



# Luton Town Football Club

Official Matchday Magazine • Price £2.50

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 20th March 2004 • Kick Off 3.00pm



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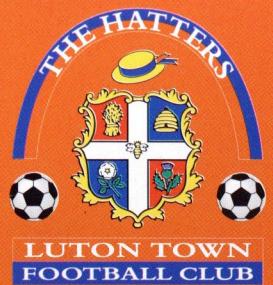
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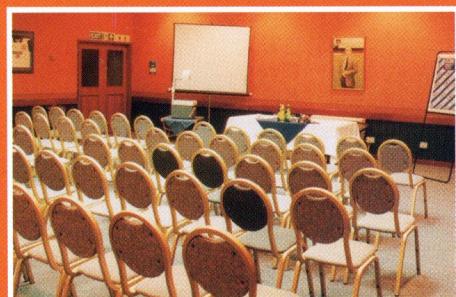
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### Honours

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**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

Kenilworth Road Stadium  
1 Maple Road, Luton  
Bedfordshire LU4 8AW

Main Reception:  
01582 411622  
Fax: 01582 405070

Ticket Office: 01582 416976  
Community Dept: 01582 391927

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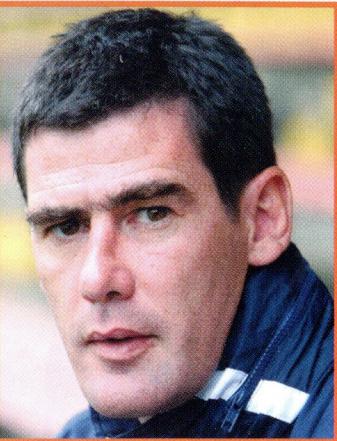
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## The Manager's Message



HELLO and welcome to Kenilworth Road for today's game against Plymouth Argyle. Welcome also to Kevin Summerfield, his staff, players, directors and supporters from Home Park.

Losing their manager doesn't seem to have had any adverse effect on Plymouth so far, and they are on target for promotion to Division One, so today's game will be a difficult one.

We do seem to produce our best performances against the top teams, however, and we are certainly looking forward to it.

We still have to play all the teams above and around us, with the exception of Brighton and Port Vale, so it will be a tough run-in, and we will be hoping to keep our players fit and free from suspension. With the transfer deadline

on the horizon, it is debatable whether the embargo will be lifted in time, and we might just have to make do with what we have got.

You can be sure that everyone else will add to their squads, particularly those pushing for promotion, so it is fingers crossed that we get the go-ahead.

We seem to be taking two steps forward and one step back at the moment. After a good win against Blackpool, which should have been more convincing and over earlier, we travelled to Vale Park and were disappointed, not only with the result, but also with the way we played.

We didn't pass it at all in the first half for some reason, and even a draw would have kept some distance between us and Port Vale. We are understandably concerned about our poor away form because you cannot rely on your home form alone if you want to achieve anything.

There are eleven games left including today's, and that is a lot of points to play for. We won't try to calculate what will be needed, because that is a pointless exercise. You can only gain one or three points at a time, and what will be will be.

We still have a belief in our players, and we know you will back them all the way.

Enjoy the game, and get behind the lads.



**TOP HATTER:** Adrian Forbes, on his way back after injury, was presented with his January Division Two player of the month award before the Blackpool game. Votes are cast via the PFA website, [givemefootball.com](http://givemefootball.com), and a draw to decide which fan should make the presentation led to Sandra Simpson doing the honours.

*Mike Newell*



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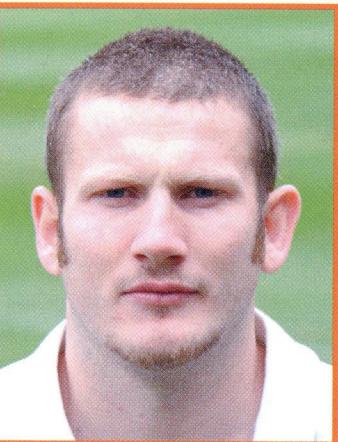
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## The Town Captain's View



LIFTED by a good win on Saturday, and somewhat depressed by our defeat on Tuesday – we have felt the truth of the old saying this week about football giving you pleasure one day and a kick in the teeth the next.

We were fairly pleased with our overall performance in beating Blackpool, although we also felt we came too close to letting them off the hook. We should have won much more comfortably than we did, and we know we were lucky to get an offside decision go our way when Blackpool thought they had scored a late equaliser. We should have had the game wrapped up long before that.

I thought it was a goal, but in football some decisions go for you and some against. And we should have been awarded a penalty when Sol Davis was brought down in the first half. But the result was all-important – if you get the three points it doesn't really matter how you play.

We got back into the play-off places, and we expected to build on that at Port Vale on Tuesday. Instead our performance was not very good, but perhaps worth a point until we conceded a late goal.

We are still in the top six, but we have got to sort out our away form. We cannot work out why we are not doing better on the road, and on Tuesday we knew that if we beat Port Vale we would go seven points clear of them and put a big dent in their promotion hopes. Instead we were below par and the gap is down to just one point, and Port Vale still have something to cling on to. For us, it was an opportunity missed, and we cannot afford to do that many more times this season, with only ten more games to play after today's.

Our promotion season a couple of years ago was built on good away form – 15 victories on our travels was the best in the division – and we have to get that sort of consistency back again in the run-in to the end of this season. In those days, we used to think it was easier to do well away from home than on our own park, where nerves and high expectations occasionally came into play.

This season we are just about unstoppable at home, and the good thing is that despite Tuesday's result we are

still in the top six. But by the final day of the regular season we will have to be looking much better in away games, knowing that the play-off semi-finals are one at home, one away. If we are drawn to play away first we must be capable of getting a good first-leg result.

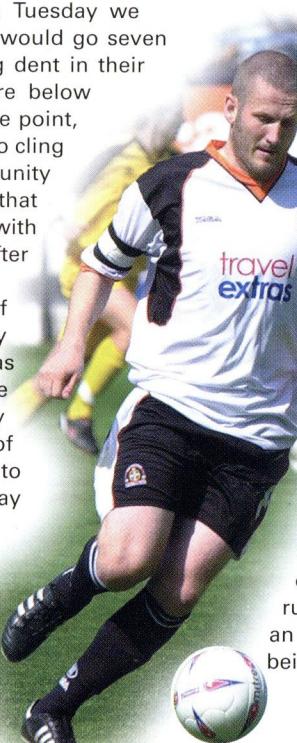
But that's something we can think about nearer the time. First, we have two massive games, with today's visit by Plymouth followed by next week's trip to QPR. Today we will have to stand up and be counted, and this is likely to be our toughest home game of the season.

We have been close rivals with Plymouth since we were both promoted from the Third Division. It still rankles a bit that they took the title, but on their performances that season they deserved it. However, their away record included a 2-0 defeat here and they were beaten here again last season.

They are currently the best team in this division, so it will be a real boost for us if we can see them off again. And while the rivalry is bound to continue because of the importance of the match today, we have no special animosity towards Plymouth. We have enjoyed our games with them, and players of both sides have great mutual respect for each other.

That said, we will be pulling out all the stops to get three more points, and the fact that we are playing the league leaders is all the motivation we need. We usually rise to the occasion against the big guns, and it is even more important that we do it again today. We certainly do not want to lose two on the bounce, and we owe it to ourselves and the supporters to rub out memories of Vale Park. Losing is not an option, especially with next week's match being against QPR.

*Kevin Nicholls*



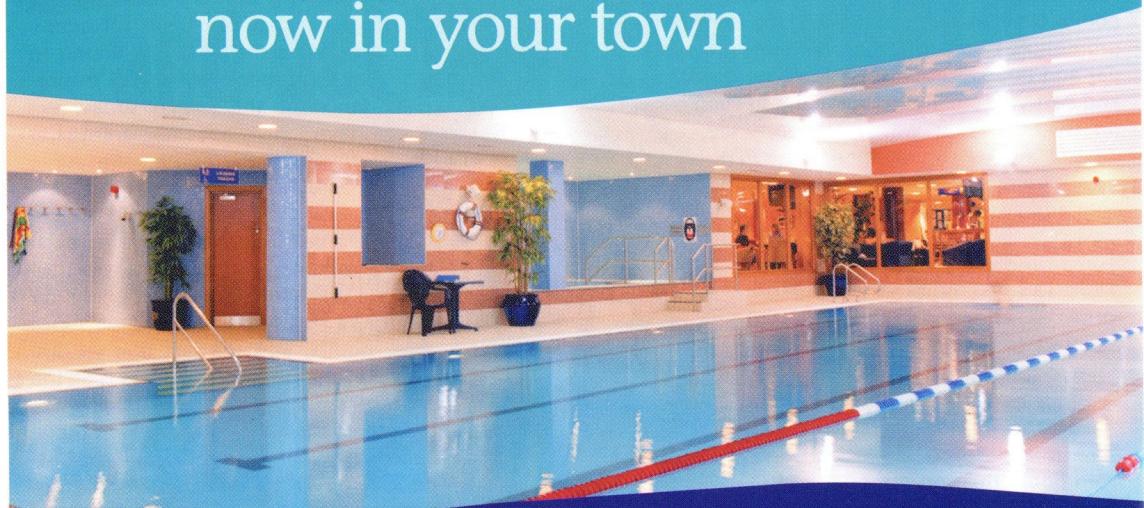
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## Kenilworth Suite Members

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8 Interested in becoming a Kenilworth Suite Member  
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## From The Chief Executive

FIRSTLY I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Chairman and Directors of Plymouth Argyle to Kenilworth Road today – they have been friends for a long time. Today sees the presentation of the cheques relating to The FA Charity Shield Fund. Each of the two charities will be receiving a cheque for £3,950. The first is to The Pasque Charity, which provides hospice care for local adults and children diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. The charity runs two hospices, The Pasque for adults and Keech Cottage, for children. Both help people live life to the full in whatever time they have left. The hospices also provide vital support for patients' family and friends.

The Pasque Charity is dependent on the support of the local community to continue its valuable work. With annual running costs of over £3m, the charity must raise 80% of its income through voluntary donations and fundraising, so they are delighted to receive this additional help, and we are pleased to continue our support for a very worthy local cause.

The second presentation is to Luton Accommodation & Move-on Project. LAMP works exclusively with Luton's homeless people aged between 16 and 25. They have a preventative officer who visits Luton schools explaining the dangers of leaving home and offering advice and help to those who may be facing the prospect. They have their own hostel which houses young people who have no home, and they stay until they have gained the skills to live in a more independent environment. They then have the help of a resettlement officer who helps them to find independent and appropriate housing according to their needs.

The money that we are able to give LAMP will enable them to take care of the needs of 45 young people for a period of two months. Homelessness amongst young

people in Luton is a problem, and LAMP have sent me a letter expressing their appreciation of the club's support.

I really cannot believe that once again the end of the season is in sight, along with the club's and the official Supporters Club presentation night, which will take place on Sunday May 2 at The Riverside Suite at The Brache. Tickets are likely to sell very quickly, and details are on page 26 today. Alongside this event runs the grand draw to raise funds and committee members of the Supporters Club will be coming among you to today. Please do buy a ticket or two. There are some excellent prizes, with the draw taking place at the presentation evening.

I would apologise for the short notice in a fixture change for our under-19 squad, which meant that many would not know about it until it was too late. They played their match with Torquay United, which was scheduled for April 10, this morning. We are grateful to Torquay for agreeing to this change, both teams having a free week and Marvin Johnson very conscious that his lads would have gone a month without a competitive match. At the time of writing we do not have a new date for the Swindon match, and will advise you of this as soon as possible.

Enjoy the match.

Cherry Newbery



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

# Another Crunch

HAVING played the Second Division's top team today, the Town tussle with second-placed QPR on Saturday, and all the signs are that there will be a big following for the all-ticket match. In view of parking problems around Loftus Road, the most convenient way to get to the game is to use coaches run by Town on Tour or the Bobbers Travel Club. If you prefer public transport, two tube stations are convenient, White City on the Central Line and Shepherds Bush on the Hammersmith & City line. The Bobbers trip will start from Cranfield at 11am and leave Luton an hour later, and fares are £8.50 for adults, £7 for senior and junior citizens.

Town on Tour start from Leighton Buzzard at 11.45 and leave Maple Road at 12.30 and their fares are £10 for members of Luton Town Supporters Club, £9 for member-concessions and £12 for others.

**BOOKINGS** for away games travel can be made at the LTSC or Bobbers kiosks in Kenilworth Road, before or after home games. Paul Deason on 01234 750996 will take phone bookings for the Bobbers, whose service includes pick-ups at Cranfield, Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and opposite the Travelodge Motel in Dunstable Road, Luton, close to the M1. Town on Tour offers LTSC members the best deals, and seats can be reserved at the Supporters Club kiosk or by phoning 07960 567465. They offer additional pick-ups at Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis.



Luton Town

09068 121 123

TELETEXT

On ITV p24

Calls cost 60p/min. ClubCall EC2A 4PF

Club Call

# Travelling Army Excels Again

PORT Vale were delighted to welcome the Town to Vale Park on Tuesday, and not just because they nicked victory. The Town were backed by another impressive away following, and despite the distance and inconvenience it was their biggest turn-out in the league for any mid-week away game so far this season.

The 601 in the away fans stand at Vale Park made up more than ten per cent of the attendance, and it compared with 344 Vale fans who came to Kenilworth Road in September, also for a Tuesday evening game. The Town influx meant that the attendance was boosted to 5,048, which made it just 71 fewer than for Port Vale's game here.

The best Town away following of the season, Saturdays or midweek, remains the 2,583 who went to Peterborough, although that might be matched or bettered next week, when the Town go to Loftus Road. Latest stats on travelling fans:

## 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
Wycombe	1,838
Grimsby	249
Peterborough	2,583
Barnsley	723
Port Vale	601

Total: 24,779

Average: 991

## 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
Barnsley	358
Notts County	363
Stockport	364
Tranmere(FAC)	1,344
Colchester	367
Brighton	1,107
Brentford	579
Blackpool	325
	11,075
	554

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

# News From The Ticket Office



## Nationwide League Division Two Queens Park Rangers v Luton Town

Saturday March 27, 2004, kick-off 3pm  
Prices: Adults £20, Senior Citizens,  
Students and Juniors £10



This is an **ALL-TICKET** match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the match. Our allocation is 3,023 tickets and they are now on general sale, subject to availability.



## Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Oldham Athletic

Saturday April 3 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 Hartlepool United v Luton Town

Tuesday April 6, 2004, kick-off 7.45pm  
Prices: Adults £15, Concessions £7



This is a re-scheduled match following the  
postponement on January 31.

Tickets purchased for the original date will still be valid. However, if you have a ticket and are unable to attend on the new date, you can obtain a full refund from the Luton Town ticket office providing the ticket is returned before the match is played.

For supporters without tickets, the game is pay on the night only, with no further tickets available in advance from Kenilworth Road.

# News From The Ticket Office



## Nationwide League Division Two Tranmere Rovers v Luton Town

Saturday April 10, 2004, kick-off 3pm  
Prices: Adults £15, Senior Citizens £8,  
Under-16s £4



This match is pay on the day only, with no tickets available in advance from Kenilworth Road.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO STUDENT CONCESSION THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON'S CONCESSION FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 22. TO CLAIM YOU MUST PRODUCE VALID ID, WITH PROOF OF YOUR DATE OF BIRTH, AT THE TRANMERE TICKET OFFICE



## Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Swindon Town

Monday April 12 2004, kick-off 3pm  
Tickets are now on sale at  
normal matchday prices.



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.

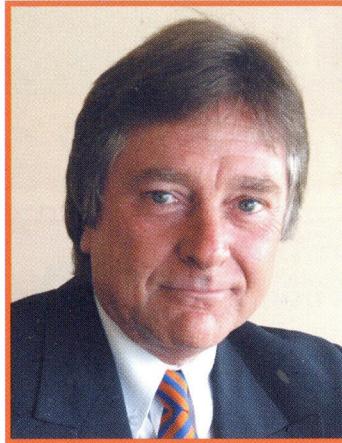
## Ticket Office Opening Hours

### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10am to 5pm, 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

WELCOME this afternoon to all of our corporate sponsors and partners to the eagerly-awaited match against Plymouth

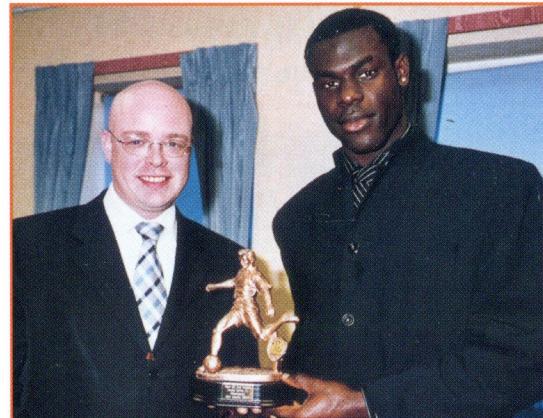
Argyle. We have a full house commercially, which sees the re-introduction of our Eric Morecambe Lounge to satisfy the extra corporate hospitality demand, for what is sure to be an exciting game and a true test of our promotion aspirations.

## JOINT MATCH SPONSORS

### Cougar Direct



We welcome to Kenilworth Road this afternoon as joint match sponsors the management and guests of Luton-based accident repair specialists Cougar Direct. Employing 70 people from its 50,000 square foot premises in Crescent Road makes Cougar Direct the largest bodyshop in the country. Approved by both insurance and manufacturers, Cougar Direct pride themselves on their training facilities, for which they



Dennis Raven, General Manager of Stanley Casino, presenting the Man of the Match trophy for Blackpool to Enoch Showunmi.

have won a variety of awards. Many have been earned with the help of Hatters season ticket holders on the staff, who according to Virgil Blennerhassett, general manager, are among the best in the business. Cougar Direct can be contacted on 01582 411120, or to view their facilities and services go to [www.cougardirect.co.uk](http://www.cougardirect.co.uk)

## JOINT MATCH SPONSORS

### Don't Wait Up

For the second time this season we welcome back Grant Janes and the members of this dedicated group of Hatters fans calling themselves "Don't Wait Up." As their title suggests, their long-suffering wives and partners have long since learned that to support the Hatters is more than a vocation – it's an institution that transcends all other priorities in life. For the record, today's attendees are John Allen, Dave Childs, Phil Connah, John Creasey, Tony Foley, Adam Freeman, Dick Janes, Cliff Large, Brian Leggetter, Alex Muir, Keith Norris and of course Grant Janes, who has told me that a win against Plymouth today will ensure that "Don't Wait Up" will take on a whole new meaning. Ladies, you have been warned!



## MATCH BALL SPONSORS

### Walnut Tree Launderers

We also welcome back our old friend John Cushing and his guests from Walnut Tree Launderers, who join us today as match ball Sponsors. Walnut Tree Launderers, whose raison d'être, is "Where Quality & Service is never sacrificed," provide a valuable service to the commercial sector, including large volume laundry for hotels and health clubs. Offering a collect and deliver service seven days a week, their service also includes hired linens at competitive prices. As a life-long supporter of the club, John states: "We are delighted to be sponsoring the team today, and what an incredible achievement it would be by all at the

# Welcome to All Our Sponsors and Guests



A commemorative Match Sponsors' certificate being presented to Alan Collins of Luton Borough Council



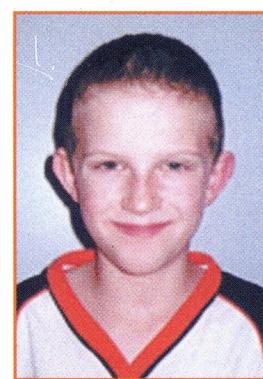
The Gudgeon family sponsors lounge guests enjoying the sunshine on the hallowed turf before the Blackpool game.



Alan Collins, with the guests of Luton Borough Council who attended the Department of Road Safety's sponsoring of our match against Blackpool

## COMMERCIAL MASCOTS

### Alex Lake and Jason Lee



Alex Lake

What a day to make your entrance at the head of the team as commercial mascots. Nine-year-old Alex Lake and Jason Lee, 10, have that opportunity this afternoon, when they step onto the Kenilworth turf before kick-off. Alex attends Westoning Lower School and enjoys all sports, but especially his football

and tennis. Steve Howard and Chris Coyne are his favourite Town players.

Jason attends Brookland School in Leighton Buzzard, and enjoys cartoons as well as his football, with Kevin Foley his favourite Town player. Both of the lads are primed with autograph books, and their proud families are sure

to have cameras at the ready, to capture Alex and Jason's special day.

To all our sponsors and commercial partners here today, we thank you all for your tremendous support and wish you all a memorable and enjoyable afternoon with us.

Peter Davis

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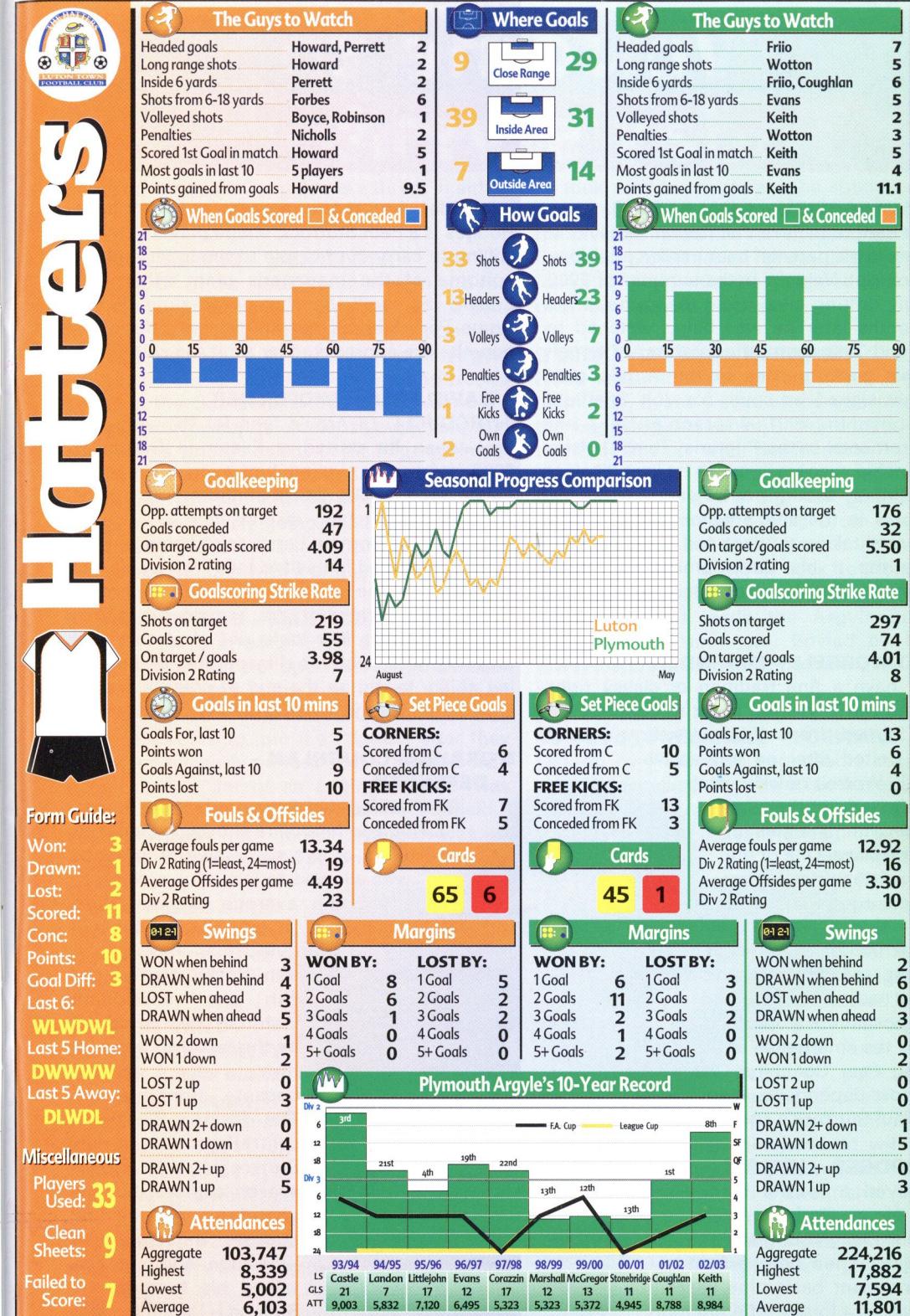
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# Welcome to Today's Visitors

## 1 ROMAIN LARIEU - GOALKEEPER

IT seems hard to believe that Romain was left to train alone in his parents' back garden after leaving French club Valence in the summer of 2000. Seemingly drifting away from the game, a few short months later he was being watched by Arsenal and Tottenham after a string of hugely impressive performances in the Argyle goal. Seemingly signed as cover for Jon Sheffield, Larrieu started the 2001/02 season as No. 1, and was instrumental in the Pilgrims' Third Division championship success in which he kept 27 clean sheets. Already thought of as one of the finest goalkeepers in the club's history, Larrieu possesses breathtaking reflexes and is destined for the very top if his development continues. Currently out long term due to knee-ligament injury.

## 2 DAVID WORRELL - DEFENDER

ARGYLE have a fine tradition of classy right-backs, and David Worrell is set to continue the legacy. Signed from Sturrock's former club Dundee United after an impressive loan spell, Worrell quickly established himself in the right-back slot with a series of assured displays. One of the most consistent performers as Argyle surged to the Third Division title, the former Blackburn trainee suffered at times last season from the near total lack of competition for his position - a problem solved by the emergence of the promising Paul Connolly. One of the most dependable members of Paul Sturrock's squad.

## 3 LEE HODGES - UTILITY

LEE enjoyed a fruitful loan spell at Home Park in 1993 when an exciting young striker with Spurs. When he returned on a permanent basis nine years later, it was as a totally different footballer. Employed mainly as a left-sided

midfielder, but more recently as a left-back, Hodges is a Paul Sturrock 'shape player', always willing to carry out his role to the letter and the epitome of the manager's team ethic. The Epping lad rarely has his name sung by the Home Park faithful, but his tireless efforts are nonetheless appreciated by all at the club.

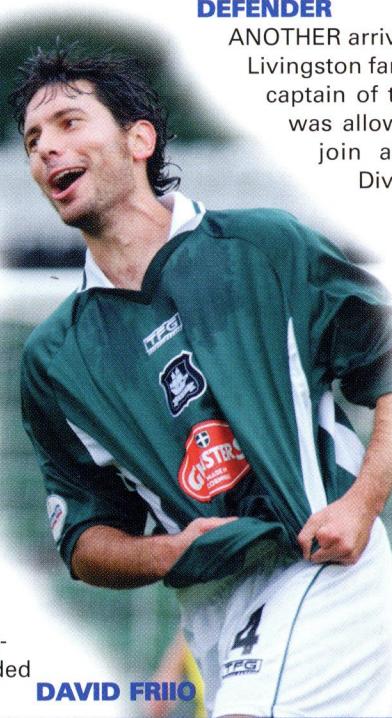
## 4 DAVID FRIIO - MIDFIELDER

INTRODUCED to Argyle fans for the very first time when he started at Exeter in December 2000 before his signing had even been made public, Friio quickly swept all the mystery aside with an eye-catching display in a 2-0 win. A team-mate of Romain Larrieu's at Valence, Friio quickly endeared himself to fans with a cultured approach to the game rarely seen before at Home Park. When at the top of his game, 'Daveed's' Gallic flair looks out of place in the lower leagues, with his silky passing and unerring ability to get on the end of crosses a class above the average lower division midfielder.

## 5 GRAHAM COUGHLAN - DEFENDER

ANOTHER arrival from north of the border, Livingston fans were shocked when their captain of two successive promotions was allowed to leave for nothing to join an average English Third Division side. Run-of-the-mill

Argyle may have been when 'Cocko' arrived, but with the passionate Irishman taking affairs by the scruff of the neck they very quickly became anything but. The former Blackburn centre-back was Sturrock's only close-season capture, but his contribution to the title success that followed was huge, and he maintained his form in the Second Division last season. Strong on the



DAVID FRIIO



# Plymouth Argyle FC



deck and in the air, Coughlan is a threat in either box.

## 6 STEVE ADAMS - MIDFIELDER

A PRODUCT of the club's youth system and the manager's pet student, Adams started his professional career at Home Park as a centre-back and flattered in and out of the side as Argyle floundered in the Third Division. Paul Sturrock's arrival at the club transformed the 22-year-old's career, and a switch to a defensive midfield role saw Adams emerge as one of the Pilgrims' most crucial performers. The local lad became the janitor of the midfield, cleaning up after his teammates and selflessly going about his duties for the greater good. A subtle performer, but a crucial player and one with a bright future.

## 7 DAVID NORRIS - MIDFIELDER

ONE of Paul Sturrock's finest signings, Norris was plucked from Bolton's reserves in October of last season and many Argyle fans would be forgiven for believing that he ran all the way from Lancashire to join the Pilgrims after they witnessed his early performances. Blessed with a real Jumbo Jet of an engine, 'Chuck' was hugely impressive right across the midfield - especially away from home - and such was his impact that he was voted second in the Player of the Year awards. His late surges into the box keep the opposition on their toes.

## 8 JASON BENT - MIDFIELDER/UTILITY

ARGYLE pulled out all the stops to sign the Canadian international in September 2001 after Preston had failed in their bid to secure a work permit. The Edgar Davids look-alike is a manager's dream, being able to play anywhere across the midfield and either full-back slot if the situation requires. The Plymouth pub-

lic took time to appreciate the subtleties of his game, but several shimmering performances in the Division Three title run-in identified him as a first-class performer on his day. Lightweight, but full of running, with the vision an international of 30 caps should possess.

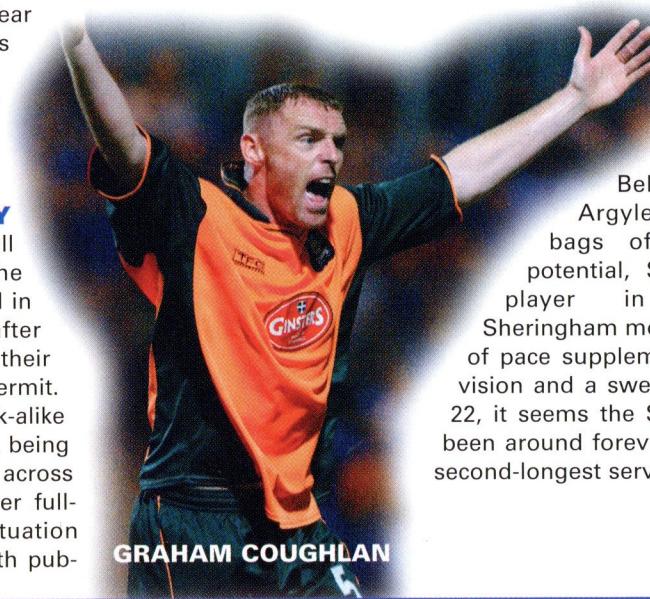
## 9 MICKEY EVANS - FORWARD

NOW well into a second spell with his home-town club, Evans played at the very pinnacle of the English game when a big-money move to the Premiership with Southampton saw him score four goals in four games to keep the Saints up. Injuries led to the big man tumbling back down the leagues with West Brom and Bristol Rovers, before the circle drew to an inevitable conclusion with a move back to Home Park. Whilst not a prolific goalscorer, 'Trigger' is a true workhorse and leads the Argyle line with unflinching commitment. Envied by many a lower-league manager for his unrivalled hold-up play.

## 10 IAN STONEBRIDGE - FORWARD

LET go by Tottenham supposedly because he was "too intelligent" to be a footballer, 'Stoney' is arguably the most skilful player in the Home Park stable. After a steady stream of goals in his first season when just 17, he was selected for England youth and a bright future looked assured.

Believed by many Argyle fans to have bags of yet untapped potential, Stonebridge is a player in the Teddy Sheringham mould, with his lack of pace supplemented by superb vision and a sweet shot. Still only 22, it seems the Somerset lad has been around forever and is Argyle's second-longest serving player.



GRAHAM COUGHLAN

# Welcome to Today's Visitors

## 11 MARTIN PHILLIPS - MIDFIELDER

ONCE described by then Exeter manager Alan Ball as Britain's first £10m player when a trainee at St James' Park, Phillips had his work cut out from the very start. A £500,000 move to Manchester City signalled the beginning of five barren years for 'Buster', in which he made just 18 starts for a variety of clubs on loan whilst at City. An impressive display for Portsmouth in a friendly at Home Park secured a move west and Buster looked to have finally found a home. Deadly on his day, Phillips is a winger in the traditional mould and has left many a full-back in a spin with his wizardry. Not often used away from home, he can seriously punish unprepared visitors to Home Park if he's in the mood.

## 14 TONY CAPALDI - MIDFIELDER

MADE a surprise debut in the final game of last season after just one reserve-team game for the club, Capaldi performed well enough in a 1-0 win over Wycombe to convince Paul Sturrock that he would benefit the side on a permanent basis. Born in Norway, the Northern Ireland U21 international was a regular in Birmingham City's second-string before answering the call to try out for the Pilgrims. Even he, though, couldn't have expected he would be making his senior Football League debut so quickly. A left-sided player who can play in midfield or defence.

## 15 PAUL WOTTON - DEFENDER

THE local boy didn't enjoy the best of starts with his home-town club. Early promise at the centre of defence was rewarded with a trip to Premiership Sheffield Wednesday on trial, but the lack of opportunities back at Home Park saw him almost jump ship to Northampton. The skipper is blessed with unrivalled determination to succeed, and has improved his game immeasurably since the arrival of Paul Sturrock. He can strike a ball with such venom that cries of "Shoot!" can often be heard from Argyle supporters when he has the ball in his own half! Thundered home 11 goals last season, and the good money is on 'Wotts' to keep improving.

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## 16 HASNEY ALJOFREE - DEFENDER

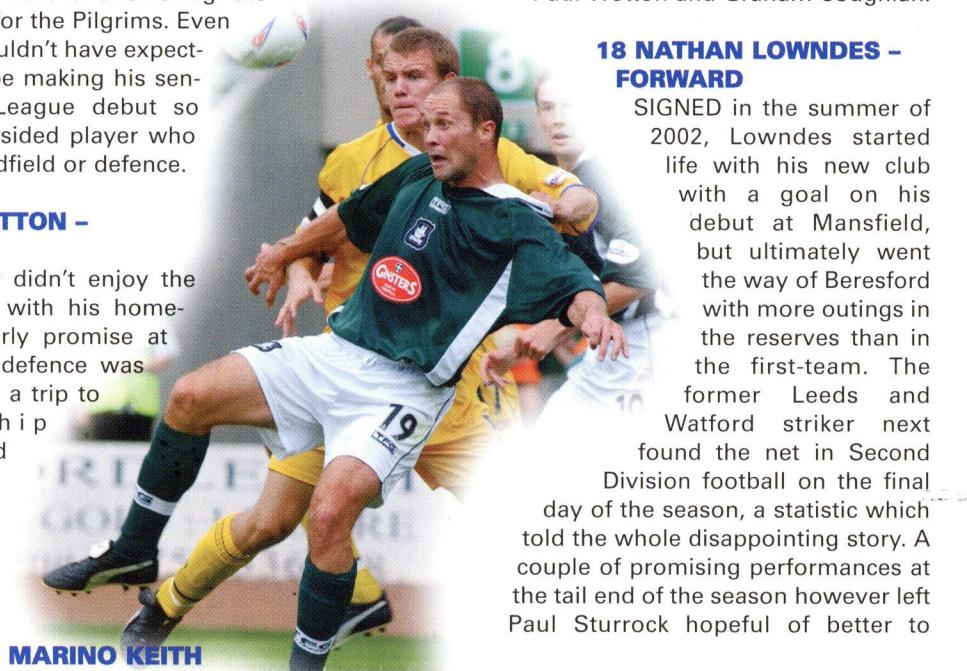
ANOTHER player plucked from his old club by Paul Sturrock, composed left-sided defender Hasney made his debut at left-back in the 2-2 draw at QPR last August, and soon showed that he was set for an important role in the Pilgrims' first team squad. It was not until his ninth game that he tasted success in a green shirt and, after he fell out of favour, an impressive spell in the reserves earned him a recall to the first team at centre-back. Many Argyle fans remain unsure whether he has been signed to play on the left or in the middle, but his displays at the heart of Argyle's defence suggest that he has been brought in to provide competition for

Paul Wotton and Graham Coughlan.

## 18 NATHAN LOWNDES - FORWARD

SIGNED in the summer of 2002, Lowndes started life with his new club with a goal on his debut at Mansfield, but ultimately went the way of Beresford with more outings in the reserves than in the first-team. The former Leeds and Watford striker next found the net in Second

Division football on the final day of the season, a statistic which told the whole disappointing story. A couple of promising performances at the tail end of the season however left Paul Sturrock hopeful of better to



MARINO KEITH



# Plymouth Argyle FC



come from the skillful ginger hitman

## 19 MARINO KEITH - FORWARD

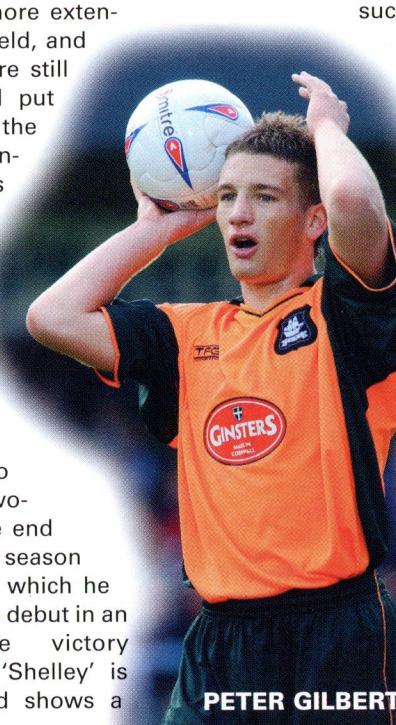
THE Scot with the Italian name, 'Dan' was another Sturrock signing from north of the border when he joined from Livingston. Billed as a prolific goalscorer with a tenacious spirit and uncompromising style, Keith didn't take long to live up to his reputation. After a number of substitute appearances, the 28-year-old soon settled in and the goals began to flow as Keith gave Argyle fans hope that a replacement for the great Tommy Tynan had finally been discovered. Injuries and the lack of a regular slot disrupted his flow last season before a flurry of eight goals in eight games once again saw hopes soar.

## 21 BLAIR STURROCK - FORWARD

THE manager's son has endured an up-and-down start to his career at Home Park. Signed after weeks of speculation from Dundee United, Blair immediately displayed his father's canny touch and appetite for the game, but mainly as a substitute. Although a striker by trade, 'Lionel' has been more extensively used in midfield, and most Argyle fans are still not sure if he will put down an anchor in the side. Definite potential, which has earned him an extended contract until 2005.

## 22 PAUL CONNOLLY - DEFENDER

PAUL is a product of the club's youth development, who earned himself a two-year contract at the end of his breakthrough season last season, during which he made his full league debut in an impressive home victory against Brentford. 'Shelley' is from Liverpool and shows a



PETER GILBERT

determination and an understanding of the game that should hold him in good stead.

## 23 LUKE MCCORMICK - GOALKEEPER

ARGYLE'S back-up 'keeper and reserve-team custodian. Luke had made just three starts for the first-team before injury to Romain Larrieu gave him his chance this season, but the manager considers him good enough to resist the temptation to sign a more experienced pro as understudy. His confidence could have suffered a major blow after he conceded two freak goals in the dying minutes of a 2-1 defeat at Tranmere last season, but he recovered to perform well in two further games before Larrieu returned to the side after recovering from a rare injury.

## 24 PETER GILBERT - DEFENDER

A TEAM-MATE last season of Tony Capaldi on the left-hand side of Birmingham City's reserve team, Peter joined the Pilgrims just after they returned for pre-season training in July. Caught Paul Sturrock's eye for his confident forward runs, as well as his defensive contribution, and successfully trialed for Argyle in a reserve game at the end of last season. Initial loan was for a three-month period, but has agreed to stay for the rest of the season.

## HOME FROM HOME PARK

EXILED Pilgrims fans are invited to join colleagues in the Plymouth Argyle Supporters Association, London Branch (PASALB). It has almost 400 members throughout the country who receive a monthly newsletter, *Pasty News*, which contains news, match reports and details of social events. Members also receive a travel guide for away games and trips are arranged to away matches. If you want to join, please write to: Jan Walaszkowski, 32 Montpelier Rd, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2QA, or phone 020 8668 8001. Alternatively visit [www.pasalb.co.uk](http://www.pasalb.co.uk), or email [argyle@re-magic.com](mailto:argyle@re-magic.com)



## Blast From The Past

When the Town were relegated to Division Three in 2001 they were destined to meet up with a Plymouth Argyle side which had been

languishing at that level since relegation in 1998. Plymouth supporters were slightly concerned when only one close season signing was made and those concerns were magnified when Argyle lost their first two home games and were in 22nd position when the first league tables were published. Expectation levels were therefore not particularly high and with Home Park undergoing major redevelopment it was perhaps looked on as a season of consolidation.

We, on the other hand, were expecting a quick return under the management of Joe Kinnear but took a while to find our feet at this level with draws against Exeter, Oxford and Lincoln together with defeat at Bristol Rovers far from promotion form.



Dean Crowe scores on his debut for the Town at Plymouth in 2001.

In late September a managerial masterstroke brought in the unknown Frenchman Jean Louis Valois and he immediately set the pulses racing with wonder strikes against Torquay at Kenilworth Road and away at Leyton Orient which earned us top slot in the table. We now had the left sided player needed to complement Matthew Taylor and our season was ready for take-off.

Our trip to Plymouth followed hot on the heels of the Orient win and the Luton supporters who travelled to the building site that was Home Park at the time were hopeful of a victory against a side that had quietly slipped up the table on the blind side after their poor start.

The Town gave a debut to Dean Crowe, signed on loan from Stoke, as a replacement for the injured Carl Griffiths. Crowe, who had played for Plymouth on loan earlier in the campaign, scored the opener on 14 minutes when he netted from close range after a goalmouth scramble. Argyle drew level a few minutes later when Ian Stonebridge set up Martin Phillips with a clever square pass after drawing the defence. Both sides then hit the bar before the referee ordered

## Nicholls Calms The Nerves

off Plymouth's Mickey Evans for a supposed elbow on Chris Coyne despite no complaints from the Australian.

The dismissal certainly fired up the Argyle players and supporters although it was still against the run of play when David Friis headed a Phillips corner past a sleeping Luton defence in first half stoppage time.

The Town came out in the second half with a four man attack but could not find their way through a resolute Plymouth rearguard and a disappointed Kinnear reflected afterwards that Argyle had deserved their victory as the Hatters were not bright enough up front.

The return clash, the following February, was long awaited and had been a sell out for weeks. Argyle had lost only twice since beating the Town and were leading the table, seven points ahead of ourselves in second place.

A crowd of 9,585, the biggest since 1995, had gathered to see this heavyweight contest with Kinnear playing the game up while his counterpart, Paul Sturrock, played it down. Who was to be proved right?

The Luton players were completely up for the game and attacked from the opening whistle, and throughout the 90 minutes hit the woodwork three times and had 24 attempts on goal.

We had to wait, though, until ten minutes from the end before making the breakthrough against

the division's most miserly defence when Taylor was upended in the box by David Worrell for an uncontested penalty. Skipper Kevin Nicholls kept his nerve and blasted home the spot-kick much to the relief of most of the large crowd.

With Plymouth finally coming out of their shell and throwing caution to the wind, Graham Coughlan caused a few anxious moments when he hit the woodwork following a corner before the game was made safe with three minutes to go.

A Valois corner was headed back across goal by Adrian Forbes to Steve Howard who powered in a header from close range to send the Luton supporters into raptures.

"We saved our best display of the season for the team that is top of the table," said Kinnear afterwards, "It was a 2-0 massacre. They are a decent side and the league proves that but they more than met their match. We had more width and slaughtered them down the sides. They played one up front but we expected that and it suited us."

Despite closing the gap the Hatters could never quite catch up Argyle who deservedly won the championship because of their greater consistency. At least we pushed them all the way!

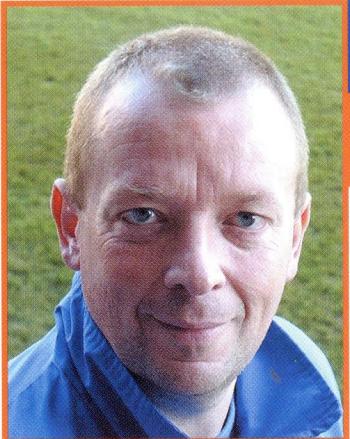
*Roger Wash*

## Yesterday's pages



Luton Town Football Club

For the visit of Plymouth to Kenilworth Road in February 2002 the Town produced an expanded 56 page issue. The programme was to win awards at the season's end. Much was made of the day's clash between the best defence in the division against the best attack with Joe Kinnear and Club Captain Marvin Johnson stressing the need to not let Plymouth move ten points clear at the top and virtually hand the championship to them on a plate. It is interesting to note that despite being second in the table our record was not appreciably better than that of this season. Having said that we did eventually go on a run of thirteen wins and a draw from the last fourteen games!



# LTFC in the Community

working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association and Luton Borough Council



AS WE have mentioned in previous programmes, it has been a busy time for us with our participation in the PFA-organised national tournaments. Today I would like to update you on the progress of Hillborough Junior School in this years annual National Six-a-Side competition organised by Football in the Community sponsored by Kellogg's Frosties.

There has, once again, been a fantastic response to this gr-r-eat competition and a number of new schools have taken part for the first time.

The Grand Final will take place as part of the prematch entertainment before this seasons LDV Vans Trophy Final at the end of March 2004.

They travelled to Swindon Town's County Ground to represent Luton Town in the Southern Region Finals. Tottenham, Oxford and Wycombe were the others fighting for the honour of meeting Middlesbrough, the winners of the Northern Region Final.

In their first game the Luton boys drew 1-1 with Oxford, the goal coming from Martin Collins. Then they beat Wycombe 2-0 thanks to two goals by Jordan Patrick. Going into the last round of games, any of the four competing teams could still win the tournament. It eventually came to the climax when Hillborough had to beat Tottenham 2-0 to go to Cardiff. Unfortunately they missed a couple of acceptable early chances, and were beaten by just one

goal in the last couple of minutes chasing the game. However they were the only team to take point off the eventual winners Oxford. Well done boys. Our pictures give you a flavour of a day to remember.

IN THE local heats of the Adidas Community Cup for girl's under-13, we had an entry of 12 teams from Luton, Leighton Buzzard and Flitwick. They were split into two groups with the top two from each going into the semi-finals.

Lealands 'A' won one group, with Ashcroft runners up and the top two in the other group were Cardinal Newman and Icknield.

Two exciting closely-fought semi-finals saw Ashcroft and Lealands 'A' both go through as 2-1 winners. The final was even tighter, with Lealands winning 3-1 on penalties after the initial game ended 1-1.

Before I go I would like to remind you to take the opportunity to book early for our Easter Courses shown on the opposite page. At half term we had a fantastic response, with 160 Children at Barnfield College every day, and regrettably we had to turn a number away. So it's worth booking early. **AND REMEMBER: OURS ARE THE ONLY SOCCER COURSES WHERE YOU MEET THE PROFESSIONALS.**

*Stuart Smith*



Hillborough Junior School in the dugout at Swindon Town



No 1 for eye tests

# Easter Soccer

BARNFIELD COLLEGE  
NEW BEDFORD ROAD

MONDAY 05/04/04 TO FRIDAY 09/04/04

THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS.  
50% SIBLING DISCOUNT!!!!!!

Courses Start 10:00 am and Finish at 3:00 pm.

• **LSC 1 5 Days**

Soccer Coaching,  
Mon 05/04/04 To Fri 09/04/04.

Age 5-15 YRS  
Cost £45.00

• **LGK1 1 Day**

Goalkeeper Coaching  
Mon 05/04/04

Age 8-13 YRS,  
Cost £10.00.

• **LSS1 1 Day**

Strikers Coaching  
Tues 06/04/04

Age 8-13 YRS,  
Cost £10.00.

• **LSD1 1 Day**

Defenders Coaching  
Wed 07/04/04.

Age 8-13 YRS,  
Cost £10.00.

**INCLUDED**

- Structured Coaching From Our FA and UEFA Qualified Coaches.
- Medals For Player Of The Week And Most Improved Player.
- Skills Challenge Award.
- LTFC Course Certificate, Presented By A LTFC Player.

FARLEY JUNIOR  
NORTH DRIFT WAY  
WEDNESDAY 14/04/04 TO FRIDAY 16/04/04

THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS.  
50% SIBLING DISCOUNT!!!!!!

Courses Start 10:00 am and Finish at 3:00 pm.

• **LSC 2 3 Day**

Soccer Coaching  
Wed 14/04/04 To Fri 16/04/04

Age 5-15 YRS  
Cost £25.00

**INCLUDED**

- Structured Coaching From Our FA and UEFA Qualified Coaches.
- LTFC Course Certificate, Presented By A LTFC Player.
- Medals For Player Of The Week And Most Improved Player.
- Skills Challenge Award.

NEW LADIES DAY NEW  
VAUXHALL REC CENTRE - GIPSY LANE.  
LLD 1 MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2004.  
COST £12.00

RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH 'NATIONWIDE  
SUPPORTERS OF TOMORROW' 11AM TILL 5:15 PM  
THIS COURSE IS FOR GIRLS FROM 8 TO 13 YEARS

- 2 HOURS FOOTBALL FUN ON THE ASTRO PITCH
- THEN OFF TO WATCH LUTON TOWN V SWINDON
- 3PM KICK OFF. TICKET PROVIDED
- TRANSPORT BETWEEN VENUES PROVIDED.
- PLUS 12 LUCKY WINNERS WILL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY ON THE KENILWORTH RD PITCH AT HALFTIME

PICK YOUR CHILD UP AT 5:15 PM - AT PRESS GATE  
KENILWORTH RD BRING A PACKED LUNCH AND LOTS TO DRINK.

To Enrol: Call the Community Office on 01582 391927 or complete the application form below and return with a Cheque payable to: Luton Town FITC.  
To: Stuart Smith LTFC Football in the Community, 1 Maple Rd, Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW.

Name Of Child.1. \_\_\_\_\_ Age. \_\_\_\_\_

Name Of Child.2. \_\_\_\_\_ Age. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

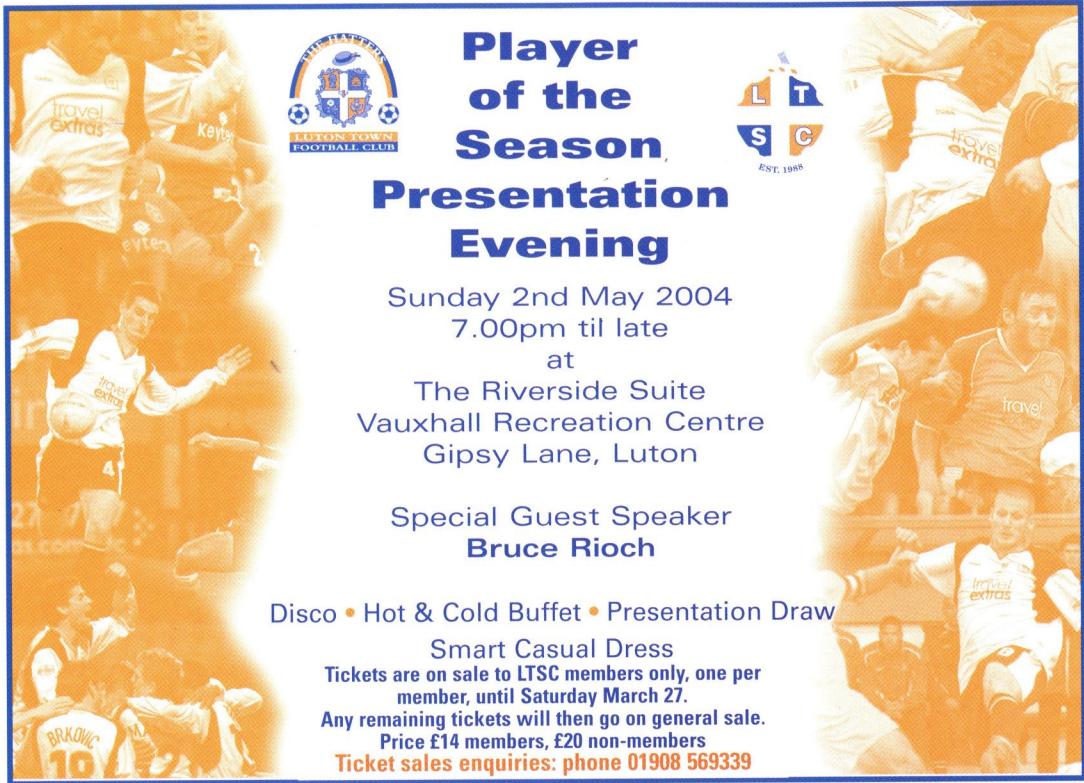
Please List Any Health Problems or Medication \_\_\_\_\_

CHEQUE Payment Must Be Enclosed. (Please write child's name on back of cheque).

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

If you are unwilling for your child's photo to be used in our publicity please tick box.

Signed (Parent/Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ Course Ref You Are Booking: \_\_\_\_\_



**Player of the Season Presentation Evening**

**LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

**LTSC** EST. 1885

Sunday 2nd May 2004  
7.00pm til late  
at  
The Riverside Suite  
Vauxhall Recreation Centre  
Gipsy Lane, Luton

Special Guest Speaker  
**Bruce Rioch**

Disco • Hot & Cold Buffet • Presentation Draw

Smart Casual Dress  
Tickets are on sale to LTSC members only, one per member, until Saturday March 27.  
Any remaining tickets will then go on general sale.  
Price £14 members, £20 non-members  
Ticket sales enquiries: phone 01908 569339



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# SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

Put your name or message  
on your seat for £15.00



**LUTON TOWN  
FOOTBALL CLUB**

## NAME THAT SEAT!

For just a minimum of £15.00 you can have your name or message affixed to your chosen seat and play your own part in helping to preserve the future of your football club, who you and your family may have supported and loved for generations. You may make an additional contribution for your seat should you wish to do so.

This unique offer not only allows you to put your name on your selected seat for all of our remaining seasons at Kenilworth Road, but after the ground finally closes and we move into our new home, your seat will be removed from the Stadium and be given to you to keep forever as your lasting memory of the wonderful history of Kenilworth Road and Luton Town Football Club.

Just think, what a unique Birthday Gift this could make, as well as perhaps a very special way to commemorate a loved one, or family member. Additionally as a local business why not buy a block to promote and advertise your service or product?

To take advantage of this unique offer just pick up an application form from the Club Shop, Ticket Office or simply download an application form from the Luton Town website [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk).

Complete it and post it back to **Names on Seats**, Luton Town Football Club, Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW, enclosing your remittance for a minimum of £15.00, either by cheque payable to **Luton Town FC** or alternatively by completing the credit/debit card details section of the order form.



# Late Goal Gives Vale The Points

## Port Vale 1 Luton Town 0

NEAR-invincible at home, the Town went down to their seventh away defeat of the season on Tuesday, beaten in the last five minutes when it looked as though they had battled through a difficult match to earn a draw.

With both sides having play-off ambitions, it was a tight and often physical confrontation, with the Town taking time to settle into their stride without looking very menacing in front of goal. The midfield contest was about even, while two defences looked well capable of keeping clean sheets.

The narrow divide between success and failure was cruelly underlined after the Town seemed to have withstood everything a desperate home side could throw at them, only to be caught napping by a routine high cross to the far post.

Billy Paynter delivered it and Michael Cummins nipped in to head a winner that put Vale back into seventh place, just a point behind the Town. Before we get too dispirited and fearful that away results might derail the promotion bid, Mike Newell made the point that if we had been told in August we were to be in sixth place in the table, we would have grabbed it.

The main problem at Vale Park was that the attack was fitful, although Vale were lucky in a scrappy first half to survive when Enoch Showunmi out paced Sam Collins on the right wing and saw his angled shot catch a deflection off George Pilkington and hit the outside of the near post. The striker also had a free kick saved, from a position similar to the one he converted so brilliantly against Blackpool.

The quality of football from both sides improved

in the second half, but Vale created the better chances. Morten Hyldgaard made two excellent saves and Paul Hughes came to the rescue with a goal-line clearance and the big away following was preparing to celebrate a very welcome point when Vale snatched the winner.

"We didn't really do ourselves justice, although we played better in the second half," said Mike Newell. "We needed to show more composure, get the ball down, and be brave and pass the ball about. I didn't ever get the feeling that we were going to score. I don't know if it was lack of composure or lack of conviction.

"If we had showed more composure we could have cut them open. Port Vale didn't have a great number of opportunities. They didn't have a shot in the first half and in the second there were a couple of melees in the box where we defended well.

"Port Vale didn't over-run us or anything like that, but we needed to get the ball down. It's frustrating to lose, but there will not be any panic buttons pressed."

Some wondered if Hyldgaard might have gone for the cross that led to the goal, but the manager was not too critical of the keeper. "The ball was in the air for a long time," said the manager. "But only he will know whether he should have gone for it. But he made two magnificent saves just before that.

"And with the squad we have, and the fact that we are not allowed to add to it I think a lot of people in August would have taken what we have now. But that's not to say I am happy with the away form, and we will try to improve it."

### Match Details

**TOWN:** Hyldgaard; Keane, Boyce, Coyne, Davis; Nicholls, Robinson, Hughes (Brkovic 88 mins), Holmes; Showunmi, Howard. Unused subs: Leary, Neilson, Davies, Brill.

**BOOKED:** Kevin Nicholls for a foul.

**PORT VALE:** BBrain; Pilkington, Walsh, Collins, Rowland; Paynter, Cummins, Bridge-Wilkinson, Brisco (Armstrong 77 mins); Brooker, McPhee. Unused subs: Delaney, Burns, Birchall, Lipa.

**BOOKED:** Steve Brooker, foul on Emmerson Boyce.

**REFEREE:** George Cain, Merseyside.

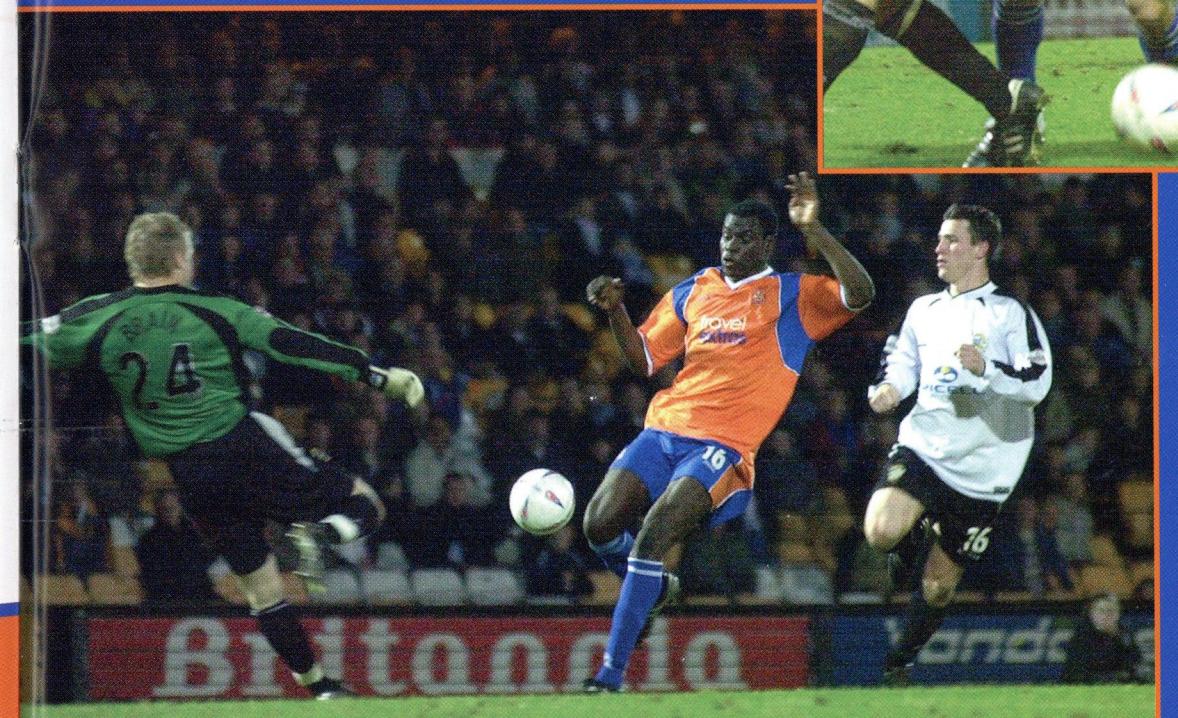
**ATTENDANCE:** 5,048, including 601 away fans.



**BEATING THE ODDS:** Peter Holmes, despite being surrounded by four Vale players, still manages to get his shot away.

**RIGHT:** Ahmet Brkovic, a late sub for Paul Hughes, is held off by Michael Walsh.

**BELOW:** Enoch Showunmi gets clear of Steve Rowland in an attempt to break the deadlock.



# Hatters Pic of the Week



**ACTION STATIONS:** A hectic moment in the Blackpool goalmouth at Kenilworth Road on Saturday, with Steve Howard and Kevin Nicholls in the thick of it on the way to the Town's first double of the season.

# Crunch Decisions Balance Up

## Luton Town 3 Blackpool 2

THE performance of referee Steve Tomlin and his assistants came in for criticism by both managers after the Town completed their first double of the season. A controversial late decision rubbed out what looked like a Blackpool equaliser. Even Mike Newell thought it was a goal, but added that the Town had also suffered from an earlier decision when they were denied a penalty.

The victory reclaimed a place in the play-off zone, but the boss was concerned that his team should have killed off the game after twice going two goals ahead. Instead Blackpool stirred themselves in the final 25 minutes and could easily have gone home with a point they never deserved on the run of play. Four goals in the last 23 minutes made for pulsating entertainment, with Town fans suffering late agonies before the 12th home win of the season was confirmed.

There was not a weak link in the Town's first-half domination, with Keith Keane outstanding at right back, and Steve Howard giving former Town skipper Steve Davis a hard time. Add the effervescent and unpredictable contribution of Enoch Showunmi, and even the most experienced defence can be forgiven for looking dodgy.

The mystery was how the Town led by only one goal at the break, a shot by the lively Peter Holmes turned in by Emmerson Boyce on 25 minutes. Before that two penalty shouts had gone unheard, the second when Sol Davis seemed to be tripped by his namesake. Steve McMahon, son of the Seasiders' manager, cleared off the line when Howard's header from a corner beat the keeper, and the striker was denied by a good save in a one-on-one just before the interval. Despite using all their subs Blackpool looked just as lethargic as the second half unfolded, and we thought it would be plain sailing when Showunmi robbed a defender on the edge of the box and laid

off a pass from Holmes to slot in his third goal of the season on 67 minutes.

Two minutes later Boyce was surprisingly penalised for a trip on Richard Walker, and from the penalty Tony Dinning produced Blackpool's first shot on target to give them hope. Instead, on 74 minutes, Showunmi curled in a delightful free kick from the edge of the box, only for the defence to be caught out as Matthew Blinkhorn got in behind Walker's knock-down to make it 3-2. Another four minutes ticked away before Morten Hylgaard could only parry a drive by Dinning and Blinkhorn followed up to convert the rebound.

It looked like a good goal, and Blackpool boss Steve McMahon was furious. "Everyone in the ground knew it was a goal," he said. "It was an outrageous decision by inept officials. But it was a poor performance by us for an hour."

He takes his side to the Millennium Stadium tomorrow, for the LDV final, and wondered if some of his men had their thoughts on that instead of concentrating on the job in hand at Kenilworth Road. "Our last half hour was very good," he said. "But I want a performance over an hour and a half."

Mike Newell said he was surprised that the offside "goal" was chalked off, but added: "It was a blatant penalty when Sol Davis went down."

"We have got to learn to kill games off when we get two goals ahead. We felt we should have been more in front at half time, but we let Blackpool into it for ten minutes in the first half, and then for a lot longer at the back end of the second half."

"We did well creating chances, and the game should have been all over by half time. We had them on the rack, but didn't finish them off. Having said that it is pleasing to win, and that is still the most important thing."

### Match Details

**TOWN:** Hylgaard; Keane, Boyce, Coyne, Davis; Nicholls, Robinson, Hughes, Holmes; Showunmi, Howard. Subs, all unused: Brkovic, Leary, Mansell, Davies, Brill.

**BOOKED:** Paul Hughes and Steve Howard for fouls.

**BLACKPOOL:** Barnes; Grayson, Davis, Hessey, Elliott, Evans (Jaszczun 21 mins); Wellens, Dinning, McMahon (Bullock 57 mins); Sheron (Blinkhorn 57 mins), Walker. Unused subs: Richardson, Jones.

**BOOKED:** Mike Sheron and Steve McMahon Jnr for fouls.

**REFEREE:** Steve Tomlin, East Sussex.

**ATTENDANCE:** 6,343, including 325 away fans.



**TWO UP:** Peter Holmes, set free by a delightful pass by Enoch Showunmi, gets clear of three defenders before shooting his third goal of the season midway through the second half.

**RIGHT:** Steve v Steve, and it's Howard who has the beating of former Town skipper Davis.

**BELOW:** The ball is in the net for the Town's opening goal, scored by Emmerson Boyce, and Enoch Showunmi begins the celebrations.



## Town Teaser

A PAIR of match tickets will be won by a lucky supporter this afternoon. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go in our Town Teaser competition. At the last home game we asked who played for Blackpool before turning out for the Town in the 1959 FA Cup final. The answer was Allan Brown, who later became our manager. We are a lot more up to date with this afternoon's trivia test.

### TODAY'S QUESTION

WHO made his debut for the Town at Plymouth earlier this season?

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## Winning Double For A Lucky Fan

WE ENJOYED the result against Blackpool, and for one lucky Town fan it was the second result of the day, because at half time Chris Moore, from Ilford Close, Stopsley, put £715 cash in his pocket. He sits in the Enclosure, and was the day's Golden Gamble winner, with his £1 stake proving to be a very good investment. Adrian Forbes drew out the winning ticket.

It was the 21st jackpot of the season, and they have totalled £13,795, an average of £657 each. The club has also benefited from your tremendous support – it is a 50/50 lottery, with half the income going into the jackpot and the other half to club funds.

Golden Gamble sellers will be on duty in all parts of the ground again today offering another fan the chance to go home with a handful of readies for a stake of just £1. The draw is made at half time, and the prize is available for collection there and then.

We still have one prize unclaimed: the Golden Gamble draw for the postponed Bournemouth



game was won by ticket number 29485, and we believe it was sold in the main stand or executive areas. If you have that ticket from the Bournemouth match, please contact the club's commercial department and you will be rewarded with £585.

An advertisement for Mitre Ultimax football. The background is a dark, grainy photograph of a football crowd. Overlaid on the image is the text: 'Last Season', 'The Nationwide Football', 'League saw an increase in', 'Attendance of 13.5%;', 'Why...?' Below this text is a Mitre logo with the word 'Mitre' and a right-pointing arrow. To the right of the text is a Mitre Ultimax football, which is white with blue and red accents. The text 'The Quality of the Football' is at the bottom right. At the very bottom, there is small print: 'Image by Empics 0115 840 444 Digital Artwork by SentryBox 01895 251 220'.

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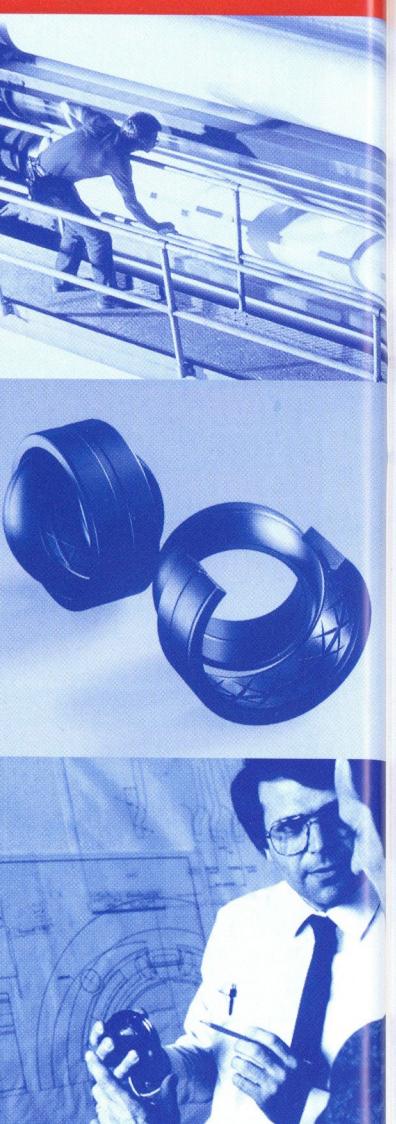
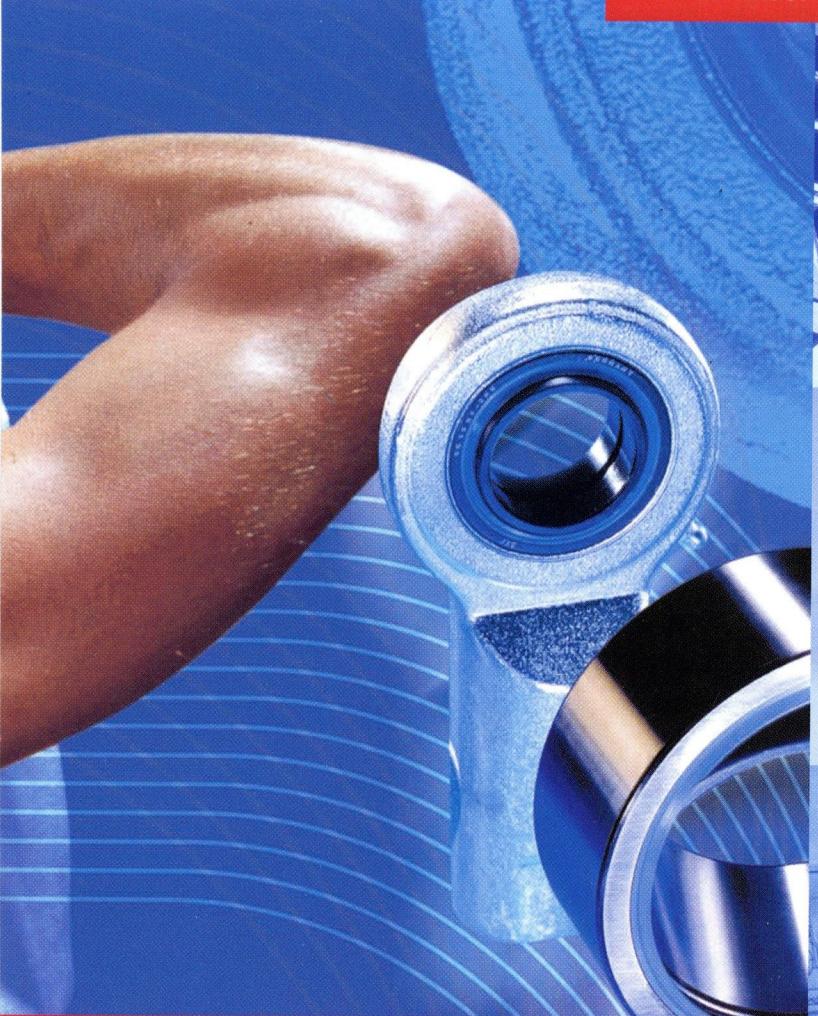
	<b>Emmerson Boyce</b> <b>Elsie Clubb</b>
	<b>Robert Beckwith</b> <b>Danny &amp; Elsie Clubb</b>
	<b>Richard Mansell</b> <b>Danny &amp; Elsie Clubb</b>
	<b>Cherry Newbery</b> <b>WHOSH</b>
	<b>Mike Newell</b> <b>LTFC Supporters Club (MK)</b>
	<b>Ahmet Brkovic</b>
	<b>G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd</b>
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	<b>Matthew Judge</b> <b>The Regular Rabble</b>
	<b>Michael Leary</b> <b>MacNaughton Ltd</b>
	<b>Morten Hyldgaard</b>
	<b>Scott Simpson</b>
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	<b>Mark Norman</b>
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	<b>Paul Hughes</b> <b>G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd</b>
	<b>Steve Howard</b> <b>Denise, Nicky &amp; Wendi</b>
	<b>Russell Perrett</b> <b>Mad as a Hatter</b>
	<b>Adrian Forbes</b> <b>Bobbers Travel Club</b>
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	<b>Mike Newell</b>
	<b>Nikki &amp; Robert Ginsberg</b>
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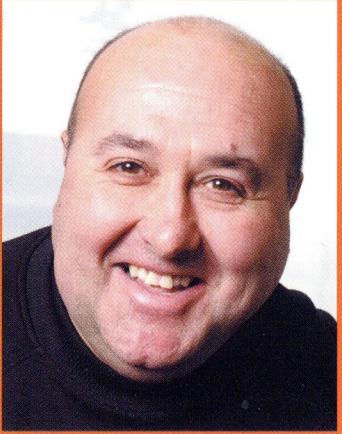
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# Youth Soccer The under-17s



### Luton Town 4 Northampton Tn 0

A GOOD strong performance brought us victory on merit, and the only possible criticism would be that we should have won by a greater margin. Sheer pace and power gave us dominance, and once we had got two ahead we hardly moved out of second gear.

Calvin Andrew scored a hat-trick, and it was pleasing that even when we realised the game was won we still played properly, and concentrated on keeping a very welcome clean sheet.

Our team included a trialist, Tom Ward, a striker who has been released by Charlton, and we will probably have another look at him. He has been capped at under-17 level by the Republic of Ireland, and within three minutes he played a part in the first goal, taking a pass from David Deeney and going past a defender before crossing for Andrew to slide in to score at the far post.

Our midfield controlled the game, and on 29 minutes Luke Maitland's deep cross was headed back by Ward for Andrew to loop in a header, and it was effectively no contest after that. Northampton were second best, and their misery got worse on the hour mark when their keeper was stretchered off following a collision with

Andrew. They had already used all three subs, so a midfielder had to play in goal for a ten-man team.

They did their best to protect the keeper, but Mutsa Magadah and Andrew added

further goals. The young Cobblers were lucky to escape a real hiding, and Andrew might have scored six – he was denied by a wonderful save in the first half, had one cleared off the line and a debatable offside decision rubbed out another effort which looked like a good goal.

**Luton Town:** Barrett, Mountford (R. Sinclair 85 mins), Green, Pendleton, Asafu'Adjaye, Maitland (Magadah 67 mins), Deeney, Ridgway, S. Sinclair, Ward, Andrew (Charles 85 mins).

WE ARE away to Brighton next Saturday, and our next scheduled home match is against Portsmouth on April 3, although we are still waiting to fix up a new date for a home game with Brentford which was postponed in January.

**APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets:** Green 21, Pendleton 20(1), Tague 18(1), S. Sinclair 18(1), Barrett 16, Smyth 15, Hanley 15, R. Sinclair 12(4), Preston 11(4), Burrows 10, Magadah 9(1), Ridgway 8, Asafu'Adjaye 7(8), Andrew 6, Mountford 6, Clark 6, Richardson 5(1), Goodchild 5, Maitland 4(1), Deeney 4, Jones 3, Kenneford 2(4), Charles 2(2), Reynolds 2(1), Freeman 2, Keane 2, R. Quinn 2, Kennet 2, Robinson 1(4), Hamilton 1(1), Farrell 1, Potter 1, Kelly 1, Field 1, McNally 1, Port 1, Hooper 1, Ward 1, Ede 0(3), K. Quinn 0(2), Cowley 0(2), Foley 0(1), McGuinness 0(1), Marsiligo 0(1),

**Goals:** Andrew 8, Preston 7, Burrows 6, Freeman 4, Ridgway 4, Magadah 4, S. Sinclair 3, Richardson 3, Hanley 3, Magadah 4, Maitland 2, Green 2, Tague 1, Smyth 1, Kenneford 1, R. Sinclair 1, Keane 1, Jones 1, Hamilton 1, Charles 1, Deeney 1.

### 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

#### December

15 L. Orient A 4-0 R. Sinclair, Burrows, Richardson, Preston  
6 Colchester A 0-1  
13 Oxford H 6-1 Ridgway, Keane, S. Sinclair, Hanley, Green, Jones

#### January

17 Gillingham H 3-1 Preston 3  
24 Wycombe A 3-0 Andrew 2, Hanley  
31 Brentford H Postponed

#### February

14 Rushden H 2-1 Hamilton, Charles  
17 QPR H 3-1 Deeney, Magadah, Green  
21 Cambridge H 2-2 Ridgway 2

#### March

6 Southend H 2-2 Ridgway, Andrew  
13 Northampton H 4-0 Andrew 3, Magadah

#### April

20 QPR A  
27 Brighton A  
3 Portsmouth H

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

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Brighton	25	19	1	5	72	27	45	58
QPR	23	15	6	2	75	26	49	51
Cambridge	24	13	4	7	55	30	25	43
Portsmouth	25	12	7	6	51	36	15	43
Rushden	25	11	8	6	58	47	11	41
Colchester	26	11	7	8	56	45	11	40
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>
Southend	23	9	5	9	48	39	9	32
Gillingham	26	8	6	12	42	68	-26	30
Oxford	25	9	2	14	39	60	-21	29
Brentford	25	7	7	11	36	48	-12	28
Wycombe	24	6	7	11	37	60	-23	25
Northampton	26	4	3	19	32	74	-42	15
L. Orient	25	2	3	20	31	96	-65	9

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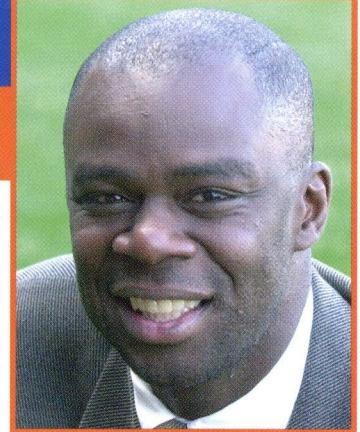
Paul Kenny

*Paul Kenny*

Paul Kenny  
GMB London Regional Secretary

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# Youth Soccer: The under-19s



WE SUFFERED a major disappointment last week when our scheduled fixture in Merit Division Two South of the Umbro Isotonic Youth Alliance was called off. Swindon made contact the day before to say the pitch was unusable because of snow, and that left us all feeling frustrated and deflated.

With only eight teams in the division league games are once a fortnight, so the postponement meant that we would have had a month between games by the time we entertain Oxford United next Saturday (Luton RFC, Newlands Road, kick-off 11am).

But we switched our home match with Torquay to today.

At the time of writing we are still waiting to hear when the Swindon match will be played, but the

postponement was a blow for various reasons. The boys had been training well all week in preparation, and were all looking forward to the game, and from the club's point of view we wanted to see them in competitive action as we think about who we want to keep on for next season, and who might be released.

Our only consolation was that we are still joint top of the division, with a game in hand on Portsmouth, a team we have already beaten. They lead us only on goal difference, by just one goal. Either Oxford or Cheltenham might have gone above us on Saturday, when they were due to meet, but their game was also called off because of snow at Oxford.

My old Luton team-mate Darren Patterson, now youth coach at Oxford, tells me he fancied his team's chances of a win to go top, so our game against his lads next Saturday is important for both sides. Everyone is welcome to watch the boys in action, and admission is free.

## APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets):

Mountford 19, Ridgway 19, Deeney 18(2), R. Mansell 18(1), Howell 18, Barnett 16, Keane 13, Davies 12(1), Okai 12(1), Judge 12(1), O'Leary 12, Andrew 11(2), Ede 11, Freeman 6(1), Maitland 6(1), Jones 5, Hanley 5(2), Barrett 4, Magadah 2(8), S. Sinclair 2(4), Brill 2, Godfrey 2, Green 2, Pendleton 1(2), Tague 1, Beckwith 1, Lambu 1, Wright 0(2), Burrows 0(1), Robinson 0(1).

**GOALS:** Judge 8, Andrew 4, O'Leary 3, Barnett 3, Okai 3, Magadah 2, Freeman 2, Ridgway 2, Davies 2, Deeney 1, Mansell 1, Green 1, Hanley 1, Maitland 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 1-1 **Green**

### February

7 **Kidderminster** A 1-2 **Judge**  
**Merit Division S. Section Div II**

### February

14 **Portsmouth** A 3-2 **Judge, Andrew, Hanley**  
28 **Swansea** H 3-0 **Judge, Maitland, Okai**

### March

13 **Swindon** A Postponed  
20 **Torquay** H  
27 **Oxford Utd** H

### April

17 **Brentford** A  
24 **Cheltenham** H

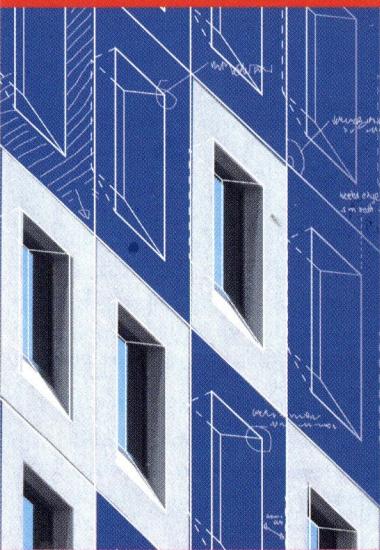
## Merit Division Two South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Portsmouth	3	2	0	1	8	3	5	6
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Cheltenham	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	6
Oxford	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
Torquay	3	1	0	2	9	4	5	3
Swindon	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
Brentford	4	0	1	3	3	9	-6	1
Swansea	2	0	0	2	1	12	-11	0

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WELCOME to all young supporters, and especially to our visitors, Jo Benwell and the Junior Greens from Plymouth.

We are repaying their kind hospitality, although we hope they have had a better journey today than we had when we went to Home Park for the game there in September. The motorways were a nightmare and we only just made it for kick-off, missing out on the pre-match entertainment that had been laid on.

Hopefully, the coach from Plymouth has had a quicker journey today, and we were looking forward to meeting our old friends at our Saturday Club, including playing football against them. We hope they

## Today's Mascot

he has been chosen to be Junior Hatters mascot. He is eight years old, and lives at Pomfret Avenue, Luton, and goes to Wenlock Junior School, and lists his hobbies as watching Luton Town, playing football for Memorial Park Steelmen, swimming, and the cubs. He comes to games with his mum and dad, and they sit in the family stand.

Today Daniel will have the chance to go behind the scenes before kick-off and meet the Town players in the dressing room, including his favourite, Steve Howard.

Our ball girl today is Charlotte Jones, from Bushmead Road, Luton, and the ball boy is Chris Day, from Germander Way, Bicester.



READY FOR KICK-OFF: Junior Hatter Steven James was our mascot for the Blackpool game, and is pictured with the skippers and match officials at the toss of the coin before it started.

JUNIOR Hatters membership is open to boys and girls aged from 0 to 16 who support Luton Town. There are lots of advantages, including the Saturday Club, organised trips to away games, and the chance to be a mascot at home matches – the choice is made at random from the membership list. For more information call Junior Hatters headquarters in the Community office, on 01582 391927.

If you would like to join the Junior Hatters  
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# Young Belles Show The Right Spirit

FOR MOST of this season this column has told of the successful exploits of our more established squads, but it would be wrong to assume that Luton Town Belles caters only for experienced footballers. The club is not elitist like so many other female clubs, and that policy has been borne out by the achievement of the under-12 Tangerines, where the entire squad are all in their first season of competitive football.

In spite of their relative inexperience they have made a big impression with their team spirit and enthusiasm, and they currently hold fourth position in the local county league and were only knocked out of the League Cup at the semi-final stage. Bouncing back from that disappoint-



**STARS OF THE FUTURE:** The Belles under-12 Tangerines line up for the camera. Back row: Alice O'Shea, Kerry Stratton, Ashley Best, Zoe Jenkins, Natasha Butler. Front row: Megan Molster, Megan Willmott, Kirsty Scott, Alicia McIntosh, Leanne Lizaitis, Tia Augustine

*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 [lutontownbelles@hotmail.com](mailto:lutontownbelles@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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## Focus On:

**HOME COUNTIES Insurance Services Ltd**

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

# Prince's Trust Team Brighten The Scene

WE REPORTED a couple of months ago that Luton Town, in common with many other clubs up and down the country, was once more supporting the local efforts for the Prince's Trust Team Programme. Under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Wales, it is a scheme to help young people improve their prospects.

Today, Mark Golby, the Luton Prince's Trust team leader, presents his "half time" report on the latest initiative, a 12-week personal development programme.

Ten courageous 16-25 year old unemployed people have worked hard during the last six weeks and attended the programme every day to develop personal skills which will help them gain full-time employment, or move on to further education or training.

They have been on a team-building residential week in Wales doing such things as rock-climbing, abseiling and canoeing before returning for fund-raising activities here at Kenilworth Road, with the assistance of club secretary Cherry Newbery, who is a great supporter of The Prince's Trust Team in Luton.

She arranged for the team to sweep up all the litter in the stands on the Monday morning after the Tranmere Rovers game in return for some club merchandise. Mark reports: "The team did this task wiping the tears from their eyes after the sad FA Cup result, but filled over 15 black bags for the fund-raising venture."

Money is needed to buy tools and equipment to carry out a three-week project done by the team for the benefit of the local community. In the past these projects have included re-decorating community centres and creating a sensory garden in a school for children with disabilities.

This time Luton Team Four chose to re-decorate the Bennett's Rec pavilion in Dunstable, which is primarily football changing rooms for Saturday and Sunday league football teams. Said Mark: "We also tried to make it bright enough to be used for activities inside, and for passers-by outside. Over the three weeks we managed to make quite a transform-

mation with the limited materials and expertise we had between us, but it is best I feel to hear from the team members themselves so here it is what they had to say:

Cat (16): "It was hard work to paint a whole building in just three weeks, especially when it is really just for football and half of the team are girls who are really not interested in football anyway. However, we have a great team spirit and with advice made an excellent changing room. It was worth it just to be on the radio too!"

Dwain (18): "I love football so to be able to paint things to do with football on the walls like sayings, kits, footballs, etc. was just wicked! It was really cold some days when we painted outside and it was hard to keep motivated, but I am proud of what I have done and I hope the players who use it are pleased with our work."

Kerrie (19): "We have to be thankful for all the kind donations of products and help from local communities because we would not have completed it without them. We also re-decorated the kitchen area, front doors, the roof, and the entrance steps, so hopefully even people who walk past with their dogs who don't care about football look at it and say Wow, that's looks better."

Team leader Mark said: "As we head into the second half of the programme I would like to thank the following people;

- Dunstable Town Council for a great project.
- All the Companies who kindly donated their services and products for us to use.
- Chiltern FM and the Herald and Post for making my team feel like the superstars, which they are in my eyes after your interviews with them.
- And Cherry Newbery and Luton Town Football Club.

"The club has allowed us to share this piece with the Luton Town fans, and also given us continual support, and we look forward to coming back to what I like to call our "second home" on March 31 for our Final Team presentation in the superb Eric Morecambe suite."

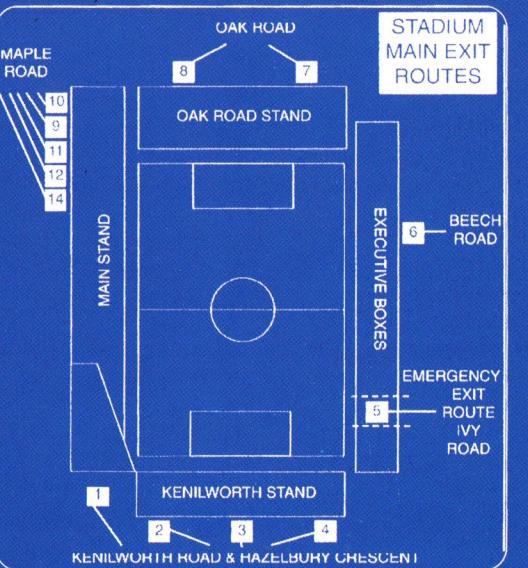
**The Prince's Trust exists to help young people to overcome barriers and get their lives working. Through practical support including training, mentoring and financial assistance, it helps 14-30 year olds to realise their potential and transform their lives. If you would like more information please call Mark Golby on 07815 733720 or Jane Leather on 01582 410011.**

# EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

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

Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.



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# Nationwide Division 2 Statistics

## Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1 g	2 g	3 g	4 g	5+ g	
Plymouth	6	11	2	1	2	
Bristol City	13	3	1	1	1	
QPR	9	3	5	1	1	
Swindon	8	9	0	1	0	
Brighton	6	6	4	1	0	
Port Vale	10	2	3	1	0	
Bournemouth	12	1	1	0	1	
Wrexham	10	3	1	1	0	
Luton	8	6	1	0	0	
Hartlepool	7	5	1	0	1	
Rushden	6	5	1	1	0	
Blackpool	9	1	1	1	0	
Barnsley	7	4	1	0	0	
Colchester	9	3	0	0	0	
Sheff Wed	9	2	1	0	0	
Grimsby	4	4	0	1	1	
Chesterfield	5	4	1	0	0	
Peterborough	5	1	2	0	1	
Brentford	7	1	0	1	0	
Notts County	5	2	2	0	0	
Tranmere	7	0	2	0	0	
Oldham	4	1	2	0	1	
Stockport	4	3	0	0	0	
Wycombe	1	1	2	0	0	

## Comebacks

WON from	-3	-2	-1	Total
Port Vale	0	0	5	5
Blackpool	0	1	3	4
Bournemouth	0	0	4	4
Luton	0	1	2	3
Chesterfield	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3
Wrexham	0	0	3	3

## Throwaways

LOST from	+3	+2	+1	Total
Port Vale	0	0	5	5
Grimsby	0	0	4	4
Peterborough	0	1	2	3
Brentford	0	0	3	3
Luton	0	0	3	3
Oldham	0	0	3	3
QPR	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3

## Scoring Chances per Game

No. of Shots per game	ON Target	OFF Target
Plymouth	8.03	6.59
Bristol City	7.08	5.14
Swindon	6.33	5.17
QPR	6.17	5.22
Notts County	5.81	5.32
Oldham	5.56	5.44
Bournemouth	5.53	5.31
Colchester	5.37	5.37
Luton	6.26	4.43
Peterborough	5.57	4.92
Wrexham	5.89	4.50
Blackpool	6.11	4.25
Hartlepool	5.83	4.53
Rushden	6.05	4.14
Barnsley	5.84	4.30
Brighton	5.62	4.49
Port Vale	5.31	4.67
Tranmere	5.51	4.40
Grimsby	5.41	4.38
Sheff Wed	5.08	4.27
Chesterfield	4.97	4.33
Stockport	4.81	4.43
Brentford	4.65	3.92
Wycombe	4.46	3.68

## Scored in last 15 mins

FOR	76-90	Total	%
Bristol City	16	49	33
Swindon	18	59	31
Tranmere	11	40	28
Plymouth	20	74	27
Peterborough	12	45	27
Chesterfield	9	37	24
QPR	16	66	24
Luton	12	55	22
Notts County	9	42	21
Against	76-90	Total	%
Brentford	22	60	37
Sheff Wed	14	48	29
Brighton	10	37	27
QPR	9	34	26
Peterborough	13	50	26
Luton	12	47	26
Notts County	15	60	25
Chesterfield	12	55	22
Swindon	9	42	21

## Set Piece Goals

Scored from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Plymouth	10	13	23
Hartlepool	5	10	15
Port Vale	7	8	15
QPR	5	10	15
Stockport	4	11	15
Swindon	5	10	15
Brentford	8	6	14
Brighton	8	6	14
Bristol City	10	4	14
Luton	6	7	13
Conceded from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Brentford	13	6	19
Wycombe	11	8	19
Stockport	6	12	18
Chesterfield	10	6	16
Bristol City	5	8	13
Oldham	7	6	13

## Early Goals Scored

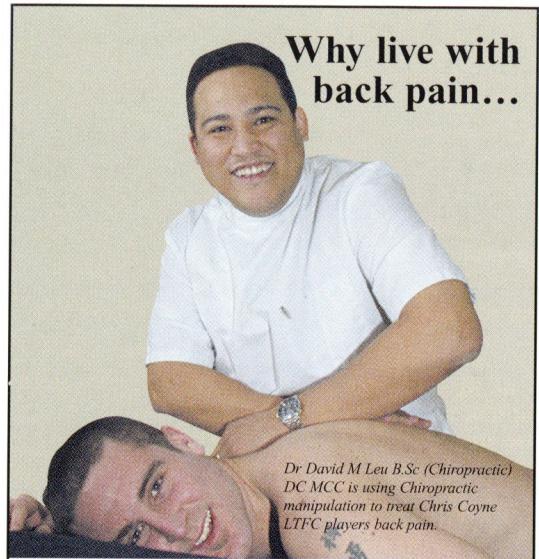
Most goals in FIRST 10 mins of match	Player	Club	Goals
Mooney	Swindon	4	
Williams E	Hartlepool	3	
Heffernan	Notts County	3	
Brooker	Port Vale	3	



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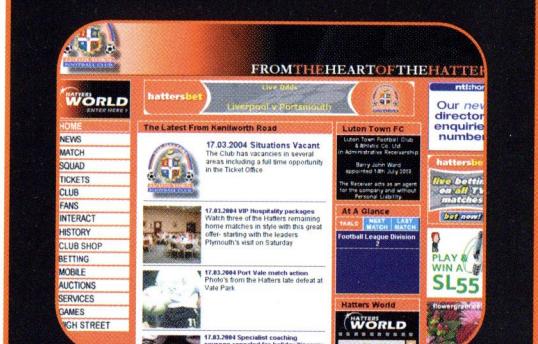
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# The Scene On Two: Chase Hots Up

IF THE Town are to be sure of staying in the top six today they have to succeed where 14 other teams have already failed so far this season and beat a team with the best away record in the Second Division. Only four teams have managed home wins over Plymouth, while eight have been beaten and six managed draws.

Argyle stretched their lead at the top to seven points on Tuesday with a 2-0 home win over Peterborough. QPR regained second place by beating Wrexham at Loftus Road. Bristol City retained second place at the weekend with a 1-0 home win over Rushden, but had a night off on Tuesday, when they should have been away to Tranmere. Prenton Park was hosting an FA Cup quarter-final replay instead, with Tranmere now free to concentrate on safeguarding their Second Division status after losing to Millwall. Tuesday's results were not too kind to the Town, and although the defeat at Vale Park left them still in the top six, teams above moved further ahead while the chasing pack came closer.

Swindon's home win over Grimsby on

Wednesday enabled them to regain third place, ahead of Brighton, who were winners at Chesterfield. Bournemouth crept closer to the Town by winning 2-0 at Hillsborough on Wednesday. They are level on goal difference with the Town, but below on goals scored, and the Town also have a game in hand. But that vanishes today, because Bournemouth have no match this afternoon. They should have been at home to Blackpool, but the Seasiders are busy instead preparing for tomorrow's LDV Vans Trophy final against Southend.

The bad news for the Town is that if they lose today, Bournemouth will leapfrog them without kicking a ball, because of goal difference.

And Plymouth are a stiff test, with the departure of Paul Sturrock seemingly immaterial – they have taken seven of the nine points at stake since he went to Southampton. They lost at Tranmere a month ago, but are unbeaten in six games since then. The sequence: Port Vale H 2-1, Blackpool A 1-0, Sheffield Wednesday H 2-0, Notts County A 0-0, Swindon H 2-1, Peterborough H 2-0.

As well as Tranmere, only three other teams have sent Plymouth home pointless – Rushden in August, QPR in November and Brighton in January. Argyle's six away draws were at 1-1 at Chesterfield, 2-2 at Peterborough and at Wrexham, 0-0 at Wycombe, Grimsby and Notts County. Argyle's away wins were 3-1 at Brentford, 5-1 at Port Vale, 3-1 at Sheffield Wednesday, 2-0 at Colchester, 3-2 at Swindon, 2-0 at Bournemouth and Stockport and 1-0 at Blackpool.

### Nationwide League Division Two

	HOME					AWAY					Pts		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	GD		
<b>Plymouth</b>	37	14	4	1	46	12	8	6	4	28	20	<b>42</b>	<b>76</b>
QPR	36	14	5	0	41	10	5	7	5	25	24	32	69
Bristol City	36	12	5	1	30	9	7	6	5	19	18	22	68
Swindon	36	12	4	3	37	18	6	5	6	22	24	17	63
Brighton	37	13	3	2	33	10	4	6	9	21	27	17	60
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>
Bournemouth	36	11	5	2	30	15	4	6	8	15	22	8	56
Port Vale	36	12	4	2	36	22	4	3	11	22	29	7	55
Hartlepool	36	7	8	3	27	15	7	4	7	30	33	9	54
Wrexham	36	7	6	5	21	13	8	0	10	20	35	-5	51
Barnsley	37	6	10	2	21	13	6	4	9	22	32	-2	50
Sheff Wed	36	6	8	5	21	20	6	4	8	20	28	-7	48
Rushden	37	9	5	5	35	24	4	3	11	20	32	-1	47
Colchester	35	8	7	4	24	21	4	3	9	12	24	-9	46
Blackpool	36	7	3	8	22	21	5	6	7	21	29	-7	45
Tranmere	35	8	6	3	26	17	1	8	9	14	34	-11	41
Oldham	36	7	6	5	27	19	1	10	7	22	31	-1	40
Chesterfield	36	7	6	5	27	22	3	4	11	10	33	-18	40
Grimsby	37	7	5	6	32	22	3	5	11	13	44	-21	40
Peterborough	37	3	6	9	28	28	6	6	7	17	22	-5	39
Stockport	37	3	7	8	23	30	4	8	7	26	32	-13	36
Notts County	37	5	6	7	25	22	4	3	12	17	38	-18	36
Brentford	37	6	3	9	25	32	3	5	11	13	28	-22	35
Wycombe	37	4	5	9	25	30	0	10	9	13	30	-22	27

### Today's Other Second Division fixtures

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

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## Around The Town - By The Editor

THURSDAY is transfer deadline day, and the Town are poised to make moves to strengthen the squad for the promotion run-in... if the Football League will let them. Yesterday Mike Newell was still waiting and hoping that the club would come out of administrative receivership in the very near future, and that the League would then lift the embargo on the club signing new players.

"It's deeply frustrating, and has been all through the season," said the boss. "We hope to come out of administration very soon, and then we have to hope that we can get on with the business of bringing in new faces.

"We have done remarkably well with the squad we have, especially when you consider how many injuries we have suffered, but as a manager you always want more competition for places."

He and Mick Harford know the players they want. "We have compiled a list of targets who we would like to bring in," said the director of football. "But we can't do anything while we are under the embargo. I hope we come out of administration before Thursday, and can ask the League to let us make

signings."

Bill Tomlins, head of the consortium poised to take over the club, feels the same way. "We are close to finalising everything," he said, "It is in the hands of The Football League and the FA. We want to be in before the transfer window closes. I am sure fans feel as frustrated as we do at how long it is taking. But the delay is for the good of everyone. The Football League now has a very strict policy on insolvency. They make a lot of checks on proposed new owners, and demand very detailed information about their plans and their ability to carry them out. They are acting in the best interests of football, and want to be sure we are there for the long haul, and for the good of the club."

### Injuries On The Mend

ONE of the happiest men around Kenilworth Road this week was Adrian Forbes. He returned to training following his latest knee operation, and should soon be competing for a place in the first team squad. He will need time to regain full fitness, but expects to play his part in the crucial run-in to the end of the season. He has missed 11 league games, but remains the Town's leading scorer with 14 goals from 22 appearances. His return will give Mike Newell an extra option, with Forbes a midfielder until he became an emergency strike partner for Steve Howard before Enoch Showunmi burst on the scene.

Kevin Foley, out of action since the game at Wycombe, is also back in training, although his bad luck provided an opportunity for 17-year-old Keith Keane to show his capabilities, and the manager and coaches are delighted with the way he has slotted into the team.

With Ian Hillier also available, and Alan Neilson back in business after sickness, Mike Newell has a choice of how to plug the gap this afternoon as left back Sol Davis starts a two-match suspension.

But Matt Spring is unlikely to figure. He was due to meet a specialist a couple of days ago to try to find a definitive answer to the intermittent groin pain which has been troubling him for a month.

*Brian Swain*



**FAN MEETS HIS HERO:** Enoch Showunmi was voted Town player of the month for February in the poll sponsored by Travel Extras. Votes are cast via the club's website, or by text messages, and voters on mobiles are entered into a draw to choose a fan to make the award. The winner this time was Chris Payne, and he was bowled over by his luck, because he does the Enoch Showunmi website, and this was the first time he had met his hero. Also in the picture are Chris's guest and Claire Mathieson, Travel Extra's marketing manager.

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



# Today's Squads



**Manager: Mike Newell**

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

(1)



**Caretaker Manager: Kevin Summerfield**

1	Romain LARRIEU	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	David WORRELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Lee HODGES	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	David FRIIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Graham COUGHLAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Steve ADAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	David NORRIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Jason BENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Micky EVANS	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Ian STONEBRIDGE	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Martin PHILLIPS	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Tony CAPALDI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Paul WOTTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Hasney ALJOFREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Nathan LOWNDES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Marino KEITH	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Blair STURROCK	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Paul CONNOLLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Luke MCCORMICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Peter GILBERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
90	Michael FOOT	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Today's Officials

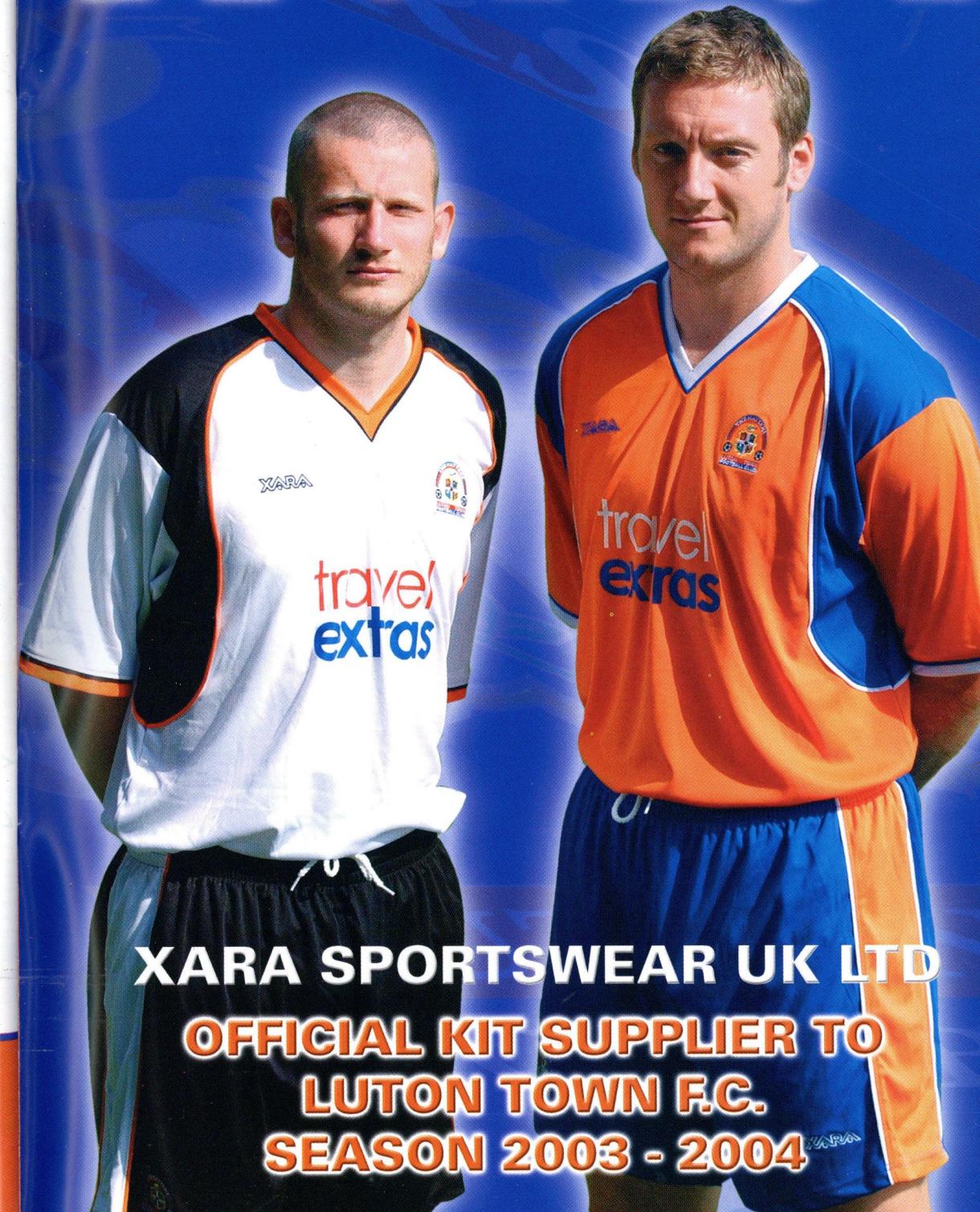
Referee: Graham Salisbury, Lancashire

Assistants: Martin Darlow, Bedfordshire (red and yellow flag);

Dave Phillips, West Sussex (yellow flag)

Fourth official: Mike Russell, Hertfordshire

# XARA



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