

LUTON TOWN

The Hatters

Official Matchday Magazine Price: £2.00

Programme of the Year

2001 - 2002



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Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

Photography

Gareth Owen

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

Cover Story



Howard's way is to score goals! The striker celebrates after his second against Bristol City, one of his five in the two Easter games.

Inside Forward

TWO years from today, if everything goes according to plan, we will be saying farewell to Kenilworth Road, our home for the past 98 years, and getting ready to move into the new stadium near junction 10 of the M1.

The news was given in a statement from Town deputy chairman Eric Hood, which he had promised to make when he and Mike Watson-Challis attended a fans' forum earlier this season.

He said: "I am pleased to say that we have made extremely positive progress since the meeting. Many people have been working extremely hard to turn our long-held dream into reality. I am really encourage by the amount of goodwill that exists towards the club, and the determination to ensure that it has a bright future.

"In particular, we continue to benefit from Luton Borough Council's excellent support and guidance on the proposed stadium and its enabling development.

The Big Day: August 2005

"We can now pencil a date into our diaries by which time we have a realistic chance of being in our new, purpose-built stadium. That date is the start of the 2005/6 season.

"There is much to do before then, of course. Our programme includes carrying out an environmental study which is essential before we apply for planning permission on the new site. Once started, this should take about 12 weeks

"Our next objective is to apply for full planning consent by the end of this year, which should allow us to meet the stadium build target and achieve relocation on schedule. The 15,000-seat stadium will be designed to enable the club to increase the capacity to 25,000 when the time is right. This ability to increase attendance is essential, because we continue to be committed to competing at the highest possible level.

"We plan a stadium that the team, the club, its supporters and the town can all be proud of. It will be a landmark that will bring prestige, income and employment to the area.

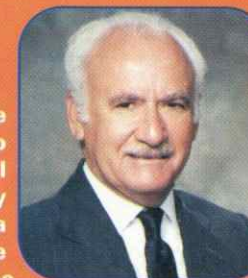
"As much as I would like to say more, there is a limit to what I can add at the moment. Details of the enabling development, so vital to the success of the project, must remain 'commercial in confidence' for now. But in the next few months we should be able to announce all our relocation and development plans. I am sure you will find them worth the wait.

"The club has been trying to relocate for the past 30 years. But never before have we been this close to making it happen. And, arguably, this is the most important issue of all. We own the land and are investing in its development to ensure the long-term future of the club is secure. That is why I believe the future looks good. Thank you for your continued support."

INSIDE TODAY...

Season ticket prices pegged - Pp 10-11; Open Day plans - P 50; The manager's message - P 5; The skipper's column - P 7; Travel deals to Swindon (and it's NOT all-ticket) - P 12; Today's visitors - Pp 18-21; Match reports and pictures of the Bristol City and Colchester games - Pp 26-31; Latest injury news - P 8; More trialists in the reserves - P 51; Blast from the Past - Pp 22 & 23; Luton Belles sitting pretty - P 45; Junior Hatters news - P 35; To eight target - P 53; All the stats: Pp 54-55.

A Message From The Chairman



AS WE play our final home game at the end of a season in which we came so close to winning the promotion we all wanted, I want to put on record my thanks to everyone who has played a part in Luton Town's success. And the season was a success: to miss out on the play-offs is disappointing, but it is encouraging that we have adjusted well to playing in a higher division. I expect to see us take the next step up, into Division One, in 12 months time! I thank Joe and the boys for their efforts. We can only wonder about what might have been if we had not suffered so many injuries. I would also like to thank our other important "team" - everybody who works so hard behind the scenes to make our club special.

My final word has to be to the supporters. You have been magnificent again in backing your team, and the away attendances in particular have been tremendous, the envy of most other clubs in the division.

To show our appreciation for your support throughout the season, we have decided that despite inflation and rising costs, we will not increase admission charges or season ticket prices next season.

I hope that you all have a very good summer, and come back as keen as ever when the new campaign kicks off in August.

Mike Watson-Challis, Chairman

Club Record Equalled

MONDAY'S romp at Layer Road was only the second time in their history that the Town had enjoyed a 5-0 away victory. Our last 5-0 success was at home to Halifax just over a year ago, and the only previous away win by that margin was in October 1967, when the team that did it at Exeter included a young kid in defence, John Moore. The season ended with the Town winning the championship of the old Fourth Division. The best away win in recent years was 5-1 at Charlton in December 1975.

And Finally...

THE editor thanks all who have helped make his job a pleasure again this season, with all the staff at Kenilworth Road top of the list, closely followed by the professionals at Regal Litho, our programme printers. He would like to thank particularly regular contributors Roger Wash and Dave Newman. As a labour of love, Dave produces the stats chart which we think is one of the best in the business. Thanks also to supporters who have been in touch with bouquets and brickbats, and to those who have waited to see pictures of Hatters Abroad or Mini-Hatters, apologies for the shortage of space that has prevented some being used. They are being kept, and hopefully will be published next season.

Brian Swain



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M. Watson-Challis

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Reserve Team Coach

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Manager's View



AT THE final home game of the season it is traditional for managers and fans alike to look back on the past nine months, and debate what we enjoyed, what disappointed, and what might have happened. But my first thoughts today are to look to the future, to see what lessons we can learn from this season, and get into shape to do better next time around.

When the season began I honestly thought we were good enough to be in with a very good chance of achieving a second consecutive promotion. We have fallen short - although not by as much as teams like Cheltenham and Mansfield, who came up with us! - and we have not really done ourselves justice. This squad has done well, but has not been consistent enough. We have lost to some of the poorest teams in the league, yet matched the best.

An awful run of injuries, midway through the season and then again in the final run-in, has not helped our cause, with the result that while some of our best players have been in the treatment room I have had to "box it up" to put together the best side possible.

Typical of our luck on the injury front was last Saturday: Mark Ovendale was ruled out during the warm-up, so I had to throw in Robert Beckwith at short notice. I would not have planned to give an 18-year-old untried youngster a debut in such circumstances, against a promotion-chasing side. It could easily have been too big an occasion, but in the event he was a revelation, and more than earned his right to stay in the side

for the trip to Colchester.

I thought we did well against Bristol City. It was a tough

game, but they were never allowed to take charge, and it was pleasing to see that even when we went behind we had the spirit, commitment and ability to draw level. It was a point which we well deserved.

In view of some of our previous results this season, there was a danger that the game at Colchester could be an anticlimax. We spoke about the need to keep things going, to help build for next season, and to give our loyal following a game to enjoy. I am sure all of you who were there had a great bank holiday day out. We played some magnificent football, and Steve Howard was awesome. Colchester became yet another team who could not handle him, and with everyone else on form our best win of the season came from a performance that was near-perfect, and don't forget this was against a team which had just beaten Cardiff 3-0 at Ninian Park. It was also sweet revenge for the home defeat we suffered at the hands of Colchester in December.

It was our ninth away win of the season. That is a record to admire. Unfortunately, we have won only eight games at home, so this afternoon we need to put that record straight. We have debated why we have faltered so much at home this season without coming up with a definitive answer, but it has been costly.

I will expect us to put that right next season. Promotion campaigns are almost always built on solid home results. The old adage is true: win at home, draw away and you will be champions.

Overall, my verdict on the season is that we have done well, but could have done better. Our poor start proved very costly, with just one point from the first five

games. Fortunately we then got to grips with the challenge of playing in a higher division, and the players deserve credit for hauling us up the table. They have proved to be a good bunch of professionals, and they are as disappointed as you and I that we failed to finish the season in the top six.

But credit to Wigan, who have spent big money to win the championship. Crewe look as though they will be going up as well thanks to the experienced guidance of Dario Gradi. I am pleased for him, because in many ways Crewe set an example of what a well-run club can achieve. I also look back on our matches with Wigan and Crewe: we shared the points with both of them, and while Crewe produced an exceptional performance here a month ago, don't forget we had beaten them at their place.

Cardiff, who spent big to challenge for promotion, could take only one point off us in our two games with them.

We have taken points off all the teams above us, so despite our disappointment we know we have plenty to build on. I will have plenty to do during the close season, and I can assure you that when we gather here again I will have made changes to the squad to improve it. I know the clamour for success will be relentless, and I want to be celebrating promotion by this time next year! Finally, in wishing you all a good summer, my thanks for your support throughout the campaign, at home and away. Your loyalty has been tremendous, and it is appreciated. Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

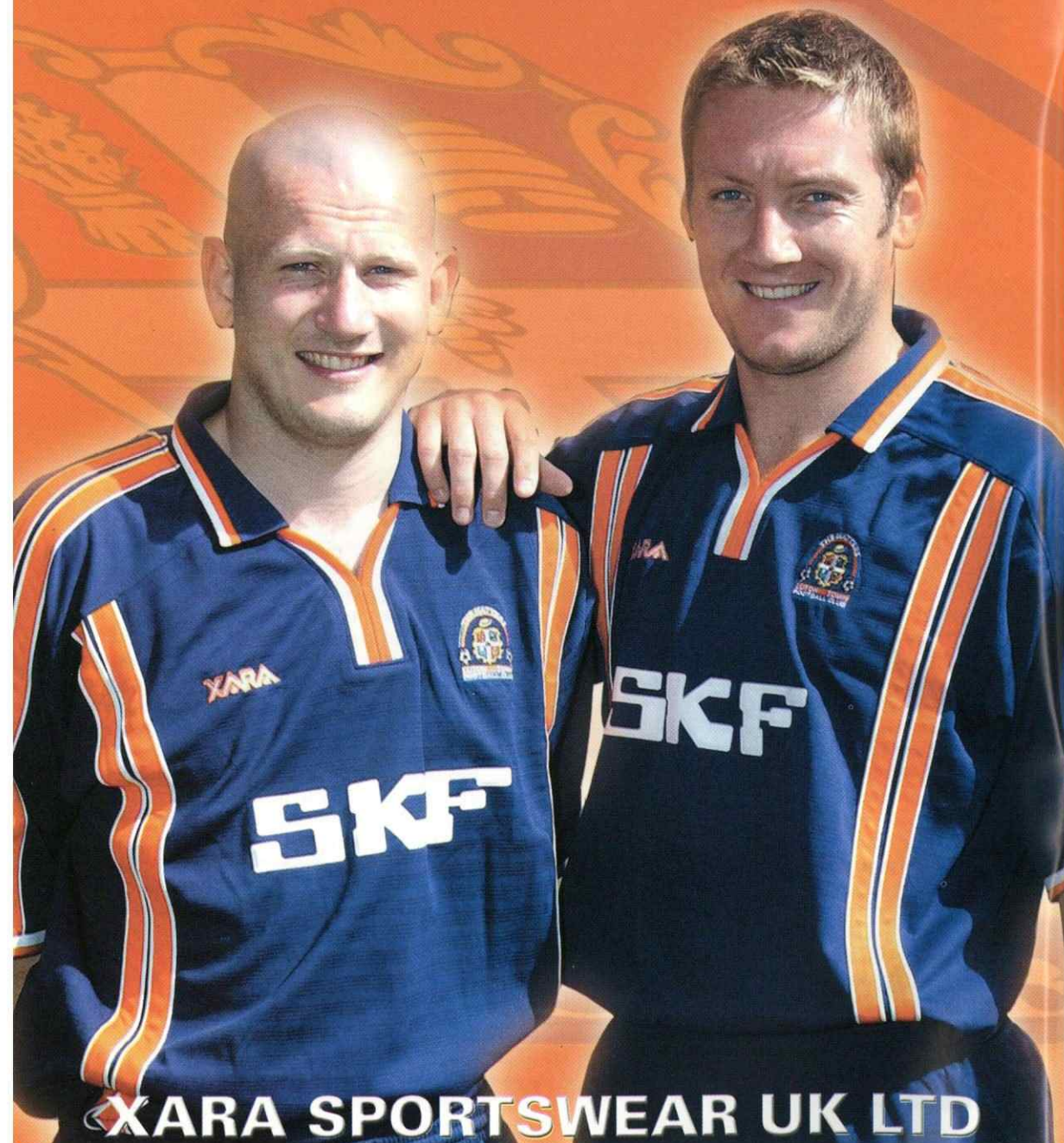
Joe Kinnear



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SEASON 2002 - 2003**



Captain's View



WE HAVE been bubbling this week after the excellent performance at Colchester on Monday. It was confirmation of what we can do at our best, and a harsh reminder of how much better we would have done this season if we had produced that sort of form more often.

I thought we put in a good performance against Bristol City on Saturday, particularly when you think of how many players were unavailable through injury. We could have won that game, and probably should have done so. It was a day Robert Beckwith will remember for the rest of his life. He was unbelievable, and we were all delighted for him. I know he is a strong character, and neither of the Bristol goals was down to him.

To keep a clean sheet in his second game was another great achievement. When we were four up it would have been understandable if Becks had lost his concentration, but he didn't, and he made two great saves when Colchester briefly threatened to get back into the game.

It's the first time in my career I have been in a team which has won 5-0 away from home, and we deserved it. Every player was on song, and it was an excellent pitch, which helped our game.

We were all over the moon for Howie, with five goals in two games, including a super hat-trick at Colchester. And how nice it was to see Griff playing again, and scoring in his second match back.

Now we need to take it on from the Bristol and Colchester performances, and wrap up the season with two more victories. To finish comfortably in the top

half of the table in our first season back up is a considerable achievement, and I want to see us dig in today and next week to make the finale three wins out of three.

Everyone approached the Easter games in the right frame of mind, and that must be carried on through the final two matches of this season and then on into next season.

Deep down, I think we should have been in the top six, despite losing our first four games. Our results since then have been a strange mixture. We have lost to too many sides who are now below us, and we still don't know how that happened. We lost twice to Mansfield, and they are going straight back down. Northampton took points off us, and they are also on their way into the Third Division. You cannot afford to throw away points against so-called lesser sides like that.

However, we are still a young squad, and we have learned from our experience. We raised ourselves well enough to take points off all the top teams. Obviously we have to get the same sort of attitude firmly in place for the lower ones.

The game at Colchester was one of the season's highlights. The others, for me, were the home wins over Cardiff and Plymouth, and the Worthington Cup success at Watford.

The season's lowlights were the first four games, especially after we came back from the Isle of Man tournament in good shape and feeling confident, and then did well in the friendly against Southampton.

The other low spot was the pair of defeats we suffered in

succession at Notts County and Mansfield last month. They did huge damage to our play-off chances, and it became impossible to make up the leeway in the final month of the season.

If we hold eighth place in the final league table I think we can consider that we have had a decent season. But now we have higher expectations: if we are not in the play-offs at least in a year's time I will be very disappointed. But first, we have a summer for players to recharge the batteries and for the gaffer to bring in a new face or two. It's time to get over the knocks and bruises, have a little rest, and then be ready for the start of pre-season training in late June. I will do a little training to keep fit and to keep my weight down – at 18 to 20 it used to be easy to stay slim summer and winter alike. Now, as an old man of 24, I have to work on it a little harder! I will enjoy time with my family, and a couple of holiday trips, but I know that it will not be long before I will be champing at the bit waiting for the start of the new league season.

I know fans tend to feel the same way, and my last word has to be one of thanks from all of us in the dressing room for your tremendous support, especially at away games. You have been patient when we have had our bad days, and joined in the celebrations on the good ones. Have a good summer, and hopefully there will be a lot more good days for all of us next season.

Kevin Nicholls

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



Treatment Room

WE GOT off lightly in terms of injuries from our Easter games. Carl Griffiths took a knock on the ankle when Alan White clattered him early in the second half at Colchester, but Griff was able to carry on after treatment and has made a full recovery.

Everyone was delighted with the performances of young Robert Beckwith in goal, and he may well get another chance this afternoon. Mark Owendale, who injured his hip in the warm-up before the Bristol City game, is much better now, but at the time of writing it was touch and go if he would be ready to play today.

Many others are making good progress, with Ian Hillier

coming on by leaps and bounds, and Ahmet Brkovic expected to resume training by Thursday. Duncan Jupp is all right again, but Carl Emberson, Chris Coyne and Russ Perrett were all still under treatment this week. So were Sammy Igoe, Tony Thorpe and Dean Crowe, so we are ending the season with the injury list much longer than we would like.

Steve Robinson underwent surgery for his lower back problem on Thursday, and we all wish him a very speedy recovery. He will be one of several players who will be glad of the break from football after next week.

The work of the treatment room, of course, goes on after the final match, with injured

players reporting in for as long as it takes to regain fitness.

After Saturday's game at Swindon all the playing staff will go through the usual end-of-season routines before the summer break. They are back for the start of pre-season training in late June, but in the meantime they need to keep their bodies in good shape, and when they "break up" for the holidays they will each have a personal diet and exercise plan, to prevent them putting on weight, while maintaining a good general level of fitness. And I hope the treatment room will be a lot less busy at the start of the new season than it has been for the final weeks of the old one!

Lee Taylor

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Club Secretary

IT HARDLY seems possible that another season has flown by, and that we are playing our last home league match until next August. I know supporters who went to Colchester enjoyed their Bank Holiday afternoon, and it is nice to end a season on a high, hopefully with two more wins to complete the campaign. We are already assured of a top ten finish, well set to push on to even better things next season.

On the subject of the Colchester game, our apologies for the late change of mind by Colchester on the all-ticket arrangements. Home clubs make the decision on whether a match should be all-ticket, and by the time Colchester decided to withdraw the restriction it was too late to pass on the information in Saturday's match programme, although we were able to announce it over the public address system, and through our website.

I have been able to speak to Swindon, and they have agreed to withdraw the all-ticket arrangement for our game there next Saturday, although it is advantageous to buy tickets in advance and so claim the discounted price. I know it is frustrating when all-ticket matches are put in place and then changed. But I would ask you to bear in mind that when decisions were taken by our opponents we were in with a good chance of making the play-offs, which naturally would make a significant difference to the number of Luton supporters attending.

Our thanks are due to all supporters for their magnificent backing this season, at Kenilworth Road and at away games. As you can read elsewhere in today's programme, the club has decided to freeze ticket and season ticket prices for the new campaign, so I hope you will all be back and, if possible, bring a friend or two.

Our supporters are also very generous. At last week's game the Pasque Hospice bucket collection

raised £400.84, and the Hospice ask us to pass on their grateful thanks. Half a dozen similar collections during the season resulted in well over £2,000 being given to deserving causes.

We play our part as a club, and during the season we have given out 2,000 match tickets to various organisations within the local community, and we are also able to make a good cash donation to help a local charity thanks to the money we receive from the Football Association's Charity Shield income. This season we gave £8,100 to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital Cancer Ward. It is all part of our determination to make the fullest possible contribution to the benefit of the local community.

While we thank the players, management and coaching staff for their efforts this season, I also want to put on record my appreciation of the sterling efforts made by so many others who are hardly ever in the limelight. We have a dedicated band of very hard-working and loyal Luton Town supporters involved in the day to day running of the club. We also have hundreds of others who are vital to the success of every match day. On average there are around 300 people involved behind the scenes, mostly unsung heroes doing their jobs conscientiously so that everyone enjoys Saturday afternoons at football.

It is impossible to name everybody who deserves recognition, but I would like to single out one supporter who has been a great help. Shirley Hobbs, a real Luton Town fanatic, is retiring after helping me behind the scenes for many years. I thank her for her efforts, wish her a very happy retirement, and am glad to hear that she intends to continue to support the team home and away.

While today sees our final home game of the Nationwide League season, there is still more football

to be played at Kenilworth Road before the very last final whistle is blown for 2002/2003. After today's game, we will be staging the traditional end of season match between Whosh, our internet supporters, and our ground stewards. Supporters are welcome to stay behind to watch, and on past experience you can be pretty sure no quarter will be asked, or given! The reserves will have the honour of ringing down the Kenilworth Road curtain. Because of earlier postponements, their fixture list now goes on until Thursday May 8, at home to Cheltenham, with a 2pm kick off. We have at long last been able to fix up the last remaining outstanding fixture. It should have been away to Brighton in January, but it has been impossible to find a pitch on the South Coast for a new date, so the two clubs have decided to switch the game to Kenilworth Road. It will be played on Monday afternoon, April 28, with a 2pm kick-off.

There are two other dates to remind you of. The annual presentation night organised jointly by the football club and Luton Town Supporters Club is taking place a week tomorrow, and at the time of writing a handful of tickets remained available.

And on May Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, we are holding our annual open day, from 12noon until 4pm. There will be plenty of entertainment, and a chance to meet the players. But we need help – if you can spare a little time to help us run the event, please get in touch with me at the club.

Finally, today, can I wish everyone a very happy summer. See you all again next season – we only have to wait until August 9 for the big kick-off and our next promotion campaign!

Cherry Newbery

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

**NO
PRICE
INCREASE**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SEASON TICKET PRICES

SEASON 2003/2004

PRICES HELD OVER FROM LAST SEASON

	Prices before 15.06.03	Prices after 15.06.03 and new applicants	Matchday x23
Main Stand A-E			
Adults	£318	£382	£425
Concessions	£155	£186	£207
Block F			
Adults	£267	£320	£356
Concessions	£138	£166	£184
Block G			
Adults	£172	£207	£230
Concessions	£121	£145	£161
Main Stand Enclosure C-G			
Adults	£267	£320	£356
Concessions	£138	£166	£184
Restricted View Blocks A,B,H & J			
Adults	£172	£207	£230
Concessions	£121	£145	£161
Kenilworth Stand - Upper and Lower Tier			
Adults	£267	£320	£356
Concessions	£138	£166	£184
New Stand (renewals only)			
Adults	£267	£320	£356
Concessions	£138	£166	£184
Family Season Ticket			
2 Adults & 1 Child	£600	£720	£898
1 Adult & 2 Children	£500	£600	£725
Each Additional Child	£125	£150	£184

BENEFITS FOR SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

- Guaranteed place at all home first team league matches.
- Guaranteed place and priority purchase for all home cup matches.
- Priority purchase on away cup matches with limited capacity.
- 10% discount on all full priced merchandise in the Club Shop (on production of Season Ticket book).
- Free entry to home reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR YOUNG SUPPORTERS

Aged under 11: £35

Aged 11-16: £65

Kenilworth Block B,

Proof of age
required.

Contact Ticket
Office for further
details.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

MATCHDAY TICKET PRICES

SEASON 2003/2004

PRICES HELD OVER FROM LAST SEASON



Main Stand A-E

Adults	£18.50
Concessions	£9.00

Block F

Adults	£15.50
Concessions	£8.00

Block G, Restricted View

Adults	£10.00
Concessions	£7.00

Main Stand Enclosure C-G

Adults	£15.50
Concessions	£8.00

Restricted View Blocks A,B,H & J

Adults	£10.00
Concessions	£7.00

Kenilworth Stand - Upper and Lower Tier

Adults	£15.50
Concessions	£8.00

New Stand (Family Stand)

Family Match Ticket (2 Adults + 1 Child)	£32.00
Family Match Ticket (1 Adult + 2 Children)	£26.00
Each Additional Child	£6.00

CAR PARKING

Supporters wishing to purchase car parking season tickets are invited to put their names on a waiting list. Availability will depend on how many of this season's parking tickets are renewed. The price for the 2003/04 season will be £90. To apply, please write to the club secretary's office.

Membership Details Season 2003/2004

RENEWALS MADE EASY

Existing members wishing to renew need fill in NO forms, simply return your membership card for the 2002-2003 Season together with your remittance for £2 made payable to LTFC together with a SAE by 1st August 2003 - we will do the rest.

We would like to remind you that YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO WATCH LUTON TOWN, however there are distinct advantages in becoming a member to include purchasing tickets for themselves and their guests, in the Member's Stand (Kenilworth Upper and Lower) as well as priority purchasing of Cup Tickets. For those supporters who wish to become members please apply direct to the Ticket Office on 01582 416976.

TICKET OFFICE CLOSE SEASON OPENING HOURS

Please note that
the ticket office
and shop will be
CLOSED from

**Monday May 5th
to
Saturday May 17th
inclusive.**

**Opening hours
in the close
season:**

**Monday to Friday
10am - 4pm**

**Saturdays
10am - 2pm**

**For all ticket office
information
telephone
01582 416976**



Hatters Away

THE end of the road for the 2002/2003 season is at Swindon on Saturday, and Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club will, as they have done for every other away game, be offering reliable coach travel to the County Ground.

The Bobbers start off from Cranfield at 10 am, and leave Luton an hour later, and fares are £10.50 for adults and £8.50 for senior citizens and under-16s.

Town on Tour, part of the Luton Town Supporters Club, will set off from Luton at 11.30 and fares are £12 for LTSC members, £10 for junior and senior citizen members, and £14 for others,

DIY Travellers

SWINDON is easy to reach by road, and you can expect to get there in well less than two hours. Take the M1 south from Luton, then the M25 towards Heathrow, before joining the M4



County Ground

west. Leave at junction 15, following the signs towards Swindon for just under two miles, when you come to a roundabout from which the County Ground is signposted. Bear left at that roundabout, and take the third exit at the next and the ground and its car park is on your right.

Mileage: 105

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.

Nationwide League Division Two Ticket News



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

We have now been advised by Swindon that this match is now NOT ALL TICKET but supporters who do pre-purchase will get the discount.

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 bid a very warm welcome to all our commercial clients and sponsors, together with their guests, to this afternoon's match against Stockport County.

Today's match, our final home fixture in this season's Nationwide League Two programme, also heralds the start of the commercial department's busiest three months of the year.

Supplementary to all of our traditional commercial business streams, that cover executive boxes, stadium and programme advertising, match ball and match sponsorship, we are putting the final touches to a series of brand new corporate products. They will include sporting dinners, golf and race days, plus, as soon as the new fixture list is ratified in June, VIP away match packages to be offered for next season

We will also be looking at developing a series of non-matchday products here at the stadium,



Peter Johnson and his guests, when he was match ball sponsor for the Bristol City game

where you can utilise our function suites for specialist client meetings and seminars, together with management meetings and presentations. These private business-to-business functions will be supplemented by business breakfasts and luncheons, where local businessmen will be invited to discuss the various trading issues which impact both positively and perhaps on occasions negatively within our region.

All these commercial opportunities will be designed to produce two things: additional service and support for our business partners, and secondly, vital revenue for Luton Town Football Club, which will enable it to continue to develop and achieve its objectives both on and off the pitch.

**Joint Match Sponsor
- Sundon Computer
Services**



JOINING us this afternoon as a commercial sponsor for the first time is Sundon Computer Services. Established in 2001, Sundon represent your local opportunity to solve all of your needs in IT. As Director Lennox Ferdinand states: "Although only two years old, Sundon Computer Services have established an enviable reputation across the region as the total IT solutions company. We pride ourselves on being able to deliver a full service programme with speed and efficiency, with no requirement being too small for us to handle" You can contact Lennox on Luton 897579 to see how Sundon Computer Services can provide the answer to your particular IT problem.

Golden Gamble

FOR the first time this season an away supporter walked off with the Golden Gamble jackpot at the last home game. Steve Lansdown, from Bristol, collected £695 after his lucky ticket was picked out of the drum. It is always long odds on a visiting fan scooping the kitty, because the vast majority of ticket sales are to our own supporters.

It goes without saying that we are happiest when we reward our own fans for their strong support of the Golden Gamble, which is a vital part of our fund-raising efforts. Every £1 ticket bought helps the club, because half of the income goes into the jackpot kitty and the other half to club funds.

The Golden Gamble has paid out £16,420 to 24 winners so far this season, an average of £684 each. The season's final wedge of cash is up for grabs this afternoon, and as usual the prize will be available, in readies, as soon as the draw is made during the half time interval.

Joint Match Sponsor - The Regular Rabble

IT'S WELCOME once again to one of our regular match sponsors, the Regular Rabble. They are a group of extremely committed Luton Town supporters who follow the team at home, and to away matches with the Bobbers Travel Club. Today will see the standing down of principle spokesperson and organiser Sue Miller. She will continue to be a very active member of the RR, and I know I speak both for the membership and the club in thanking Sue for all her hard work and commitment in ensuring that all aspects of the RR ran like clockwork and for the generation of the vital additional revenue that has been invested into the club via their sponsorship.

Commercial Mascot - Nathan Hill

FIVE-year-old Nathan Hill joins us as this afternoon's commercial mascot. A pupil at Ashton St Peter's school in Dunstable, Nathan enjoys his football as well as swimming and drawing, and numbers amongst his favourite Luton Town players Steve Howard and Dean Crowe. Nathan is on his first visit to Kenilworth Road, today and will be joined by his mum and dad.



Open Day - May 5



MONDAY May 5 will see our annual open day staged at Kenilworth Road.. This tremendous annual event will once again be providing a wonderful day out for all the family. Features will include stadium tours, children's entertainment, Golden Gamble prize draw, football in the community, the Luton Belles, and the chance to have your photograph taken with your favourite



Representatives of the joint match sponsors: The Bell, Studham, and Town Tub Enterprises presenting Rob Beckwith with his man of the match award on his Town debut.

player. Not to be missed will be a six-hour Club Shop Merchandise Spectacular. That starts at 10am, with general stadium admission at 12 noon. Entrance is £1 for adults, but free for children and senior citizens.

FINALLY may Amelia and myself take this opportunity to thank all of our commercial partners and sponsors for your investment and support during this and previous seasons. We look forward to welcoming you back at the start of the next football year, as well as meeting you during the summer events that we will be contacting you about.

Enjoy the day

Peter Davis



VIP youngster: David Foxen was the commercial mascot for the Bristol City game.

To advertise in the matchday magazine phone Luton 411622 or e-mail us at:
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Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored
Shots
Headers
Volleys
Penalties
Free Kicks
Own Goals

Where Goals Scored
7
34
24
28
27
7

Where Goals Conceded
10
32
17
25
30
11

When Goals Scored
Hatters
0-15
16-30
31-45
46-60
61-75
76-90

Form Guide - Last 6
1
3
2
9
10
6
-1
Goal Difference
Sequence

Yellow & Red Cards
86
6
Yellow
Red



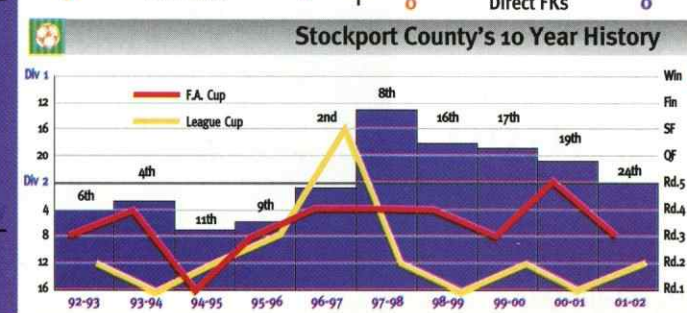
2002-2003 Attendances
Hatters
149,167
Aggregate
9,477
Highest
5,890
Lowest
6,780
Average
68
% of Capacity

Average Goals per game
1.48
For
1.41
Home For
1.55
Away For
1.34
Against
1.23
Home Against
1.45
Away Against

2002-2003 Figures
40
Players Used
15
Clean Sheets
10
Failed to Score
8
Goals scored from...
4
Corners
4
Free Kicks
5
Goals conceded from...
7
Corners
12
Free Kicks
3

10 Year Record
Hatters
53.3
Avg Pos.
7,878
among 92 clubs
6,842
Avg Att 1993
-13
Avg Att 2002
+ / - %
1

Top League Scorers
Howard
21
League Goals
39
Games Played
0.54
Lge Goals/Game
12
Points Gained
4
Scoring Run
1
Hat-Tricks
7
Close Range
8
Inside Area
4
Long Range
0
Shots
0
Headers
0
Volleys
0
Penalties
0
Direct FKs



Swings
LT
Games Won from:
0
3 Goals Down
0
2 Goals Down
6
1 Goal Down

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

Drawn from:
0
3 Goals Down
1
2 Goals Down
1
1 Goal Down
0
3 Goals Up
0
2 Goals Up
6
1 Goal Up

Margins
11
Won by 1 Gl
2
Won by 2 Gls
3
Won by 3 Gls
0
Won by 4 Gls
1
Won by 5+ Gls
Games
9
Lost by 1 Gl
2
Lost by 2 Gls
2
Lost by 3 Gls
1
Lost by 4 Gls
0
Lost by 5+ Gls

Misc stats
6
Highest Pos.
24
Lowest Pos.
5
Winning Run
7
Unbeaten Run
4
Losing Run
7
No Win Run



MORE BITE THAN A ROY KEANE TACKLE...





Welcome To

GOALKEEPERS

1. LEE JONES

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Swansea City, Crewe Alexandra (loan), Bristol Rovers

LEE joined County from Bristol Rovers and soon established himself as first choice keeper following a pre-season injury to Carlo Nash who eventually moved on to Manchester City.

He started as a trainee at Swansea City and went on to play for AFC Porth, Real Mallorca of Spain, Swansea City (Mar 1994) joining Bristol Rovers on loan in January 1998 and later signing permanently.

During the 1999/00 season County moved to sign him for a fee of £50,000.

13. JAMES SPENCER

JAMES joined our Centre of

Excellence in 1999 and signed YT forms 2 years later.

He was still just 16 when he became the club's youngest-ever goalkeeper last April when his terrific save late in the game helped us beat Watford 2-1.

Also turned in a man-of-the-match performance when he replaced the red-carded Andy Dibble inside the first minute of our final game of last season at Norwich.

37. OLA TIDMAN

PREVIOUS CLUBS: TMalmö FF (Sweden), KAA Gent (Belgium), La Louvière (Belgium)

Swedish-born Ola joined us from La Louvière and was given a baptism of fire at Bristol City less than 24 hours later.

The 23-year-old, who has represented his country at Under-21 level, is hoping to earn an extended contract at Edgeley Park.

DEFENDERS

4. DAVE CHALLINOR

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Tranmere Rovers

Dave became Carlton Palmer's fourth signing when he paid Tranmere Rovers £120,000 for the Chester-born defender.

Rovers snapped up Dave Challinor on a free transfer during the summer of 1994 from local non-league side Bromborough Pool.

Tall and commanding, Challinor won England U19 honours before turning down a university place to turn professional with the Prenton Park club.

He became a first-team regular in 1997-98 and played a key role in our Cheshire rivals recent success in both the Worthington and FA Cups.

Now fully recovered from a broken leg sustained against Nottingham Forest in 2000-01.

Stockport County



Known as 'the exocet' because of his tremendously long throw that has earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

After a slow start to his County career Dave turned in a string of dominant performances, which was rewarded with the captain's arm by the end of the season.

5. ROBERT CLARE

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

ROBERT is another successful product of our Centre of Excellence.

He joined County as a 15-year-old and turned professional in January 2000.

The cultured centre-back came to prominence in 2000-01 when he played a key role in our successful bid to avoid relegation.

Featured for England Under-20s in their 2-1 win in Germany on October 23rd, 2002

6. CARLTON PALMER

PREVIOUS CLUBS: West Bromwich Albion, Sheffield Wednesday, Leeds United, Southampton, Nottingham Forest, Coventry City, Watford.

Carlton joined County in November 2001 as head of a new three-pronged management team following the departure of previous boss Andy Kilner and his assistant Des Bulpin.

And the former England international became an instant hit with the County faithful when he scored what proved to be the winning goal against Norwich City on his Hatters' debut.

Playing at the back, midfield and occasionally up front Carlton's quality shone through and he delighted everyone at Edgeley Park by announcing that he would continue playing in 2002-03 after originally announcing that he would bring the curtain down on his distinguished 20-year career at

the end of last season.

11. MARTIN PEMBERTON

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Oldham Athletic, Doncaster Rovers, Scunthorpe United, Hartlepool United, Mansfield Town.

MARTIN joined us on a Bosman free from Mansfield Town in May 2002 after helping the Stags to promotion a month earlier.

The Bradford-born defender began his career at Oldham but, after short spells with Doncaster Rovers, Scunthorpe United and Hartlepool United, he dropped into non-League football first with Harrogate Town and then Bradford Park Avenue.

It was with Avenue that he first came to the attention of Mansfield and, after completing the move to Field Mill in 2000-01, the left-sided utility player has made the most of his second opportunity in League football.

12. JIM GOODWIN

PREVIOUS CLUB: Glasgow Celtic.

JIM moved to Edgeley Park in May 2002 on a Bosman-free after rejecting a new contract at Celtic.

The Waterford-born defender joined the Scottish giants as a 15-year-old but despite progressing to captain the Republic of Ireland Under-21 team he found opportunities limited at Park Head.

Just one first-team appearance, against Dundee United in May 2000, prompted his decision to move south.

Gained his first full Irish cap when he replaced Robbie Keane against Finland earlier this season.

18. JOHN HARDIKER

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Morecambe

JOHN became the first club to join Morecambe's academy, in 1998, after failing to win a YTS contract

at Bury.

A regular in the Shrimpers' side since making his debut as a 16-year-old John made around 100 appearances for the Lancashire club.

Morecambe's FA Cup run in 2000-01 brought him national acclaim and his consistent performances persuaded Carlton Palmer to make him the Conference's most-expensive defender when he paid £150,000 to bring him to Edgeley Park.

A goal on his Football League debut at Rotherham, John became an Edgeley Park hero by scoring twice in the final five, pulsating minutes when County came from behind to beat Manchester City in March 2002.

Went under the surgeon's knife in January to correct a hernia problem.

21. ANDY THOMAS

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

LIKE Peter Wild and Fraser McLachlan Andy joined our Centre of Excellence back in 1995.

The versatile defender turned professional in July 2001 and made his first-team debut at Rotherham in February.

Despite being just 5' 8" the Stockport-born youngster is regarded as one of the best defenders at the club.

35. ANTHONY TONKIN

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Yeovil Town

Anthony joined us from Yeovil in September for a fee of £50,000. He had been with the Conference club since 1998 turning professional two years later. Has represented England at semi-level.

MIDFIELDERS

7. AARON LESCOTT

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Aston Villa, Lincoln City (loan), Sheffield

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Welcome To

Aaron joined Sheffield Wednesday in October 2000 after failing to make a first-team appearance at Aston Villa. The former England schoolboy international, older brother of Wolves' defender Joleon, made his league debut and became a firm favourite at Hillsborough with his tenacious midfield performances. He also made an impression on Carlton Palmer who made Aaron his first signing after taking over at Edgeley Park paying £75,000 to the Owls for the 22-year-old in November 2001. Following the departure of long-



Wednesday.

term skipper Mike Flynn Lescott was handed the captain's armband but a knee injury sustained at Grimsby in February 2002 ruled him out of the rest of the campaign.

10. RICKIE LAMBERT

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Blackpool, Macclesfield Town.

RICKIE moved to Edgeley Park in April 2002 from Macclesfield Town for £300,000, a record fee for our Cheshire neighbours. Lambert joined the Silkmen in the 2000-01 season after serving his traineeship at Blackpool and, after a slow start, emerged as a midfield player with enormous potential. The Liverpoolian also holds another Macclesfield record – the first player to score a hat-trick for the team since they won promotion to the Football League in 1997.

14. FRASER MCLACHLAN

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
FRASER joined the club's Centre of Excellence in 1995 and signed professional forms in July 2001. Following his debut at Sheffield United last March the 19-year-old became a permanent fixture in the County midfield and scored his first League goal, a 20-yard volley, against Watford in April.

15. KEVIN ELLISON

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Leicester City

Kevin burst onto the non-league scene with Altrincham in 1999-2000 and quickly became a target for a host of league clubs. Leicester City gave him his big opportunity when they paid £50,000 to the Cheshire club in February 2001. But, despite making his Foxes debut in front of 67,000 fans at Old Trafford, the Liverpool-born winger found himself well down

Stockport County



the pecking order at Filbert Street. Following the appointment of Colin Murphy as County's Director of Football in November 2001 Kevin had no hesitation in following the former Leicester assistant manager to Edgeley Park when the clubs agreed a £55,000 fee a couple of weeks later.

19. ANDY WELSH

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

ANDY joined County's School of Excellence in January 1999 after writing to the club for a trial. The former Tameside 800m schoolboy champion made his first-team debut against Millwall in October and was capped by Scotland at under-19 level the following month. Fifteen appearances by the end of the season underlined his potential and his traditional wing-play down the left touchline made him a firm favourite amongst the County faithful.

A successful spell at Macclesfield earlier this season preceded a series of niggling injuries on his return to Edgeley Park. Now back in the first-team picture following a hernia operation.

22. PETER WILD

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

PETER has progressed through our Centre of Excellence and turned professional in July 2001. Another Stockport-born youngster who made his first-team bow last season, against Wolves in February. Scored his first League goal at Cheltenham in February 2003.

36. ALI GIBB

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Norwich City, Northampton Town

After failing to make the grade at Norwich Ali kick-started his career after joining Northampton in 1995. Although he made more than 100

appearances for the Cobblers he was not considered as a first-team regular and it was something of a surprise when County paid £50,000 to bring him to Edgeley Park in 2000.

The fee proved to be a bargain, though, with Gibb becoming a firm favourite with the County favourite with his hard-working performances down the right.

FORWARDS

8. AARON WILBRAHAM

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

ALBY came to prominence with an impressive Youth team partnership with James Flood.

He had a schoolboy spell at Manchester City before joined the club as a trainee.

He broke into the first team in March 1998 and in the last couple of seasons has been established as a first choice player having returned from a loan spell in Norway on loan.

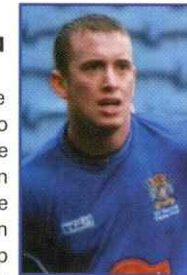
He was the club's leading goalscorer in 2000-01 but a niggling back injury forced him on the sidelines throughout the second half of last season.

Surgery during the summer has corrected the problem and 'Alby' returned to first-team action at Bristol City in January.

9. LUKE BECKETT

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Barnsley, Chester City, Chesterfield

Sheffield-born Luke served his apprenticeship at Barnsley but, despite being a prolific scorer for the Tykes' reserve side, failed to make a first-team appearance at



Oakwell.

He joined Chester City in 1998-99, scoring 25 goals in 74 games, before moving to Chesterfield and helping the Spireites to promotion last season thanks to a return of 16 goals from 41 games.

With 8 goals under his belt in Division Two Carlton Palmer made Luke his second permanent signing at Edgeley Park when he paid the Derbyshire club £100,000 for his services in December 2001.

His hard-working performances soon endeared him to the Edgeley Park faithful and he ended the campaign as the club's top-scorer after scoring 7 times from 17 starts.

16. JON DALY

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

JON joined County from Cherry Orchard in May 1998 and soon impressed everyone at Edgeley Park with his eye for goal. A prolific scorer at youth and reserve level he became the club's second-youngest player when he made his first-team debut at Walsall in October 1999. Still only 19 Jon has represented Ireland at every level up to under-21.

23. CHRIS WILLIAMS

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

CHRIS, who has been at County since he was 12 years old, signed YT forms in July 2001.

He became the club's third-youngest player to play in a first-team game when he came off the bench at Watford on November 10 2001.





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Blast From the Past

No apologies this week for reminding everyone that last Thursday marked the 15th anniversary of the most glorious day in our long history, the 3-2 victory over Arsenal in the final of the Littlewoods Cup. Most schoolboys dream of scoring the winning goal in the last minute for their team in a Cup Final at Wembley. This was the next best thing! Because of our stance on away supporters we had been excluded from the first year of Littlewood's sponsorship of the competition in 1986/87, therefore our second round tie at Wigan in September 1987 was to be our baptism and a goal from Micky Weir, on his full debut, earned us a narrow win. A second leg hat-trick from Mick Harford, however, saw us through comfortably 5-2 on aggregate. We were drawn at home to Coventry in the next round but because the Sky Blues

demanding their full allocation of stand tickets the police nervously advised the Town not to stage the game at Kenilworth Road and after a few false starts the tie was eventually switched to Filbert Street, Leicester which made it almost a home game for Coventry fans.

Despite this disadvantage a tremendous performance saw us win through 3-1 on a quagmire of a pitch to send us to Ipswich, then of Division Two, in the next round. As I live in Newmarket, Ipswich is my 'Watford' and with the Town missing six regulars through injury I was already making my excuses before the kick-off!

However a sweetly executed goal from Brian Stein put us ahead in the fourth minute and a combination of inspired goalkeeping from Les Sealey, stout defending from Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy and desperate, predictable play from the home

side allowed us to slip through to the quarter-finals.

The segregation row was sorted out by the time of the quarter-final tie at home to Bradford City two months later and in a tense game City goalkeeper Paul Tomlinson handled the ball, dribbled it out of the area and then back again before picking it up once more. An indirect free-kick was awarded by the eagle eyed referee and skipper Foster eased our nerves by putting us ahead with Harford doubling the score later.

Our semi-final opponents were to be Oxford United with the first leg at the Manor Ground. We had already beaten Oxford 5-2 and 7-4 that season in the league and were therefore quietly confident of making it triple agony for United.

The trip to Oxford was a nightmare with falling snow and heavy traffic delaying my arrival until shortly before kick-off. The snow had started to melt as I parked miles from the ground and I looked on this as an omen that it was not going to be my night. Oxford forward, Dean Saunders, tried his hardest to make it a game to forget for Luton supporters by winning, and scoring from, a dubious penalty then missing another following another poor decision. The only consolations were another brilliant goal from Brian Stein and the refusal by the referee to award Saunders yet another spot kick when he was felled in the area.



Happy Hatters with the trophy.

Memories of a wonderful day (and night)

In my eyes this was the clearest penalty of the lot!

The second leg was played in an almost surreal atmosphere as everyone expected the Town to win through which, looking back on it now, probably put a lot of added pressure on the players. Fortunately, Oxford were in no real mood for a fight and the celebration parties had started by half-time with the Town two up courtesy of goals from Brian Stein and Ashley Grimes.

For those that remember, this was a strange unique season for Luton supporters with the Simod Cup final to contend with, a battle through to the F.A.Cup semi-final and a trip to Wembley in the Mercantile Credit Centenary celebrations. It was a frantic and expensive time and we were all punch drunk with the sheer number of games and the media hype surrounding everything connected with the club. It is a wonder that the team managed to finish

in ninth place in the table in a league competition that had almost been relegated to secondary importance.

My son, who was then eight, was enjoying his first full season as a Luton supporter and took everything in his stride assuming this was all normal. Supporters of my generation, who were just a shade too young to fully appreciate the F.A.Cup final of 1959, were in a state of constant elation.

We had injury problems leading up to the game to add spice to the occasion with Les Sealey not recovering from a damaged shoulder and Darron McDonough hurting his knee in training 48 hours before the final. This meant recalls for the hardly match fit Ricky Hill and David Preece and a place for 19 year old local boy Kingsley Black.

The game is surprisingly clear in the memory but that can probably be put down to the repeated

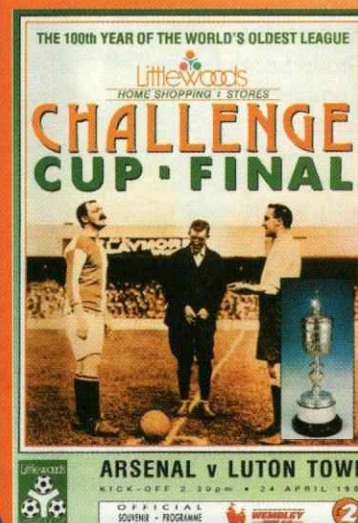
video replays over the years. What remains particularly clear is the penalty decision mid-way through the second half which, if converted, would have put Arsenal 3-1 up with the game completely out of our reach.

When Andy Dibble made his wonder save, his team mates plus the 35,000 Luton supporters knew that the cup had our name on it and, suitably encouraged, the players raced to the other end. Gunners defender, Gus Caesar, made the initial error and the ball cannoned around the box before Danny Wilson stooped to head past John Lukic. Then came the best moment of all. With only seconds remaining, substitute Ashley Grimes, out on the right, swept over a cross with the outside of his left foot for Brian Stein to crash home the winning goal.

What a day and what a night!

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



For Luton supporters attending the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final the official programme was a major disappointment although most fans would not part with their copy for the world!

At £2 for 48 pages, half of which were adverts, there was very little to interest supporters from either side or the neutral with tired articles and more than a few errors cropping up.

My personal beef was that I was asked if I could provide a sepia tinted action photo from an old Luton v Arsenal game for the front cover. Surprisingly I did have one but the programme editors decided to replace it with a picture of the Blackburn and Tottenham captains of 1910 which, of course, had nothing at all to do with the game to be played. Rant over! If any supporters have old Luton photos that I can borrow for scanning purposes over the summer please contact me on 01638 602551.

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Action Replay

Luton Town 2 Bristol City 2 (HT 1-0)

JOE Kinnear admits he gets the hump if the Town fail to win, but he found plenty to offer encouragement after a cracking match against Danny Wilson's promotion-chasers.

He wasn't happy about seeing silly goals given away, but it was good to see the Town proving again that they can be as good as the top teams in this division. Wilson confessed that while he wanted a victory to boost City's promotion push, he was content with a point that cost his men a lot of hard work.

The Town started the day with ten unavailable through injury. A few minutes before kick-off it became 11, when Mark Ovendale hurt his hip in the warm-up. Eighteen-year-old Robert Beckwith was forced to make an unexpected debut, and earned rave reviews, with one good save in the first half, and a spectacular one in the second. Steve Howard got back on the goal standard with a brace, and although the Town are already confirmed as Second Division again next season, their effort and commitment was a treat to watch. Wilson had no complaints when a Bristol press man suggested that the Town had been over-physical in a first half that had an underlying current of ill-feeling simmering just below the surface.

Not at all, replied the City boss. "In the first half we were second in the physical battle. We wanted to play football but Luton were very aggressive with us, which is expected. You don't expect to come here and have Luton lay down to have their belly tickled. They want to go out on a high.

They want to play for pride, and perhaps in some cases for contracts."

In the first half there were signs that a feud between Sol Davis and Scott Murray might be rekindled. Davis was sent off for violent conduct on Murray in the draw at Ashton Gate in December. The crowd, and most of the pressbox, thought Murray was trying to con the ref when he tumbled as he and Davis chased a loose ball. Graham Salisbury saw no foul any more than the rest of us did, and after Murray sat down to enjoy the attentions of the physio the ref had a quiet word with him. The Town were fired up, and by the interval had earned four yellow cards.

Joe Kinnear said that at half time he had told them that if they kept 11 men on the pitch, and didn't do anything silly they would win the game. There was a 50 per cent response – no more yellow cards, but two defensive slips which rubbed out the advantage Howard had grabbed.

He headed in at the far post after only 59 seconds, from a left-wing cross by Matt Spring, who was able to enjoy a close-support role in attack. Carl Griffiths was playing his first game in 18 months, so was inevitably a touch rusty. But some of his passes were sublime.

Beckwith excelled with a save low down at his right hand post to keep out a drive by Lea Peacock which would otherwise have been a ninth-minute

equaliser and the Town were good value for their interval lead. In the first minute of the second half Beckwith produced a blinding save, one-handed to keep out a screamer by Matt Hill which was heading for the top corner. City raised their game, and we enjoyed plenty of exciting football from both sides. But Peter Holmes needlessly held back Aaron Brown to gift City an equaliser, with Brian Tinnion converting the penalty on 65 minutes, and ten minutes later Alan Neilson allowed a bouncing ball to go past him and Peacock nipped in for a header over Beckwith.

By then Kevin Foley had become the second 18-year-old to make his debut for the Town, replacing Holmes, but two of the old hands saved the point the Town deserved, Emmerson Boyce crossing from the right and Howard rising high for another towering far post header into the net.

Luton Town: Beckwith; Boyce, Neilson, Willmott, Davis; Holmes (Foley 69 mins), Nicholls, Spring, Hughes (Kimble 88 mins); Howard, Griffiths. Unused subs: Bayliss, Judge, Brill

Booked: Matt Spring, Chris Willmott, Carl Griffiths and Kevin Nicholls.

Bristol City: Phillips; Carey, Butler, Coles, Hill; Murray, Burnell, Doherty (Brown 39 mins), Tinnion (Lita 88 mins); Peacock, Roberts (Beadle 57 mins). Unused subs: Bell, Stowell.

Booked: No-one.

Referee: Graham Salisbury, Lancashire.

Attendance: 6,381, including 1,220 City supporters.



DRIVING ON: Matt Spring, always backing up the attack, fires in a drive which flew just wide of the target.

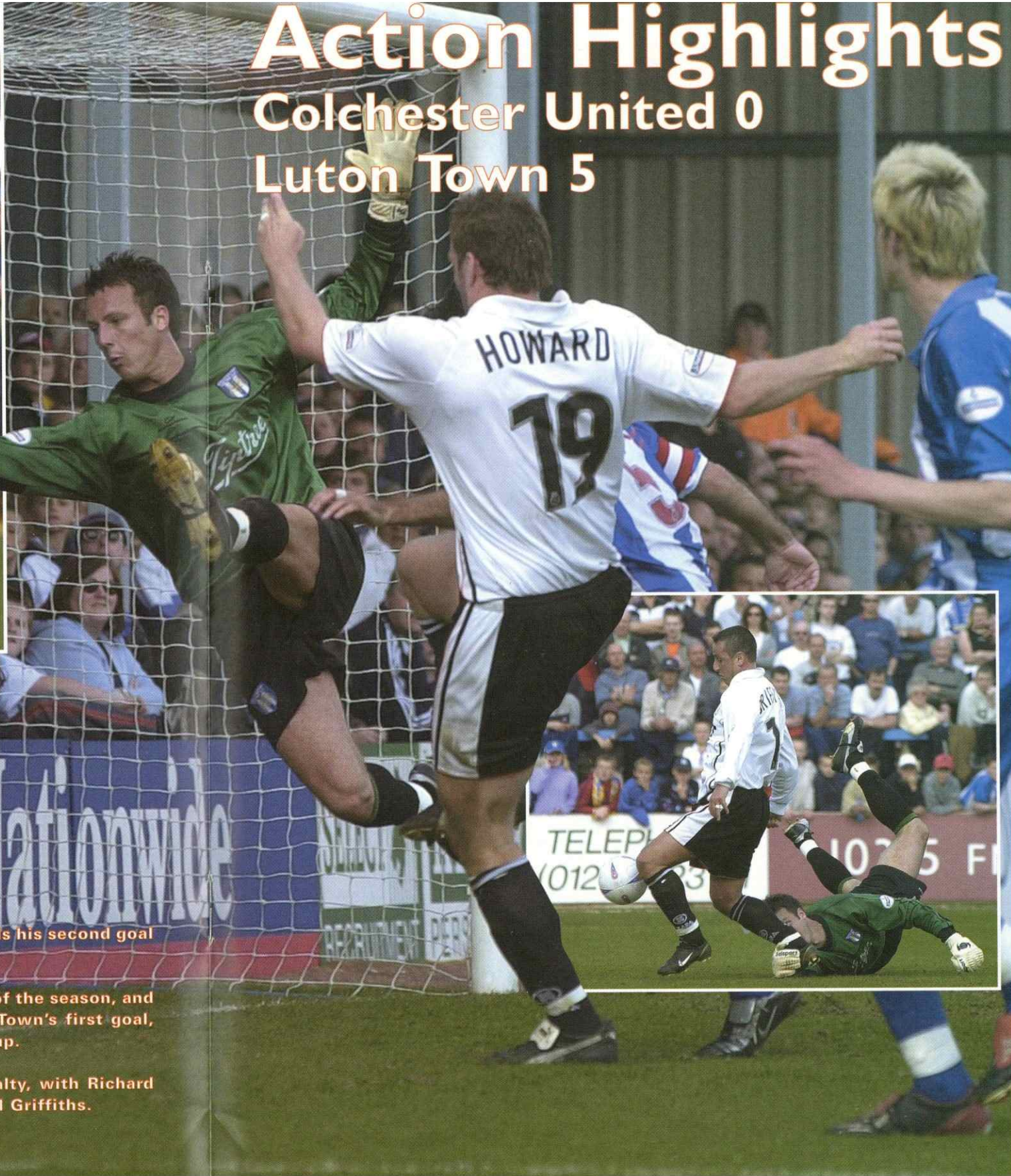
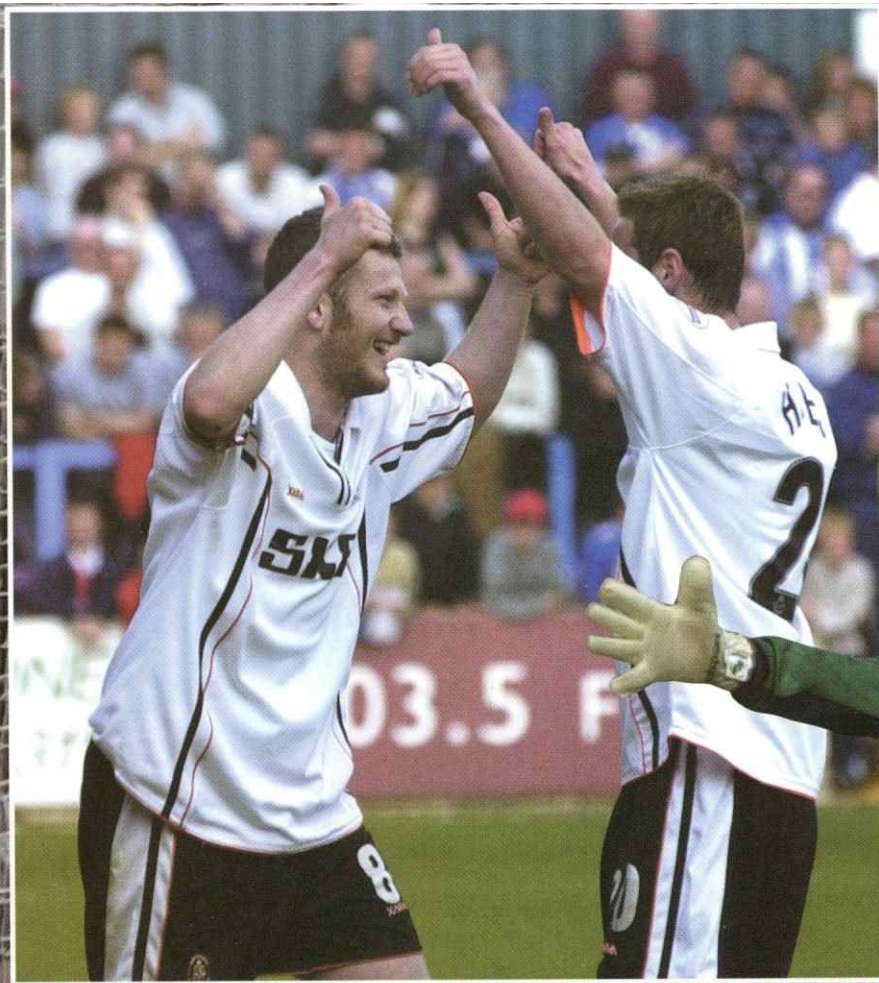
RIGHT: Steve Howard is well above Danny Coles to head the equaliser.

BELOW: Man of the match on his debut – teenage goalkeeper Robert Beckwith.



Action Highlights

Colchester United 0 Luton Town 5



ALL OVER BY HALF TIME: Hat-trick hero Steve Howard heads his second goal to make it 4-0 at the interval.

ABOVE: Kevin Nicholls has just put away his third penalty of the season, and Peter Holmes, whose cross provided the opening for the Town's first goal, helps to start the celebrations after the Town went three up.

RIGHT: Foul play spotted by the ref which led to the penalty, with Richard McKinney's nightmare afternoon including this trip on Carl Griffiths.



Action Replay

Colchester 0 Luton Town 5 (HT 0-4)

THE second hat-trick of his career completed a wonderful weekend for Steve Howard as he led the Town to their ninth away win of the season. It was a ruthless team performance against a side which had been on a bit of a roll, and was fresh from a 3-0 win at Cardiff a couple of days ago. Unbeaten in eight games, a run which transformed them from relegation candidates to safe mid-table comfort, Colchester were confident enough to blood a couple of youth team boys against the Town. Midfielder Marc Canham and right back Greg Halford will not look back on their debuts with much satisfaction. Joe Kinnear knew what United planned, switched Peter Holmes from right to left of midfield, and sat back to watch the Town's romp in the sunshine.

It was bewitching stuff, with the Town four up at the interval, and Colchester powerless to match the Town's surging football in the bank holiday sunshine.

The Town boss said: "It was a wonderful game for us. Colchester's win at Cardiff was a warning to us. No way were we going to come here and be complacent. We have had a hard period of late playing top sides, and you could see the benefit of it. We were always dangerous, always in command, passed better, got in magnificent crosses and Howard was on fire."

While Colchester were swamped with two scholarship boys in their team, the Town gave a second outing to Robert Beckwith, and he put in another impressive performance, without being as extended as he had been by Bristol City on Saturday.

"You always feel with young play-

ers they might be a bit jittery in their second game, but he didn't show any signs of nerves," said Joe. "Our two centre-halves were magnificent, and there were plusses all round the pitch. We played some good football, with some good approach work. Spring was always a threat running off people, Nicholls was always in control, Griffiths did better than I anticipated fitness-wise and was unlucky to have his second goal rubbed out.

"And Howard was awesome - they just couldn't handle him."

The striker struck the first blow on 14 minutes, sliding in to convert Holmes's low left wing cross.

Seven minutes later Emmerson Boyce sent Howard running clear down the right wing, and as the keeper fumbled Howard's driven cross Carl Griffiths pounced for his first goal in eighteen months of injury hell. It was his eighth goal in 13 appearances.

Scott McGleish got away from Alan Neilson and Chris Willmott for a 31st-minute header which hit the bar, and while Beckwith enjoyed a fairly easy afternoon his opposite number had a nightmare.

McKinney dropped a lofted free kick by Sol Davis under pressure from Howard, and then grabbed Griffiths by an ankle to prevent him scoring. The keeper escaped with a yellow card, when a red might have been a kindness, but Kevin Nicholls despatched the penalty to make it 3-0 on 43 minutes, and a minute later he crossed from the right for Howard to head his 21st goal of the sea-

son.

Colchester were allowed into the game a little more in the second half, with Beckwith making two good saves from McGleish and tipping a Thomas Pinault thunderbolt over the bar.

Griffiths had a second goal chalked off by a debatable offside decision after being set up by Howard and Paul Hughes, but in the final minute Howard took a chance created by Nicholls to complete the second hat-trick of his career, the first having come in the 4-0 win at Hull last season.

Phil Parkinson, manager of the month in April for guiding Colchester to safety, was crestfallen by what had happened to his team on their own pitch. "There is a thin dividing line between good and bad, and unfortunately we crossed that line," he said. "The goalkeeper didn't have a great day but we looked a bad team, and Luton certainly deserved their victory."

Luton Town: Beckwith; Boyce (Bayliss 75 mins), Neilson, Willmott, Davis; Hughes, Nicholls, Spring (Skelton 88 mins), Holmes; Howard, Griffiths (Judge 88 mins). Unused subs: Kimble, Brill

Booked: Matt Spring for delaying a free kick, Kevin Nicholls for a foul on Alan White.

Colchester: McKinney; Halford (Baldwin 78 mins), White, Fitzgerald, Edwards; Duguid, Izzet, Canham (Pinault HT), Morgan; May, McGleish. Unused subs: Coote, Bowry, Gerken

Booked: Richard McKinney for tripping Carl Griffiths and conceding the penalty; Alan White for a foul on Griffiths.

Referee: Clive Penton, Sussex.

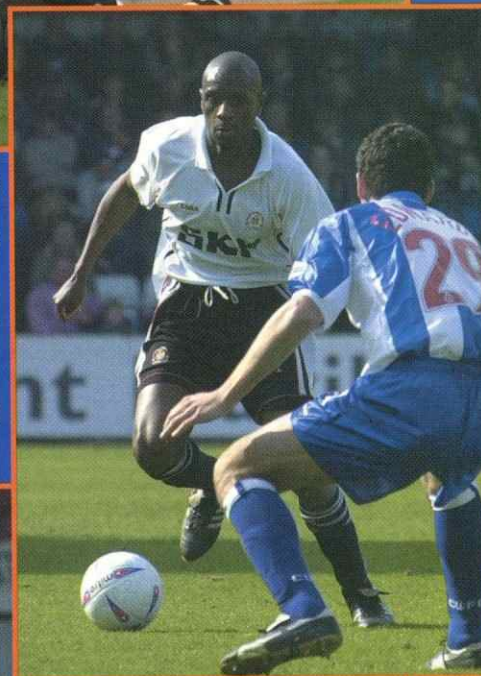
Attendance: 3,967, Layer Road's highest of the season, including 520 Town supporters.



ON TARGET AGAIN: Carl Griffiths, on his second appearance of the season, pounces to score his first goal since he got a hat-trick 19 months ago in the 5-1 demolition of Torquay at Kenilworth Road.

RIGHT: Emmerson Boyce on the rampage, taking on Colchester left back Mike Edwards.

BELOW: Steve Howard completes his hat-trick in the final minute.





LTFC in the Community

Working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association

FOR MY final column this season I would like to reflect on what I feel has been a fantastic first full season for the Community Department since its enrolment to the PFA National Scheme. It has also been an immensely enjoyable and fulfilling year for me.

I would like to put on record my gratitude to everybody at the club, without whose support and assistance the department could not have made the progress it has. In particular I would like to thank Cherry Newbery, and Fraser Foster, my PFA Regional Director, who have been constant in their support.

I would also like to thank FLAG, Vauxhall Aftersales and The Harpur Centre Bedford for their sponsorship over the last year. Thanks to them we are able to continue and extend our curriculum-time coaching in local schools, where our services supplement the education programmes within these establishments. Over the last year enrolments on all our courses have continued to improve, and we have taken bookings for as much as a year in

advance. We already have half a dozen bookings for our Saturday Match Day Clubs, which are a brilliant way to spend a day at a very reasonable cost. The most reassuring fact is that the majority of our bookings are now coming through personal recommendations.

For me the highlight of the year has been the progress we have made working alongside Luton Borough Council, the EFDS and Beds FA with our work for children who have disabilities, and the brilliant display match from the England amputees team. We are running these events on a regular basis now, and teachers and members of the social services assure me that we are the only people doing this locally for children. My dream is to be able to start an amputee's team locally, and we are working on this idea with the EFDS, and also examining funding possibilities.

For the coming year we will continue the pattern of the past year, and I will introduce new initiatives as and when the timing is right. One of the items on the agenda will be evening and

holiday childcare projects in the Dallow, Farley Hill and Marsh Farm areas. To make this happen we will have to be patient and endure the long drawn out process of applying for and receiving confirmation of suitable funding.

With the end of the season looming I will be unable to keep you informed of summer activities through these pages, but details of all our courses, including those in the summer holidays and how to enroll will appear on the web site, and in the pages of our sponsors The Luton News and Herald and Post.

If you have a second to spare we have recently put together with Geoff Stimson, the web editor, a short item for the official site. Hopefully you might find it interesting. As is always the case, if you require any further information about the department or its activities please do not hesitate to call on 01582 391927, or maybe even pop in the office to see us. Enjoy your summer.

Stuart Smith



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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

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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.

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Course 2 ☐

Course 3 ☐

Bramingham Monday ☐

Bramingham Friday ☐

Warden Hill Eve School ☐

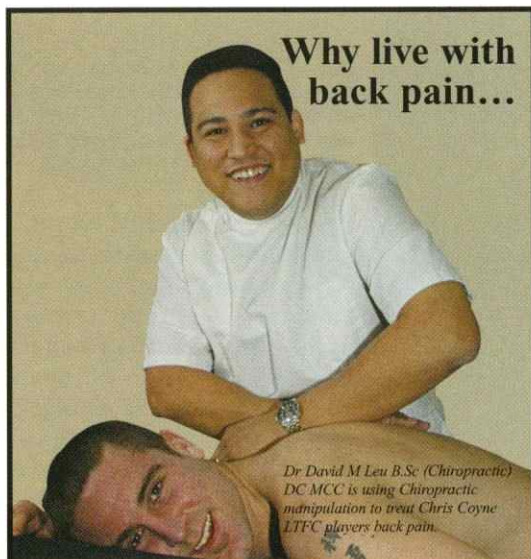
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TOWN TEASER

IF YOU know your Town Trivia, you could win a pair of match tickets in our Town Teaser competition. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. On Saturday we asked about the anniversary of a famous occasion, and what linked the Bristol City manager with it and with one of our coaches. The answer was that Danny Wilson and Brian Stein both scored for us when we beat Arsenal 3-2 in the Littlewoods Cup. Can it really be 15 years ago?!

TODAY'S QUESTION

Danny Wilson and Brian Stein were not our only scorers at Wembley in 1988. Who was the other one.

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The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette

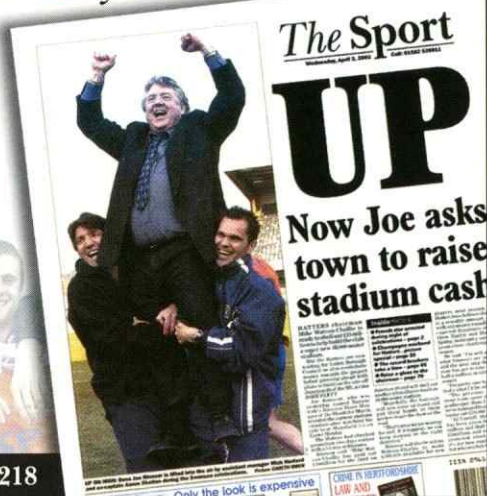
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Junior Hatters



WELCOME to all young supporters for our final home game of the season, particularly to our young friends from Stockport. We hope they enjoy their time with us, and have a safe journey home.

We are looking forward to our final trip of the season, to Swindon next Saturday. We are going just to watch the match and to have a fun day out, with plenty of entertainment on the coach journey there and back. We have been invited to put out a Luton mascot, so if you want to be considered don't forget to travel in your Luton Town kit!

The price is the usual bargain, £10 for Junior Hatters, and £13 for guests and adults. We will leave Kenilworth Road at 11am, and expect to

be back home at around 7.30pm. Seats can be booked at our Junior Hatters headquarters, in the Football Community office. The phone number is Luton 391927.

Enquiries about joining, or renewing memberships, are also dealt with there. Junior Hatters membership is open to any boy or girl aged from 0 to 16 who supports Luton Town, and there are plenty of good reasons for joining, including the Saturday Club, which today meets for the last time this season. You might be lucky enough to be chosen as a mascot – the selection is by lucky dip from the membership list.

TODAY'S MASCOT



EIGHT-year-old Ronan Lennon likes to vary his view of Luton Town. Sometimes he sits in the main stand, and sometimes in the Kenilworth. But today he has a real treat, because he is our Junior Hatters mascot, which

means he starts the day with a visit to the dressing room, to meet the Town team before kick-off. Then he will join them as they go out onto the pitch for the warm-up. Ronan will be very keen to get close to Steve Howard, because the striker is his favourite player.

A pupil at St Joseph's Junior School, Luton, Ronan lives at Rosslyn Crescent, and his hobbies are football – he plays for Luton Irish – swimming, cycling and badminton.

Today's ball boys are brothers Sean and Thomas Nicholson, from Sheffield Way, East Hunsbury, in Northamptonshire.



VIP PARTY: Mascots play an important part in proceedings at our games, and for Saturday's match against Bristol City, three were on duty to be given a close-up view of the formalities when skippers and match officials meet for the toss of the coin. Doing the honours for the Junior Hatters was 12-year-old Ricky Smith while David Foxen, 13, was the commercial mascot. Representing the visitors was 12-year-old Daniel Attwood.

Happy Harry



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The Siemens S55 handset featured has been manipulated for the purpose for this advertisement, please note that an alternative design is available for purchase in the UK.

Fans on the road

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
Colchester	520
Total:	35,855
Average:	1,328

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
Bristol City	1,220
Total:	15,040
Average:	627



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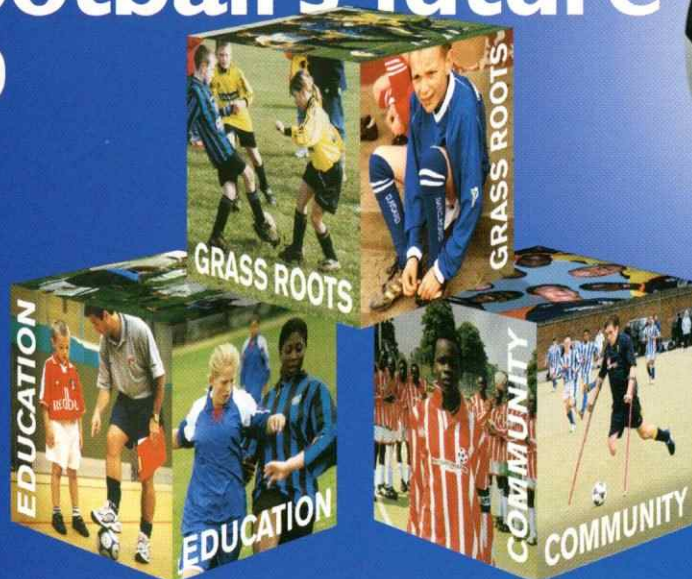
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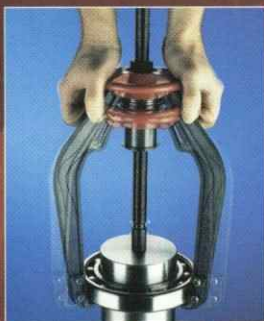
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EasyPull bearing puller

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

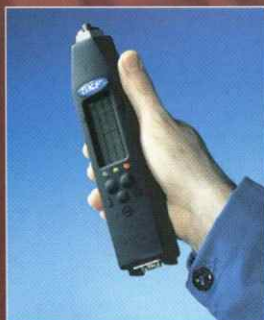
Some 16 per cent of premature bearing failures can be attributed to bad fitting. The most common fault is the use of brute force, while ignorance or laziness regarding use of the correct tools for the task is a major contributor. Available in three sizes to provide maximum withdrawal forces between three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



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



MARLIN condition detector (MCD)

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

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

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



OilCheck monitor

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

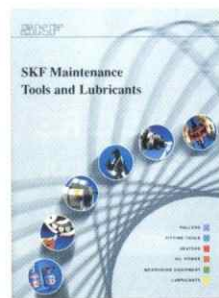
The hand-held monitoring device is a comparative instrument, which enables optimised intervals to be maintained between oil changes. It detects and measures the dielectric constant in a used oil sample, which is compared against results taken from an unused lubricant of the same type and brand.

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With Justin Dealey and Steve Faulkner

TODAY'S MATCH:

- 2.15** Team Line Up Announced
- 2.20** HMV Single of the Week
BUSTED - YOU SAID NO.....
- 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**

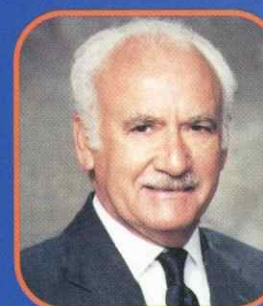
Matchday music supplied by:



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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.

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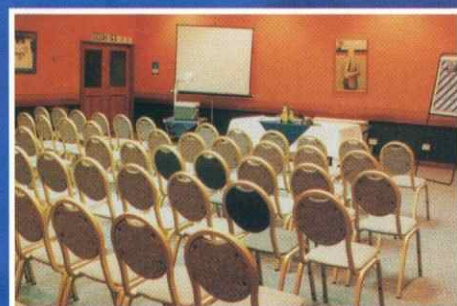
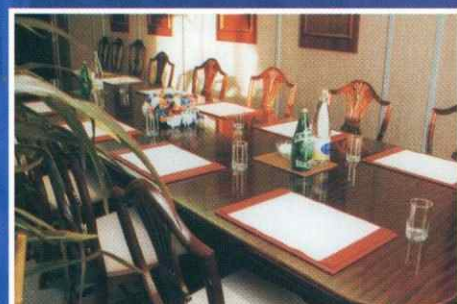
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Century Club	100	80
Kenilworth Suite	100	50
Joe Payne Lounge	100	45
Millennium Suite	70	35
The Boardroom	50	30

For more information call the Commercial Department on 01582 411622 or email: commercial@lutontown.co.uk

www.lutontown.co.uk

Luton Belles



IT HAS been another very progressive season in the short history of The Belles. The senior team has again made excellent progress, especially when it is borne in mind that the average age of the team most weeks is just 16. Having looked like gaining promotion as champions, they lost just one league match all season, but that was enough to knock off the top spot. They finished runners-up and still have the Four County Trophy final to look forward to on May 11. They again reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, which is some achievement for such a young team.

The under-14s have had an outstanding season, winning the toughest division in the whole league. With 19 consecutive victories, they are home and dry with three matches left, after being runners-up last season.

We did not have an under-13 group last year, but put together an inexperienced squad for this season, and they too have performed beyond expectations, and look set for a top three finish. A number of that squad also play on Saturdays in an under-14 league, where they reached a cup final and are still in the running for league honours.

The under-12s have had a record-

breaking season, and at the time of writing have set a club record 23 consecutive wins, taking the League Cup on the way, and need just two points from six to land the championship to complete the double.

I would like to thank all supporters for the generous reception that our under-11s were given after Steve Robinson presented them with their league championship trophy at half time against Tranmere. They are an outstanding squad, with a great future.

Onfield success is, of course, very important but it is also very gratifying that the club was recognised by Luton Sports Council as Luton's Sports Club of the Year for 2002. This award reflects what happens on the field and also takes into account our wider impact within the community. Many local children will have met Belles players who are qualified coaches and referees on community coaching courses or fun days, and we are justly proud of our growing reputation for promoting our sport and being the only club for miles around who are able to offer football to females from age 6 to 40-plus.

Finally, I would like to thank Stuart Smith for the support he has provided this season and to Cherry Newbery and the chairman for their encouragement in what has been a very enjoyable season.

Dave Baker



WINNERS: The Belles under-11 squad celebrate after receiving their trophies at Kenilworth Road from Steve Robinson.

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

For the latest news, views and interviews call:
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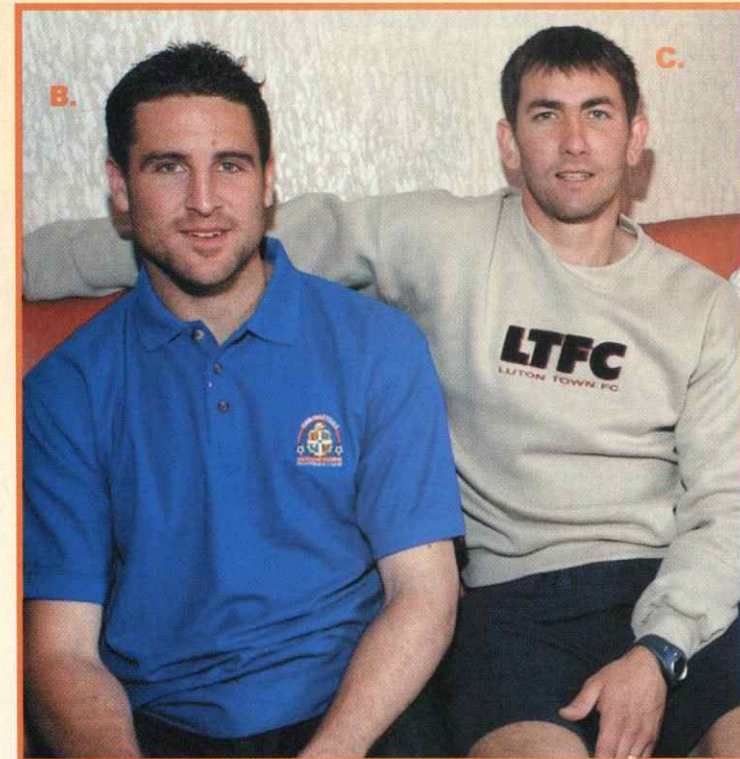
Children s	£29.99	£14.99
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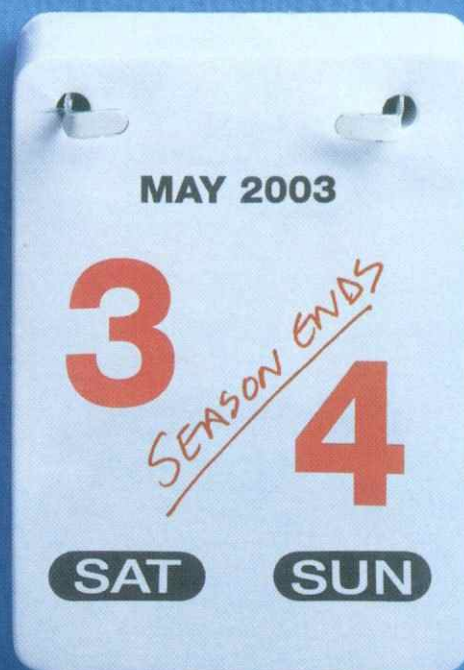
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Youth Soccer - U19s



Leyton Orient 0 Luton Town 0

YOU could not make many judgements on players on the evidence of this game. The pitch, on the Lea Valley sports ground, was absolutely rock solid, and there was a sharp and very cold wind blowing the length of it. It made for a difficult game, and my players did well, sticking to their task on a day when good passing was almost impossible.

We defended well, and it was disappointing that we could not create more in attacking terms. Each side had a few isolated chances, but the goalkeepers were almost redundant, and a draw was a fair result. It was not a game to enjoy watching – the morning's best moment was when we were given half a cup of warm coffee at half time!

Fortunately, we were back in Luton well before the first team kicked off, which was a bonus for Dean Brill, because he was called up for duty on the subs' bench as Robert Beckwith made his league debut against Bristol

City as a late replacement for Mark Ovendale.

Luton Town: Brill, D. Deeney, Mountford, O'Leary, Davies, Barnett, Keane, Ridgway, Freeman, Maitland (Andrew 81 mins), R. Mansell.

Looking back over the season, it has been a bit mixed. The highlights were the good run in the FA Youth Cup, where we eventually went out on penalties to Middlesbrough, who went on to reach the final against Manchester United.

Otherwise, there were too many lulls in our progress: the boys were up for it when we played the big cup-ties, and we needed that spirit to be carried more consistently through the league fixtures.

Results at this level are not the be-all and end-all. We have been playing in an under-19 competition, but have tried to use a lot of under-18s. The under-19s ought to be pushing for places in the reserves at least, and some of them have begun to make that transition. It was good to see Beckwith do well on his league debut. Kevin Foley and Matthew Judge have also had a first taste of league football, but know it is only the start – they still have more hard work ahead if they are to achieve their ambitions.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Barnett 30(1), O'Leary 29, Okai 27, Davies 25(2), Judge 22(1), Foley 22, Freeman 21(3), R. Mansell 20(3), Howell 18, Maitland 17(7), Beckwith 16, J. Deeney 16, Osborn 14(1), Keane 13(9), Gillman 13(1), Brill 12(2), Ridgway 11(4), D. Deeney 6, Barrett 3, Andrew 2(1), Mountford 2(1), De Souza 1(2), 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	0-0		
26	Cheltenham	H			

FLYA UNDER-19 MERIT DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	6	5	1	1	12	3	13
Exeter	5	4	1	0	11	3	13
Brighton	5	4	1	0	8	2	13
Oxford	5	3	0	2	9	10	9
Luton Town	7	0	6	1	6	7	6
Cheltenham	4	2	0	2	6	10	6
Bournemouth	6	1	2	3	8	10	4
Gillingham	5	0	1	4	3	11	1
L. Orient	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

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

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In Reserve



Gillingham 0 Luton Town 3

AFTER scoring only once in our four previous games, this was a much better performance at both ends of the pitch. It was an encouraging team display, and the younger players all did well. We played it simple, defended better than of late, and deserved the victory. The only disappointment was that we should have had more goals.

We handled Gillingham's front pair very well, and Parys Okai seemed to relish an outing at left back, instead of his usual left wing slot. He enjoyed the chance to attack on overlapping runs, and his efforts brought two goals for Adrian Forbes, one after two minutes and the other ten minutes into the second half.

We had to wait until stoppage time for the third, with trialist Mark Peers winning a corner, and sending it over for Michael Leary to head in.

Luton Town: Beckwith, Barnett, Davies, Gillman, Okai (Mansell 77 mins), Peers, Skelton (O'Leary 75 mins), Leary, Osborn, Griffiths, Forbes (Judge 75 mins).

Luton Town 0 Portsmouth 2

DESPITE the result I was pleased with this performance, by a team including six 15-year-olds facing a strong visiting side which had cost well over £1million to assemble. Our attitude was spot on, and every man worked hard, with a welcome never-say-die spirit. The side included another trialist from Liverpool, 18-year-old left back Andy Nicholas.

We might have taken the lead, when Stephen O'Leary got into the box to meet a cross. It needed a header, but he decided to chest down and volley, and that gave a defender time to block his shot.

There was a suspicion of offside when Portsmouth took

the lead after 35 minutes, but we played some good football in the second half, only to give away a soft late goal. Aaron Skelton, our only player with league experience, missed a clearance header to let in the scorer.

Luton Town: Brill, Keane, Skelton, Davies, Nicholas, Peers, Leary, O'Leary, Okai, Barnett, Judge (Maitland 47 mins).

WE PLAY Brighton at Kenilworth Road on Monday (2pm) and are at Oxford on Wednesday. Our final games are home matches at Kenilworth Road against QPR on May 6 and Cheltenham on May 8.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: : Leary 18(2), L. Mansell 16(2), Skelton 16, Holmes 14, Foley 13(3), Barnett 9(2), Griffiths 9, Hillier 9, Okai 8(7), J. Deeney 8(1), Fotiadis 8, Bayliss 8, Gillman 7(3), Ovendale 7, Kimble 7, Neilson 7, Osborn 6(9), Barnett 6(2), Jupp 6, Hughes 6, Brill 6(1), Beckwith 5, O'Leary 4(7), Davies 4(5), Judge 3(8), Brkovic 3, Emberson 3, Perrett 3, Peers 3, Eberendo 2(2), Howell 2(1), Thorpe 2, Michael Johnson 2, Crowe 2, Forbes 2, Maitland 1(1), Davis 1, Kovacevic 1, De Souza 1, Berthelin 1, Nicholls 1, Viander 1, Pandong 1, McAllister 1, Foyewa 1, Juanjo 1, Boyce 1, Willmott 1, Marney 1, Reed 1, Keane 1, Nicholas 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, Forbes 2, Leary 2, Skelton 1, Eberendo 1, Holmes 1, Gillman 1, Maitland 1, Mansell 1.

Brian Stein

AVON COMBINATION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	24	16	5	3	60	20	53
Norwich	23	12	8	3	37	15	44
Portsmouth	22	12	5	5	39	20	41
Bristol City	23	12	5	6	45	34	41
Reading	22	12	4	6	45	28	40
Plymouth	21	12	3	6	37	31	39
Colchester	23	11	5	7	34	23	38
Millwall	24	11	4	9	34	32	37
Brighton	21	10	5	6	37	23	35
Southend	21	9	5	7	29	29	32
Brentford	22	9	5	8	36	37	32
Luton Town	22	8	7	7	33	29	31
Cardiff	22	8	7	7	23	22	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
Cambridge	22	8	4	10	37	36	28
QPR	22	7	7	8	31	31	28
Peterborough	21	8	3	10	38	39	27
Cheltenham	21	7	4	10	41	40	25
Wycombe	24	6	4	14	25	48	22
Bournemouth	23	5	6	11	37	50	21
Bristol Rov	22	5	6	11	26	39	21
Gillingham	22	4	7	11	22	39	19
Northampton	20	4	3	13	27	49	15
Barnet	24	2	4	18	20	67	10

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 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 16	Gillingham	A	3-0 Forbes 2, Leary
Wed 23	Portsmouth	H	0-2
Mon 28	Brighton	A	2pm (At Kenilworth Road)
Wed 30	Oxford	A	2pm
May			
Tue 6	QPR	H	2pm
Thur 8	Cheltenham	H	2pm

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

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	On Target	Off T		On Target	Off T
Wigan	6.43	6.86	Swindon	5.33	4.93
Plymouth	6.12	7.05	Wycombe	5.30	4.84
Cardiff	5.93	6.45	Cheltenham	5.36	4.77
Crewe	6.50	5.23	Huddersfield	5.11	5.00
Barnsley	5.55	6.05	Luton	5.16	4.95
QPR	5.77	5.80	Stockport	5.02	4.41
Oldham	5.57	5.73	Port Vale	4.55	4.73
Tranmere	5.80	5.18	Notts County	5.00	4.25
Mansfield	5.93	4.82	Colchester	4.68	4.05
Blackpool	5.30	5.30	Northampton	4.34	4.30
Peterborough	5.70	4.89	Chesterfield	4.30	4.25
Bristol City	5.18	5.32	Brentford	3.57	4.14

Goals in last 15 Mins of match

FOR	76-90	Tot	%	AGAINST	76-90	Tot	%
Peterborough	17	49	35	Wycombe	21	65	32
Notts County	20	61	33	Northampton	23	75	31
Luton	20	65	31	Mansfield	28	93	30
Cardiff	19	67	28	Tranmere	16	54	30
Tranmere	17	60	28	Huddersfield	16	55	29
Wycombe	16	59	27	Cardiff	12	42	29
QPR	18	68	26	Brentford	14	54	26
Brentford	12	46	26	Chesterfield	18	72	25
Bristol City	20	77	26	Peterborough	13	53	25
Stockport	16	62	26	QPR	11	45	24
Blackpool	14	55	25	Oldham	9	37	24
Oldham	16	63	25	Stockport	16	66	24

TOP GOALSCORERS

Player	Club	Tot	Player	Club	Tot
Beckett	Stockport	15	Alexander	Preston	8
Kitson	Cambridge	14	Ferguson	Rangers	8
Taylor	Burnley	11	Dickov	Leicester	7
Harewood	Forest	10	Morrell	Wrexham	7
Forster	Reading	10	van Nistelrooy	Man Utd	6
Thorne	Cardiff	10	Blake	Burnley	6
Darby	Rushden	10	Stallard	Notts County	6
Morrell	Wrexham	10	Liddell	Wigan	6
Deane	Leicester	9	Beattie	Southampton	5
Johnson	Forest	9	Gray	Bradford	5
Murphy	Blackpool	9	Merson	Portsmouth	5
Howard	Luton	9	Tinnion	Bristol City	5
Clarke A	Peterborough	9	Keith	Colchester	5
Parkin	Swindon	9	Corden	Mansfield	5
Larsson	Celtic	9	Brown	Wycombe	5
			Crosby	Oxford	5

Average Shots on and Off target per game

Goals from Set Pieces for and against

SCORED	Co	FK	CONCEDED	Co	FK
Plymouth	16	9	Mansfield	13	12
QPR	10	9	Port Vale	16	5
Brentford	10	8	Blackpool	9	11
Crewe	5	13	Northampton	4	16
Oldham	10	8	Cheltenham	12	7
Wigan	9	9	Huddersfield	8	8
Bristol City	7	8	Stockport	13	3
Swindon	8	7	Chesterfield	6	9
Blackpool	11	3	Swindon	6	9
Cardiff	10	4	Barnsley	5	9
Tranmere	7	7	Notts County	7	7
Wycombe	8	6	Peterborough	9	4

Co = Corners FK = Free Kick Routines

COMEBACKS

Won from	-3	-2	-1	Tot
Luton	0	0	6	6
Stockport	0	0	5	5
Notts County	0	1	3	4
Blackpool	0	0	4	4
Crewe	0	0	4	4
Mansfield	0	0	4	4
Port Vale	0	0	4	4
QPR	0	0	4	4
Swindon	0	0	4	4
Tranmere	0	0	4	4

THROWAWAYS

Lost from	+3	+2	+1	Tot
Barnsley	0	0	7	7
Cheltenham	0	0	7	7
Chesterfield	0	0	5	5
Stockport	0	1	3	4
Northampton	0	0	4	4
Notts County	0	0	4	4

number of games when clubs have come behind to win or been ahead and lost

Scorers' Points Gained & Scoring Run

Club	Gls	Gl/gm	Pts	Run	1stG
Robert Earnshaw	30	0.68	23	3	9
Luke Beckett	27	0.64	18	4	10
Mark Stallard	24	0.56	18	3	6
Sam Parkin	23	0.58	18	6	6
Rob Hulse	22	0.61	16	4	7
Bruce Dyer	17	0.44	15	4	7
Simon Haworth	18	0.46	14	8	6
Martin Smith	17	0.47	14	2	7
John Murphy	15	0.44	14	2	7
Steven Howard	21	0.54	12	4	10
Ilysedon Christie	18	0.49	10	5	2
David Eyres	12	0.32	10	2	2
Julian Alsop	10	0.28	10	1	4

eg if player scores the goal in a 1-0 win, the goal is worth 2 pts as score would have been 0-0, or if 2 goals in 2-1 win, goals worth 3 pts. Also shown is goals per game figure and number of games player scored 1st goal

Fouls and Offsides per game

avg. fouls per game		avg. offsides per game	
Luton	14.86	Luton	5.55
Tranmere	14.32	Tranmere	4.07
Notts County	14.07	Barnsley	4.05
QPR	13.89	Peterborough	4.05
Oldham	13.73	Cheltenham	3.75
Wycombe	13.61	Wycombe	3.73
Brentford	13.39	Crewe	3.70
Swindon	13.14	Brentford	3.48
Barnsley	13.00	Oldham	3.43
Chesterfield	12.98	Blackpool	3.32
Mansfield	12.75	Stockport	3.32
Bristol City	12.70	Swindon	3.26

Second Division Scene



THE BANK holiday romp at Colchester ensured that the Town will finish the season in the Second Division's top ten. Skipper Kevin Nicholls wants it to be top eight, which is now our highest possible. As a matter of professional pride he also wants to see Plymouth below us, and former Town star Andy King helped towards that ambition. Plymouth had knocked us down a notch on Saturday with a home win over Port Vale while we were drawing to Bristol City. But on Tuesday night King the manager guided Swindon to a 2-0 home success over Plymouth, to send the Pilgrims back down to ninth.

That made Swindon one of only four sides to take all six points from the Easter programme. QPR, Tranmere, and Stockport, our visitors today, were the others.

Stockport's win at Northampton condemned the Cobblers to relegation, while at the other end Wigan are confirmed as champions. Cardiff City missed the chance to go second, and have hit a had patch at the wrong time,

with three consecutive defeats, in which they failed to score a single goal, leaving them almost certainly condemned to the play-offs. Crewe will clinch runners-up if they win either of their last two games, at Loftus Road today or at home to Cardiff next Saturday.

Stockport come to Kenilworth Road today seeking revenge after the Town's 3-2 win at Edgeley Park in October, and also chasing the chance of finishing in the top ten.

Relegated a year ago, their home record is better than the Town's, but their away stats are patchy - seven wins, one draw and 14 defeats. The victories came at Port Vale, Swindon, Blackpool, Cheltenham, Brentford, Wycombe and Northampton. Their only away draw was 1-1 at Bristol City in late January. Defeats on the road came at Colchester, Cardiff, Chesterfield, Tranmere, Wigan, Oldham, Plymouth, Huddersfield, Mansfield, QPR, Notts County, Peterborough, Barnsley and Crewe.

But they have enjoyed a very good run this month. After losing at Crewe four weeks ago, leaving them 20th in the table, Stockport have reeled off four straight wins to haul themselves up to 13th place.

Their last six results: Blackpool H 2-2 (Lambert, Beckett), Crewe A 0-1, Wycombe H 4-1 (Wilbraham 2, Beckett, Greer), Plymouth H 2-1 (Wilbraham, Daly pen), Northampton A 3-0 (Wilbraham 2, Goodwin) and Huddersfield H 2-1 (Daly, Wilbraham). Leading scorer: Luke Beckett, 29 goals.

Brian Swain

Nationwide League Division Two														
	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts		
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A				
Wigan (C)	44	13	7	2	36	16	15	5	2	31	9	42	96	
Crewe	44	11	4	7	28	18	14	5	3	47	21	36	84	
Bristol City	44	14	5	3	41	15	9	6	7	36	31	31	80	
Cardiff	44	12	5	5	33	20	11	5	6	34	22	25	79	
QPR	44	14	3	5	38	19	9	7	6	30	26	23	79	
Oldham	44	10	6	6	35	18	11	9	2	28	19	26	78	
Tranmere	44	13	5	4	35	22	8	6	8	25	32	6	74	
Luton Town	44	8	7	7	31	27	9	6	7	34	32	6	64	
Plymouth	44	10	6	6	38	24	6	7	9	22	26	10	61	
Swindon	44	9	5	8	32	26	6	7	9	25	32	-1	57	
Colchester	44	8	7	7	24	23	6	8	8	28	32	-3	57	
Blackpool	44	10	7	5	34	24	5	5	12	21	36	-5	57	
Stockport	44	8	6	6	37	35	7	1	14	25	31	-4	54	
Peterborough	44	7	7	8	24	20	6	8	8	25	33	-4	54	
Brentford	44	8	7	7	27	20	6	4	12	19	34	-8	53	
Notts County	44	9	7	6	36	32	3	9	10	25	37	-8	52	
Wycombe	44	8	6	8	39	38	5	6	11	20	27	-6	51	
Port Vale	44	8	5	9	29	30	5	6	11	20	37	-18	50	
Barnsley	44	6	8	8	26	31	6	5	11	24	32	-13	49	
Chesterfield	44	10	4	8	27	28	3	3	16	13	44	-32	46	
Cheltenham	44	5	9	8	23	31	4	9	9	27	36	-17	45	
Huddersfield	44	7	8	7	26	23	4	3	15	11	32	-18	44	
Mansfield	44	8	2	12	36	44	3	6	13	27	49	-30	41	
Northampton	44	7	3	12	21	29	3	5	14	16	46	-38	38	

Today's Other Second Division Games

- Barnsley v Brentford
- Cardiff v Wigan
- Cheltenham v Blackpool
- Chesterfield v Bristol City
- Northampton v Plymouth
- Oldham v Swindon
- Peterborough v Notts County
- Port Vale v Huddersfield
- QPR v Crewe
- Tranmere v Mansfield
- Wycombe v Colchester

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"/>
47	Rob BECKWITH	<input type="checkbox"/>

tick if playing ■ tick if substitute ●

STOCKPORT COUNTY

Manager: Carlton Palmer

1	Lee JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Peter CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Dave CHALLINOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Rob CLARE	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Carlton PALMER	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Aaron LESCOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Aaron WILBRAHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Luke BECKETT	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Rickie LAMBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Martin PEMBERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Jim GOODWIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	James SPENCER	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Fraser McLACHLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Kevin ELLISON	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Jon DALY	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Karin FRADIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	John HARDIKER	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Andy WELSH	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Gordon GREER	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Andy THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Peter WILD	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Chris WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Anthony KIELTHY	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Glynn HANCOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Ali GIBB	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Michael OGDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Gareth WALSH	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Haydn EAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Ryan ELDERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Anthony TONKIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Ola TIDMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>

Today's Officials

Referee: Mike Thorpe, Suffolk

Assistants: Gary Ives, Essex (yellow flag); Stephen Artis, Norfolk (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Mike Russell, Hertfordshire.



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