



# Luton Town Football Club

Official Matchday Magazine • Price £2.50

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 17th January 2004 • Kick Off 3.00pm



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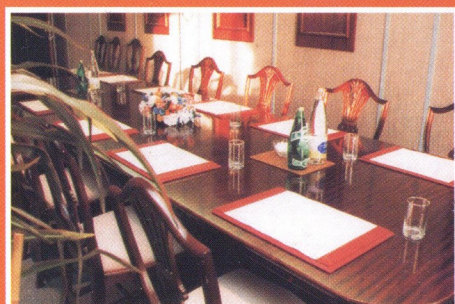
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[www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)

## Inside Today

Mike Newell's message	Page 5
Soccer criminals banned	Page 7
FA Cup offer to Junior Hatters	Page 9
Rival clubs glad to see us!	Page 11
Cup ticket sales arrangements	Page 12
Today's sponsors	Page 14
Welcome to the other Hatters	Page 18
Blast from the Past	Page 22
Fistful of cash on offer	Page 26
Town colours in Iraq	Page 27
Bradford cup report and pictures	Page 28
Point earned at Rushden	Page 32
Town Teaser	Page 34
Holiday games round-up	Page 35
Stars of the future	Page 39
Unlucky youth defeat	Page 41
Watford well beaten	Page 45
Mascot makes it family double	Page 49
Play-off chase still on	Page 53
Enforced team changes	Page 55
All the stats	Page 56
Today's squads and officials	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

#### Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

#### Photography

Gareth Owen

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

## Luton Town FC

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R. Safranek, J. Sapsworth

### Chief Executive/Secretary

Cherry Newbery

### Manager

Mike Newell

### Director of Football & First Team Coach

Mick Harford

### Coach

Brian Stein

### Youth Team Coach

Marvin Johnson

### Youth Development Officer

Mark Ridgway

### Medical Officer

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### Football in the Community

Stuart Smith

### Consultant Physio

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### Commercial Manager

Peter Davis

### Catering Manager

Peter Saul

### Safety Officer

Geoff Lovell

### Ticket Office

Darren Bell

### Financial Controller

Tania Buonpane FCCA

### Club Dentist

A. Chris BDSA (Syd)

### Club Chaplain

Rev Catherine Moss



## FA CUP 4TH ROUND SATURDAY JANUARY 24 VIP HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITY

Following the Town's superb win at Bradford, we have been rewarded with our first FA Cup fourth round appearance for nine seasons, at home to Nationwide Division Two rivals Tranmere Rovers.

With league form and position meaning nothing when it comes to the FA Cup, Tranmere's visit to Kenilworth Road on Saturday will present a tremendous challenge for the team, and with the possibility of a lucrative fifth round place and perhaps a Premiership giant as the reward, Saturday could be a day to remember.

To commemorate this very special day we are delighted to announce that we will be offering an exclusive VIP Hospitality Package in our Eric Morecambe Suite consisting of:

- Match tickets in the directors box section of the Main Stand
- Reserved car parking in the Maple Road directors car park on a 1 to 4 ratio
- Four-course silver service lunch
- Half time tea/coffee
- Post-match buffet
- Match programme and teamsheet
- Cash bar facility
- Sky TV – to follow the rest of the afternoon's action as it unfolds

**Cost per person £69.95 inc vat**

Spaces are strictly limited, therefore early booking is recommended. Please contact the Commercial Department on 01582 411622, or e-mail [commercial@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:commercial@lutontown.co.uk) to secure your place on this very special day.

# CONNECT WITH YOUR CLUB



Luton Town

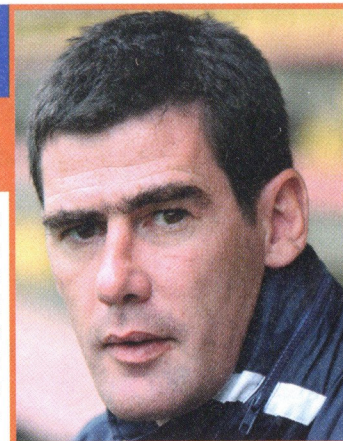
**09068 121 123**

TELETEXT OnTV p24

Calls cost 60p/min. ClubCall EC2A 4PF



# The Manager's Message



HELLO, and welcome to Kenilworth Road for today's game with Stockport.

Having beaten Notts County at home, we could only manage to pick up a point at Rushden last week after a very good first-half performance where we could well have been further ahead. In the end we had to rely on a penalty save from Marlon to keep us in the game.

I can't pass without mentioning the fantastic following at Nene Park, particularly after similar numbers had made the journey to Bradford only a week earlier. We realise the expense involved, especially immediately after Christmas, and we are just glad we managed to get two results.

It seems to me that there is a hunger for success and a desire for the club to be back where it once was. All I can say is that we share that hunger, and also have a belief that should we be able to add to our squad in the near future, and hang in there for a little bit longer, we may just be able to achieve something from the season.

I don't like to keep harping on about the size of the squad, or injuries and suspensions, because

every team has to contend with them, but you will notice that this is the time of the season when clubs are bringing in players to strengthen their squads, either to push for promotion or to avoid the drop, and as yet that is not possible for us.

Sometimes a couple of new faces can give the lads a boost and get a bit more out of them, so we will keep our fingers crossed.

Welcome to Sammy McIlroy and his staff, players, directors and supporters from Edgeley Park. Sammy has vast experience as a player and manager at the highest level, and we face another test this afternoon.

Enjoy the game, and get behind the lads.

*Mike Newell*



**MAN OF THE MOMENT:** Adrian Forbes was on target twice as the Town saw off First Division Bradford City in the FA Cup, and this is his second goal. See page 28 for a full report.

For the latest news, views & interviews call:

**CLUB CALL on 09068 121123** Calls cost 60p per minute at all times





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## From The Chief Executive



WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road after the Christmas break, which I trust everyone enjoyed, and a very happy and healthy New Year to all. I personally was quite happy to see the back of 2003 and the problems it had brought with it! Speaking of last year, just before Christmas I went to preview the BBC Documentary "Trouble at the Top" which was filmed during the dark days of the close season. It was very emotional to relive those days, and showed the solidarity of everyone connected with the club. The documentary is due to be shown in February or March and I will let everyone know the exact date once confirmed – this is one everyone will want to watch!

The bucket collection for the Mayor's Christmas appeal at the Barnsley match raised £347.65 – thank you once again for your generosity. We now know that our opponents in the fourth round of the FA Cup are Tranmere, and I would like to explain to supporters that once the draw is made (and we had a supporter on the phone to the ticket office as the away team was being drawn out, wanting to know when the tickets went on sale!) we do need a little time to contact our opponents and agree arrangements for the match, including prices. It is not always possible to make immediate contact with the right person at the other club. We did in fact have tickets on sale three days after the draw, even though we did not then know whether it would be Tranmere

or Bolton. They are selling very well, so please don't leave it too late to support the team. Full details are on page 12.

Our two postponed Nationwide League matches have now been re-arranged: we will be at home to Brighton and Hove Albion on Tuesday February 10, kick off 7.45pm, and away to Grimsby on Tuesday February 24, also with a 7.45pm kick-off.

I am sad to pass on news that Jack Allen, who worked for the club for well over 30 years, has passed away aged 89, and our condolences go to his family at this time.

Our under-17 match with Queens Park Rangers was postponed on January 10, and we are still waiting to re-arrange it.

Finally, we have a bucket collection today by The Rotary Club of North Luton, in aid of Dell Farm, who provide holidays for underprivileged children from the Luton area.

Enjoy the match and see you again next Saturday at the FA Cup game.

*Cherry Newbery*

## Banning Orders On Football Criminals

AT LUTON Crown Court on December 11, 2003, 20 people were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for offences of violent disorder or affray at the Worthington Cup fixture between Watford and Luton Town on September 10, 2002. In addition, they all received six-year or seven-year bans from attending any designated football matches.

This club will not tolerate this type of behaviour, and has issued life bans from Luton Town FC to all those convicted, namely: Alfonso Abella, James Burr, James Stuart Carleton, Anthony Clifford, Brian Coomber, Andrew Cyrus, Graham John Dillingham, Dean Kenneth Edwards, David Neil Gentle, Francis Gilloran, Benjamin Linton Hamilton, Neil Stuart Hardy, Dean Cyril Ible, Brian Thomas Jenkins, Albert Francis Marcantonio, Thomas Francis O'Donnell, Vincent O'Malley, Andrew James Presswell, Richard Mark Saunders and James Pasquale Viola.

We will continue to take the strongest action against people who are convicted of criminal offences related to football.

Geoff Lovell, Safety Officer, Luton Town FC

You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on  
[clubsec@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:clubsec@lutontown.co.uk)



## Kenilworth Suite Members

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Special introductory offer on presentation  
of this Match Day Programme

Offer available at the Luton Club only. Terms and conditions apply.



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8 Interested in becoming a Kenilworth Suite Member  
contact the Commercial Department on 01582 411622

# The FA CUP SPECIAL OFFER FOR JUNIOR HATTERS

Luton Town are at home in the fourth round of the FA Cup next week, and to mark the occasion Junior Hatters are invited to book places for a very special Saturday Club to make it a day to remember.

It will kick off at noon, with entertainment non-stop until after the cup match.

Included in the big-value package for Junior Hatters is:

A chance to be the official mascot at the game

Pre-match games and entertainment.

A sausage and chips lunch, and more entertainment.

Family room open during half time.

All activities will be fully supervised.

The price is a bargain: £6 for Junior Hatters who have a ticket for the cup-tie, or £14 to include a match ticket.

Accommodation is limited, so book early – places will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Bookings, subject to availability, will be taken until 12 noon on Wednesday, January 21, by phone, or in person at the Community Department, 125 Oak Road (opposite Directors car park).

All Junior Hatters who book places will be entered into a draw to be made on Wednesday evening to choose the mascot for Saturday, so the odds of being lucky will be much shorter than usual.

For more information, or to book a place, or to join the Junior Hatters, please phone Junior Hatters headquarters on 01582 391927.







# Luton Town Football Club Present a



## Sporting Dinner

Thursday 19th February 2004

at the Riverside Suite, Vauxhall Recreation Club, 20 Gipsy Lane, Luton LU1 3JU

*with special guests*



### GARETH CHILCOTT

As one of Rugby Unions and the sporting medias greatest characters, Gareth "Cooch" Chilcotts, achievements are legendary. With over 400 1st Team Games for Bath and with 5 League Winners Medals, plus 7 Cup Winners Medals, this England International and British Lions player, was guaranteed to strike terror into the opposition. The demand for Gareth's service's within the game, particularly from the media, continue unabated, where his BBC, ITV Sport, Sky and radio work, including his role as front-line commentator during the 2003 Rugby World Cup in Australia have made him an International Celebrity. As an after dinner speaker you could not be entertained by a funnier or warmer individual.

### AARON JAMES

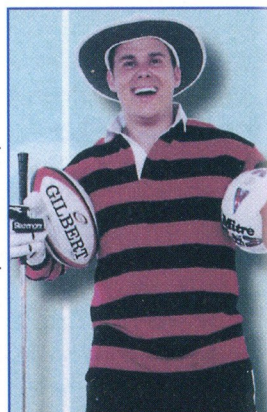
Sporting impressionist and comedian extraordinaire, Aaron is without doubt one of the funniest men ever to grace the after dinner speaking circuit. He is regarded by fellow professionals as a "top drawer" speaker and one of the finest sporting and celebrity impressionists around today. Aaron is a regular on TV after he first appeared on the original "Big Breakfast Show" and his hilarious video ranks as one of funniest of its style ever produced.

*Welcome return of our Master of Ceremonies and  
Host for the Evening*

### STEVE TANDY

Join us for another fabulous evening of sporting nostalgia, brilliant comedy, superb hospitality, plus a very special auction of sports memorabilia, which will include, fabulous collectors pieces from the:

**England World Cup Squad 2003, England Captain supreme,  
Martin Johnson and the living legend himself Jonny Wilkinson**



**Cost - Just £450.00 plus VAT for a table of 10 guests -  
£45.95 plus VAT for individual tickets.**

**Reception 7.00pm - Dinner 8.00pm - Last Orders midnight**

**Contact Luton Town FC on 01582 411622 or email  
commercial@lutontown.co.uk for bookings or more details**

**Freelance Environmental Services Limited**

**Are the sponsors of this evenings event and can be contacted on 07802 603065  
Luton Town Football club thank them for their generous support this evening**

## Clubs Pleased To Host Fans On The Road

THE VISIT of Notts County to Kenilworth Road, to become the first team to meet the Town twice this season, underlined the difference in the travelling support of the two clubs. When the Town went to Meadow Lane in September, well over a thousand fans backed them. County's following, for the second Christmas match, was less than a third of that figure.

Town fans also proved to be more loyal than the opposition's against Rushden. No other club has had better backing than the 2,319 who went to Nene Park on Saturday to help Rushden hit their highest attendance of the season so far. When the Diamonds came to Luton for the first game of the season, they had fewer than a thousand in the Oak Road end.

Bradford City were also pleased to see the Town's excellent travelling support. Struggling at the wrong end of the First Division, their FA Cup attendance would have been pathetic without the Town's big following.

Overall so far this season, the Town have had an average of nearly twice as many fans at away games than visitors to Luton. The figures:

#### Town Travellers

Stockport	671
Brighton	727
Notts Co	1,215
Plymouth	449
Charlton (CC)	2,407
Oldham	487
Swindon	412
Stevenage (LDV)	1,028
Brentford	1,468
Bournemouth	462
Bristol City	496
Rushden (LDV)	876
Thurrock (FAC)	509
Sheffield Wed	1,462
Rochdale (FAC)	562
Southend (LDV)	216
Blackpool	458
Colchester	941
Bradford	1,620
Rushden	2,319

**Total:** 18,785  
**Average:** 939

#### Visitors to Luton

Rushden	922
Yeovil (CC)	493
Grimsby	318
Hartlepool	573
Port Vale	344
QPR	1,872
Tranmere	170
Wycombe	414
Peterborough	579
Wrexham	176
Thurrock	239
Chesterfield	168
Notts County	363

**6,631**  
**510**

Log on to Luton Town's official website at  
[www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)



# News From The Ticket Office



## FA CUP FOURTH ROUND Luton Town v Tranmere Rovers



Saturday, January 24, 2004, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices, and are being sold as follows:

### SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Season ticket holders who completed a cup match authorisation from in the close season will have their tickets forwarded to them automatically. All other season ticket holders have until 5pm on Tuesday, January 20, to claim their seats.

### NON SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Non season ticket holders can purchase any seats not held by season ticket holders from now, and any unclaimed season ticket seats from 10 am on Wednesday January 21.

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability. Please remember there are **no concessions** available on cash turnstiles.



## Nationwide League Division Two Hartlepool Utd v Luton Town



Saturday January 31, 2004, kick-off 3pm

Prices: Adults £15,

Senior Citizens and Juniors £7

NO student concessions are available for this game

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

Tickets are now on general sale at the Kenilworth Road ticket office

**Match tickets can be ordered on credit or debit cards by telephoning the ticket office on 01582 416976**

# News From The Ticket Office



## Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Colchester Utd



Saturday February 7, 2004, 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.



## Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v



Brighton & Hove Albion

Tuesday February 10, 2004,  
kick-off 7.45pm

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.

## Ticket Office Opening Hours

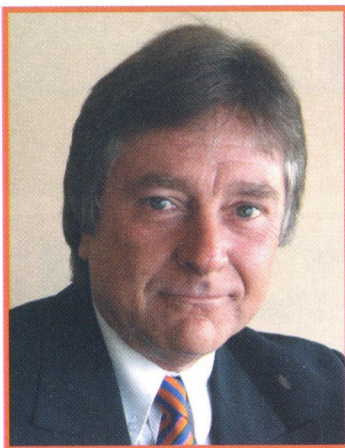
### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10am to 5.00pm, 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.





# Commercial Corner

WE GIVE a very warm welcome today to all our commercial partners and sponsors as we look forward to our first home match of 2004.

It's great to be back at Kenilworth Road after what seems like an endless stream of away fixtures.

## JOINT MATCH SPONSORS

**John Chatterley of the Fox & Hounds, Clapham**

AS AN inaugural member of the Century Club, we welcome back today Mr John Chatterley, licensee of the Fox & Hounds in Clapham, as this afternoon's joint match sponsor. As a life-long supporter of the Hatters, businessman John regularly uses our matchday commercial facilities to entertain his business associates, as well as friends and members of his family. The club takes this opportunity to thank John for his staunch support, and wish him and his guests a superb afternoon with us.

## JOINT MATCH SPONSORS

**Decillion Financial Planning**

WE ALSO welcome here today, for the first time as joint match sponsor, Luton-based Decillion Financial Planning. Located in Bramingham



**Derek Farr MD of Critical Research presenting Marlon Beresford with his Man of the Match Trophy.**



**Critical Research young supporters of tomorrow, at our Notts County match.**

Business Centre, at Enterprise Way, Decillion are specialists in tax mitigation, corporate planning, investments and protection. As independent financial advisors, they specialise in supporting your future as well as the "Town." Call them now for your free consultation on 01582 516111, and should you decide to take advantage of any of their services, Decillion Financial Planning will donate 25% of all fees and commissions they make directly to Luton Town FC.



**Rebecca Foster & Nathan Lea, together with Ann Barlett of Sainsbury's, winners of Coca-Cola's regional competition seen here with squad members.**

# Welcome to All Our Sponsors and Guests



**Colin Keeley as it's sponsor, being presented with the Match Ball by Marlon Beresford and squad members.**

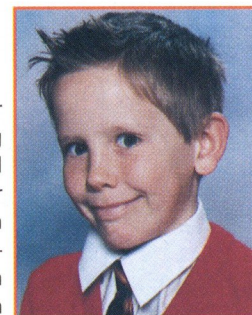


**Jordan Robbins, Commercial Mascot and family members, receiving his certificate.**

## COMMERCIAL MASCOT

**Andrew Hymus**

IT'S A big day for Andrew Hymus, joining us today as commercial mascot. He is a regular visitor to Kenilworth Road, usually accompanied by today's match sponsor John Chatterley.



Andrew attends Bushmead Primary School in Luton, and plays for Bushmead Wanderers in the Windowcraft Chiltern Youth League. He numbers numerous Town players as his favourite, but with his tremendous performances since joining us, our goalkeeper Marlon Beresford is Andrew's choice for today. We all wish Andrew a great and memorable day with us.

Finally, as this is our first home match of 2004, everyone in the commercial department team wishes all supporters a very Happy New Year, and we look forward to being of further service through the rest of the season. We have a wide variety of sponsorship packages on offer, designed to suit all budgets, and you can reach us by phone or e-mail: see the bottom of these pages for details.

*Peter Davis*

## TRAVEL EXTRAS PLAYER OF THE MONTH

**travelextras**

**Win the chance to present the trophy!**

Have your say on the Hatters player of the month for January, and you could find yourself on the pitch to present the trophy early next month, alongside a representative of the club's official shirt sponsor, travelextras. We will publish a reminder in a future edition about the closing date for this competition.

You can vote via the Luton Town official website free of charge, but if you vote by text and correctly nominate the winner, you will be entered into a prize draw to win two main stand tickets, and the invitation to present the trophy. To qualify, send a message to 88442 stating "LUTON" and then the surname of your choice of player of the month. You will receive two text messages, one to confirm your vote and one when the draw has been closed, to inform you of the result. The total cost for voting by text is 50p.





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Hatters



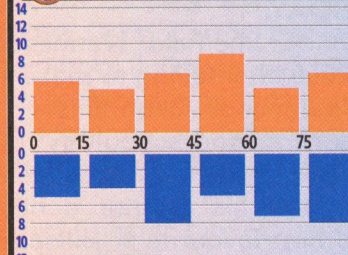
Form Guide:

Won: 3  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 1  
Scored: 7  
Conc: 4  
Points: 11  
Goal Diff: 3  
Last 6: WWLWDW  
Last 5 Home: DWLWLW  
Last 5 Away: DDWDD  
Miscellaneous  
Players Used: 32  
Clean Sheets: 5  
Failed to Score: 4

### The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Howard, Perrett	2
Long range shots	McSheffrey	2
Inside 6 yards	Perrett	2
Shots from 6-18 yards	Forbes	6
Volleyed shots	3 players	1
Penalties	Nicholls, McSheffrey	1
Scored 1st Goal in match	Howard, Forbes	3
Most goals in last 10	5 players	1
Points gained from goals	Howard	7.5

### When Goals Scored & Conceded



### Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	145
Goals conceded	37
On target/goals scored	3.92
Division 2 rating	19

### Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	150
Goals scored	39
On target / goals	3.85
Division 2 Rating	4

### Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	5
Points won	2
Goals Against, last 10	7
Points lost	8

### Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	13.28
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	18
Average Offsides per game	4.92
Div 2 Rating	23

### Swings

WON when behind	3
DRAWN when behind	3
LOST when ahead	2
DRAWN when ahead	5
WON 2 down	1
WON 1 down	2
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	2
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	3
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	5

### Attendances

Aggregate	72,703
Highest	8,339
Lowest	5,009
Average	6,059

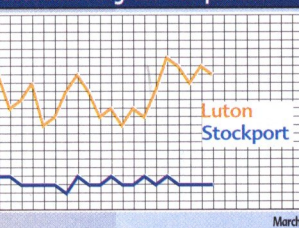
### Where Goals

Close Range	14
Inside Area	16
Outside Area	2

### How Goals

Shots	16
Headers	7
Volleys	5
Penalties	3
Free Kicks	1
Own Goals	0

### Seasonal Progress Comparison



### Set Piece Goals

<b>CORNERS:</b>	
Scored from C	4
Conceded from C	4
<b>FREE KICKS:</b>	
Scored from FK	4
Conceded from FK	4

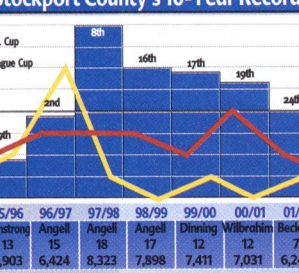
### Cards

52	5
----	---

### Margins

<b>WON BY:</b>		<b>LOST BY:</b>	
1 Goal	5	1 Goal	3
2 Goals	5	2 Goals	2
3 Goals	0	3 Goals	2
4 Goals	0	4 Goals	0
5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	0

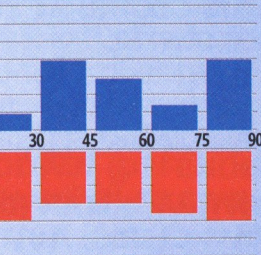
### Stockport County's 10-Year Record



### The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Barlow	4
Long range shots	Lambert, Lynch	1
Inside 6 yards	Wilbraham, Barlow	5
Shots from 6-18 yards	Wilbraham, Goodwin	2
Volleyed shots	Barlow	2
Penalties	Lambert	2
Scored 1st Goal in match	Wilbraham	3
Most goals in last 10	Barlow	2
Points gained from goals	Wilbraham	7

### When Goals Scored & Conceded



### Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	159
Goals conceded	40
On target/goals scored	3.98
Division 2 rating	18

### Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	126
Goals scored	32
On target / goals	3.94
Division 2 Rating	6

### Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	6
Points won	6
Goals Against, last 10	6
Points lost	5

### Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	11.12
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	2
Average Offsides per game	3.84
Div 2 Rating	13

### Swings

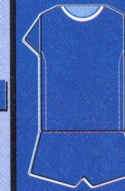
WON when behind	1
DRAWN when behind	6
LOST when ahead	1
DRAWN when ahead	5
WON 2 down	0
WON 1 down	1
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	1
DRAWN 2+ down	1
DRAWN 1 down	5
DRAWN 2+ up	1
DRAWN 1 up	4

### Attendances

Aggregate	62,209
Highest	6,256
Lowest	3,683
Average	4,785



Hatters



Form Guide:

Won: 1  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 8  
Scored: 8  
Conc: 8  
Points: 6  
Goal Diff: 0  
Last 6: DDLLDW  
Last 5 Home: LWDLW  
Last 5 Away: WDDLD  
Miscellaneous  
Players Used: 27  
Clean Sheets: 3  
Failed to Score: 5



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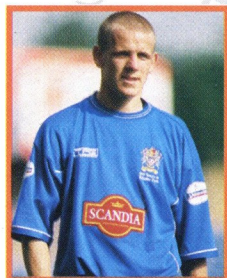
# Welcome to Today's Visitors

## 2. DANNY GRIFFIN (DEFENDER) PREVIOUS CLUBS: ST JOHNSTONE, DUNDEE UNITED

Northern Ireland international who joined us in January from Dundee United. Also served St Johnstone.

## 3. DANNY JACKMAN (DEFENDER) PREVIOUS CLUBS: ASTON VILLA

Danny joined us in December from Aston Villa for £70,000 after a successful loan period.



## 5. ROBERT CLARE (DEFENDER) PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE

Robert is another successful product of our Centre of Excellence. He joined County as a 15-year-old and turned

professional in January 2000.

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

Captained England Under 20s in May 2002.

## 6. MARK ROBERTSON (MIDFIELD) PREVIOUS CLUBS: BURNLEY, SWINDON, DUNDEE, ST JOHNSTONE

Mark, an Australian international, has joined us until the end of the season (with an option for another year) following his release from Dundee for financial reasons.

## 7. AARON LESCOTT (MIDFIELD) FORMER CLUBS: ASTON VILLA,

## LINCOLN CITY (LOAN), SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

Aaron joined Sheffield Wednesday in October 2000 after failing to make a first-team appearance at Aston Villa.

The former England schoolboy international, older brother of Wolves' defender Joleon, made his league debut and became a firm favourite at Hillsborough with his tenacious midfield performances.

He also made an impression on Carlton Palmer who made Aaron his first signing after taking over at Edgeley Park paying £75,000 to the Owls for the 22-year-old in November 2001.

Following the departure of long-term skipper Mike Flynn Lescott was handed the captain's arm band but a knee injury sustained at Grimsby in February 2002 ruled him out of the rest of the campaign

## 8. AARON WILBRAHAM (STRIKER)

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

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

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

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

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



# Stockport County F.C.



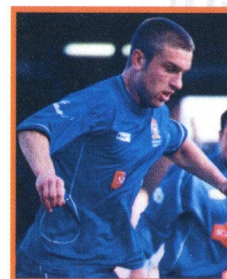
## 9. LUKE BECKETT (STRIKER) PREVIOUS CLUBS: BARNSELY, CHESTER CITY, CHESTERFIELD

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

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

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

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



## 10. RICKIE LAMBERT (MIDFIELD) PREVIOUS CLUBS: BLACKPOOL, MACCLESFIELD TOWN.

Rickie moved to Edgeley Park in April 2002 from Macclesfield Town for £300,000, a record fee for our Cheshire neighbours.

Lambert joined the Silkmen in the 2000-01 season after serving his traineeship at Blackpool and, after a slow start, emerged as a midfield player with enormous potential.

The Liverpoolian also holds another Macclesfield record – the first player to score a hat-trick for the team since they won promotion to the Football League in 1997.

## 12. JIM GOODWIN (DEFENDER) PREVIOUS CLUB: GLASGOW CELTIC.

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

The Waterford-born defender joined the Scottish giants as a 15-year-old but despite progressing to captain the Republic of Ireland Under-21 team he found opportunities limited at Park Head. Just one first-team appearance, against Dundee United in May 2000, prompted his decision to move south.

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

## 13. JAMES SPENCER (GOALKEEPER)

James joined our Centre of Excellence in 1999 and signed YT forms 2 years later. He was still just 16 when he became the club's youngest-ever goalkeeper last April when his terrific save late in the game helped us beat Watford 2-1.

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

## 14. FRASER MCLACHLAN (MID- FIELD) PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE

Fraser joined the club's Centre of



# Welcome to Today's Visitors

Excellence in 1995 and signed professional forms in July 2001.

Following his debut at Sheffield United last March the 19-year-old became a permanent fixture in the County midfield and scored his first League goal, a 20-yard volley, against Watford in April.

## **15. KEVIN ELLISON (MIDFIELD)** **PREVIOUS CLUBS: LEICESTER CITY**

Kevin burst onto the non-league scene with Altrincham in 1999-2000 and quickly became a target for a host of league clubs.

Leicester City gave him his big opportunity when they paid £50,000 to the Cheshire club in February 2001.

But, despite making his Foxes debut in

front of 67,000 fans at Old Trafford, the Liverpool-born winger found himself well down the pecking order at Filbert Street.

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

## **18. JOHN HARDIKER (DEFENDER)** **PREVIOUS CLUBS: MORECAMBE**

John became the first club to join Morecambe's academy, in 1998, after failing to win a YTS contract at Bury.

A regular in the Shrimpers' side since

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# Stockport County F.C.

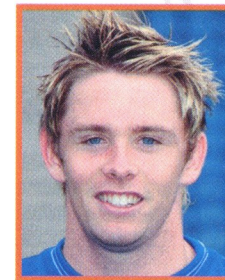


making his debut as a 16-year-old John made around 100 appearances for the Lancashire club.

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

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

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



## **19. ANDY WELSH (MIDFIELD)** **PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE**

Andy joined County's School of Excellence in January 1999 after writing to the club for a trial.

The former Tameside 800m schoolboy champion made his first-team debut against Millwall in October and was capped by Scotland at under-19 level the following month.

Fifteen appearances by the end of the season underlined his potential and his traditional wing-play down the left touchline made him a firm favourite amongst the County faithful.

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

lowing a hernia operation.

## **20. OWEN MORRISON (MIDFIELD)** **PREVIOUS CLUBS: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY, SHEFFIELD UNITED**

The Northern Ireland Under-21 international joined us close season after serving both Sheffield clubs.

He turned down the offer of a one-year contract at Bramall Lane in favour of a two-year deal at Edgeley Park.

## **23. CHRIS WILLIAMS (STRIKER)** **PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE**

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

Later that month he travelled with the first-team squad to Finland and scored against SC Kings after coming on as substitute.

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

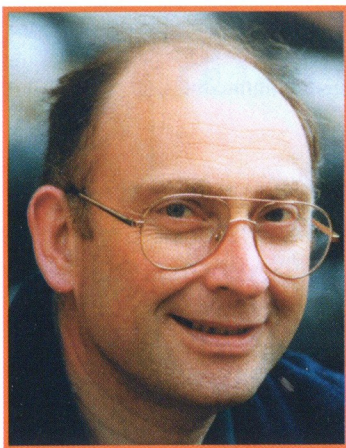
## **26. ALI GIBB (MIDFIELD)** **PREVIOUS CLUBS: NORWICH CITY, NORTHAMPTON TOWN**

After failing to make the grade at Norwich Ali kick-started his career after joining Northampton in 1995.

Although he made more than 100 appearances for the Cobblers he was not considered as a first-team regular and it was something of a surprise when County paid £50,000 to bring him to Edgeley Park in 2000.

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





## Blast From The Past

We welcome again Stockport to Kenilworth Road for only the eighth time during our respective long histories.

When we won the champi-

onship of the old Division Three (South) in 1937, Stockport won the Northern section at the same time and by coincidence the two sides clashed at Edgeley Park on the opening day of the following season. Despite the absence of 'ten goal' Joe Payne, who was taken ill on the journey north, we took the lead through Albert Dawes but could not hold on with Stockport netting twice, the winner coming four minutes from time.

By the time of the return, on New Years Day 1938, Stockport were struggling at the wrong end of the table but they made a nonsense of their league position when going in at the interval 4-3 ahead. Fortunately, the Town proved the stronger side in the second half with goals from George Stephenson, Charlie Ferguson and Jack Vinall sealing an unlikely 6-4 victory.

Stockport were relegated at the end of that season and it was not until 1965 that the two sides clashed

again, this time in Division Four. We travelled to Edgeley Park only days after our shock home F.A. Cup defeat at the hands of Corby and were then thrashed 4-1 by a rampant Stockport side which included future Luton star Keith Allen who bagged a hat-trick.

When the return game came around the following May we had managed to overcome our mid-season slump and were challenging for promotion. Bruce Rioch scored after only six minutes to put us ahead, but we had to suffer several anxious moments after full-back

Fred Jardine went off with an ankle injury, which meant we lost our shape for a while.

Heroics from goalkeeper Tony Read, playing his first game between the sticks for the Town after scoring 12 goals as an inside-forward earlier in the campaign, kept us in the game, before John O'Rourke was brought down in the box on the hour with Ray Whittaker netting from the spot.

In the following season, the worst in our history, we went down twice to a County side that walked away with the championship. County had recruited what many critics thought were old men (including Matt Woods from the Town) to mount a promotion bid, but they gelled brilliantly as we were to find out.

County had won four games on the trot when we came up against them at Kenilworth Road early in the season and it was 'men against boys' as the visitors ran out easy 3-0 winners with veteran Frank Lord scoring twice.

In the return we went down 0-1, but in truth only the woodwork and a brilliant display from triallist goalkeeper Ron Swan kept the score down.

It was to be only two seasons before we met again, following our promotion to the old Division Three, and when the sides clashed at Edgeley Park in November 1968 we were going through a spell of being invincible at home but returning pointless from our travels.



**Gary Waddock tussles with Chris Marsden during the 1-1 draw at Stockport in 1996.**

## Hatters and County Clashes Over The Years

A crowd of 13,246 gathered at Edgeley Park, not to watch the Town but to welcome new signing from Everton, Alex Young, the 'Golden Vision'. The Town were forced on the defensive throughout, but any hopes of stealing a point were dashed when Fred Goodwin let fly from 25 yards just after half-time with Bill Atkins heading a second towards the end.

The return was played just before the end of the season when we were desperately clinging to hopes of promotion. Stockport's early season promise had by then evaporated.

We scored twice in a minute early on through Brian Lewis and Rioch and were cruising to victory when Stockport were awarded a controversial penalty on the hour.

John Moore caught the ball in the area after hearing a whistle, which turned out to come from someone in the crowd! Young scored from the resultant spot-kick.

Fired by this injustice the Town players rolled up their sleeves and two more goals from Lewis confirmed an emphatic victory.

The final pair of games for many years took place in 1969/70 in a season that saw the Town promoted and County move back to Division Four. Neither game set the pulses racing with Chris Nicholl and Malcolm Macdonald netting during a lacklustre home win while a Matt Tees effort was enough to

earn a point in the return.

It was to be 26 years before the sides met again, this time in Division Two in 1996/97 when Stockport and the Town were scrapping away at the top of the table throughout most of the campaign.

After a terrible start, when the first three games were lost, we had gone on a run of only one reversal from the next eight matches before meeting County at Edgeley Park. We went ahead in the first half courtesy of Steve Davis but the home side fought back and scored a deserved equaliser through Brett Angell to leave honours even.

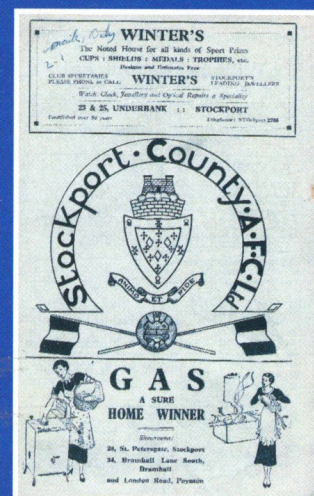
The return match was a carnival occasion at Kenilworth Road with Stockport already promoted and the Town booked for an ultimately unsuccessful play-off spot.

This time Stockport took the lead from the spot but Andrew Fotiadis scored with a clever lob to level when it seemed that goalkeeper Paul Jones was about to be proved unbeatable.

We did not have to wait long before meeting again and clashed again last season when goals from goals from Matthew Spring, with two, and Fotiadis finally ended our Edgeley Park jinx as we registered a 3-2 win and we then followed it up with another victory there in August.

*Roger Wash*

## Yesterday's pages



The programme featured this week is the first ever league meeting between the sides on the opening day of the 1937/38 season. Both clubs had won promotion to the old Division Two at the end of the previous campaign and a crowd of 19,077 turned out to see a 2-1 Stockport win.

One thing absent from the programme is any mention of the nickname 'Hatters' nor is there any mention in the programmes issued by County for our four meetings in the 1960's apart from referring to us by our nickname in the 1965/66 issue.

In recent seasons there have been accusations from the Stockport end that we have somehow misappropriated a nickname that they have suddenly decided has been theirs since time immemorial. The gloves are now off. Proof please ladies and gentlemen!





## Are You A Hatters Fan? Then Come And Join Us!



Luton Town Supporters Club is the official Hatters fans' club, but is independent and run by its members.

Benefits include discounts on away match travel, and reduced admission charges to regular meetings with players and staff, and to the end of season presentation night.

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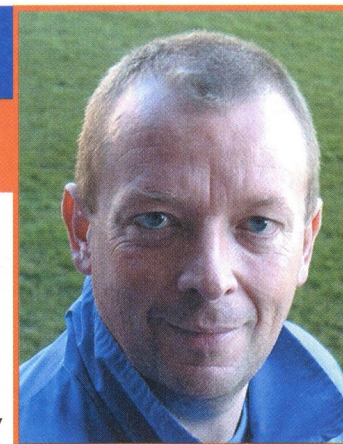
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# LTFC in the Community

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ON BEHALF of everyone involved in the Community Department,  
can I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

### The PFA National Schools Six-a-Side Tournament.

YESTERDAY evening we held our local heats of this competition for Year 6, Under-11 schools teams. The local winners will be announced in our next matchday magazine. They will go on to represent Luton Town at the area final in Derby on Thursday Feb 5.

We could accommodate 18 teams for this competition and the target was met within a couple of days, so unfortunately we had to disappoint a number of schools. The target next year will be to run two or more local stages.

It was good to see this year that we have had entries from as far afield as Leighton Buzzard, so the good name of Luton Town Football in the Community is spreading further round the county. The schools taking part yesterday were:

Sacred Heart Junior, Luton  
Foxdell Junior, Luton  
Bushmead Primary, Luton  
Gilbert Inglefield Middle, Leighton Buzzard 'A'  
Gilbert Inglefield Middle, Leighton Buzzard 'B'  
Wigmore Primary, Luton  
Wenlock Junior 'A', Luton  
Wenlock Junior 'B', Luton  
Hillborough Junior, Luton  
Ramridge Junior, Luton  
Norton Road Primary, Luton  
Warden Hill Junior Luton  
Someries Junior, Luton  
Beech Hill Primary, Luton  
Streetfields Middle, 'A', Caddington  
Streetfields Middle, 'B', Caddington  
St Mathews Junior, Luton  
Legrave Primary, Luton

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# Fan's Patience Is Well Rewarded

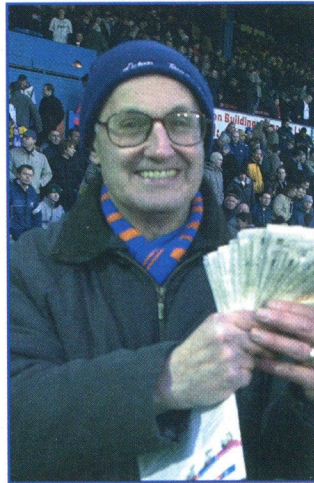
IT MIGHT be win, lose or draw on the pitch, but for one supporter there is always a very happy result at our home games, thanks to the wedge of cash on offer in our Golden Gamble competition. And for Tony Rubin, who scooped £780 at the Notts County game, it was a prize worth waiting for. Mr. Rubin is from Menecik Road, London NW2, has been watching the



Town for 40 years, and said this was the first time he had ever gone home richer than when he arrived! His lucky £1 ticket was bought in the Main Stand.

At the Barnsley game the jackpot was £795, and was won by Michelle Rosson, from Luton Road, Barton, who supports the Town from the Kenny End.

Another fistful of fivers and tenners is on offer today. Each Golden Gamble ticket costs just £1, and half of the money goes to the jackpot and the other 50p to club funds. The draw is made on the pitch at half time, with the cash handed over there and then. So far this season the Golden Gamble has paid £8,805 to 14 winners, an average of £629 each.



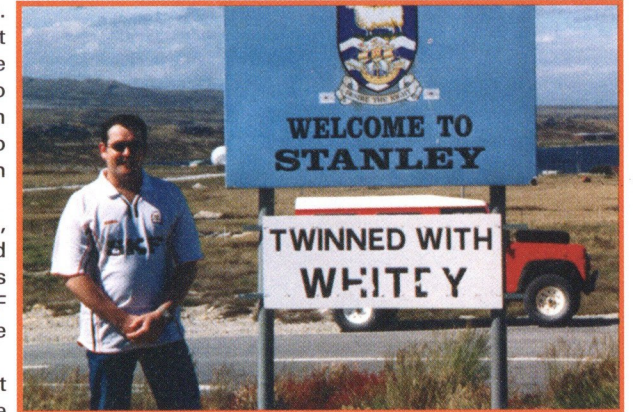
# Hatter Abroad On Active Service

SOME fans travel the world to enjoy holidays. Others do it for a living, and as this is our first match of a new year we thought we might use this feature today to offer our best wishes to the supporter pictured on duty in the South Atlantic. John McElroy has since moved on to Iraq, and we wish him a safe and speedy return in the near future.

His pal, Colin Keeley, from Villiers Close, Luton, sent in the picture. "It was taken in the Falkland Islands on Christmas Day just over 12 months ago. My very good friend has been in the RAF for 12 years, and has been posted all over the world with 34 Sqn RAF Regiment.

"He has been a Luton fan all his life, but because of his career his opportunities to see the Town play are limited to around half a dozen matches per season.

"I am sure he would love to see this picture in the programme, and if it is published I will make sure to send him a copy, out to Basra, where he is currently posted. And look out for a further Hatters Abroad picture of the two of us in Barbados in April, where we are going for the third test match."

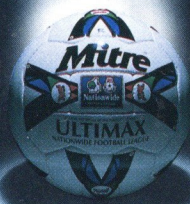


**WE ARE** always pleased to receive photographs of Hatters supporters in their club colours anywhere in the world. If you have an interesting snap you would like to see published please send it, with a few details, to the editor, by post to Luton Town FC, or by e-mail to [brian.swain@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.swain@btinternet.com). Please include your home address and a day-time phone number and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back. But don't offer us anything which is irreplaceable, because with the best will in the world items sometimes go astray.

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# Roller Coaster Day Out Is An FA Cup Cracker

## Bradford City 1 Luton Town 2

WE WENT through almost every emotion possible before celebrating a tremendous FA Cup success: sheer delight at a sparking first-half performance, then hope that it was about all over when Adrian Forbes netted his second goal two minutes into the second half, nail-biting tension as Bradford finally got it together and scored; more elation when we were awarded a stoppage-time penalty; dumbstruck as it was saved to deny Forbes his hat-trick; then elation when six long minutes of added time ticked away at last.

Our first trip to Bradford in 13 years was a cracking day out, and even home manager Bryan Robson admitted that the Town were worthy winners. He could hardly believe how comprehensively his team was outplayed in the first half. Bradford were never allowed a sight of the Town goal, while their midfield and defence was on the back foot solidly as the Town's football flowed smoothly.

Steve Howard played a delightful pass for Forbes to net his 12th goal of the season in the 20th minute, and Bradford were lucky to be only one down at the break, with Alan Combe twice extended by Steve Robinson and once by Matt Spring.

Robson gave his men a rocket at half-time. Their performance, he said, was not acceptable for a First Division side at home to Second Division opponents. Perhaps he fired them up too much. A couple of minutes after the restart Paul Evans brought down Howard 30 yards from goal, and Robinson delivered a peach of a free kick. Howard got the knock-down and Forbes pounced to make it 2-0.

Bradford battled hard after that, and the Town survived a lot of heavy pressure. On 84 minutes Sol Davis tangled with Dean Windass, and Andy Gray cracked home the penalty. We sat on the edge of our seats after that, with the tension increased when four minutes into stoppage time Howard was brought down by Jason Gavin. Forbes stepped up confidently to claim his second FA Cup hat-trick of the season. One of his treble against Thurrock was from the spot, but this time Combe denied him, and we were left to sweat and fret until the long-delayed final whistle brought an eruption of joy from the big Town following.

"We have won it on merit," said Mike Newell. "Our first half performance was particularly good. We deserved to be in front at half-time and could have been further in front. The second goal came at a great time, so early in the second half. It was the FA Cup and you don't expect things to be as easy as they were, and then we found out it was never going to be easy. It was a very long last half-hour. You would expect Bradford to have a go, at home although not playing with any confidence in the first half.

"That was to our advantage. They're struggling a bit in the First Division, and we knew if we could get on top of them it would go for us, and that's the way it worked out.

"But they put us under a lot of pressure in the second half, when we didn't keep the ball the way we could have. But we're really pleased to be in the hat for the next round of the FA Cup, and at the end of the day it's all about winning to go through, not worrying about the performance."

### Match Details

**TOWN:** Beresford; Foley, Boyce, Coyne, Davis; Mansell, Robinson, Spring (Holmes 69 mins), Brkovic; Forbes, Howard. Unused subs: Hillier, Leary, Crowe, Brill.

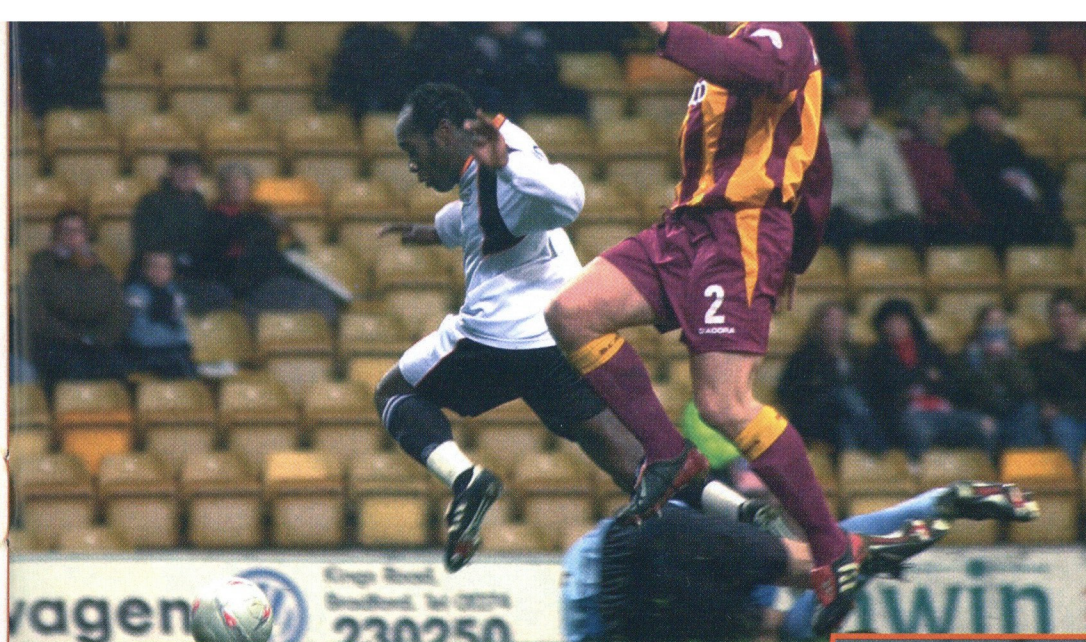
**BOOKED:** Steve Robinson.

**BRADFORD CITY:** Combe; Atherton, Wetherall (Gavin 52 mins), Bower, Heckingbottom; Evans, Farrelly, Kearney (Muirhead 39 mins), Windass; Armstrong, Gray (Branch 88 mins). Unused subs: Davies, Francis.

**BOOKED:** Alun Armstrong.

**REFEREE:** Mark Clattenburg, County Durham.

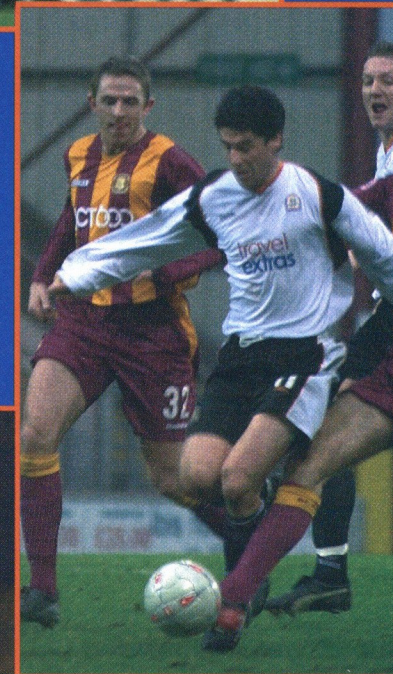
**ATTENDANCE:** 8,222, well below the Valley Parade average, but boosted by 1,620 following the Town.



**ON OUR WAY:** Adrian Forbes skips round the goalkeeper before putting the Town ahead, with Bradford defender Peter Atherton powerless to intervene.

**RIGHT:** Midfield driving force Steve Robinson bursts clear of two would-be markers, Gareth Farrelly and Mark Bower.

**BELOW:** Joy unconfined as the Town celebrate Forbes's second goal, with Steve Robinson, who delivered the free kick, top of the pile.





# Hatters Pic of the Week

Adrian Forbes has begun the year in unstoppable form in his role as emergency striker, and has also joined Steve Howard in providing service for others to hit the mark as well. This is the moment when the Town started to unpick the Rushden defence for their second goal at Nene Park. Howard provided a neat pass to Forbes, who is airborne and almost horizontal for a header to by-pass Andy Sambrook and send the ball on to Ahmet Brkovic. He in turn crossed accurately for Peter Holmes to become the Town's 20th scorer of the season - 21 if you count Stephen Purches of Bournemouth, provider of our only own goal of the campaign so far.





# Penalty Save Secures Well-deserved Draw

## Rushden & Diamonds 2 Luton Town 2

IT WAS uncanny how the game at Nene Park was almost a carbon copy of what we had seen at Bradford – a storming first-half show which should have ensured victory, followed by a falling-off. The point was well-deserved, but only secured when Marlon Beresford pulled off a late penalty save, and was let off the hook in stoppage time when Onandi Lowe wasted a chance that looked harder to miss than accept.

It left Mike Newell wondering why the Town cannot do for 90 minutes what they did so splendidly for 45 or more.

"We're not happy with the draw after our first-half performance," he said. "It was a big disappointment that we could not match it in the second, because we felt that the game was there for the taking. Give Rushden credit because they played a lot better in the second half, but I think that is because we allowed them to.

"If we had matched the performance in the second half we would have won, but that didn't happen. Rushden put us under pressure and it could have been a lot worse if the penalty hadn't been saved." It made for tremendous entertainment for Nene Park's biggest attendance of the season, with a massive Town following adding to the atmosphere.

Rushden were played off the park in the first half. Adrian Forbes knocked in his 14th goal of the season after six minutes, meeting a driven cross to the far post by Steve Robinson. Four minutes later Steve Howard put a free header from Ian Hillier's cross straight to the keeper.

Hillier was deputising for suspended Sol Davis, and was up against Rushden's best player, right winger Paul Hall, who delivered a cross which was headed in by Paul Kitson on 16 minutes, an equaliser completely against the run of play.

Peter Holmes, replacing injured Matt Spring, was a very able replacement, and having driven a cross-shot wide when he might have scored made amends

in the 40th minute to complete a cracking Town move. It started with Howard knocking the ball forward to Forbes, who beat his would-be marker by bending low in the face of a flying boot to head the ball out to Ahmet Brkovic on the left wing. The centre was perfection, and so was the deft header which gave Holmes his first goal of the season.

But in the second half the Town lost their fizz, and Rushden raised their game after a bit of a roasting from manager Brian Talbot.

Hillier limped off with a knee injury ten minutes after the break, and 20-year-old Michael Leary was given the job of marking Hall. The Jamaican international enjoyed an inspired half-game, and Rushden continually fed him to deliver a stream of crosses. Like the Town earlier, Rushden failed to take advantage as well as they should have before skipper and centre-half Barry Hunter went upfield in the 65th minute to head the equaliser from a corner.

Rushden then wasted the best chance of the day on 83 minutes. Hall drilled in a low cross and a pile of bodies surrounded the ball. Beresford was flattened, and as Robinson tried to intervene he was flat out as well when he was penalised for handball. "I was on the ground and the ball was hit straight at me," he said.

Robinson was booked, which will cost him a suspension, and Beresford received treatment for three minutes. Ritchie Hanlon didn't need that much time to think about how he was going to take the penalty, and to the relief of more than 2,000 fans at the other end he shot it almost straight at Beresford, who had stood tall until the ball was hit. It ball rebounded off the goalkeeper's legs, straight back to Hanlon, and it bounced off him and out of play for a goal kick.

It prevented a defeat which would have been undeserved, and maintained the Town's mastery over Rushden – the competitive record now is five Town wins and one draw. "We're getting better," said Brian Talbot with a smile.

### Match Details

**TOWN:** Beresford; Foley, Boyce, Coyne, Hillier (Leary 55 mins); Mansell, Robinson, Holmes, Brkovic; Forbes, Howard. Unused subs: Showunmi, Davies, O'Leary, Brill.

**BOOKED:** Steve Howard, Steve Robinson and Lee Mansell.

**RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS:** Ashdown; Sambrook, Hunter, Quinn, Bignot; Hall, Hanlon, Burgess, Jack; Kitson, Lowe. Subs, all unused: Mills, Dempster, Bell, Talbot, Akinfenwa.

**BOOKED:** Onandi Lowe.

**REFEREE:** Steve Tanner, Avon.

**ATTENDANCE:** 5,823, Nene Park's highest of the season, thanks to the biggest away following they have yet seen: 2,319 Town fans.



**HOT-SHOT:** Adrian Forbes, extreme left, knocks in his 14th goal of the season, and his third in two games.

**RIGHT:** Happiness – Peter Holmes, in the team as deputy for injured Matt Spring, celebrates after heading his first goal of the season to put the Town ahead for the second time.

**BELOW:** Steve Howard was a perpetual handful for the Diamonds, giving a torrid time on this occasion to Barry Hunter and debut boy Barry Quinn, who has just joined Rushden on loan from Coventry.





## Town Teaser

IF YOU know your Town Trivia, you could win a pair of match tickets in our Town Teaser competition. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. At the last home game, against Notts County, we asked about a couple of Marks who made debuts against the Meadow Lane outfit at the start of the 2000/2001 season. The answer was Mark Stein and Mark Ovendale.

## TODAY'S QUESTION

WHY did Alan Neilson and Steve Howard in particular enjoy the game the last time we played Stockport County?

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# Unbeaten Holiday Keeps Play-off Chase Going

SUCCESS in the FA Cup means that this is our first programme of the year, so although Christmas already seems a long time ago we felt that supporters might like, for the record, brief reports of matches against Colchester and Notts County.

### Colchester Utd 1 Luton Town 1

A POINT taken from rivals in the play-off scrap was very welcome, but left Mike Newell believing that if the Town's finishing had matched their possession play, it could have been all three. Not that he was complaining – the Town had lived dangerously defensively, and in terms of goal attempts Colchester boss Phil Parkinson felt his side should have won.

They had the better of the early exchanges and took the lead in the 12th minute. Wayne Andrews delivered a whipped cross from the right for Scott McGleish to fling himself at the ball and head a spectacular goal.

The Town refused to let the reverse unsettle them, and play evened out, bringing a deserved equaliser on 28 minutes when Matt Spring's shot from just outside the box was deflected into the path of Lee Mansell, whose drive thundered in for his third goal of the season.

There was little to choose between the sides after that. Beresford made several decent saves, the best in the 84th-minute to keep out a header by Andrews. The biggest home crowd of the season rose to salute the goal, only for Beresford to choke off the cheers by diving full-length to his left to tip the ball away. The loudest roar then, and at the end, came from the big Town following.

Mike Newell said: "For all the play we had I thought we didn't create anything too clear-cut. I was a little disappointed in that, but I was happy with the way the lads played and applied themselves."

Referee Joe Ross found cause to issue six yellow cards, but it was never that sort of a game.

### Match Details

**Town:** Beresford; Foley, Boyce, Coyne, Davis; Mansell (Holmes 88 mins), Robinson, Spring, Brkovic; Forbes, Howard. Unused subs: Crowe, Hillier, Showunmi, Brill.

**Booked:** Chris Coyne, Sol Davis, Ahmet Brkovic, Adrian Forbes and Steve Howard.

**Colchester:** Brown; Stockley, Chilvers, White, Myers; Fagan, Pinault, Izzett, Vine; Andrews, McGleish (Cade 74 mins). Unused subs: Keith, Johnson, Fitzgerald, McKinney

**Booked:** Thomas Pinault.

**Referee:** Joe Ross, London.

**Attendance:** 5,083 Colchester's highest of the season, boosted by 941 Town fans.

### Luton Town 2 Notts County 0

IT WAS Mick Harford's turn to give the post-match press conference after the Town made it four points out of six over Christmas. And the major point he made was similar to that offered by the manager a couple of days earlier at Layer Road: "It happens a lot down here – we get teams on the rack in the first 15 or 20 minutes but don't kill them off."

Notts County were given a real pasting for the first half hour or so, only to revive and threaten to nick a point before the Town finally finished them off in the closing minutes.

Adrian Forbes lobbed the opener in the fourth minute after Kevin Foley's diagonal cross was headed out by a defender to Steve Howard, who cleverly headed it back into space for Forbes to beat the off-side trap.

Steve Mildenhall made a top class save to keep out a Forbes header just before the break, but having got to the interval only one down County came back strongly at the start of the second half. Fortunately Paul Riley and Mark Stallard put close-range headers over the bar when they might have scored, and Marlon Beresford was on top form to maintain the fifth clean sheet in eight outings.

The Town finally clinched the points 11 minutes from time, when a deep corner by Matt Spring found its way to Chris Coyne on the right wing, and he produced a marvellous bit of footwork to bamboozle the opposition and knock the ball back into the danger area. It was cleared to the edge of the box and Emmerson Boyce lashed in a spectacular right-footed volley.

### Match Details

**Town:** Beresford; Foley, Boyce, Coyne, Davis; Mansell, Robinson, Spring (Hillier 78 mins), Brkovic (Holmes 70 mins); Forbes (Showunmi 88 mins), Howard. Unused subs: Crowe, Brill.

**Booked:** Emmerson Boyce.

**Notts County:** Mildenhall; Jenkins, Barras, Richardson, Nicholson; Baldry, Bolland (Hackworth 82 mins), Baraclough, Riley (Caskey 64 mins); Platt, Heffernan (Stallard 25 mins). Unused subs: Brough, Deeney.

**Booked:** No-one.

**Referee:** Lee Probert, Bristol.

**Attendance:** 7,181, second highest of the season despite the fact that only 363 came to support County.



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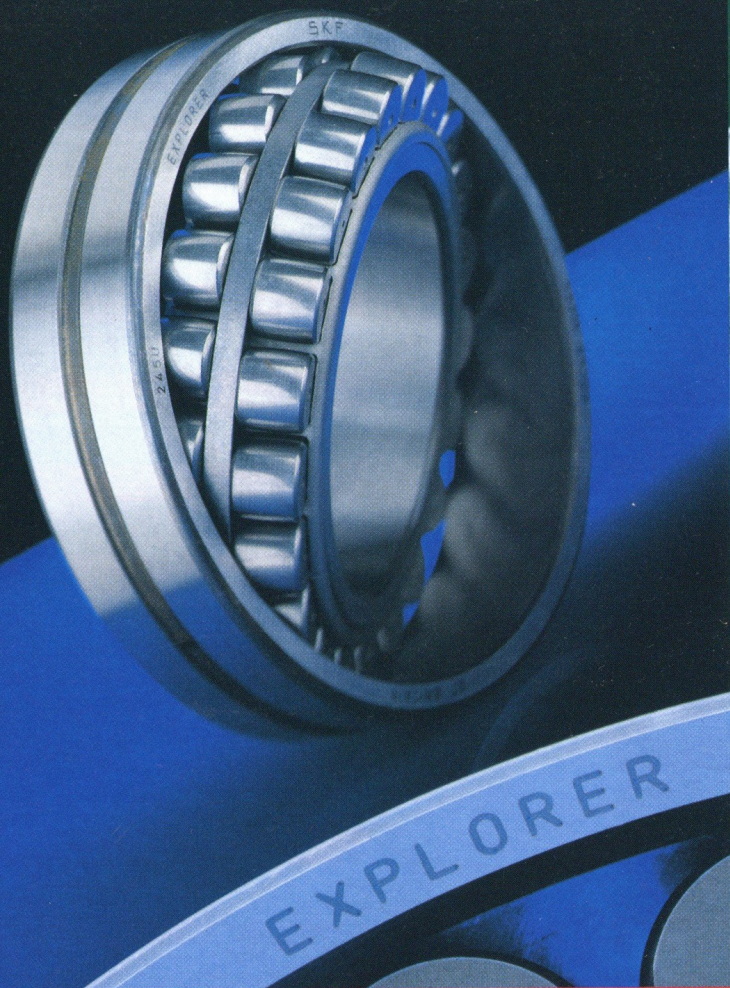
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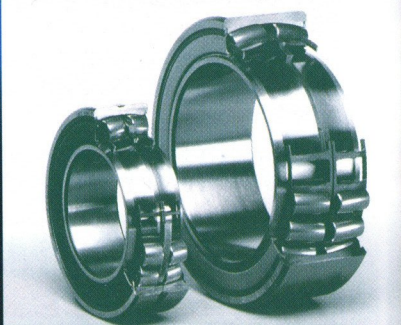
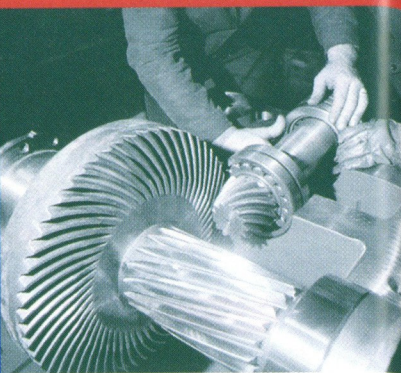
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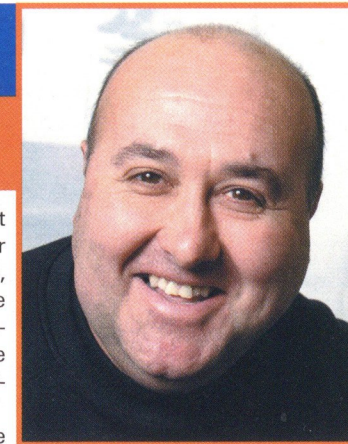
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# Youth Soccer The under-17s



OUR mid-season break was longer than expected, with an away game against championship hopefuls QPR called off before Christmas at their request, and then postponed again on Saturday at ours. We could not raise a team strong enough to do justice to the fixture, suffering the knock-on effect of the promotion of young players up through the ranks - the first team took four of Marvin Johnson's under-19s to Rushden, which meant four of my lads had to step up to Marvin's squad.

We are eighth in the league and at this stage of the season are doing better than I expected, and, more importantly, showing that we are learning all the time. In the two months before the break we won four of our five games, scoring 22 goals and conceding only three. At the start of the season I felt we looked all right defensively, but I was concerned about our scoring ability. But we are currently the third-highest scorers in the league.

My other concern was that I knew we would be fielding very young sides as a matter of policy. We want to use schoolboys, because we are looking for lads who can develop into scholars, so we put out teams which are usually mainly composed of 14-year-olds. We have several under-14s who are regularly in the squad. If you are good enough, you get

your chance at Luton, whatever your age, although we look at the opposition before throwing in 13-year-olds.

Last season we invariably met teams much older than ours, but it has been noticeable recently that other clubs are following our lead in using younger players. Football at this level is about bringing players on, with results secondary. We take our time maturing players, and you see the results when boys come up through the ranks to become professionals, with Kevin Foley the latest of many to benefit from what Luton Town can offer young players. Most are with us from the age of nine, and we are one of the few clubs who have a separate squad for each age group from under-9 to under-17. Boys who have been here a long time get a feeling for the club and aim to make the grade with us. We are allowed to recruit from an area within 90-minutes driving time of Luton, so there is plenty of competition from other clubs. So far we have not suffered with the arrival of Wimbledon at Milton Keynes. They are not really established there yet, and we have made sure our back door there is secure. Fortunately we are helped by having a fantastic part-time staff of coaches, managers and helpers, who do it more for love of Luton Town than for the money.

*Mark Ridgway*

### Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-17 South East Conference

#### August

9	Brentford	A	1-2	Burrows
16	Brighton	H	1-2	Burrows
23	Rushden	A	3-1	Burrows 2, Preston

#### September

6	Cambridge	A	0-2	
13	Portsmouth	A	0-3	
20	L. Orient	H	3-1	Andrew 2, Freeman
27	Southend	A	2-6	Magadah, Tague

#### October

4	Northampton	A	4-1	Preston 2, S. Sinclair, Burrows
11	Colchester	H	0-2	
18	Oxford	A	0-1	

#### November

1	Gillingham	A	4-1	Richardson, Smyth, Kenneford, Hanley
8	Wycombe	H	8-0	Freeman 3, Maitland 2, S. Sinclair, Magadah, Richardson
				R. Sinclair, Burrows, Richardson, Preston

15 L. Orient

#### December

6	Colchester	A	0-1	
13	Oxford	H	6-1	Ridgway, Keane, S. Sinclair, Hanley, Green, Jones

#### January

10	QPR	A	Postponed	
17	Gillingham	H		
24	Wycombe	A		

### Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-17 South East Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Brighton	19	15	0	4	58	22	36	45
QPR	17	13	4	0	62	18	44	43
Cambridge	19	12	3	4	43	17	26	39
Colchester	19	9	6	4	43	32	11	33
Portsmouth	19	8	5	6	36	32	4	29
Rushden	18	6	7	5	33	38	-5	25
Southend	17	7	3	7	38	32	6	24
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>
Oxford	18	6	2	10	28	47	-19	20
Brentford	17	4	5	8	26	37	-11	17
Gillingham	18	4	5	9	26	47	-21	17
Wycombe	17	3	7	7	26	50	-24	16
Northampton	18	3	2	13	24	49	-25	11
L. Orient	19	2	3	14	26	60	-34	9



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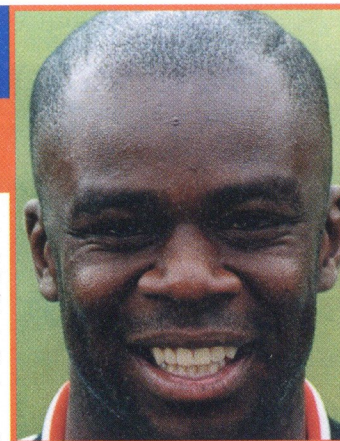
Paul Kenny

*Paul Kenny*

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# Youth Soccer: The under-19s



## Luton Town 0 Cambridge Utd 1

OBVIOUSLY I was disappointed with the result of my first game in sole charge of the squad, particularly as it was a "six-pointer" and defeat knocks our chances of a top-three finish in the regular season.

We are certain to finish fourth, but the merit divisions which follow the 18-game Conference season are put together with the top three from each of three conferences in one league, the middle three in the next and the bottom three in the lowest division. I want to see Luton Town in the top, so we need to win our remaining games, including one in hand, and improve our goal difference considerably.

Cambridge were very well organised, but we should have taken a point at least, but failed to convert several good chances. Matthew Judge, Calvin Andrew and Parys Okai could all have been on the score-sheet, but while the finishing was disappointing I was delighted with the very good attitude shown by the lads.

We were unable to field our strongest side because the first team took four of our boys to Rushden, and Leon Barnett was out through injury, but everyone tried hard and I was pleased with the overall per-

formance. Maintain that, and you have a chance of becoming footballers was the post-match message.

Cambridge worked hard for their win, although the goal, five minutes into the second half, was a bit scrappy. They won a lot of corners, and one was half-cleared, with a ricochet falling kindly to a striker who bundled in the winner. Luton Town: Eade, Mountford, Howell, Tague, Mansell, Hanley (Maitland 73 mins), Ridgway, Deeney, Okai, Judge, Andrew (Magadah 73 mins).

WE WERE scheduled to play our game in hand at Rushden this morning and we complete our Conference season away to Kidderminster Harriers next Saturday. After that game we will know which merit division we will play in.

**APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets):** Mountford 16, Ridgway 15, Deeney 14(2), R. Mansell 14(1), Howell 14, Barnett 13, Keane 13, O'Leary 12, Davies 11(1), Okai 10, Andrew 9(1), Judge 8(1), Eade 7, Freeman 6(1), Jones 5, Barrett 4, Maitland 3(1), Magadah 2(6), Hanley 2(1), Brill 2, Godfrey 2, Pendleton 1(1), Tague 1, Beckwith 1, Green 1, Lambu 1, S. Sinclair 0(2), Wright 0(2), Burrows 0(1).

**GOALS:** Judge 5, O'Leary 3, Barnett 3, Andrew 3, Magadah 2, Okai 2, Freeman 2, Ridgway 2, Davies 2, Deeney 1, Mansell 1.

*Marvin Johnson*

## Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-19 South Central 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 3-0 Judge 2, Okai  
11 Southend (LC) A 1-0 Barnett  
16 Brighton(FAYC1) A 0-2  
18 West Brom A 3-1 Freeman, Deeney, Barnett  
25 Cheltenham A 4-2 Freeman, Ridgway, Magadah 2

### November

1 Walsall H 0-3  
15 Oxford A 1-1 Davies  
22 Swindon (LC) H 0-4  
29 Northampton A 2-0 Andrew, Ridgway

### December

6 West Brom H 1-0 Andrew

### January

10 Cambridge H 0-1  
17 Rushden A  
17 Alliance Cup 3  
24 Kidderminster A  
31 Merit Division starts

## Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-19 South Central Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Walsall	16	13	1	2	41	22	19	40
West Brom	15	9	2	4	35	20	15	29
Cambridge	15	8	3	4	30	15	15	27
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>
Oxford	15	5	4	6	34	31	3	19
Cheltenham	15	5	2	8	24	38	-14	17
Northampton	15	4	3	8	23	42	-19	15
Rushden	14	4	0	10	21	28	-7	12
Kidderminster	15	2	2	11	16	33	-17	8

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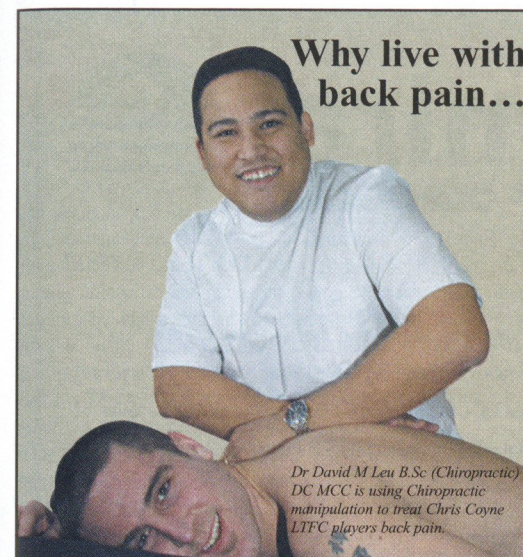


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# Belles In Tune To Hammer Watford

BOTH the senior and under-15 Belles squads were in cup action last weekend and both reached the next stage in some style.

The under-15s travelled to Watford in pursuit of a quarter final place and were quickly into their stride when Michelle Byrne gave them an early lead. Tanya Blacksley volleyed in a Rebecca Kane cross to make it 2-0 and Janine Daly notched a third. Watford pulled a goal back just before half-time but leading scorer Michelle Byrne completed her-hat trick in the second half to complete a stylish 5-1 win.

The seniors chalked up their third big win of the season against MK Wanderers, with a 7-0 victory to reach the last sixteen of their League Cup. Town produced some excellent football and it was no surprise when they took the lead after 10 minutes when Kaylee Owen scored from 10 yards following a sweeping move across the pitch. Two minutes later Rhiannon Morgan lifted the ball neatly over the keeper following more quick inter-passing. Wanderers were put under almost constant pressure and conceded a third first-half goal when Stacey Connell struck a long ball through to Rhiannon Morgan, who raced onto it and finished with a shot into the roof of the net from 20 yards.

Wanderers began the second half trying to fight their

way back and seemed odds-on to score in a goal-mouth scramble, but a combined effort from keeper Jenny Tucker and defenders Emma Leete, Lyndsey McKeown and Nikki Baker somehow kept the ball out.

But the tie was almost immediately killed off when Rhiannon Morgan beat the keeper at her near post to complete her hat-trick. Kim Hide had a powerfully headed goal ruled out for offside and Kaylee Owen was unlucky to be denied by the crossbar with a neat chip. In the last 15 minutes Luton overwhelmed the visitors, and Kim Hide converted a Fay Howell cross to make it 5-0. Fay Howell curled in a 20-yard free kick for Town's sixth and with three minutes Kim Hide fired in her 22nd goal of the season from close range.

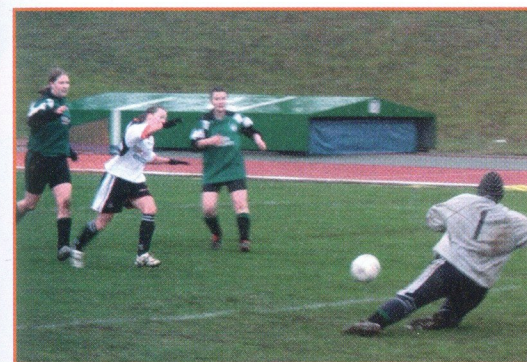
Tomorrow Belles return to league action when they entertain promotion rivals Portsmouth at Stockwood Park with a 2pm kick off.

The table-topping under-10, -12 and -13 squads were all on the victory trail to hold on to their pole positions. The under-13s completed a league double over Garston with a 4-0 win with goals from Brittany Murtagh, Kerry Stratton, Chloe Reeves and Natalie Burchnell.

The under-12s routed Barking 5-0, Lauren Bruton netting a hat-trick. Strike partner Yasmin Hickling and Jasmine Hall got the other goals.

Denham United were the under-10s' visitors and defended stoutly before Olivia Dacosta smashed Town into the lead. This goal-hungry squad were then given a helping hand with an own goal but Denham fought back strongly, scoring twice before two strikes from Bethany Smith made sure of the points with a 4-2 win.

The Tangerine 12s completed a 100% weekend for the Belles with a 10-0 win over Flitwick Eagles. Alicia McIntosh scored her first hat trick, and Alice O'Shea and Natasha Butler each scored twice. There was a first-ever goal for Tia Augustine. Leanne Lizaitis and Kerry Stratton added the others.



**TREBLE TOP:** Rhiannon Morgan completes her hat-trick with the fourth goal in the 7-0 Southern Region League Cup win over Milton Keynes Wanderers.

*Dave Baker*

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](mailto:lutonbelles@hotmail.com) The Belles also have a website - pay a visit to [www.lutontownbelles.com](http://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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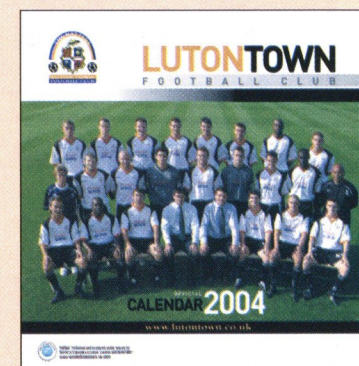
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Please note: We would like to apologise for an  
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April 9th 2004 and not April 16th 2004 as stated  
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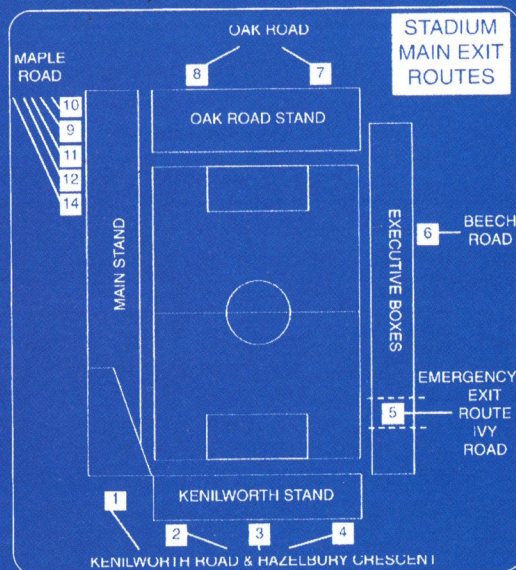


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Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.



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## Nationwide Division 2 Statistics

### Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4 gls	5+ gls
Plymouth	3	8	1	1	2
QPR	6	2	4	1	1
Bristol City	7	2	1	0	1
Brighton	3	5	2	1	0
Wrexham	8	2	0	1	0
Barnsley	7	4	0	0	0
Hartlepool	5	4	0	0	1
Blackpool	8	1	0	1	0
Rushden	4	5	0	1	0
Swindon	6	3	0	1	0
Colchester	8	2	0	0	0
Luton	5	5	0	0	0
Port Vale	7	2	1	0	0
Bournemouth	8	0	1	0	0
Brentford	6	1	0	1	0
Grimsby	2	4	0	1	0
Sheff Wed	5	1	1	0	0
Tranmere	6	0	1	0	0
Oldham	3	1	2	0	0
Peterborough	3	1	2	0	0
Chesterfield	4	0	1	0	0
Notts County	3	1	1	0	0
Stockport	4	1	0	0	0
Wycombe	1	1	2	0	0

### Comebacks

WON from	-3	-2	-1	Total
Bournemouth	0	0	4	4
Port Vale	0	0	4	4
Blackpool	0	1	2	3
Luton	0	1	2	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3
Wrexham	0	0	3	3
Barnsley	0	0	2	2
Bristol City	0	0	2	2
Swindon	0	0	2	2

### Throwaways

LOST from	+3	+2	+1	Total
Peterborough	0	1	2	3
Grimsby	0	0	3	3
Oldham	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3
Wycombe	0	1	1	2
Blackpool	0	0	2	2
Brentford	0	0	2	2
Luton	0	0	2	2
Port Vale	0	0	2	2
QPR	0	0	2	2
Sheff Wed	0	0	2	2
Swindon	0	0	2	2

### Scorer's Points Gained & Scoring Run

	Gls	Gls/Gm	Pts	Run	1st Gl
Scott Taylor	13	0.54	15	3	4
Leon Knight	17	0.71	13	3	4
Wayne Andrews	10	0.43	11	4	6
Steve McPhee	12	0.50	10	3	6
Lee Peacock	11	0.52	10	3	6
Tommy Mooney	11	0.42	10	4	6
Michael Boulding	12	0.48	9	4	4
Kevin Betsy	8	0.32	9	1	3
Warren Feeney	8	0.33	8	4	1
Aaron Wilbraham	7	0.30	8	2	3
Onandi Lowe	12	0.75	7	5	5

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 & Offsides per game

	Games	Fouls	Average
QPR	26	420	16.15
Tranmere	25	376	15.04
Barnsley	25	351	14.04
Notts County	26	351	13.50
Colchester	25	337	13.48
Plymouth	26	350	13.46
Luton	25	332	13.28
Wycombe	26	344	13.23
Bristol City	25	330	13.20
Brentford	26	341	13.12
Bournemouth	26	329	12.65

	Games	Offsides	Average
Rushden	26	135	5.19
Luton	25	123	4.92
Chesterfield	26	116	4.46
Hartlepool	25	110	4.40
Peterborough	26	114	4.38
Bristol City	25	105	4.20
Tranmere	25	105	4.20
Oldham	26	109	4.19
Colchester	25	102	4.08
Grimsby	25	100	4.00
Blackpool	24	94	3.92

Average is number of Fouls/Offsides per game. Clubs are ordered by highest number of Fouls/Offsides per game.

### Headed Goals

most goals from headers	Player	Club	Goals
	Frio	Plymouth	7
	Lawrence	Wrexham	5
	Peacock	Bristol City	4
	McKenzie	Peterborough	4
	Evans	Plymouth	4
	Lowe	Rushden	4
	Barlow	Stockport	4
	Dadi	Tranmere	4

### Shots from Long Range

Most goals from outside 18 yd box	Player	Club	Goals
	Wotton	Plymouth	4
	Peacock	Bristol City	3
	Anderson	Grimsby	3
	Strachan	Hartlepool	3
	Padula	QPR	3
	Lowe	Rushden	3
	Jack	Rushden	3

### Early Goals Scored

Most goals in first 10 mins of match	Player	Club	Goals
	Douglas	Blackpool	2
	Murphy	Blackpool	2
	Hunt	Brentford	2
	Andrews	Colchester	2
	Howard	Luton	2
	Forbes	Luton	2
	Heffernan	Notts County	2
	McPhee	Port Vale	2
	Jack	Rushden	2
	Lowe	Rushden	2
	Quinn	Sheff Wed	2
	Barlow	Stockport	2
	Mooney	Swindon	2
	Haworth	Tranmere	2
	Dadi	Tranmere	2
	Currie	Wycombe	2

### Scoring Chances per Game

No. of Shots per game	ON Target	OFF Target
Plymouth	8.85	6.00
Bournemouth	5.85	5.69
Swindon	6.31	5.23
Bristol City	6.52	5.00
QPR	6.19	5.15
Notts County	5.73	5.54
Oldham	5.73	5.50
Blackpool	6.42	4.75
Rushden	6.62	4.31
Brighton	6.32	4.60
Wrexham	6.08	4.72
Peterborough	5.88	4.73
Colchester	5.40	5.08
Barnsley	5.92	4.40
Luton	6.00	4.32
Tranmere	5.88	4.40
Grimsby	5.60	4.64
Port Vale	5.17	4.83
Stockport	5.04	4.60
Hartlepool	5.36	4.12
Sheff Wed	5.04	4.19
Wycombe	4.92	4.23
Chesterfield	4.65	4.38
Brentford	4.81	3.73

### Scored in last 15 mins

FOR	76-90	Total	%
Tranmere	9	28	32
Peterborough	10	33	30
Grimsby	8	29	28
Bristol City	9	33	27
Swindon	9	36	25
Stockport	8	32	25
Plymouth	13	59	22
Hartlepool	8	37	22
QPR	10	47	21

Against	76-90	Total	%
Brentford	15	40	38
Sheff Wed	11	34	32
Brighton	8	27	30
QPR	5	20	25
Grimsby	8	35	23
Wycombe	10	45	22
Swindon	7	32	22
Notts County	10	46	22
Luton	8	37	22
Peterborough	8	37	22

### Set Piece Goals

Scored from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Plymouth	8	8	16
QPR	4	9	13
Brentford	8	3	11
Rushden	7	4	11
Stockport	3	8	11
Bristol City	6	4	10
Sheff Wed	4	5	9
Swindon	3	6	9

Conceded from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Brentford	9	5	14
Wycombe	8	5	13
Bournemouth	5	6	11
Chesterfield	7	4	11
Oldham	6	5	11
Bristol City	4	6	10
Colchester	4	6	10
Stockport	3	7	10



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## Scene On Two: Double Chase

THE TOWN seek their first double of the season this afternoon, against the "other Hatters" who are just as keen to pick up points to avoid relegation. For both clubs, a win could be hugely rewarding in terms of rising up the table: the Town would be in with a chance of returning to the play-off zone while Stockport could haul themselves out of the relegation places for the first time in a month.

The Town were seventh after the Christmas games, and dropped a notch when the FA Cup trip to Bradford enabled Andy King's Swindon to overtake them. On Wednesday another former Luton favourite did us no favours, Brian Horton guiding Port Vale to a home win over Blackpool which lifted Vale six places into the final play-off spot, and dropped the Town to ninth.

With the league season just past the half-way mark, the top and tail of the table looks well set: Plymouth and QPR are stretching away in the two automatic promotion places, while Wycombe need a miraculous revival to avoid the drop.

Stockport have been flirting with the relegation zone for most of the season, never having risen above 20th place since the Town won 2-1 at Edgeley Park in August. A month after that Carlton Palmer, who had been manager since November 2001, was sacked with Stockport's league record reading one win (at Peterborough), three draws and four defeats.

John Hollins became caretaker, and managed one

win, two draws and two defeats before Sammy McIlroy, formerly manager of Northern Ireland, took over three months ago. Won three, drawn five and lost four is his league record to date.

Their cause is by no means hopeless, and they have a game in hand on their closest rivals. Their match at Tranmere last Saturday was postponed because Rovers were engaged in a determined FA Cup bid to earn a trip to Kenilworth Road next week at the expense of Bolton. Stockport had already been knocked out of the cup, beaten 2-1 at Stevenage in the first round.

While the Town were holding on to eighth place at Rushden, Stockport enjoyed their first win in seven games, in a six-pointer at home to Wycombe. Tony Adams is up against it in his first management job: the Chairboys were bottom of the table when he took over, and they still are, having taken just eight points from the 27 available since his appointment. Stockport won with a penalty by Ricky Lambert, and a goal by Simon Lynch, who charged down an attempted clearance by the goalkeeper.

It was only the second home win of the season for Stockport, the other coming against Bournemouth in November. Their away results have been much better, and they have avoided defeat in eight of their 12 league games on the road. Their away record shows three wins, five draws and four defeats, which is better than the Town's.

The victories were 2-1 at Peterborough in August, and two in October, 2-1 at Swindon and 1-0 at Brighton. Their draws were 2-2 at Sheffield and Rushden in September, 1-1 at Grimsby and 3-3 at Barnsley in November, and 2-2 at Port Vale in their last match of 2003. Defeats were 0-1 at Wycombe, 1-3 at Plymouth, 0-2 Oldham and 0-1 at Bristol City. Stockport's last six league results: Barnsley A 3-3, Brentford H 1-1, Bristol City A 0-1, Wrexham H 0-1, Port Vale A 2-2, Wycombe H 2-0.

### Nationwide League Division Two

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	GD	Pts
Plymouth	26	9	3	1	35 10	6	5	2	24	15	34	53
QPR	26	10	3	0	29 3	4	6	3	18	17	27	51
<hr/>												
Bristol City	25	7	4	1	19 7	4	6	3	14	13	13	43
Barnsley	25	5	6	1	15 9	6	2	5	18	20	4	41
Brighton	25	8	3	2	23 9	3	3	6	14	18	10	39
Port Vale	25	8	3	1	23 15	3	3	7	12	18	2	39
<hr/>												
Hartlepool	25	6	6	1	20 6	4	2	6	17	24	7	38
Swindon	26	6	4	3	23 15	4	4	5	13	17	4	38
Luton Town	25	8	2	2	23 12	2	6	5	16 25	2	38	
Wrexham	25	5	4	4	16 11	6	0	6	15	17	3	37
Colchester	25	6	5	2	16 12	4	2	6	12	20	-4	37
Rushden	26	6	4	3	26 18	4	2	7	17	21	4	36
Bournemouth	26	6	5	2	20 15	3	3	7	11	17	-1	35
Blackpool	25	6	0	7	16 15	4	3	5	14	21	-6	33
Sheff Wed	26	2	7	4	14 16	5	4	4	17	18	-3	32
Tranmere	25	6	4	2	17 11	1	6	6	11	25	-8	31
Grimsby	25	4	4	4	18 12	3	5	5	11	23	-6	30
Oldham	26	5	3	5	18 17	1	8	4	19	23	-3	29
Brentford	26	5	2	6	19 23	3	3	7	9	17	-12	29
Peterborough	26	2	5	6	21 22	4	4	5	12	15	-4	27
<hr/>												
Stockport	25	2	5	6	16 21	3	5	4	16	19	-8	25
Chesterfield	26	4	5	4	16 15	1	4	8	5	23	-17	24
Notts County	26	3	4	6	16 17	2	2	9	9	29	-21	21
Wycombe	26	4	2	7	20 21	0	5	8	8	22	-17	19

### Today's Other Second Division Fixtures

**Barnsley v Bournemouth**  
**Bristol City v Chesterfield**  
**Oldham v Sheffield Wednesday**  
**Peterborough v Brentford**  
**Plymouth v Rushden**  
**Port Vale v Grimsby**  
**QPR v Brighton**  
**Swindon v Colchester**  
**Tranmere v Hartlepool**  
**Wrexham v Notts County**  
**Wycombe v Blackpool**



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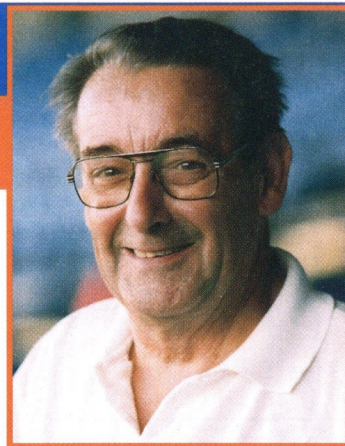
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## Around The Town - by The Editor



MANAGER Mike Newell has to make do and mend as he puts together his squad to face Stockport this afternoon.

The good news is that Sol Davis can return after being banned from the Rushden game. The bad news is that Emmerson Boyce serves a one-match ban this afternoon for collecting five yellow cards, and Steve Howard and Steve Robinson both suffer the same fate next week for the FA Cup-tie against Tranmere.

Ian Hillier deputised for Davis at Nene Park, but had to be subbed after picking up a knee ligament injury. It was not as serious as it might have been, and he was having a fitness check today in the hope that he might be available this afternoon.

Matthew Spring has been hit by a nagging groin strain which forced him to miss the late stages of the game at Bradford. Peter Holmes proved a capable deputy then, and again at Nene Park, where he marked the occasion with his first goal of the season.

The boss said he would not risk aggravating Spring's injury further by bringing him back too soon, but the midfielder has been able to enjoy

a full week's rest and treatment regime, which might enable him to return to the team today.

Kevin Nicholls, sidelined since late August by a knee injury and operation, played for an hour in a private friendly against an Arsenal reserve team, but is not fully fit yet, and the same goes for Paul Hughes and Russ Perrett, who hope to resume training shortly.

### Keeper Is The Tops – Official

MARLON Beresford, already chosen by Town fans as their player of the month, has been given a similar accolade by the Football League. He won the Division Two Umbro Isotonic player of the month award for December.

"He has been in impressive form all season," said the official notification. "He has helped shore up a defence that had conceded 29 goals in 15 league games before his arrival, and conceded just two goals in December."

"His commanding presence and shot-stopping ability helped save several points during December to keep Luton's promotion challenge on track. He brought valuable experience into the side, and the fact that Luton conceded only seven goals in his first nine league games demonstrates his importance."

Beresford, 34, is still on month-by-month contracts because of the Football League signings embargo, but Mike Newell intends to take the first possible opportunity to settle a permanent deal.



**TOP MAN:** Marlon Beresford in typical action, here saving at the feet of Notts County's Simon Baldry to ensure his fifth clean sheet since joining the Town in October.

*Brian Swain*

You can email the programme editor at [brian.swain@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.swain@btinternet.com)



# Luton Town League & Cup

## 2003-2004 Statistics & Fixtures

2003/2004 Date

Opponents

D2 Last Season (LT first)

Venue

Kick Off Time/Result

Score (LT first)

Attendance

Competition/Position

Referee

Yellow Cards (LT first)

Red Cards (LT first)

Goalkeepers

Defenders

Midfielders

Forwards

Own Goals

Sat 9 Aug

RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS

D3 Team

H

W

3-1

6,878

5

I Williamson

3/0

0/0

Rob BECKWITH

Alan NEILSON

Matthew SPRING

Tony THORPE

0

Tue 12 Aug

YEOVIL TOWN

-

H

W

4-1

4,337

CC1

L Cable

3/2

0/0

Dean BRILL

Chris COYNE

Kevin NICHOLLS

Steve HOWARD

0

Sat 16 Aug

Stockport County

W 3-2

A

W

1-2

4,566

1

P Joslin

1/1

0/0

Nathan ABBEY

Emmerson BOYCE

Paul HUGHES

Dean CROWE

0

Sat 23 Aug

GRIMSBY TOWN

D1 Team

A

L

1-2

5,827

7

G Cain

1/2

0/0

Marlon BERSFORD

David DEENEY

Kevin FOLEY

Gary MCSHEFFREY

0

Mon 25 Aug

Brighton & Hove Albion

D1 Team

A

L

0-2

6,604

12

P Crossley

3/1

1/0

David BAYLISS

Courtney PITT

Adrian FORBES

0

Sat 30 Aug

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

D3 Team

H

W

3-2

5,515

6

B Curson

2/1

0/0

Sol DAVIS

Ahmet BRKOVIC

Enoch SHOWUNMI

0

Sat 6 Sep

Notts County

L 1-2

A

D

1-1

7,505

8

C Webster

3/3

1/0

Parys OKAI

Matthew JUDGE

0

Sat 13 Sep

Plymouth Argyle

L 1-2

A

L

1-2

9,894

12

A Bates

3/1

0/0

Michael LEARY

0

Tue 16 Sep

PORT VALE

D 0-0

H

W

2-0

5,079

11

J Ross

1/1

0/0

Lee MANSELL

0

Sat 20 Sep

QUEENS PARK RANGERS

D 0-0

H

D

1-1

8,339

9

U Rennie

3/4

0/0

Steve ROBINSON

0

Tue 23 Sep

Charlton Athletic

-

A

L (7-8 pens)

4-4

10,905

CC2

P Armstrong

2/0

0/0

Stephen O'LEARY

0

Sat 27 Sep

Oldham Athletic

W 2-1

A

L

0-3

6,077

14

M Pike

0/1

1/0

Peter HOLMES

0

Wed 1 Oct

Swindon Town

L 1-2

A

D

2-2

7,573

13

P Danson

3/5

1/1

0

Mon 6 Oct

TRANMERE ROVERS

D 0-0

H

W

3-1

5,002

10

G Hegley

2/6

0/0

0

Sat 11 Oct

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

W 1-0

H

W

3-1

5,695

8

R Beeby

1/4

0/0

sus

0

Tue 14 Oct

Stevenage Borough

-

A

W

1-0

2,412

LDVVT1

M Cooper

4/0

0/0

0

Sat 18 Oct

Brentford

D 0-0

A

L

2-4

5,579

10

C Penton

3/3

0/0

0

Tue 21 Oct

AFC Bournemouth

D3 Team

A

L

3-6

6,388

13

A Marriner

2/1

0/0

1

Sat 25 Oct

PETERBOROUGH UNITED

L 2-3

H

D

1-1

6,067

12

D Crick

2/1

1/0

0

Sat 1 Nov

Bristol City

D 1-1

A

D

1-1

9,735

14

A Leake

3/2

0/0

0

Tue 4 Nov

Rushden & Diamonds

-

A

W

2-1

2,746

LDVVT2

I Williamson

3/2

1/0

0

Sat 8 Nov

Thurrock

-

A

D

1-1

1,551

FAC1

M Thorpe

2/4

0/0

0

Sat 15 Nov

WREXHAM

D3 Team

H

W

3-2

5,505

12

T Kettle

2/0

0/1

0

Tue 18 Nov

THURROCK

-

H

W

3-1

3,667

FAC1R

M Thorpe

3/3

0/0

0

Sat 22 Nov

Sheffield Wednesday

D1 Team

A

D

0-0

21,027

13

P Robinson

1/1

0/0

0

Sat 29 Nov

CHESTERFIELD

W 3-0

H

W

1-0

5,453

10

R Olivier

3/2

0/0

0

Sat 6 Dec

Rochdale

-

A

W

2-0

2,807

FAC2

A Hall

2/2

0/0

0

Tue 9 Dec

Southend United

-

A

L

0-3

2,027

LDVVT3

D Crick

0/0

0/0

0

Sat 13 Dec

Blackpool

L 2-5

A

W

1-0

5,739

6

M Warren

2/2

0/0

0

Sat 20 Dec

BARNLEY

L 2-3

H

L

0-1

6,162

7

P Armstrong

1/1

0/0

0

Fri 26 Dec

Colchester United

W 5-0

A

D

1-1

5,083

9

J Ross

5/1

0/0

0

Sun 28 Dec

NOTTS COUNTY

D 2-2

H

W

2-0

7,181

7

L Probert

1/0

0/0

0

Sat 3 Jan

Bradford City

-

A

W

2-1

8,222

FAC3

M Clattenburg

1/1

0/0

0

Sat 10 Jan

Rushden & Diamonds

D3 Team

A

D

2-2

5,823

8

S Tanner

3/1

0/0

0

Sat 17 Jan

STOCKPORT COUNTY

D 1-1

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 24 Jan

TRANMERE ROVERS

-

H

3:00pm

FAC4

0

Sat 31 Jan

Hartlepool United

D3 Team

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 7 Feb

COLCHESTER UNITED

L 1-2

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Tue 10 Feb

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

D1 Team

H

7:45pm

D2

0

Sat 14 Feb

Wycombe Wanderers

W 2-1

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 21 Feb

BRENTFORD

L 0-1

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Tue 24 Feb

Peterborough United

D 1-1

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Tue 2 Mar

AFC BOURNEMOUTH

D3 Team

H

7:45pm

D2

0

Sat 6 Mar

Barnsley

W 3-2

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 13 Mar

BLACKPOOL

L 1-3

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Tue 16 Mar

Port Vale

W 2-1

A

7:45pm

D2

0

Sat 20 Mar

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

W 1-0

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 27 Mar

Queens Park Rangers

L 0-2

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 3 Apr

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

D 0-0

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 10 Apr

Tranmere Rovers

W 3-1

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Mon 12 Apr

SWINDON TOWN

W 3-0

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 17 Apr

BRISTOL CITY

D 2-2

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 24 Apr

Wrexham

D3 Team

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 1 May

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

D1 Team

H

3:00pm

D2

0

Sat 8 May

Chesterfield

L 1-2

A

3:00pm

D2

0

Penalties

5 (S)cored 2 (M)issed = 71% Success

23 Aug K.Nicholls (S); 1 Oct G.McSheffrey (S)

4 Nov M.Leary (S); 18 Nov A.Forbes (S)

6 Dec S.Robinson (S); 6 Dec S.Robinson (M)

3 Jan A.Forbes (M)

Attendance Statistics

(All Competitions)

Highest Home 8,339

Average Home 5,765

Lowest Home 3,667

Highest Away 21,027

Average Away 6,613

Lowest Away 1,551

Key

X Substituted 1 Goal

SUS Suspended

Started Match

Substitute (Used)

Total 2003/2004 Apps

Total 2003/2004 Goals

Substitute (Unused)

Single Yellow Card

First YC leading to RC

Second YC = RC

Straight Red Card

Total LTFC Career Apps

Total LTFC Career Goals

15

0

15

0

29

1

0

1

19

0

4

0

0

0

0

0

0

67

0

0

0

15

0

1

0

0

15

0

7

1

30

2

0

6

0

107

6

32

8

2

1

0

5

0

193

1

30

3

7

1

0

4

0

39

1

7

2

1

0

0

0

0

63

0

22

0

0

0

4

5

1

63

0

13

18

0

10

2

4

0

68

1

5

5

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70

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10

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87

12

16

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79

7

24

24

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28

3

12

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14

1

22

26

3

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90

10

1

4

10

7

3

0

0

54

1

4

3

11

1

3

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0

13

4

16

19

20

4

5

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54

10

18

19

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54

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63

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3

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190

82

21

21

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13

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120

56

2

8

9

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75

17

19

19

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**NEXT AT KENILWORTH ROAD**  
**FA Cup, Fourth Round**  
**Luton Town v Tranmere Rovers**  
**Saturday January 24, 2004,**  
**kick-off 3pm**  
**See page 12 for ticket sales details**



# Today's Squads



2 (1)

**Manager: Mike Newell**

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



(1) 2

**Manager: Sammy McIlroy**

2	Danny GRIFFIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	Danny JACKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	Rob CLARE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	Mark ROBERTSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	Aaron LESCOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8	Aaron WILBRAHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9	Luke BECKETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10	Rickie LAMBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12	Jim GOODWIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13	James SPENCER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14	Fraser MCLACHLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15	Kevin ELLISON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18	John HARDIKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19	Andy WELSH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20	Owen MORRISON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21	Stuart BARLOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23	Chris WILLIAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26	Ali GIBB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27	David HOLT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28	Jamie BAGULEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29	Mat BAILEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30	Alex LORD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31	Simon LYNCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32	Ben COPPINGER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	Ashley WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Today's Officials

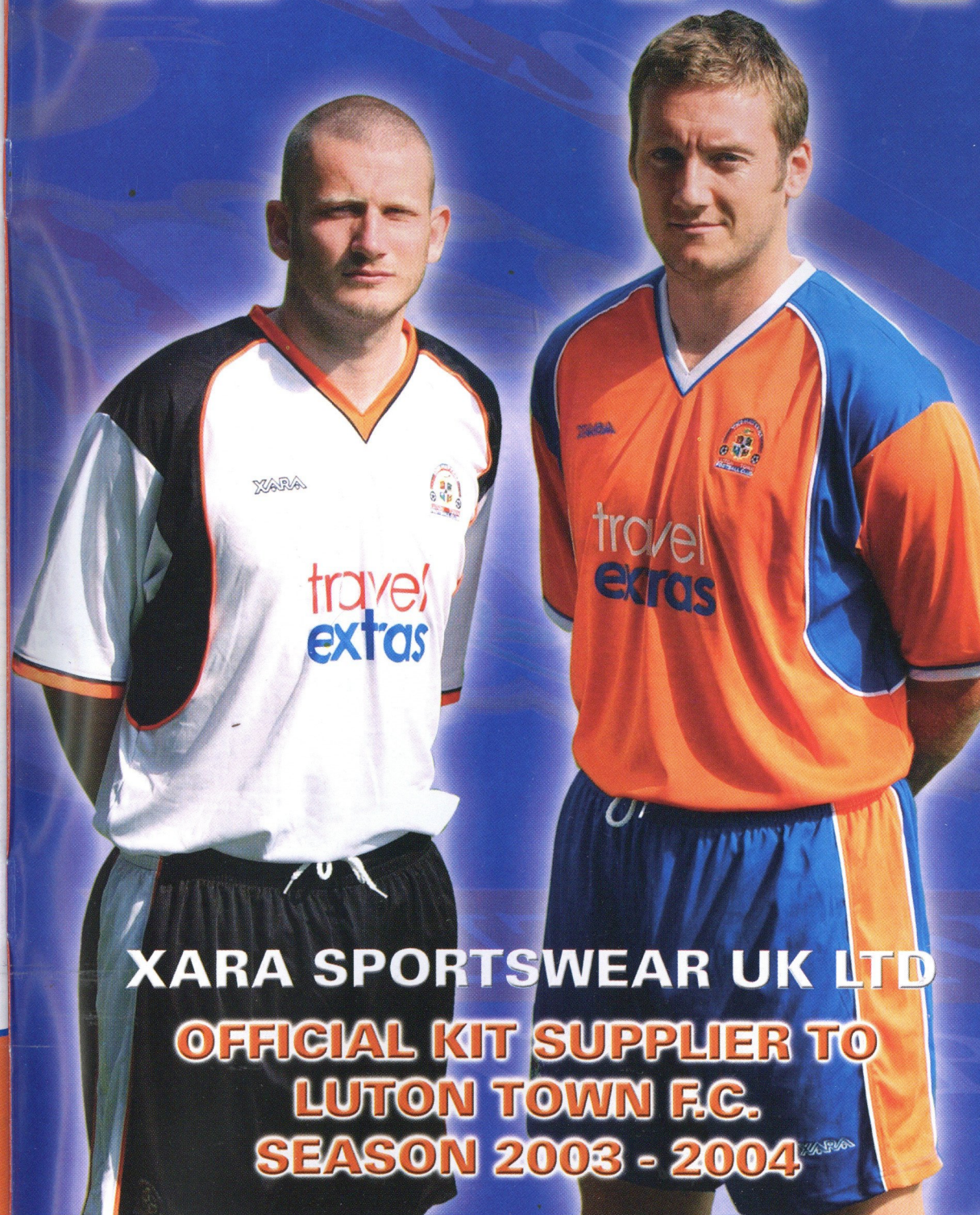
Referee: Alan Butler, Nottinghamshire

Assistants: John Hayto, Essex (red and yellow flag);

Keith Yeo, Essex (yellow flag)

Fourth official: Ron James, Buckinghamshire

# XARA



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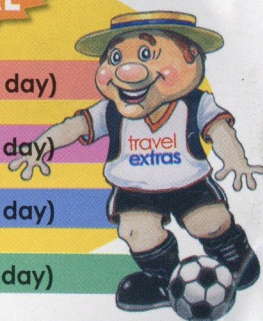
## CAR RENTAL

from **£10!** (per day)

from **£15!** (per day)

from **£15!** (per day)

from **£19!** (per day)



As a Hatters Fan, Hatters Travel is delighted to offer you the option to buy now – pay later!

Simply book your holiday before 31 March 2003, pay a minimal fee of £50 at the time of reservation and then pay the balance 8 weeks before you travel!

### WHY BOOK EARLY?

- Guarantees your exact booking, within the date and at the location that you want.
- Allows you to save for your holiday or break, with no lump sum to pay straight away!
- Choose from 500,000 cars at 5,000 locations worldwide!
- Accommodation to suit any budget – from 1\* to 5\*!
- Booking early means that you will not be affected by ANY price increases!

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- 1 Book "everything but the flight" and pay **ONLY £50.00** deposit now!
- 2 Pay the outstanding balance 8 weeks before travel!
- 3 Book before 31 March 2004.

**It really is so simple! What are you waiting for? BOOK NOW!**

- 1 When making your reservation, a £50 non refundable deposit will be taken.
- 2 The balance will be automatically deducted from your credit card 8 week prior to your first day of travel.
- 3 Should your payment be unauthorised, we will contact you for alternative payment methods, if alternative payment is not satisfied, the booking will be cancelled 6 weeks prior to travel.
- 4 This offer is **CALL CENTRE ONLY**.
- 5 Travel Extras standard terms and conditions apply.
- 6 If your travel date is less than 8 weeks the full value must be paid at time of booking.



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for 10 days  
European cover!



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per day!



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**travelextras.com/lffc**

**travelextras**



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