summer. Is now back to full fitness after fracturing his neck in a horrific car crash in April 2002.

23 DARREN JONES BORN: NEWPORT, 26.8.83

Former Welsh schoolboy international central defender who has graduated through City's Academy sides since first joining the club at the age of 14. Signed a three-year deal in September 2000 and made his senior debut at Plymouth in a LDV Vans Trophy tie in December. Can also play in midfield. Has been loaned to Forest Green Rovers for the remainder of this season.

24 CRAIG WOODMAN BORN: 22.12.82

Left-back who attended the FA National School of Excellence at Lilleshall. Signed as a professional in the summer of 2000 and was awarded with his senior debut in the LDV Vans Trophy in December 2000, making his full League debut in February 2001.

25 CLAYTON FORTUNE BORN: LONDON, 10.11.82

Tall central defender signed on a two-year contract in March 2001 after being released by Tottenham Hotspur. Has impressed for both Academy and reserve sides since his arrival and made his senior debut as a substitute versus Peterborough United in a LDV Vans Trophy tie in December 2001.



Welcome To

32 KEITH MILLEN

BORN: CROYDON, 26.9.66

Vastly experienced centre-back who quickly established himself after signing from Watford for £35,000 in November 1999. City's skipper made more than 500 career appearances for Brentford and Watford and played a leading role in the Hornets' promotion campaigns from Divisions Two and Three in the late 90s.

MIDFIELDERS

4 TOMMY DOHERTY

BORN: BRISTOL 17.3.79

City's skipper is a central midfielder who came up through the youth ranks to make his first-team debut as substitute in City's 9-2 FA Cup drubbing of St Albans City in December 1996. Was a first-team regular in City's Second Division promotion side the following year, his form winning him a call up to England's under-18 squad. Established himself again in the first team last season, his no-nonsense performances making him a fans' favourite.

11 BRIAN TINNIION

BORN: DURHAM, 23.3.68

Cultured left-footed midfielder who is currently City's longest-serving player - he will start tenth full season with the club in 2002/3. Has been an influential member of the first team since a £180,000 move from Bradford City in 1993. Started his League career at Newcastle United, where he played in the

same youth team as Paul Gascoigne. Has enjoyed legendary status at Ashton Gate since scoring the goal that knocked Liverpool out of the FA Cup at Anfield in January 1994. A UEFA qualified coach, he was appointed player/coach in the summer of 2000. Signed a new two-and-a-half year deal in December 2000.

12 AARON BROWN

BORN: BRISTOL 14.03.80

Skilful left-footed midfielder who is a product of the club's Academy. Made his first-team debut as an 18-year old in the First Division in December 1998 and is now a regular member of the senior squad, attracting interest from First Division clubs. When he and younger brother Marvin appeared in a Worthington Cup tie at Nottingham Forest in September 1999, they became the first brothers to represent the club since the early 1970s. Spent a month on loan to Exeter City in January 2000. Signed a new three-year contract in July 2001. Has recovered from injuries sustained in a car crash in April.

15 ROBIN HULBERT

BORN: 14.3.80

Former England Youth midfielder snapped up for £25,000 on transfer deadline day in March 2000 from Swindon Town, in a two-and-a-half year deal. Began his career at Everton before moving to the County Ground, during which time he spent a spell on loan to Newcastle United. Is used

mainly as cover by Danny Wilson, making the majority of appearances from the bench.

16 SIMON CLIST

BORN: SHAFTESBURY (DORSET), 13.6.81

Attacking central midfielder who joined City after impressing as a trialist in an Academy tour of Holland in May 1999. Previously at Tottenham where he spent two years as a trainee. Made his first-team debut in January 2000, scoring his first senior goal versus Notts County in November that year. Named 2000/01 Supporters Club Young Player Of The Year but has surprisingly failed to win a regular first-team spot since then.

26 LIAM ROSENIOR

BORN: WANDSWORTH, 9.7.84

Midfielder/defender who made his first team debut in the final game of last season against Stoke City, setting up City's only goal in a 1-1 draw with almost his first touch. Was given trials by Premiership sides Chelsea and West Ham United last season before opting to stay at Ashton Gate. Scored on his League debut at Stockport in December. Son of former City striker Leroy, he was called up an England under-19 training camp in March 2003.

30 BEN CLEVERLEY

BORN: BRISTOL, 12.9.81

Attacking wide midfielder who has progressed from the club's Academy. A regular for the



Bristol City

reserves, for whom he skippered City's second sting to Avon Insurance Combination League Cup and Gloucestershire Senior Cup success this season. He has yet to play for the first team.

FORWARDS

7 SCOTT MURRAY

BORN: ABERDEEN 26.5.74

City's current leading scorer is a pacy, goal-scoring, right-winger signed from Aston Villa in December 1997 for an initial fee of £85,000, rising to £150,000 on appearances. Began his career as a striker at Fraserburgh, before converting to the right flank at Villa Park. Popular with both fans and team-mates at Ashton Gate, he signed a new four-year contract in summer 2000 and was named in the PFA Division Two Select XI by his fellow professionals last season. Has received international recognition at Scotland B level.

9 PETER BEADLE

BORN: LAMBETH, 13.5.72

Well-travelled striker who arrived at Ashton Gate from Notts County in a £200,000 deal in November 1999. Began his career at Gillingham as a trainee before moving to Tottenham Hotspur where he failed to establish himself in the first team. Has also appeared for Bournemouth (loan), Southend (loan), Watford, Bristol Rovers - where he scored three times against City in local derbies - and Port

Vale. Became only the second-ever player to have scored for both sides in a Bristol derby when he netted in the 3-2 win over Bristol Rovers in December 2000.

10 LEE PEACOCK

BORN: PAISLEY, 9.10.76

Powerful striker who became City's third-most expensive signing when he arrived from Manchester City in a £600,000 deal in August 2000, and has scored 32 goals in his opening two seasons for the club. Began his career as a trainee at Carlisle United before moving to Mansfield Town where he was a prolific scorer for The Stags in Division Three. Moved to Maine Road in autumn of 1999.

17 LEE MATTHEWS

BORN: MIDDLESBROUGH 16.1.79

Promising young striker who initially arrived on loan from Leeds United in March 2001, before signing for £70,000 - rising to £105,000 depending on appearances. Became an instant hero with City fans for scoring an injury-time winner from the penalty spot on his City debut after coming on as substitute in a home game versus Millwall and last season scoring twice in a 3-0 win over Bristol Rovers in the LDV Vans Trophy. Played for Leeds' 1997 Youth Cup winning side alongside Harry Kewell and Jonathan Woodgate, before appearing for Notts County and Gillingham on loan.

18 CHRISTIAN ROBERTS

BORN: CARDIFF, 22.10.79

Hard-working forward signed from Exeter City for an undisclosed fee in March 2002. Started his career at Cardiff City, and was capped at under-21 by Wales, before a transfer to The Grecians. Scored a hat-trick at Barnsley in City's 4-1 victory at Oakwell in October.

22 MARVIN BROWN

BORN: BRISTOL, 9.7.83

Striker, who became City's youngest ever player at 16 years and 71 days old when he made his first-team debut in September 1999. Marvin is younger brother of City midfielder Aaron. Capped by England at under-16 and 17 levels, he was last season placed on standby for national under-19 squad. Has played on loan for Torquay United this season.

33 LEROY LITA

BORN: CONGO, 18.12.84

Striker who top-scored for the club's under-17 side last season before being fast-tracked into the senior set-up this season, making his first team debut as substitute in the opening game of the season versus Blackpool. Scored his first goal for the club in September, netting an injury-time at Port Vale. Was spotted by City after being released by Premiership side Chelsea and signed a professional contract in March 2003.



Blast From the Past

Clashes with today's opponents can be traced back to our earliest times in the Southern League at the start of the last century but our first meetings in the Football League did not take place until 1922/23 following City's relegation from Division Two.

In front of a Kenilworth Road crowd of 12,000 on December 2nd 1922, we did well to hold on to a point in a 1-1 draw as we lost both goalscorer Harry Higginbotham and centre-half George Foster with injuries during the course of the game. No substitutes in those days! Neither player was able to turn out the following week in the return fixture, which City won 1-0 on their way to a quick return to Division Two.

Just as quick was their relegation once more

and the two sides met again in 1924/25 with this time the Hatters running out emphatic 3-0 winners at Kenilworth Road. Once again though, an injury hit side went down at Ashton Gate in the return.

After a couple of heavy defeats at Bristol over the next two seasons we had a respite following City's promotion in 1927 and the teams were not destined to meet again for five years, by which time we had started to build up a side that was gearing up to our own eventual promotion to Division Two.

In the five seasons leading up to promotion in 1937 we lost only once to the Robins with the 'double' being achieved twice. During our record-breaking promotion season of 1936/37 City were one of the many clubs to experi-

ence the goal grabbing ability of Joe Payne, when he scored twice in the 3-2 win at Ashton Gate.

Paths were not due to cross again for almost thirty years and when we met up in 1963, in the old Division Three, the two meetings in October of that year confirmed the downward spiral of a Town team, which had been in the top flight only three years before, with defeats of 1-4 and 1-5 in the space of six days.

The following season was not much better with the 0-1 defeat at Bristol virtually sealing our demotion to Division Four.

We were in a much better state of health by the time we met again, in the old Division Two in 1970, with Malcolm Macdonald scoring twice with his head in a 3-0 home victory. This came after a pre-match discussion when I stated that Macdonald was not up to much in the air!

A notable 'double' was achieved during the Town's promotion season of 1973/74 starting with an early 3-1 win at Ashton Gate - goals from John Aston, John Ryan and Tom Finney setting up the campaign in style. A solitary Peter Anderson goal then secured a valuable home victory shortly after Christmas in a game featured on 'Match of the Day'.

Two seasons later, with the Town back in Division Two, it was City's turn to shine as they

Bid to end dismal run against City



secured a promotion place with an emphatic 3-0 win at Ashton Gate helping them on their way. Following City's eventual relegation from the top flight in 1980 we met again briefly. We were getting together a team ready for Division One while City were in freefall in much the same way as we had been twenty years before.

The game at Ashton Gate in October 1980 was notable only for the Town throwing away a 1-0 interval lead to lose 1-2, but goals from David Moss and Steve White made amends in the return the following March. On now to the present and we met up again with City in 1992 following our relegation from the old Division One. Our first home game of 1992/93 saw us up against the Robins, but our dreams of a quick return to the top flight were rudely shattered when an Andy Cole inspired City

thrashed us 3-0.

By the time of the return we were languishing at the bottom of the table but a 0-0 draw at Ashton Gate, although not spectacular, actually set us up for an eventual climb to safety.

In the following season we lost once more at home to the Robins. This defeat was particularly hard to take coming as it did only three days after we had thrashed Barnsley 5-0 at Kenilworth Road..

Fast becoming a bogey side, City completed the double over us that season and followed it up with their third successive victory at Kenilworth Road when they stole the points with a 1-0 win in 1994/95. We were, at that time, going through a period where we could not fail away but found picking up points at home extremely difficult.

We finally managed to break the run of defeats against City with a

2-2 draw at

Ashton Gate in 1995, but we almost had egg on our faces as we were cruising at 2-0 courtesy of two Scott Oakes efforts, but the Robins pulled the game back and left us hanging on at the end.

City dropped out of Division One at the end of that campaign with ourselves joining them twelve months later. The jinx continues, however, with no wins being recorded in nine subsequent meetings.

Starting with a 0-5 defeat at Ashton Gate early in the 1996/97 season leading up to the 1-1 draw at the same venue just before last Christmas, Bristol City join the likes of Birmingham and Manchester United against whom we have endured long runs without a victory in the past.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



For the visit of Bristol City in March 1981 the Town produced their normal 20 page programme which also included a general football magazine called 'Programme Plus' which was common to over half the members of the Football League at the time.

Ignoring 'Programme Plus' which was a tedious read, the remainder of the programme covered the basics well and was one of the better issues around at the time.

Much was written about the previous week's win at promotion bound Notts County and manager David Pleat was pleased with his tactical ploy of playing Yugoslav, Raddy Antic, as a sweeper which completely flummoxed the Magpies.

Also tucked away in David Pleat's column were some words which are as true today as they were then. "The introduction of freedom of contract coupled with the difficult economic climate has pushed many clubs into severe financial trouble!"



Steve White (left) shoots home during our last win over Bristol City - in March 1981!



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Action Replay



Luton Town 0 Tranmere Rov 0

JUST when we most needed firepower, the Town drew a blank for the third consecutive game, and failed to get the win they needed in a game in which they became more and more dominant despite being down to ten men for the last hour.

Tranmere wanted three points as much as the Town, but on a day when both clubs slipped further behind the top six their manager Ray Mathias admitted: "We put in a lacklustre performance. Luton got behind the ball and defended well, and we needed someone to give us a bit of inspiration. Against ten men who need to take the game to them, but we couldn't do that."

That was half the story: Tranmere were fortunate to go home with a point, with debutant goalkeeper Russell

Howarth their man of the match with several good saves, and two excellent efforts in the last five minutes to deny Paul Hughes and Matt Spring.

Sammy Igoe nicked the Town's man of the match tag on his debut, but the advantage of having two genuine wingers to call on was offset by the fact that Tony Thorpe injured an ankle early on and had to be subbed, and Adrian Forbes, who replaced him, was sent off after 31 minutes for violent conduct in a clash with Tranmere skipper Graham Allen. In his defence, Joe Kinnear suggested that Allen had landed the first foul, but after studying the

video the Town will not be appealing against the red card, and the automatic suspension that follows.

The result had all but killed off our play-off hopes, and Joe had some sympathy with his players, having seen the ten men redouble their efforts to become more than a match for the visiting 11. "We murdered them, and I can't remember them having a shot," he said. "If we had finished a bit better we would have the three points in the bag. And if it hadn't been for their keeper, we would have done. We had enough chances to have killed off the game, and it is disappointing that we couldn't take one or two."

Luton Town: Emberson; Boyce (Hillier 81 mins), Perrett, Coyne, Davis; Igoe, Nicholls, Spring, Brkovic (Hughes 76 mins); Howard, Thorpe (Forbes 15 mins). Unused subs: Ovendale, Willmott.

Booked: Ahmet Brkovic and Steve Howard for fouls.

Sent off: Adrian Forbes, 31 mins, violent conduct.

Tranmere Rovers: Howarth; Connelly, Allen, Sharps, Roberts; Anderson, Jones (Mellon HT), Loran, Nicholson (Hay 72 mins); Haworth, Hume. Unused subs Hinds, Taylor, Nixon.

Referee: Andy D'Urso, Essex.

Attendance: 6,326 including 594 away supporters.



BLANKED OUT: A late chance escapes as Paul Hughes is foiled by a spreading save.



Action Replay

TWO high quality goals scored and two messy ones conceded produced a result that no-one wanted at Whaddon Road. The Town had enough of the play to have secured three points to give slight hope in the play-off chase, while Cheltenham were delighted to come back twice to save a point, but needed all three to boost their chances of avoiding relegation.

The Town seemed to have the measure of the opposition, but not enough ruthlessness to finish them off. Cheltenham were a team of battlers, more direct than the Town, but fortunate to be given the chances to score their goals.

Sammy Igoe took the Town honours, with another display of dribbling and passing which led Joe Kinnear to describe him as "head and shoulders the best performer on the pitch."

Adrian Forbes, seeking to bury the bad memory of his red card against Tranmere four days earlier, was also influential in his third appearance of the season. He made the first goal, and scored the second, but each time the Town failed to hold on to the advantage.

They might have had a couple of very early goals, with Tony Thorpe's deputy Forbes smashing an optimistic volley wide, and Matt Spring off target with a much better chance set up by Igoe's right wing run and cross. At the other end Carl Emberson beat out a shot by Martin Devaney but it took only 12 minutes for the Town to show how good they can be on their day. Igoe attacked down the middle

Cheltenham Town 2 Luton Town 2 (HT 1-2)

before shifting the ball to Forbes on the right wing. He hit the cross to the far side of the box, and Paul Hughes stormed in to meet it with a stunning right foot angled drive into the net.

It was a gem of a goal, in its creation and taking, but 14 minutes later Kevin Nicholls fouled John Finnigan and Grant McCann equalised from the penalty.

A few minutes later, the Town had to make the first of two defensive reshuffles, when Russell Perrett limped off with a thigh strain. Chris Willmott, back in the team in place of Emmerson Boyce, switched to centre-half, with Ian Hillier going on at right back.

Hillier was to make two telling contributions, the best after 38 minutes. He went upfield to deliver a long throw into the box, and Cheltenham cleared to the half-way line, where Sol Davis collected, and returned the ball to Hillier on the wing. The tempo of the attack was maintained as Hillier curled in a cross which would have baffled better defenders than Cheltenham's, and Forbes timed his run perfectly to slide in his first goal of the season.

A Steve Howard close range volley was deflected over by a last-ditch challenge just before the interval, and in the second half the Town seemed to sit back a little. Mark Yates hit a post with a header to raise Cheltenham spirits before the second defensive change had to

be made. Hillier suffered ankle and knee damage in a mistimed tackle on McCann. The ref seemed set to issue a yellow card until it was seen that the injury might be serious, and Hillier was stretched off to generous applause by the home crowd. Duncan Jupp went on as sub for the sub, while Cheltenham also made changes to play a desperation game, with four at the front. It paid off when a routine cross from left back Jamie Victory was allowed to reach lanky Julian Alsop for a free header which looped over Emberson into the net. That came five minutes after the Town wasted another chance to stretch the lead to two goals, with Spring playing a one-two with Howard before curving a volley a foot too high. On target, it would have been a goal of the season contender.

Luton Town: Emberson; Willmott, Perrett (Hillier 32 mins, Jupp 62 mins), Coyne, Davis; Igoe, Nicholls, Spring, Hughes; Howard, Forbes (Holmes 87 mins). Unused subs: Owendale, Kimble.

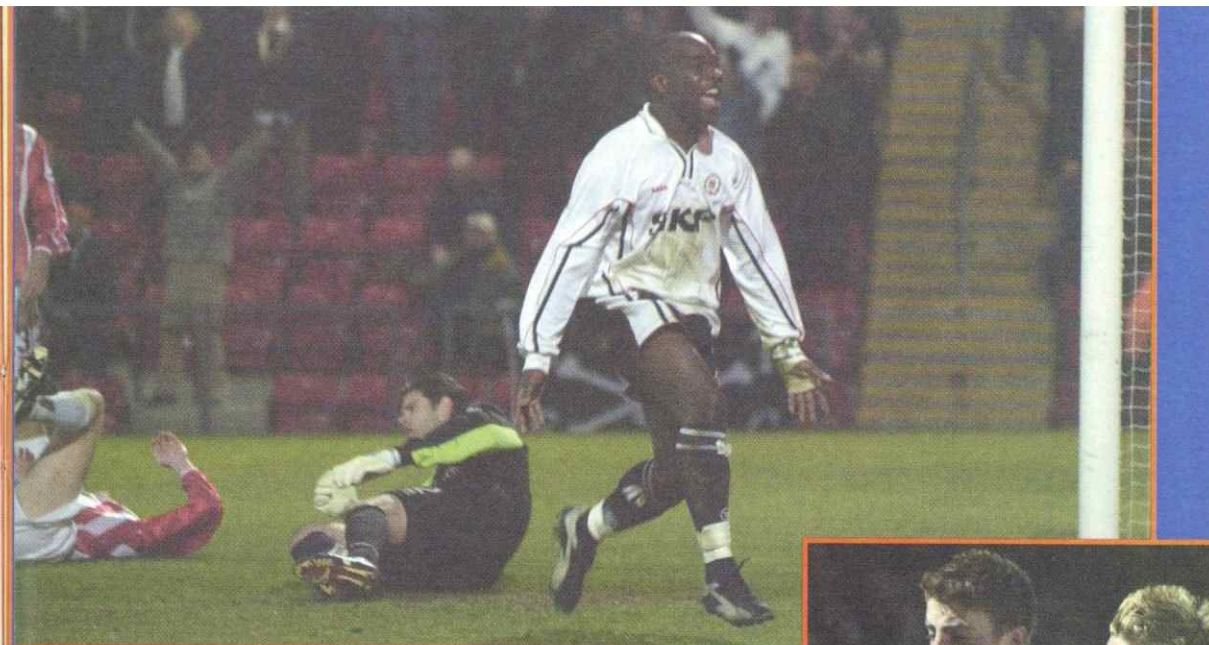
Booked: No-one

Cheltenham Town: Higgs; Bird (Alsop 68 mins), Michael Duff, Shane Duff, Victory; Devaney, Yates, Finnigan, McCann; Brough, Brown (Naylor 75 mins). Unused subs: Brayson, Milton, Howarth.

Booked: Grant McCann and John Finnigan for fouls on Sammy Igoe, Mark Yates for a foul on Carl Emberson

Referee: Trevor Parkes, West Midlands.

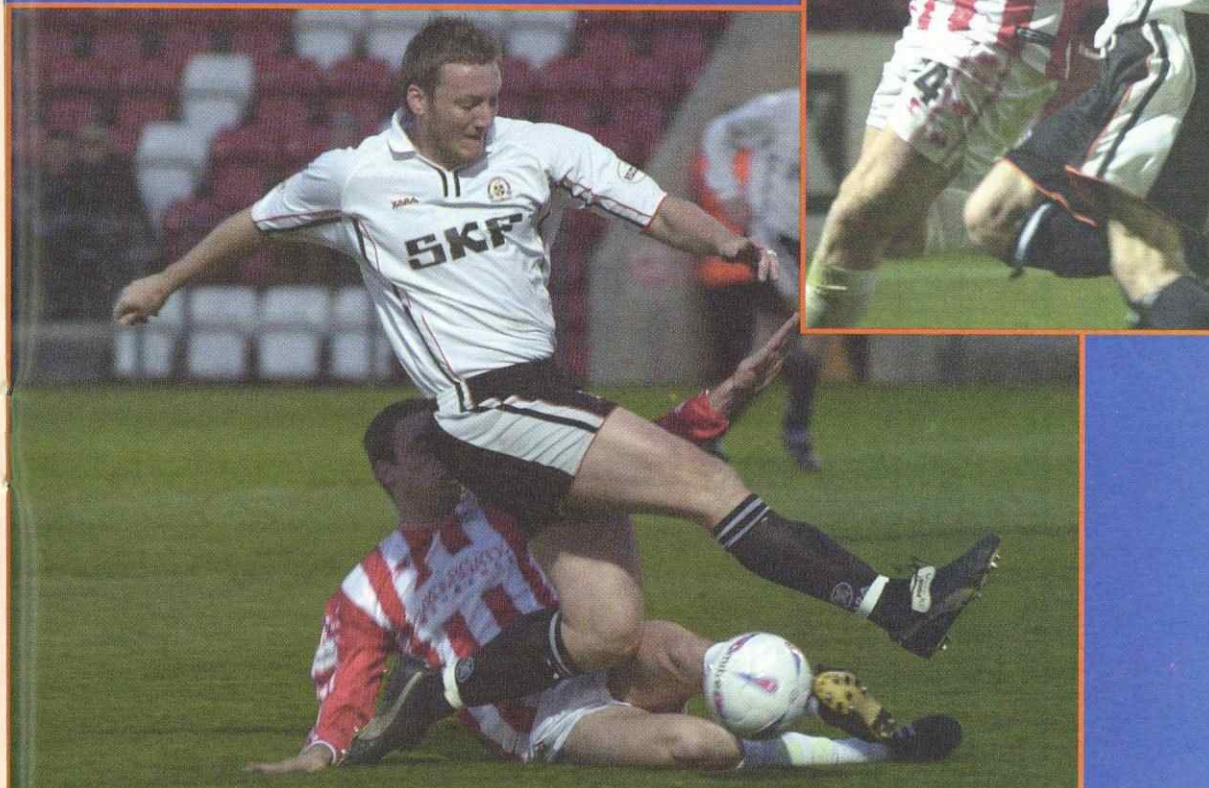
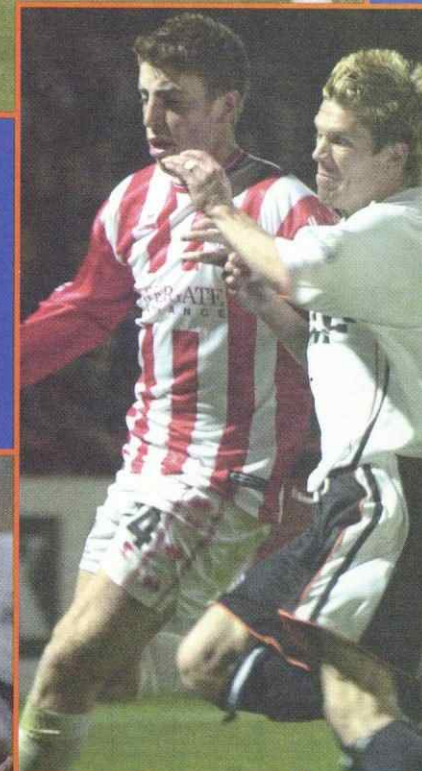
Attendance: 3,762, including 531 Town supporters.



HAPPY HATTER: Adrian Forbes starting to enjoy the moment after scoring the Town's second goal, with defenders and goalkeeper grounded and powerless to prevent him meeting a cross by Ian Hillier.

RIGHT: Loan star Sammy Igoe in competition with Shane Duff.

BELOW: Steve Howard rides a tackle by Michael Duff.



Action Highlights

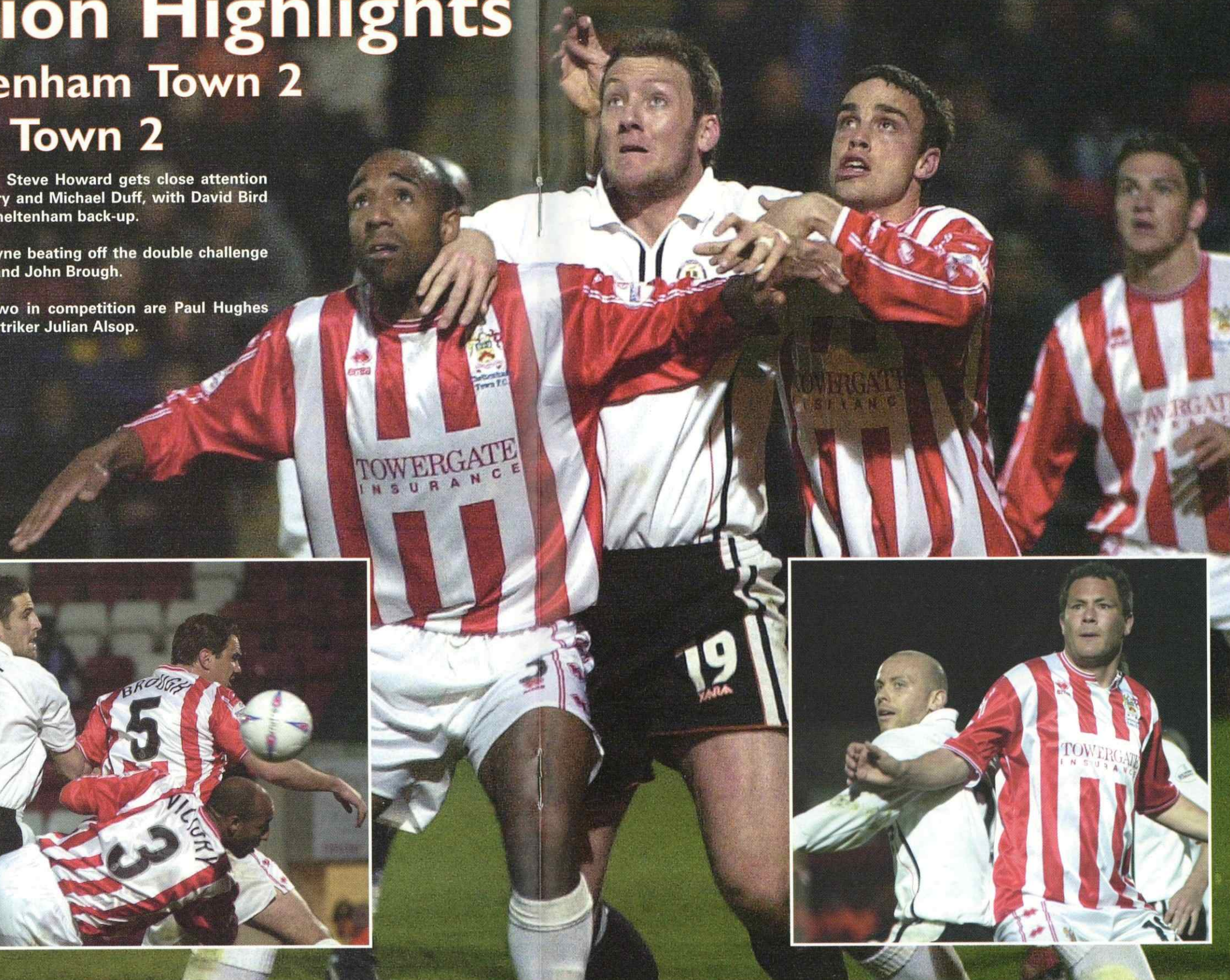
Cheltenham Town 2

Luton Town 2

SANDWICH MAN: Steve Howard gets close attention from Jamie Victory and Michael Duff, with David Bird providing more Cheltenham back-up.

BELOW: Chris Coyne beating off the double challenge of Jamie Victory and John Brough.

BELOW RIGHT: Two in competition are Paul Hughes and Cheltenham striker Julian Alsop.





Action Replay

DECIMATED

by injuries, and perhaps deflated by failure in the play-off chase, the Town were a pale shadow of what they can be as Rangers took the points they needed to consolidate their top six place. A huge Town following did their best to raise the team, but there was an air of anti-climax about the performance, and none of the fireworks we saw when the two sides met at Kenilworth Road earlier in the season.

Unusually, Joe Kinnear ducked out of the post-match press conference, leaving Ian Holloway, his opposite number, to enjoy a victory which he considered vital to his team's promotion chances. He was delighted that both goals came from set pieces which had been worked on in training. Joe must have been annoyed at the Town's failure to deal with them.

Kevin McLeod, an 18-year-old on loan from Everton, grabbed both goals, while the Town rarely looked like breaking through at the other end.

Adrian Forbes put himself about with a will, but too many others had an off day. Perhaps the long hard season had taken its toll. For a team that was Third Division a year ago, to finish in the top ten of the Second is no mean achievement, and at least we have had the pleasure of being in with a shout until the final month of the season.

The Loftus Road game confirmed the feeling many of us have. Wigan and Cardiff might be able to buy the extra talent needed if they get into the First

Queens Park Rgrs 2 Luton Town 0 (HT 1-0)

Division, but none of the promotion hopefuls, except Crewe, have looked streets ahead of the Town.

Rangers didn't, but they worked hard and showed a greater desire than the Town, without being much superior in terms of football quality. But they deserved to win, against a Town side that missed the inspiration Sammy Igoe has given. He was injured in training the day before the game, leaving the manager gutted as he put together the best makeshift squad he could from limited resources.

Considering what was at stake, it was a remarkably low-key contest, with Rangers lucky to catch the Town out of sorts. The Town hardly had a shot – a first-half effort by Forbes which was deflected for a corner was the only one remotely close to being on target. A goal then, on 25 minutes, or from the corner which resulted in Forbes out-jumping far taller defenders to head over, might have raised the Town out of their lethargy, and introduced a little doubt into the Rangers ranks.

Instead, six minutes before the break, Rangers took the lead, and were then able to settle down to a comfortable game plan in which they found containment all too easy.

Mark Ovendale did well to keep out a sharp header by Paul Furlong just before the goal, after Stephen Kelly, on loan

from Spurs, crossed from the right. It should have been a warning: on 39 minutes, after their first four corners had been dealt with easily, Rangers capitalised on their fifth. Richard Langley knocked it in from their left wing, and McLeod was unmarked and unchallenged to score with a header.

The Town made a further change at the break, with Alan Neilson sent on to shore up midfield, in place of Paul Hughes, but the pattern was little changed. Ovendale made another good save from a shot by Furlong, and Rangers were denied a penalty they thought should have been given when Langley tumbled under a challenge from Chris Coyne.

But they were awarded a free kick seven minutes from the end which confirmed the result. It was touched off short, and from 25 yards McLeod curled in a sweet shot, with Ovendale caught motionless in the centre of his goal as the ball hit the top corner.

Luton Town: Ovendale; Boyce, Willmott, Coyne, Davis; Holmes, Spring, Nicholls, Hughes (Neilson HT); Howard, Forbes. Unused subs: Beckwith, Bayliss, Jupp, Kimble.

Booked: Chris Coyne, for a foul.

QPR: Day; Kelly, Carlisle, Shittu, Padula; Langley, Bircham, Palmer, McLeod; Furlong, Gallen. Subs, all unused: Culkin, Rose, Pacquette, Thomson, Williams.

Referee: Joe Ross, London.

Attendance: 15,786, Rangers' best of the season, thanks to 2,756 Town supporters.



JUMPING TO IT: He might have been one of the smallest players on the field, but spring-heeled Adrian Forbes was still able to compete with the keeper and Clarke Carlisle at a corner from which he headed just wide.

RIGHT: Steve Howard in aerial competition with Chris Day.

BELOW: Kevin Nicholls gets a pass away, despite the closing-down attempt by Rangers captain Steve Palmer.





LTFC in the Community

Working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association

I would like to use the community pages today to inform you of our Easter coaching courses and also the latest Bramingham Saturday Soccer Schools. It is now possible to buy a season ticket to cover three courses over the next year.

BRAMINGHAM SOCCER SCHOOLS

We have instigated a new idea linked to our massively popular Saturday Soccer School at Bramingham School. This gives you the opportunity to purchase a season ticket to enrol on one, two or all three of the events planned for the next year. This, of course, will give the opportunity to enrol at reduced rates.

The planned course and price options are listed below;

The first will run for 9 weeks on the following dates:

MAY	3rd	10th	17th	31st
JUNE	21st	28th		
JULY	5th	12th	19th	

The second will run for 10 weeks on the following dates:

SEPT	13th	20th	27th	
OCT	4th	11th	18th	25th
NOV	8th	15th	22nd	

The third will run for 10 weeks on the following dates in 2004:

JAN	17th	24th	31st	
FEB	7th	14th	28th	
MAR	6th	13th	20th	27th

Payment for course 1 is £3.00 per week or £23.00 for a block booking.

Payment for courses 2 and 3 is £3.00 per week or £25.00 for a block booking.

Alternatively you can block book any two courses for £40.00 and all three for £60.00.

If you book for two or more courses you will be issued with a proof of payment pass which you should bring to each session.

EVENING SOCCER SCHOOL

We are now able to give you the next dates for the successful evening soccer school at Warden Hill Junior School, Luton

THE COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY EVENINGS FOR 10 WEEKS.

STARTING AT 4.15 PM AND FINISHING AT 5.45 PM

DATES AS FOLLOWS

APRIL	3RD	10TH		
MAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND
JUNE	5TH	12TH	19TH	

COST £3.00 PER WEEK.

Payable weekly, or as a Block Booking Discounted Price of £25.00 Cheques payable to Luton Town FC Football in The Community.

Stuart Smith

To book on these courses please fill in the form below Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you require confirmation of your booking.

Or as usual to enrol on any of the initiatives, just call me on 01582 391927.

Bramingham Course 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Course 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Course 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bramingham Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bramingham Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warden Hill Eve School	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name Age D.O.B. Contact No.

Address Postcode

I will be paying £23.00 ☐ £25.00 ☐ £40.00 ☐ £60.00 ☐ Cheque Enclosed Y/N.....

I acknowledge and accept that Luton Town FC, their football in the community scheme or the organisations providing the facilities and their respective agents, servants and employees, are not under liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage however caused whilst in attendance on the above course. Additionally I authorise the coaches employed by Luton Town Football in the Community to administer First Aid Treatment should it be required.

Signature of Parent / Guardian:



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Girls Fun Day Stockwood Park Athletic Stadium

Monday April 21st 2003

LTFC in the Community with Beds FA, Luton Borough Council sponsored by Nationwide Building Society are holding a Fun Day for girls aged between 8-13 years old. Only £5.00, we are able to offer this reduced rate thanks to the Nationwide Building Society sponsorship.

Participants can test the power of their shooting, passing and shot accuracy and speed of their dribbling in the morning. A mini soccer tournament will take place in the afternoon (subject to numbers). To enroll or for more information please call Stuart Smith on 01582 391927

EASTER COURSES

Course Code	No. of Days	Venue	Start Date	Time	Cost	Course Type
TOD 2	1	Parkfield School Park Road TODDINGTON	Tue 22 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
DSC 2	1	Queensbury School Meadway DUNSTABLE	Tue 22 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
DGK 2	1	Queensbury School Meadway DUNSTABLE	Tue 22 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	Goalkeepers 8-13 yrs
LSC 2	3	Barnfield College New Bedford Road LUTON	Wed 23 - Fri 25 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£30	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
LSC 3	1	Barnfield College New Bedford Road LUTON	Wed 23 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	Specialist Defender Course 8-13 yrs
LSC 4	2	Hillsborough School Hillsborough Road LUTON	Thur 24 - Fri 25 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£20	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs

Please reserve a place on the above course (please put course in the box on right)

Name Age D.O.B.

Address

..... Postcode

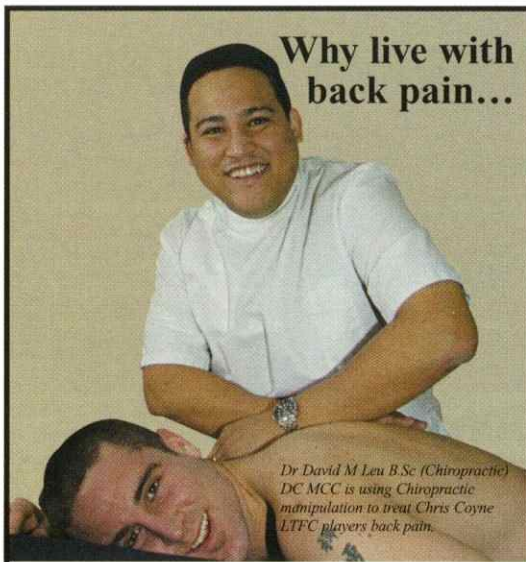
Home Tel No. School

Any health problems ☐ Disorders ☐ or medication. ☐ Please ring to confirm details

I acknowledge and accept that Luton Town FC, their football in the community scheme or the organisations providing the facilities and their respective agents, servants and employees, are not under liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage however caused whilst in attendance on the above course. I authorise the coaches employed by Luton Town Football in the Community to administer first aid treatment should it be required.


Signature of Parent / Guardian:

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TOWN TEASER

A LUCKY supporter will win a pair of match tickets this afternoon. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go in our Town Teaser competition. At the last home game, against Tranmere, we asked about the Town scorers the last time we had played Rovers, and the answer was that Matt Spring, Ahmet Brkovic and Steve Howard netted in a 3-1 win at Prenton Park. The editor was accused of making the teaser too easy, so today we have tried to set a slightly more serious test of your Town trivia.

TODAY'S QUESTION

NEXT Thursday is the anniversary of a famous Luton Town occasion. What is it, and what is the connection between that, the Bristol City manager and one of our coaches?

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Junior Hatters



HAVING enjoyed our visit to Ashton Gate in December, we are delighted this afternoon to repay the hospitality we received at Bristol, and we welcome John and Claire Banks and their City Junior Strikers to Kenilworth Road. Their mascot is 12-year-old Daniel Attwood. They were joining us in our Saturday Club, and taking us on at football and other games before watching the main match. We hope it is as exciting as the one at Ashton Gate, but preferably with a Luton Town win.

The Saturday Club is a regular feature of home games, with or without visiting parties from the other club, and it turns football into a real day out for Junior Hatters. It kicks off at 12 noon with games, including football, at Dallow

School. The price, including a sausage and chips meal, is £5 if you have a season ticket, or £11 for a package including a match ticket.

Junior Hatters membership is open to any boy or girl aged from 0 to 16 who supports Luton Town, and if you want to know more please contact the Community Department, phone Luton 391927.

That is also where you can book seats for away trips. We have just one more this season, to Swindon on the last day of the season, and coach tickets are being sold on a first come, first served basis. As usual the price is a bargain: £10 for Junior Hatters and £13 for adults or guests, which includes a ticket to the match. Further details will be in next Saturday's programme.

TODAY'S MASCOT



THE ROAR of the crowd when the Town run out onto the pitch before kick-off today will sound even louder than usual for 12-year-old Ricky Smith, because he sprint onto the turf with them, as part of his

duties as Junior Hatters mascot. His day starts with meeting the players in the dressing room, which will give him the chance to chat with his favourite, Adrian Forbes.

Ricky lives at Oakwood Road, Shefford, and attends the Robert Bloomfield Middle School. He lists his hobbies as football – he plays for Shefford Saints – rugby, basketball and athletics.

He watches the Town from the Kenilworth, alongside Mark and Wendy Dilley and his mates Adam and Graeme. Today's ball boys are Ricky Allsop, from Heathfield Close, Caddington, and Ryan Essam, of Warden Abbey, Bedford.



TOP HATTERS: Mascots have a very special day out at Kenilworth Road, and it includes meeting the match officials and the skippers when they gather for the toss of the coin before kick-off. This picture was taken at our last home game, against Tranmere, when five-year-old Liam Phillips was on duty for the Junior Hatters and the commercial mascot was Mathew Westwood.

Happy Harry



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Fans on the road

THE LOYALTY of Luton Town fans helped to give Queens Park Rangers their highest attendance of the season at Loftus Road last Saturday. The Town turn-out was the second highest for any league game this season, barely 200 fewer than the following at Peterborough. The latest figures:

Hatters Away

Blackpool	781
Plymouth	773
Cardiff	314
Brentford	1,493
Watford(WC)	4,404
Huddersfield	700
Aston Villa (WC)	4,588
Stockport	680
Oldham	610
Woking (LDV)	262
Crewe	585
Northampton	1,250
Stevenage (LDV)	1,199
Tranmere	839
Wigan (FAC 2)	769
Bristol City	709
Wycombe	2,039
Chesterfield	1,076
Barnsley	858
Peterborough	2,928
Port Vale	884
Notts County	1,867
Mansfield	722
Wigan	1,718
Cheltenham	531
QPR	2,756
Total:	35,335
Average:	1,359

Visitors to Luton

Peterborough	990
Barnsley	504
Chesterfield	366
Notts County	341
Mansfield	160
Swindon	404
Cheltenham	328
Wigan	425
Port Vale	247
Guiseley (FAC1)	467
QPR	1,851
Cambridge(LDV)	571
Colchester	527
Cardiff	1,090
Wycombe	702
Blackpool	491
Northampton	905
Brentford	533
Plymouth	1,102
Huddersfield	454
Oldham	302
Crewe	466
Tranmere	594

13,820
601



Player of the Season Presentation Evening



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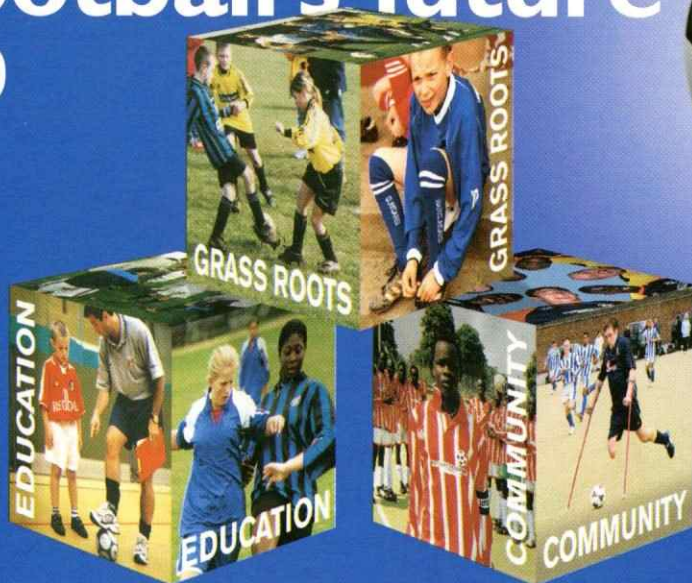
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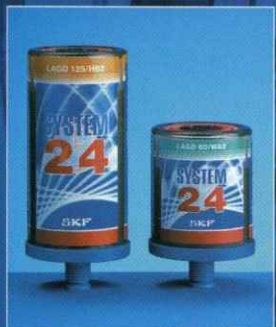
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Sealed Explorer bearings are supplied in normal and high temperature versions. The normal version uses a nitrile rubber double lip seal and a standard grease. The high temperature version, which is primarily suited to low speed operation, has a fluoro rubber seal and a high-temperature grease, and can withstand high axial and radial loads and tolerate up to 0.5° misalignment.



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Each SYSTEM 24 cartridge is hermetically sealed to prevent ingress of dirt and foreign matter. Grease flow rate is set via a simple Allen key adjustment. A transparent container shows visually the dispense rate, and lubricant cartridges are available pre-filled with a variety of greases or oils.



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2.20 HMV Single of the Week
MADDONA - AMERICAN LIFE

2.35 Dedications Announced

2.40 Town Teaser
See page 34

2.55 Teams run out to - The Blues Brothers
"Gimme Some Lovin"

3.00 THE BIG KICK OFF

HALF TIME

3.50 Golden Gamble -
Winning ticket drawn on pitch

3.55 Run down of half time scores from
around the country

4.00 Dedications

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

4.55 - FULL TIME

Matchday music supplied by:



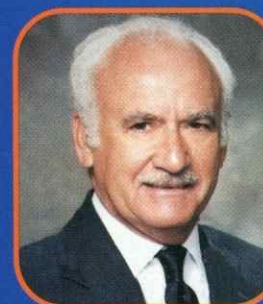
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If you would like your dedication read
out, please contact the Club prior to
matchdays.

POLICY STATEMENT - SPECTATOR SAFETY



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

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

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

Mike Watson-Challis Chairman

Reviewed August, 2002.

Golden Gamble

IF YOU ask Town fanatic Ian Croft who was our man of the match against Tranmere, he might very well nominate Steve Robinson. True, the midfielder was not in the team because of injury, but Mr Croft, from Orchard Road, Stevenage, was delighted to see "Robbo's" participation in the Golden Gamble draw.

Mr Croft, who sits in the Kenilworth End, had paid just £1 for a Golden Gamble ticket that turned out to be worth £785 after Steve pulled his lucky number out of the drum. It was a nice wedge of cash to make up for the disappointment of seeing the Town fail to get the three points we all wanted.

The Golden Gamble has paid out £15,725 to 23 winners so far this season, an average of £684 each. And every ticket bought helps the club, because half of the income goes into the jackpot kitty and the other half goes to club funds, so we are grateful to all who support our efforts.

Golden Gamble sellers are on duty in all parts of the ground this afternoon, and as usual the prize will be available, in ready cash, as soon as the draw is made during the interval



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Luton Town

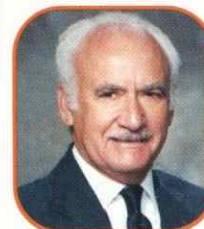
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TELETEXT ON TV p24

Calls cost 60p/min. ClubCall EC2A 4PF



Luton Belles



I HAVE followed with great interest, and much pleasure, the progress made by the Luton Belles this season, and would like to congratulate everyone involved on their excellent trophy-winning campaign. As a club we are pleased to be able to give our ladies football team our backing, and I hope that all supporters feel the same.

The Belles have brought fresh honours to the name of Luton Town, and I hope they will continue to do so for many more seasons in the future.

-Mike Watson-Challis, Chairman, Luton Town FC

BELLES under-14s clinched their Denham United and with three matches still to play. A defensive mix-up allowed United to take an early lead but Town fought back to level at the interval through a superb individual effort from Rebecca Kane, who repeated the feat with 20 minutes left. A minute later it was all over when Lizzie Randall took advantage of a goal-keeping error to score from a narrow angle. Holly Flynn completed the scoring with a volley with six minutes left.

Last weekend Belles took on the champions of Northants Ise Lodge and ran out 2-0 winners, courtesy of a thunderous header from Fay Rolls and a delicate lob from Holly Flynn.

The senior side wrapped up their league season with a 3-3 draw against Rover Oxford and a 4-0 win over MK Wanderers. Vicky Moody, Louise Evans and Fay Howell were on target against Oxford but Belles conceded two late goals after being 3-1 up.

There were no such errors against MK Wanderers after Samantha Mather scored with a 25-yard volley, Kim Hide lobbed the keeper and Louise Evans fired in a

rebound to give Luton a 3-0 first half lead. Kaylee Owen added the fourth in the second half to secure the league runners-up spot.

The under-12s have the League and Cup double in sight after league wins over their nearest rivals Sundon Reds and Brickhill Wanderers. Nicky Shepherd gave them the lead against Sundon Reds, and after conceding an equaliser they secured victory

when Yasmin Hickling fired in a Natalie Burchnell cross.

Brickhill also gave the Belles a hard time, leading until 20 minutes from time when Town overpowered them, scoring three late goals through Brittany Murtagh, Natalie Burchnell and Chloe Reeves. One victory from the remaining three matches will bring another title to the Belles.

Dave Baker



CHAMPIONS: the under-14 Belles celebrating success are Alice Burbury, Christina Baker, Jessica Hall, Natalie Forbes, Alice Middleton, Gemma Vale, Kelly Halsey, Shelly Miller, Tanya Blacksley, Lizzie Randall, Fay Rolls, Rebecca Kane, Michelle Byrne, Holly Flynn and Jessica Du Preez.

LUTON Belles organises football for girls of all ages, from ten upwards. If you want to know more, or fancy being involved, e-mail Dave Baker at lutonbelles@hotmail.com The Belles also have a web-site - pay a visit to www.lutontownbelles.com

The club is already planning for next season, and with a big demand from girls who want to play football the provision of playing kit is a bit of a problem. They would love to hear from anyone able to offer help by way of kit sponsorship.

Check out our great new leisure wear from **XARA** it's

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(And the players aren't bad either!)



A. Navy V-Neck Orange/White Trim T-Shirt
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**End of Season Half Price
Kit Sale Now On**

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Children s	£29.99	£14.99
Youths XL	£29.99	£14.99
Adults	£39.99	£19.99

Long Sleeve Shirts

Adults Only	£42.99	£21.49
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Shorts

Childrens	£15.99	£7.99
Adults	£19.99	£9.99



Toddler Kit
£22.99 £11.49

**Official Club Calendar -
Remaining Stock Now
£1.50**



**G. Luton Town Ringer Target
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Youth Soccer - U19s



Luton Town 3 Bournemouth 3

WE FIELDed a very young side, so a draw was not a bad result, but our inexperience cost us a game we should have won after being two goals ahead with 25 minutes to play. However, there were lots of good things in the game, starting with a seventh-minute goal nicely worked and well taken by Keith Keane. Bournemouth came back into the game after that, and on 19 minutes equalised with a splendid free kick, with no blame attaching to our 14-year-old goalkeeper Zak Barrett.

My advice at half time was to keep playing football, and not be in too much of a hurry, and we regained the lead on 58 minutes with another good goal – a neat move down the right, a cross by David Deeney and Parys Okai hitting a crisp first-time drive into the net.

Keane added his second goal on 65 minutes, dribbling

across the centre-backs before netting with a left foot finish, and we really should have won the game after that.

But age started to tell – the boys got carried away a bit, thinking they could win by four or five, and as everyone piled forward we were vulnerable to counter-attacks. Bournemouth pulled it back to 3-2 on 77 minutes with a goal on the break, and after that it was a case of each side attacking in turn, with goals always looking likely at both ends. But it was Bournemouth who completed the scoring, and again it was an excellent effort, a clipped shot which was curled and placed into the net. It was a good game to watch, with plenty of good bits of football, and the boys worked hard. It was just a pity that they didn't know how to hold on to it when they had the advantage.

Luton Town: Barrett, D. Deeney, R. Mansell, O'Leary, Barnett, Green, Keane, Ridgway, Andrew (Freeman 73 mins), Judge (Maitland 73 mins), Okai

WE ARE at home to Cheltenham on Saturday, with an 11am kick-off at Luton RFC. Spectators are welcome and admission is free.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Barnett 29(1), O'Leary 28, Okai 27, Davies 24(2), Judge 22(1), Foley 22, Freeman 20(3), R. Mansell 19(3), Howell 18, Maitland 16(7), Beckwith 16, J. Deeney 16, Osborn 14(1), Gillman 13(1), Keane 12(9), Brill 11(2), Ridgway 10(4), D. Deeney 5, Barrett 3, Andrew 2, De Souza 1(2), Mountford 1(1), Green 1, Magadah 0(3).

Goals: Judge 11, Freeman 7, Osborn 4, Maitland 3, Barnett 3, Foley 3, Okai 3, Ridgway 3, O'Leary 3, Keane 3, Davies 2.

John Moore

FL Youth Alliance Under-19

August					
17	Walsall	H	0-0		
31	Kidderminster	A	1-0	Freeman	
September					
7	Brentford (LC)	A	2-0	Freeman, Okai	
14	Oxford (LC)	H	4-1	Osborn 2, Okai, Freeman	
21	Wycombe (LC)	H	2-2	Judge, Barnett	
28	Northampton	H	0-1		
October					
12	Peterborough	A	1-3	O'Leary	
19	West Brom	A	0-1		
23	Brentford(FAYC1)	A	3-0	Judge, Freeman 2	
26	Rushden	H	3-1	Judge, Freeman, Osborn	
November					
2	Oxford Utd	H	5-1	Judge 3, Freeman, Osborn	
7	Tooting(FAYC2)	A	3-1	Judge 2, Davies	
16	Brighton (LC1)	A	2-1	Barnett, O'Leary	
30	West Brom	H	2-1	Judge, Maitland	
December					
4	Stoke(FAYC3)	H	1-0	Judge	
7	Rushden & D	A	2-1	Maitland 2	
14	Oxford Utd	A	0-1		
21	Cambridge	A	0-0		
January					
11	Cambridge	H	postponed		
15	Bradford (FAYC4)	H	1-0	Foley	
18	Walsall	A	postponed		
25	Kidderminster	H	3-0	Ridgway 2, Barnett	
February					
1	Northampton	A	0-3		
8	Peterborough	H	2-1	Davies, Judge	
15	Cardiff (LC2)	A	1-3	Foley	
27	M'boro (FAYC5)	H	1-1	Foley. Lost on pens	
Merit Div Two South					
February					
22	Oxford (MD2)	H	0-1		
March					
1	Cambridge	A	0-0		
15	Brighton	H	0-0		
22	Exeter	A	1-1	Keane	
29	Gillingham	A	2-2	O'Leary, Ridgway	
April					
12	Bournemouth	H	3-3	Keane 2, Okai	
19	L. Orient	A			
26	Cheltenham	H			

FLYA UNDER-19 MERIT DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	5	4	1	0	8	2	13
Cambridge	5	6	1	1	11	3	10
Exeter	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Oxford	5	3	0	2	9	10	9
Cheltenham	4	2	0	2	6	10	6
Luton Town	6	0	5	1	6	7	5
Bournemouth	5	1	1	3	8	9	4
Gillingham	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
L. Orient	4	0	0	4	3	10	0

FLYA UNDER-19 SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	16	10	2	4	31	20	32
Northampton	16	9	3	4	21	13	30
Peterborough	15	9	0	6	34	14	27
Cambridge	15	7	3	5	25	19	24
Oxford	15	8	0	7	21	28	24
Luton Town	14	7	2	5	19	14	23
Walsall	15	6	2	7	24	23	20
Kidderminster	14	3	1	10	19	38	10
Rushden	16	1	3	12	16	41	6

For the latest news, views and interviews call:
CLUB CALL on 09068 121123 (calls cost 60p per minute at all times)



Youth Soccer - U17s

OUR FIRST season in the Youth Alliance at under-17 level has been better than we hoped, testament to the youth system which brings schoolboys through the ranks towards scholarship level. Fourth place is a magnificent achievement. All the other teams had been in the league since it started, and we were the only club that used schoolboys exclusively in every game. I feared that it might be a daunting season. We knew many of our best boys would occasionally be drafted into John Moore's older group, which meant we would have to dip into the under-15s to fill our teams. If we had been able to field our best side for

every game I think we would have won the league. We had to learn quickly, and did. Our first game was a 3-0 defeat against Brighton. They went on to win the championship, but just before they clinched it we beat them 2-0.

We used to play nothing but friendlies at under-17 and below, but competitive football gives the lads an edge, with games having an extra atmosphere, and a better standard of football. Six of our squad played regularly for the under-19s.

We are now mulling over which boys will be in the under-17 squad for next season, when we will again be playing in the FL Youth Alliance. All our under-15 boys will be invited to stay with us, and in the under-16 group, there will be some going out and perhaps some coming in. We will offer scholarships to six boys, perhaps eight, for the new season, but they will be reminded that this is only the first step on a difficult road to possible success. This season three young men completed their third and final years as scholars, but unfortunately, at 19 years old, they had to be told that they did not measure up to Luton Town's standards to be offered professional contracts, and were released.

Mark Ridgway

FLYA UNDER-17 SE CONFERENCE FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	22	15	3	4	49	23	48
Peterborough	22	13	6	3	45	20	45
L. Orient	22	13	4	5	46	19	43
Luton Town	22	10	6	6	40	32	36
Wycombe	22	9	6	7	38	45	33
Cambridge	22	8	5	9	41	37	29
Colchester	22	7	5	10	37	50	26
Portsmouth	22	5	7	10	44	41	22
Brentford	22	5	5	12	33	51	20
QPR	22	3	11	8	28	41	20
Gillingham	22	5	5	12	39	57	20
Southend	22	4	7	11	34	58	19



STARS OF THE FUTURE? The under-17 squad which has represented Luton Town this season. Back row, left to right: Sean Ridgway, David Deeney, Tom Freeman, Josh Green, Zak Barrett, Liam Bevan, Luke Maitland, Calvin Andrew, Nick Mountford.

Front row: Paul Burrows, Stuart Sinclair, Jason Blythe, Keith Keane, Mutsa Magadah, Chris Pendleton, Liam Smyth

If you are interested in sponsoring a player's kit please contact the Commercial Department on: **01582 411622**

In Reserve



Luton Town 0 Bristol City 3

WE COULD not complain about this result, because after an encouraging opening spell of ten minutes or so our team performance was poor. We gave the ball away too much and picked the wrong ball too often in the final third. After the bright start someone switched the light off. The team included three trialists, centre-half Dean Marney, from Harrow Borough, and strikers Mark Reed, formerly with Northampton, and Robert Charles, ex Crystal Palace.

Youth goalkeeper Robert Beckwith played well, but sloppy defending in front of him led to goals being conceded on 25 and 34 minutes, and ten minutes after the break Peter Holmes pulled down an opponent and City converted the penalty.

Luton Town: Beckwith, Jupp, Bayliss, Marney, Kimble, Skelton (Foley HT), Holmes, Leary, Neilson, Barnett (Judge 88 mins), Reed (Charles 65 mins).

Luton Town 0 Crystal Palace 3

THE RESULT was the same, but the performance was far better against the likely champions. I had a go at the players after the Bristol game, and they responded positively. We looked brighter, worked more diligently, played properly and looked organised.

Trialist Mark Peers, playing wide on the right, looked useful with his willingness to take men on and at the front Carl Griffiths and young Leon Barnett both did well. Peers is about to be released by Liverpool, and our other trialist was Ryan Robinson, a goalkeeper from Blackburn, who was given half a game.

We were unlucky to be one down at the break, after a

fantastic free kick left Robert Beckwith with no chance. But we were always in the game, creating chances, and suffering for want of a cutting edge. Lack of the killer instinct cost us, because late in the game our defence lost the plot for ten minutes, and Palace scored from a corner on 70 minutes and added a third on 80 when a runner from midfield was not picked up. Palace looked a good team, and although I don't like losing I was otherwise pleased with the way we played. **Luton Town:** Beckwith (Robinson HT), Jupp, Skelton, Bayliss, Neilson, Peers, Foley, Leary, Okai (O'Leary 71 mins), Griffiths, Barnett (Judge 80 mins).

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Leary 16(2), L. Mansell 16(1), Holmes 14, Skelton 14, Foley 13(3), Hillier 9, Barnett 8(2), J. Deeney 8(1), Fotiadis 8, Griffiths 8, Bayliss 8, Ovendale 7, Kimble 7, Neilson 7, Okai 6(7), Gillman 6(3), Jupp 6, Hughes 6, Osborn 5(9), Barnett 5(2), Brill 5(1), Beckwith 4, O'Leary 3(6), Brkovic 3, Emberson 3, Perrett 3, Judge 2(7), Davies 2(5), Eberendo 2(2), Howell 2(1), Thorpe 2, Michael Johnson 2, Crowe 2, Forbes 1, Davis 1, Kovacevic 1, De Souza 1, Berthelin 1, Nicholls 1, Maitland 1, Viander 1, Pandong 1, McAllister 1, Foyewa 1, Juanjo 1, Boyce 1, Willmott 1, Marney 1, Reed 1, Peers 1, Marvin Johnson 0(1), R. Mansell 0(1), Douala 0(1), Charles 0(1), Robinson 0(1).

Goals: Griffiths 5, Judge 4, Fotiadis 3, Brkovic 3, Crowe 2, Howell 2, Thorpe 2, Barnett 2, Skelton 1, Eberendo 1, Holmes 1, Gillman 1, Maitland 1, Mansell 1, Leary 1.

Brian Stein

AVON COMBINATION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	23	16	5	2	59	17	53
Norwich	22	11	8	3	34	14	41
Bristol City	23	12	5	6	45	34	41
Plymouth	21	12	3	6	37	31	39
Portsmouth	21	11	5	5	37	20	38
Colchester	22	11	5	6	34	18	38
Reading	21	11	4	6	41	26	37
Brighton	20	10	4	6	36	22	34
Millwall	24	11	4	9	34	32	37
Southend	20	9	4	7	28	28	31
Brentford	21	9	4	8	35	36	31
Oxford	22	9	3	10	30	30	30
L. Orient	22	7	8	7	40	38	29
Swindon	19	9	2	8	25	38	29
Luton Town	20	7	7	6	30	27	28
Cardiff	21	7	7	7	21	21	28
QPR	21	7	6	8	30	30	27
Cheltenham	20	7	4	9	40	35	25
Cambridge	21	7	4	10	34	36	25
Peterborough	20	7	3	10	33	38	24
Bournemouth	22	5	6	11	35	46	21
Bristol Rov	22	5	6	11	26	39	21
Gillingham	20	4	7	9	22	33	19
Wycombe	23	5	4	14	20	48	19
Northampton	20	4	3	13	27	49	15
Barnet	23	2	3	18	19	66	9

August			
Wed 14	Bristol City(LC)	A	0-3
Wed 21	Reading	A	1-2 Skelton
Wed 28	Bristol Rov	H	1-1 Griffiths
September			
Wed 4	Millwall	H	2-1 Griffiths 2(1p)
Wed 18	Swindon	A	4-0 Fotiadis 2, Eberendo, Howell
Wed 25	Peterborough	H	4-1 Thorpe 2, Fotiadis, Holmes
October			
Wed 9	Plymouth	A	4-0 Brkovic 2, Gillman, Judge
Wed 16	Wycombe	H	3-1 Judge 2, Howell
Wed 30	Cambridge	A	1-0 Barnett
November			
Wed 20	Wootton (BSC)	A	0-0 Won 4-3 on pens
Wed 27	Northampton	A	1-3 Judge
December			
Wed 11	Barnet	H	1-2 Maitland
January			
Wed 8	Brighton	A	Postponed
Wed 22	Bournemouth	H	4-4 Crowe 2, Brkovic, Mansell
Wed 29	Leyton Orient	A	1-1 Leary
February			
Wed 12	Southend	A	0-0
Wed 19	Cardiff	A	0-0
March			
Wed 12	Norwich	H	2-2 Griffiths 2
Wed 25	Brentford	A	0-0
April			
Wed 2	Colchester	H	1-0 Barnett
Wed 9	Bristol City	H	0-3
Mon 14	C. Palace	H	0-3
Wed 23	Portsmouth	H	2pm
Mon 28	Oxford	A	2pm
May			
Tue 6	QPR	H	2pm
Thur 8	Cheltenham	H	2pm

Log on to Luton Town's official website at www.lutontown.co.uk

WINNING MARGINS

Gms won by:	1gl	2gls	3gls	4gls	5+
Wigan	11	15	1	0	0
Crewe	9	10	2	2	1
Cardiff	13	4	2	4	0
Bristol City	8	8	5	1	0
QPR	7	9	3	2	0
Oldham	12	5	0	2	1
Tranmere	14	2	2	1	0
Luton	11	2	3	0	0
Plymouth	8	4	2	0	1
Blackpool	7	5	3	0	0
Wycombe	5	4	2	1	1
Brentford	9	2	1	0	1
Swindon	6	4	2	0	1
Chesterfield	10	1	0	2	0
Colchester	8	3	1	1	0
Stockport	7	3	2	1	0
Port Vale	11	1	1	0	0
Notts County	6	3	3	0	0
Mansfield	7	2	0	1	1
Peterborough	6	2	1	2	0
Huddersfield	7	2	1	1	0
Barnsley	9	2	0	0	0
Northampton	5	2	3	0	0
Cheltenham	4	4	1	0	0

FULL GROUNDS - ATTENDANCES

Club	Aggregate	% Capacity
QPR	273,238	68
Blackpool	146,612	68
Luton	142,786	68
Northampton	108,913	68
Cardiff	272,826	65
Crewe	131,661	65
Cheltenham	97,112	62
Wycombe	125,698	60
Chesterfield	86,426	59
Bristol City	245,439	54
Oldham	140,325	49
Mansfield	103,611	49
Tranmere	163,398	47
Stockport	111,845	46

CLEAN SHEETS

Gms without conceding	Lge Pos
Wigan	22
Oldham	18
Cardiff	17
Crewe	16
QPR	16
Chesterfield	15
Bristol City	14
Luton	14
Brentford	14
Huddersfield	14
Plymouth	12
Peterborough	12
Tranmere	11
Blackpool	11
Colchester	11
Wycombe	10
Port Vale	10
Northampton	10
Cheltenham	9
Notts County	8
Stockport	6
Swindon	5
Mansfield	5
Barnsley	4

FAILED TO SCORE

Gms without scoring	Lge Pos
Northampton	20
Huddersfield	19
Mansfield	17
Chesterfield	17
Peterborough	15
Wycombe	14
Brentford	14
Swindon	14
Blackpool	12
Barnsley	11
Plymouth	11
Tranmere	11
Cheltenham	10
Port Vale	10
Notts County	10
Colchester	10
Luton	10
QPR	10
Oldham	10
Bristol City	10
Stockport	9
Crewe	8
Cardiff	6
Wigan	6

SEQUENCES: DIV 2

CONSECUTIVE WINS:

Wigan	11
Bristol City	6
Oldham	6
Luton	5
Port Vale	5
QPR	5
Crewe	4
Plymouth	4

UNDEFEATED RUN:

Wigan	21
Bristol City	14
Blackpool	11
Tranmere	11
Cardiff	10
Crewe	8
Plymouth	8
Brentford	7
Colchester	7
Luton	7
Oldham	7
Swindon	7

LOSING STREAK:

Swindon	6
Chesterfield	5
Colchester	5
Mansfield	5
Peterborough	5
Blackpool	4
Luton	4
Northampton	4
Port Vale	4
Wycombe	4

NO WINS:

Chesterfield	10
Northampton	10
QPR	9
Blackpool	8
Bristol City	8
Cheltenham	8
Colchester	8
Notts County	8
Plymouth	8
Stockport	8
Brentford	8
Mansfield	7
Peterborough	7
Swindon	7

HEADERS SCORED

Oldham	18
Wigan	15
Cardiff	14
Stockport	14
Tranmere	14
Wycombe	14
Plymouth	13
Barnsley	12
Blackpool	12
Cheltenham	12
Peterborough	12
Port Vale	12
Crewe	11
QPR	11

HEADERS CONCEDED

Mansfield	21
Brentford	19
Chesterfield	16
Notts County	16
Port Vale	16
Cheltenham	14
Swindon	13
Barnsley	12
Luton	12
Stockport	12
Blackpool	11
Colchester	11
QPR	11

GOALS FROM OUTSIDE 18 YARD BOX

SCORED	Gls	Total	%	CONCEDED	Gls	Total	%
Mansfield	12	60	20	Blackpool	14	56	25
Huddersfield	7	36	19	Colchester	9	50	18
Plymouth	11	57	19	Luton	10	57	18
Northampton	7	37	19	Wycombe	11	63	17
QPR	12	64	19	Peterborough	9	52	17
Bristol City	12	72	17	Stockport	11	65	17
Barnsley	8	48	17	Northampton	11	68	16
Tranmere	9	55	16	Notts County	10	66	15
Colchester	8	49	16	Tranmere	8	54	15
Crewe	11	72	15	Oldham	5	34	15
Chesterfield	6	40	15	Plymouth	7	48	15
Wigan	9	64	14	Cardiff	5	35	14
Stockport	8	57	14	Bristol City	6	43	14
Wycombe	8	57	14	Cheltenham	9	65	14

ordered as % of all goals scored

GOALS PER GAME - THE MOST CONSISTENT STRIKERS

Player	Robert Earnshaw	Rob Hulse	Luke Beckett	Mark Stallard	Sam Parkin	Scott Murray	Iyseden Christie	Tony Thorpe	John Murphy	Martin Smith	Bruce Dyer
Lge Gls	30	21	27	24	23	17	18	12	15	17	17
WC Gls	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAC Gls	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	1
LDV	0	4	0	0	1	5	0	2	1	0	0
Gls/Gme	0.72	0.70	0.63	0.57	0.55	0.50	0.48	0.47	0.45	0.45	0.44

minimum of 15 goals scored

THE SP

MORE PAGES THAN SVEN'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK...

THE PEOPLE

Second Division Scene

DANNY Wilson returns to Kenilworth Road today leading a team in pursuit of a double. Bristol City won the LDV Vans Trophy at Cardiff a couple of weeks ago by beating Carlisle in the final, and are now looking good for a promotion play-off place.

The Robins sorted out one of the automatic promotion places on Tuesday when they drew 1-1 at Crewe. It meant that Wigan, already champions elect, are sure of being in the First Division for the first time in their history next season. The second automatic spot seems to be between Crewe and Cardiff, but they cannot both finish in the top two because they play each other on the last day of the season.

The Town's failure to win in their last three games means that Tranmere are now the only side capable of breaking into the top six, and they need a remarkable combination of results if they are to overhaul QPR. In theory, they could reach the top four, but City, who hold fourth place today, are in the happy position of knowing that four points from their last four games will almost certainly put them into the play-offs. Five points will definitely do it, so they have every incentive to win today and then give their fans an Easter treat on Tuesday when they are at home to Lennie Lawrence's men.

Bristol City have been in the top six since the end of September. They were second briefly at the turn of the year, put there when the Town deposed Cardiff by beating the Welshmen at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day.

A patchy January dropped them a couple of notches, but they hit a useful run of form when it mattered. Since mid-February they have lost just one league game – at QPR six weeks ago – in ten outings, and are unbeaten in their last six.

Their away form shows nine wins, five draws and seven defeats. The victories were at Cheltenham, Port Vale, Barnsley, Peterborough, Mansfield, Cardiff, Stockport, Northampton and Huddersfield.

Draws were chalked up at Colchester, Tranmere, Blackpool, Swindon and Crewe

Of the seven away defeats, four, at Brentford, Wigan, Plymouth and Oldham, came in the first six weeks of the season. Reverses suffered since then have been at Wycombe, Notts County and QPR.

City's last six results in the league: Peterborough H 1-0 (Robins), Swindon A 1-1 (Robins), Huddersfield A 2-1 (Hill, Peacock), Barnsley H 2-0 (Murray, Roberts), Mansfield H 5-2 (Murray 3, Peacock, Carey), Crewe A 1-1 (Roberts). Leading scorer: Murray, 26 goals in all competitions.

Brian Swain

Bristol City have been in the top six since the end of September. They were second briefly at the turn of the

Nationwide League Division Two

	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A			
Wigan	42	12	7	2	33 15	15	4	2	31 9	40	92	
Crewe	42	11	4	6	28 17	13	5	3	45 20	36	81	
*Cardiff	41	12	5	4	33 17	11	5	4	34 18	32	79	
Bristol City	42	13	5	3	39 15	9	5	7	34 29	29	76	
Oldham	42	9	6	6	31 18	11	9	1	27 16	24	75	
QPR	42	13	3	5	36 19	8	7	6	28 25	20	73	
Tranmere	42	12	5	4	31 22	7	6	8	24 32	1	68	
Luton Town	42	8	6	7	29 25	8	6	7	29 32	1	60	
Plymouth	42	9	6	6	35 24	6	7	8	22 24	9	58	
Blackpool	42	10	6	5	31 21	5	5	11	21 35	-4	56	
Colchester	42	8	7	6	24 18	5	8	8	25 32	-1	54	
Notts County	42	9	7	5	36 31	3	9	9	25 35	-5	52	
Swindon	42	8	5	8	30 26	5	7	9	24 32	-4	51	
Brentford	42	8	7	6	26 18	5	4	12	17 34	-9	50	
Wycombe	42	8	5	8	38 37	5	5	11	19 26	-6	49	
Port Vale	42	8	4	9	28 29	5	6	10	20 34	-15	49	
*Stockport	42	7	8	6	35 34	6	1	14	22 31	-8	48	
*Peterborough	41	5	7	8	21 20	6	7	8	24 32	-7	47	
Barnsley	42	6	8	7	25 29	5	5	11	23 32	-13	46	
Chesterfield	42	10	4	7	27 26	3	3	15	13 40	-26	46	
Cheltenham	42	5	8	8	22 30	4	8	9	26 35	-17	43	
Huddersfield	42	7	7	7	26 23	4	3	14	10 30	-17	43	
Mansfield	42	8	2	11	36 43	3	5	13	24 46	-29	40	
*Northampton	42	7	3	11	21 26	3	5	13	16 42	-31	38	

*Not including Wednesday night's match, Peterborough v Cardiff or yesterday's, Northampton v Stockport

Today's Other Second Division Games

Brentford v QPR

Cardiff v Colchester

Crewe v Swindon

Huddersfield v Wigan

Mansfield v Barnsley

Notts County v Tranmere

Oldham v Chesterfield

Peterborough v Blackpool

Plymouth v Port Vale

Wycombe v Cheltenham

Yesterday:

Northampton v Stockport

Monday's Fixtures

Barnsley v Crewe

Blackpool v Mansfield

Cheltenham v Peterborough

Chesterfield v Brentford

Colchester v Luton Town

Port Vale v Wycombe

QPR v Notts County

Stockport v Huddersfield

Swindon v Plymouth

Tranmere v Northampton

Wigan v Oldham

Statistics and all the fixtures

[illegible]

SQUAD CHECK

LUTON TOWN

Manager: Joe Kinnear

1	Mark OVENDALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Aaron SKELTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Alan NEILSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Matthew SPRING	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Russell PERRETT	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Marvin JOHNSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian FORBES	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin NICHOLLS	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Tony THORPE	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Carl GRIFFITHS	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Steve ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Chris COYNE	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Dean CROWE	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Carl EMBERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Emmerson BOYCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Ahmet BRKOVIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Steve HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Peter HOLMES	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul HUGHES	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	David BAYLISS	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ian HILLIER	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Sol DAVIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Duncan JUPP	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Sammy IGOE	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Alan KIMBLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Chris WILLMOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>

tick if playing ■ tick if substitute ●

BRISTOL CITY

Manager: Danny Wilson

1	Steve PHILLIPS	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Louis CAREY	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Mickey BELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Tommy DOHERTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Tony BUTLER	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Matthew HILL	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Scott MURRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Joe BURNELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Peter BEADLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Lee PEACOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Brian TINNION	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Aaron BROWN	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Mike STOWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Robin HULBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Simon CLIST	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Lee MATTHEWS	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Christian ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Danny COLES	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Kevin AMANKWAAH	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Marvin BROWN	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Darren JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Craig WOODMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Clayton FORTUNE	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Liam ROSENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Ben CLEVERLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Keith MILLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Leroy LITA	<input type="checkbox"/>

Today's Officials

Referee: Graham Salisbury, Lancashire

Assistants: Neil Perkin, Kent (yellow flag); John Pearce, Essex (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Carl Couzens, Hertfordshire.



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