

Ryman
football league

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THURROCK v LUTON TOWN

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2003 KICK OFF 7.45pm

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TONIGHTS MASCOT: ALEX PRITCHARD

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Thurrock F.C. and their Honours

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Chairman: Grant Beglan
Vice Chairman: Tommy South
Tel: 07956 393156
Chief Executive: Nigel Jones
Commercial Manager: Tony Joy
Tel: 01708 865 492

Press and Media Officer: Tony Hoskins
Tel: 07989 675 132

General Secretary/Programme Editor: Norman Posner
1 Chase House Gardens, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 2PJ
Tel: 01708 458 301

Team Manager: Colin McBride
Tel: 01708 865 492
Clubcall line: 09066 555 895
Calls cost 60p per minute

Management Committee:

George Brooks, Mick Camp, Alan Reynolds, William Wiseman, Mark Nevill.

Winners:

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Essex League Championship 1987/88
Stanford Charity Cup 1987/88
Diadora League Div II 1991/92
Loctite Trophy 1991/92
Essex Business Houses Cup 1993/94
Essex Thameside Trophy 1994/95
Fred Budden Trophy 1994/95
Essex Youth Butcher Trophy 1996/97
Eastern Junior Alliance League Cup 1997/98
Essex Youth Cassels Trophy 1999/00
Eastern Junior Alliance Chairmans Cup 1999/00

Honours:

Runners up:
Vauxhall Opel League Div.II(N) 1988/89
Diadora League, Div I, 1993/94
Stanford Charity Cup 1985/96
Essex Senior Cup 1997/98, 1999/00
Full Members Cup 1999/00
Eastern Alliance League 1999/00
Full Members Cup 2000/01



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CENTREVIEW

WELCOME TO THE HOTEL

This evening it is our pleasure to welcome to The Hotel for this FA Cup First Round tie the players, officials and supporters of Luton Town Football Club. We trust all connected with the Luton club enjoy their short stay in our company and have a safe journey home after the game. Not only is tonight's game being witnessed by all in attendance here at The Hotel but is being televised live by Sky Sports. For us history is being made today as this is the first time that we have reached the First Round Proper of the world's foremost knock out football competition. Luton are members of the Nationwide Division Two and at present lie in fourteenth place in the table with twenty-three points from the seventeen games played so far. The Hatters, as Luton are known, have a League history rather like a yoyo with many ups and downs. They have played in the very top division, but have twice suffered the indignity of going from top to bottom. In 1974 Luton were the first club in the country to sink from the top division to the bottom and go all the way back up again. A legend in the history of Luton Town Football Club is Joe Payne who in 1936 scored ten goals when Luton defeated Bristol Rovers 12-0 at Kenilworth Road. While today sees us in the First Round for the first time in our history, Luton have made it all the way to the Final. In 1959 they were defeated 2-1 by Nottingham Forest at Wembley. They have also had their Wembley glory when in 1988 they defeated Arsenal 3-2 to win the League Cup. Should tonight's game be all square after ninety minutes there will be no extra time and a replay will take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 18 November with a 7.45 pm kick-off. We look forward to an entertaining game played in a sporting manner.

RYMAN LEAGUE WELL REPRESENTED

The Ryman League is well represented in this weekend's First Round encounters. No fewer than seven clubs have made it through the qualifying competition to play in the First Round proper. Boreham Wood from Division One make the trip to Blackpool. Our neighbours Grays Athletic, having come through a penalty shootout against Margate are at home to Aldershot Town. On Sunday Hornchurch who like ourselves will be playing in the First Round for the first time will be at home to Darlington. Also playing on Sunday are Canvey Island who take the short journey to Roots Hall to face Southend United. Essex is certainly prominent in the First Round as Ford United will be away to Port Vale. We wish all fellow Ryman League clubs the best of luck.

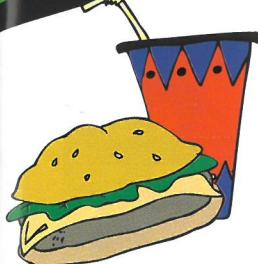
GOALLESS AT BEDFORD

We had to be content with a single point from our trip to the New Eryie last Saturday when we played out a goalless draw against Bedford Town. Some idea of how the match went can be seen from the fact that the match day sponsors voted Bedford's goalkeeper Ian Brown their 'Man of the Match'. In the twelfth minute David Lee shot just wide of the left hand post after good work by Terry Bowes. We continued to have the upper hand but seemed to lack that final finishing touch in front of goal. The second half continued like the first with us taking the game to Bedford but unable to make the breakthrough. With ten minutes to go we almost took the lead when Cliff Akurang, who had come on as a substitute for Ross Wareham, collected a David Collis free kick hooked the ball over keeper Brown, but lacked sufficient power and was cleared from the line. Moments later a vicious shot from Lee struck the foot of the post following a quickly taken corner on the left hand side. At the other end Paul Gothard saved well from Louie Evans. In the dying moments of the game Dave Lee was dismissed from the field for a second yellow card when the referee adjudged he had dived although it certainly seemed that a defender had made contact. So our second successive away game has ended goalless but unlike the game at Hitchin when a point was a fair reflection on the day at Bedford we can feel a little aggrieved that we did not take all three points.

GET BEHIND THE TEAM TONIGHT AND GIVE THEM ALL YOUR SUPPORT



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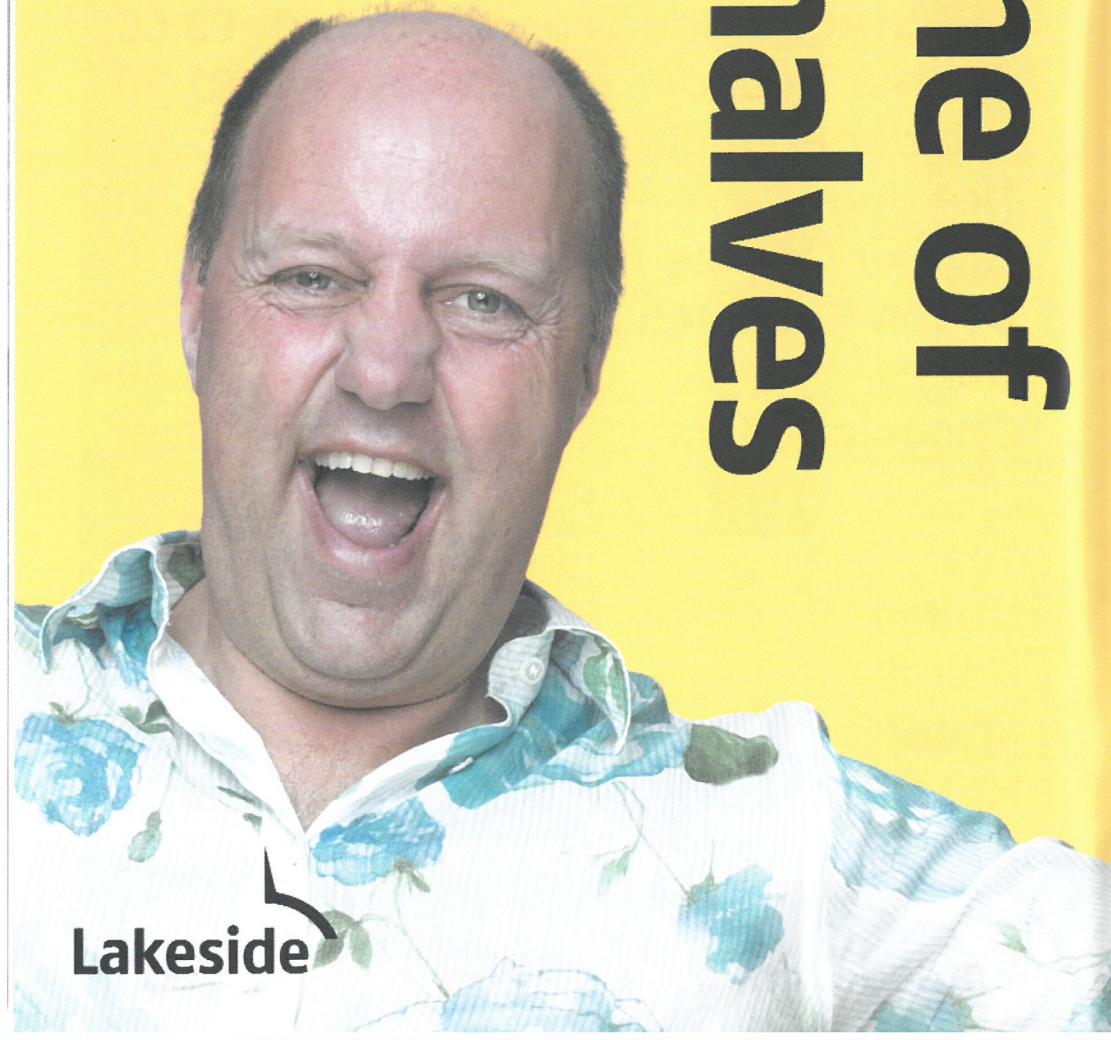
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PEN PICTURES OF THE THURROCK PLAYERS



Paul GOTTHARD (Goalkeeper). Aged 29. A summer signing from Dagenham & Redbridge. Has also played for, Hayes, Grays Athletic, Chelmsford City and Colchester United. While with Dagenham gained international honours, representing England at semi-professional level.



David COLLIS (Defender/Midfield) aged 21. Close season recruit from Ford United. Began his career with Charlton Athletic before moving on to Grays Athletic. A very good striker of a dead ball.



Michael BASHAM (Defender) Aged 29. One more of manager Colin McBride's summer signings. A very experienced defender who saw Football League action with Colchester United and Swansea City. Has also played for Barnet and Chelmsford City.



Mark GOODFELLOW (Defender). Aged 21. Joined the club towards the end of season 2000-01 from Leyton Orient. Now has over 100 First Team appearances behind him. His excellent form last season saw him gain both the "Players Player of the Year" and supporters club "Player of the Year" awards.



John PURDIE (Defender). Aged 30. Signed at the start of season 1997-98 from Billericay Town. Previously with West Ham United where he was a regular member of their reserve side. A very reliable defender who has made over 250 First Team appearances.



Jimmy McFARLANE (Defender). Aged 38. Started his Purfleet career in August 1991 having signed from Clapton. Was with the Club until August 1996 before moving on to Concord Rangers. Re-signed before the start of season 1997-98 and has taken on his old role as Club captain. Recently made his 500th First Team appearance which makes him the Club's record appearance holder. Likes to join the attack for set pieces, which has led to him scoring over 50 goals. Has League and FA Representative honours. Is also the Clubs Assistant Manager.



Steve HEFFER (Midfield) Aged 30 Another one of manager Colin McBride's summer signings from Dagenham & Redbridge. Began his career at West Ham United before moving on to, Southend United, Swindon Town, Grays Athletic, Hendon and Boreham Wood.



Gary HOWARD (Midfield) Aged 32 Signed from Boreham Wood during November 2002 for his second spell with the Club. Began his career with Great Wakering before moving on to Brighton, Billericay and Dagenham & Redbridge.



Lee ALLEN (Midfield) Aged 23 Signed from Enfield at the start of last season.. Has also seen service with, Kingstonian, Wycombe Wanderers, Leicester City, Chesham United and Walton & Hersham.



Martyn LAWRENCE (Midfield). Aged 32. Followed manager Colin McBride from Concord Rangers during the summer of 1997. Began his football at Southend United before moving on to Southend Manor, Barking and then Billericay Town. Has now made over 260 appearances for the Club. A tireless worker. Last season's "Clubman of the Year"

Cont.

PEN PICTURES OF THE THURROCK PLAYERS



Terry BOWES (Midfield). Aged 23. Signed from Chesham United in December 2001. Previously with Wisbech Town, Ipswich Town and Arsenal. Has been a member of the FA squad and has represented England at beach football.



Paul LINGER (Midfield) Aged 28. Now in his third season with the club, having joined from Billericay Town. Has also seen service with Welling United, Charlton Athletic and Brighton & Hove Albion.



Cliff AKURANG (Forward). Aged 22. Signed from Hitchin Town at the end of December 2001. Scored twice on his debut against Maidenhead United and followed this up with two more in the next game against Kingstonian. Has also played for Chesham United and was with Chelsea and Luton Town as a youth player



Kris LEE (Forward) Aged 24 Signed from Chelmsford City last season following a loan period. Previously played for Heybridge Swifts where he headed the Ryman League goalscoring charts.



Tresor KANDOL (Forward) Aged 22. Signed from Chesham United during December 2002. Had previously played for Luton Town and Bournemouth. Was the Clubs leading goalscorer last season.



Colin McBRIDE (Manager). Appointed Purfleet manager in July 1997. Played in the Club's first ever game in August 1985. Went on to make over 230 First Team appearances. Before coming to Purfleet saw managerial experience at Aveley and Concord Rangers.

Jason BROOM (Defender) Aged 33 Recent addition to the squad. A very experienced player at this level. His previous clubs include Dagenham & Redbridge, Billericay Town and Grays Athletic.

David LEE (Midfield) Signed on loan at the beginning of October from Brighton & Hove Albion. Exciting winger who likes to take players on. Previously played for Hull, Southend and Bristol Rovers

Ross WAREHAM (Forward) Aged 19 Currently on loan from Leyton Orient. Scored against Harrow Borough on his first full appearance.

The Mascot

10 year old Alex is from Aveley and attends Kenningtons Primary School. He has been an avid footballer from a youngster. He joined Purfleet Youth at 5 years old, even before reaching the age allowed to play in a competitive match, Alex was spotted by an Arsenal scout and invited to the Arsenal Academy, but due to his age and inexperience this was relatively short lived and so concentrated on playing for Purfleet Youth for the next two years. With the team he won an abundance of Cups and Medals, including many accolades such as, Man of the match, Top scorer and Supporters Player of the year. At the age of eight, Alex attended trials for West Ham United; he was selected and spent six months at their academy. He was then spotted by a Tottenham scout in an Exhibition Tournament and is now in his third year at their academy.

He plays for his school team and when not playing on a Sunday Alex can be found cheering on the Purfleet Youth Team, together with his Dad who is still their Manager. They are both keen Thurrock F.C. supporters. Alex's favourite team is West Ham United and his favourite player is Jermaine Defoe, his favourite Thurrock player is Tresor Kandol.



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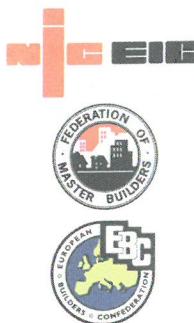
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THURROCK FOOTBALL CLUB

The Thurrock Football Club was founded as recently as April 1985 but until the start of this season had played under the name of Purfleet Football Club.

The first competitive game played by the Club was on 24 August 1985 against Canvey Island Reserves in Division One of the Essex Senior League and resulted in a 3-0 win.

The Club's ground forms part of the Thurrock Hotel and at first consisted of two pitches and dressing rooms in the main building. Under this set-up the Club could only compete at Junior level and mid-way through the season the playing area was turned round to give one pitch and the building of dressing rooms started in order for the club to become a self-contained unit away from the main Hotel Complex.

At the end of its first season the Club finished third in the League and was granted Senior Status by the Essex County FA. The next season Purfleet were able to compete in the Senior Section of the Essex Senior League. Their first competitive match as a Senior Club was at home to Witham Town, which Witham won by 2 goals to 0. At the end of the season Purfleet had finished third in the League and were winners of the League Cup defeating Burnham Ramblers 2-0 in the Final.

Planning permission was obtained from the local council for the erection of floodlights and the building of a grandstand. The floodlights went up in January 1988 and the first game under them was an Essex Thames-side Trophy match against Pennant, which the visitors won by 2-1.

An application was made to join the Isthmian League (now the Ryman League) and by the rules of the 'Pyramid' would be conditional on the Club finishing in the top three. Purfleet not only won the League but also achieved the double retaining the League Cup by defeating Canvey Island 2-1. In their two seasons playing in the Essex Senior League Cup, Purfleet had the distinction of never having lost a game.

Election into the Isthmian League (then called the Vauxhall Opel League) was obtained at the League's AGM in June 1988 and the Club's new 300-seater stand was made ready for the start of the season. The first ever-Isthmian League game was in Division Two North on 20th August 1988 at

Hornchurch and resulted in a 1-0 win.

At the end of the season Purfleet finished runners up to Harlow Town and were thus promoted to Division One. Life in Division One proved to be beyond the capabilities of the team, and after struggling for most of the year were relegated back to Division Two North.

Season 1990-91 saw the Club have its best run in the FA Vase when it reached the last 32 before going out by 2 goals to 1 at Harwich & Parkeston. Purfleet finished in 7th place in Division Two North and thus ensured a place in the new Division Two following the splitting up of the two Regional Divisions.

Season 1991-92 must go down as the finest in the club's then short history, Champions of Division Two of the Diadora (Isthmian) League and winners of the Loctite Trophy. After losing 2-0 at Witham Town at the end of November, the next 26 League games resulted in 20 wins 4 draws and just 2 defeats. In the Loctite Trophy Final, played at Sutton United, Purfleet came from 2 goals down to defeat Egham Town 3-2.

Full terracing was installed at the Ship Lane end of the ground, which gave covered accommodation for 800 spectators. This has enabled the Club to obtain an "A" Grade Ground Grading. Since then further covered accommodation has been added at the M25 end of the ground. Season 1992-93 saw the Club finish 4th in Division One thereby just missing out on promotion. However it made up for it the following season by finishing as runners-up to Bishop's Stortford and thus gain promotion to the Premier Division. In just nine seasons the Club had gone from junior level playing on a roped off pitch to the Premier Division of one of the country's leading Non-league Competitions. What the Club had achieved in such a short time both on and off the pitch was surely a unique achievement.

In its first season in the Premier Division the Club had to be content with 16th place scoring 76 goals, only four other clubs bettered this total. However 90 goals were conceded at the other end. In a hectic last eight days of the season the club played a Third Round, Semi-final and Final of the Essex Thames-side Trophy together with its

Cont.

last Diadora League fixture. In the final against Chelmsford City at New Writtle Road a 2-0 success gained Purfleet the prestigious Thames-side Trophy.

The following season 1995-96 saw the Club again finish in 16th place in the now ICIS League. However it was in the two national cup competitions where the Club had its best success. It reached the Fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup going out at Rushden & Diamonds in a replay. Some revenge was gained as in the FA Trophy a First Round victory was obtained on the same ground. A trip to Macclesfield in the Second Round saw the Club go out 2-1 to the eventual winners.

After a somewhat poor start to the 1996-97 season the Club finished the season in eighth place in the League. However early exits were made from both the FA Cup and FA Trophy. The Club had its best run in the Essex Senior Cup before going out in the Semi-final to a strong Southend United side at Roots Hall. The trophy cupboard was not entirely bare as the Club won the Carlsberg Fair Play Award for the Premier Division.

Over the close-season further ground improvements were made with the installation of a new enlarged directors box and full terracing on the North side of the ground.

The start of the 1997-98 season saw the appointment of Colin McBride as manager, taking over from Gary Calder who had been in charge since January 1991. McBride inherited just three players from the previous season's squad and turned to his former club, Essex Senior League side Concord Rangers for quite a number of his players. Purfleet finished in 10th place in the League and were runners-up in the Essex Senior Cup to Dagenham & Redbridge, going down 2-1 in a very entertaining game played at Ship Lane.

The following July West Ham United were once again the visitors for a pre-season friendly and an almost full First XI attracted a new ground attendance record of 2,572. At the game the Club were very pleased to announce a major sponsorship with the local Lakeside Shopping Centre. The discussion and negotiations leading up to the sponsorship were featured on the BBC Television documentary 'Lakesiders'.

Season 1998-99 saw the Club finished fourth in the League, just being piped for third spot by

local rivals Dagenham & Redbridge on goal difference. The Semi-final of both the Essex Thames-side Trophy and Puma Cup were reached, but rather surprisingly home defeats were suffered in both competitions to teams from lower Divisions within the Ryman League.

The next season, after a poor start, the Club again finished in fourth spot in the League. The finals of the Essex Senior Cup, Full Members Cup and Essex Thames-side Trophy were all reached. However 2-0 defeats were suffered in both the Essex Senior Cup and Full Members Cup to Canvey Island and Croydon respectively. Unfortunately the Essex Thames-side Trophy Final against Canvey Island was never played. While the Club, since its formation has been happy to be located within The Hotel, its aim has always been to have a club house of its own. At the conclusion of season 1998-99 work began on the building of the 'Purfleet Club House', which finally opened for the home game against Canvey Island on 3rd March 2001.

The following season the Club made a disastrous start to the League campaign and did not obtain its first win until mid-November in its thirteenth game. However a very successful second half of the season saw the Club climb to a respectable 11th place. For the second successive season the Club reached the final of the Full Members Cup but had once again had to be content with being runners-up going down 3-1 to Gravesend & Northfleet at Stonebridge Road.

Season 2001-02 saw the Club finish in 5th place in the League and for the second time won the Umbro Fair Play Award for the Premier Division. Last season the Club made its best ever start to an Isthmian League Premier Division campaign not suffering its first defeat until the tenth game and until the new year was always up with the leaders. However the Club could not keep up its first half of the season form and had to finally settle for an 8th place finish.

Over the close season the decision was made to change the name of the Club from Purfleet to Thurrock. The Club want to attract a wider audience and extra sponsorship and believe that by having a name that represents the whole borough will be of help. The Club has been very proud of what it has achieved under the name of Purfleet and looks forward to further achievements under its new name.



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RYMAN NEWS

500 For Skipper McFarlane

Thurrock's Jimmy McFarlane's game against Bromley in the FA Cup Third Qualifying Round replay was his 500th for the club. Jimmy made his debut for the club on 17th August 1991 against Southall when Purfleet as the club were known at the time were members of Division Two of the Isthmian League. The game was won 2-0 with Jimmy scoring one of the goals. Since 1991 he had one period away from the club when he joined Concord Rangers at the time managed by present Thurrock manager Colin McBride. When McBride was appointed Purfleet's manager in August 1997 he had no hesitation in bringing McFarlane with him and restoring him in his old role as Club captain. In his 500 appearances McFarlane has scored 58 goals - quite a good strike rate for a central defender which ranks him fifth on the club's all time goal scoring list.

Hamlet Maintain Youth Form

Following on from previous good runs in the FA Youth Cup Dulwich Hamlet youths have continued their unbeaten start to the season with a single goal victory over Ashford Town to earn a trip to Brighton in the Second Round Proper of this season's Cup. The only goal of the night came after seven minutes when skipper Tom Ababio scrambled the ball home from close range after George Elokoobi's header had been blocked on the line. Despite dominating large chunks of play, the Hamlet could not add further goals and they were indebted to a magnificent point-blank save from keeper Danny Firkins to prevent the visitors equalising in the second half. Among those joining them in the second round are Hayes who recorded a win on penalties over Queens Park Rangers - the second successive round they have needed penalties to decide a tie.

Chertsey Wait for Vase Opponents

Following a Football Association hearing Barkingside have been re-instated in the FA Vase and will replay their tie with Fakenham Town to decide who travels to Chertsey Town on 22nd November. The hearing ruled Barkingside were incorrectly denied using a nominated substitute player by an Assistant Referee who had the wrong names of the Barkingside substitutes. Meanwhile Chertsey booked their place with a replay win over Hartley Wintney. Neil Breslin hit a second half hat trick to break the half time goal-

less deadlock. Jack McKinlay scored the fourth.

Barking Name New Manager

Following the departure of Mark Shelton Barking & East Ham United has announced the appointment of Dennis Elliott as the new Manager of the club. Steve Bryce will be taking up the position of Assistant Manager/Coach. Dennis has previously managed the club and has enjoyed considerable success at Ford United where he won promotions from the Essex Senior League through the Ryman League Divisions Three, Two and One to the Ryman Premier Division. He also led Ford to a number of cup exploits including a famous FA Cup First Round tie with Preston North End. Vice Chairman Peter Webster admits the new manager faces a major challenge in steering the club away from the relegation zone. Already he has been very busy - making four new signings. Following the capture of Jay Devereux, the former Ford United star who recently joined Waltham Forest, he has brought back Dean Allen who made a significant impact in his previous spell with the club, and secured on loan two defenders from Dagenham and Redbridge in Jonathan Higgs and Lee Forbes.

Chance To Impress

The latest trials day organised by footballcv.com will be at Northampton Town's ground on Sunday, November 2nd. Over 100 players will be showing off their skills and all Ryman League Clubs are welcome. Already confirmed are scouts from Manchester City, Aston Villa, Leicester City, Bolton Wanderers, Coventry City, Watford, Northampton Town, Hereford United, Kettering Town and Daventry Town.

Kettering Impressed by Oshitola

Manager Dominic Genovese has signed striker Tobi Oshitola on contract at Kettering Town following a short loan period from Grays Athletic. However he was not available to play in the FA Cup at Boreham Wood. Grays stipulated in the loan deal they would not allow Kettering to play Tobi in the FA Cup and this was the case at the FA Cup deadline seven days.

Sozzo treads familiar road

Bedford Town's long-serving midfielder Josh

Cont.

Sozzo has left to join rivals Aylesbury United. He becomes the latest player to follow manager Kevin Wilson to Buckingham Road. Sozzo, who was not on contract, decided leave the New Eyrie following the recent upheavals.

Maggs Battles On

Horsham boss John Maggs has told the West Sussex County Times that he will not be walking out of Queen Street despite a run of poor results. Two goals from Marlow's Yashwa Romeo condemned Horsham to their sixth league defeat which has been made worse by early exits in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, yet Maggs remains defiant that he will turn the ailing club's fortunes around. "There are all sorts of rumours flying about myself and whether they want me to stay or not, but my message goes out that basically I'm not going anywhere," he told the paper. However, the miserable start to this season could turn into a winter of discontent should Horsham's poor form continue and Maggs' hopes of a top-six finish look ambitious as they currently sit 20th with just two wins. The club's unofficial website has responded by running a poll to see whether fans wanted a change and more than half still backed the manager, something Maggs could take some consolation from. "The voting is in my favour at the moment, which is good, but if we get three bad results it could easily turn round. People know my capabilities as a manager, I don't have to prove anything, I have been in the game too long to prove anything, especially at this level," added Maggs. He took over in December 1999 after 31 years at Crawley as goalkeeper, manager and chairman. He led a side languishing near the foot of the table clear of relegation in his first season before embarking on a magnificent FA Cup run the following year that ended in a heroic defeat in a fourth qualifying round replay against then Conference side Yeovil Town.

'Stoke bounce back

Ernie Howe, manager of Basingstoke Town, has praised his players for their positive response after a difficult week at the Camrose which saw them crash out of the FA Trophy at the hands of Bracknell Town. They responded with a much-improved display against Kettering Town to earn a point. Two players making their debuts were midfielders Ben Surey and Matthew Warner, brought in from First Division Crystal Palace and Second Division Wycombe Wanderers and both were influential against the Premier Division new-

comers. 21-year-old Surey is highly-rated at Selhurst Park, and although has yet to make a League appearance, did feature in first-team pre-season friendlies and is a regular in the Eagles' reserve side. Warner is a young midfielder who has also yet to make Wycombe's senior side but is another who is rated highly by the club.

Hooper jumps at Carshalton chance

Carshalton Athletic have strengthened their squad with the signing of Ellis Hooper, who joined from Southern League Premier Division side Crawley Town. He was with Crawley as a youth player before moving on to play for both Horsham and Horsham YMCA, with whom he played in the semi-final of the 2001/02 Sussex Floodlight Cup against Crawley. He impressed the Crawley management in that game and became Billy Smith's first summer signing in May 2002. It is now a reunion with Smith now in charge at Carshalton. Meanwhile Gavin Rose has been released.

Tough baptism for Castle

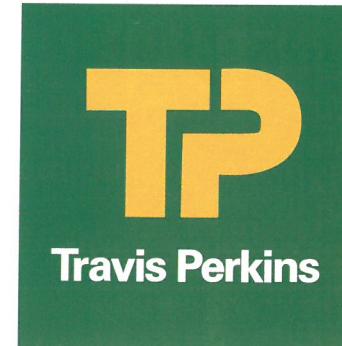
St. Albans City's manager Steve Castle had a night to remember after seeing his new charges lose 9-1 against Grays Athletic in their first match after his caretaker role was made more permanent. After 20 minutes City were reduced to ten men when keeper Barry White bought down a Grays forward in the penalty area resulting in the keeper being sent off. Substitute keeper Peter Hanson could not save the resulting penalty and then endured a torrid night between the sticks and despite producing a couple of fantastic saves could not prevent Grays scoring eight more as the home side opened up the Saints defence. Freddie Eastwood scored a hat-trick for Grays.

Evans makes good start at Wood

Richard Evans has been released by Hendon and moved to Boreham Wood. He quickly made his mark with a goal on his debut as Wood beat East Thurrock United to record their fifth successive home win.

Ambers thank Cox

Trailing 3-0 at half time against Wivenhoe Town, Cheshunt's three match league run without a win looked set to run to a fourth. However super sub Darrell Cox came to the rescue by scoring a hat trick - including a goal in the final minute - as the deficit was turned into a 6-3 win. The three points put Cheshunt back on top of the Division One North table.



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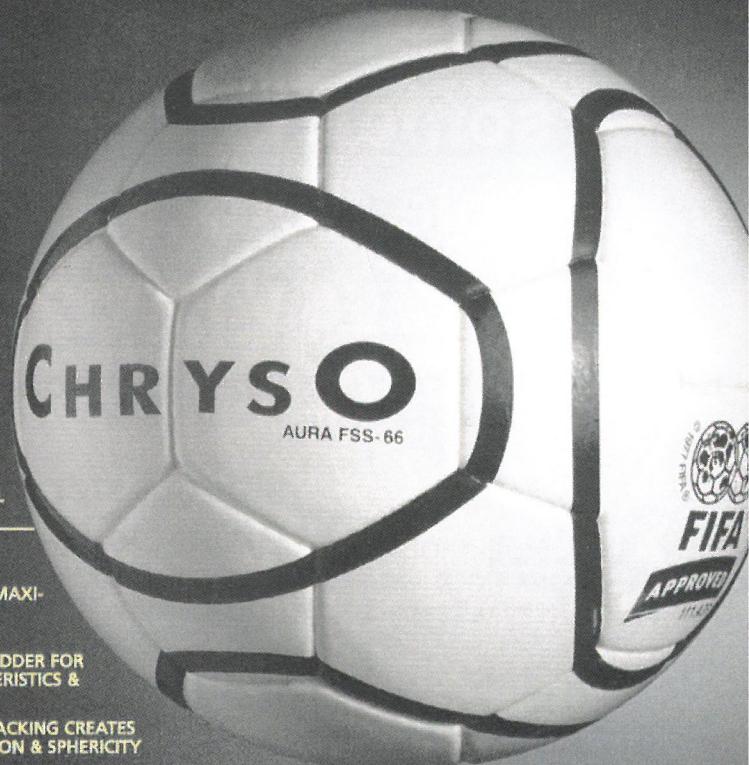
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| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| 1988-89 | Met Police | (H) Lost | 0-1 |
| 1989-90 | Stamford | (H) Drew | 1-1 North |
| Preliminary Round | | (A) Won | 2-1 North (2) |
| Replay | Canvey Island | (A) Lost | 0-3 |
| 1990-91 | Alma Swanley | (A) Won | 2-1 North D Matthews |
| First Qualifying Round | Egham Town | (A) Lost | 1-2 J Matthews |
| 1991-92 | Gorleston | (H) Won | 3-1 D Matthews Wood Thompson |
| Preliminary Round | Collier Row | (H) Drew | 2-2 Spiteri Wood |
| First Qualifying Round | | (A) Won | 1-0 Brett |
| Replay | Kings Lynn | (A) Lost | 2-4 D Matthews Blakebrough |
| 1992-93 | Gt Yarmouth T | (H) Won | 4-1 Brett (2) Gammons Donovan |
| Preliminary Round | Watton Utd | (H) Won | 6-1 Donovan (2) Jeyes Brett Rees McFarlane |
| First Qualifying Round | Corby Town | (H) Drew | 2-2 Rees Macklin |
| Second Qualifying Round | | (A) Lost | 0-1 |
| Replay | Rainham Town | (H) Won | 5-1 Cobb (2) Georgiou Blakebrough Spitei |
| 1993-94 | Langford | (A) Won | 4-1 Brett (2) Cobb L Matthews |
| Preliminary Round | Ruislip Manor | (A) Drew | 1-1 Cobb |
| First Qualifying Round | | (H) Won | 1-0 Georgiou |
| Second Qualifying Round | Yeading | (H) Lost | 1-2 Cobb |
| Replay | Bedfont | (A) Won | 3-0 Cobb (2) Bourne |
| 1994-95 | Enfield | (A) Lost | 1-3 Crown |
| Preliminary Round | Felixstowe T | (H) Won | 4-0 Crown Rees Leslie McFarlane |
| First Qualifying Round | Chesham United | (H) Won | 3-1 Rees Crown L Matthews |
| Second Qualifying Round | Dagenham & R | (A) Drew | 1-1 McFarlane |
| Third Qualifying Round | | (H) Won | 2-1 Bourne Jeyes |
| Replay | Rushden & D | (H) Drew | 1-1 Crown |
| Fourth Qualifying Round | | (A) Lost | 1-3 Donovan |
| Replay | Hornchurch | (H) Won | 5-1 Donovan Deadman Cooper Carthy (2) |
| 1995-96 | Sudbury Town | (A) Lost | 1-2 Cavell |
| Preliminary Round | Concord Rangers | (A) Won | 1-0 Portway |
| First Qualifying Round | Sittingbourne | (A) Lost | 1-2 Portway |
| Second Qualifying Round | Clapton | (A) Won | 1-0 Georgiou |
| Third Qualifying Round | Dulwich Hamlet | (A) Drew | 2-2 Georgiou (2) |
| Replay | | (H) Lost | 1-3 Georgiou |
| 1996-97 | Banbury United | (H) Drew | 0-0 |
| Preliminary Round | | (A) Won | 1-0 Carthy |
| First Qualifying Round | Boston United | (A) Lost | 0-4 |
| Second Qualifying Round | Ipswich Wanderers | (H) Won | 3-1 Georgiou (2) Coombs |
| Third Qualifying Round | Grantham Town | (H) Drew | 1-1 Georgiou |
| Replay | | (A) Lost | 0-1 |
| 1997-98 | Wealdstone | (H) Won | 3-2 Linger Southon Martin |
| Preliminary Round | Grays Athletic | (H) Drew | 1-1 Marshall |
| First Qualifying Round | | (A) Lost | 2-3 Pashley Marshall |
| Second Qualifying Round | Wootton Blue Cross | (A) Won | 4-0 Georgiou Akurang Bowes Simpson |
| Third Qualifying Round | Flackwell Heath | (A) Lost | 0-1 |

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THE RACE TO THE CONFERENCE

Up to 1st November 2003

Ryman League Premier Division

| | P | W | D | L | HOME | | AWAY | | Pts. | GD | |
|----|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | W | D | L | F | A | | |
| 1 | Canvey Island | 16 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 41 | 14 | 38 |
| 2 | Carshalton Athletic | 16 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 15 | 34 |
| 3 | Hayes | 16 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 12 | 32 |
| 4 | Hornchurch | 16 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 10 | 30 |
| 5 | Thurrock | 17 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 19 | 28 |
| 6 | Grays Athletic | 16 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 34 | 16 | 27 |
| 7 | Bognor Regis Town | 17 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 21 | 27 |
| 8 | Ford United | 16 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 28 | 22 | 26 |
| 9 | Maidenhead United | 17 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 18 | 25 |
| 10 | Kingstonian | 18 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 19 | 25 |
| 11 | Hendon | 16 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 21 | 0 |
| 12 | Basingstoke Town | 17 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 24 | 23 |
| 13 | Kettering Town | 16 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | .3 | 26 | 26 | 0 |
| 14 | Bedford Town | 17 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 24 | 22 |
| 15 | Bishop's Stortford | 16 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 21 |
| 16 | Hitchin Town | 17 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 26 | 20 |
| 17 | Sutton United | 16 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 24 | 20 |
| 18 | St Albans City | 17 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 28 | -10 |
| 19 | Northwood | 17 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 21 | 27 | -6 |
| 20 | Heybridge Swifts | 17 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 27 | 17 |
| 21 | Braintree Town | 17 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 33 | 15 |
| 22 | Aylesbury United | 15 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 28 | -16 |
| 23 | Harrow Borough | 16 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 28 | 12 |
| 24 | Billericay Town | 17 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | -13 |

Dr. Martens League Premier Division

| P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|----|-----|
| Crawley Town | 15 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 29 | 15 |
| Nuneaton Borough | 16 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 25 | 15 |
| Weymouth | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 24 | 16 |
| Havant & Wêloô. | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 24 |
| Stafford Rangers | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 20 |
| Worcester City | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 21 |
| Hednesford Town | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 18 |
| Eastbourne Boro | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 15 |
| Hinckley United | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 19 | 15 |
| Tiverton Town | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 24 |
| Newport County | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 21 |
| Dover Athletic | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 24 | 25 |
| Grantham Town | 14 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 17 | 16 |
| Weston-s-Mare | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 17 |
| Cambridge City | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 25 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 23 | 25 |
| Dorchester Town | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 23 |
| Welling United | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 19 |
| Moor Green | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 18 |
| Bath City | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 25 |
| Chippenham Town | 16 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 24 |
| Chelmsford City | 16 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 18 |
| | | | | | | |

Unibond League Premier Division

| P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| Hucknall Town | 17 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 33 | 16 |
| Harrogate Town | 18 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 21 |
| Alfreton Town | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 35 | 18 |
| Droylsden | 17 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 37 | 29 |
| Barrow | 18 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 31 | 24 |
| Worksop Town | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 28 | 18 |
| Radcliffe Borough | 18 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 41 | 34 |
| Southport | 18 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 26 | 23 |
| Spennymoor Utd. | 19 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 27 | 40 |
| Gainsborough T. | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 14 |
| Marine | 17 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 32 | 30 |
| Blyth Spartans | 17 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 29 |
| Vauxhall Motors | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 35 | 34 |
| Stalybridge Celtic | 17 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 26 |
| Altrincham | 16 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 24 | 20 |
| Lancaster City | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 22 |
| Runcorn Halton | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 23 |
| Ashton United | 16 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 17 | 33 |
| Bradford Pk Ave | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 26 | 26 |
| Frickley Athletic | 18 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 22 | 34 |
| Whitby Town | 15 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 17 | 29 |
| Burscough | 17 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 18 | 33 |
| Wakefield & E | 18 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 33 |
| | | | | | | |

Fixtures, Results and Line-Ups 2003-2004

| Date | Opponents | Venue | Competition | Result | Position | Attendance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
|------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|---------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------|--------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| Sat 16 Aug | Kingstonian | Away | RLP | Drew 1-1 | 8 | 354 | Gothard | Purdie | Meah | Collis | Basham | Howard | Linger | Heffer | Lee | Kandol 1 | Akurang | Goodfellow (3) | McFarlane (nu) | Lawrence (9) | Allen (nu) | Harvey (nu) | |
| Tue 19 Aug | Carshalton Athletic | Home | RLP | Lost 2-3 | 16 | 325 | Gothard | Purdie | Howard | Collis | Basham | Meah | Linger | Heffer | Lee | Kandol | Akurang 2 | Goodfellow (10) | McFarlane (nu) | Lawrence (nu) | Allen (nu) | Bowes (9) | |
| Sat 23 Aug | Hendon | Home | RLP | Won 2-0 | 11 | 306 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | Basham | Meah | Linger | Heffer | Bowes | Kandol 1 | Akurang 1 | Lee (11) | McFarlane (nu) | Lawrence (6) | Allen (9) | Harvey (nu) | |
| Mon 25 Aug | Canvey Island | Away | RLP | Lost 3-4 | 14 | 591 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | Basham | Meah | Linger | Heffer | Bowes | Kandol 2 | Akurang 1 | Lee (6) | McFarlane (nu) | Lawrence (7) | Allen (9) | | |
| Sat 30 Aug | Kettering Town | Home | RLP | Lost 0-2 | 18 | 442 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | Basham | McFarlane | Linger | Howard | Bowes | Kandol | Akurang | Lee (3) | Meah (nu) | Lawrence (11) | Allen (5) | Harvey (nu) | |
| Tue 2 Sep | Ford United | Away | RLP | Won 3-2 | 16 | 192 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Lee 1 | Linger | Heffer | Bowes | Kandol 1 | Akurang 1 | Basham (nu) | Howard (9) | Lawrence (10) | Allen (11) | Harvey (nu) | |
| Sat 6 Sep | Heybridge Swifts | Home | RLP | Drew 1-1 | 16 | 299 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Bowes | Linger | Heffer | Lee | Kandol | Akurang | Basham (5) | Howard (nu) | Lawrence (7) | Allen (11) | Harvey (nu) | |
| Tue 9 Sep | Sutton United | Away | RLP | Won 3-0 | 13 | 431 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Bowes | Linger 1 | Heffer | Lee 1 | Kandol | Akurang 1 | Basham (nu) | Howard (9) | Lawrence (11) | Allen (7) | Meah (nu) | |
| Sat 13 Sep | Basingstoke Town | Away | RLP | Won 3-0 | 9 | 288 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane 1 | Bowes | Linger | Heffer | Lee | Kandol 1 | Akurang 1 | Basham (2) | Howard (3) | Lawrence (10) | Allen (nu) | Meah (nu) | |
| Tue 16 Sep | Hornchurch | Home | RLP | Lost 1-3 | 12 | 441 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Bowes | Linger | Heffer | Lee | Kandol 1 | Akurang | Meah (6) | Howard (nu) | Lawrence (7) | Allen (10) | Harvey (nu) | |
| Sat 20 Sep | Maidenhead United | Home | RLP | Won 3-1 | 9 | 225 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Bowes | Meah | Heffer | Lee | Lawrence | Akurang 2 | Broom (9) | Howard (7) | Allen (6) 1 | | | |
| Tue 23 Sep | Bishop's Stortford | Away | RLP | Won 3-1 | 5 | 252 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane 1 | Allen | Meah 1 | Heffer | Lee | Akurang 1 | Bowes (11) | Howard (7) | Broom (9) | Linger (nu) | | | |
| Sat 27 Sep | Buckingham Town | Away | FAC (2q) | Won 2-1 | 182 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Allen | Meah | Heffer | Lee | Lawrence 1 | Akurang 1 | Bowes (6) | Howard (2) | Broom (5) | Willis (nu) | Darr (nu) | | |
| Sat 4 Oct | Braintree Town | Away | RLP | Lost 0-1 | 8 | 177 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Bowes | Meah | Heffer | Lee | Lawrence | Akurang | Broom (nu) | Howard (7) | Wareham (9) | Purdie (5) | Kandol (nu) | |
| Tue 7 Oct | Harrow Borough | Home | RLP | Won 3-0 | 7 | 238 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis 1 | Purdie | Wareham 1 | Meah | Heffer | Lee | Lawrence | Akurang 1 | Broom (7) | Howard (nu) | Linger (nu) | Bowes (10) | Allen (9) | |
| Sat 11 Oct | Bromley | Away | FAC (3q) | Drew 1-1 | 461 | Gothard | Basham | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Howard | Lawrence | Heffer | Lee | Kandol | Akurang | Broom (nu) | Linger (10) 1 | Bowes (11) | Purdie (2) | O'Brien (nu) | | |
| Tue 14 Oct | Bromley | Home | FAC (3q) | Won 3-0 | 215 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Linger 1 | Lawrence | Heffer | Lee | Kandol 1 | Akurang | Broom (nu) | Howard (10) | Bowes (7) 1 | Allen (9) | O'Brien (nu) | | |
| Sat 18 Oct | Billericay Town | Home | RLP | Won 1-0 | 5 | 267 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Collis | McFarlane | Linger | D Lee | Heffer | K Lee | Kandol 1 | Bowes | Broom (nu) | Howard (4) | Wareham (9) | Allen (10) | Meah (nu) | |
| Tue 21 Oct | Hitchin Town | Away | RLP | Drew 0-0 | 6 | 203 | Gothard | Broom | Goodfellow | Collis | Basham | Meah | D Lee | Howard | Wareham | Allen | Akurang | Kandol (11) | Bowes (6) | Purdie (nu) | McFarlane (nu) | O'Brien (nu) | |
| Sat 25 Oct | Dagenham & R | Home | FAC (4q) | Won 2-1 | 957 | Gothard | Purdie | Goodfellow | Basham | McFarlane | Howard | Linger | Heffer | K Lee | Kandol 1 | Akurang 1 | Broom (9) | Lawrence (7) | Bowes (10) | Allen (nu) | O'Brien (nu) | | |
| Sat 1 Nov | Bedford Town | Away | RLP | Drew 0-0 | 5 | 466 | Gothard | Purdie | Basham | Collis | McFarlane | D Lee | Linger | Heffer | Wareham | Bowes | Lawrence | Kandol (nu) | Akurang (9) | Howard (7) | Allen (11) | O'Brien (nu) | |
| Fri 7 Nov | Luton Town | Home | FAC (1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 11 Nov | Barking Side | Home | ESC (3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 15 Nov | Aylesbury United | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 22 Nov | St Albans City | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 29 Nov | | | FAT (2) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 6 Dec | Northwood | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 13 Dec | Kingstonian | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 20 Dec | Carshalton Athletic | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri 26 Dec | Grays Athletic | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thu 1 Jan | Hendon | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3 Jan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 10 Jan | Sutton United | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 17 Jan | Heybridge Swifts | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 24 Jan | Basingstoke Town | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 31 Jan | Hornchurch | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 7 Feb | Bedford Town | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 10 Feb | Bognor Regis Town | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 14 Feb | Billericay Town | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 21 Feb | Aylesbury United | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 28 Feb | Hayes | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 2 Mar | Hitchin Town | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 6 Mar | Bishop's Stortford | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 13 Mar | Maidenhead United | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 20 Mar | Braintree Town | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 27 Mar | Harrow Borough | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3 Apr | Kettering Town | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 10 Apr | Canvey Island | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 12 Apr | Grays Athletic | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 17 Apr | Ford United | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 24 Apr | Northwood | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 1 May | St Albans City | Away | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TBA | Braintree Town | Away | BC (2) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TBA | Bognor Regis Town | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TBA | Hayes | Home | RLP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

HOW THEY STAND

Up to 28th October 2003

| Ryman | League | Division | One | North | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|--------|----------|-----|-------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Yeading | | | | | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 37 | 10 | 30 |
| Cheshunt | | | | | 14 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 42 | 17 | 30 |
| Dunstable Town | | | | | 15 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 38 | 14 | 29 |
| Harlow Town | | | | | 13 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 28 | 15 | 28 |
| Boreham Wood | | | | | 12 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 34 | 12 | 26 |
| Arlesey Town | | | | | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 36 | 22 | 25 |
| Wingate & F | | | | | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 23 | 18 | 25 |
| Wealdstone | | | | | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 13 | 21 |
| East Thurrock Utd | | | | | 12 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 21 | 15 | 21 |
| Leyton | | | | | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 15 | 21 |
| Wivenhoe Town | | | | | 13 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 29 | 19 |
| Waltham Forest | | | | | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 17 |
| Hemel Hempstead | | | | | 11 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 27 | 16 |
| Thame United | | | | | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 18 | 15 |
| Oxford City | | | | | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 16 | 14 |
| Aveley | | | | | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 23 | 13 |
| Uxbridge | | | | | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 13 |
| Barton Rovers | | | | | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 24 | 12 |
| Chesham United | | | | | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 20 | 10 |
| Tilbury | | | | | 12 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 31 | 10 |
| Enfield | | | | | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 8 |
| Berkhamsted Town | | | | | 14 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 35 | 7 |
| Great Wakering R | | | | | 15 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 41 | 7 |
| Barking & EHU | | | | | 13 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 35 | 2 |

| Ryman | League | Division | One | South | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|--------|----------|-----|-------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Lewes | | | | | 14 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 40 | 14 | 35 |
| Staines Town | | | | | 14 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 14 | 30 |
| Hampton & RB | | | | | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 12 | 28 |
| Windsor & Eton | | | | | 13 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 28 |
| Worthing | | | | | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 26 | 13 | 27 |
| Whyteleafe | | | | | 14 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 30 | 28 | 24 |
| Walton & H | | | | | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 24 | 19 | 26 |
| Croydon Athletic | | | | | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 25 | 18 | 25 |
| Dulwich Hamlet | | | | | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 18 | 18 | 25 |
| Bromley | | | | | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 8 | 23 |
| Slough Town | | | | | 13 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 27 | 18 | 22 |
| Marlow | | | | | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 22 | 21 |
| Leatherhead | | | | | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| Ashford Town (M) | | | | | 14 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 17 | 11 | 19 |
| Bracknell Town | | | | | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 17 |
| Banstead Athletic | | | | | 15 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 22 | 25 | 16 |
| Egham Town | | | | | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 21 | 27 | 14 |
| Tooting & Mitch | | | | | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 23 | 13 |
| Horsham | | | | | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 21 | 29 | 12 |
| Croydon | | | | | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 19 | 30 | 11 |
| Met Police | | | | | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 32 | 11 |
| Molesey | | | | | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 30 | 11 |
| Epsom & Ewell | | | | | 15 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 40 | 6 |
| Corinthian Cas. | | | | | 15 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 13 | 38 | 5 |

| Nationwide Conference | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|--|--|--|--|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | | | |
| Hereford United | 16 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 38 | 18 | 34 | | | | |
| Chester City | 16 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 24 | 8 | 34 | | | | |
| Aldershot Town | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 39 | 25 | 33 | | | | |
| Barnet | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 28 | 19 | 33 | | | | |
| Exeter City | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 28 | 20 | 31 | | | | |
| Shrewsbury T | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 13 | 25 | | | | |
| Accrington S | 16 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 26 | 20 | 24 | | | | |
| Morecambe | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 25 | 24 | | | | |
| Stevenage Bor. | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 24 | 18 | 23 | | | | |
| Burton Albion | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 24 | 22 | | | | |
| Halifax Town | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 24 | 22 | | | | |
| Woking | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 24 | 26 | 20 | | | | |
| Telford United | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 20 | 20 | | | | |
| Margate | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 25 | 19 | | | | |
| Scarborough | 16 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 17 | | | | |
| Forest Green R | 16 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 23 | 33 | 17 | | | | |
| Dagenham & R | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 24 | 16 | | | | |
| Tamworth | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 21 | 26 | 15 | | | | |
| Gravesend & N | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 21 | 29 | 15 | | | | |
| Leigh RMI | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 27 | 13 | | | | |
| Northwich V | 16 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 14 | 32 | 8 | | | | |
| Farnborough T | 16 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 17 | 36 | 7 | | | | |

| Ryman | League | Division | Two | | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|--------|----------|-----|--|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Dorking | | | | | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 16 | 26 |
| Hertford Town | | | | | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 24 | 12 | 25 |
| Clapton | | | | | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 13 | 22 |
| Kingsbury Town | | | | | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 13 | 22 |
| Witham Town | | | | | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 14 | 21 |
| Chertsey Town | | | | | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 13 | 20 |
| Leighton Town | | | | | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 24 | 15 | 16 |
| Flackwell Heath | | | | | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| Ware | | | | | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 18 | 14 |
| Camberley Town | | | | | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 19 | 13 |
| Wokingham T | | | | | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 24 | 11 |
| Edgware Town | | | | | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 11 |
| Abingdon Town | | | | | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 17 | 21 | 9 |
| Chalfont St Peter | | | | | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 27 | 8 |
| Wembley | | | | | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 7 |

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CURRENT FORM GUIDE

(Up to 25th October 2003)

Home

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| WLLWDLD | Aylesbury United |
| LWDDLLLD | Basingstoke Town |
| WWDWLLL | Bedford Town |
| LLLWLLL | Billericay Town |
| WLDWLWW | Bishop's Stortford |
| WWWWWWL | Bognor Regis Town |
| LLWL | Braintree Town |
| WWWWDW | Canvey Island |
| DWWWLWD | Carshalton Athletic |
| WDLWWDW | Ford United |
| DWWWDWW | Grays Athletic |
| LDDLWL | Harrow Borough |
| DDDWWDW | Hayes |
| WLWL | Hendon |
| DLDWLW | Heybridge Swifts |
| WDLWLWD | Hitchin Town |
| LDWWLWW | Hornchurch |
| WLWDWL | Kettering Town |
| DLDWDDWL | Kingstonian |
| LDLWWLW | Maidenhead United |
| DLWLWLW | Northwood |
| WLDWLWD | St Albans City |
| WWLDDLL | Sutton United |
| LWLWLWW | Thurrock |

Away

| | |
|----------|----------|
| DLDDLLW | DLWDWWLW |
| LDWLWL | DLWLWL |
| LLLDLL | LWLLDW |
| LWLLDW | LWDLDDL |
| LWDLWL | LWDLWL |
| LDLWL | LWDLWWL |
| LDLWL | LDLWL |
| WWDLWWW | WLWLWWD |
| WLWLWWD | LDDWLLL |
| LDDWLLL | WWDLWLW |
| WWDLWLW | WWDLWLWD |
| WWDLWLWD | DDLLWLWW |
| DDLLWLWW | LLLDLL |
| LLLDLL | DWLDWLLD |
| DWLDWLLD | DWWLWLW |
| DWWLWLW | DLWWWWL |

Table based on last six games

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Canvey Island | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 4 | 18 |
| Hayes | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Grays Athletic | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 5 | 13 |
| Hornchurch | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 13 |
| Thurrock | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| Maidenhead United | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 13 |
| Ford United | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| Basingstoke Town | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| Carshalton Athletic | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 |
| Bishop's Stortford | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 7 | 9 |
| Hendon | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| Harrow Borough | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Braintree Town | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Kingstonian | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 8 |
| Northwood | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 6 |
| Kettering Town | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 5 |
| Hitchin Town | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Bognor Regis Town | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 5 |
| Aylesbury United | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 5 |
| St Albans City | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 5 |
| Heybridge Swifts | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 3 |
| Sutton United | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 3 |
| Billericay Town | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Bedford Town | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 1 |

THE LUTON TOWN STORY

By Brian Swain, programme editor, Luton Town FC

WHATEVER sort of season Luton Town might be having, their supporters are glad just to have a team to follow. The summer of 2003 will go down in club legend as the most painful in living memory. After a reasonable Second Division campaign, in which play-off hopes were high until the last few weeks, the club was sold to new owners. And the impact was immediate. Popular manager Joe Kinnear, and Mick Harford, his right-hand man, were sacked by recorded delivery letter. Fans erupted in a fury, with their anger directed at one man, John Gurney, the only publicly-known face of a consortium which had bought the controlling shareholding for a reported price of just £4.

The near-future soon looked bleak. Staff and players were made to wait for their wages each month, and the Football League and the FA started to take an interest. Supporters banded together, with over 3,000 quickly joining a Trust in Luton organisation dedicated to removing the new owners. The Trust asked fans and sponsors to hold back season ticket purchases and other means of financial support, and the boycott paid off. One of the biggest creditors tried to call in their debt, and the club was unable to pay up, so Luton went into administrative receivership. Barry Ward, a financial consultant who had done a similar job at Northampton a decade ago, effectively took control, and forced Gurney out. And the fans flocked back, with 3,000 season tickets sold in a matter of days.

By then Mr Gurney had failed in efforts to re-sign Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford, and had organised a fans' phone poll to choose a new manager. Mike Newell, a former Luton player, became manager. He wanted Mick Harford to return as his right hand man. "Not while Gurney is there," replied Harford, who is the most popular player Luton have ever had. Fans had worried that Gurney's ownership would see Luton Town go out of existence, so receivership was painful, but the lesser of two evils. After Gurney's removal, Harford delighted every Luton Town supporter by returning to Kenilworth Road for the new season, to help his old team-mate guide a club which was still in great difficulty, up for sale, and with debts of £11million. The Football League imposed a transfer embargo, but as the season began relaxed it slightly, allowing Luton to sign men on loan to cover for injuries which hit their under-strength squad. Small wonder, then, that when Luton survived to kick off this season, their fans raised a huge cheer, even though they knew that difficult times lay ahead. It was just one more chapter in a series of ups and downs that Luton Town have experienced in their history. They have enjoyed life at the very top, and suffered the indignity of twice tumbling all the way from the highest division to the lowest.

In 1974 Luton were the first club in the country to sink from the top division to the bottom, and back all the way up again. Receivership or administration is nothing new to Luton, who almost went out of existence when they were last in receivership in the summer of 1999. They survived, but have been unable to regain past glories, and the man who saved them then, Mike Watson-Challis, was the retired businessman who sold out to Gurney last summer. Luton had gone into the 1990s as a top club - they had ten glorious years in what is now the Premiership, and won the Littlewoods Cup by beating Arsenal in the 1988 final. But then came a decline, with a club in an antiquated stadium and unable to compete with the big-money outfits. They missed the first season of the Premiership, through relegation just as it was set up in 1992, and the decline continued, with a drop into the Second Division in 1996, and in 2001 the slide ended with a return to the basement, the Third Division. Joe Kinnear was hired and won promotion at the first attempt, and thought that this season, after one near-miss in Division Two, a real promotion bid could be mounted. His sacking left Mike Newell with a difficult act to follow.

The club was formed in 1885 when Luton Wanderers and Luton Excelsior decided to merge, at a time when Luton was on the threshold of a boom thanks to the growth of the hat-making trade which was to give the club its nickname. Players were paid for the first time in 1891, making Luton the first club in the south to embrace professionalism. Three years later they were founder-members of the Southern League, and in 1897 joined the Football League's Second Division. But patchy results and rising costs led to the Club resigning to return to the Southern League. And there Luton stayed until 1920, when the Southern League became Division Three of the Football League. They narrowly missed promotion to the old Second Division in 1936, when centre-forward Joe Payne terrorised opposing defences. A wing-half, his first appearance as leader of the attack was near-unbelievable: he scored ten goals in a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth Road. It is a record which is likely to stand forever. The following year

Cont.

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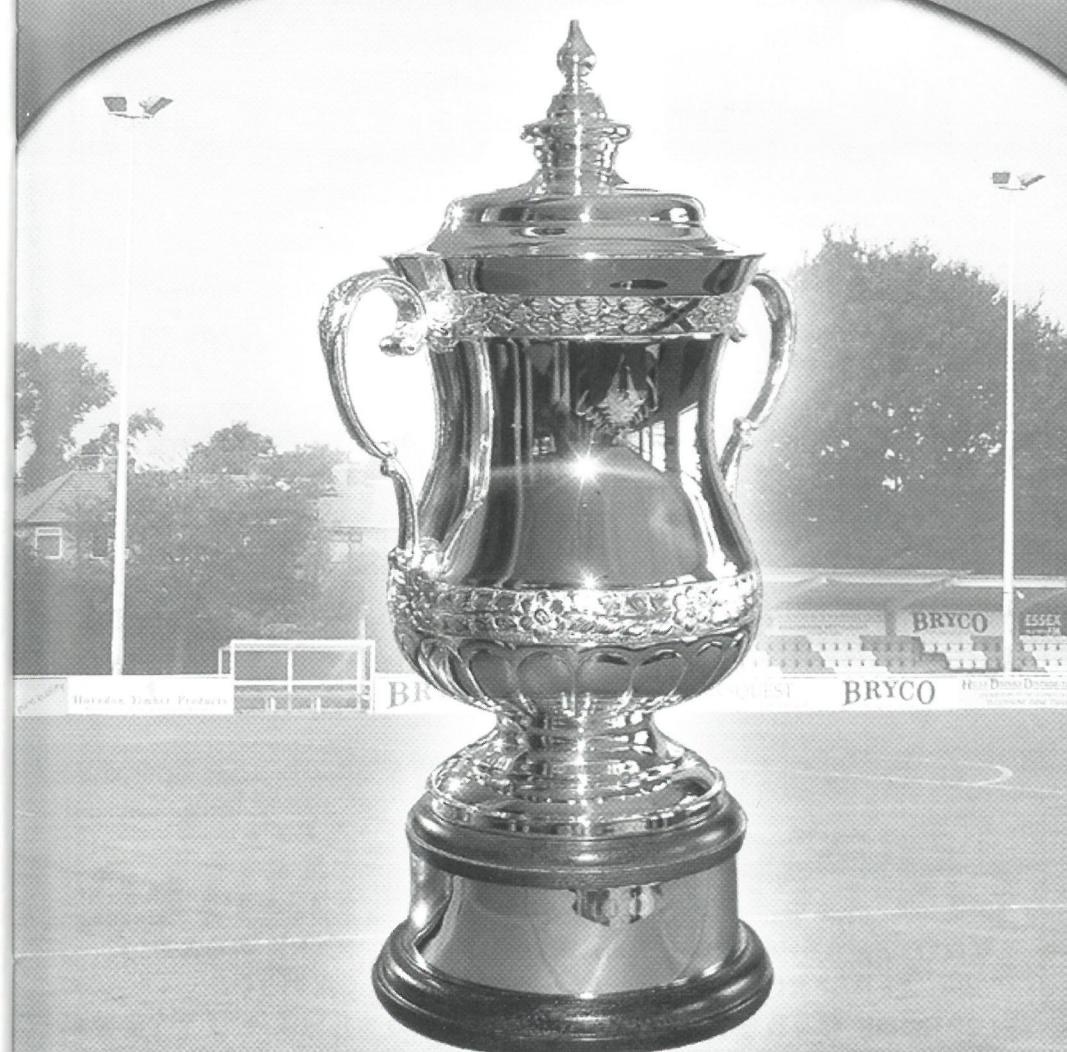
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THE LUTON TOWN STORY

Luton did win promotion, with Payne netting 55 league goals.

Luton were comfortable in the Second Division and in 1955 won promotion to the top division - what is now the Premiership. It ended in tears after six years. Luton reached the FA Cup final in 1959, but lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest. The team were all getting too old together, and a slump set in. Within 12 months Luton were relegated, and by the sixth anniversary of their only FA Cup final appearance Luton had tumbled all the way down to the old Fourth Division. In 1967 they were perilously close to having to ask for re-election to stay in the League. That indignity was narrowly avoided, and a new board injected new life and money into the Club. The Division Four championship was won in 1968 and two years later another promotion was clinched, to the Second Division, with Malcolm Macdonald's goals a major factor.

In 1974 Luton made history again: they won promotion back to the First Division to become the first club ever to drop from top to bottom of the League and then complete the revival in the opposite direction. That joy ended with relegation after only one season, but in 1982, led by David Pleat, Luton were back among the big boys again, despite operating on a shoestring in a ramshackle ground. Miraculously Luton survived for ten seasons, with the first providing one of the game's classic showdowns. On the last day of the 1982/83 campaign Luton travelled to Maine Road needing a win to stay up and to condemn Manchester City to relegation. City had only to draw, and got to within four minutes of success. But then Raddy Antic, a Serb who had gone as a substitute, struck the winner, and David Pleat was forever famous after that for his televised victory jig of delight across the pitch.

Luton lost in the 1985 FA Cup semi-final to Everton, but in 1988 a major trophy was landed at last, when Arsenal were beaten 3-2 in the final of the Littlewoods Cup. The Hatters made Wembley their second home that summer: they were also there for the Football League's Centenary Tournament, and for the Simod Cup final, in which they lost to Reading. They nearly got there four times: an FA Cup run ended in defeat in the semi-final to the eventual winners, Wimbledon. Twelve months later Luton were at Wembley again to defend the League Cup, but they lost to Nottingham Forest, to revive memories for older supporters of the 1959 disappointment.

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LUTON TOWN PEN PICTURES

David Bayliss. Born Liverpool 8.6.76

Signed in November 2001, Bayliss soon became a regular in Luton Division Three promotion campaign of 2001/02, but injuries cut down his chances last season. Happily he was back to full fitness when this season began. Ironically, an injury crisis led to the defender joining the Hatters. Then manager Joe Kinnear had 24 players unavailable, and discovered to his great delight that Rochdale were prepared to release their longest-serving player. An inch under six foot tall, he had been at Spotland since he was a trainee, and made over 200 first-team appearances for Rochdale before deciding not to accept a new contract with them. Luton record to the start of this season: 32 appearances.

Robert Beckwith. Born London 12.9.84

Quietly learning his trade in the Luton youth team, the teenager became the seventh goalkeeper Luton used last season when a crippling run of injuries forced his early promotion to the league side. He did well in four appearances at the end of the season, but in the summer found that at 18 he was the most senior keeper on the books. Luton were in receivership, deep in debt, and could not prevent their two senior keepers leaving on Bosman free transfers. So as the new season kicked off, Beckwith, who had come up through the ranks, was back in the firing line. Luton record to the start of this season: 9 appearances, no goals.

Emmerson Boyce. Born Aylesbury, 24.9.79

One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995, and made the breakthrough to the League squad at the age of 19 midway through the 1999/2000 season after occasional appearances following a debut in the Auto Windscreens Shield in January 1999. He became a regular at right back, with a liking to attack on the overlap, and signed a new contract in the summer of 2002.

Luton record to the start of this season: 163 appearances, 4 goals.

Ahmet Brkovic. Born Dubrovnik, Croatia, 23.9.74

Believing a move would be good for his career, the midfield playmaker refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999. He was bitterly disappointed when Orient failed in the play-offs to win promotion to the Second Division, and decided he might have a better chance if he joined Luton. He was right, playing a valuable role, mainly on the right flank, to help Luton return to the Second Division at the first attempt.

Luton record to the start of this season: 64 appearances, 10 goals.

Chris Coyne. Born Brisbane, 20.12.78

The centre-half was playing for Perth Soccer Club when he was selected for the Australian under-17 squad for the 1994 youth World Cup, and came to the notice of Harry Redknapp, then manager of West Ham. Coyne signed for the Hammers as a teenager, but Premiership chances were few and far between, and after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, Coyne went to Dundee. A £50,000 cheque persuaded the Scottish Premier League club to let the defender move to Kenilworth Road in September 2001 and Coyne rapidly became a crowd favourite in the promotion run that followed.

Luton record to the start of this season: 75 appearances, 4 goals.

Dean Crowe. Born Stockport, 6.6.79

The striker was signed on loan from Stoke City in September 2001 when an injury crisis decimated the Hatters squad. He made an immediate impact, scoring on his debut at Plymouth, and was soon signed on a permanent deal, and he helped Luton win promotion that season. Crowe began his career as a YTS boy at Stoke, but was frozen out by a change of management and an influx of Scandinavian players. He was had loan spells at Northampton and Bury before joining Luton.

Luton record to the start of this season: 65 appearances, 17 goals.

Sol Davis. Born Cheltenham, 4.9.79

It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton, when the highly-rated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of the 2001/02 season. Swindon boss Andy King failed in attempts to persuade him to sign a new deal, and Luton manager swooped for the tough-tackling left back. Davis had joined Swindon as a trainee in the summer of 1998, and made rapid progress through the youth and reserve teams to become a regular in the Nationwide League.

Luton record to the start of this season: 38 appearances, no goals.

Kevin Foley. Born London 1.11.84

Great things are expected of this cultured defender, who was promoted to the first team squad at the start of this season, despite still being eligible for youth football. He has been brought through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road, and in pre-season games was pitchforked into the first team because of injuries to other defenders. He settled in rapidly, to suggest he will be competing on merit for a regular place in the league side.

Luton record to the start of this season: 4 appearances, no goals.

Cont.

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LUTON TOWN PEN PICTURES

Adrian Forbes. Born Ealing 23.1.79

After considerable First Division experience, and with an England youth cap to his credit, Forbes was a surprise inclusion on Norwich City's list of players available for transfer in the summer of 2001, and Luton were delighted to pay £75,000 for a right winger to add width to his attacking formation. Forbes is noted for his ability to run at and past defenders, either to deliver crosses from out wide, or to cut in and have a crack at goal. But last season was a nightmare for him: he suffered cruciate ligament damage in a pre-season friendly, and missed all but the final six weeks of the campaign. He is keen to make up for lost time this season. Forbes had been at Carrow Road for four years, starting as a trainee, before his move to Kenilworth Road.

Luton record to the start of this season: 47 appearances, 6 goals.

Ian Hillier. Born Neath, 26.12.79

No-one was more surprised than the Welsh under-21 international himself when he made his league debut for Luton in the second game of the 2001/02 season. The day before he was training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Kenilworth Road led to Luton taking the young right back on loan, and Hillier settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him for a bargain £30,000 fee and he became a regular squad member.

Luton record to the start of this season: 50 appearances, 1 goal.

Steve Howard. Born Durham, 10.5.76

Rarely can £50,000 have been better spent in football than the fee Luton paid Northampton on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the bustling striker away from the Cobblers. He has been Luton's leading marksman in each of the past two seasons and is a huge favourite at Kenilworth Road – he was the fans player of the year in 2002, and the players' player of the year 12 months later. Howard had cost Northampton a then record fee of £120,000 when they recruited him from Hartlepool two years previously. They grudgingly accepted a third of their asking price for a player who would have left for nothing soon afterwards under the Bosman ruling. Howard exploded into action in his first full season with Luton, and his 24 goals made him the Third Division's top league marksman as Luton won promotion.

Luton record to the start of this season: 99 appearances, 50 goals.

Paul Hughes. Born Hammersmith 19.4.76

A promising career that began at Chelsea was cruelly interrupted after the gifted midfielder earned the admiration of, among others, Glenn Hoddle, the former England boss. Hughes worked his way up at Stamford Bridge from trainee to Premiership, learning his trade under Hoddle's management, and gained experience on loan to Stockport, Norwich and Crewe. When Hoddle became manager of Southampton he soon recruited Hughes, but a serious groin injury put the midfielder out of football for nine months.

Luton record to the start of this season: 63 appearances, 6 goals.

Michael Leary. Born Ealing, 17.4.83

Luton's receivership in the summer might mean that former trainee Leary gets his chance this season. The club was under a Football League transfer embargo, but the coaches had no hesitation in promoting the young Londoner to the first team squad after a string of impressive performances in the youth and reserve teams.

Luton record to the start of this season: 2 appearances, no goals

Lee Mansell. Born Gloucester 23.9.82

The young midfielder is hoping to make the permanent breakthrough into Luton's first team this season, after making a dramatic surprise debut. Because of injury absences, he had to make the transition straight from the youth squad to the first team in January 2001, and was just 58 seconds into his debut against Queens Park Rangers, in an FA Cup third round replay, when he scored. Luton had looked after him since he was an 11-year-old, and signed him as soon as he left school. His dramatic emergence at Loftus Road led to him being rewarded with a full professional contract, but he went into this season still fighting for a permanent place in Luton's side.

Luton record to the start of the season: 37 appearances, 7 goals.

Alan Neilson. Born Wegburg, Germany, 26.10.72

Experience and versatility has made Neilson a valuable member of Luton's squad, and he has filled any role asked of him with dependable consistency – anywhere in the back four, or in midfield. The former Welsh international was signed from Grimsby in 2002 as part of a cost-cutting exercise. Luton record to the start of this season: 38 appearances, no goals.

Kevin Nicholls. Born Newham, 2.1.79

The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton and quickly made an impact after skipping England youth teams at under-18, under-19 and under-20 levels. Surprisingly, Wigan decided to put him on the transfer list in the summer of 2001, for a bargain fee of £150,000, and Luton snapped him up. Charlton had sold him for £250,000 to Wigan in the summer of 1999. The move to Luton suited Nicholls and the Hatters alike. He quickly became team captain, and his huge enthusiasm and ferocious tackling soon made him a big favourite with Luton fans, although opponents did not always view his all-action style with similar relish.

Luton record to the start of this season: 82 appearances, 11 goals.

Cont.

LUTON TOWN PEN PICTURES

Russ Perrett. Born Barton on Sea, 18.5.73

Having helped Cardiff City win promotion to the Second Division in May 2001, the big central defender was the victim of a huge recruitment drive at Ninian Park and Perrett knew his first team future at Cardiff might be limited. He accepted an offer to join Luton, and won promotion from Division Three with the Hatters 12 months later. His career had begun with non-league Lymington before he went to neighbouring Portsmouth in 1995 and then to Cardiff four years later.

Luton record to the start of this season: 64 appearances, 5 goals.

Steve Robinson. Born Lisburn, 10.12.74

Looking to add experience to a young midfield department, Luton snapped up a man who had earned respect wherever he played. They paid £50,000 to Preston North End in the summer of 2002 for a player who had been capped five times by Northern Ireland. He had made his name at Bournemouth after joining the Cherries on a free transfer from Spurs, where he had been a trainee. He hit 60 goals in 286 appearance for Bournemouth, an enviable strike rate from midfield, and Preston paid £375,000 for him. But he failed to make the same impact in two years at Deepdale, and jumped at the chance to get his career moving again when Luton came in for him.

Luton record to the start of this season: 34 appearances, one goal.

Matthew Spring. Born Harlow, 17.11.79.

There was relief all round when the competitive midfielder accepted a new contract at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2002. Spring has been at Luton since he was a schoolboy, and was a driving force in the side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997. After a league debut when still only 17, he soon became a regular in Luton's Second Division team, and his first 100 appearances were clocked up while he was only 20. He has developed into a very consistent midfielder, always willing to drive forward and look for goals. His long-range shooting is particularly admired by the Hatters fans, and a 30-yard cracked against Watford in the Worthington Cup last season was the runaway winner for their award for goal of the season.

Luton record to the start of this season: 259 appearances, 29 goals.

Mike Newell. Born Liverpool, 27.1.65

The former striker is unique among managers – Luton fans helped him to get the job in a telephone poll just before this season began. They had suffered agonies as Luton underwent a change of ownership, which resulted in the sacking of the previous manager, Joe Kinnear. The new owners enlisted supporters' help in drawing up a short list to fill the vacancy, and Newell, who had been a popular player at Kenilworth Road two decades earlier, was installed.

He was delighted to get the job, but soon discovered he had taken on a huge challenge. He had hardly settled in before the club went into receivership, with debts of £11million. The Football League imposed a transfer embargo, and with eight players having left earlier in the summer Newell found himself having to do the best he could with limited resources. Fortunately the core of the Luton team was still intact, and the receiver allowed the new manager to make the major new "signing" he most wanted when Luton legend Mick Harford was brought back to be Director of Football and first team coach. Harford had been sacked two months previously by the new owners.

Newell has been in football for more than 20 years, beginning as a striker at Crewe before joining Wigan. After three years at Springfield Park he moved to Luton for £80,000 in January 1986. He was recruited as a replacement for Mick Harford, who was on the injured list. Luton were then in the old First Division, now the Premiership, and Newell flourished at top level, with 19 goals in 68 matches for the Hatters.

He racked up a succession of big money transfers after that: £350,000 to Leicester, £1.1million to Everton, £1.1million to Blackburn, where he won a Premiership winner's medal, and £900,000 to Birmingham. West Ham, Bradford, Aberdeen, Crewe again, and Blackpool were also grateful for his goal-scoring abilities before he moved into coaching at Tranmere.

In November 2002 he was given his first job as a manager, at Hartlepool. He guided them to promotion a few months later, but surprisingly his contract was not renewed. But Luton fans hadn't forgotten him, and gave him a huge welcome back when he took charge for the first time. It was a nice occasion: on the final day of the previous season, Newell's last game in charge of Hartlepool was at Rushden, where a draw meant that Rushden were Division Three champions, and Hartlepool runners-up. And the first day of this season saw Luton meet Rushden – and run out 3-1 winners, to set the young manager's record straight.

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FA CUP SHOCKS

1992: Wrexham 2 Arsenal 1

A stunning goal from former Manchester United star Mickey Thomas paved the way for an unlikely victory. Wrexham were 24th in the old Fourth Division going into the game while Arsenal were second in the top flight and reigning league champions. It was all going according to plan for the Gunners with Alan Smith opening the scoring. But Thomas rattled them with an unstoppable 25-yard free-kick and 20-year-old striker Steve Watkin went on to grab the winner.

1975: Burnley 0 Wimbledon 1

No non-league side since 1920 had won at a top-flight ground when Wimbledon arrived at Turf Moor. But the Dons showed the kind of steely resilience that was to become their trademark in the years that followed. With Dave Bassett in midfield, they secured an unlikely victory thanks to a goal from Mick Mahon and two great saves from goalkeeper Dickie Guy as Burnley unsuccessfully tried to save face.

1973: Sunderland 1 Leeds 0

Leeds, who had lifted the FA Cup the year before by beating Arsenal, were clear favourites to keep hold of it. Sunderland, after all, were a division below them and looked to be out of their depth. However they managed to hang on after Ian Porterfield's instinctive strike. Goalkeeper Jim Montgomery made an astonishing double save from Trevor Cherry and Peter Lorimer, prompting manager Bob Stokoe to embrace him at the end.

2001: Leicester 1 Wycombe 2

Wycombe became only the eighth team outside the top two divisions to reach the semi-final of the FA Cup - thanks to a player who had arrived on trial 10 days earlier. Journeyman striker Roy Essandoh, now with Grays Athletic, got the winner three minutes into stoppage time. Paul McCarthy had put them ahead but Muzzy Izzet equalised. Leicester went into freefall after the defeat and manager Peter Taylor was eventually dismissed.

1972: Hereford 2-1 Newcastle

The match that launched the career of the BBC's John Motson produced an extraordinary result in this replay. Newcastle looked set to make it through thanks to a late goal by Malcolm McDonald. But the non-league side refused to cave in and Ronnie Radford scored a 30-yard cracker to take the game into extra-time. It was felt Newcastle's stamina would win the day but it was substitute Ricky George who grabbed the winner.

1985: York 1 Arsenal 0

The match only went ahead after snow had been cleared off the pitch and it proved to be a great leveller. The Third Division side went about their business in a way that ruffled the feathers of their famous visitors. Charlie Nicholas had a nightmare and was subbed. Eventually Keith Houchen - later part of the successful 1987 Coventry cup-winning side - made the breakthrough late in the game, holding his nerve to convert a penalty.

1988: Liverpool 0 Wimbledon 1

Wembley had never seen anything like Wimbledon's Crazy Gang - and they frightened the life out of street-wise Liverpool.

The final was hardly a classic but Lawrie Sanchez took the honours for the former non-league side by nodding the ball home from a Dennis Wise free kick. Skipper Dave Beasant then became the first goalkeeper to save a penalty in the final when he turned away John Aldridge's effort.

1989: Sutton 2 Coventry 1

Coventry had won the cup two years previously and were expected to cruise past the non-league side. However Sutton raised their game in front of 8,000 supporters at Gander Green Lane. Tony Rains opened the scoring, only for Dave Phillips to equalise. Matty Hanlon grabbed the vital goal and Sutton manned the barricades in the last 20 minutes for a famous victory. No non-league side has knocked out a top-flight team since.

1984: Bournemouth 2 Manchester United 0

It was a day to savour for Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp, who was then in charge of the Third Division side. Ron Atkinson's United were the holders and fully expected to make it through despite indifferent results in the league. But they were out-thought and out-fought. Milton Graham and Ian Thompson scored the goals and United exited the competition at the first hurdle leaving manager Atkinson fuming.

1986: Birmingham 1 Altrincham 2

The match had been postponed from Saturday and only just over 6,000 supporters bothered turning up when it was rescheduled in midweek. It was soon apparent why Birmingham were in a relegation dogfight in the old First Division. The non-league side took the lead when Kevin Ellis beat David Seaman from close range. Robert Hopkins then equalised but Birmingham's embarrassment was complete when he scored an own goal.

Thurrock F.C.

Patron Scheme Honours List

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

(Up to 25th October 2003)

| 2003-04 | | | Career | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----|--------|------|-----|------|
| | Apps. | Sub | Goals | Apps | Sub | Goal |
| Cliff AKURANG | 19 | 1 | 13 | 72 | 12 | 31 |
| Lee ALLEN | 3 | 12 | 1 | 38 | 23 | 3 |
| Michael BASHAM | 15 | 2 | | 15 | 2 | |
| Terry BOWES | 12 | 8 | 1 | 60 | 24 | 15 |
| Jason BROOM | 1 | 5 | | 1 | 5 | |
| David COLLIS | 20 | | 1 | 20 | | 1 |
| Mark GOODFELLOW | 18 | 2 | | 102 | 20 | |
| Paul GOTTHARD | 21 | | | 21 | | |
| Steve HEFFER | 19 | | | 19 | | |
| Gary HOWARD | 6 | 10 | | 132 | 16 | |
| Tresor KANDOL | 14 | 1 | 10 | 35 | 3 | 24 |
| Martyn LAWRENCE | 8 | 10 | 1 | 215 | 56 | 21 |
| David LEE | 3 | | | 3 | | |
| Kris LEE | 16 | 3 | 2 | 42 | 7 | 8 |
| Paul LINGER | 14 | 1 | 3 | 104 | 7 | 24 |
| Jimmy McFARLANE | 15 | | 2 | 499 | 4 | 58 |
| Jeran MEAH | 10 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| John PURDIE | 14 | 2 | | 253 | 7 | |
| Ross WAREHAM | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Own goal | | | 1 | | | |
| Total | 37 | | | | | |

THE THURROCK TOP TEN

| Appearances | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| Jimmy McFARLANE | 503 | |
| John REES | 286 | |
| Jamie SOUTHON | 286 | |
| Graham DALY | 271 | |
| Martyn LAWRENCE | 271 | |
| Martin CARTHY | 268 | |
| John PURDIE | 260 | |
| Lee MATTHEWS | 249 | |
| Jon KEELING | 238 | |
| Colin McBRIDE | 235 | |

| Goalscorers | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| George GEORGIOU | 108 | |
| Paul COBB | 101 | |
| Alan BRETT | 69 | |
| Terry BELLAMY | 59 | |
| Jimmy McFARLANE | 58 | |
| Martin CARTHY | 53 | |
| David MATTHEWS | 50 | |
| Tony O'BRIEN | 50 | |
| David CROWN | 48 | |
| Barry BROOKS | 42 | |

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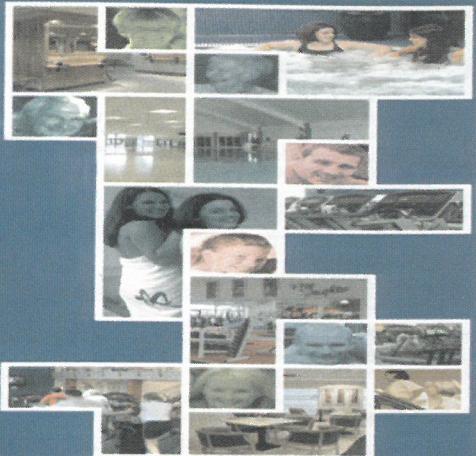
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3

David COLLIS



4

Jimmy McFARLANE



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David LEE



6

Paul LINGER



7

Steve HEFFER



8

Kris LEE



9

Tresor KANDOL



10

Cliff AKURANG



11

Martyn LAWRENCE



12

Michael BASHAM



13

Terry BOWES



14

Gary HOWARD



15

Lee ALLEN



16

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Ahmet BRKOVIC (18)



Paul HUGHES (21)



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