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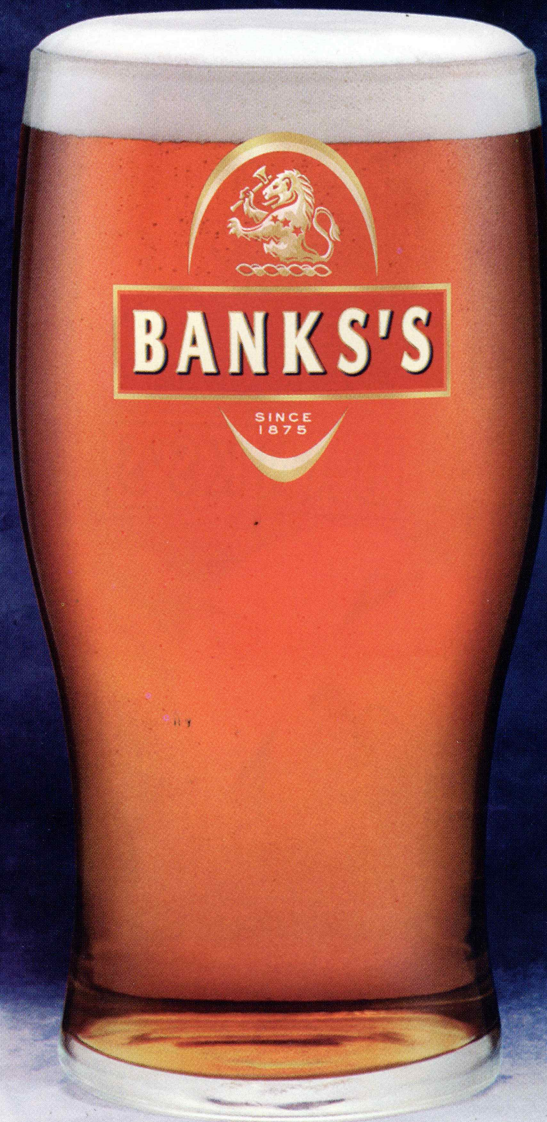
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WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB

The Saddlers

The club was formed in 1888 when the leading two teams in the area, Walsall Town and Walsall Swifts, amalgamated to form Walsall Town Swifts. The club became known simply as Walsall FC in 1895 and has had a colourful existence ever since...

HONOURS:

Football League Division Two Runners-Up
1998/1999

Football League Division Two Play-Off Winners
2000/2001

Football League Division Three Runners-Up
1960/1961, 1994/1995

Football League Division Three Play-Off
Winners 1987/1988

Football League Division Four Champions
1959/1960

Football League Division Four Runners-Up
1979/1980

League Cup semi-finalists, 1983/1984

FIRST FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAME:

September 3rd 1892 v Darwen (home),
Division Two

RECORD LEAGUE VICTORY:

10-0 v Darwen (home), March 4th 1899, Division
Two

RECORD CUP VICTORY:

7-0 v Macclesfield Town (away), December 6th
1997, FA Cup second round

RECORD LEAGUE DEFEAT:

0-12 v Small Heath, December 17th 1892,
Division Two

0-12 v Darwen, December 26th 1896,
Division Two

MOST LEAGUE POINTS (TWO FOR A WIN):

65 points, Division Four 1959/1960

MOST LEAGUE POINTS (THREE FOR A WIN):

87 points, Division Two 1998/99

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A SEASON:

102 goals in Division Four 1959/1960

HIGHEST LEAGUE SCORER IN A SEASON:

Gilbert Alsop with 39 goals in Division Three
(North), 1933/1934 and 1934/1935

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN TOTAL:

182 by Tony Richards, 1954 - 1963
177 by Alan Buckley, 1973 - 1985 (two spells)
170 by Colin Taylor, 1958 - 1973 (three spells)
151 by Gilbert Alsop, 1931 - 1947 (two spells)

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN ONE MATCH:

5 by Gilbert Alsop v Carlisle United, Division
Three (North), February 2nd 1935
5 by Bill Evans v Mansfield Town, Division Three
(North), October 5th 1935
5 by Johnny Devlin v Torquay United, Division
Three (South), September 1st 1949

MOST CAPPED PLAYER:

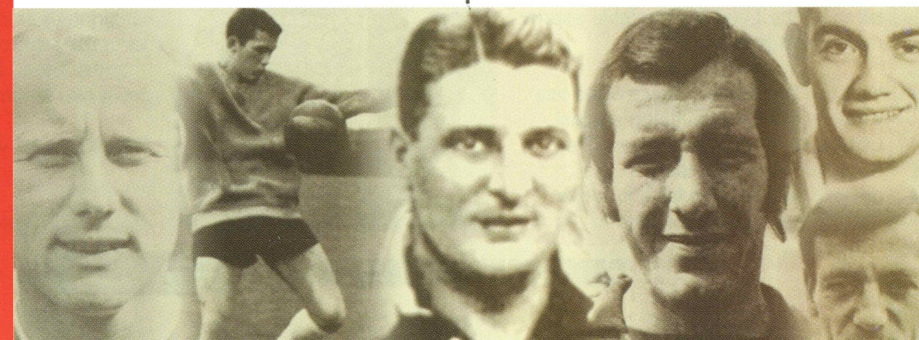
Mick Kearns won 15 of his 18 caps for the
Republic of Ireland whilst playing for Walsall FC

MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES:

473 by Colin Harrison, 1964 - 1982
457 by Colin Taylor, 1958 - 1973 (three spells)

PREVIOUS GROUND:

Fellows Park (1888 - 1990)



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GOOD evening and welcome to today's game against Luton Town.

We go into tonight's encounter full of confidence after Saturday's performance at Wrexham. I thought that we played extremely well and deserved to have won the game. We dominated for long periods and it appears that we have at last found the right balance to our play.

Of course, we are disappointed that we didn't win, but at the same time we didn't lose and that's a good sign. I am not going to criticise my players for missing chances; they don't deliberately go out to do it. The name of the game is to get into the right positions and my players don't hide. They have an honesty about them and their luck will change, I am certain of that.

We went into Saturday's game on the back of what I considered to be our best performance of the season so far in our last game on home soil against Colchester United. We played some tremendous football that I don't think any other team in this division can match.

Now that we have set the standard and proved what we are capable of, we need to find some consistency in our displays. I am confident that if we can perform like that on a regular basis, then we can look forward to climbing the League One table sooner rather than later.

We face two tough home games this week, starting this evening against League leaders, Luton Town. They have been the best team in this division by a mile so far and arrive here brimming with confidence



despite losing for the first time in the League at the weekend. It will be nice for us to be able to test ourselves against the best and we anticipate an entertaining encounter.

We follow tonight's game up by playing host to Bristol City on Saturday. I rate City as one of the biggest clubs in League One and, just like this evening, there promises to be a good atmosphere inside Bescot Stadium with a large crowd in attendance.

It is a big week for us and the hope is that we can put a run together which will see us challenging at the right end of the table. We have been working hard on the training ground and three matches in the space of seven days really is a punishing schedule for the players.

That said we have a squad here which is more than capable of overcoming that and serving us well in the big games that lie ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new first-team coach, Frank Barlow to the club. Frank travelled with us on Saturday and started work officially yesterday. He is the type of appointment that we have been looking for and he will bring a vast amount of experience and know-how to the club.

He is a first-class coach and over the years has built up a good reputation within the game. I feel that he is going to make a big contribution in the months ahead and I am delighted to have him on board.

Thank you for your support...

PAUL MERSON

"Despite the occasional set-back, it is not our intention to stand still at Bescot Stadium. All our attention and energies are focussed on creating a bright future for the club..."

AFTER being able to announce trading profits for 12 consecutive years, a record for Walsall FC and probably something that no other League club has been able to achieve, we have sustained a trading deficit during the past two financial years.

In 2002/2003 our deficit was in excess of £1million. That deficit was halved in 2003/2004 to £553,000.

Why the turnaround in our financial fortunes? The main cause, and one that has been showed by all other Football League clubs, was, of course, the demise of ITV Digital.

You cannot simply lose £2million worth of income per year without it having an impact on your financial situation. Some clubs dealt with it by going into administration. In other words they solved the problem at the expense of their creditors, who never got paid.

That has never been an option I have considered. At Walsall FC we have a proud record of honouring our debts. Instead we have to manage our way back into a profit-making situation and will continue to do so.

It has not been easy and, in fact, more difficult that I expected. The major problem in the last 12 months has been to deal with those players' contracts negotiated during the days of ITV Digital. Time was when the problem could have been solved by transferring players to other clubs. That option is no longer open. Virtually every Football League club during the past 12 months has been trying to reduce the size of their playing squad rather than adding to it.

We have endeavoured therefore to honour our contractual obligations. What I can assure you is that as existing contracts expire, the new ones negotiated reflect our financial situation.

We are moving in the right direction although, as I have emphasised, much remains to be done.

It is with some confidence, however, that I can say to supporters that we can look forward to a considerable improvement in our trading performance during the current financial year.

The past 12 months have not been easy. Relegation was a bitter pill to swallow and we have had to deal with a difficult financial situation. Nevertheless our resolve and

ambition remains the same - to return to the Coca-Cola Championship, and when we do so, to make an impact at that level.

To do that we have to develop the infrastructure of the club. This is what we have been doing and will continue to do so.

The Stadium Control Room has been expanded and enhanced in line with the wishes of the Stadium Safety Advisory Committee.

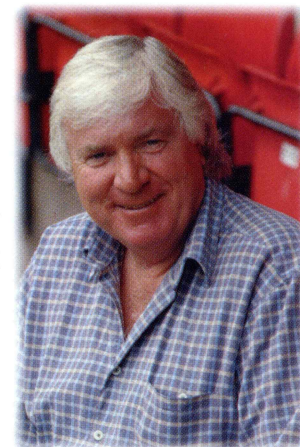
Work is well advanced on the refurbishment of the Purple Stand concourse area. This will be known as The Stadium Suite and will become our prestigious new hospitality area, doubling the size of our conference facilities.

The Stadium Suite will swing into action during the December Christmas Party Season, and provide us with a new income stream.

Looking to the future, we can expect a 106-bedroom hotel to be built on the Bescot Stadium site in 2005. In addition, we have planning permission to re-develop the William Sharp Stand, which will give the stadium a 13,500 capacity, together with a state-of-the-art M6 illuminated advertising board, measuring 65 metres by 12 metres, integrated into the design of the external wall of the stand. These are all pieces of a very large jigsaw that, when completed, will

contribute towards giving the club the facilities and financial resources necessary to become an established member of the Coca-Cola Championship. Despite the occasional set-back, it is not our intention to stand still at Bescot Stadium. All our attention and energies are focussed on creating a bright future for the club.

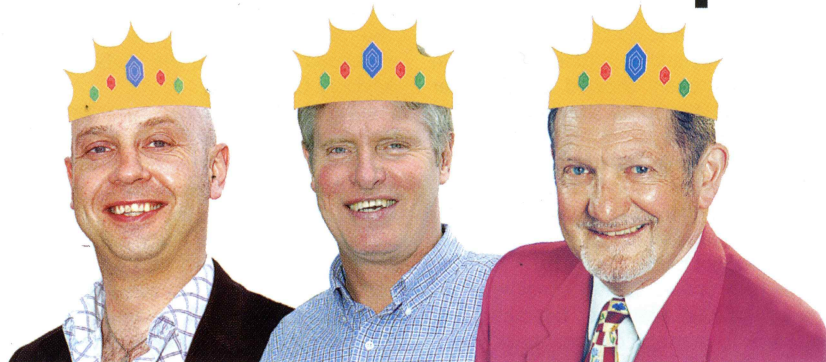
JEFF BONSER



from
the top

THE VIEWS OF WALSHALL FC OWNER JEFF BONSER...

The three wise men of sport



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I REMEMBER...

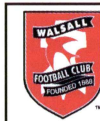
Walsall FC Historian Geoff Allman shares his own personal memories of games against today's opposition...

I FIRST saw The Saddlers take on Luton Town on Boxing Day 1961 when, in our first season back in Division Two for 60 years, we won 2-0 with Tommy Wilson getting both goals. Sadly, Tommy broke a collar bone later in the game and did not find the net for us ever again.

I can also vividly recall a very windy April day in 1963 when both clubs were battling against relegation and the game ended in a 1-1 draw with Bob Motton levelling the

us in the following December as Ray Wiggin netted twice, whilst Trevor Foster scored a magnificent flying header as we went on to win 4-0.

I was back at Kenilworth Road on Good Friday 1965 to see Allan Clarke (2) and Colin Taylor get our goals in a 3-1 win. The Hatters turned the tables



WALSALL v LUTON TOWN

| P | W | D | L | F | A |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 36 | 15 | 4 | 17 | 58 | 56 |



when Gordon Turner notched the match-winner for the home side. It was a much happier return game for

scores after Granville Palin's penalty had given Walsall the lead.

In the event both teams went down and I remember travelling to Kenilworth Road for the opening game of the following season

back at Fellows Park with Ted Phillips getting the only goal of the game to win it for the visitors.

Luton looked like a really good side in their 1969/70 third division promotion campaign, beating us 3-1 at Fellows Park and 3-0 at Kenilworth Road.

We didn't face them again in League action until the end of the 1990s. In more recent times we have had much the better of things against Luton with four wins and a draw from our last six

encounters, including a pulsating 3-2 win here at Bescot Stadium in 1996/97 with John Hodge in red-hot form. In successive visits to Kenilworth Road we won with a Hodge effort in November 1997 and a late Andy Rammell match-winner in September 1998.

Fans will scarcely need reminding of our most recent game here when, on a Tuesday evening in February 2001, we ended a run of three games without a win against a Luton side that had just won three games in a row and scored nine goals in the process.

Not for the first time, Jorge Leitao provided the inspiration we needed with a 13th minute strike. Then just before the interval, Tom Bennett netted a 30-

yarder that skidded past Mark Owendale. Matthew Spring pulled a goal back, before substitute Darren Byfield latched on to a Tony Barras header to score his tenth goal of the season.

This 3-1 win lifted us back up into second place in the table and it is history that we went on to secure a Play-Off place and ultimately promotion, while Luton won only two more games that season.

WALSALL were struggling in the lower reaches of Division Two, having won only four of their previous 17 games, when Peterborough United came to Bescot Stadium in November 1996.

The Saddlers had something to prove as they were still upset by their visitors' summer raid that had deprived them of the services of Martin O'Connor and Scott Houghton for a paltry tribunal-set fee.

Barry Fry's men were no World-beaters themselves despite their investment in players, and there could be few complaints when Kyle Lightbourne took Kevin Wilson's inch-perfect pass in his stride to beat Posh 'keeper Mark Tyler after 23 minutes to open the scoring.

Nevertheless only the most partisan of our supporters in a crowd of 3,921 would have dared to dream that we would go on to claim such a handsome victory, even when we went 2-0 up shortly before the interval. Mark Blake had been fouled by the appropriately-named Mike Basham and Kevin Wilson tucked away the 200th goal of his long and distinguished career.

Walsall continued to dominate the second half, although both teams seemed to be losing their way when Lightbourne engineered the third goal after 76 minutes. Former Peterborough man, Louie Donowa surged forward to bury a low shot into the far corner of the net to seal the points.

A minute later the cheers turned to jeers when Martin O'Connor was given his marching orders for a clumsy challenge and Peterborough had no way back. It was now a case of how many goals we could go on to score as our visitors became more and more ragged and it was no surprise when Lightbourne capped a fine personal performance by netting the final goal three minutes from the end.

We had scored four goals for the first time that season and it set us off on a mini-run which would produce eight wins in the next 11 fixtures. Relegation fears were now a thing of the past and only a disappointing post-Easter slump would deny us a top six finish.

the **bescot** years...



Ian Crichton looks back at the key matches that have been staged here at Bescot Stadium



DARYL TAYLOR
Lucy



KRIS TAYLOR
James



RYAN WILLETTS
Walkways Youth Projects
01922 615 393

bescot beat



Roy Whalley
rounds up all the
latest news from
Bescot Stadium...



WHO IS OUR OLDEST SEASON-TICKET HOLDER?

We are on the look-out for our oldest season-ticket holder. This competition is being run in association with Powergen and their 'Staywarm' campaign. The prize for the winner is a luxury hamper, and there will also be a runners-up prize. If you think you qualify as our oldest fan, or you know someone who does, we want to hear from you. Entries to Oldest Fan Competition, Walsall FC Commercial Department, Bescot Stadium, Walsall WS1 4SA. Alternatively you can E-mail a.poole@walsallfc.co.uk.

NATIONAL ANTI-RACISM WEEK OF ACTION OCTOBER 14TH - 26TH 2004

Kick it Out is football's anti-racism campaign working with clubs, supporters and ethnic minority communities to ensure that racism and exclusion is highlighted and challenged within every aspect of the game. This week of action in the UK is held at the same time as similar campaigns throughout Europe as part of the 'Football against Racism in Europe' (FARE) network - www.farenetwork.org. As far as Walsall Football Club is concerned, we want to make clear that all sections of the community, regardless of race, creed or religion are welcome to Bescot Stadium. We regard the vast majority of our supporters as being tolerant and good-natured, who abhor any form of behaviour that is offensive or abusive to individuals or groups within the stadium, and expect the club to deal firmly with any spectators who breach this code. As a club we want to serve the entire community. The Walsall FC Community Task Force, led by Mick Kearns, organise a wide range of activities in local schools such as soccer coaching sessions, after-school clubs, group discussions, stadium visits, many of whom have a high ethnic minority intake. We see Walsall FC as a unifying force in the local community, bringing people together regardless of social, economic, racial or religious background, in the single cause of supporting the town's football club, and by so doing to create a feeling of civic pride and togetherness that can only help to make Walsall a better town to live in.

STAN COLLYMORE

Some of our supporters will recall that Stan Collymore, later to play for Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, Aston Villa and England plus a few others, started his career as a trainee with Walsall Football Club.

He joined us on June 30th 1988 and left by mutual consent on March 18th 1989.

No-one doubts that he was an incredibly talented player. I remember driving up to Newcastle in January 1989 to watch Stan in an FA Youth Cup match at St. James's Park. He scored two fine goals in a 4-3 defeat.

He refers to that period of his career in his recently published book. I have received that section, and can tell you I will not be buying the book. His treatment of Ray Train, our youth team coach at Fellows Park, is appalling.

Some of you will remember Ray as a player. He started his career with Walsall and had a long and distinguished 20 years playing career in the game. He was an industrious midfield player, a big favourite with our fans of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

He returned to Fellows Park as youth team coach in 1986. Ray set himself high personal standards, and he expected those youngsters in his charge to aspire to that same level of professionalism. He did not have favourites, his disciplinary code covered all the trainees, and his only objective was to give these youngsters the best possible chance to make the grade. He was firm, but fair.

Now all this did not please the young Stanley, who gained a reputation throughout his career for rebelling against authority. Now no-one can deny the right of Stan to disagree with Ray's training methods, that is par for the course. But he doesn't stop there, launching into a virtual character assassination of an honest, decent and straightforward guy.

There is one really repugnant reference where Ray collapsed on the training pitch with a heart condition. Stan recalls: 'I have never been so happy in my entire xxxxxx life.' Ray does not deserve that kind of comment and imagine how his wife Ann, and son Matthew, would feel reading that.

What Stan does not tell you in his book is the problems we had with him over non-attendance at college, his refusal to do jobs allocated to him (those were the days when apprentices were expected to sweep terraces, mop dressing rooms, clean the professionals boots etc), fighting with a fellow player after a match and so on. Although all this happened 15 years ago my recollection of that time is that he was a nightmare to deal with. Eventually, John Barnwell released him. Stan went to Wolves, where he lasted a few weeks before being kicked out for non-attendance at training.

All I will say is that Ray Train can look back on his 20 years playing career followed by a long and distinguished spell as Chief Scout at Middlesbrough with great pride. Ray played at the top level; he was a dedicated professional who played to his full potential. He is well-respected within the game. Stan was blessed with outstanding natural talent and had he had a tiny percentage of Ray's professionalism and dedication he could have been one of England's great players. Perhaps he should have listened to and learned from Ray back in 1988/89. He didn't and that was his loss; he would have been a better player and person.

WALSALL FC - WALSALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2004

Hollywood has its 'Oscars'... Walsall has the 'Dora's'. The Mayor of Walsall's Civic Awards are a great idea recognising the achievements of individuals and organisations in the local community.

The Mayor of Walsall's Civic Awards Ceremony was held in The Bonser Suite on Friday, October 8th, and I am proud to announce that Walsall FC were the winners of this year's Walsall Business of the Year Award, which was sponsored by Fujitsu.

The award rewards innovation and growth in local business. Our entry was based on the importance of the club as a local employer; our success in attracting over one million visitors per year to Bescot Stadium; the growth of the stadium's conference facilities; the policy of the club to use local suppliers; the innovative approach of the club in planning the development of a hotel on the Bescot Stadium site, a new stand re-development project and a major new M6 advertising site; the enhancement and expansion of conference and stadium safety facilities; the role of the club in local community via the Walsall FC Community Programme; and the training opportunities offered to playing and non-playing staff, as well as the Walsall FC Centre of Excellence for 8-16 year olds.

It was a great honour to receive the Business of the Year Award from the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Mike Bird, and a wonderful achievement for everyone at Bescot Stadium.



Ray Train - a dedicated and hard-working professional.

TICKETS REQUIRED

Damon Hitchen is a collector of match tickets and is trying to get hold of the following to complete his collection: Walsall v Leeds United (season 1961/62 and 1962/63) and Leeds United v Walsall (League Cup, 1985/86).

If you have these tickets and would be willing to sell, he can be contacted at 47/49 Old Lee Bank, Lee Mount, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 5BJ.

WANT TO BE ON THE TELLY?

Do you know a family that has fallen out or has a family member upset you? Are you no longer talking? Channel 4 is looking for families with a dispute over money, lifestyle or partners for a new TV programme.

If this applies to you or somebody you know, contact Ceri on 020-7013 4224 or Caroline on 020-7013 4525. Alternatively you can E-Mail: familyfeud@rdmedia.com

Thank you for your support. Enjoy the game...

Roy Whalley

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS



WELCOME ONE AND ALL?

Fare: £10.00 each, departing Bescot Stadium at 4.55pm.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all supporters to this evening's game against League leaders, Luton Town. Here's hoping that we are treated to an entertaining encounter, with three points coming The Saddlers' way at the final whistle.

Saturday, November 6th - Hull City - Fare: £13.00 each, departing Bescot Stadium at 10.15am. This will be The Saddlers' first-ever visit to the impressive KC Stadium.

Book today at The Supporters Club Travel Office, situated at the rear corner of The Saddlers Club, between 6.15pm and 7.30pm and also after the match.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE SADDLERS CLUB

Saturday, October 30th - The ultimate Dire Straits tribute band, 'Money For Nothing', performing live. Tickets are £6.00 each and doors open at 7.30pm.

Alternatively you can book in the foyer of The Saddlers Club on Tuesday (non-match nights) and Thursday evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

Tuesday, November 2nd - Future Championship Wrestling, starring all FCW superstars, plus special guest from the US of A, D'Lo Brown. Tickets are £8.00 each and doors open at 7.00pm. Fights start from 7.45pm and there will be hot and cold refreshments available on what promises to be an action-packed night.

Cash is required with all bookings and no telephone booking are accepted.

Our coaches will also pick up at Bloxwich, North Walsall, Bridgman Street and Delves.

SUPPORTERS CLUB COACHES TO AWAY GAMES

Saturday, October 30th - Milton Keynes Dons - Fare: £10.50 each, departing Bescot Stadium at 11.25am. Tuesday, November 2nd - Cheltenham Town (LDV Vans Trophy second round) -

BACK HERE ON SATURDAY It's certainly a busy time at the moment with the matches coming thick and fast. Don't forget that we are back in home action on Saturday when pre-season favourites for promotion, Bristol City come to Bescot Stadium.

Another action-packed encounter is in prospect and we look forward to seeing you all back here.

with Royston Randle & Bob Sadler



DARREN WRACK
The Junior Saddlers



MARK WRIGHT
Leamore Windows



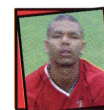
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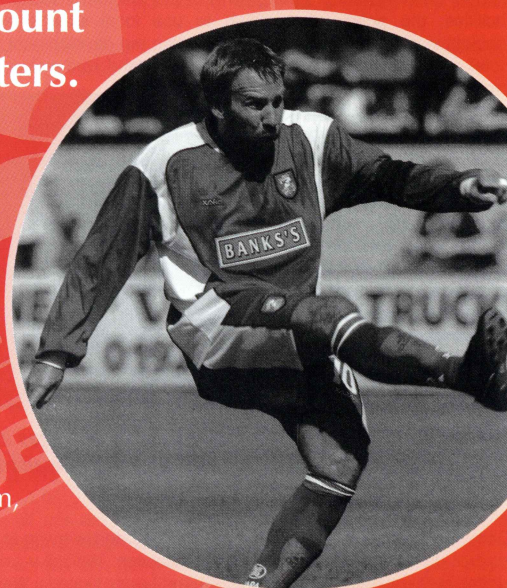
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EDITORIAL



TONIGHT we lock horns with
runaway leaders, Luton Town
in a game that will provide us
with a good gauge as to our
League One credentials.
Our last game on home soil
against Colchester United saw
us put in a free-flowing,
energetic performance that
was rich in spirit,

determination and endeavour as not only did we
dominate our fourth-placed visitors for
long periods, but also showed the necessary
character to bounce back straight away from the
disappointment of going a goal down against the
run of play.

Now that we have set the standard and proved
what we are capable of, the important thing is to
turn out performances like this on a regular
basis. Of course there will be ups and downs
along the way, that is par for the course in any
long, hard season, but if we can instil a
consistency into our displays then there is
absolutely no reason why we can't join the likes
of Luton in dreaming of a place in the Coca-Cola
Championship next season.

At this stage of the season a couple of back-to-
back wins can still make all the difference and
with two home games coming up in quick
succession this week, there is every chance that
our fortunes could look a whole lot different
come the final whistle on Saturday.

It's not going to be easy, though as we take on a
Luton Town side that will be oozing with
confidence and self-belief, whilst Bristol City
were the pre-season favourites for promotion and
are always difficult opposition.

Despite our stuttering start, we cannot lose sight
of the fact that, player-for-player, we are more
than a match for anyone in this division and with
that in mind we go into tonight's game full of
confidence and ready to take on the best that
League One has to offer.

TRIVIA

- Bernard Streten played a total of 11 games for
The Saddlers during the second World War - five
of them in goal and six up front. He eventually
joined Luton in 1946 and played 301 games for
them as well as being capped by England in
their 9-2 win over Northern Ireland in November
1949.
- In the early War years we lost 6-4 at home to
The Hatters in November 1939 then drew 4-4 in
the following February. Both games were
played at Fellows Park. Wally Brown notched a
hat-trick in the former game and in the latter,
Gilbert Alsop repeated the feat.
- Joe Payne, whose previous games for Luton
were in midfield, was tried up front for the
clash with Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday
1936. He notched all ten goals in a 10-0 win, but
early the following season he could only score
once as The Saddlers were beaten 2-0. Neverthe-
less, he ended the campaign with 58
goals to his name as The Hatters won promotion
from Division Three (South).

with Andrew Poole

DAVID LINNEY PHOTOGRAPHY

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action replay

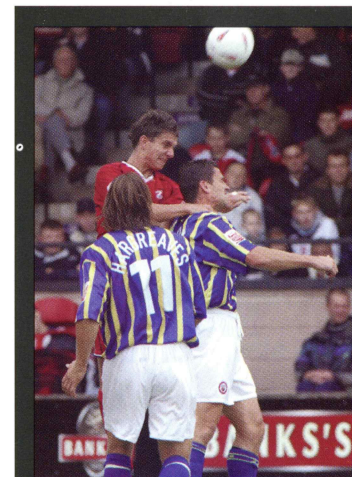
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Matty Fryatt stays strong.



*Paul Merson directs operations from
the bench.*

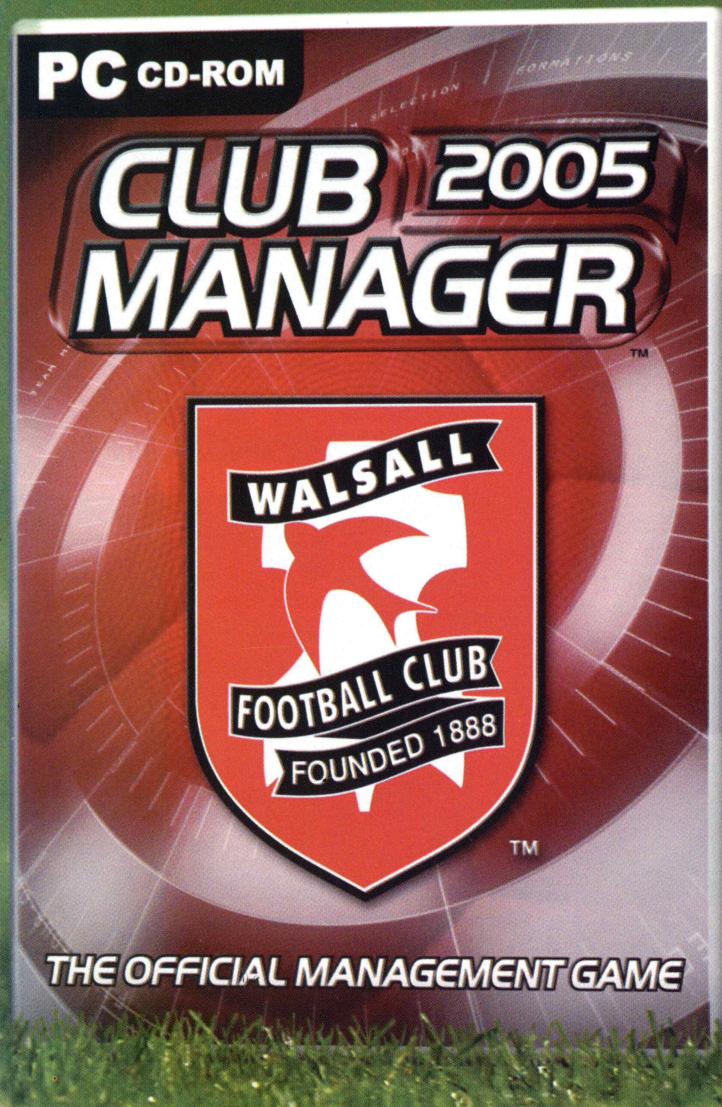


Kris Taylor climbs the highest.

*Matchday Mascot, William Simms
lines up with the match officials and
team captains prior to kick-off.*



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SETTING THE SCENE

Saddlers TV commentators Dean Gripton & Peter Lawrenson prepare for the action ahead

IT WAS worth the wait as The Saddlers finally combined a quality performance with an excellent result against Colchester United in our last game on home soil ten days ago. However, for large parts of the match, The Saddlers' faithful must have feared it was going to be another one of those days that end in disappointment.

In the first half, with the wind behind them, the team peppered The U's' goal and were unfortunate not to be home and dry by the break. Chances fell to Simon Osborn, Matty Fryatt and Darren Wrack, whilst the Gaffer twice hit the woodwork and missed a clear-cut opportunity at the far post, leaving the teams scoreless going into the second half.

The quality of passing and movement was so much better than we have seen recently, reminiscent of times last season when we competed well at the higher level. The ball moved quickly and accurately, often with the minimum of touches, as confidence and composure returned to the side. The architect of this was the Gaffer himself who pulled the strings and reminded us of the best of his qualities.

Although Colchester looked dangerous on the break, Joe Murphy, making his debut in goal, rarely looked troubled and made a confident start to his time with the club.

The second period continued in much the same way as Walsall controlled play. However, despite the home team pressure, the crowd was stunned into silence when Richard Garcia scored the opener for Colchester after 71 minutes. The lead was to last less than two minutes when Merson, taking one of his countless corners, delivered with precision for Julian Bennett to power a free header into the net from eight yards for his first League goal for the club. The urgency and determination of The Saddlers, apparent throughout the game, was raised another notch and, with six minutes remaining, produced a reward. Merson delivered another superb free-kick into the danger area for Neil Emblen to guide the ball home.

It was an excellent performance, but the points are more important. Here's hoping for three more this evening against a high-flying Luton Town side.

PETER LAWRENSON

LUTON Town are tonight's visitors, and they come to Bescot Stadium as the surprise leaders of League One having won ten of their first 12 games.

Wins at Swindon, Barnsley and Oldham early this term, scoring 10 goals in that sequence, fired The Hatters to the top of the table, where they have rarely looked in danger of being toppled.

Shrewd use of the loan market is crucial in The Football League, and Luton boss Mike Newell has certainly taken advantage of the temporary transfer rulings. Not only has he taken feisty Portsmouth striker Rowan Vine, who has reached double figures in similar year-long loan spells at Colchester and Brentford at this level, but Newell has added another player who is surely too good to be in League One.

Gary McSheffrey started the season as first-choice at Coventry City. A combination of a squad top-heavy with strikers - combined with manager Peter Reid's 4-5-1 formation - meant that the left-sided forward was able to return to Luton where he scored nine times in 19 matches on loan last season. McSheffrey scored 12 goals at better than a goal-every-other-game on his recall to Coventry at the start of 2004, including a brace here in January when he missed a last-minute penalty that would have given him a hat-trick and City a 7-1 win!

I shall be intrigued to compare the form of two of the division's best teenage defenders today. Here at Walsall we have become accustomed to the admirable displays of Julian Bennett in his first year in the first-team, while Luton have a 19-year-old newcomer with a similar style. Curtis Davies impressed me when I saw Town at Hillsborough last month, and his clash with Matty Fryatt should help develop both players' steep learning curves.

Wins in the last two home games have lifted the gloom a lot, and we must remember that we have lost only once at home this season. Confidence should be high after the fine win over Colchester, and there is no reason why Luton should not be sent home with a first away defeat of the campaign this evening.

DEAN GRIPTON

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THE ONE

STOCKPORT County have made a disappointing start to the season, but boss Sammy McIlroy is confident that he can turn things around at Edgeley Park. "I know what's going wrong and I know we can get it right," he said defiantly. "We're not that far off and that is why I am not going to walk away."

Colchester United have extended the loan spell of Blackburn Rovers' midfielder, Neil Danks by a further month. The popular 21-year-old scored twice during his first seven games for the Layer Road club and has become an important figure in Phil Parkinson's side.

Defender, Jason Gavin has been told that he can leave Bradford City due to limited first-team opportunities. The former Middlesbrough man arrived at the club in the summer of 2003. "I have had a long chat with Jason and explained the situation," said Bantams' boss, Colin Todd. "It is in his best interests to let him look for another club as he needs to be playing regular first-team football and we cannot guarantee him that here at the moment."

Meanwhile Todd has agreed new deals with experienced duo David Wetherall and Dean Windass. "The Gaffer wanted me to stay and I was more than happy to do so," said Windass, who turned down a move to Darlington at the start of the season.

Scotland Under-19 International, Martin Woods has had his loan spell at Hartlepool United extended by a further month, whilst Alan Poulton has returned to Gillingham after his temporary spell at Victoria Park came to an end last week.

26-year-old Welsh striker, Neil Roberts has his loan spell at Bradford City cut short so that he can link up with Doncaster Rovers on a permanent basis.

The one-time Wrexham man is looking forward to working with Rovers' boss, Dave Penney. "As soon as I had spoken to the manager I made my mind up to come here," he said. "There was a real positive vibe and I am looking forward to the challenge."

Meanwhile Mark Wilson has returned to Middlesbrough after his loan spell came to end, whilst Rovers have allowed John McGrath to extend his stay at Shrewsbury Town.



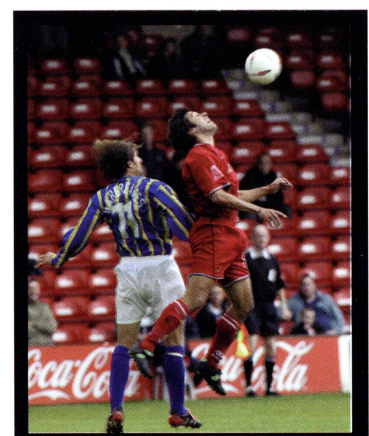
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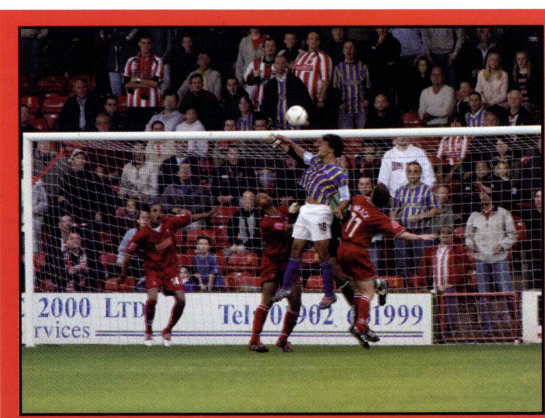
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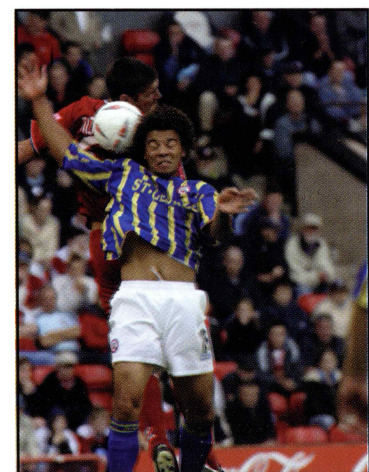
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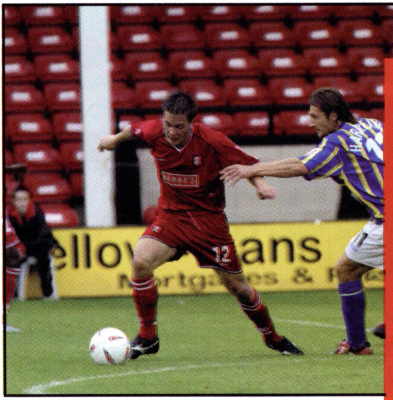
Jorge Leitao takes it on the chest.



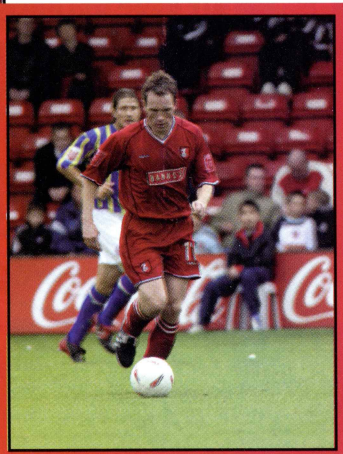
The Saddlers clear their lines.



Ian Roper challenges in the air.



Matty Fryatt stays on the ball.



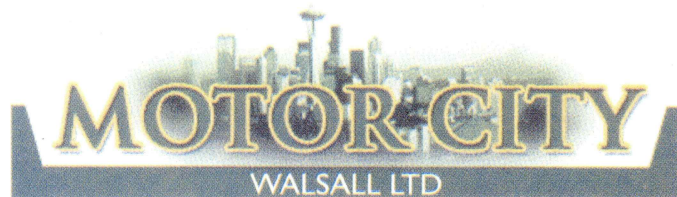
Darren Wrack breaks away.

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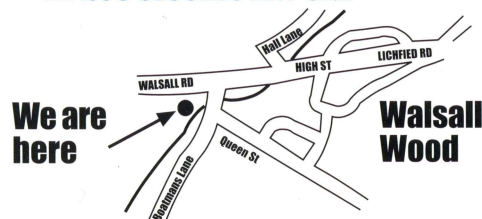
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| 00 | X | VAUXHALL | CORSA 1.4 16V SPORT | 3 DOOR, ARDEN BLUE MET, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, 63K, CDL, ELECTRIC WINDOWS/MIRRORS, CD PLAYER | £3,695.00 | £17.91 |
| 00 | X | PEUGEOT | 106 ZEST 3 DIESEL | 3 DOOR, DEEP SEA BLUE, PAS, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, CENTRAL DOOR LOCKING, CD PLAYER, SUNROOF | £3,995.00 | £19.36 |
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THE 2004/05 campaign didn't get off to the best of starts for Zigor Aranalde. With fellow Spaniard - and best friend - Pedro Matias departing Bescot Stadium over the summer, coupled with him losing his starting place, the popular full-back could have been forgiven for wondering what the future held in store, but after returning to Paul Merson's plans in recent games, he is looking to make up for lost time...

Since arriving on these shores back in August 2000, Aranalde has been a virtual ever-present in The Saddlers' starting line-up, but up until our last home game against Colchester United, he had found himself out of favour.

Having tried many permutations in the troublesome left-back slot, from Julian Bennett in the opening matches to Darren Wrack and Kris Taylor, player-manager Paul Merson turned to the likeable Spaniard for

every game at the moment."

The Ibarra-born full-backs passion and commitment was there for all to see against The U's, symbolised in the form of a Terry Butcheresque bandage, which he was forced to wear after picking up a head injury early on.

His long, flowing locks, together with the white bandanna, had an almost Bon Jovi feel to it, but his performance certainly didn't

However, one performance doesn't make a season and the players and management are only too aware of the need for consistency, as Aranalde explained: "We played very well but we know we must perform like that week in, week out," he said. "It's not good enough if we just play well once in a while. What we have to do is get some consistency, that's why we need to be focussed and it is something that we have spoken about at length both in

"It's not good enough if we just play well once in a while. What we have to do is get some consistency, that's why we need to be focussed..."



zigor aranalde

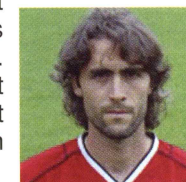
the visit of high-flying Colchester ten days ago.

Zigor did not disappoint and, now he has the shirt, he will not be giving it up easy. "It's always nice to be in the team," said the 31 year-old who has a total of 197 appearances for the club under his belt. "It's never good to be sat up in the stands watching your team-mates play every week. I was lucky enough to play the last home game here against Colchester and I'm just looking forward to

leave him 'Livin' On A Prayer' for when the team line-up was announced for Saturday's game at Wrexham. "I don't know exactly how it happened, but I did get a cut which needed stitches later on," he recalled. "It didn't really affect me at all and apart from a small scar, I'm fine now."

the dressing room and during training.

"When everyone plays at a high level, life becomes so much easier. That's what we did against Colchester and that's what we must do in all our games, especially tonight against a very good Luton Town team whose confidence will



be high.

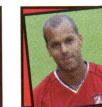
"We have set the standard and now it is up to all of us to maintain those levels and get the team moving in the right direction up the League One table."



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Mon, Nov 8 Wigan Athletic (H)
Mon, Nov 24 Tranmere Rovers (A)
Mon, Nov 29 Hull City (H)
Wed, Dec 8 Hartlepool United (A)
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Mon, Jan 10 Preston North End (H)
Mon, Jan 24 Stoke City (H)
Wed, Feb 2 Sheffield Wednesday (A)
Mon, Feb 7 Tranmere Rovers (H)
Wed, Feb 16 Wigan Athletic (A)
Mon, Feb 28 Hartlepool United (H)
Wed, Mar 9 Hull City (A) (7.00pm)
Wed, Mar 30 Sheffield United (H)
Tues, Apr 12 Bradford City (A)
Mon, Apr 25 Rotherham United (H)

All home games will take place at Bescot Stadium and kick-off at 2.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Admission is free.

As at 10/10/2004

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| WALSALL | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 9 | 10 |
| Rotherham | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 10 |
| Sheff Wed | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| Hull City | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Hartlepool Utd. | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| Barnsley | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Wigan | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Preston NE | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 6 |
| Sheff Utd. | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 4 |
| Stoke City | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 4 |
| Tranmere | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Bradford | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 3 |

For full statistical records from the reserve and youth teams, check out the Official Walsall FC Web-site - www.saddlers.co.uk

DISAPPOINTING DEFEAT

AN EXPERIENCED Walsall side crashed to a 5-3 defeat at the hands of Barnsley here at Bescot Stadium.

The game got underway with a lively tempo and with the visitors on top, it came as no surprise when they took the lead on 13 minutes as a cross from the left was turned in by Simon Heslop to give McKinney no chance.

The Saddlers were not being given any time to settle on the ball and failed to find any early momentum. Gary Birch had our only two chances in the opening 22 minutes as firstly he deftly headed wide before a shot in the turn was straight at Scott Flinders in the Barnsley goal.

After Darren Bazeley's free-kick from a dangerous position was saved by the 'keeper, it was Birch who levelled the scores on 28 minutes when he capitalised upon some poor control inside the area following a cross in from the right to fire the loose ball home from close range.

We were back on level terms for barely a minute when a long ball over the top caused confusion amongst the Walsall defence and Onibuje was able to lob over the advancing McKinney to put his side back into the lead.

With around ten minutes to go until the break, Michael Standing was forced to leave the action as Nathan Jameson took his place in the midfield. Barnsley extended their lead on the 40-minute mark as some more hesitant defending saw Julian Bennett allow Ashley Scothern to nip in and lift the ball over McKinney who was caught in no mans land to give The Tykes a 3-1 lead to take into the interval.

The Saddlers reverted to a flat back four at the start of the second period with Leroy Williams on in place of Julian Bennett and it didn't take long for Walsall to pull a goal back when Birch found the net with an opportunist strike.

It was certainly a bright start to the half for Walsall, with Daryl Taylor heavily involved in our attacking ideas. Some excellent hold-up play by Birch saw him get away from his marker before crossing low for Atieno to drill home the equaliser on 55 minutes.

The Saddlers were looking the most likely side as the half went on and another pacy run from Williams ended with him firing wide, whilst Birch went close with a couple of headers following crosses from Zigor Aranalde and Darren Bazeley respectively.

An excellent passing move by Barnsley in a rare foray forward ended with them regaining the lead as the ball was delivered onto the head of Dale Tonge who guided his effort beyond the reach of McKinney and in off the post.

Worse was to follow seven minutes later when McKinney failed to hold on to a corner and Onibuje was on hand to sweep the loose ball home from close range to make it 5-3 to the young Barnsley side.

Walsall were starting to get sloppy in their play again in the closing stages, however, Birch who was denied a hat-trick by a good save from the 'keeper as he made room for a shot.

In the end, The Saddlers slipped to a disappointing defeat, their first of the season in the Pontin's Holidays League Premier Division.

WALSALL: McKinney, Kitamirike (Dann), Bennett (Williams), Emblen, Bazeley, Aranalde, D. Taylor, Kinsella, Birch, Atieno, Standing (Jameson). Subs not used: Bewers, Coleman.



YOUTH

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE FIXTURES

Sat, Aug 14 West Bromwich Albion (H) 3-8
Sat, Aug 21 Rushden and Diamonds (A) 0-0
Sat, Aug 28 In Service training
Sat, Sept 4 Northampton Town (H - at Ray Hall Lane) 5-1
Sat, Sept 11 Cambridge United (A) 1-4
Sat, Sept 18 Hereford United (H) 5-0
Sat, Sept 25 Cirencester (H) 2-1
Sat, Oct 9 Luton Town (A) 2-5
Sat, Oct 23 Oxford United (A)
Sat, Oct 30 Cambridge United (H)
Sat, Nov 6 Hereford United (A)
Sat, Nov 13 Cirencester (A)
Sat, Nov 20 Luton Town (H)
Sat, Dec 11 Oxford United (H)
Sat, Dec 18 West Bromwich Albion (A)
Sat, Jan 8 In Service Training
Sat, Jan 15 Rushden and Diamonds (H)
Sat, Jan 22 Northampton Town (A)
Sat, Feb 12 Merit League matches commence

All home games will take place at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Football League Youth Alliance South Central Conference as at 10/10/2004

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Luton Town | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 14 |
| WBA | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 7 | 13 |
| Oxford Utd. | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 11 |
| Cambridge U | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 10 |
| WALSALL | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 19 | 10 |
| Rushden | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 7 |
| Northampton | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 18 | 7 |
| Cirencester | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 22 | 3 |
| Hereford Utd. | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 1 |

THE SADDLERS strolled to a 5-0 victory over bottom-of-the-table Hereford United.

Walsall made their intentions clear straight away, playing some good, open football and passing the ball around well. It took only eight minutes for us to get our noses in front when Jay Szybel put in a teasing cross which Graham Deakin volleyed home.

We continued to press, playing at a high tempo and the lead was doubled nine minutes later as one of our overlapping full-backs, Matthew Perks, strode forward before putting in a cross which David McDermott reacted to the quickest to find the net.

We were dealt a blow when Deakin had to go off injured, with Alex Nicholls taking his place, but we continued to dictate the pace and went in at the break comfortable at two goals to the good.

Within ten minutes of the restart it was 3-0 as Nicholls found space following a well-worked free-kick to head home with ease.

The visitors came into it slightly mid-way through the second period, but Dean Coleman easily kept out their only effort at goal.

It wasn't long before The Saddlers added a fourth as Mark Bradley hit a sweet volley to round off an excellent five-man move.

15-year-old Richard Collins was given a taste of the action towards the end and he gave a good account of himself before McDermott bagged his second and Walsall's fifth on 75 minutes to complete the scoring.

All in all it was a game in which The Saddlers were far superior to their opponents and we could have easily won by more goals. "It was a very one-sided affair," admitted Youth Development Officer, Bill Jones. "We used the second half as an exercise to get the lads to up the tempo and play some one and two-touch football."

WALSALL: Coleman, Perks, Platt (Collins), Lake, Dann, Bradley, Bowen, Wheeler, McDermott, Deakin (Nicholls, Richards), Szybel. Subs not used: Harkness, Tilt.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

THE WALSALL FC Youth Development Programme is holding a Race Night here at Bescot Stadium this Friday, October 22nd 2004 in order to raise much-needed funds to help develop The Saddlers' stars of tomorrow. "To run an efficient Youth Programme needs endless funding," said Youth Development Officer, Bill Jones. "It is through events such as our Race Night that we can provide better facilities and opportunities for talented youngsters in the nine to 19 age group.

"If you are looking for a great night out with family, friends or work-mates, why not sponsor a table? Each sponsor will have their own table with a meal and two bottles of complimentary wine. Race programmes will include sponsors' advertisement and a mention here in the Matchday Programme. You will also get free entry into Play Your Cards Right, and your bets will be placed for you by your own personal bookies runner."

It promises to be a great night with plenty of family fun. Everyone is welcome, so contact Bill Jones on 01922-651 408 for ticket details and Booking Forms.

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PONTIN'S
HOLIDAYS LEAGUE CUP



AS EVER there will be plenty going on in The Bonser Suite here at Bescot Stadium this Christmas.

We have a wide range of Cabaret Shows to suit all tastes and provide an excellent night out for family, friends or work mates.

With places already selling fast, book early to avoid disappointment. Here is a look at what is coming up...

- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD - ANDREW BROWNING AS 'GEORGE MICHAEL' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH - PAUL SUTTON AS 'RONAN KEATING' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH - PAUL WARREN AS 'ROBBIE WILLIAMS' - COST: £27.50 per person,
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH - SPORTING DINNER - COST: £30.00 per person,
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - ANDY PRYKE AS 'PURE MEATLOAF' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - LISA ANTOINETTE AS 'MADONNA' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH - FAYE RICHARDS AS 'KYLIE' - COST: £27.50 per person,
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - GLEN LEON AS 'TOM JONES' - COST: £27.50 per person,
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH - HARRY CAMBRIDGE AS 'LUTHER VANDROSS' - COST: £27.50 per person,
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH - AMATEUR BOXING DINNER - COST: £27.50 per person,
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH - PAUL WARREN AS 'ROBBIE WILLIAMS' - COST: £32.00 per person,
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH - HAMILTON BROWN AS 'LIONEL RITCHIE' - COST £32.00 per person,
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH - JACKIE WEBB AS 'DIANA ROSS' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH - JOHN. E. PRESCOTT AS 'ELVIS' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - JOHN E. PRESCOTT AS 'ELVIS' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND - 'THE BIRMINGHAM BLUES BROTHERS' - COST: £32.00 per person,
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD - GARY RYAN AS 'NEIL DIAMOND' - COST: £32.00 per person,
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29TH - 'THE BARRON KNIGHTS' - COST: £30.00 per person,
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - New Years Eve Gala Dinner with 'THE SEARCHERS' - COST: £55.00 per person.

Each Party Night will have the main Cabaret Artist, disco and includes a delicious four-course meal and late bar.

To secure your booking, a non-refundable deposit of £10 per person is required. For all enquires please contact the Conference & Banqueting Department on 01922-651 418.

BOOKINGS are also now being taken for The Stadium Suite, the soon-to-be-refurbished concourse area within the Purple Stand. Here is a list of what is going on throughout the month of December...

- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD - BASKET MEAL AND DISCO - COST: £15.00 per person,
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH - A TRIBUTE TO ROD STEWART, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER AND DISCO - COST: £25.00 per person,
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - ART FENWICK AS BARRY WHITE, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER AND DISCO - COST: £30.00 per person,
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - ANELIA AS SHANIA TWAIN, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER AND DISCO - COST: £30.00 per person,
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £19.95 per person,
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH - FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £19.95 per person,
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH - DAVE EVANS AND STEVE PHILLIPS AS MR. WILLIAMS AND OLD BLUE EYES, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £19.95 per person,
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH - JOHN ELLIS AS ELTON JOHN, FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER AND DISCO - COST: £32.00 per person,
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH - WE-3-40 - THE SOUND OF UB40, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER AND DISCO - COST: £32.00 per person,
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH - YVONNE HAYLEN AS CHER, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £25.00 per person,
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £25.00 per person,
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND - VINETTE COWANAS AS TINA TURNER, WITH FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £25.00 per person,
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD - FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER & DISCO - COST: £25.00 per person,
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - NEW YEARS EVE FOUR-COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER FOLLOWED BY 'ARRIVAL' - TRIBUTE TO ABBA AND DISCO - COST: £35.00 per person.

To secure your booking for this salubrious new venue, a non-refundable deposit of £10 per person is required.

If you cannot book in December, why not book in November or January for private company parties. Contact the Conference & Banqueting Department on 01922-651 418 for further information...



christmas 2004

AT BESCOT STADIUM



BARLOW HANDED FIRST-TEAM COACHING ROLE

Saddlers go for experience with latest coaching appointment

FRANK Barlow started work as The Saddlers' new first-team coach yesterday.

The 58-year-old, who celebrated his Birthday on Friday by being given the news that he would succeed Iffy Onuora here at Bescot Stadium, arrives with vast coaching experience and a good reputation within the game.

"He is a first-class coach and over the years has built up a good reputation within the game..."
- Paul Merson

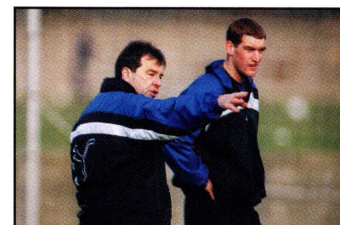
After playing over 100 games for home-town club, Sheffield United and a further 141 games for Chesterfield, he moved into coaching and had a three-year spell at The Spireites' helm between 1980 and 1983.

Going on to manage Scunthorpe United between August 1984 and March 1987, it is as a coach where he has made his mark in the game and in recent years has served both Sheffield Wednesday and Bristol City, leaving Ashton Gate in the wake of Danny Wilson's departure at the end of last season.

"Frank is the type of appointment that we have been looking for," said player-manager, Paul Merson. "He will bring a vast amount of experience and know-how to the club. He is a first-class coach and over the years has built up a good reputation within the game."

"I feel that he is going to make a big contribution in the months ahead and I am delighted to have him on board."

Barlow travelled with the Walsall team for the first time on Saturday and will be directing operations from the dug-out this evening. We welcome him to Walsall Football Club and hope that he will have a long and successful association with The Saddlers.



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Andy Smith gives a view from the south...

IT IS a far happier Southern Saddler who is writing this column today, following our excellent win over Colchester United in our last game on home soil ten days ago. The team gelled together from the start and could have been three or four up by half-time. Once again, those missed chances seemed to be important as we conceded yet another sloppy goal with only 20 minutes left and it looked as though it was going to be yet another three points thrown away, before two superb deliveries from set-pieces turned the game on its head.

I was most impressed with the character shown by the side during this game, as a lesser team than Walsall - especially following the run we have had - might have buckled after conceding such an unfortunate goal during a game they totally dominated.

Now there have been a number of false dawns already this season, but I would like to think that this game may well prove to be a turning point in our season. To play so well and fight back to win from behind against a team occupying a top four position, should give a great boost to the teams confidence and convince the players that they are as good as anyone in League One.

A run of two or three wins can see us shoot up the table and get us into the mix for a Play-Off position. There is still so much to play for this season and those who have written us off may have to eat their words come next May!

Incidentally, wasn't it good to see the ovation given to Mark Kinsella by The U's fans at the end of the game? I was also pleased that he found time to acknowledge their support.

I feel sometimes that we are less than gracious to ex-Saddlers who return to play against us. Booing and barracking former players only serves to wind them up and cause them to play better against us.

Darren Byfield is a good example. When he returned with Rotherham a couple of seasons ago, he got tremendous stick and promptly banged in a couple of goals. I know his behaviour has not been exemplary with regards to Walsall FC (for example I think he used us in the close season to get fit and sign for Gillingham), but he did score the goal that won us promotion in the Play-Off Final at Cardiff and I prefer to remember him for that contribution. I prefer also to cheer on current Saddlers, rather than boo former ones.

"...I would call Kenilworth Road idiosyncratic rather than 'crap'..."
- Southern Saddler

The Saddlers tonight will need all the support we can give them as we attempt to beat the League leaders. Luton have had a truly astonishing start to the season and will sorely test our newly found Bescot form!

Their league position is the best answer they can give to the recent 'Observer' tongue-in-cheek survey which found Kenilworth Road to be, and I quote: "the crappiest ground in the League with one exception."

I think 'The Observer' is being unfair. Travelling fans will know that it is certainly a strange experience to attend games at Luton as you seem to enter the ground via someone's back yard and used to be able to look into people's bedrooms from the top of the terrace (useful for boring 0-0 games!), but I would call Kenilworth Road idiosyncratic rather than 'crap'. I have also personally played football there, as Luton used to hire out their then plastic pitch for corporate functions and matches. Believe it or not I actually saved a penalty there, so I have an affection for Kenilworth Road and am looking forward to visiting the ground later in the season, hopefully for a top of the table clash between The Saddlers and The Hatters! Incidentally, if you are wondering which ground in the English League was pronounced the worst, it was Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium. So Darren Byfield is welcome to it!

SOUTHERN SADDLER

FAMOUS FANS

Stuart Clarkson talks to the personalities associated with today's visitors...

TODAY: NICK OWEN



SELF-CONFESED Luton Town fan, Nick Owen is probably closer to both of tonight's teams than most supporters. In his free time he follows The Hatters both home and away, whilst his day job ensures he is touch with happenings at Bescot Stadium. For over 20 years he has been one of Britain's most recognisable TV presenters and for the latter part of that period based here in the Midlands. "I've been with BBC Midlands Today for eight years now and I am very happy here, I'm an adopted Brummie."

"As one of the Midlands Today presenters I am afraid that the poor Walsall fans have to put up with me each weekday. However I can tell you that despite my love of Luton Town, I have always been an admirer of Paul Merson. He is a great player, even with the personal problems he has had to deal with, and I do hope he succeeds at Bescot... after tonight, of course!"

"It should be a good contest and I just hope we can continue to build on our tremendous start."

Nick was born in Hertfordshire, 13 miles from Luton, and has supported The Hatters for 46 years. He remembers his first game clearly, being taken by his father to see his team draw 1-1 with Leeds United in September 1958. His allegiance to the club has shown unbroken support even through his University years and the demands of working in television. Having achieved a B.A. (honours) in Classics at Leeds University, he opted for a career in journalism beginning with a job on the Doncaster Evening Post.

After a stint on the Birmingham Post, he moved into radio with the forerunner of BBC Radio Birmingham and then joined ATV Network's sports department. When Central won the Independent Television franchise in the Midlands, Nick became a general presenter, teaming up with Anne Diamond for the first time. As early morning television was introduced, he played his part by taking on the role of sports presenter on TV AM. But within eight weeks he renewed his partnership with Anne Diamond as a general presenter to become one of the pioneers of Breakfast TV. The pair presented the show until late 1986 when Nick returned to a sporting role, mainly as the presenter of the ITV flagship programme 'Midweek Sports Special'. His move to the BBC was again to team up with AD to co-present 'Good Morning', which they did, with success, between 1992 and 1996.

His sporting work has seen him travel extensively but he always looks forward to returning to the home of his favourite football team, although there was one occasion when despite having his name in lights, he could not get in the ground. "Whenever I walk into Kenilworth Road I always experience a feeling of sheer pleasure and anticipation," he said. "Ten years ago I was very privileged to have one of the Lounges at the ground named after me. Imagine my surprise when 12 months ago I arrived at the Lounge door only to find I was refused entry! The steward on the door clearly did not know who I was and told me that the Lounge was full. As I walked away I looked up at my name above the door and remember thinking I have commented all over the World and can't even get in to see my own team!"

For an extensive read about the Nick Owen devotion to Luton Town FC, you are encouraged to read his recently released autobiography 'In the Time of Nick' (published by Brewin Books). Before you do here is a precis. His most memorable moment as a Hatter came in April 1988 when Luton beat the mighty Arsenal to lift the League Cup. Not surprisingly, his two favourite all-time players, Ricky Hill and Mick Harford, came from that era. "Ricky Hill had sublime skill and superb vision, whilst Mick Harford was your all-action traditional centre forward," he continued. "Both did play briefly for England and you can't help thinking that if they had played for one of the more fashionable clubs then they might have played even more."

Given Luton's superb start to the campaign, how does this seasoned supporter rate his team's chances of converting it into a promotion season? "The start to this season has been very exciting," he said. "To have amassed so many points so early on is a fantastic achievement and there seems to be no stopping us. I put that down to the hard work last season by Mike Newell and Mick Harford. Remember we were in Administration all season and they did a marvellous job considering the lack of resource and too many injuries."

"I think the kids that came in had to mature quickly and they did. For me that has left us with a bigger and stronger squad which I hope leaves us nicely at the top of League One come May 2005."

Stuart Clarkson

BARMY ARMY

Congratulations to Bianca Harrison on the birth of a beautiful baby boy, Ashley Roy Harrison, who came into the World on September 28th, weighing in a 7lb 7oz.

A Saddlers fan of the future, he is set to follow in the footsteps of mummy and daddy Roy, who is a member of the Matchday Staff here at Bescot Stadium.

We wish Bianca and Roy, plus children Luke, Sian, Adam and, of course, Ashley all the very best for the future.



Pictured here we see Purple Stand season-ticket holders, Susan Williams and Mike Taylor braving the effects of Hurricane

Frances to show off their Walsall FC colours whilst on a holiday to Florida.

Happy Birthday NEIL HOLDSTOCK From everyone in the Walsall FC Programme Shop Have a good 'un...

Happy 10th Birthday NATHAN Love from mom, dad, Rhiannon and everyone here at Walsall FC

In deepest sympathy MAZLEN GEOFFREY JONES (MAZ) 1943 - 2004 An avid Walsall fan and a regular at home matches for the past 41 years

Keep those pictures flooding in... Also, why not have your celebratory message included FREE OF CHARGE. Write to: Barmy Army, Bescot Stadium, Walsall WS1 4SA or E-mail a.poole@walsallfc.co.uk

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the ticket office

Tickets can be purchased in advance from the Bescot Stadium Ticket Office or The Football Shop in Walsall Town Centre, alternatively you can order by telephone, with credit card, on 0870-442 0111 or 0870-442 0222.

There are no cash turnstiles available to home supporters. You can still purchase tickets on the day of the game, but only from the Ticket Office.

The Bescot Stadium Ticket Office is open after all first-team home games.

BESCOT Stadium is exactly one-and-a-half miles from Walsall Town Centre. By far the quickest means of travel from Walsall Town Centre is by train.

Bescot Stadium Station is adjacent to the ground and four minutes from Walsall Station. Trains run every 15 minutes at peak service times.

The 405 Walsall - West Bromwich Travel West Midlands bus stops outside The Saddlers Club in Bescot Crescent. It has a 15-minute frequency at peak service times and leaves Walsall Town Centre from Bradford Place.

There is also a taxi rank situated in Bradford Place. The journey to the ground is five minutes and a fare in the region of £3.00 would be expected.

To reach the ground by foot from Walsall Town Centre will take approximately 30 minutes. Leave the Town Centre on the A461 (Wednesbury Road) and after half-a-mile turn left into Bescot Crescent and continue straight on to the ground.

OPENING HOURS

BESCOT STADIUM TICKET OFFICE:

Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 4.30pm

THE FOOTBALL SHOP, WALSALL TOWN CENTRE:

**Monday - Saturday (except Wednesday),
9.00am - 5.00pm**

HOME

WALSALL v BRISTOL CITY -
Saturday, October 23rd 2004 (kick-off 3.00pm)

- H. L. Fellows Stand

Adult £15.00 (advance price), £17.00 (matchday price),
Concession £11.00 (advance price), £13.00 (matchday price).

- Banks's Stand

Family ticket (1 Adult / 1 Junior) £17.00 (advance price), £19.00 (matchday price),
Adult £15.00 (advance price), £17.00 (matchday price),
Additional Junior for Family ticket £5.00 (advance price), £6.00 (matchday price),
Junior £8.00 (advance price), £10.00 (matchday price),
Senior Citizen £10.00 (advance price), £12.00 (matchday price),
Spectators with disabilities - Disabled £10.00 (advance price), £12.00 (matchday price) - Carer £11.00 (advance price), £13.00 (matchday price).

- Lower Purple Stand

Adult £11.00 (advance price), £13.00 (matchday price),
Concession £8.00 (advance price), £10.00 (matchday price).

- Purple Stand Middle & Upper Tier

Family ticket (1 Adult / 1 Junior in NM1, NM2, NM6, NU1, NU6, NU7 only) £18.00 (advance price), £20.00 (matchday price),
Adult £15.00 (advance price), £17.00 (matchday price),
Additional Junior for Family Ticket £5.00 (advance price), £6.00 (matchday price),
Junior £10.00 (advance price), £12.00 (matchday price),
Senior Citizen £10.00 (advance price), £12.00 (matchday price).

Please note that in all cases, concessionary prices are available only to juniors under the age of 16 and senior citizens over the age of 60 on August 1st 2004. Proof of age may be required.

AWAY

MILTON KEYNES DONS v WALSALL -
Saturday, October 30th (kick-off 3.00pm)

Tickets for this game will be available from the turnstiles on the day. No tickets will be available to purchase in advance.

Walsall supporters will be accommodated in the West Stand. There are a total of 2,000 seats available. Tickets are £15 (adults), £8 (juniors under the age of 16) and £10 (senior citizens).

Any disabled supporters wishing to travel to the game need to purchase tickets in advance from MK Dons on 01908-209 455. Tickets are priced at £10 for the disabled spectator and free for the accompanying carer.

The Official Walsall FC Away Travel Service will be running coaches to the game at a cost of £13.00 each, departing Bescot Stadium at 11.30am.

CHELtenham TOWN v WALSALL (LDV Vans Trophy second round) - Tuesday, November 2nd (kick-off 7.45pm)

Admission to this game will be £10 (adults), £5 (senior citizens / students over the age of 16 on production of a valid NUS card) and £2 (juniors under the age of 16).

No tickets will be on advance sale, pay at the turnstiles only.

The Official Walsall FC Away Travel Service will be running coaches to the game. See elsewhere in this evening's Matchday Programme for details.

The Official Walsall FC Away Travel Service will be running coaches to the game at a cost of £11.00, departing Bescot Stadium at 5.45pm.



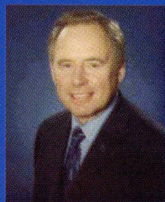
FOR TICKET INFORMATION & BOOKINGS CALL 0870-442 0111 or 0870-442 0222

THE PLACE

COSMOPOLITAN? Luton? Well, apparently 'over 140 nationalities make up a vibrant community of 185,000 people', which is about as culturally diverse as a Chelsea starting XI is. Talking of Chelsea, Luton is only about 30 minutes by train (if on time) from the heart of London and it's also home to London Luton International Airport, which is in turn home to EasyJet. Stelios...now that's what I call a cosmopolitan name.

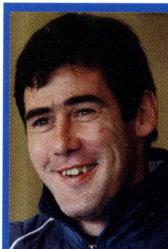
FAMOUS FANS

THE MOST famous Luton supporter around has to be Nick Owen of 'Anne and Nick' fame. The 57-year-old can now be found right here in the Midlands on BBC Midlands Today. In fact, we're sure he'll be at Bescot this evening supporting his beloved Hatters, which is more than can probably be said for Town's other two celebrity fans - Indie band Pavement and former MP David Evans.



LUTON TOWN

The Hatters



AT THE HELM:
Mike Newell

Marlon Beresford

Mike Newell strengthened his squad with the signing of 6'11" goalkeeper at the beginning of July 2004 from League One rivals Barnsley. The 34-year-old is a vastly experienced goalkeeper with over 400 appearances under his belt and he returned to Kenilworth Road on a two-year contract after impressing during a successful three-month spell with The Hatters last year. He has appeared for a handful of clubs during his career but the majority of his time has been spent with Sheffield Wednesday, Burnley and Middlesbrough. Currently struggling with injury.

Matthew Blinkhorn

The 19-year-old striker joined The Hatters on a three-month loan deal from Blackpool at the end of July 2004. A graduate of the youth system at Bloomfield Road he appeared regularly for his home-town club at reserve and Under-19's level and was rewarded with a three-year contract at the end of his scholarship.

Ahmet Brkovic

The Croatian midfielder is tidy and hard-working member of the squad, who agreed a new one-year contract in the summer to extend his stay at Kenilworth Road into a fourth season. Believing a move would be good for his career, he refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer - Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999.

Chris Coyne

The centre-half was playing for Perth Soccer Club when he was selected for the Australian Under-17 squad for the 1994 Youth World Cup and came to the notice of West Ham. Coyne signed for The Hammers as a teenager, but Premiership chances were few and far between, and after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, he went to Dundee. A £50,000 cheque persuaded the Scottish Premier League club to let the defender move to Kenilworth Road in September 2001 and he rapidly became a crowd favourite, establishing himself as a formidable rock at the heart of The Hatters defence. It was a big boost to the club when the solid and dependable defender agreed a two-year contract during the close-season.

Sol Davis

It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town and a coup for Luton, when the highly-rated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of the 2001/02 season. The tough-tackling left-back joined Swindon as a trainee in the summer of 1998, and made rapid progress through the youth and reserve teams to become a regular in the Nationwide League.

Curtis Davies

The central defender was rewarded with a two-year professional contract at the end of last season after impressing during a spell in the side at the tail-end of the campaign. Having been a solid and consistent performer in the club's Under-19s over the past three years, he made the step-up to first-team level and turned in some encouraging displays when called upon.

Kevin Foley

The emergence of Kevin Foley was one of the success stories of last season for Luton, during the course of the campaign he went from the Hatters youth team to the Republic of Ireland Under-21's. Each time he has comfortably adjusted himself to the level of football and great things are expected of this cultured footballer.

Ian Hillier

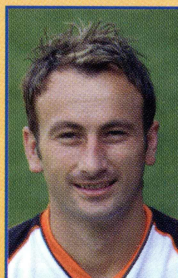
No-one was more surprised than the Welsh Under-21 International himself when he made his League debut for Luton in the second game of the 2001/02 season. The day before he was training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Kenilworth Road led to Luton taking the young right-back on loan and he settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him for a bargain £30,000 fee. He will be hoping to put an injury ravaged 2003/04 season behind this year after a close season knee operation and establish himself in The Hatters starting line-up.

Peter Holmes

A two-footed midfielder, he came to Luton as one of new boss Ricky Hill's first signings. Holmes has a good pedigree, he is a product of the FA's School of Excellence, from the same year as Michael Owen. He found first-team opportunities limited when he first arrived and after initially being released in the summer of 2003, as a result of the club's financial situation, he continued to train with the club and agreed a fresh deal to stay in November 2003.

Steve Howard

Rarely can £50,000 have been better spent than the fee Luton paid Northampton Town on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the bustling striker away from The Cobblers. He has been The Hatters leading marksman in the last three seasons and is a huge favourite at Kenilworth Road. The club resisted an approach from Sheffield Wednesday over the summer and the one-time Hartlepool United man has played a key role in the club's explosive start to the season.



Ahmet Brkovic

David Bayliss

Missed a large chunk of the 2002/03 season with a shoulder injury but forced his way back into the side at the start of last season, only for a ruptured Achilles tendon sustained in September to rule him out for the rest of the campaign. Signed in November 2001 from Rochdale, he soon became a regular in Luton's team which secured promotion from Division Three in 2001/02 but injuries have severely hampered his progress with The Hatters since then.

Robert Beckwith

Made the most of the first-team opportunities that came his way and was rewarded with a two-year pro contract at the end of the 2003/2004 season. Quietly learning his trade in the Luton youth team he found himself thrust into the first-team picture but was unfazed by starting last season as the first choice goalkeeper at the age of 18. He appeared in the opening 13 matches prior to the arrival of Marlon Beresford, earning admiring glances from both inside and out of the club with his performances. His season came to a premature end when a posterior cruciate ligament injury ruled him out for the rest of the campaign, but he did enough during that time to earn himself a contract and a return to full fitness is on the horizon, ahead of schedule, after working hard on his rehabilitation during the summer.



Steve Howard

Paul Hughes

A promising career that began at Chelsea was cruelly interrupted after the gifted midfielder earned the admiration of, among others, Glenn Hoddle. Hughes worked his way up through the ranks at Stamford Bridge and gained experience on loan to Stockport, Norwich and Crewe. When Hoddle became manager of Southampton he soon recruited Hughes, but a serious groin injury put the midfielder out of football for nine months and he eventually joined Luton at the start of the 2001/02 season. A talented player who has plenty of know-how.

Keith Keane

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old last season he went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards. Finished the season with 14 appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship. Another of the youth team who regularly appears for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level, he joined The Hatters at the age of nine and has made a rapid progression through the club's Centre of Excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential and versatility to convince Mike Newell to give him his first taste of senior action.

Michael Leary

The London-born central midfielder signed an extension to his contract in the summer which will tie him to The Hatters until 2006. He has had to wait patiently for his first-team chance but has taken the opportunity with both hands whenever it has presented itself. The scorer of two goals at Hartlepool back in March, in one of only eight first-team starts last year, he will be looking to add to both tally's throughout the course of the new season.

Lee Mansell

The Gloucester-born midfielder arrived on the scene in January 2001 to make a dramatic surprise debut. An injury crisis saw the youth teamer thrown into the team for the FA Cup third round replay against Queens Park Rangers and his debut was less than a minute old when he scored the opening goal. The midfielder enjoyed a regular place in the side during The Hatters impressive run last season and is keen for a further taste of first-team football this year.

Gary McSheffrey

The former England Under-20 International returned to Kenilworth Road from his home-town club, Coventry City in September 2004 for a one-month loan deal. He enjoyed a successful three-month loan spell with Luton Town at the start of the 2003/04 season, netting nine times for The Hatters before he returned to Highfield Road and established himself as a regular in the Coventry team. He has bags of pace, complimented by great technical ability.

Alan Neilson

Experience and versatility have made Neilson a valuable member of Luton's squad, as he has filled any role asked of him with dependable consistency - anywhere in the back four or in midfield. The former Welsh International was signed from Grimsby in 2002 and has also enjoyed a good career in the top flight with Newcastle, Southampton and Fulham.

Kevin Nicholls

The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton and quickly made an impact after skipping England youth teams at Under-18, Under-19 and Under-20 levels. Surprisingly, Wigan decided to put him on the transfer list in the summer of 2001 and Luton snapped him up for a bargain £150,000. He quickly became team captain, and his huge enthusiasm and ferocious tackling soon made him a big favourite with Hatters fans. Adding strength and experience to the right-hand side of midfield, he missed five months of last season through injury.

Stephen O'Leary

A player with a bright future ahead of him, he signed a two-year professional contract in the summer. The skilful midfielder made the most of his chance in the first-team spotlight in the final few matches of last season to show what he could do. Luton fought off competition from top London clubs for his signature and during his time with The Hatters he has also been a regular at Schoolboy level for the Republic of Ireland. His game is a mixture of skill and determination, and he is equally at home going forward or in a midfield holding role.

Russ Perrett

Having signed a one-year contract in the summer he will be looking to make up for lost time this season after a frustrating spell on the sidelines last year. The ex-Portsmouth man was restricted to just six games during the 2003/2004 season but when fully fit the experienced campaigner is an important member of the squad.

Steve Robinson

Agreed a new deal in the summer after enjoying a campaign where he firmly established himself in The Hatters side. A hard-working midfielder who adds experience to a young midfield department, Luton snapped him up for £50,000 from Preston North End in the summer of 2002. Capped by Northern Ireland, he made his name at Bournemouth after joining the Cherries on a free transfer from Spurs, where he had been a trainee.

Dino Seremet

The 6'4" Slovenian goalkeeper impressed on trial in July 2004 to earn a two-year contract and signed on a Bosman transfer from Maribor Pivovarna Laaska. With youngsters Robert Beckwith and Dean Brill recovering from injury he will provide healthy competition for Marlon Beresford for the goalkeeper's jersey.

Enoch Showunmi

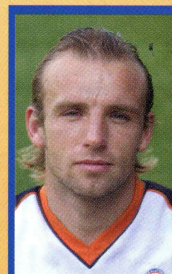
The big striker will be looking to build on his growing reputation this season and continue the good start he made to his professional career, which resulted in a close season call-up to the Nigerian national squad. Enoch soon established himself as popular figure on the terraces and was rewarded with a two-and-a-half-year contract in February 2004. The London-born forward joined the club fresh from non-League football with Willesden Constantine.

Paul Underwood

Luton Town fought off competition from a number of clubs to complete the free transfer signing of Paul Underwood from Rushden & Diamonds in March 2004. The Wimbledon-born defender joined Rushden for £50,000 in the summer of 1997 from Enfield and went on to make over 200 appearances for the Northamptonshire club. Unfortunately a hamstring injury sustained 20 minutes into his Hatters' debut ruled him out for the rest of the season, but now back to full fitness, he is proving to be an important capture.

Rowan Vine

The Basingstoke-born striker initially joined Town on a three-month loan deal from Premiership Portsmouth on the eve of the new season but that arrangement was extended in September for the whole season after he had made an impressive start to life as a Hatter. The 21-year-old front man has enjoyed successful loan spells at this level before when he appeared for Brentford and Colchester United.



Paul Underwood

CLASSIC KITS?

Neil Morris looks at the good, bad and ugly outfits that our visitors have wore over the years...

I DARE say you could divide the home supporters this evening pretty accurately by age, just by asking them to describe Luton's colours. The younger fans will say white and navy blue, the old-timers will suggest white and black while those of us in the middle will no doubt be thinking of orange!

Yet none of these would have been on the minds of supporters around prior to World War I. Luton's first kit was an impressive one; pink and navy blue halved shirts with navy blue shorts. The shirts were altered to scarlet before the 20th Century was ushered in with a strip of sky blue jerseys and white shorts. A black 'V' was added to the shirts in later years. For some reason The Hatters then decided to go for an altogether more sombre look (post WW1 reflection perhaps?) and the long-standing white-black-black design was adopted, the stockings sometimes having white tops or hoops on the turnover; although from 1958-62 the hose were white. In 1967 Luton did what Derby were to do some years after and changed the colour of the shorts to navy - a change nowhere near as sensational as what followed in 1973. The shorts remained navy, but the shirts - with a navy and white stripe down the side - and socks were orange. A slightly altered version was to last until 1979.

Until 1984 the strip was mainly white, but still with orange and navy trim. Navy shorts were then brought back and this combination was to survive, with various modifications, until 1999. For one season only orange shirts were seen again at Kenilworth Road, with royal blue shorts and socks, but since then the white-black-black look has made a comeback (this time with orange trim). The present shirt design sees black panels along the shoulders and down under the arms, with an orange collar and cuffs.

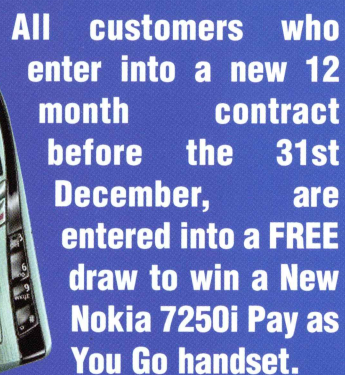
The classic Luton strip will depend on your age. I have a soft spot for the second orange design, 1974-79, but could understand older fans despising the radical change. As for the worst, I'd go for the 1991-92 outfit which was a white shirt with blue sleeves and orange trim - assaulted by various random shapes and designs... unsurprisingly the team was relegated!





FREE PRIZE DRAW

**The Draw will
be made by
the Team
Captain of
Walsall
Football Club**



***Draw to take place on 31st
January 2005
Winner notified on this day.***



No Cash Alternative

phones unlimited

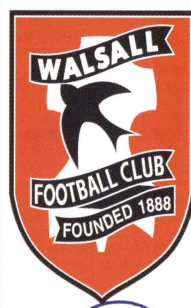
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League 1 Stats

League 1 attendances

| Club | Aggregate | Highest | Lowest | Average |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Bournemouth | 44,753 | 6,925 | 5,774 | 6,393 |
| Barnsley | 60,527 | 13,175 | 8,453 | 10,088 |
| Blackpool | 36,058 | 6,713 | 5,229 | 6,010 |
| Bradford | 47,956 | 10,444 | 6,929 | 7,993 |
| Brentford | 32,297 | 5,818 | 4,643 | 5,383 |
| Bristol City | 71,565 | 14,275 | 10,296 | 11,928 |
| Chesterfield | 27,975 | 5,150 | 4,028 | 4,663 |
| Colchester | 21,461 | 3,868 | 3,230 | 3,577 |
| Doncaster | 46,196 | 7,567 | 5,529 | 6,599 |
| Hartlepool | 35,536 | 6,032 | 4,371 | 5,077 |
| Huddersfield | 71,101 | 14,794 | 9,531 | 11,850 |
| Hull | 98,600 | 17,569 | 15,500 | 16,433 |
| Luton | 51,985 | 8,192 | 6,634 | 7,426 |
| MK Dons | 29,440 | 5,924 | 3,015 | 4,206 |
| Oldham | 34,959 | 7,125 | 5,066 | 5,827 |
| Peterborough | 28,200 | 5,745 | 3,828 | 4,700 |
| Port Vale | 33,674 | 6,736 | 4,602 | 5,612 |
| Sheff Wed | 157,577 | 26,264 | 19,203 | 22,511 |
| Stockport | 36,326 | 7,473 | 4,119 | 5,189 |
| Swindon | 33,199 | 6,286 | 5,060 | 5,533 |
| Torquay | 22,182 | 5,005 | 2,922 | 3,697 |
| Tranmere | 63,969 | 10,884 | 8,128 | 9,138 |
| Walsall | 37,143 | 8,225 | 5,203 | 6,191 |
| Wrexham | 27,530 | 5,688 | 3,712 | 4,588 |

Attendance and Cards stats are ordered alphabetically

Cards

| Yellow | Red |
|--------|-----|
| 4 | 2 |
| 20 | 1 |
| 15 | 0 |
| 25 | 1 |
| 21 | 2 |
| 20 | 1 |
| 20 | 3 |
| 18 | 1 |
| 21 | 1 |
| 18 | 1 |
| 23 | 1 |
| 12 | 2 |
| 23 | 0 |
| 21 | 1 |
| 22 | 0 |
| 17 | 0 |
| 22 | 2 |
| 13 | 1 |
| 25 | 0 |
| 18 | 2 |
| 22 | 1 |
| 17 | 2 |
| 14 | 2 |
| 14 | 1 |

Last 6 form guide






















| Club | W | D | L | For | Agt | Pts | GI Diff | Sequence |
|---------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|
| Bournemouth | 4 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 13 | 9 | LWWDW |
| Luton | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 6 | WWWDD |
| Bradford | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 12 | 4 | LWLWW |
| Brentford | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 4 | DWWWDD |
| Bristol City | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 5 | WWLDDV |
| Swindon | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 2 | WLDWDV |
| Huddersfield | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 3 | WLDWLW |
| Hull | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 10 | -1 | WWDLW |
| Blackpool | 2 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 3 | LDWDWV |
| Sheff Wed | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | DDLWDV |
| Tranmere | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 2 | DWDWDV |
| Hartlepool | 3 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 0 | LWLWLW |
| Wrexham | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | -1 | WWDLDD |
| Colchester | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 1 | WLDWLW |
| MK Dons | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | LWWDLW |
| Barnsley | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | DWWDLW |
| Torquay | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 6 | -3 | DLDDWD |
| Doncaster | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 6 | -6 | WDLDLW |
| Walsall | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 | -3 | DLLLWD |
| Stockport | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 5 | -7 | LLDDLD |
| Chesterfield | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 4 | -3 | LWLDLL |
| Peterborough | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 4 | -3 | LWLLDD |
| Port Vale | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 3 | -10 | LLLLWL |
| Oldham | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | -6 | LDLDDL |

Form Guide stats are ordered by points gained over last 6 games

Football League 1 top scorers

| Scorer | Club | Lge | CC | FA LDV | Tot | Gms | Ave | Scorer | Club | Lge | CC | FA LDV | Tot | Gms | Ave | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----|----|--------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|------------|-----|----|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Izalee McLeod | MK Dons | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 14 | Michael McIndoe | Doncaster | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 0.44 |
| Leroy Lita | Bristol City | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 15 | Adam Boyd | Hartlepool | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 0.44 |
| James Hayter | Bournemouth | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 16 | Craig Fagan | Colchester | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 0.50 |
| Dean Windsor | Bradford | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 13 | Steve Howard | Luton | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 0.46 |
| Stuart Elliott | Hull | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 13 | Iain Hume | Tranmere | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 0.46 |
| Pawel Abbott | Huddersfield | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 14 | Scott Taylor | Blackpool | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 0.46 |
| Luke Beckett | Stockport | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 12 | Stuart Green | Hull | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 0.46 |

Football League 1 results grid

| Away Home |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Bournemouth | 30.10 | 29.1 | 7.12 | 1.1 | 2-2 | 20.11 | 1-3 | 5-0 | 7.4 | 28.12 | 19.3 | 9.4 | 12.2 | 23.4 | 4-0 | 15.1 | 2-1 | 18.12 | 22.2 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 | | | | |
| Barnsley | 19.2 | 30.10 | 29.1 | 7.12 | 1.1 | 2-2 | 20.11 | 1-3 | 5-0 | 7.4 | 28.12 | 19.3 | 9.4 | 12.2 | 23.4 | 4-0 | 15.1 | 2-1 | 18.12 | 22.2 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 | | | |
| Blackpool | 3-3 | 7.4 | 28.12 | 19.3 | 9.4 | 12.2 | 23.4 | 1-1 | 1-0 | 3.1 | 2-2 | 20.11 | 1-3 | 8.1 | 9.4 | 3.1 | 1-2 | 4-0 | 1-0 | 7.12 | 20.11 | 5.3 | 22.1 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 |
| Bradford | 30.4 | 1-0 | 19.10 | 16.4 | 4.1 | 2-3 | 6.11 | 2-0 | 19.3 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 2-2 | 0-2 | 20.11 | 28.3 | 3.1 | 22.1 | 5.2 | 11.12 | 8.1 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 | |
| Brentford | 2-1 | 8.1 | 23.10 | 20.11 | 16.4 | 4.1 | 2-3 | 6.11 | 2-0 | 19.3 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 2-2 | 0-2 | 20.11 | 28.3 | 3.1 | 22.1 | 5.2 | 11.12 | 8.1 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 |
| Bristol City | 26.3 | 12.3 | 26.2 | 15.1 | 4-1 | 29.1 | 30.10 | 30.4 | 28.12 | 3-3 | 1-1 | 18.12 | 22.2 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 27.11 | 5-0 | 1-2 | 1-1 | 7.12 | 20.11 | 5.3 | 22.1 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 |
| Chesterfield | 16.4 | 3.1 | 6.11 | 2.4 | 3-1 | 2-2 | 2-1 | 23.10 | 5.2 | 12.3 | 8.1 | 26.12 | 30.4 | 26.2 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 20.11 | 17.11 | 18.12 | 26.3 | 1-0 | 2-2 | 22.2 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 28.3 | 1-0 | 19.2 | 27.11 | 29.1 | 0-0 | 2-1 | 1-0 | 30.4 | 20.10 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 16.4 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 5.2 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 26.2 | 0-0 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 9.4 |
| Colchester | 26.12 | 7.12 | 5.2 | 23.4 | 5.3 | 19.2 | 28.3 | 4-1 | 9.4 | 20.11 | 11.12 | 22.1 | 3.1 | 2-1 | 2-1 | 19.3 | 3-2 | 0-1 | 7.4 | 23.10 | 8.1 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Doncaster | 3.1 | 22.2 | 2-0 | 26.3 | 12.3 | 7.12 | 12.2 | 1.4 | 23.4 | 2-1 | 22.1 | 7.4 | 1-1 | 30.10 | 8.1 | 18.12 | 20.11 | 26.2 | 2-2 | 4-0 | 0-1 | 19.10 | 0-0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hartlepool | 27.11 | 1-1 | 1-1 | 2-1 | 22.2 | 22.1 | 3-2 | 2-1 | 6.11 | 26.3 | 2-0 | 8.1 | 26.12 | 11.2 | 30.10 | 15.4 | 11.12 | 2.4 | 4-1 | 12.3 | 30.4 | 3.1 | 5.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Huddersfield | 22.1 | 0-2 | 19.2 | 18.12 | 7.11 | 3.1 | 0-0 | 16.4 | 9.4 | 0-2 | 4-0 | 5.2 | 26.2 | 2-1 | 26.12 | 29.3 | 19.3 | 30.4 | 8.1 | 19.10 | 3.1 | 23.10 | 17.11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hull | 1-0 | 2-4 | 2-1 | 0-1 | 27.11 | 5.2 | 1-0 | 26.2 | 29.12 | 29.1 | 1.1 | 23.10 | 2-0 | 15.1 | 26.3 | 30.4 | 0-0 | 16.4 | 12.3 | 18.12 | 6.11 | 20.10 | 19.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Luton | 1-0 | 26.3 | 2.4 | 30.10 | 30.4 | 5.3 | 1-0 | 28.12 | 27.11 | 3-0 | 1-2 | 12.2 | 2-1 | 2-1 | 11.12 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 12.3 | 1-0 | 29.1 | 22.2 | 16.4 | 6.11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oldham | 23.10 | 20.11 | 1-2 | 7.4 | 29.1 | 19.10 | 7.12 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 3-2 | 11.12 | 28.3 | 19.3 | 28.12 | 5.3 | 9.4 | 19.2 | 5.2 | 23.4 | 1.1 | 5-3 | 3-0 | 2-3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peterborough | 6.11 | 5.3 | 0-0 | 12.3 | 3-0 | 0-1 | 11.12 | 26.3 | 19.2 | 23.10 | 2-4 | 2-3 | 3.1 | 22.1 | 27.11 | 19.10 | 5.2 | 26.12 | 1-1 | 1-0 | 16.4 | 30.4 | 8.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Port Vale | 5-2 | 23.4 | 0-3 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 3-0 | 9.4 | 29.1 | 2-0 | 19.2 | 0-3 | 3-2 | 26.2 | 18.12 | 7.4 | 28.12 | 23.10 | 19.10 | 20.11 | 7.12 | 19.3 | 3-2 | 28.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sheff Wed | 0-1 | 1-0 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 11.12 | 7.4 | 30.10 | 0-3 | 6.3 | 20.11 | 1-0 | 8.12 | 0-0 | 1-1 | 23.2 | 22.1 | 23.4 | 8.1 | 26.3 | 2.4 | 26.12 | 1-1 | 3.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stockport | 8.1 | 22.1 | 26.3 | 0-1 | 2.4 | 26.12 | 22.2 | 12.3 | 16.4 | 26.2 | 2-3 | 3.1 | 1-3 | 30.10 | 1-0 | 12.2 | 6.11 | 3-3 | 0-2 | 1-1 | 27.11 | 18.12 | 10.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Swindon | 5.3 | 12.2 | 15.1 | 1-0 | 28.12 | 28.3 | 7.4 | 1.1 | 11.12 | 3-0 | 8.12 | 20.11 | 2-3 | 1-0 | 0-1 | 23.2 | 26.2 | 29.1 | 30.10 | 23.4 | 9.4 | 2.1 | 19.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Torquay | 19.10 | 11.12 | 30.4 | 28.12 | 2-2 | 19.3 | 5.3 | 27.11 | 5.2 | 15.1 | 2-1 | 0-3 | 28.3 | 6.11 | 29.1 | 16.4 | 2-4 | 1.1 | 19.2 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 9.4 | 23.10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tranmere | 10.12 | 26.12 | 16.4 | 4-5 | 20.10 | 8.1 | 1-0 | 12.2 | 28.3 | 2-1 | 22.2 | 5.3 | 1-1 | 2-0 | 18.3 | 29.4 | 4-2 | 8.4 | 6.11 | 3.1 | 22.1 | 27.11 | 1-1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Walsall | 12.3 | 2-2 | 18.12 | 26.2 | 0-1 | 23.10 | 15.1 | 2-1 | 1.1 | 7.12 | 29.1 | 23.4 | 19.10 | 26.3 | 20.11 | 3-2 | 1-1 | 7.4 | 3-2 | 2.4 | 28.12 | 19.2 | 5.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MK Dons | 1-3 | 1-1 | 28.12 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 23.4 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 0-1 | 4-2 | 12.2 | 22.2 | 20.11 | 2.4 | 7.12 | 12.3 | 29.1 | 5.3 | 26.3 | 1-0 | 7.4 | 30.10 | 11.12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wrexham | 2-4 | 2-1 | 1.1 | 1-0 | 26.3 | 20.11 | 28.12 | 22.2 | 29.1 | 18.12 | 7.4 | 30.10 | 23.4 | 12.3 | 26.4 | 1-1 | 0-3 | 7.12 | 2-1 | 12.2 | 15.1 | 1-1 | 26.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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If it's happening, you can bet on it!

The X Factor Live On ITV

FIRST OUT - 23rd October 6.00 p.m.

- 2/1 VOICES
- 9/2 2 TOGO
- 5/1 STEVE BROOKSTEIN
- 5/1 CASSIE COMPTON
- 11/2 VERITY KEAYS
- 8/1 ROWETTA
- 9/1 G4
- 10/1 ROBERTA HOWETTA
- 12/1 TABBY

2004 Christmas Number 1

- 6/1 RONAN KEETING & CAT STEVENS
- 12/1 U2
- 12/1 ROBBIE WILLIAMS
- 14/1 KYLIE MINOGUE
- 16/1 RICKY GERVAIS & NOEL GALLAGHER
- 16/1 TAKE THAT
- 16/1 ICE CUBE
- 16/1 JOSS STONE
- 20/1 BRUCE FORSYTH
- 20/1 WESTLIFE
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- 20/1 DURAN DURAN
- OTHERS ON REQUEST

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AND BESCOT STADIUM



WALSALL LADIES FC

Members of the West Midlands League
Premier Division

THE DAY after England's World Cup qualifying victory over Wales, the Walsall Ladies took on high-flying Welsh outfit TNS in a game played at Baschurch near the Welsh border.

With four regular first-team members missing, we took a young and inexperienced side to the game, including four members of our Under-16 squad.

In contrast our hosts boasted numerous Welsh Internationals and County players, so it was always going to be a tough test for our girls.

We were up against it straight from the first whistle and within five minutes TNS took the lead when the ball cannoned off the crossbar and was headed home.

We slipped further behind five minutes later when our hosts broke the offside trap and rounded the 'keeper before stroking the ball into the net.

Despite going two goals down, we didn't let our heads drop and continued to battle away. For half-an-hour after the second goal we more than matched our opponents in every department, with our back four in particular coming into their own.

As our midfield continued to probe and front-runners looked lively, we went close on several occasions as the home 'keeper proved to be a difficult obstacle

to overcome. But there was a disappointment on the stroke of half-time when TNS extended their lead with a screaming shot that flew into the net.

It was rough justice on a hard-working Saddlers' side, but we came out with all guns blazing for the second period and again went close on a couple of occasions before we were caught on the counter-attack as TNS scored a fourth. It was a controversial goal as it stemmed from a foul throw in the build-up.

With Emma Sharratt and Heather Moorhouse playing well above their age, aided by the experience of Zowie Williams and Donna Ash, The Saddlers again hit back strongly and were unlucky when Sarah Williams hit the post.

The other two youngsters in the side, Jessica Price and Jodie Hicken, also went close on a couple of occasions, whilst the presence of the hard-working Rachel Proverbs was missed when she was substituted due to illness.

With just seven minutes left on the clock, TNS added two further goals in quick succession. This was scant reward for an excellent performance against very strong opposition.

The Walsall Ladies Under-14 team meanwhile drew 1-1 with Coventry. Laura Marsh was on target for The Saddlers.

THE WALSALL FC Ladies are on the look-out for any spare items of last seasons Walsall FC home kit for use by the girls throughout the course of the 2004/2005 campaign.

If you would be interested in donating shirts, shorts or socks then contact Brian Simpson on 01922-701 692.

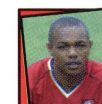
NEXT GAME: v WBA (away - League game)
Sunday, October 24th 2004



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LEROY WILLIAMS
www.saddlers.co.uk

ALL SADDLERS' supporters are invited along to give the Walsall Ladies your backing. Home games are played at Great Wyrley FC, Hazel Lane, Great Wyrley and kick-off at 2:00pm. See you there...

FIXTURES & RESULTS

**WEST MIDLANDS LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION 2004/2005**

- Sept 12th Rea Valley (Away)
- Sept 19th Solihull Glades (Home)
- Sept 26th FA Cup
- Oct 3rd Stratford Town (Home)
- Oct 10th TNS (Away)
- Oct 17th County Cup
- Oct 24th West Bromwich Albion (Away)
- Oct 31st Wednesfield (Home)
- Nov 7th Telford (Away)
- Nov 14th Cosford (Home)
- Nov 21st County Cup
- Nov 28th Headless Cross (Away)
- Dec 5th Kidderminster Harriers (Away)
- Dec 12th Rea Valley (Home)
- Dec 19th Solihull Glades (Away)
- Jan 9th Stoke City (Home)
- Jan 16th Stratford Town (Away)
- Jan 23rd TNS (Home)
- Feb 6th Wednesfield (Away)
- Feb 13th Telford (Home)
- Feb 20th Cosford (Away)
- Feb 27th Headless Cross (Home)
- Mar 6th Kidderminster Harriers (Home)
- Mar 13th Stoke City (Away)
- TBA West Bromwich Albion (Home)



First-class sports facilities right on your doorstep

The new £7 million sports complex at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall Campus is now open to the community. One of the largest kind in the West Midlands, the centre caters for a wide range of sports as well as personal fitness training.

Latest Sports facilities include

- 12-court sports hall incorporating a national judo centre
- Hi-tech fitness and conditioning suite featuring state-of-the-art resistance, cardiovascular and free-weights equipment
- 6-lane floodlit athletics track with jump and throw areas
- Swimming pool available for public swims, lessons and pool parties
- Synthetic floodlit pitch
- Dance studio
- Coffee bar and social area
- Event hire



Information, bookings, membership details

Tel: 01902-323237

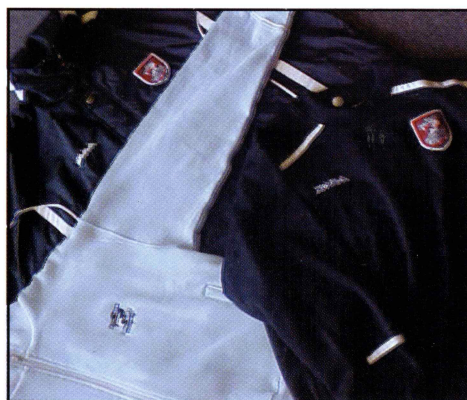
Web: www.wlv.ac.uk/sport

Email: Sports@wlv.ac.uk

Wrap up warm this winter with...

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There is no need to be left out in the cold this winter...

- Basic Adult Fleece - £21.99,
- Basic Kids Fleece - £14.99,
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- Iceberg Reversible Jacket - £35.99.

Hurry, while stocks last!

New designs due out soon, so watch this space...

FROM SOCKS TO SWEATSHIRTS. JACKETS TO CLOCKS. MUGS TO MATCH TICKETS. WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE FOOTBALL SHOP IN WALSHALL TOWN CENTRE (ALSO OPEN ON REQUEST AT BESCOT STADIUM DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS). COME AND PAY US A VISIT...



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Comprehensively covering The Saddlers

IT'S NOT just an action-packed 90 minutes we offer here at Bescot Stadium; the half-time interval can be interesting too!



As you've no doubt noticed, during the break Pitch-side Announcer, Gavin Drake has been intising supporters on to the pitch to take part in our 'SCORE FOR MORE' competition.

Up for grabs are a Walsall FC scarf, signed football and signed replica shirt and all you have to do to win is score an open goal. Sounds easy doesn't it?

To take home the scarf, you must score from the penalty spot, for the ball you must slot home from 30 yards and for the shirt, it's all about hoofing it in from the half-way line!

Throughout the season, and tonight weather permitting, supporters will have the chance to 'SCORE FOR MORE'.

Pictured above we see Gavin alongside Laura Andrews from Pelsall, who is showing off the prizes she won at our recent game against Brentford. "I was pleased to win all three prizes," said Laura. "The half-way line kick was a tough one but thankfully Swifty gave the ball a helping hand into the net for me!"

So, next time you see Gavin ambling along the touchline, give him a shout, YOU could be our next victim... erm, we mean winner!

SCORE FOR MORE - TAKE A SHOT, TAKE HOME A PRIZE... OR THREE!

DANIEL MOLE

Subscribe to Saddlers World for daily news bulletins direct from Bescot Stadium, plus interviews, features, past and present match highlights and much, much more...

SADDLERS WORLD-HIGHLIGHTS, COMMENTARIES? AND KEARNSY!

SADDLERS WORLD, www.saddlers.co.uk's interactive service, is the ONLY place where Walsall supporters can watch all the action from the 2004/05 campaign.

By subscribing to our on-line television station, you can listen to live match commentary - as well as watching exclusive match highlights - from EVERY Saddlers game.

And that's not all! For just £34.99 per year, you will also receive daily news bulletins direct from Bescot Stadium, a wide range of features and access to every goal scored in The Football League!

Just visit www.saddlers.co.uk for more details...

OVER the past few years his dulcet tones have become legendary, his knowledge of The Saddlers unquestionable and his face? Definitely suited for radio! We are, of course, talking about Mick Kearns.

For the 2004/05 season, the ONLY place where you regularly hear Kearnsy's commentaries and views on all things Walsall FC is on SADDLERS WORLD... Now if that's not a reason to subscribe, then what is!

MATCH BETTING WITH SADDLESBET

FANCY a flutter on this tonight's action? As ever, SADDLESBET will have unrivalled club match bets plus everything you could wish for from an on-line bookie - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Also, don't forget that every bet you place directly helps the club, so what are you waiting for...

Bet on-line at www.saddlersbet.co.uk or by phone NOW on **0800-323 365** (Just quote SaddlersBet)

MOBILE ZONE - KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

IF YOU want to know all the latest news direct from Bescot Stadium as and when it happens, then our OFFICIAL SMS SERVICE is for you.

No matter where you are in the World, you can remain in the know about the Super Saddlers, with exclusive up-dates fed directly to your mobile phone.

to make it even easier, there are four levels of service.

GOLD - We'll send you team line-ups as soon as they are announced, Walsall FC breaking news items, goal flashes, managers' comments, divisional round-ups and much more.

SILVER - You'll receive Walsall FC breaking news alerts, goal flashes and divisional round-ups.

AWAY - Great for season-ticket holders, we'll just send you Walsall FC breaking news, plus away goal flashes and round-ups.

NEWS - Ideal for home and away supporters, we'll only send you Walsall FC breaking news items and post-match comments from the manager.

There really is something for everyone with The Saddlers' MOBILE ZONE. Log on to www.saddlers.co.uk for further details...

Signing up to the Official Walsall FC SMS Text Messaging Service couldn't be easier.

Simply send a text message to 88442 saying

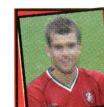
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WALSALL FC

Community news

with Mick Kearns

DON'T MISS OUT, JOIN THE JUNIOR SADDLERS

The number of Junior Saddlers members has sadly declined since the opening of the Purple Stand with youngsters preferring to watch games from there rather than the Family Stand.

Providing you show your match ticket on the door, youngsters can still gain access to The Junior Saddlers Room on matchdays and receive all the other benefits that come with being in The Junior Saddlers no matter where you sit in the ground.

For just £5 for the whole year, children under the age of 16 can receive: * A Birthday and Christmas card signed by your favourite player, * The opportunity to take part in penalty shoot-outs as part of the half-time entertainment, * Financial concessions on a minimum of six away trips throughout the season, * Plus many other activities arranged throughout the year.

To join, send £5 plus two passport photos of yourself, your name, age, address, contact details and the name of your favourite Walsall player, to: Walsall FC Community Programme, Bescot Stadium, Walsall WS1 4SA. Alternatively contact 01922-644 742 for further information.

OCTOBER SOCCER SCHOOLS

We have three Soccer Schools coming up this October half-term. They are open to boys and girls between the ages of six and 14 and will take place at the following venues:

- COURSE 1 - Bescot Stadium synthetic sports pitch - Monday, October 25th, Tuesday, October 26th and Wednesday, October 27th - £20 per child,
- COURSE 2 - Willenhall Sports College - Thursday, October 28th and Friday, October 29th - £15 per child,
- COURSE 3 - Sheffield Sports College - Thursday, October 28th and Friday, October 29th - £15 per child.

All courses will run 10.00am until 3.00pm daily. Children will need to bring with them appropriate clothing, kit and a packed lunch.

Family discounts are available, please call 01922-644 742 for further information.



Please send correct remittance (cheques payable to Walsall FC Community Programme), along with the child's name, age, address, contact number, any medical details and choice of course, to Walsall FC Community Programme, Bescot Stadium, Walsall WS1 4SA.

THANK YOU KELLOGG'S FROSTIES

This year's October half-term Soccer Schools are being run in partnership with Kellogg's Frosties and with their help around 20,000 boys and girls will be taking part in fun-filled holiday courses all over the country.

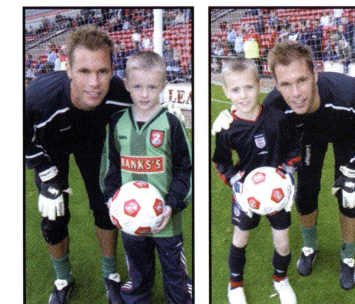
Here they will be encouraged to learn and develop new football skills and techniques. Kellogg's Frosties and Tony the Tiger challenge you to 'Earn Your Stripes' and develop your skills! If you want to know more about Kellogg's Frosties' involvement in the gr-r-reat Soccer Schools that Walsall FC will be running this half-term, telephone 01922-644 742.

TONIGHT'S BALL BOYS

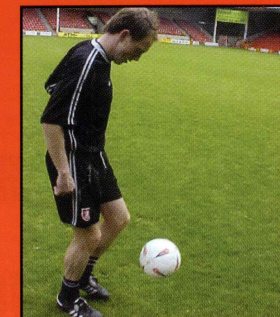
Providing the ball boys for today's game will be members of Midland Strollers Under-14s FC. We hope that everyone involved enjoys their evening with us.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

We had two youngsters on the pitch prior to our game against Brentford last month to receive a signed Walsall FC football as part of a Birthday Treat from goalkeeper, Mark Paston



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

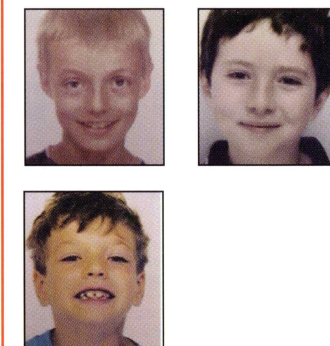


Improve your skills with these 'Tricks of the Trade' as demonstrated by Darren Wrack...

* KICK-UPS

- Keep the ball off the ground,
- Keep ball low,
- Use feet, thighs and head,
- How many can you do?

JUNIOR SADDLERS GALLERY



Happy Birthday: Matthew Preston (9), Liam Keeling (8), Rhys Parfitt (8).



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Commercial matters

with Commercial Director Roy Whalley

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCH SPONSOR - GOLDLINER RACING

We are delighted to welcome back Tom Dobson and his guests from Goldliner Racing as today's Match Sponsor. Tom is a lifelong supporter of The Saddlers and his company, Goldliner Racing, as well as providing supporters with a matchday betting service, have been great supporters of our commercial activities for many seasons.

Goldliner Racing are located in Bridge Street, Walsall offering excellent facilities to their clients. They also have premises at 772 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton. Remember, you can have a bet on the outcome of this evening's match from the Goldliner Betting Office located outside the H. L. Fellows Stand, from the betting kiosks located inside the stadium at both ends of the ground and from the Goldliner Betting Desk in The Priory Lounge.

Winings can be collected from the Goldliner Racing Betting Office immediately after the game. I would like to thank Tom Dobson and Goldliner Racing for their tremendous support and hope that our Match Sponsors have an enjoyable evening at Bescot Stadium.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCHBALL SPONSORS - WALSALL ADVERTISER

Welcome back to the Walsall Advertiser, who have already featured in a number of matchday sponsorships this season. The Walsall Advertiser are the town's largest circulation weekly newspaper, with copies reaching every household in the town.

You can usually rely on nearly two pages of photographs and reports on Walsall FC. Full marks to Sports Editor, Neil Rose, for the work he does in providing such extensive coverage of happenings at Bescot Stadium. Our weekly advertisement, detailing forthcoming events at Bescot Stadium, is very important in attracting booking for Cabaret Nights, Boxing Dinner Shows and Sporting Dinners.

We are extremely grateful to Guy Helliker, Business Development Manager, for arranging tonight's sponsorship. We hope that our guests from the Walsall Advertiser have an enjoyable evening at Bescot Stadium.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCHDAY MASCOT - EMILY WILSON

Tonight's Matchday Mascot is seven year-old Emily Wilson from Bloxwich. Emily attends Cheslyn Hay Primary School and her favourite hobbies are playing with her friends, watching Walsall FC and reading.

Her favourite Saddlers player is Paul Merson and her most memorable game was the 4-1 thrashing of Nottingham Forest last season.

We hope that Emily enjoys her role as Mascot today and that she leads The Saddlers towards victory and a valuable three points.

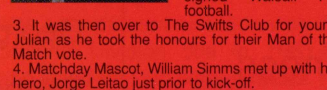
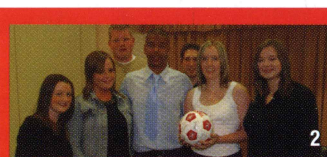
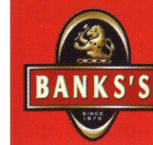
LAST CHANCE TO BOOK FOR NOBBY

In two days' time, Thursday, October 21st, former Manchester United and 1966 England World Cup-winning hero, Nobby Stiles will be celebrity speaker at our Sporting Dinner in The Bonser Suite.

Also appearing will be Nobby's son, John Stiles, a brilliant comedian.

If you enjoy listening to stories about Sir Alf Ramsey, Jack and Bobby Charlton, George Best, Dennis Law and the rest, this is the night for you.

Tickets are £27.50 each, and that includes a five-course meal. You can book last minute places on 0870-442 0111 or 0870-442 0222.



50/50 MATCHDAY DRAW RESULTS
Details of the 50/50 Matchday Draw at the match versus Colchester United on Saturday, October 9th are, as follows:

* 1st Prize: £190.60 - No: 0203 - Winner: Not yet claimed,
* 2nd Prize: £25.00 - No: 1607 - Winner: Not yet claimed,
* 3rd Prize: £25.00 - No: 1005 - Winner: Kim Sharpe, Wivenhoe, Essex.

The competition continues today. Tickets are £1.00 each and will be on sale before today's game. Results are announced at half-time. Winnings can be collected from the Main Reception Office after the match.

ORDER YOUR SADDLERS WALL OF FAME BRICKS FOR CHRISTMAS

A brick in The Saddlers Wall of Fame is a Christmas present that will be welcomed by any Saddlers supporter whilst remembering a loved one who has passed away by placing a brick in The Saddlers Wall of Memory is a poignant way to recall their love for the club.

If you would like to order a brick for The Saddlers Wall of Fame or Wall of Memory, and have it in place by Christmas, you must order by November 20th.

If the brick is going to be a Christmas present you will be issued with a certificate to present on Christmas morning.

Order forms for The Saddlers Wall of Fame and Wall of Memory can be obtained from Bescot Stadium and The Football Shop in Walsall Town Centre. Alternatively, if

you would like further information, you can telephone Gemma on 01922-651 412.

SADDLERS STARS BOOKED FOR AUTOGRAPH SIGNING SESSION AT THE WEST BROMWICH BUILDING SOCIETY

A number of Walsall players will be making a personal appearance at the West Bromwich Building Society, Walsall Town Centre branch, in Bridge Street on Monday, October 26th, starting at 2.00pm. This is during Walsall schools half-term week to enable as many young supporters as possible to meet their favourite players.

Remember to take your autograph books and pens with you, and if you want your photograph taken with one of the players, take your camera too!

SADDLERS HOLIDAY CLUB - LATEST HOLIDAY OFFERS FROM THE TRAVEL FACTORY

It's October... the weather is gloomy... the nights are drawing in... How about an autumn break to find the Sunshine?

* Seven nights, self-catering in Malta, departing November 30th for £99.00... * Seven nights self-catering in Benidorm, departing December 4th for £99.00... * Seven nights self-catering on the Costa Del Sol, for £99.00.

These are just a few of the 'winter warmers' available from The Travel Factory. For bookings and further information call 08704-101 347 or E-mail saddlers@travel-factory.co.uk. Alternatively visit their Web-site on www.travel-factory.co.uk.

ONLY FEW PLACES LEFT FOR JOE BROWN

If you want to see Joe Brown, one of Britain's greatest entertainers, perform live in The Bonser Suite on Friday, October 29th, you had better be quick, only a few places remain.

Tickets are £20.00 or £30.00 if you want to include a four-course meal. You can book now on 0870-442 0111 or 0870-442 0222.

DO YOU REMEMBER 'ENRY'S HAMMER'?

Ask any person to name a British heavyweight boxer and I will wager nine times out of ten they will say 'Henry Cooper'.

'Our Enry' as he was affectionately known, is one of the best-loved of all Britain's sporting heroes.

'Enrys Hammer' was that famous left upper cut that floored Cassius Clay and but for the timely intervention of the bell, and some strange goings on in the Clay's corner during the interval, 'Our Enry' would probably have finished Clay off.

You can see, meet and listen to Sir Henry Cooper when he comes to Bescot Stadium as celebrity speaker at our Sporting Dinner on Thursday, November 25th, together with comedian Gary Marshall.

Tickets are £30.00, inclusive of five-course meal. You can reserve your places now on 0870-442 0111 or 0870-442 0222.

CHRISTMAS PARTY BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

Looking for a great pre-Christmas night out with your friends or work mates?

December is party month at Bescot Stadium with all the ingredients you need for a great Christmas night out. Like to find out more? Call Janet or Yvonne on 01922-651 418.

AWARD FOR CATERING DEPARTMENT

Following a recent routine visit from Environmental Health, Walsall FC have been given a Clean Premises Award 2004 in recognition of the cleanliness of the kitchen and food preparation areas here at Bescot Stadium. Well done to everyone involved.

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LUTON TOWN

DREAM TEAM

*Football historian Leigh Edwards
selects a post-war 'Dream Team' for
our opposition with the help of
several supporters and club officials*

RON BAYNHAM: England International goalkeeper who was a key figure as Luton Town were FA Cup finalists in 1959. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Worcester City in November 1951, he contested a first-team slot with fellow England 'keeper Bernard Streten as Luton won promotion in 1954-55. He made 388 League appearances until injury ended his career in May 1965 and then worked as an interior decorator.

KIRK STEPHENS: Attacking right-back who was ever-present in Luton Town's 1981-82 Second Division title triumph. Following David Pleat from Nuneaton to Luton in June 1978, he was twice 'Player of the Year' and scored twice in 227 League games before moving to Coventry in exchange for Ashley Grimes in August 1984. He later rejoined Nuneaton as player-boss after a knee injury ended his top-flight career.

MITCHELL THOMAS: Versatile England Under-21 International left-back who had two spells at Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in August 1982, he starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and followed David Pleat to Tottenham Hotspur in July 1986. He featured in the 1987 FA Cup Final, moving via West Ham back to Luton in November 1993 and subsequently playing for Burnley.

BRUCE RIOCH: Influential midfielder who was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in September 1964, he netted 46 goals in 149 League games prior to joining Aston Villa in

July 1969. He later played for Derby County, Everton, Derby again and Torquay, since managing Middlesbrough, Millwall, Bolton Wanderers, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wigan Athletic.

SYD OWEN: Long-serving England International centre-half who skippered Luton Town in the 1959 FA Cup Final. He starred in Luton's 1954-55 promotion success and was 'Footballer of the Year' in 1958-59, netting three goals in 388 League games before becoming manager for a year in May 1959. Later Leeds United's coach, he also coached at Birmingham, Hull City and Manchester United. He died in August 1998.



Syd Owen

MAL DONAGHY: Northern Ireland International central defender who gained a club record 58 caps while at Luton Town. Previously with Larne, he was ever-present as Luton won the Second Division title in 1981-82 and twice FA Cup semi-finalists. He starred in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup Final triumph and netted 16 goals in 410 League games before joining Manchester United in October 1988, then played for Chelsea.

RICKY HILL: England International midfielder who starred as Luton Town won the Second Division title in 1981-82. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in May 1976, he featured in two Littlewoods Cup Finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph and netted 54 goals in 436 League games before moving to Le Havre in July 1989. Reuniting with David Pleat at Leicester in August 1990, he rejoined Luton as manager.

BRIAN STEIN: England International striker who scored twice in Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup Final triumph. He was leading marksman in Luton's 1981-82 Second Division success and also starred as they were twice FA Cup semi-finalists. After spells with Caen and Annecy, he rejoined Luton in July 1991 and netted 130 goals in 427 League games overall for The Hatters before joining Barnet in August 1992.

MICK HARFORD: England International striker who played for Luton Town in consecutive Littlewoods Cup Finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph. Previously with Lincoln, Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham, he starred as Luton were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88. Later with Derby, Luton again, Chelsea, Sunderland, Coventry City and Wimbledon. He is now on the coaching staff at Kenilworth Road.

MALCOLM MACDONALD: Ace marksman who was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Previously with Tonbridge and Fulham, he was top scorer in Luton's 1969-70 promotion success and netted 49 goals in 88 League games before being sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. He joined Arsenal for £333,000 in August 1976 and later managed Fulham and Huddersfield Town.

PAUL WALSH: England International striker who was capped five times while at Luton Town. Moving to Luton from Charlton Athletic in July 1982, he was leading marksman in 1983-84 and netted 24 goals in 80 League games prior to joining Liverpool in May 1984. He helped to win the League Championship in 1985-86 and played for Tottenham Hotspur, Portsmouth and Manchester City until injury ended his career.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

THE TRAVEL Factory is an exciting, innovative travel agency call centre that is proud to run The Saddlers Holiday Club on behalf of Walsall FC.

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Walsall FC supporters are able to make a simple call to The Saddlers Holiday Club Hotline on 08704-101 347 (Monday-Friday 9.00am till 5.00pm) where our Travel Executives are on hand to assist you with your travel requirements, whatever they may be from short UK breaks to flight only departures or package holidays from Birmingham Airport.

Saddlers' season-ticket holders will be offered a wide range of benefits which will be available all year round if you simply quote your season-ticket number to our advisors.

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- Simply enter your details in to the search box on the home page,
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AWAY ACCOMMODATION

If you're planning to take in our away game at Milton Keynes Dons on Saturday, October 30th, why not make a weekend of it...

- * Milton Keynes Novotel,
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| £35,000 | - | - | £414.36 | £323.26 | £280.66 | £257.28 | |
| £25,000 | - | - | £295.97 | £230.90 | £200.47 | £183.77 | |
| £20,000 | - | - | £243.58 | £192.14 | £168.38 | £155.54 | APR 8.4% |
| £17,500 | - | - | £213.13 | £168.12 | £147.33 | £136.09 | |
| £15,000 | - | - | £182.68 | £144.10 | £126.28 | £116.65 | |
| £12,500 | £260.14 | £201.80 | £159.08 | £127.59 | £113.34 | £105.83 | APR 9.5% |
| £10,000 | £208.11 | £161.44 | £127.26 | £102.07 | £90.67 | £84.66 | |
| £8,000 | £170.82 | £133.69 | £106.66 | £87.01 | £78.33 | £73.90 | |
| £5,000 | £106.76 | £83.56 | £66.67 | £54.38 | £48.96 | £46.19 | APR 10.7% |

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ASSISTANT REFEREE:

J. Holbrook (red flag)

ASSISTANT REFEREE:

**M. Short
(yellow flag)**

FOURTH OFFICIAL:

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- ☐ 3 Zigor Aranalde
- ☐ 4 Simon Osborn
- ☐ 5 Neil Emblen
- ☐ 6 Ian Roper
- ☐ 7 Michael Standing
- ☐ 8 Gary Birch
- ☐ 9 Jorge Leitao
- ☐ 10 Paul Merson
- ☐ 11 Darren Wrack
- ☐ 12 Matty Fryatt
- ☐ 14 Mark Wright
- ☐ 15 Kris Taylor
- ☐ 16 Jonathan Bowers
- ☐ 17 Julian Bennett
- ☐ 18 Ryan Willetts
- ☐ 19 Taiwo Atieno
- ☐ 20 Daryl Taylor
- ☐ 21 Nathan Jameson
- ☐ 22 Mark Kinsella
- ☐ 23 Kofi Dakinah
- ☐ 24 Scott Dann
- ☐ 25 Leroy Williams
- ☐ 26 Joe Broad
- ☐ 27 Richard McKinney
- ☐ 28 David McDermott
- ☐ 29 Joe Murphy

LUTON

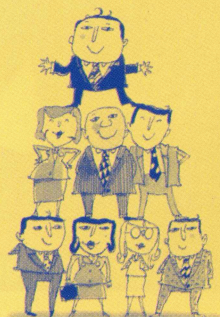
- 1 Marlon Beresford
- 2 Kevin Foley
- 3 Alan Neilson
- 5 Russell Perrett
- 6 Paul Underwood
- 7 Paul Hughes
- 8 Kevin Nicholls
- 9 Rowan Vine
- 10 Gary McSheffrey
- 11 Steve Robinson
- 12 Chris Coyne
- 14 Michael Leary
- 15 Stephen O'Leary
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