



Luton Town Football Club

Official Matchday Magazine • Price £2.50

Nationwide League Division Two

Monday 6th October 2003 • Kick Off 8.00pm



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Luton Town v Tranmere Rovers

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www.lutontown.co.uk

Inside Tonight

The manager's thoughts

Double frustration for skipper

Superb - team and fans alike

Huge turn-out at The Valley

Two all-ticket games ahead

Today's sponsors

Invitation to a special dinner

Welcome to Tranmere

Blast from the Past

Town Teaser

Cash goes a long way!

QPR nick a point

Thrilling cup-tie

Oldham report

Under-19s share six goals

Under-17s suffer

Appeal for a new minibus

Belles strikers run riot

Junior Hatters news

Football in the Community

International call-up

All the stats

Tonight's squads and officials

Page 5

Page 7

Page 9

Page 11

Page 12

Page 14

Page 16

Page 18

Page 22

Page 24

Page 27

Page 28

Page 32

Page 34

Page 39

Page 41

Page 43

Page 45

Page 49

Page 51

Page 55

Page 56

Page 58

Honours

Littlewoods Cup

Winners 1987-88

Finalists 1988-89

FA Cup

Finalists 1958-59

Simod Cup

Finalists 1987-88

Division 2

Champions 1981-82

Division 3 (S)

Champions 1936-37

Division 4

Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

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Regal Litho Ltd

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Gareth Owen

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



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Director of Football & First Team Coach
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Last Season

The Nationwide Football League saw an Increase in Attendance of 13.5%; Why...?

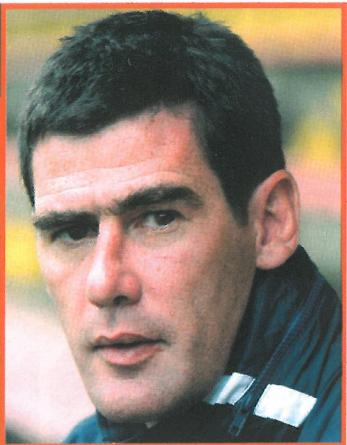


The authority...

The Quality of the Football

Image by Empics 0115 840 444 Digital Artwork by SentryBox 01895 251 220

The Manager's Message



WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road after a hectic couple of weeks on the road.

The night at The Valley will be one of those games that stick in the memory for a long time. Everyone associated with the club, and particularly the players and supporters, can feel justifiably proud. It goes without saying that the result was disappointing to say the least, but the performance and some of the football that the lads played was fantastic.

The messages and response I have had personally since then have been incredible, and if I didn't know before how much this club means to some people, I do now.

As a player, manager or coach there is no better feeling than performing well away from home in front of nearly 3,000 of your own supporters. It's a pity we couldn't have taken the penalties at our end, because I am sure you would have helped keep a couple out! It was a great taste, and our aim now is to get to a position where we have those nights and days more regularly.

There was a cost, however, in the form of injuries, and a serious one to David Bayliss,

who ruptured his Achilles. He had started the season well, and I know he was enjoying his football again. He will be missed, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

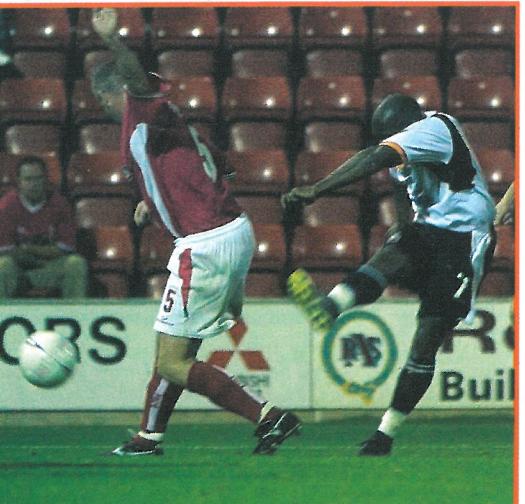
It was certainly back down to earth at Oldham, where we never got going, and looked jaded. We had three changes forced upon us, and also carried a couple of players nursing injuries, but it's fair to say we never looked like getting anything out of that game. That's when you do feel for fans that made the journey.

Swindon was a different matter though, and reinforced our view that Oldham may have been a hangover. The players showed great enthusiasm, and although I don't like singling out anyone, we had two playing full games with virtually no match practice. It is a credit to their professionalism that they got through the 90 minutes, and confirms how hard they must have worked and pushed themselves during their absence. Adrenaline can carry you a long way, but not as far as desire, and we are now in the position where everyone at the club wants to play in the team. It may sound strange to you, but that is not always the case.

We welcome Tranmere Rovers, their directors, staff, players and supporters, and also John McMahon, their current caretaker manager. I spent eight months there as reserve team manager after retiring as a player a couple of seasons ago, and enjoyed it immensely. Tranmere have some good people working there, and it was an important part of my education.

It is an education that has only just begun, but one I am enjoying more than ever at the moment.

Enjoy the game, and get behind the lads.



HATTERS AHEAD: Adrian Forbes fires in the goal that gave the Town the lead at Swindon. A report and more pictures will be in Saturday's programme.

Mike Newell

For the latest news, views & interviews call:
CLUB CALL on 09068 121123 Calls cost 60p per minute at all times



The **OFFICIAL** Club SMS Service

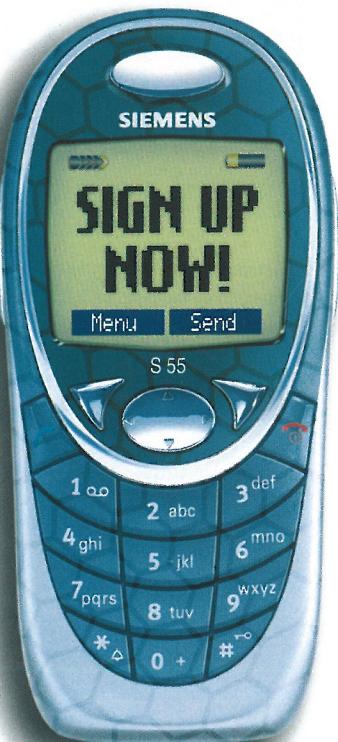
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The Town Captain's View

WHILE I continue to put up with frustration at being on the injured list, I have been pleased to see the team playing some good football despite the absences of others who are also considered first choices.

But there is another frustration for all of us: we look back on recent games and know we should have gathered more points. The run of conceding late goals is worrying. Over the past month you could say that we threw away at least seven points. We lost at Plymouth when we could have had at least a draw. We ought to have beaten Notts County at Meadow Lane, but got only one point. Late goals by QPR and Swindon each cost us two points. The league table tells the true story of our results, but we know it should be so much better. We have slipped into the bottom half of the table when the extra seven points I have mentioned would have put us in the automatic promotion places.

But we are not feeling gloomy about our prospects. There is still three-quarters of the season to go, and we have shown we can play some very good football, even when we are not able to field our strongest XI.

Circumstances led to young players being given their chance, in particular teenagers Robert Beckwith and Kevin Foley. They have done well, and I have been particularly impressed with Kevin. He has slotted in remarkably well, and news that he is in the Irish under-21 squad is no real surprise in view of the way he has played in the first few weeks of his senior career.

I have to add my words of praise for the way the lads performed at Charlton in the Carling Cup, but the result takes away a lot of the pleasure, however unlucky it may have been. It's some achievement to score four goals away to a Premiership team, who then showed they could beat Liverpool in the league on the same pitch, but the pleasure was only temporary because we still lost the game. And to be fair to Charlton, they looked a good attacking side. That was another game where we conceded a very late goal on a night where we should have won 3-2. And by the same token the fact that we performed well against

Plymouth, QPR and Swindon is not much good when you realise that we lost valuable points.

I am sure our defending will get better, and so far this season

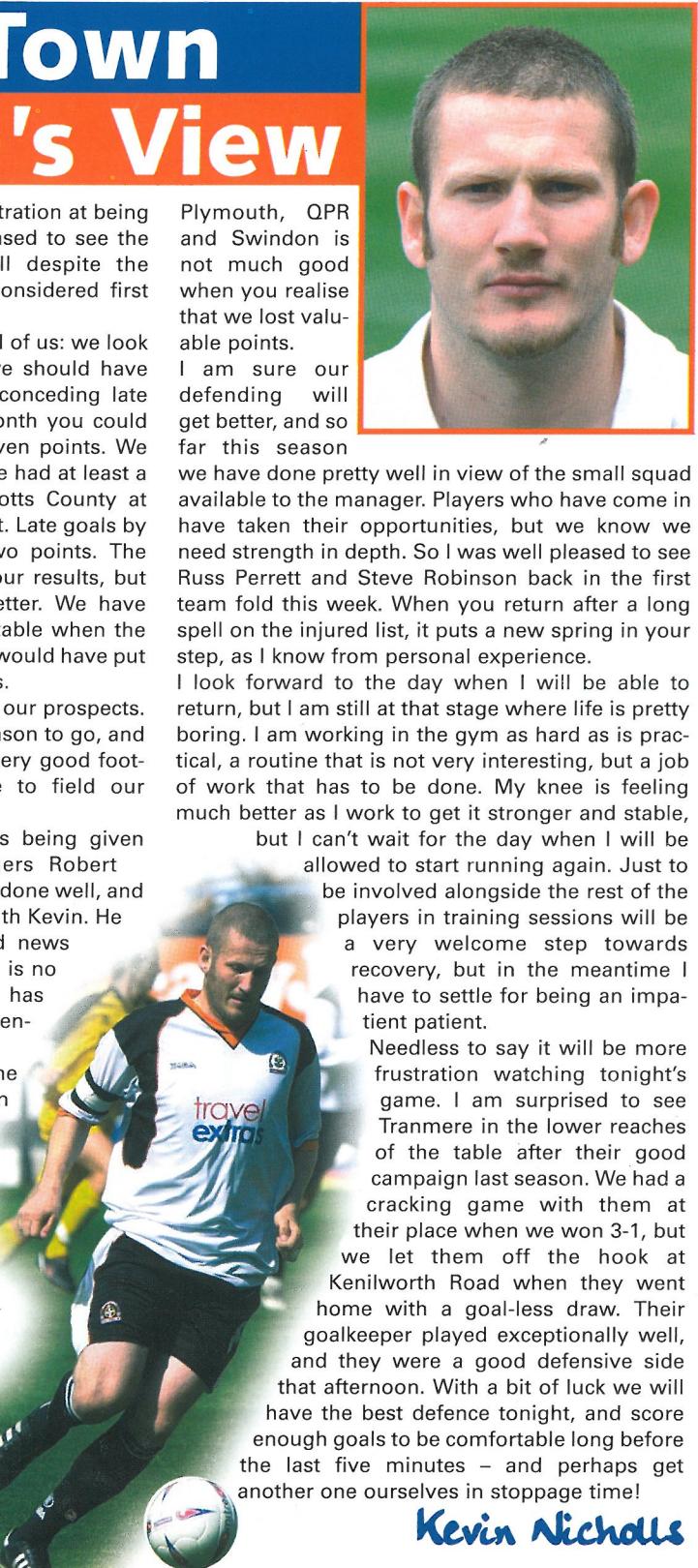
we have done pretty well in view of the small squad available to the manager. Players who have come in have taken their opportunities, but we know we need strength in depth. So I was well pleased to see Russ Perrett and Steve Robinson back in the first team fold this week. When you return after a long spell on the injured list, it puts a new spring in your step, as I know from personal experience.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to return, but I am still at that stage where life is pretty boring. I am working in the gym as hard as is practical, a routine that is not very interesting, but a job of work that has to be done. My knee is feeling much better as I work to get it stronger and stable,

but I can't wait for the day when I will be allowed to start running again. Just to be involved alongside the rest of the players in training sessions will be a very welcome step towards recovery, but in the meantime I have to settle for being an impatient patient.

Needless to say it will be more frustration watching tonight's game. I am surprised to see Tranmere in the lower reaches of the table after their good campaign last season. We had a cracking game with them at their place when we won 3-1, but we let them off the hook at Kenilworth Road when they went home with a goal-less draw. Their goalkeeper played exceptionally well, and they were a good defensive side that afternoon. With a bit of luck we will have the best defence tonight, and score enough goals to be comfortable long before the last five minutes – and perhaps get another one ourselves in stoppage time!

Kevin Nicholls



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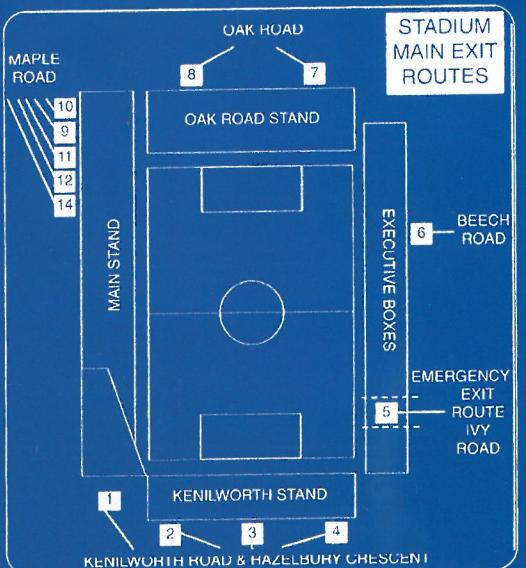
Mr & Mrs R Williams

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

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

Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.



From The Chief Executive



GOOD evening and welcome to everyone, particularly our friends from Sky Sports.

I could not start my column without mentioning the magnificent performance by the team at Charlton, and how proud they made us feel. And you the fans - what superb support. It took me a full three days to get over the disappointment of not progressing to the next round - how near yet how far!

Last Thursday saw The Football League EGM at Oxford, with sporting sanctions being approved to come into force from May 10, 2004. The main one is the deduction of 10 points for any club that goes into administration. Personally I find this quite hard to accept, for whilst I appreciate there does need to be a sanction, the deduction of 10 points affects firstly the team, secondly the supporters, and does nothing to help attract a potential buyer. Ninety nine per cent of clubs that go into administration do so only as a last resort, and I wonder if this new regulation could come back to bite one of the clubs who voted thinking administration will never affect them. I know I thought in 1999 that I would never have to experience administration again - and how wrong I was! The rest of the regulation changes can be seen on our web site at www.lutontown.co.uk.

I am delighted that the official Supporters Club have taken on the task of raising money for a new mini bus for the youth

team (please see page 43). Several supporters have told me they would like to donate money to the club, and would prefer to give to some specific project so that they see something tangible for their efforts. Well, now is the time, so let's all get behind the Supporters Club and get a supporters mini bus for the youth department.

I have one item of sad news this evening, and am sorry to have to report that Mr Eric Clare, a supporter for over 75 years, has passed away. We offer our condolences to his family. Finally, as I have said before, we always listen to our supporters, and to meet requests we have received we have extended the opening hours of the ticket office until 5.30pm on weekdays for the month of October. We will advise you of the success of this at the end of the month.

Cherry Newbery

IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

At the recent Queens Park Rangers match, on Saturday September 20, persistent problems were encountered in Blocks H and J of the Enclosure.

At the request of Bedfordshire Police, the club has agreed to close these areas, except to season ticket holders, for three matches commencing with our match against Wycombe Wanderers next Saturday, October 11. We would apologise to supporters for the inconvenience caused, but feel we must accept the Police's recommendation and try to eradicate this ongoing problem.

Persistent bad behaviour can lead to severe official sanctions against the club by the football authorities, which is something we all wish to avoid.

We would urge all supporters to assist us in dealing with any problem in the stadium, by reporting it to the nearest steward at the time.

G. Lovell
Safety Officer

DIVISION 2 STATS

stats not including Wednesday's games

Most Scoring chances per game

	On Target	Off T	On Target	Off T
Plymouth	9.45	6.55	Wrexham	6.30
Swindon	8.00	6.00	Wycombe	5.91
Rushden	7.73	5.27	Grimsby	5.55
QPR	6.91	5.82	Bournemouth	6.00
Tranmere	6.64	5.82	Barnsley	6.36
Blackpool	6.80	5.10	Peterborough	5.64
Notts County	5.80	6.10	Stockport	5.09
Brighton	6.55	5.00	Sheff Wed	5.30
Colchester	5.91	5.64	Luton	5.10
Bristol City	7.09	4.36	Brentford	5.18
Oldham	6.00	5.45	Chesterfield	5.36
Port Vale	5.73	5.64	Hartlepool	5.64

TOP GOALSCORERS

headed goals		inside 6 yard box		Tot	
Player	Club	Tot	Player	Club	Tot
Kitson	Cambridge	4	Burgess	Hull	5
Fuller	Preston	3	Tait	Bristol Rov	4
Knight	Brighton	3	Trundle	Swansea	4
Coughlan	Plymouth	3	Watson	Everton	3
Evans	Plymouth	3	Fuller	Preston	3
Lowe	Rushden	3	Noel-Williams	Stoke	3
Kuqi	Sheff Wed	3	Robinson	Hartlepool	3
Mooney	Swindon	3	Gabbiadini	Hartlepool	3
Jones	Tranmere	3	Coughlan	Plymouth	3
Lawrence	Wrexham	3	Paynter	Port Vale	3
Conlon	Darlington	3	Ainsworth	QPR	3
Elliott	Hull	3	Lowe	Rushden	3
Larsson	Celtic	3	Kugi	Sheff Wed	3
			Jones	Tranmere	3
			Wilsham	Stockport	3
			Connell	Bury	3
			Fortune-West	Doncaster	3
			Brentford	Hull	3
			Basham	Oxford	3

scorer stats from Premier,
Nationwide and SPL

Margins of Victory

	1 gl	2 gl	3 gl	4 gl	5+ gl
Port Vale	5	1	1	0	0
Brighton	2	4	0	0	1
QPR	1	1	1	1	0
Hartlepool	2	2	0	0	0
Swindon	3	1	0	0	0
Colchester	5	0	0	0	1
Bristol City	2	1	0	0	0
Grimsby	2	1	0	0	0
Bournemouth	4	0	0	0	0
Barnsley	2	2	0	0	0
Blackpool	3	1	0	0	0
Brentford	4	0	0	0	0
Luton	2	2	0	0	0
Oldham	1	1	2	0	0
Plymouth	1	3	0	0	0
Rushden	2	2	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	3	1	0	0	0
Wrexham	4	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	1	0	1	0	0
Tranmere	1	0	0	0	0
Notts County	1	0	0	0	0
Stockport	1	0	0	0	0
Wycombe	1	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield	0	0	0	0	0

Scorers' Points Gained & Scoring Run

Club	Leon Knight	Gls	Gl/gm	Pts	Run	1stC
Steve McPhee	8	0.73	8	2	2	
Tommy Mooney	6	0.55	7	3	3	
Shefki Kugi	5	0.60	6	4	3	
Scott Taylor	4	0.71	6	3	2	
Paul Furlong	6	0.60	5	4	2	
Dennis Lawrence	3	0.30	5	2	2	
Michael Boulding	6	0.55	4	4	3	
Scott McGleish	5	0.50	4	2	2	
Micky Evans	4	0.36	4	2	0	
Luke Beckett	4	0.80	4	4	2	
Dean Gorre	3	0.27	4	2	2	
Steve Hunt	3	0.33	4	1	2	

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
QPR	17.18
Tranmere	16.18
Colchester	15.09
Luton	14.40
Barnsley	13.91
Bristol City	13.91
Wrexham	13.70
Plymouth	13.64
Notts County	13.60
Blackpool	4.10
Wycombe	13.45
Stockport	4.09
Chesterfield	13.18
Grimsby	13.18
Brighton	3.91

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Goals in last 15 Mins of match

FOR	76-90 Tot	%	AGAINST	76-90 Tot	%	
Plymouth	7	21	33	Peterborough	7	41
Rushden	6	19	32	Brentford	6	38
Bristol City	4	14	29	Luton	5	33
Chesterfield	2	7	29	QPR	3	33
Grimsby	4	16	25	Brighton	3	30
Peterborough	3	12	25	Wrexham	3	27
Tranmere	3	12	25	Grimsby	4	22
Wycombe	3	13	23	Wycombe	5	22
QPR	5	23	22	Tranmere	3	21
Port Vale	4	19	21	Chesterfield	4	21
	4	19		Swindon	4	21

COMEBACKS

Won from	-3	-2	-1	Tot
Blackpool	0	1	2	3
Port Vale	0	0	3	3
Bournemouth	0	0	2	2
Wrexham	0	0	2	2

Lost from	+3	+2	+1	Tot
Grimsby	0	0	2	2
Oldham	0	0	2	2
Rushden	0	0	2	2

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

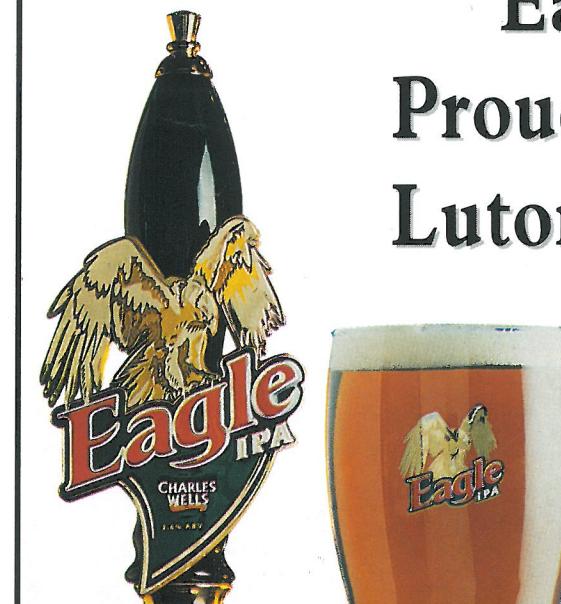
Fans on the Road

THE BIGGEST Town following of the season went to The Valley to see a thrilling Carling Cup match, when even the final result put only a temporary dent in the pleasure of watching a great game. At Kenilworth Road, Queens Park Rangers became the first visitors to take up almost their full allocation of tickets. Latest away support figures:

Town Travellers

Visitors to Luton

Stockport	671	Rushden	922
Brighton	727	Yeovil (CC)	493
Notts Co	1,215	Grimsby	318
Plymouth	449	Hartlepool	573
Charlton (CC)	2,407	Port Vale	344
Oldham	487	QPR	1,872
Swindon	412		
Total:	6,368		4,522
Average:	910		754



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News From The Ticket Office



Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Wycombe Wanderers

Saturday October 11 2003, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability.

Remember there are no concessions available on cash turnstiles..



LDV Vans Trophy, Southern Section First Round Stevenage Borough v Luton Town

Tuesday October 14 2003, kick-off 7.45pm

Prices: Adults £12, under-18s and senior citizens £9.

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the evening of the match. Our allocation is 1,300 tickets and they will go on sale as follows:

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: One ticket per season ticket holder, subject to availability, until kick-off time, 8pm, tonight.

MEMBERS: If any tickets remain after sales to season ticket holders, they will go on general sale directly after tonight's game. Telephone bookings will be accepted from 10am tomorrow, October 7, subject to availability.

We do not anticipate any tickets going to general sale.

Back in Business

We are pleased to advise supporters that we can once more accept payment by credit or debit card for match tickets, which can be ordered by telephoning the ticket office on 01582 416976

News From The Ticket Office



Nationwide League Division Two Brentford v Luton Town

Saturday October 18, 2003, kick-off 3pm

This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game. Luton Town have been allocated 2,216 uncovered terrace spaces and 616, seats and they are on general sale at the following prices.

TERRACING

Adults: £11, senior citizens and students £5, juniors £3

SEATING

Adults: £16, senior citizens and students £11, juniors £3



Nationwide League Division Two Bournemouth v Luton Town

Tuesday October 21, 2003, kick-off 7.45pm

Prices: Adults £15, over-65s £7, under-18s £5.

This is not an all ticket match for Luton Town supporters. However tickets are available to purchase in advance from the ticket office in Kenilworth Road for either the East Stand (unreserved seating) or the Family Section (reserved seating – groups of adults and children only).



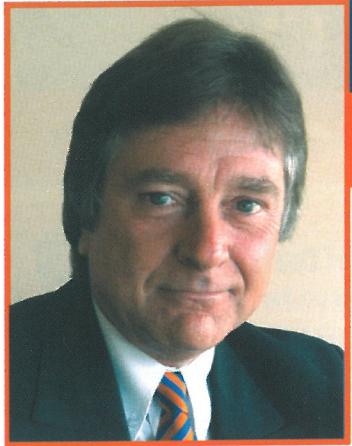
Ticket Office Opening Hours For October

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10am to 5.30pm, except on Fridays before Saturday home games when it is 10am to 6pm

SATURDAY

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



for all of us, as the game is being broadcast live to the nation, via Sky Sports TV.

MATCH SPONSOR
Travel Extras

travelextras

Commercial Corner

WELCOME to all of tonight's sponsors and corporate partners to our match against Tranmere. It is a particularly exciting evening

September, as voted for by the fans, will collect his trophy this evening. It is a tremendous accolade for the winning player, and an award which we believe will be coveted by the players. The official launch of the Hatters Travel Club is now only five days away. This tremendous initiative is where for every registration to the travel club, via the Travel Extras web site, the football club will be paid £1. This is in addition to the 10% that Travel Extras have pledged to us from the value of every single booking that is made for their services. You can access the Travel Extras web site via www.lutontown.co.uk

MATCH BALL SPONSOR
DAS Systems (UK) Limited

IT IS once again a great pleasure to welcome Ray Mulford, group managing director, and the management team of Travel Extras, who join us tonight as match sponsors. Travel Extras need no introduction, as their shirt and general sponsorship of the club this season is well documented. Their innovative approach in the support of the club's commercial objectives is already proving to be a winner.

These sponsorship support initiatives are further demonstrated this evening, with the first of the season's presentations of the Travel Extras Player of the Month award. The winner for the month of



Commercial mascot George Pruden with the Man of the Match against QPR, Gary McSheffrey

WE ARE also joined this evening by Steve Tattam and DAS Systems (UK) Ltd for the first time this season as match ball sponsors, and we wish Steve and his guests a great evening with us. DAS Systems are primarily a design and build electrical contractor, with AutoCAD facilities, working within the commercial sector of the construction industry. They handle everything from managed lighting and BMS systems, to floor power and data cabling working closely with each client from design through to completion. They are registered with the NICEIC and are registered installers and testers of structured cabling with Wadsworth and Molex Premise (formerly MOD-TAP). In addition they install Cat 5e and Cat 6 systems. For further information and general inquiries contact info@das-systems.co.uk

COMMERCIAL MASCOT
Elliot Lord

WE GIVE a very warm welcome to Elliot Lord, who joins us tonight as commercial mascot. Ironically, this is also Elliot's father's birthday (the big four-0 as we understand it) and therefore tonight is a double celebration for the Lord



Welcome to All Our Sponsors and Guests

family. Hailing from Saffron Walden in Essex, Elliot, who was eight on September 6, attends Debden CE Primary School. He plays football for Thaxted Rangers FC, and his hero is Matthew Spring. The midfield star is a real role model for Elliot, who plays in the same position as Matthew. We all wish Elliot and his family an exciting and memorable evening with us.

Enjoy the game and have a great evening

Peter Davis



QPR match ball host Steve Newlands and Gary McSheffrey



LEFT: Guests of Critical Research, joint match sponsors of the QPR game.



BELOW: HIB - Warren Ginsberg and his guests, joint match sponsors.



LEFT: Steve Newlands of Silverlink Trains, match ball sponsors, with his guests.



Luton Town Football Club Proudly Presents a Sporting Dinner

on Wednesday November 19th 2003

at the Vauxhall Recreation Club 20 Gipsy Lane Luton LU1 3JU
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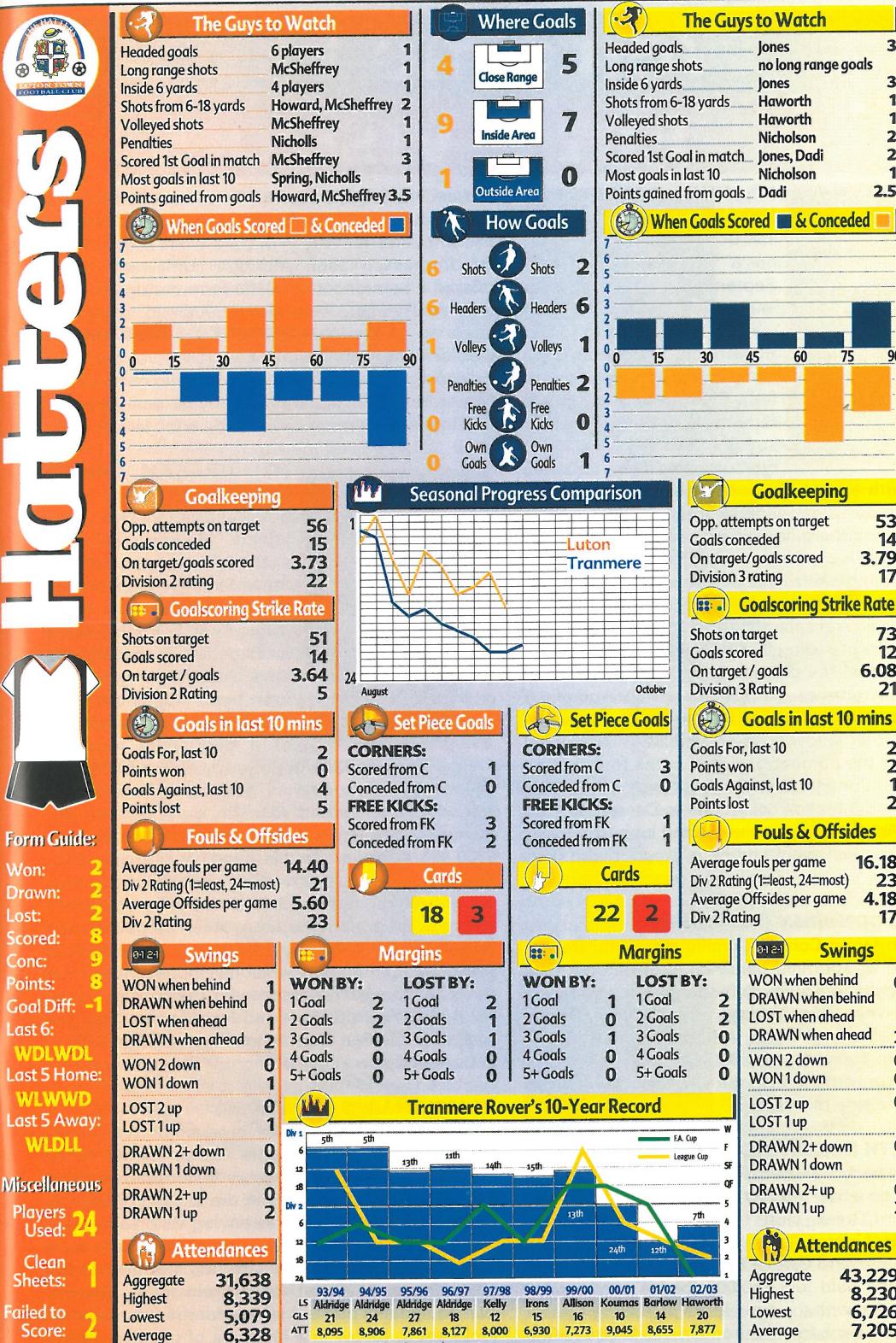
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This event is generously sponsored by Critical Research the regions foremost market research company. They can be contacted on 01582 480588. Luton Town Football Club thank them for their support for this evening.



Welcome to Tonight's Visitors



(1) JOHN ACHTERBERG (GOALKEEPER)

Tall Dutch goalkeeper signed on a two-year contract in September 1998 after impressing on an initial two-week trial. Achterberg joined Rovers on a Bosman-style free transfer as a replacement for Everton-bound Steve Simonsen and was thrown straight into the first team

due to a groin injury to Danny Coyne. With a style not previously seen at Prenton Park, but more commonplace amongst foreign goalkeepers, Achterberg has turned out to be a real bargain signing. A proficient custodian who possesses good handling skills and positional know-how, he was dropped in mid-term but returned to turn in several impressive displays as the 1998-99 campaign drew to a close, ending it as Rovers' undisputed first-choice 'keeper. The departure of Coyne to Grimsby during the summer of 1999 gave Achterberg the chance to state his claim for the 'keeper's jersey. However, the following season saw a new rival emerge for the number one shirt in the form of Eire U18 'keeper Joe Murphy. Murphy's misfortune when he sustained a broken collarbone in December 1999 allowed Achterberg an unexpected opportunity to return to the first team and he grasped it with both hands.

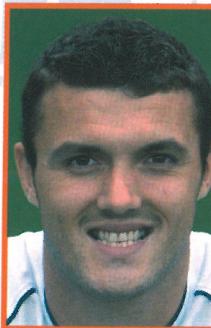
(2) SEAN CONNELLY (DEFENDER)

Long term target Connolly finally signed for Rovers before the Chesterfield game on 12th October. The former Stockport County defender had been a target of Rovers when John Aldridge was in charge, but the defender chose Wolves, where Mathias finally signed him from. A cultured left back who is not afraid to run with the ball, the 32 year old will be an asset to the side this season.

(3) GARETH ROBERTS (DEFENDER)

Wrexham-born Gareth Roberts initially joined Tranmere on a two-month trial during the summer of 1999 from Greek club Panionios. Having been released by Liverpool, the young defender was persuaded to move to Greece by Panionios boss Ronnie Whelan who paid just £50,000 for his services. He was rewarded with the experience of playing against Italian giants Lazio in the European Cup Winners Cup quarter-final, rubbing shoulders alongside the likes

of Marcelo Salas, Roberto Mancini and Ivan De La Pena. Equally comfortable as a left-back or left wing-back, Roberts' tenacity in the tackle and solid defending impressed John Aldridge sufficiently to be offered a permanent deal. His form during his short time at Tranmere was also enough to attract the attention of the Wales U21 management team as well as some aspiring glances from rival clubs. He eventually joined Rovers on a permanent basis in November 1999, signing a three-year deal, expressing hopes of a dream senior call-up for his country.



(4) GRAHAM ALLEN (DEFENDER)

Bolton-born Graham Allen joined Rovers in part exchange as part of the Steve Simonsen deal having been unable to break through at Everton, where he had been since his YTS days. After making just six first team appearances at Goodison Park, the chance of a permanent move to

Prenton Park and the opportunity of first team football was not one he was going to reject. Initially, signed on a one-month loan, his move became permanent in September 1998 with Everton placing a £300,000 valuation on his head. A tall, composed defender, Allen has proven his versatility by turning out in both the right-back and centre-back positions although he prefers the latter. Allen earned himself an unlikely reputation as a goalscorer during his first season at Prenton Park when he chipped in with five goals. Allen was rewarded with the captain's armband after Kevin Sheedy and Ray Mathias assumed control of the first team following the resignation of John Aldridge.

(5) IAN SHARPS (DEFENDER)

Ian Sharps is yet another product of Tranmere's invaluable YTS scheme who has so far had to be contented with regular reserve team football. A tall centre-back who is strong in the air and difficult to shake off the ball as well as having vision and accurate distribution skills, he would undoubtedly have had further opportunities towards the end of the 1998-99 season if not for a groin injury. Sharps' potential marks him out as one for the future and he looks set to follow in a long line of talented centre-backs that have graced Prenton Park. Tranmere's



Tranmere Rovers FC



faith in that potential was underlined when he was handed a two year contract in March 2000. He again looked close to making an impression on the first team towards the end of the 2000-01 season but a knee injury put yet another dampener on his hopes.

(7) IAIN HUME (FORWARD)

Iain Hume became the youngest ever player to appear in a Tranmere Rovers shirt when he made his debut as a substitute at Swindon Town in March 2000. At just 16 years and 167 days old and still registered on schoolboy forms, he beat a certain Dixie Dean's record by 192 days. After signing scholarship forms, he progressed rapidly through Tranmere's youth and reserve team sides and he ended the 1999-00 season as a regular on the substitutes bench. As soon as he turned 17, Tranmere wasted no time in handing the young Canadian his first professional contract and John Aldridge gradually eased him into the first team picture with regular substitute appearances. A fast and energetic striker with masses of potential, Hume is already a Canadian U20 international and it will surely not be long before he makes his full first team debut.



Manager Ray Mathias, who is obviously assistant to Rovers boss to Dave Watson. Haworth spent two successful seasons partnering Stuart Barlow, while at Wigan, a partnership that will certainly be revived at Prenton Park.

The Welshman began his career with his hometown club Cardiff City, where he scored 13 goals in just 40 starts. He stayed with the Bluebirds for two seasons before moving to Premiership side Coventry City for £500,000.

Chances were limited for the youngster with the Sky Blues, where he stayed for just one year before being snapped up by Wigan.

(8) MICKEY MELLON (MIDFIELDER)

Mickey Mellon rejoined Tranmere for his second spell with the club in March 2000 on a free transfer from Burnley after an initially signing as a loan player. Mellon first signed for Tranmere in October 1997 for a £300,000 fee from Blackpool as John Aldridge ended a lengthy pursuit that stretched back into the close season. He arrived at Prenton Park with the reputation of a goalscorer midfielder but it took him five months before he found the back of the net. With Tranmere strapped for cash, Rovers were in no position to turn down the offer of £350,000 from Burnley in January 1999, and he was sold - his Prenton Park career lasting just 14 months. While with Burnley, he made 94 appearances, scoring 5 goals, and he added versatility to his belt by filling in at left-back on occasions. Frustrated by a lack of first team opportunities at Turf Moor, he was handed a free transfer and he opted to return to Prenton Park. Mellon started his career as a trainee at Bristol City before a £75,000 move took him to West Brom in February 1993 where he spent nine months. His most consistent form came during a three-year spell with Blackpool where a regular supply of goals from midfield attracted the interest of a number of high-profile clubs.



Lincoln and has signed a two-year contract with Tranmere.

Tranmere have been lacking quality on the left for some time and Watson acted quick to increase the number of left footers in his squad and Nicholson

(9) SIMON HAWORTH (FORWARD)

Haworth became Dave Watson's third signing, when he joined Tranmere Rovers for £125,000 from local rivals Wigan Athletic. The 24-year-old was formerly the Latics record signing, when he joined back in 1998 for £600,000 from Coventry City. He was signed by then

(10) GARY JONES (MIDFIELDER)

This is Gary's second spell at Prenton Park. Ray Mathias looked to inject a touch of the old Tranmere spirit back into the side. Signed on a free from Nottingham Forest after impressing in a loan spell, Jones has been a virtual ever present since. A tough tackling midfielder who will always weigh in with his share of the goals.

(11) SHANE NICHOLSON (DEFENDER)

Shane Nicholson joined Rovers after being released from his contract with Sheffield United, ironically following their signing of Steve Yates.

Predominantly a left sided defender, he has had spells at Stockport, Chesterfield, West Brom, Derby and

Welcome to Tonight's Visitors

will provide excellent competition for Gareth Roberts.

The 32-year-old has played well over 400 games in his 14-year career, scoring 15 goals along the way but we all know how that can change at Prenton Park. Remember Steve Yates? he joined having only ever scored twice!!.

(12) KEVIN GRAY (DEFENDER)

Kevin Gray completed his move from Huddersfield Town last summer and was immediately named Club Captain by then boss Dave Watson. The 30 year old joined on a free transfer after calling an end to his eight year spell at the McAlpine, and immediately his intent for his new club, promotion back to division one!

Gray started his career at Mansfield Town in 1988 and was made captain at the tender age of 19, playing 170 games for the stags before signing for Huddersfield in July '94. The former Terrier signed a two year deal at Prenton Park.

(13) RUSSELL HAWORTH (GOALKEEPER)

The goalkeeping saga at Prenton Park finally came to an end when Rovers signed England under 21 goal-

keeper Russell Haworth from York City. The talented keeper was seen as 'a steal' in a depressed transfer market and was brought in to challenge regular keeper John Achterberg for the first team jersey.

(15) RYAN TAYLOR (DEFENDER)

Ryan signed professional in the summer of 2002 after completing a successful two-year scholarship with the club.

He is a right full back, who is excellent from dead balls, capable of both inswinging and outswinging shots rather reminiscent of David Beckham.

Taylor hails from Liverpool and has progressed through Rovers youth sides, he made his debut for the reserves earlier in the season and was named on the substitutes bench for the trip to Oldham in the LDV Vans trophy. Although he didn't come on it was still a big step for the youngster, who is tipped for great things.

The 17-year-old was rewarded his for impressive form when he was called up by England U18's for a friendly match with Italy in March and he ended the season on a high after winning both the Football League Youth Alliance Merit Division and the Lancashire Youth Cup.

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(16) ALAN NAVARRO (MIDFIELDER)

Alan Navarro finally ended a six week pursuit by Dave Watson, when he signed a three and a half year deal, for a fee rising to £225,000, depending on appearances.

It's the most the club has ever paid for a player of his age, but the club have bought potential, with Navarro still only 20.

The tough tackling midfielder is a product of Liverpool's academy. He's a great passer of the ball and can play anywhere across the middle and also featured at right back while at Anfield.

He was part of the reds title winning reserve side in 99/00 and spent three months on loan at Crewe before Dave Watson bought him to Prenton Park for a month, back in November.

After scoring 2 goals in four appearances he did enough to persuade Rovers to splash the cash.

(17) ALEX HAY (FORWARD)

Birkenhead-born Alex Hay joined Tranmere's professional ranks in April 1999 after progressing through the youth system from the age of 12.

Unable to make an impact at Prenton Park, Hay was loaned out to non-league Altrincham in October 2000 in a bid to gain first team experience and he quickly hit the goal trail with the Robins.

After two months with the Moss Lane outfit, Hay returned to Prenton Park.

Such was his eagerness to edge himself into the reserve side, Hay turned out for Tranmere's youth side and he scored four goals in three games before again being struck down by injury which ruled him out for the remainder of the season.

During the 2001/02 season he finally broke into the first team making five appearances.

After signing an extension to his current contract he's desperate to score his first goal for Rovers.

(18) DANNY HARRISON (MIDFIELDER)

Central midfielder Danny Harrison is yet another product of Tranmere's highly successful youth production line.

He was handed the invaluable experience of travelling with the first team squad to Fulham in December 2000 and he featured regularly in the reserve team as the season drew to a close.

Last season he made his first team debut in the home defeat by Wigan Athletic in October before starting the LDV match at Oldham the following week. He signed his first professional contract during the summer of 2002.

(19) JAMES OLSEN (DEFENDER)

James Olsen will be hoping to emulate the success of Andy Parkinson and Gareth Roberts after making the short switch across the Mersey from Liverpool in March 2001 for an undisclosed fee. The highly-rated left-back was not so much rejected by the Reds, he was simply told there was no room for him in the first-team squad. Olsen had the opportunity of appearing in the PFA exit trials at Lilleshall, attracting the interest of a number of clubs, and he eventually opted to remain local by joining Tranmere on transfer deadline day after an earlier successful trial. After some impressive outings in the reserve team, Olsen made his Tranmere debut as a substitute against Nottingham Forest in May 2001 and he looked set to push Gareth Roberts hard for a regular place in the starting eleven during the 2000-01 season only to sustain a serious neck injury in the pre-season build-up.

(20) JAMIE McGUIRE (MIDFIELDER)

Another member of last seasons' successful youth team squad, who capped an excellent season by picking up both the Football League Youth Alliance Merit Division and Lancashire Youth Cup.

Jamie is a hard working and tough tackling midfielder who previously played for Shaftesbury Boys' Club, Mersey Royal and Cheshire Counties before signing for Tranmere.

The 18-year-old made several appearances for Rovers second string last season and will be looking to be a regular in the current campaign.

(21) PAUL ROBINSON (FORWARD)

Paul signed for Rovers from his beloved Newcastle United at the age of 16, after six years with the Magpies and he is another member of last seasons' double winning squad.

The Geordie striker has a fantastic touch and awareness and is comfortable on either foot.

(22) PAUL LINWOOD (DEFENDER)

Paul captained the youth team to league and cup glory last season and has since signed his first professional contract with the club.

The central defender has been with the club for seven years, progressing through the ranks and he has represented England at Schoolboy level.

A regular for the reserves last season the 18-year-old is looking to continue where he left off.



Blast From The Past

After relegation from the old Division One in 1992, Luton Town supporters were left, quite rightly, with a feeling of despair after ten years at the top, but as the new season approached fresh optimism filled the air as it always does.

Although the transfer of Mark Pembridge to Derby over the summer was regarded as a foregone conclusion, it was still reckoned that we had a bright crop of youngsters coming through and, mixed with the experienced heads of David Preece, Trevor Peake and Mick Harford, a return to former glories at the first time of asking was not beyond the realms of possibility.

Unfortunately, on the eve of the new campaign terrace favourite Harford was transferred to Chelsea, and it was immediately apparent that we were going to struggle to score goals, even though Steve Claridge had been signed from Cambridge in an attempt to plug the gap.

The first game of the new season took us to Leicester where Jamie Campbell scored his first senior goal, but we still came away with nothing after conceding a goal in the 93rd minute to go down 1-2, bringing back frightening comparisons to several away clashes in the previous campaign when defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory.

If we thought the Leicester defeat was bad enough then the opening home game left us shaking our heads in disbelief. Despite relegation the previous year our home record had not been too bad, and if we could beat the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea and Aston Villa then Bristol City, our first visitors, should not pose many problems.

How wrong could we be, as an Andy Cole inspired City side, playing the classic away

game, ripped the Town defence to shreds with quick breakaways that eventually earned them a 3-0 victory.

Although the defence shored itself up with a 0-0 draw at Charlton the following week, we still did not look like scoring and the situation was beginning to look bleak even though we were still in August!

A mid-week 0-2 defeat at early pacesetters Newcastle then followed, which left us with four games played and only one point and one goal to show for our troubles, together with a place at the foot of the table.

It was no surprise therefore when only 6,801 turned up at Kenilworth Road for the first visit of Tranmere Rovers to these parts since 1970. Rovers had, on their travels, started off the season with a defeat at Sunderland and then contrived to lose 0-4 at Blackpool in the Coca-Cola Cup after leading 3-0 from the first leg. These results counted for nothing, however, given the Town's abysmal start to the campaign.

As it turned out the young Luton side started like a whirlwind and for the first twenty minutes ran rings around the Tranmere defence and did everything but score in a display that had rarely been bettered over the years.



David Preece, who led by example during the difficult 1992/93 campaign.

Hatters Kick-start Their Season

The opening goal that the performance fully deserved came after 21 minutes when Claridge deflected a Phil Gray shot into the net with his chest. Having broken the deadlock it now seemed only a matter of time before we had racked up a cricket score, but a slip from John Dreyer six minutes later allowed that wily old campaigner John Aldridge a sniff at goal, and he made no mistake for the equaliser.

The match was turned on its head two minutes later when a through ball from Neil McNab was rifled home by Ian Muir to put the visitors in front completely against the run of play.

Despite these setbacks the Town players rolled their sleeves up and fought back gamely drawing level after 34 minutes when Des Linton rounded off a move involving Scott Oakes, Jason Rees and Claridge for his first Luton goal only for Pat Nevin to restore Tranmere's advantage just before the interval.

The second half belonged to the Hatters who felt aggrieved at the false scoreline and after

attacking with a will eventually levelled once more when Oakes knocked in a pass from Gray with twenty minutes to go.

That was the finish of the scoring but it was a case of two points dropped as David Pleat reflected at the end of the game.

"We played our best football for a long time in the first half-hour, and when we went one up I was certain we were going to win," said the manager.

"Unfortunately, some of the young boys are good on the ball but not so good off it."

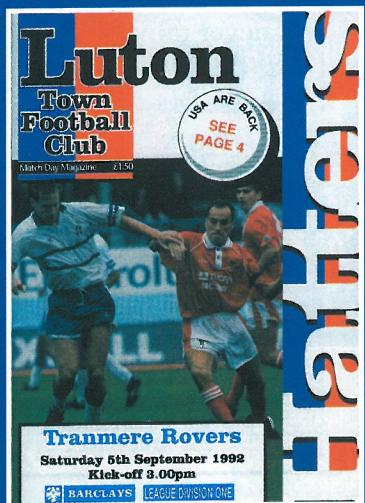
Although it was a disappointing result, at least we had got back to the goal standard and were off the bottom of the table. It could only get better!

Luton: Petterson, Linton, Salton, Peake, Dreyer, Rees, James, Oakes, Preece, Claridge, Gray (Campbell).

Tranmere: Nixon, Brannan, Vickers, Garnett, Nolan, Morrissey, McNab, Irons, Nevin, Aldridge, Muir.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



The Town had continued with their 'normal' sized programme for the 1992/93 campaign, the second season running, after several years of pocket sized issues.

For the visit of Tranmere on 5th September 1992 much coverage was given to the summer introduction of both the back-pass rule changes and random drug testing (or dope testing as it was called then!).

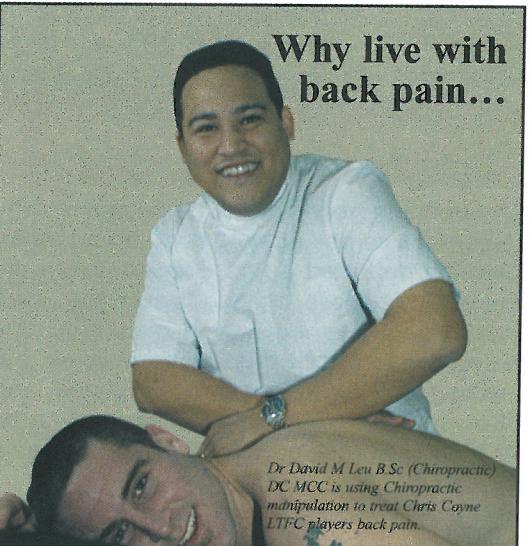
Elsewhere, there were signs of things to come with reports of John Hartson netting four times as the youth team beat Bristol Rovers 8-0 and then bagging all the Town goals in a 4-1 win against Reading. Would he be able to keep up this average?

Town Teaser

A PAIR of match tickets will be won by a lucky supporter this evening. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go in our Town Teaser competition. At the last home game we asked what was historic about a match between QPR and the Town in 1981. The answer was that it was the first-ever league game played on a plastic pitch. The Town won 2-1, with goals by Mark Aizlewood and Ricky Hill, although Andy King, then a QPR player, had the distinction of scoring the first-ever league goal on plastic.

TONIGHT'S QUESTION

WHO is the teenager who made his league debut for the Town at Boundary Park last week?



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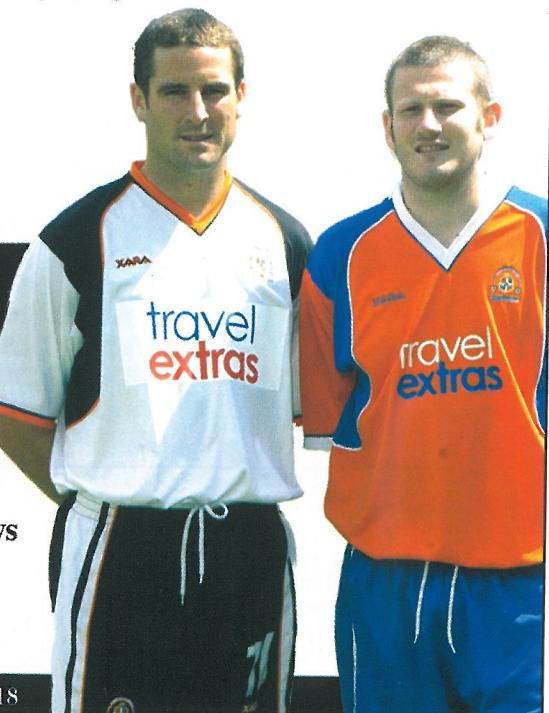
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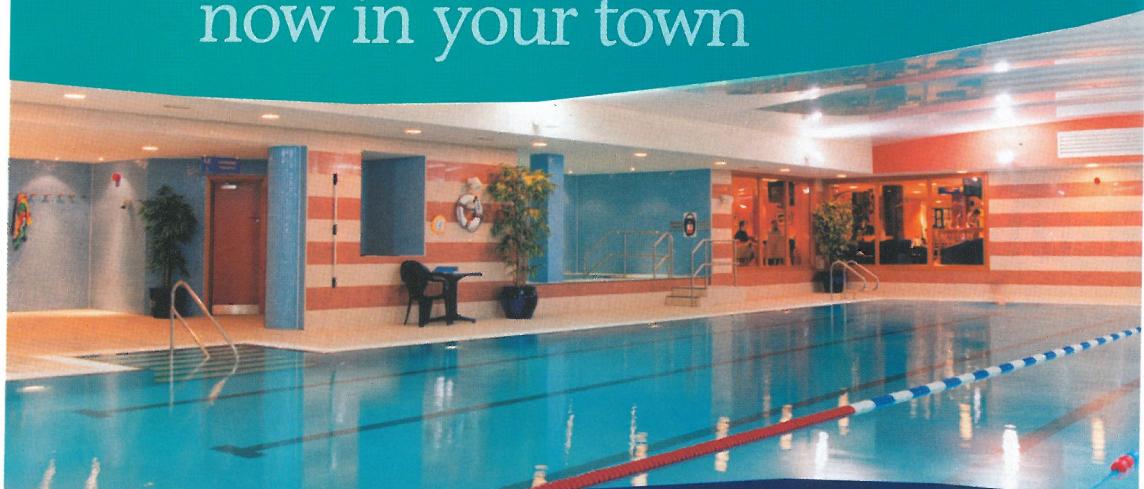
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WE ARE always pleased to see a Town fan collect our Golden Gamble jackpot, but it was an extra pleasure at the QPR game when the wedge of cash was won by a supporter who goes to great lengths to enjoy his football.

Andrew Bates lives at Waltham, near Grimsby, and every home game entails a 300-mile round trip. With his friends Steve Hudson and Sally Robinson, he sits in the Kenilworth end, and they always invest in the Golden Gamble. At the last home game Paul Hughes picked one of their tickets out of the drum, and it was worth £735.

If you think you have seen the name of Andrew Bates elsewhere in the programme, you are right, because he sponsors Chris Coyne's away kit.

The jackpot won by Mr Bates took Golden Gamble pay-outs so far this season to £3,625, an average of £604 to each of the six winners. Not bad for an outlay of just £1!

Golden Gamble ticket sellers are on duty around the ground again today and another jackpot will be drawn at half time, and is paid out in ready cash immediately.

The prize depends on ticket sales. Half of the income goes towards the jackpot and the other 50p is donated to club funds, so even if you don't win, you are helping Luton Town, so we are very grateful for your support.



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For more information call at the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road before or after any home game.



Stoppage Time Agony Again



Luton Town 1 Queens Park Rangers 1

A VICTORY earned by hard work and good football was snatched away in the second minute of stoppage time as Rangers nicked a draw they scarcely deserved. It felt like losing, but when the deep disappointment gave way to further thought, the considerable consolation was that the Town, for all their off-field problems, had been more than a match for a bigger club that is among the favourites for promotion. The downside, suffered equally cruelly at Charlton three days later, was that there seems to be a problem about defending in stoppage time.

Two bullish teams locked horns in a hard but fair encounter in which neither would be intimidated, and it made for a fascinating contest. The Town had the better of the first half without making it count in terms of goals. The nearest they came was from a cracking 30-yard free kick by Gary McSheffrey which came back off the bar.

The breakthrough came on 60 minutes, with Steve Howard marking his return from suspension with his fifth goal of the season. A deflection off the knee of Danny Shittu, who shadowing McSheffrey, wrong-footed the goalkeeper.

Unbeaten in their previous six games, and wanting a win which might have put them on top of the table, Rangers avoided the killer blow when Ahmet Brkovic's shot at the end of a tricky solo run was well saved, and with 25 minutes to go their manager made a double substitution to try to shake up a lacklustre attack. Tony Thorpe entered the fray to the inevitable rowdy "welcome" from home fans who had not been impressed by his decision to join Rangers in August.

Within a minute he had been booked for a foul on David Bayliss, and the crowd enjoyed that one, even if the total of seven yellow cards dished out by

Uriah Rennie did not seem a true reflection on the way the game was played.

The Town deserved to win, except that as at Plymouth a week earlier, they failed to withstand the opposition's last desperate fling. Danger signals came when Rob Beckwith had to make a couple of outstanding tip-round saves from Kevin Gallen and Arthur Gnohere in the last six minutes. But 90 seconds into the two-minute stoppage time, he had no chance when Paul Furlong muscled his way past Chris Coyne to slot in the equaliser. Thorpe enjoyed the moment, because his flick-on from a long clearance by the goalkeeper gave Furlong the chance to use his pace and power to rob the Town of two points.

A bonus was an impressive league debut by 20-year-old Michael Leary, who enjoyed the physical battle as much as anyone as he stood in for suspended Paul Hughes.

"The lads are gutted because we had the game won," said Town boss Mike Newell. "But it was a tremendous performance. They competed against one of the strongest outfits in the division, who will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season. We more than matched them and the lads can take credit for that. In the cold light of day we will be pleased with the point."

Ian Holloway certainly was. "I would have preferred an earlier goal and a better performance," said the Rangers manager. "But if you get a point when you are playing like that, it's the sign of a half-decent team. Luton's goalkeeper did very well, and it looked like it might not be our day, but it was a fantastic goal to save the point. Luton did really well in a very tense game. There were two good teams out there, and not many will come here and win."

Match Details

TOWN: Beckwith; Boyce, Coyne, Bayliss, Davis; Foley, Leary, Spring, Brkovic; McSheffrey (Pitt 87 mins), Howard. Unused subs: Forbes, Hillier, Mansell, Brill.

BOOKED: David Bayliss, Gary McSheffrey and Michael Leary, all for fouls.

RANGERS: Day; Edghill, Gnohere, Shittu, Padula; Rowlands (Thorpe 65 mins), Palmer (Bircham 77 mins), Bean, McLeod (Ainsworth 65 mins); Gallen, Furlong. Unused subs: Forbes, Culkin.

BOOKED: Marcus Bean, Arthur Gnohere, Tony Thorpe and Paul Furlong

REFEREE: Uriah Rennie, South Yorkshire.

ATTENDANCE: Best of the season so far, 8,339 including 1,872 in the away end.



LOCAL HERO: Kevin Foley, Gary McSheffrey and Michael Leary mob Steve Howard after he had given the Town the lead.

RIGHT: Michael Leary, 20, on the ball as he was throughout the game on his league debut as replacement for Paul Hughes.

BELow: Matt Spring backing up the attack and facing massed ranks of QPR defenders.





In a week of mixed fortunes for the Town, the highlight was a tremendous cup-tie at The Valley, where Premiership club Charlton were lucky to win on penalties after the Town hit them with four top quality goals. This was the scene after we went 3-2 ahead in the second half. Gary McSheffrey has just netted with a delightful curled drive, and enjoying the celebration with him are Courtney Pitt, Emmerson Boyce and Kevin Foley.

Hatters Pic of the Week

Spot Of Heartbreak At The Valley

Charlton Athletic 4 Luton Town 4 (After extra time) Penalties: 8-7

A NIGHT of compelling entertainment in South London had every ingredient you could wish for, except for the right result, as the Town took on Premiership opposition and made a mockery of the difference in the league standings.

The home side were lucky twice over: to be allowed enough stoppage time to snatch a 92nd-minute equaliser, and then to win the lottery of the penalty shoot-out.

Our disappointment was bitter, but the army of Town fans at The Valley quite rightly gave their heroes a standing ovation at the end of more than two hours of theatrical cup-tie drama. Charlton supporters also joined in the applause, grateful to see their team edge through to the third round of the Carling Cup on a night when they were close to being knocked out.

It would take a dozen pages to describe the myriad moments of drama, anxiety, delirious joy and finally deep frustration at the injustice of it all.

The Town were quite simply magnificent, more than a match for a team that kicked of 38 places above them. They put their passing game together, rocked Charlton with a two-goal burst in as many minutes, defended comfortably and reduced the home fans to giving their own side the bird as the Second Division visitors showed Premiership class. Class was the word for the way the Town created and accepted their goals. On 30 minutes Gary McSheffrey set up Kevin Foley to smash in the opener, with a first-time shot from the inside right position, and two minutes later David Bayliss headed in at the far post from Matt Spring's left wing corner. Seven minutes after that Charlton fans were howling with rage as Paul Hughes and Steve Howard carved out a chance for Ahmet Brkovic. His careful shot beat the keeper, but hit the inside of a post. "If that had gone in it would have been game over," said Charlton boss Alan Curbishley.

Match Details

TOWN: Beckwith; Boyce, Coyne, Bayliss (Hillier 91 mins), Davis; Foley (Leary 83 mins), Hughes, Spring, Brkovic (Pitt 67 mins); McSheffrey, Howard. Unused subs: Forbes, Brill.

BOOKED: David Bayliss and Sol Davis for fouls.

CHARLTON: Kiely, Young, Fish, Fortune, Powell (Euell 83 mins); Stuart (Johansson 67 mins), Parker, Holland, Jensen; Lisbie (Campbell-Ryce 87 mins), Di Canio. Unused subs: Rufus, Leite

BOOKED: No-one.

REFEREE: Paul Armstrong, Berkshire.

ATTENDANCE: 10,905 including a magnificent Town following of 2,407.

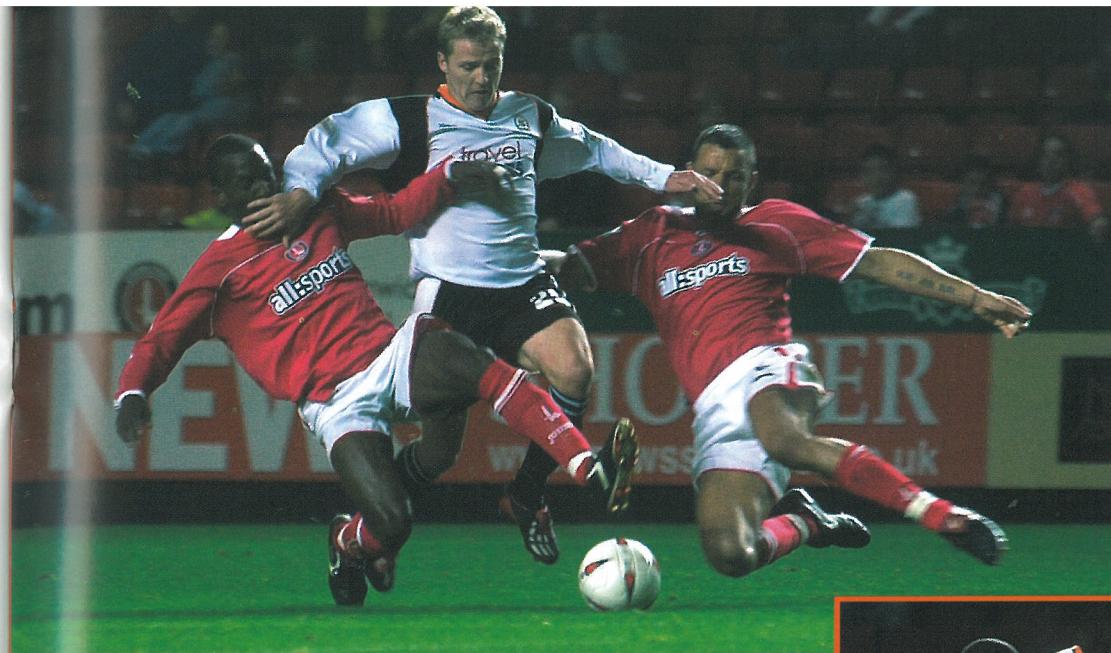
It was the Town defence's turn to be split four minutes before the break when Scott Parker was put on to reduce the deficit, and Charlton thought they were on their way when Kevin Lisbie headed an equaliser on 58 minutes, following a half-cleared free kick by Paulo Di Canio.

Rob Beckwith made an excellent block save to deny Parker a second goal, before Charlton were stunned again by another sweet move involving sub Courtney Pitt and Hughes to set up McSheffrey for a classy strike, curling in a left foot drive from the right corner of the box.

Charlton were desperate after that, and broke Town hearts in stoppage time. We wondered how the ref found four minutes to be added. Charlton needed two minutes and 42 seconds of it to mount a storming counter-attack after the Town failed in a bid to kill time by trapping the ball near the corner flag. Jamal Campbell-Ryce broke quickly, floated in a diagonal cross, and Di Canio forced extra time with a looping header.

Charlton thought they had won it when Claus Jensen gave them the lead for the first time on 95 minutes, only for the Town to hit them again on 109, Chris Coyne nonchalantly shooting home from a deep corner by Courtney Pitt.

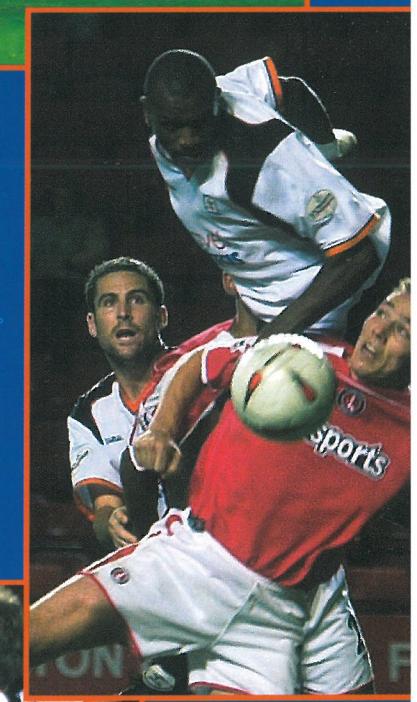
Steve Howard flicked a close-range chance wide when he might have got a late winner after a super shimmy of a run along the by-line by McSheffrey, before the drama of penalties. Each side converted the first five, with Spring, McSheffrey, Davis, Pitt and Leary doing the business for the Town. Charlton had the advantage of going first, and in sudden death took it to 8-7, with Howard and Hughes the Town's contributors to 15 perfect penalties. Coyne was distraught when he hit the 16th too near to Dean Kiely, who made the save.



STUNNER: Gary McSheffrey, whose exquisite shot made it 3-2 to the Town, takes on opponents two at a time..

RIGHT: Town on top, in the shape of Emmerson Boyce rising above Matt Holland.

BELow: The Town have gone two up as David Bayliss celebrates his goal, with Steve Howard also pretty pleased with life as Charlton were put on the rack. But it ended in disappointment, for the team and for Bayliss, because he had to be subbed in extra time with an injury which needed surgery, and will keep him out of action for up to six months.



Penalty Kicks Off A Miserable Afternoon

Oldham Athletic 3 Luton Town 0

AFTER the Lord Mayor's show in London... a miserable day out in Lancashire for the Town and their supporters. The manager refused to use the obvious excuse for a poor performance, but to many it looked as though the heroics at Charlton a few days earlier had cost them dear when they returned to league action.

Part of the Cup-tie legacy was the addition of three more men to the injured list, with David Bayliss, Matt Spring and Kevin Foley ruled out of the Boundary Park match against another team struggling to escape from administration.

Out of the Carling Cup, Oldham had enjoyed a week's recovery time following a 5-2 victory romp at Wycombe, which extended their unbeaten run to five games. They needed an iffy penalty to get them moving against the Town, but once ahead they never looked back. It was all too easy for them because the Town were so far below par. A red card for Robert Beckwith 20 minutes from time completed our misery. Courtney Pitt, Michael Leary and Ian Hillier came into a side which played with little confidence or cohesion, and with Oldham up for it the result was never in doubt. Slight consolations for the Town were that Russ Perrett made a welcome return as a sub for his first appearance of the season following summer surgery, and 17-year-old Dean Brill took over from Beckwith for his senior debut, and kept a clean sheet. Unfortunately the game was all over long before then. The 30th-minute penalty effectively ended the Town's resistance. Until then it had been two teams trying to get their acts together. David Eyres sent the ball into the box from the left wing, and the referee seemed to see no problem as Leary and John Eyre tussled for possession. But his assistant flagged and signalled a penalty, for Leary's shirt-tug. John Sheridan, a 39-year-old who came out of retirement to help out after a player exodus in the summer, expertly converted from the spot.

Match Details

TOWN: Beckwith; Hillier (Perrett 61 mins), Boyce, Coyne, Davis; Brkovic (Mansell 61 mins), Leary, Hughes, Pitt (Brill 70 mins); McSheffrey, Howard. Unused subs: Forbes, Showunmi.

BOOKED: No-one. **SENT OFF:** Robert Beckwith, handball outside his area.

OLDHAM: Pogliacomi; Clegg, Hall, Hudson, Holden; Eyre (Cooksey 74 mins), John Sheridan (Darren Sheridan, younger brother, 65 mins), Murray, Eyres; Zola, Vernon (Killen 70 mins). Unused subs: Collin, O'Halloran.

BOOKED: John Eyre, foul on Courtney Pitt.

REFEREE: Mike Pike, Cumbria

ATTENDANCE: 6,077, including 487 Town fans.

Calvin Zola, on loan from Newcastle, headed the second in the final minute of the first half, and two minutes into the second Dean Holden's quality finish from a through-ball by Sheridan finished it off.

The Town failed to extend Oldham's keeper once, while Beckwith did well to push over a Paul Murray shot before his afternoon ended early. Scott Vernon was trying to reach a ball down the middle when Beckwith raced out of his area, handled, and was sent off. You couldn't argue with it in terms of the rules, although a different ref on a different day, at Plymouth, settled for a yellow card in near-identical circumstances. The Town boss thought Beckwith was the unlucky victim of a "stupid rule."

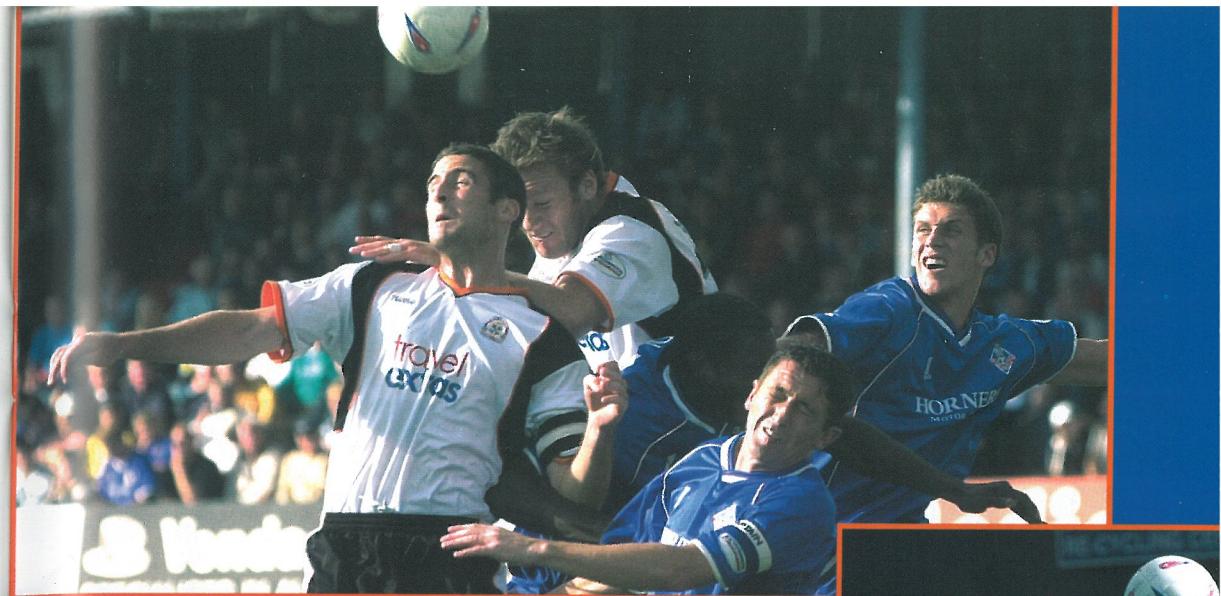
Brill was pleased to watch a drive by Eyres flash over his cross-bar, but had it fairly easy after that, with nothing more than a couple of routine saves. Oldham knew they had already done the job, and could afford to save themselves for future needs.

Mike Newell said his men could not use reaction from Charlton as an excuse for their poor showing. "I can't take anything positive out of the game," he said. "No-one was on top of his game."

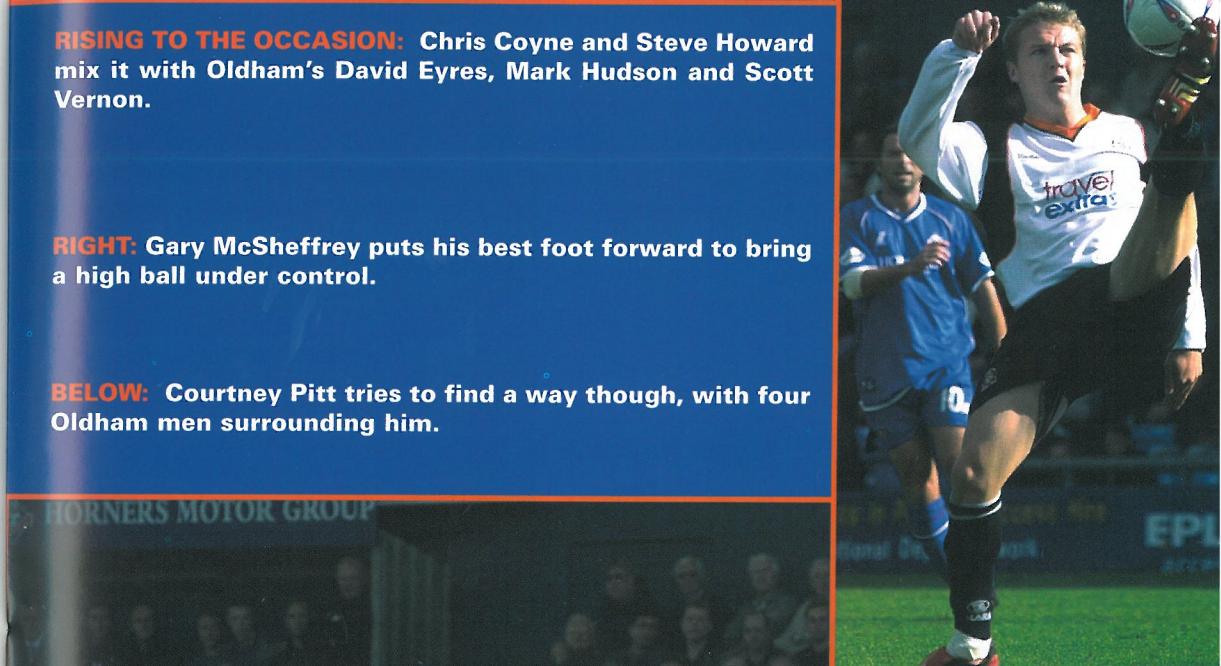
The boss was unhappy with the penalty award. "The linesman saw it but I think he was the only one in the ground who did. Not even Oldham or the supporters appealed for it. But that's not an excuse. Our performances, individually and collectively, were poor."

Iain Dowie, a Hatters fan because Luton gave him his start in pro football, said: "We thoroughly deserved to win, but I was disappointed that it took us nearly until half time to get going. But we were excellent in the second half. Luton are a decent side, and to keep a clean sheet against them is very pleasing."

"The penalty was for shirt-tugging. A lot of that goes on, and I must admit if it had been given against us I would probably be a bit upset."



RISING TO THE OCCASION: Chris Coyne and Steve Howard mix it with Oldham's David Eyres, Mark Hudson and Scott Vernon.



RIGHT: Gary McSheffrey puts his best foot forward to bring a high ball under control.



BELOW: Courtney Pitt tries to find a way through, with four Oldham men surrounding him.

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Youth Soccer: The under-19s

Luton Town 3 Oxford Utd 3

WHILE a point was welcome, I was very disappointed that a lot of good work over the first 70 minutes or so was spoiled by conceding two late goals. It was a case of two points thrown away rather than one gained.

The players were told before kick-off that they needed to raise their performance level and put in more effort and application than they had done in recent matches, and they responded well in some ways. By the time we went 3-1 on 73 minutes they had done enough to deserve victory, only to let it slip away. Oxford pulled it back to 3-2 and anxiety crept in. Even so, there was plenty to admire in our earlier play, and that is something we can build on.

After a stuttering start we took a 32nd-minute lead with an excellent goal, Stephen O'Leary firing in after playing three one-twos in the build-up. It was the best move of the game, underlining the value of doing the simple thing well – play, pass and move.

Failure to get goal-side of an attacker cost us an

equaliser six minutes later. Our defenders ran out, leaving an opponent space in our own box, an incredible mistake.

A half time chat produced a good response from the team, despite an enforced change when Max Howell had to go off injured, to be replaced by David Deeney. We regained the lead on 66 minutes, O'Leary side-footing in his second goal after another nice passing move, and it was 3-1 with 17 minutes to go when Parys Okai cashed in when a rebound fell to him.

At that stage we had done enough to win, but we failed to tighten up and allowed the opposition to start to play. Oxford scored with a tremendous shot from 20 yards, but while it was an excellent strike, it was made possible by a poor clearance attempt. We got more and more anxious after that, and started to concede too many free kicks, and one led to an 80th-minute equaliser, another good strike from the edge of the box.

The fear then was that Oxford, with their tails up, might go on to win, but we picked ourselves up again and with the visitors also digging in at the back neither side created any more chances.

Luton Town: Barrett, Howell (Deeney HT), Mountford, O'Leary, Davies, Barnett, Keane, Ridgway, Okai, Judge, Mansell.

Football League Youth Alliance Under-19 South East Conference

August

9	Rushden	H	3-2	Judge 2, Andrew
16	Cambridge	A	1-2	Barnett
23	Kidderminster	H	1-1	Judge

September

6	Cheltenham	H	2-0	Mansell, Davies
13	Walsall	A	1-4	O'Leary
27	Oxford	H	3-3	O'Leary 2, Okai

October

4	Northampton	H		
11	Alliance Cup 1			
18	West Brom	A		
25	Cheltenham	A		

November

1	Walsall	H		
15	Oxford	A		
22	Alliance Cup 2			
29	Northampton	A		

December

6	West Brom	H		
13	Rushden	A		

January

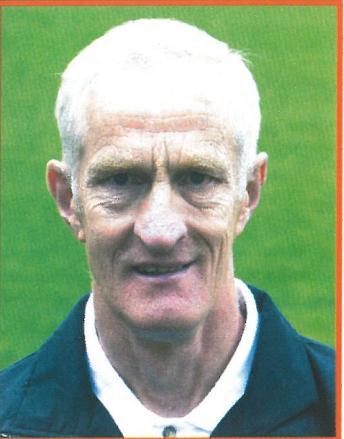
10	Cambridge	H		
17	Alliance Cup 3			
24	Kidderminster	A		
31	Merit Division starts			

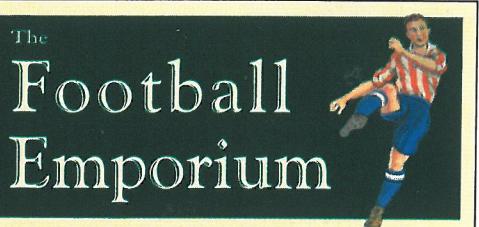
WE WERE at home to Northampton on Saturday, and a report will appear in next Saturday's programme. In the FA Youth Cup first round, to be played next month at a date still to be fixed, we will be away to Brighton and Hove Albion.

APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets): Barnett 6, Howell 6, Mountford 6, R. Mansell 6, Keane 5, Davies 5, O'Leary 5, Deeney 4(2), Andrew 4(1), Judge 4(1), Ridgway 4, Barrett 3, Okai 2, Maitland 2, Godfrey 2, Freeman 1(1), Lambu 1, Wright 0(2),

GOALS: Judge 3, O'Leary 3, Andrew 1, Barnett 1, Mansell 1, Davies 1, Okai 1.

John Moore





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Youth Soccer The under-17s

Luton Town 3 Leyton Orient 1

STRONGER and a little older than our visitors, we deserved this result, which was earned by a good second-half performance after the first had left me less than satisfied. At half time we asked the boys to make things happen, instead of waiting for things to happen, and to move the ball quicker, and they responded. We had created a few chances in the first half, but were not really sharp enough. Most of the play was in Orient's half of the field, but except for a header by Tom Freeman which went over the bar we did not look like scoring.

It was a different story after the break, when our front two, Freeman and Calvin Andrew, did much better.

Freeman got on the end of a long ball over the top to go round the keeper to give us the lead on 50 minutes, but ten minutes later Orient used the same route to snatch an equaliser. That was disappointing, but we felt we were the better side, and we never looked back after Andrew scored twice in five minutes. Stuart Sinclair set up his first, on 67 minutes, with a run down the left and a good cross which Andrew met with a powerful header. An attractive build-up in which the ball was passed from front to back enabled Andrew

to pounce in the six-yard box to make it 3-1 and we looked like running away with it after that. We forced a succession of corners, and Sean Ridgway hit the bar, with Andrew and Freeman also going close. Another goal or two would not have flattered us.

Luton Town: Barrett, Smyth, Mountford, Deeney, Green, Tague (Pendleton 65 mins), Keane (Preston 85 mins), Ridgway, Freeman (R. Sinclair 85 mins), Andrew, S. Sinclair.

Southend Utd 6 Luton Town 2

A TEAM consisting almost entirely of schoolboys was no match for opposition who included seven scholars, and we paid the price for poor defending. Each side had three first-half chances, with Southend converting all theirs while our best efforts came from a Peter Clark shot which hit a post and a goal by Mutsa Magadah which was ruled out for offside. Our goalkeeper had a bit of a nightmare, and at the interval when we were three down, the instructions to the team were not to collapse and to have a go at Southend. For half an hour they did, and could be proud of the way they played. Southend were pinned back, with Mutsa Magadah terrorising their left back. He was brought down for a penalty which he converted in the 55th minute, and five minutes later Clark shot over the bar from close range. It would have been game on if he had pulled it back to 3-2, but we could not force another goal despite being on top. With ten minutes to go we had almost everyone up for a free kick, but the goalkeeper got possession, banged the ball downfield, and we were caught out as Southend made it 4-1 after 80 minutes. We were on our knees then, and they scored twice more before Harrison Tague headed our second goal from a corner.

Luton Town: Goodchild, Smyth, Pendleton, Hanley, Green, Tague, Magadah, S. Sinclair, Clark, Preston (Robinson 78 mins), R. Sinclair (Cowley 85 mins).

WE WILL be at home to Northampton on Saturday. Kick-off at Luton RFC, Newlands Road, is at 11am, and spectators are welcome.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Smyth 7, Green 7, Tague 7, S. Sinclair 7, Pendleton 6(1), R. Sinclair 5(1), Burrows 5, Goodchild 5, Preston 4(3), Hanley 4, Clark 4, Richardson 3, Barrett 1, Mountford 1, Deeney 1, Keane 1, Ridgway 1, Freeman 1, Andrew 1, Farrell 1, Potter 1, Kelly 1, Field 1, McNally 1, Magadah 1, Asafu'Adjaye 0(4), Robinson 0(2), Foley 0(1), McGuiness 0(1), Charles 0(1), Cowley 0(1)

Goals: Burrows 4, Andrew 2, Preston 1, Freeman 1, Magadah 1, Tague 1.

Mark Ridgway



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Drive For A New Minibus

LIKE all fans, Luton Town Supporters Club is desperate to do what it can to help the club through the current financial difficulties, and has launched a special appeal to raise around £20,000 within the next six months.

The money is needed to replace the football club's seven-year-old minibus, a vital piece of equipment used mainly on taking youth squads to away games, and also for day to day work carrying players and kit between Kenilworth Road and the training ground.

On Saturday, when we entertain Wycombe, supporters will be invited to back the appeal, through a bucket collection to be organised by Luton Town Supporters Club.

Mark Chapman, chairman of LTSC, said: "We know the football club needs every penny it can get for a variety of reasons. We want to do what we can to help, and I am pleased that we have discovered a specific project. The old minibus works hard, but becomes more and more expensive to maintain to keep it in service.

"We will put in all sorts of fund-raising efforts to pay for a replacement by the end of the season, with £20,000 the likely price. I think supporters will be pleased that we are asking for money for a particular reason – at the end of the day they

will see that their generosity has produced a tangible result."

The appeal has been kick-started by a cheque presented by fans to Cherry Newbery at the last home game, against QPR. The £418 was raised by a raffle and programme sales from a fund-raising game organised by Hitchin Town Supporters Club FC against Loyal Luton. They wanted to help the club, and were delighted to accept the suggestion that the cash should be the first to go to the minibus appeal.

That leaves another £19,582 to be collected, and the Supporters Club would welcome any offers of help. They can be contacted via the football club.

Said Mr Chapman: "We are particularly keen to attract sponsors. The new minibus will be decked out in Luton Town livery, but that will leave plenty of room on the sides, and doors, for adverts."

Individual fans are invited to be minibus sponsors: for a donation of £200 minimum – and more would be very welcome! – your name will appear on the vehicle as one of the sponsors. Commercial organisations are also welcome – offer £1,000 at least, and your sponsorship message can buy an advert for your company.

Mr Chapman said: "Other fund-raising schemes will be announced in due course, and I am sure that with the backing of Luton Town supporters we will reach our goal before the end of the season. We will then look for another project which will enable supporters to help the club."

Meanwhile, keep an eye on future match programmes for regular progress reports on the Supporters Club's drive to pay for a new minibus.

If you want to be among the sponsors, please make your cheque payable to Luton Town Supporters Club, and send it, with your details, to LTSC, c/o Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW.



ON THE MOVE: The minibus appeal has banked its first cheque, a donation made jointly by Hitchin Town Supporters Club FC and Loyal Luton. It was accepted on the pitch at the QPR game by Cherry Newbery, whose thoughts on the appeal can be found on page 9.

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Luton Town Belles Go Goal Crazy

BELLES swept aside previously unbeaten Thatcham Town with another display of attacking football which left the home side three down at the interval. Fay Howell opened the scoring with a neat lob over the keeper from the edge of the area and Rhian Morgan increased the lead with a cool finish after 20 minutes. When Kim Hide fired in number three with a powerful run and shot it looked all over, but Thatcham pulled a goal back in the second half and briefly threatened before the Town regained their three-goal advantage when Fay Howell rounded the keeper to make it 4-1.

After that only the keeper kept the score respectable but even she could do little when Stacey Connell struck a 25-yard shot into the top corner to give Luton a fine 5-1 away win.

The youth sides have had a superb start to the campaign, and gone goal-crazy in the process. Following their 16-0 win over Enfield the under-15s found Garston a much tougher nut to crack, but still managed a 2-0 win, with goals from Michelle Byrne and a rare one from Gemma Vale with a 25-yard free kick. They were grateful to Alice Middleton for maintaining a clean sheet when she did superbly to clear off the line late on.

It is a virtually new squad for the under-14s, but the goals continued to flow from Chloe Fensome, Rebecca Dimmock and Anne Folan in a hard fought



Danielle Carty crosses for Yasmin Hickling (far left) to score, while Jade Mansfield is up in support.

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 Home matches are played at Stockwood Park athletics stadium, under-10 to senior on Sundays and under-10 and under-12 mini soccer on Saturdays. Fixtures details can be found on the website.

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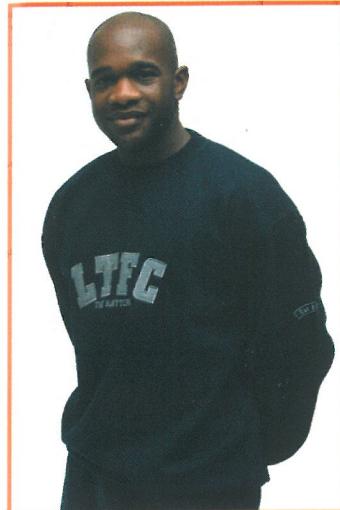
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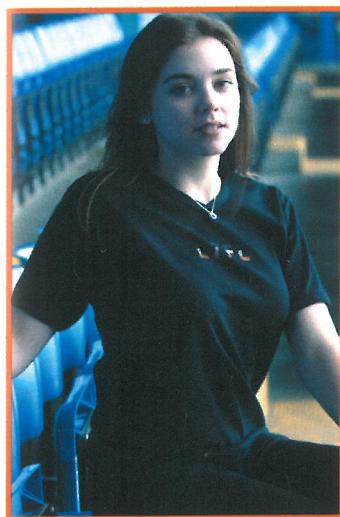
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Adult sizes only S,M,L,XL,XXL £15.00



Black Ladies T-Shirt

32, 34, 36, 38 £12.50

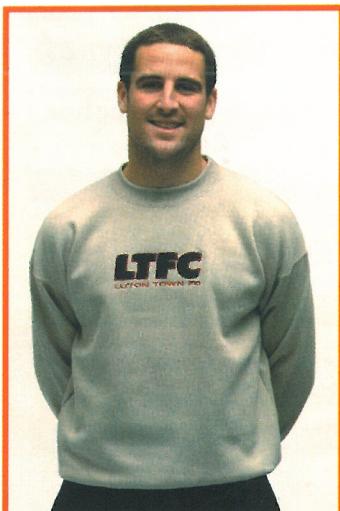


Baseball Caps £8.95

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Beige LTFC Sweatshirt

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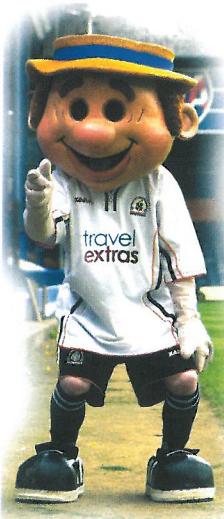
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Danny & Elsie Clubb

Focus On: **HOME COUNTIES Insurance Services Ltd**

Todays Focus on feature is centered on our latest Executive Box Holder, Home Counties Insurance Services Ltd. As the new tenant of box 10, the company was formed in 1990 by Cliff Amos, as a General Insurance Intermediary, who dealt with all classes of insurance, but with a bias towards commercial client needs. Subsequent growth and the acquisition of Whites Insurance in January 2000 has broadened their portfolio to include personal lines insurance. As Home Counties Insurance, Cliff together with co-directors Graeme Cole and Steve White, all lifelong fans, with a collective 70 years combined experience, can offer a comprehensive range of insurance services including motor, household, commercial, and Lloyds, for all types of business insurance. Please contact via info@homecountiesinsurance.com or visit their website at www.homecountiesinsurance.com

Junior Hatters With Happy Harry



WELCOME to all young football supporters for tonight's game, especially to any of our opposite numbers from Prenton Park who have been able to make the journey to Kenilworth Road. The switch to a Monday evening fixture meant that we had to miss a Saturday Club, but it will be back in business for the game against Wycombe in five days' time.

The three games after that are all away, at Stevenage, Brentford and Bournemouth. Two are midweek games, so we will not be running official Junior Hatters trips to Stevenage or Bournemouth, and as we went to press it looked unlikely that Brentford would be able to offer us facilities.

There will, however, be a coach to Ashton Gate on November 1, and details of prices and times will be given nearer the date.

Meanwhile, if you haven't yet tried our Saturday Club, a lot of very happy Junior Hatters can recommend it. It turns a home match into a real fun day out for Junior Hatters, with entertainment starting at 12noon. The price is only £6 for Junior Hatters with season tickets, or £12 including a match ticket. To book your place please call 01582 391927 before 12 noon on the Friday before the match.

JUNIOR Hatters membership is open to any boy or girl aged from 0 to 16 who supports Luton Town, and if you want to know more please contact the Community Department. There are lots of advantages, including value for money trips to away games, and the chance to be picked out as mascot at home matches - the choice is made at random from the membership list. We often also have mascots at away games, and they are picked out of the hat during the journey. For more information please call the Junior Hatters headquarters in the Community office, on 01582 391927.



VIP FANS: Two mascots were on duty at the last home game, against Queens Park Rangers, and they are pictured in the centre circle where they met the skippers and match officials for the toss of the coin before kick-off. The Junior Hatters mascot was nine-year-old Daryl Fourniss, and the other proud young Town supporter is George Pruden, 11, who was the commercial mascot

Happy Harry

Tonight's Mascot



A REGULAR at all Town home games, 12-year-old Jordan Bowden will enjoy tonight's trip to Kenilworth Road even more than usual, because he has been chosen to be our Junior Hatters mascot. He lives at Great North Road, Stanborough, Welwyn Garden City, and goes to Monks Walk School. Jordan joins his granddad, brother and pals in the Main Stand to watch the Town, but tonight he will be part of the entertainment, including meeting the players in the dressing room before kick-off. That means he should get the chance to meet his favourite, Kevin Foley. Jordan is a real sports fanatic - his hobbies are football, tennis, golf and swimming.

Win a pair of tickets to see England play



Just answer this simple question:

Which Nationwide Football League star played for England against Liechtenstein on 10 September 2003?

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Paul Merson	text	ENGLAND B	to →	88099
Des Walker	text	ENGLAND C	to →	88099

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LTFC in the Community

working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association



I AM going to use most of my column today to update you on a couple of initiatives I have mentioned in recent weeks.

As I told you last week, this season Luton Town FC will again be taking part in the Nationwide Supporters of Tomorrow Scheme. The scheme has been designed by Nationwide to encourage clubs in the three divisions of the Nationwide Football League to promote female interest in football.

In addition, Nationwide, an Official Partner of the Football Association and women's football, is supporting clubs as they encourage women to watch Football League action.

The Luton Town scheme which will be run by the Community Department was kicked off at the last home game versus QPR, when Nationwide handed over the support grant. Nationwide representative and local Area Manager John Baker handed the cheque to first team player Paul Hughes and myself. The total grant of £750,000 will be shared



equally between all Nationwide Football League clubs, and will be distributed in the coming season to support the development of the women's game.

To find out how to get involved with our club's scheme, contact me on 01582 391927.

Any girls interested in getting involved in football in their local area should call 'The FA's "Girls Get Involved" hotline on 0845 3108555.

Stuart Smith



Paul Hughes receiving the cheque for £10,417.00 from John Baker of the Nationwide. Paul is joined by some of the youngsters who benefited from the Nationwide Girls Football Scheme last year.

We have been successful in our Sportsmatch application, giving us a pound for pound match with the generous sponsorship of our department by GIS Windows, of Dencora Way Sundon Park. The presentation of the Sportsmatch cheque was made by Tony Calvano, the managing director of GIS on behalf of Sportsmatch.

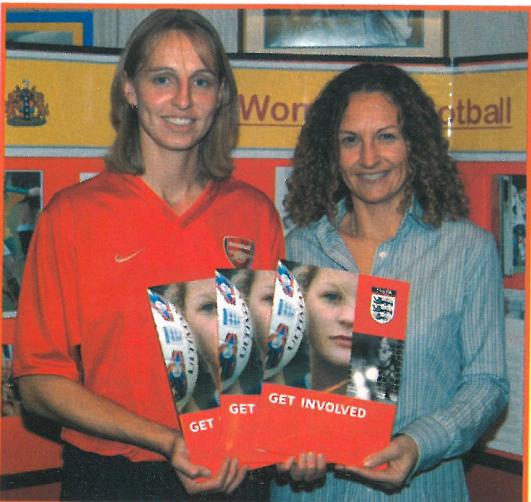


LTFC in the Community

THIS is a fantastic time for girls and ladies football. I have recently been involved in a development group with Beds FA and members of the local authorities in setting up and launching a scheme called Active Sports.

This got off to a flying start with the launch of the Bedfordshire & Luton Active Sports Partnership Girls Football project at our club last Monday evening as England international and Arsenal Ladies captain Faye White helped launch the programme. Over forty people attended, including local club team coaches, managers, teachers, representatives from the FA, Football Foundation and all the local authorities. The launch evening included a girls and womens football highlight video, a speech by Faye White, an Active Sports presentation and the hand-over of a cheque for £50,000 from the Football Foundation.

The Active Sports Girls Football Project is a partnership initiative funded by Sport England, the FA, Bedfordshire FA, the Football Foundation and all the local authorities within Luton and Bedfordshire to promote and develop ladies football throughout the county. The project will see over £190,000 of funding available over the next five years to support and



Tessa Payne and England international and Arsenal captain Faye White at the Active Sport launch.



Representatives of Bedfordshire FA receive the cheque from Ernie Burke of the Football Foundation.

develop initiatives throughout the county. The project also includes a full-time girls and women's Football Development Officer, Tessa Payne, who will co-ordinate all the activities. The project will work with Luton Town FC and with local schools and clubs to run girls-only coaching sessions, develop new girls teams, and provide opportunities for talented female players to progress into player development centres and centres of excellence.

Tessa said: "Girls Football is currently the fastest growing sport in the UK, and this is a great time for girls to get involved in playing football."

Kick-start coaching activities will begin in November at The Bunyan Sports Centre, Bedford, Sandy Upper School, Houghton Regis Leisure Centre and at the Luton Regional Sports Centre. Further programmes will take place in the new year in Bedford, Ampthill, Leighton Buzzard and Luton.

The project will work with local football in the community organisations such as Luton Town FC to provide girls with a quality football experience in a safe, fun learning environment before being placed into a local charter-standard girls club to continue playing.

If you would like more information regarding the Active Sports Girls Football, please contact Tessa Payne at Beds FA on 01582 565111 or via email at tessa.payne@bedfordshirefa.com

Football and Community Department Saturday Soccer Clubs

The soccer clubs will consist of the following activities:

10am till
12noon:

Professional soccer coaching on the new state-of-the-art Pro Zone at Vauxhall Recreation Club.

12.30 till 1.30:

Buffet lunch in the Trophy Room at Vauxhall Recreation Club. During this time we will also run a mini quiz for the children, and the six best scorers will be

invited to take part in an activity on the pitch at half-time during Luton Town's game.

Depart for Kenilworth Road. Arrive Kenilworth Road to watch the first team game.

1.30pm:
2pm:

The coaching part of the package will be limited to 20 children, due to the size of the facility, using either of the following two options:

Coaching, buffet and match.
(Child only)
£20.00

Coaching, buffet and match.
(Child + 1 Parent. Buffet and match)
£35.00

Up to a maximum of four additional places are available for the buffet and match for party organisers, at a cost of £15. Any additional match tickets required will be on sale, subject to availability, at normal match day prices.



Bramingham Soccer School

WE HAVE instigated a new idea linked to our successful Saturday Soccer School at Bramingham School. It gives you the opportunity to purchase a season ticket for the two events planned, and of course they will offer reduced rates. You can still enroll for just one of the courses if you choose.

The first course will run for ten weeks on the following dates:

September	13th	20th	27th
October		4th	11th
18th	25th		
November	8th	15th	22nd

The price for each course is £3 per week or £25 for a block booking of all ten sessions.. But if you block book for both courses, the price is only £40. If you book for two courses you will be issued with a proof of payment pass which you should bring to each session.



The second will also run for ten weeks on the following dates in 2004:

January	17th	24th	31st
February	7th	14th	28th
March	6th	13th	20th
27th			

Winner of the summer holiday course football raffle was
Alex Patterson of Stopsley

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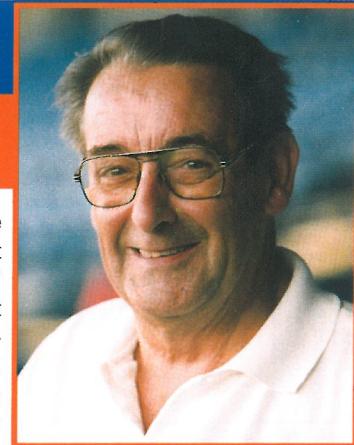


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Chattering Hatter



THE brilliant start Kevin Foley has made to his league career has brought him an early "birthday present" – a place in the Republic of Ireland under-21 squad. Nineteen on November 1, he has slotted into the Town's defence or midfield as and when required, and was an ever-present so far this season before he missed the trip to Oldham on Saturday with an ankle injury. He returned to the side at Swindon, but the price of international recognition means he will be out of the side again on Saturday, when the Town entertain Wycombe Wanderers.

Foley is in an 18-man squad to play Switzerland in Neuchatel in the under-21 European Championship on Friday evening. The manager, incidentally, is an old Town favourite, Don Givens.

The players were asked to report to Dublin for training this afternoon, but the FAI granted a request from the Town for Foley to travel a day late, to enable him to play against Tranmere tonight.

Mike Newell and everyone else at Kenilworth Road is delighted for Foley, and for the Town. "It's always good news for a young player to be recognised by his country," said the manager, who was an England under-21 international when he was a Town player in 1986. "His selection is a reflection of how well he has played this season, and of how the team has played."

Welcome Back Twice Over

TWO of the Town's long-term injury victims made welcome returns to league football this week, with their first appearances of the season. Centre-half Russell Perrett played for a half an hour as a sub at Oldham, and kept his place in the side for Wednesday's 2-2 draw at Swindon and Steve Robinson played the whole game at the County Ground.

Their returns balanced out the other side of the injury coin, with Steve Howard missing the Swindon match with a groin strain, and Matt Spring unable to play in either of the week's two matches because of a knee injury.

The manager was delighted to see Perrett and Robinson back in the side after summer sur-

gery. "They are obviously not fully match fit," he said. "But Perrett was outstanding and Robinson's enthusiasm was fantastic. But I wouldn't fault any of our players for their efforts at Swindon."

Referee Paul Danson came under fire from both camps at the County Ground after a game in which each team had a man sent off, with the boss also banished from the dug-out for using "industrial language" about the ref which the fourth official heard and reported.

As we went to press the Town were waiting for confirmation of the ban faced by Sol Davis, who was dismissed for violent conduct while playing against his former club.

Robert Beckwith, sent off at Oldham for handball inches outside his penalty area, will be suspended for one game, for Saturday's visit by Wycombe.

The boss said that he was thinking over the possibility of bringing in another goalkeeper, but was also well aware that his coaches thought very highly of Dean Brill, the other youth team goalkeeper pitchforked into the league squad alongside Beckwith. The feeling is that both young men are outstanding prospects who have every chance of making the grade in professional football.

Striker Out On Loan

THE Town have come to the aid of Dean Crowe, who asked before the season began to be allowed to move to a club nearer his home in the North West, after he had become a father again. At the time the manager felt he could not let anyone go, but when Third Division York City made an approach last week the 24-year-old striker was allowed to join them on a month's loan.

Brian Swain

Luton Town League & Cup

2003-2004

Statistics & Fixtures

THE DAY off on Saturday cost the Town one place in the Second Division table. But a win tonight will put them back into the top ten.

On Saturday Wrexham moved ahead of the Town by knocking Port Vale off the top of the table with a 2-1 win over Brian Horton's men at the Racecourse Ground. Results were kinder to Tranmere, who remained in 19th place, but still only two points ahead of the relegation zone. They need a win tonight to rise to 16th.

The Rovers and bottom pair Wycombe and Chesterfield are the only sides in the Second Division still seeking a first away win of the season. But Tranmere have lost only two of their five away matches so far. They collected draws at Hartlepool (0-0), Stockport (1-1) and Notts County (2-2). The defeats were both by 2-0 in September, at Sheffield Wednesday and Bristol City.

Caretaker manager John McMahon was put in charge after Ray Mathias was sacked following a home defeat by Wrexham ten days ago, and his first game saw Tranmere pick up their second home win of the season, 2-1 against Wycombe. The Wanderers, who are here on Saturday, responded by announcing they had sacked Lawrie Sanchez and replaced him with John Gorman, previously asitant to Glenn Hoddle at Spurs.

Tonight's Squads



Manager: Mike Newell

3	Alan NEILSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Matthew SPRING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Russell PERRETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian FORBES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin NICHOLLS	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Steve ROBINSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Chris COYNE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Courtney PITT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Enoch SHOWUNMI	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Emmerson BOYCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Ahmet BRKOVIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Steve HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul HUGHES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	David BAYLISS	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ian HILLIER	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Sol DAVIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Gary McSHEFFREY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32	Lee MANSELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Dean BRILL	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	Michael LEARY	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Steven O'LEARY	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Kevin FOLEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
43	Matthew JUDGE	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Parys OKAI	<input type="checkbox"/>
45	Leon BARNETT	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Rob BECKWITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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(0)1



Caretaker Manager:
John McMahon

1	John ACHTERBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Sean CONNELLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Gareth ROBERTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Graham ALLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Ian SHARPS	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tyrone LORAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Iain HUME	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Micky MELLON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Simon HAWORTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Gary JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Shane NICHOLSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Kevin GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Russell HOWARTH	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Eugene DADI	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Ryan TAYLOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Alan NAVARRO	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Alex HAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Danny HARRISON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	James OLSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Jamie MCGUIRE	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Paul LINWOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Neil ASHTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Steven JENNINGS	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Chris DAGNALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Philip PALETHORPE	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Andy HAYTON	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tonight's Officials

Referee: Grant Hegley, Hertfordshire

Assistants: Eric Mackrell, Hampshire (red and yellow flag)

Dean Whitestone, Northamptonshire (yellow flag)

Fourth official: Paul Taylor, Hertfordshire

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Ray Mulford, Travel Extras Group Managing Director with Chris Coyne and Kevin Nicholls wearing the new Luton Town home and away strips

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