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welcome to  
nene park



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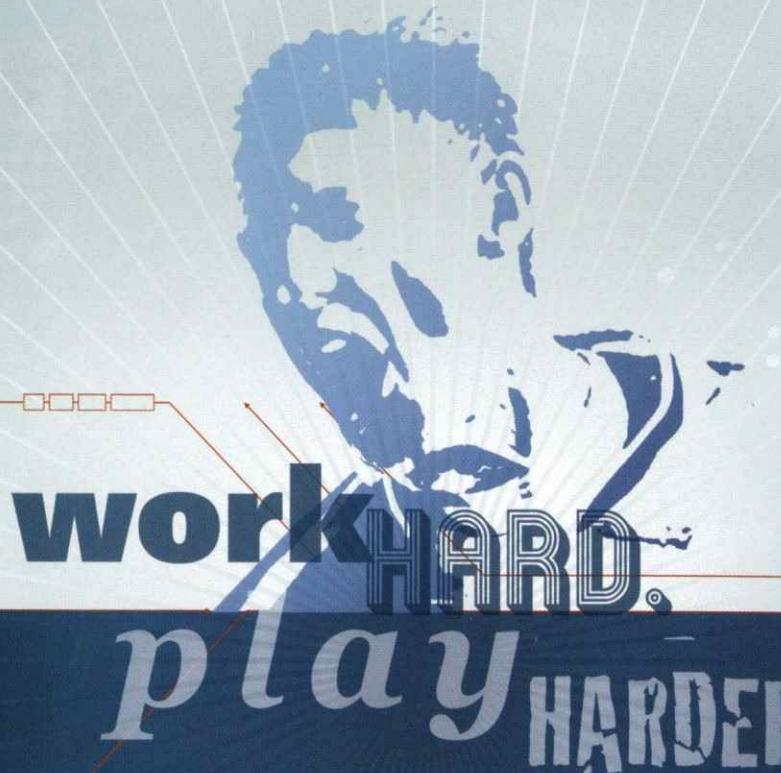
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## welcome to nene park



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### the club

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Manager	Justin Edinburgh
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Youth Development Officer	Mark Starmer
Physiotherapist	Harry Bedford
Club Chaplain	Canon Roger Knight
Fans Chaplain	Reverend Alan Jenkins
Club Doctor	Dr J. Mellor
Photography	Mal Swinden

### club honours

2008/09	NFA Maunsell Cup Winners
2007/08	NFA Hillier Cup Winners
2006/07	NFA Hillier Cup Winners
2005/06	NFA Maunsell Cup Winners
2002/03	Nationwide Division Three Champions
2000/01	Conference Shield Winners
2000/01	Nationwide Conference Champions
1999/00	NFA Maunsell Cup Winners
1998/99	NFA Hillier Senior Cup Winners
1996/97	Southern League Championship Cup Winners
1995/96	Beazer Homes Premier Division Champions
1994/95	NFA Maunsell Cup Winners
1993/94	NFA Hillier Senior Cup Winners
1993/94	Beazer Homes Midland Division Champions



Front Cover:  
Dale Roberts

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## From the BOARDROOM

These are not the things I wanted to have to say in my first programme notes for the Club, however the sad loss of Dale Roberts is of far greater importance than my usual Chairman's notes.

On behalf of the Football Club, I would like to whole-heartedly thank everyone who has sent their messages of support and condolences after our sad loss.

Due to the circumstances when Dale passed away, all insurances are null and void. To assist Dale's parents with the finances to give him the send off he deserves, Rushden & Diamonds Football Club feel it only right and proper to set up this fund in his memory.

Donations can be given by either sending a cheque made payable to The Dale Roberts Memorial Fund to:

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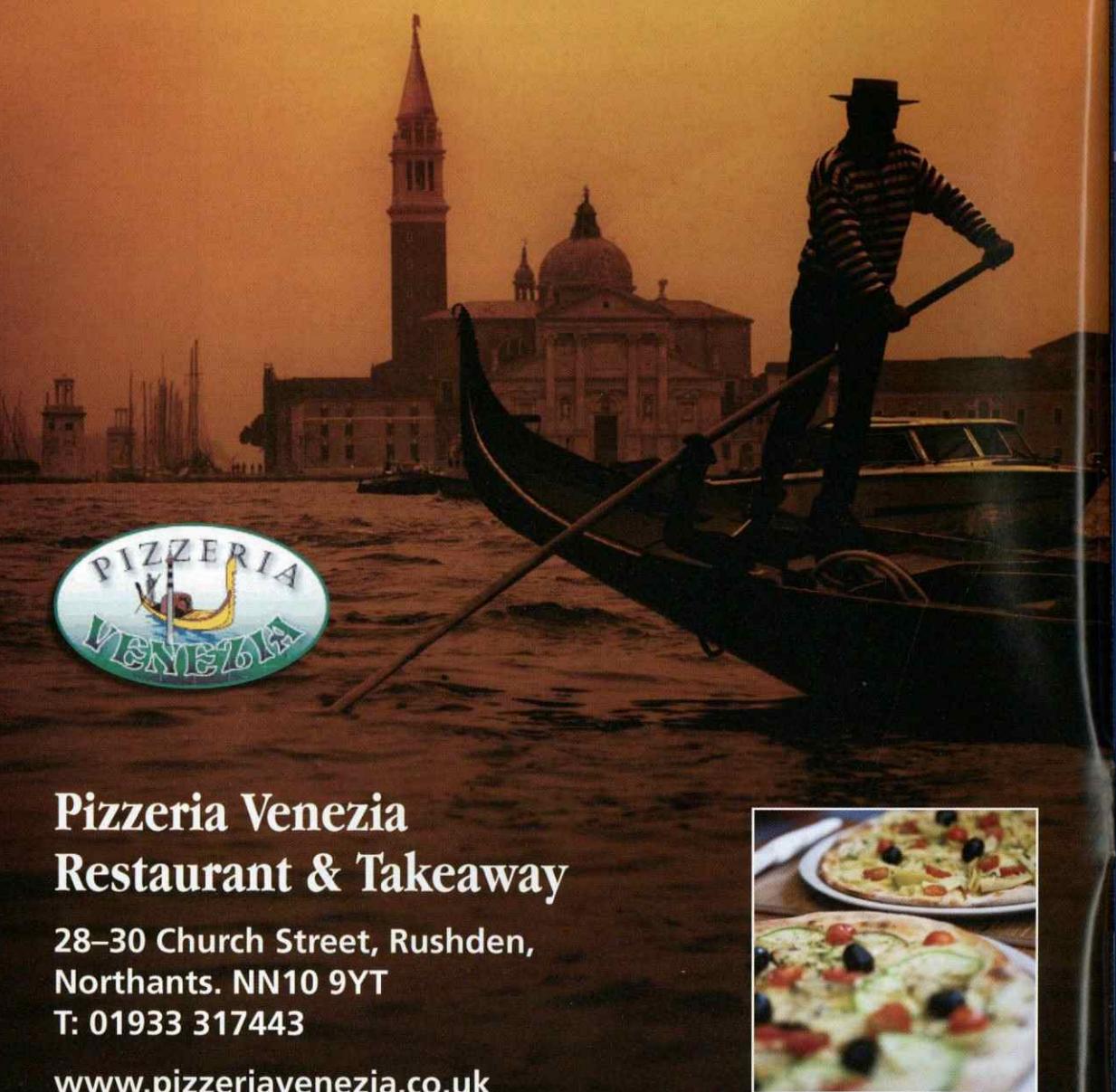
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*Chairman*



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## Justin's Judgement

Hello and welcome to Nene Park to everyone connected with Luton Town. Also a special welcome to Dale's family, who are here at the Boxing Day match.

Myself and all my staff and players thoughts and prayers are with Dale's family right now. Dale's passing away was so tragic and such a huge loss to us all.

The big man touched us all in so many positive ways. He will never be forgotten. I was privileged to have worked with Dale for over two years and I can say that he was a first class professional. He gave 100% in every session he took part in, as well as having that cheeky smile on his face all the time.

He was a credit to his family and football and a role model to all he came in contact with. Nothing was a problem for him. We had an excellent working relationship and this became closer after leaving him out of the team during last season, when I felt his form had dropped slightly from the high standard we had all become used to. Dale being Dale, he took the news of being left out so professionally but was far from happy. Everyday he knocked on my door asking what was needed and when was he going to be back in the team. After a few weeks I never even asked who was there, I just said come in Dale. Every conversation was constructive and never heated. When Dale eventually regained his place he never looked back and I'm sure you'll all agree his form was top

class. Some weeks later he came to see me thanking me for leaving him out the team as that is what he needed - a kick up the backside. I think he's the only player to thank me for dropping them.

His manners were exemplary and he was a credit to his mum and dad.

With his form at an all time high he became number 1 for England, something he took so much pride in and something he fully deserved. Dale ended the season being voted England "C" Player of the Year. He loved every minute of every game he played and the relationship he had with you the fans.

We have lost a wonderful person but we will never forget you Dale.

We have prepared ourselves for these games, trained as normal and been there for each other in these difficult times. We know that Dale would have wanted this, and would have wanted the lads to try and make sure this season is as exciting as last although the cheeky smile won't be there. That is what we will all be trying to do.

Let's hear that chant, ' One Dale Roberts' and get behind the boys and let's get through this all TOGETHER.

Justin



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## Tributes to Dale



Since the news about Dale's sad passing – tributes have been pouring in from across the football community - <http://dale.roberts.gonetoosoon.org> features many messages left by friends, colleagues and fans – here are a selection.

Thank you for all the amazing memories that you have given me

You will never be forgotten and never will your song that will never die

R&DFC + England C legend!!!!

All ways in the hearts of your supporters!!!!

Scott Russell

A terrible day for the football family, I was lucky enough to get to know Dale over the last few years and found that he was a fantastic gentleman and a top professional. He always had a smile on his face and a positive word for everyone, he was a credit to his family, his profession and his club.

To see the positive tributes pour in over the last 48 hours from the football family has been unbelievable. Rest in Peace Dale.

Matt Taylor

To a top keeper and a wonderful lad !

Such a sad loss, my thoughts and prays are with your family and friends tonight Dale. You'll be missed by us all. My ever lasting memory of you will be you running towards the fans when we scored against Kettering Town, none of us behind the goal realised we'd scored, such was the bizarre of the goal, you ran towards us cheering - I thought you'd gone bonkers to start with !! A great keeper and a thoroughly nice guy, heaven is a richer place for your passing, we sadly, are all the poorer !!

Jim Playle

As an Oxford fan who sits behind the goal at our stadium, you see a host of goalkeepers and learn a little about them each time they play. Dale Roberts was a keeper who we faced in many matches and not once did he give us reason to turn against him. Football fans always try to provoke a reaction from opposition players. Following 'words of encouragement' from our fans the best we ever got by way of a response was a cheeky smile and a look that said "is that the best you have got?". Fittingly, my last memory of Dale Roberts was after a 2-0 Oxford victory in the play-off semi-final. Having seen their Wembley dream disappear, most keepers would make a quick exit. Roberts turned to applaud our fans and gave a thumbs up. Whether this was to say "well done" or "good luck" I don't know but the gesture was enough to understand his character. Having read what others have written, this seems to by have been typical of the man.

Football has lost one of the good ones. I know I speak for all OUFC fans when I say our thoughts are with Dale Roberts' family, friends and all at Rushden and Diamonds FC.

George Dugdale



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## On The Table WITH H

**My thoughts and love are with Dale and his family.**

A key role of a Physio at a football club is to be open to all types of personal and private problems to the players and staff, as well as treating their injuries!!

Over the years I have had to lend my experiences and given advice to help many of the players with any issues of 'life' that they have struggled to find the answers for. I have worn many 'Uniforms' from a Physio, Nurse, Doctor, Sexual Health Advisor, to a Loanshark, Estate Agent, Relationship Counsellor, Chef, Father Figure, Mate, Child Carer, but nothing I've experienced has helped ease the numbing unforgettable loss of a great boy in Dale Roberts.

Myself and Dale worked closely as he was the first player I treated when I came to the Club. He worked tirelessly trying to

overcome his substantial thigh injury that he'd sustained whilst representing his country for England 'C'.

Dale was always in early for his treatment and keen to crack on and get his place back in the team. His professionalism was 1st class and he worked like a true pro, all with an affectionate smile!!

I will never forget that coach journey and hearing the terrible news, it will stay with me for a long time.

I just hope the big man is now at rest and has found his peace that he truthfully deserves.

Keep smiling Dale.

H



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# Our visitors // Luton Town

## MARK TYLER

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United.

## DANIEL GLEESON (3)

Tall and athletic defender, primarily a right-back, Gleeson signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from his home town club Cambridge United. Recognised as one of the best right-backs outside the Football League, Gleeson's performances have seen him rewarded with seven England C caps.

## FRED MURRAY

Left-footed versatile defender who joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009 and the deal was made permanent in January 2010.

## KEITH KEANE

Another product of the youth system who regularly appeared for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level. He joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential to convince Mike Newell to give him his first taste of senior action.

## CRAIG HINTON

Craig is on loan from Northampton Town

## GEORGE PILKINGTON

Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly-regarded defender has been named Player of the Year twice.

## ADAM NEWTON (1)

Ascot-born Adam became Mick Harford's second summer signing of 2009 after agreeing a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road following his release from Brentford.

Predominantly used as a right winger, the pacey wide man is equally as comfortable at right-back.

## AMARI MORGAN-SMITH

Striker or wide man who arrived at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following a two-year spell at Ilkeston Town. He put pen to paper on a two-year deal after two years with the Blue Square Bet North side in which he scored 34 goals in 77 starts.

## MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER

Prolific striker who joined the Hatters initially on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers before agreeing a two-and-a-half year

contract to move permanently when the transfer window re-opened on 1st January 2010.

The powerful forward followed up his 21 goals in all competitions during 2008/09 with nine goals in 20 league appearances last term.

## TAIWO ATIENO

Kenyan international striker Taiwo originally signed in March 2010 until the end of the 2009/10 season after returning to the UK after a spell playing in Puerto Rico and America. The big, strong frontman was released at the end of the campaign but after a deal in South Africa fell through Richard Money was first to re-sign him in on 3rd September until the end of the 2010/11 season.

## ANDY DRURY

A highly-rated box-to-box player who is capable of playing in any position across the midfield or in attack, Drury signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from Conference Champions Stevenage.

He started his career at Sittingbourne as a youngster before making the short hop to sign for Gravesend and Northfleet in 2003.

## SHANE BLACKETT

Luton-born Shane became Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009 after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003.

## ZDENEK KROCA

Kroca made 169 league appearances in 10 years with hometown club Tescorna Zlin in his native Czech Republic. Last season the imposing 6ft 5in defender was in fine, commanding form, scoring four times in 27 league appearances with the Letna Stadium outfit as they finished in second place in the Czech second division - a position - like the Town last season - that was not enough to earn promotion.

## ALEX LAWLESS

Former Wales Under-21 midfielder who signed in November 2010 initially on-loan from York City before a permanent deal goes through in January 2011.

A star of the Minstermen's campaign last season which saw them lose in the Promotion Final to Oxford United, Lawless featured prominently in all four of the meetings with the Hatters last term at the heart of midfield.

## JAKE HOWELLS (2)

The young winger, who can also play at left-back, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his full debut in the Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008.

## ED ASAFU-ADJAYE

Capable of playing in any position across defence, Asafu-Adjaye has made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up. Making his full debut in March 2008 at Kenilworth Road against Crewe Alexandra he has gone from strength to strength and was part of the Town team that won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley in 2009.

## PAVEL BESTA

Assured, tenacious and a good passer of the ball, the Town snapped up the former Czech Under-21 international after impressing in the pre-season friendly against Newcastle.

## CLAUDE GNAKPA

A defender capable of playing centre back or full back, who joined on a free transfer in August 2008. Having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz of Liechtenstein, Claude moved to Swindon Town for a brief spell. He was then off again in July 2007 to Peterborough United and was a regular in the League 2 promotion winning side, starting 25 league games.

## DANNY CROW

A nippy poacher of a striker, Crow joined the Hatters from Cambridge United in May 2010 following the expiry of his contract at the Abbey Stadium. The front man started his career as a trainee with Norwich City and made his senior bow in the Premier League for the Canaries in December 2004.

## KEVIN GALLEN

Gallen established himself as something of a legend at QPR. He notched up over 400 appearances and hit 97 goals for the R's in two spells spanning nearly 14 years. The striker enjoyed a prolific season in non-league football with his football know-how often too good for opposition defences. He struck-up a partnership with Tom Craddock and finished the campaign with 21 goals in all competitions, Gallen is currently on loan at Barnet.

## JASON WALKER

England C international striker signed in November 2010 initially on-loan from Barrow before a permanent deal goes through in January 2011. The frontman hit 11 goals in just 18 appearances for the Bluebirds at the start of the 2010/11 campaign before making the switch south.

## ALEX LACEY

Up-and-coming second year scholar who impressed Richard Money in the 2010 pre-season to earn a squad number. The centre-back has yet to make a first team appearance but was an unused substitute at the Hatters' FA Cup third round tie with Southampton in January 2010.

## GODFREY POKU

Tenacious defensive midfielder who signed together with JJ O'Donnell from Blue Square South outfit St Albans City in January 2010 on a 18-month contract. A tough-tackling and no-nonsense midfielder, the Town beat off competition from several Football League clubs for his signature.

## JONATHAN O'DONNELL

Tricky winger who joined the Town with St Albans team-mate Godfrey Poku in January 2010. Also capable of playing in attack the youngster featured for the Hatters' reserve and youth teams during 2009/10.

## TAYLOR NATHANIEL

Versatile young defender who signed a professional contract with the Hatters in June 2010 after impressing in the club's Under-18s.

## ADAM WATKINS

Young midfielder, capable of playing in attack, who signed professional forms at Kenilworth Road in June 2010. He spent the tail end of the 2009/10 campaign on-loan at Arlesey Town.

## DAN WALKER (5)

Quick young forward capable of playing down the flanks who signed a one-year deal in July 2010 after impressing in pre-season in games for and against the Hatters. Previously with Bedford Town, Walker has also played for Stony Stratford Town and Leighton Town

## KEVIN PILKINGTON

Vastly experienced goalkeeper who joined the Hatters in May 2010 after his release from Notts County. Pilkington is currently on loan to Mansfield.

## LEWIS KIDD

Second year scholar who has impressed in the youth and reserve teams to be issued a squad number. Although the young goalkeeper has yet to make an appearance for the first team he was named on the substitutes' bench for the first time in October 2010.

## JORDAN PATRICK (4)

Promising young forward who became the youngest ever player to feature for the Hatters. With pace to burn the striker is tipped to have a big future ahead of him and is a regular for the Town's Under 18s.

## CAULEY WOODROW

Talented Under-16 forward who has featured heavily for the Under-18s already this season. Six goals in one FA Youth Cup tie alerted the attentions of the first team management and was called-up to the first team for the FA Cup first round tie at Corby.



# Names & Games

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS looks at Luton Town's leading lights

## CLASSIC CAMPAIGN – 1987-88

Ray Harford plotted Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Danny Wilson replaced Peter Nicholas in midfield, while Micky Weir arrived from Hibernian and Mike Newell moved to Leicester. The Hatters won 5-2 at Oxford and Ian Allinson was signed from Stoke in October, with Luton losing just twice in 12 matches including a 7-4 win the return match against Oxford, finishing ninth in the top-flight. They defeated Wigan 5-2, Coventry 3-1, Ipswich 1-0, Bradford City 2-0 and Oxford 3-1 in the Littlewoods Cup before beating Arsenal 3-2 in the final. Luton were also FA Cup semi-finalists and Simod Cup finalists.

## MANAGING TO SUCCEED

### DAVID PLEAT

Articulate manager David Pleat guided Luton Town to the Second Division title in 1981-82. A former winger, he played for Nottingham Forest, Luton, Shrewsbury, Exeter and Peterborough before becoming Nuneaton's player-boss. He rejoined Luton as coach in July 1972 and became manager in January 1978, guiding the Hatters to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1984-85. Taking charge of Spurs in May 1986, he led them to the 1987 FA Cup final, then managed Leicester City before rejoining Luton in June 1991. He took the Hatters to the FA Cup semi-finals again in 1993-94, leaving in June 1995. Now working in the media.

## FAB FOUR

### BRUCE RIOCH

Influential midfielder Bruce Rioch was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in September 1964, he starred in the 1967-68 Fourth Division title triumph and netted 46 goals in 149 League games prior to joining Aston Villa for £100,000 in July 1969. He was a key figure in their 1971-72 Third Division title success and moved to Derby County in February 1974, helping to win the League Championship in 1974-75. He played for Everton, Derby again and Torquay, since managing Middlesbrough, Millwall, Bolton Wanderers, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wigan Athletic.

### RICKY HILL

England international midfielder Ricky Hill was 'Player of the Year' when Luton Town won the Second Division title in 1981-82. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in May 1976, he was 'Player of the Year' again in 1982-83 and starred as Luton were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85. He featured in two consecutive 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 City in August 1990 and later as a coach at Sheffield Wednesday and Spurs, he briefly rejoined Luton as manager.

### BRIAN STEIN

England international striker Brian Stein scored twice in Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Edgware Town in October 1977, he was leading marksman in Luton's 1981-82 Second Division success and also starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88. He joined French side Caen in July 1988 and moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991. Voted 'Player of the Year' for the second time in 1991-92, he netted 130 goals in 427 League games overall for the Hatters before joining Barnet in August 1992. His younger brother Mark also played for Luton.

### MALCOLM MACDONALD

Ace marksman Malcolm Macdonald was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Initially with Tonbridge, he joined Fulham in August 1968 and moved to Kenilworth Road in July 1969. He was Luton's top scorer in two consecutive seasons including the 1969-70 promotion success and netted 49 goals in 88 League games before being sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. An FA Cup finalist in 1974, he joined Arsenal for £333,000 in August 1976 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1978 before injury ended his career. He managed Fulham and Huddersfield Town and has since worked in the media.

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# match summary:

## Rushden & Diamonds 1 Eastwood Town 1

Rushden & Diamonds were held to a 1-1 draw by Eastwood Town at Nene Park in the FA Carlsberg Trophy.



A solo effort in the first half by Rene Howe had given the Diamonds the lead at the break, but Lee Stevenson was able to fire home unchallenged in the second half to earn the Badgers a replay on Tuesday evening.

After a fairly even first five minutes the Diamonds began to dominate possession without really threatening Danby's goal. An Osano cross saw Farrell head wide, and on 12 minutes a Spence cross from the left byline was neatly flicked on by Rene Howe and with a defender off balance Aaron O'Connor nipped in for a shot that was blocked.

Mid-way through the half the visitors almost opened the scoring. Alan Power was penalised for handball, and although a quick free kick was taken some distance from the incident, referee Quelch allowed play to continue and Andrew Todd saw his effort cleared off the line by Justin Miller, and the resultant corner from Shaw went across the box without anyone getting the touch needed.

After 32 minutes Joe Day kept the Diamonds on even terms with a tremendous double save from Todd after Justin Miller had conceded possession to Lee Stevenson, and shortly afterwards his opposite number was called upon to make his first save of the game from a Rene Howe shot.

After 38 minutes the Diamonds edged ahead. Craig Farrell flicked on a long ball out of defence into the path of Rene Howe, and his mazy run left two defenders in his wake before he shot home with the outside of his right foot.

### Half-Time:

### Rushden & Diamonds 1 Eastwood Town 0

Any thought that the Diamonds might consolidate their half-time lead were quickly dispelled when the visitors drew level 3 minutes into the half. Their impressive left back Chris Shaw found space to hit an accurate cross from the left to Lee Stevenson on the 18 yards out. Stevenson quickly jinked and turned without a meaningful challenge being made by the static Diamonds defence, before hitting his shot low into the right hand side of the goal.

Alan Power then made a break through the middle, but rather overhit his pass to Craig Farrell, forcing him wide, and Farrell was forced to cross where Rene Howe saw his header deflected for a corner.

Rene Howe then made space for a break down the left before hitting a low ball across the area that Aaron O'Connor neatly dummied to present a great chance for Matt Johnson, but the Diamonds midfielder misjudged the pace of the ball and had to go wide before hitting a shot to force a corner.

The Diamonds did manage to force a sequence of four corners near the hour mark, with the first two from the left cut out at the near post, before the third almost presented Justin Miller with a chance on goal, and the fourth from the right presented a

chance for Lewis Spence whose wayward shot hit Howe, but rebounded to Matt Johnson, whose effort cleared the roof of the Peter De Banke terrace.

At the other end the visitors weren't having as much possession as the Diamonds, but were creating a serious threat on goal, and after 67 minutes another cross from Shaw found Andrew Todd, whose looping header came back off the crossbar with Day beaten.

The final Diamonds chance of the game fell to Sam Smith when put clear by Rene Howe, but John Danby did well to narrow the angle and force Smith to shoot at him.

**Final Score:**  
**Rushden & Diamonds 1 Eastwood Town 1**

**Rushden & Diamonds:** Joe Day, Justin Miller, Kurt Robinson, Jamie Stuart (Capt), Curtis Osano, Lewis Spence (Ryan Charles 80), Alan Power, Matt Johnson, Craig Farrell (Sam Smith 73), Rene Howe, Aaron O'Connor.

Subs Not Used: Dale Roberts (GK), Tim Sills, Aaron King

**Eastwood Town:** John Danby, Russell Cooke, Chris Shaw, Michael Simpson (Capt), Mat Bailey, David Haggerty, Anton Foster (Jonathan D'Laryea 74), Lee Stevenson, Matt Rhead, Lindon Meikle (Adam Muller 66), Andy Todd.



## Goalmouth tributes:



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## Stats with Dave Mason

Player stats as of 11 December 2010

	Total Apps	Total Leag	Total Goals	10/11 App	10/11 Leag	10/11 FAC	10/11 FAT	10/11 CC	10/11* Goals
George Artemi #	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan Charles	25	21	5	11(14)	9(12)	1(1)	0(1)	1	5
Michael Corcoran	101	85	8	10(1)	8(1)	1	0	1	2
Neil Cousins	30	28	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Day	18	16	0	15(3)	13(3)	2	0	0	0
Joe Day	21	14	=	16	13	2	1	0	0
Callum Earls #	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0(1)	0
Craig Farrell	59	52	13	6(5)	5(4)	0(1)	1	0	0
Jake Gillingwater #	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Dominic Green \$	10	9	0	8(2)	7(2)	0	0	1	0
Rene Howe	21	18	8	21	18	2	1	0	8 (2p)
Shane Huke	25	23	0	14(2)	12(2)	2	0	0	0
Matt Johnson	23	21	1	14(9)	12(9)	1	1	0	1
Joe Keehan	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Lance Key	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Aaron King	1	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
Nathan Koranteng \$	4	4	0	0(4)	0(4)	0	0	0	0
Aynsley McDonald	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Justin Miller	18	14	3	14(4)	12(2)	0(2)	1	1	3
Aaron O'Connor	62	55	22	17(1)	14(1)	2	1	0	7
Curtis Osano	172	144	1	23	20	2	1	0	0
Max Porter	73	66	7	23	21	2	0	0	3
Alan Power	21	18	2	21	18	2	1	0	2 (1p)
Liam Read #	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Dale Roberts	104	90	=	8	8	0	0	0	0
Kurt Robinson	83	73	1	8(8)	6(6)	0(2)	1	1	0
Nabil Shariff	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tim Sills	11	11	1	9(2)	9(2)	0	0	0	1
Donovan Simmonds \$	2	2	0	1(1)	1(1)	0	0	0	0
Sam Smith	76	62	11	0(2)	0(1)	0	0	0(1)	0
Lewis Spence	19	15	4	9(10)	5(10)	2	1	1	4
Jamie Stuart	68	62	4	21	19	1	1	0	0
Lewis Wilson #	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0(1)	0
Max York	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1

# Youth team player

\$ No longer with the club

\* plus 3 own goals

## Form Guide ( Last 6 games – 18 December 2010 )

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Form *	Pos
Luton Town	5	0	1	19	6	15	WWLWWW	3
Cambridge United	3	3	0	16	9	12	WDDDW	13
AFC Wimbledon	4	0	2	8	7	12	WLWLWW	1
Kidderminster Harriers	3	3	0	7	4	12	DWWDD	6
Wrexham	3	3	0	9	4	12	DWDWDW	7
Bath City	3	2	1	12	10	11	WDWWDL	12
Crawley Town	3	2	1	17	7	11	WDWLW	2
York City	2	3	1	9	4	9	DWDLD	14
Forest Green Rovers	2	3	1	8	11	9	DDWDWL	20
Newport County	2	2	2	7	6	8	DWWDLL	4
Barrow	2	2	2	7	11	8	DWWLLD	18
Mansfield Town	2	2	2	9	10	8	DWLWLD	9
Rushden & Diamonds	2	2	2	10	9	8	DLDLWW	8
Darlington	2	2	2	6	5	8	LDWWDL	11
Kettering Town	2	2	2	9	10	8	LDLWDW	16
Grimsby Town	1	4	1	10	8	7	DWDDDL	10
Fleetwood Town	1	4	1	5	4	7	DDDDWL	5
Histon	2	1	3	7	9	7	LLLLWW	22
Gateshead	1	3	2	7	7	6	DDDLWW	15
Altrincham	1	1	4	3	16	4	LLLLDW	24
Hayes & Yeading	1	0	5	6	13	3	WLLLLL	21
Eastbourne Borough	0	3	3	6	10	3	LLDDDL	17
Tamworth	0	2	4	6	12	2	DDLLLL	19
Southport	0	2	4	6	12	2	LLLDDL	23

\* Most recent game shown first.

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## Rushden & Diamonds Commercial

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the players, directors, staff and supporters from Luton Town Football Club.

I would just like to personally add my own tribute to Dale. Dale was a lad that you could always rely on for a smile and was always willing to speak to all the supporters in the bar after each home game. I used to call him my "2nd Son" because of the surname and we would always have a laugh about it. He will be missed and always remain in our hearts. My sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Today's match sponsors are Stable Hire of Rushden, who also have a branch in Luton. Your support is again very much appreciated.

I hope you all enjoy the game. We have just finished a busy time with our Christmas Parties so I would like to thank firstly Cloverdale Catering for the fantastic food and all the staff who worked so hard to make them a great success. They are too many to name but they know who they are.

Looking ahead to the New Year, there will be a number of events coming up, the first being a Boxing Evening in the Kimberley Suite on Monday 21st February 2011. More details of this event will follow.

Rachel



**hmv**  
get closer

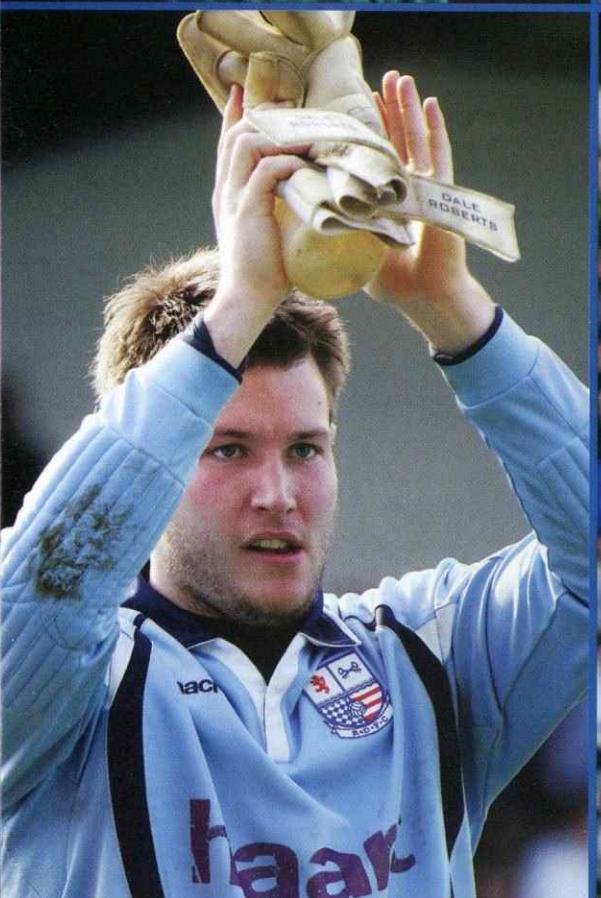
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Special thanks to all those who participated in the Shirt Sponsorship Draw. They are:

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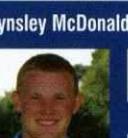
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# From the Club Chaplain

## HOW FAR DO YOU GO?

A practical question in many areas of life from the way we treat those we live with to the way we consume alcohol or place bets. In football, players have to ask the question – and may have it answered for them by the referee or team coach – in the way they persist with sliding tackles or so called “diving”, owners are constantly challenged by the drain on their finances and fans face it by deciding whether its worth travelling to Barrow or Eastbourne for an away Tuesday fixture or even buying their coffee at half-time or taking a flask with them.

“I’m Rushden (or Luton, etc) till I die” is often sung by fans. It is the ultimate shout of faith in our team but how many take it literally? Bill Shankly’s famous remark that football is much more than a matter of life and death is a tremendous claim of commitment but, when we bother to think about it, we soon realise its limitations.

Christmas is also a time of realising limitations but also of glimpsing expectations.

The limitations may be about the perils of over-spending or even relationships which do not match the hoped for excitement of partying. Fewer than six points out of nine could make it even worse! The expectations can be anything from the pleasures of meeting with and sharing activities with loved ones and friends to the spiritual truth that the Christ-child whose birthday we celebrate has arrived to give us the possibility of being

sorted out so that lives of eternal purpose may be lived. Three wins, or even two over the holiday period will encourage us too.

But it is not easy to find this new life. It may even involve us in the Shankly-like considerations. Today is often called Boxing Day and it is also the Feast of Stephen (of the Good King Wenceslas carol fame). Stephen is known as the first of the followers of the Christ-child to be put to death for his faith. It is thought that Stephen’s day was deliberately inserted immediately after Christmas to remind people that being a Christian is rarely an easy option but requires commitment and even sacrifice after the example of the dying of the grown up Christ-child on a cross in Palestine.

How far do you go? Everyone has to make their own choice. It depends on who and what is important and whether we view life in simply materialistic terms or with a sense of purpose unique to each and every person. A newspaper printed this sentence a few years ago, when the economic situation was also challenging; “The Christmas story is no pretty seasonal confection: for all its great joy, its implications are in deadly earnest.”

Best wishes for the remainder of the Christmas season and for a thoughtful and purposeful New Year.

Roger Knight



# Youth Player sponsors

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Youth Team are sponsored by  
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## Youth report:



Good afternoon to you all, firstly on behalf of the Rushden & Diamonds Youth Set Up. We would like to send our condolences to Dale's family and friends.

The news of his death has hit us all very hard, I have read many of the messages on various forums and can only confirm the comments that have been written. Dale was one of the most genuine people I have ever met, he was a top keeper and top bloke.

He meant so much to so many people and will be forever missed. We will all have fond memories of Dale and I will always remember the look on my son's face when Dale gave him a pair of his gloves following a training session, K will cherish them forever.

Thanks Mate and god bless.

### YOUTH

I am really pleased with the way things have gone in all competitions this season. In the League we are joint second having played five games, winning four and losing one. We are through to the last 16 of the League Cup as well, with wins against Havant and Waterlooville, Farnborough and last week beating Halstead.

Our best performance so far the season came in the 2nd round of the FA Youth Cup where we beat Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 at Nene Park. Our first half performance was the best football we have played this season and the second half showed our work ethic and togetherness. We will need to be every bit as good when we travel up to Hull City in the third in the new year.

On Monday 13th December we entertained Hereford in the Midland Youth Cup. In a tight game we eventually went through scoring two goals in the second half to confirm our place in the semi-final versus Walsall.

It really shows that the system we run without funding can produce players that can compete against funded clubs. I am really proud to be

associated with this group of players and hope they can achieve their goal.

I would like to thank Kev Wright who sponsors the Youth Team and also to Paul and Justin for their continued support. I would also like to say, 'Well done' to Dale Brunton who is doing a fantastic job with our development scholar squad over at Raunds. They are through to the fifth round of the Nation Schools Cup and the fourth round of the County Cup. They are also second in their college league.

### CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Firstly I would like to congratulate Nick Cook and Andy Peaks for gaining their UEFA B Licence last week, Nick runs our Under 9 and Andy our Under 13 Centre of Excellence Squads. Thank you for all your hard work and well done to you both.

The first part of the season has shown that we can still be competitive and develop our players in the right way. I am very pleased with Under 11 squad for example who have improved massively under the guidance of Aynsley McDonald.

Now all the squads are confirmed I am looking for further improvements from all the players during the second part of the season.

I would like to say, 'Keep up the good work' to the players and 'Thank you' to all parents for your continued support, also a big 'Thank you' to Mel and Cheryl for all the work they do in the Coffee Shop and for sorting the Training Kit last week.

Starms



# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SPONSORS

Player	Sponsor	Player	Sponsor	Player	Sponsor
<b>Under 9s</b>		<b>Under 13s</b>		<b>Under 15s</b>	
Shaun Smith	Manor Park Homes Ltd	Adam Bush	Accsys	Zak Moon	K Lipscombe
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Ethan Johnson	-	Christopher Knapp	K R & M S Knapp	Harry May	Allens Motor Services - Wellingborough
Lloyd Ferdinand	Enigma Computer Services	Charlie Rice	Mrs G Whitney	Kane Smith	D B Consultants
Jordan Fowler	S Fowler	Kyran Aitcheson	-	P Thackeray	Timber Gardens
Finleigh Dawson	Ms Dawson	Joe Ackroyd	Mr S Schampier	Jack Sellick	MPS Painting Contractors
Gregory Bond-Anderson	Lisa Bond	Josh Schampier	Ollie Lee	Ryan Watkin	Delormy Limited
Jordan Harris	-	Ben Peaks	Alan Brown Bricklayers	Matthew Watkin	Delormy Limited
William Bates	-	Ben Gascogne	-	Danny Farrell	Mr P Farrell
George Green	-	George Barnwell	Mr Barnell	George Coy	Mr J Coy
Max McAuley	Euromedics	Liam Littlefair	Liam Littlefair	Declan O'Callaghan	Mr G O'Callaghan
<b>Under 10s</b>		Elliot Spowart	-	Connor Roberts	Mr G Roberts
Alex Crnadak	Mr Crnadak	Tom Webb	J S Webb	<b>Under 16s</b>	
Josh James-Molloy	A D James	Harvey Walker	Mr R H Walker	Greg Cooper	Cooper Beckwith Associates
Alex Hart	Mr Hart			Billy Fleury	Mr N Fleury
Jack Daldy	-	Will Wright	KJW Drylining	Barney McLaughlin	Peter and Lesley Jenkins
Harry Green	-	Liam Davis	-	Mason Cowper	Mrs J Cowper
James Ester	Mr N Ester	Alfie Hull	Ms S Tyler	Billy Shepherd	Mr and Mrs Shepherd
Owen Cummings	Mr M P Cummings	Callum Ward	Award Training Solutions	Robert Parker	Rapier Control Systems
Ozzie Bellamy	-	Dan Mattin	Pharmassay International Limited	Freddie Devereaux	Health & Safety Consultants Ltd
Ross Eady	Mr N Eady	Joe Wenham	UK Mail Limited	Alex Weston	Mr Weston
Craig Sutton	Mr Sutton	George Shrievess	Shrievess Roofing	Nathan Schampier	Mrs A Schampier
<b>Under 11s</b>		Savvas Hamp	M & E Property Services	Liam Bond	Liam Bond
Jordan Freeman	Cheryl Freeman	Lloyd Buckby	FibreSystems Limited		Automation Control Electronics
Mitchell Plumb	-	Ahmed	KJW Drylining	Louis Hemming	HC Solicitors
Kristian Clarke-Reed	Mr Reed	Joe Holmes	Mrs C Holmes	Anthony Ottoway	Rye-Guard Services Ltd
Elliot Ward	Award Training Solutions	Connor Brown	Snap Images Ltd	David Boddington	J & W T Boddington
Ollie Saunders	-	Tom Heathfield	Mr & Mrs Heathfield	Elliot Herbert	-
Solomon Paul	Mr Paul	James Fricker	Mrs P Fricker	James Paull	Mosaic Board Printers Limited
Alix Clarke	Mr & Mrs Clarke	Sam Fletcher	Mr Fletcher		
Josh Hands	Mr S Hands				
Adam White	-				
Mason Smith	Platinum Plumbing				
Robert Reynolds	Mr W Reynolds				
Ben Holmes	-				
James Parker	Mr R Parker				
<b>Under 12s</b>					
Jack Williams	Mr Williams				
Thomas Craddock	Mr & Mrs Craddock				
Luke Davis	Mr Davis				
Louis Martin	Mrs Martin				
Jamie Vaughan	-				
Jamie Mastropierno	Mr & Mrs D Faulkner				
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Finn Carter	Mr S Carter				
Cameron Mabbett	Mr Mabbett				
Dylan Wilson	Mr M Wilson				
William Heathfield	Mr & Mrs Heathfield				
Sean Mulvey	Mr & Mrs Mulvey				
Kieran Judd	TESS Electrical Mechanical Ltd – St Neots				



# tickets and travel



**Tuesday 28th December 2010 – Kick Off 3:00pm**

## Blue Square Bet Premier

**GRIMSBY TOWN v R&DFC**

Blundell Park, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 7PY  
Admission Prices

Adults £18 – Concessions (Senior/Young Adults (15-18) £12 – Juniors £8

Diamonds fans will be in the Osmond stand.

Note that a £2 discount on the above prices is available for those who purchase their tickets in advance from the Grimsby Town Ticket Office - this can be done via phone and the tickets picked up on the day (call 01472 605050 for more details)

Note also that Concession and Junior tickets must be bought from the Grimsby Town Ticket Office on the day before going to the away turnstiles.

Directions: Follow the signs for Grimsby on the M180, continue on this road when it becomes the A180. This road runs right past the ground. The ground is adjacent to the McDonalds.

By Train: Cleethorpes Station is about a mile from the ground.

**Saturday 1st January 2011 – Kick Off 3:00pm**  
Blue Square Bet Premier

**LUTON TOWN v R&DFC**

Kenilworth Road, Luton (LU4 8AW)

Details for this fixture have been confirmed with Luton Town, and tickets for Diamonds fans in the Oak Road Stand are on sale now from the Diamonds Ticket Office (01933 652000), priced at:

Golden Senior (Over 75) £10.00 – Seniors (Over 65) £13.00 – Adults £18.00  
Young Adults (17-21 Years) £13.00 – Youths (10-16 Years) £8.00 – Junior (Under 10) £5.00

Wheelchair/Carer Tickets can be purchased from Luton Town's Ticket Office

**Monday 3rd January 2011 – Kick Off 3:00pm**  
Blue Square Bet Premier

**R&DFC v KETTERING TOWN**

Nene Park

Admission Prices

Adults: £17 – Concessions: £12 – Under 16: £6 – Under 8: Free – Disabled/Carer: £12/Free

\*Discount prices available on the De Banke Terrace for Supporters Trust Members

## AWAY TRAVEL

**Sat 1st January – Luton Town – £10 –**

Rushden 12.45pm – Nene Park 1.00pm

To book call Graham Smith on 07908 114639



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**Rushden 01933 355702**



# CLUB NEWS

## R&DCFC v Luton Town Officials

Referee: **Mike Bull** (Chelmsford - Essex)

Assistants:

**S Leaf & J W Martin**

4th Official: **A Tonks**

Assessor: **R P Desmond**

Today's referee, Mike Bull from Chelmsford in Essex, was last here at Nene Park back in September for the disappointing 1-0 defeat by Newport County. Last season he handled two of our games. Back in February he was here for the 0-0 draw against near neighbours Kettering Town in front of a bumper crowd of almost 3,000. The following month he handled our 1-0 win at AFC Wimbledon. In 7 Conference matches so far this season he has issued 16 yellow cards, two red cards and awarded just one penalty. He was promoted to Select Group of Assistant Referees in 2007 and was appointed as a Referee to a 2005 Contributory League Play-Off Final.

**How did you get introduced into refereeing?**  
I ran a boys team and we never used to get a referee for our fixtures so as the manager I used to have to do it. I thought that if I was having to do it I should become a qualified official so I sat the course and the rest as they say is history!

**What has been the highlight of your career so far?**  
The highlight of my career to date is being appointed to the first match that was officiated by an all English refereeing team at the new Wembley stadium. England u/16 v Spain u/16. Climbing those steps sends a tingle down your spine. It was a special day.

**What is the best game you have officiated and why?**  
That has to be the 4-4 draw this season between Tottenham & Chelsea. It was just a fabulous night of football and a privilege to be involved with.

**What are your aims as a National List Referee?**  
My aims as a SG AR are to be the best I can be and go as far as possible in respect of appointments to key fixtures.

**What skills do you think you need to become a referee?**  
You need a mental strength and be a big team player. Your main priority is to aid your referee in controlling the match to a successful conclusion. A third eye would also be useful!!!

**Who has been the biggest influence in your career and why?**  
No one specific across my career. I try to take advice and criticism from many different sources although there have been some key moments along the way - Peter Walton's presentation on "step change" a few years ago did have a profound impact on my progression and the support of my family has been essential to make it to my current level.

**In your opinion who is/was the best referee?**  
Has to be Sharpie. He's seen it, done it, bought the T-shirt and sent the postcard and is a role model for any up and coming young official who aspires to progress to the highest level.

Rushden & Diamonds Football Club have set up a memorial fund for Dale Roberts - see the Chairman's notes page for all the info about how you can help.

**Eastwood Town v Rushden & Diamonds**, initially scheduled for 20th December was called off due to a frozen pitch, it will now take place on Tuesday 11th January 2011.

**Rushden & Diamonds v Brackley Town** in the NFA Hillier Cup originally scheduled for Tuesday 11th January 2011, will be moved back one day to accommodate the Trophy Replay - it will now take place on Wednesday 12th January 2011.

Half season tickets are on sale now, covering all of our home Blue Square Premier fixtures from January 3rd onwards - call in at the shop to purchase yours today.

Nene Park will return to its normal opening hours on Tuesday 4th January 2011 - please see [www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com) for details of when we are open/shut over the festive period.

**R&DCFC Club Shop - winter sale** now on, huge reductions on loads of kit, training kit and merchandise - while stocks last.

Highlights include old training kit for only £1, 2010/11 away/3rd shirts for only £20.

## QUIZ TIME

- 1) Which club has been in the Championship play-offs a record seven times?
- 2) Who refereed last season's FA Cup Final?
- 3) Which team does singer Robbie Williams support?
- 4) Prior to Harry Redknapp with Tottenham, who was the last English football manager to manage a club which finished in the top four of the Premiership?
- 5) Apart from Newcastle United Andy Carroll has played for which other Football League club?
- 6) Stoke's Tony Pulis began his managerial career at which club?
- 7) The 1981 film Escape to Victory featured several professional footballers in acting roles. Two of them were South American: Pele and which other?
- 8) Bob Stokoe (Sunderland) and Don Revie (Leeds) were rival managers in the 1973 FA Cup Final. For which teams were they rivals as Cup Final players?
- 9) What was strange about the tackle that ended the career of keeper Chic Brodie of Brentford in 1970?
- 10) Which is the only country currently ranked in the top 10 of the FIFA rankings (as at 30th Sept) that didn't appear at this summer's World Cup Finals?

- 1) Ipswich
- 2) Chrs Foy
- 3) Peter Vale
- 4) Bobby Robson (Newcastle Utd)
- 5) Preston North End
- 6) Bournemouth
- 7) Osse Ardiles
- 8) Birmingham and Manchester City
- 9) It was by a dog
- 10) Egypt (ranked 9th)

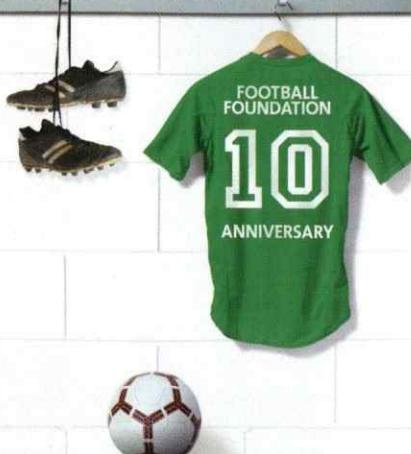
QUIZ TIME ANSWERS



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## DAVE STEVENS R.I.P.

The funeral took place on Wednesday 15th December of ex-Irthlingborough Diamonds player and R&DFC volunteer David Stevens with Club Chaplain Canon Roger Knight presiding over the service.

David was born in Allen Road, Irthlingborough, and worked locally as a Plumber and Heating Engineer until his retirement - he took up this role after completing his National Service in the Royal Military Police shortly after getting married. He had attended Wellingborough Grammar School, having won a scholarship there.

David was also a keen golfer and Military Historian, a hobby which took him to the World War 1 battlefields, and he became a keen member of Irthlingborough Historical Society.

He played football in his youth for Titchmarsh and then Irthlingborough Diamonds, and he has also helped out at Rushden & Diamonds as a volunteer - most recently at the Matchday ticket collection point, but also applied his Plumbing and Heating skills around the ground.

He also loved watching and playing cricket - he attended schoolboy trials at the County Ground as a leg-spinner and played many games for Irthlingborough Town CC, Podington CC & finally Rushden United CC. He also played bowls at Rushden Bowls Club.

His family are appreciative of the respect shown by the Club to his memory, including the minute's silence before the last home game.



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# From the Terrace

with Dave Albon

When I was first asked to contribute a regular article for the match day programme, I didn't think for one second that I would ever find myself writing an emotional posthumous tribute to one of the most admired and respected people ever to represent the Club, and I pray I never have to write another. The devastating and untimely death of Dale Roberts has shocked and saddened not just those of us connected to Rushden & Diamonds Football Club, but fellow players, staff and supporters of clubs from top to bottom of the footballing pyramid, and beyond.

Tragedies like this put everything else in life into perspective, and the game of football simply pales into insignificance. Most people will be familiar with Bill Shankly's famous quote suggesting that football is more important than life and death; I can only assume that he never suffered such a heartbreak during his career.

The thousands of messages of support that have flooded various internet sites over the past couple of weeks have been truly overwhelming. Football often has a habit of dividing people and causing conflict, but it has been incredibly moving to see the unity shown by the entire game on this terrible occasion.

Unfortunately, I never had the pleasure of actually meeting Dale face to face, yet I still feel as though I have lost a friend. I can't begin to imagine how difficult this time must be for those that were close to him, and my sincerest condolences go out to them all.

You didn't need to know Dale personally though, to know what sort of a man he was. It was clear

from the very first time I saw him play, that this was a genuinely humble and appreciative young man, a tremendously talented footballer, but most importantly a kind, caring and down to earth person, with a beaming, infectious smile! It was no surprise at all that he quickly built up a very special rapport with us supporters, and I can't recall another player in the 14 years I've followed the Club for whom we have had such an affinity.

Words alone cannot go close to describing just how sorely Dale will be missed. I can only hope that he had some idea of just how highly thought of he was, and I hope that, in time, this will provide some comfort to his family and friends.

Dale, we may no longer see your face or hear your voice, but you will live on in our memories and in our hearts. I feel truly privileged to have stood on terraces all over the country watching you play and singing your name. It was a pleasure getting to know Dale Roberts the footballer, and I only wish I had had the opportunity to get to know Dale Roberts the man.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to the family and friends of former Irthingborough Diamonds player and Rushden & Diamonds volunteer Dave Stevens, who also passed away earlier this month. His name may not be as familiar as Dale Roberts', but his death will also leave a considerable void in the lives of many people connected to the Club, so my thoughts are with them as well at this saddest of times.



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## WINTER SALE IN THE CLUB SHOP

### FANTASTIC DISCOUNTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Rushden & Diamonds Club Shop has started its winter sale, with great bargains to be had in the run up to Christmas, as we clear out some old stock ahead of the New Year.

Some of the highlights include:

- Shirts: 2010/11 Away (Sky Blue/White), 3rd (Yellow) & Goalkeeper Shirts - only £20
- Shorts: 2010/11 Home (Blue), Away (Black), 3rd (Yellow) & Goalkeeper Shorts - all £3
- Socks: 2010/11 Home (White), Away (Sky Blue), 3rd (Yellow) Socks - all £3
- Macron T-shirts - from £3
- R&DFC Tracksuit Tops - £20
- Macron shorts - from £1
- England Legends T-shirts - £4
- Macron Polo Shirt - £10
- R&DFC Lampshades - 50p
- Macron Ladies Jacket - £6
- Goalkeeper Shorts - £1
- Born to play for R&DFC Babygrows - £10
- Football Manager on the PC - only £20
- Old R&DFC Shirts - from £5
- Errea, Vandanel and Fila training kit - £1 each
- Errea, Vandanel and Fila shorts - £1 each

We've also got some great new ranges of scarves in stock, new R&DFC Navy Rainjackets, new woolly hats and plenty more.

The Club Shop is open Tuesdays, Fridays & Matchdays - so why not pop down to Nene Park and grab a bargain.

## Fixtures

Sunday 26 December 2010

Mansfield v Grimsby  
 Bath City v Newport County  
 Darlington v Fleetwood Town  
 Eastbourne Borough v Crawley Town  
 Forest Green v Kidderminster  
 Hayes & Yeading v AFC Wimbledon  
 Histon v Cambridge Utd  
 Rushden & D'monds v Luton  
 Southport v Barrow  
 Tamworth v Kettering  
 Wrexham v Altrincham  
 York v Gateshead

## League Top Scorers

Table includes league goals only

Player	Goals	Pens	Total
Tubbs (Crawley Town)	11	4	15
Connell (Grimsby Town)	10	4	14
Reid (Newport County)	9	5	14
Vieira (Fleetwood Town)	13	0	13
Kedwell (AFC Wimbledon)	10	2	12
Walker (Luton Town)	7	5	12
Connor (Mansfield Town)	10	0	10
Barnes-Homer (Luton Town)	7	2	9
Jolley (AFC Wimbledon)	8	0	8
Marna (Kettering Town)	5	3	8
McAllister (Crawley Town)	7	1	8
McPhee (Kidderminster Harriers)	5	3	8
Perry (Tamworth)	7	1	8
Rankine (York City)	4	4	8
Styche (Forest Green Rovers)	8	0	8
Mohamed (Bath City)	5	2	7
O'Connor (Rushden & Diamonds)	7	0	7
Pacquette (Eastbourne Borough)	7	0	7
Phillips (Bath City)	7	0	7
Brodie (Crawley Town)	5	1	6

## BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE (AS AT 18 DECEMBER 2010)

Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	AFC Wimbledon	20	13	2	5	36	22	14	41
2	Crawley Town	19	12	4	3	38	16	22	40
3	<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>
4	Newport County	22	10	8	4	35	23	12	38
5	Fleetwood Town	21	8	10	3	28	18	10	34
6	Kidderminster Harriers	21	9	7	5	30	29	1	34
7	Wrexham	21	8	9	4	29	22	7	33
8	<b>RUSHDEN &amp; DIAMONDS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>
9	Mansfield Town	21	9	4	8	35	28	7	31
10	Grimsby Town	20	7	8	5	29	24	5	29
11	Darlington	20	6	9	5	22	17	5	27
12	Bath City	21	6	9	6	30	33	-3	27
13	Cambridge United	21	6	8	7	32	26	6	26
14	York City	21	6	8	7	25	24	1	26
15	Gateshead FC	20	6	7	7	21	24	-3	25
16	Kettering Town	20	6	7	7	25	29	-4	25
17	Eastbourne Borough	21	5	7	9	36	42	-6	22
18	Barrow AFC	20	5	7	8	23	29	-6	22
19	Tamworth	20	5	7	8	29	36	-7	22
20	Forest Green Rovers	21	4	8	9	25	39	-14	20
21	Hayes & Yeading Utd	22	6	2	14	23	42	-19	20
22	Histon	20	5	4	11	21	36	-15	19
23	Southport	20	4	6	10	19	27	-8	18
24	Altrincham	21	3	5	13	17	48	-31	14

Information correct as of  
 20th December  
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# IN THE NEWS



EVERY tribute for Dale Roberts has focused on his personality above his talent as a goalkeeper.

**A true gentleman, a fantastic person and a great guy were among the sentiments of those who knew him.**

It has been a very emotional time at Nene Park and beyond. Many of us signed the book of remembrance and stood in silence behind the goal on the Peter De Banke Terrace to reflect on what had happened.

Supporters, team-mates, friends and former colleagues have shown an incredible amount of respect for Roberts.

It was absolutely right that Diamonds immediately retired the number one shirt and called off the home game against Eastbourne Borough.

Justin Edinburgh was very upset, understandably, when he paid his fitting tribute in such a professional manner.

Paul Fairclough and Tony Godden both commented how they wished we had spoken in different circumstances rather than this tragedy which has affected all of us.

Roberts looked to have a top-class career ahead of him.

He was so proud to become England's number one for the 'C' team with the best under-23 players in non-League football.

Every time Roberts had international action, he spoke passionately about the honour of representing his country. But he knew that those achievements came from impressive performances for Rushden & Diamonds.

As soon as he arrived on loan from Nottingham Forest for the first time, you could tell he had a bright future.

It was a big decision to drop down from the Championship to the Conference – even though it meant first-team duty instead of loan spells, reserve matches or only sitting on the bench.

Roberts had already become a fans' favourite at Nene Park when he signed a permanent deal at Diamonds in January 2009.

Last season he was a key man behind the challenge for the Blue Square Bet Premier play-offs.

Unfortunately Roberts suffered a knee injury with the England squad earlier this term.

Tragically we will never know whether he would have gone on to develop into a first-choice keeper in the Football League.

From a professional point of view, Roberts was always willing to do interviews and was a pleasure to talk to.

It tells you everything about the character of the man that he would always pay tribute to his team-mates and the coaching staff – even making those points when he hadn't been asked to do so.

He was always a friendly face around the training ground and at matches.

The tears may ease off but the memories will never go away.

RIP Dale Roberts – Diamonds and England C number one.

A fantastic person.

We'll miss you.

Mark Lea - Deputy Sports Editor  
Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph

**EVENING  
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- 12 Dec West Bromwich Albion - Indoor Training Centre (West Midlands)
- 23 Jan Goals Soccer Centre - Bradford (West Yorkshire)
- 13 Feb Barnet FC 'The Hive Training Centre (North London)
- 20 Mar Sheffield United FC - Forsyth Academy (South Yorkshire)
- 15 Apr 5-12 year old's Coaching and Trials Day at Rushden & Diamonds FC (Midlands)
- 17 Apr Leyton Orient FC (London)
- 15 May Leicester City FC (Leicestershire)
- 31 May West Ham United FC (London)

New dates are being added all the time. Keep checking at [www.footballcv.com](http://www.footballcv.com)

## Football Trial Camps 2009 at Grendon Hall (Midlands)

- 10-15 Apr April Holiday Residential 'Trials Camp' at Rushden & Diamonds FC (Midlands)

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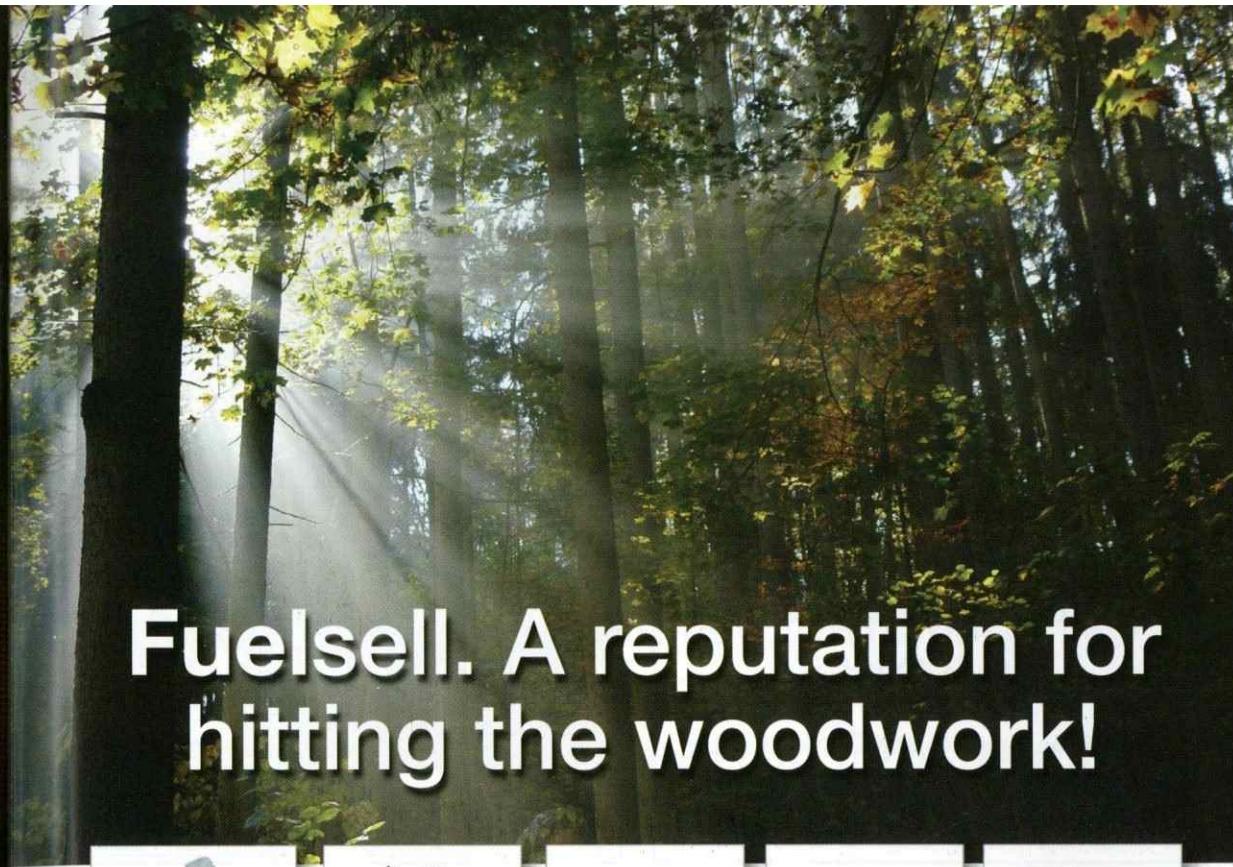
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# DIAMONDS STATS 2010/2011

Date	Opponents	Venue	Comp.	Result	Att. (away)
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Sat 14th	FLEETWOOD TOWN	(H)	BSBP	D 1-1	1248
Tue 17th	Bath City	(A)	BSBP	L 1-2	876
Sat 21st	Barrow	(A)	BSBP	L 0-2	1145
Tue 24th	AFC WIMBLEDON	(H)	BSBP	W 1-0	1365
Sat 28th	GRIMSBY TOWN	(H)	BSBP	W 4-1	1575
Mon 30th	Kettering Town	(A)	BSBP	W 1-0	2313
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Sat 4th	York City	(A)	BSBP	L 0-2	2306
Sat 11th	NEWPORT COUNTY	(H)	BSBP	L 0-1	1351
Sat 18th	Southport	(A)	BSBP	D 2-2	876
Tue 21st	HISTON	(H)	BSBP	W 2-0	926
Sun 26th	CRAWLEY TOWN	(H)	BSBP	L 0-1	1162
Wed 29th	Eastbourne Borough	(A)	BSBP	W 2-0	802
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Sat 2nd	Altrincham	(A)	BSBP	D 2-2	897
Tue 5th	DARLINGTON	(H)	BSBP	W 2-1	1034
Sat 9th	MANSFIELD TOWN (5.15pm)	(H)	BSBP	W 1-0	1480
Sat 16th	Tamworth	(A)	BSBP	W 1-2	1002
Sat 23rd	Kettering Town	(A)	FAC4Q	W 2-1	2792
Sat 30th	BARROW	(H)	BSBP	W 5-0	1107
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Sat 6th	YEOVIL TOWN	(H)	FAC1	L 0-1	1666
Tue 9th	Kidderminster Harriers	(A)	BSBP	L 1-0	1225
Sat 13th	Fleetwood Town	(A)	BSBP	D 1-1	1429
Sat 20th	YORK CITY	(H)	BSBP	L 0-4	1132
Sat 27th	Forest Green Rovers	(A)	BSBP	D 2-2	642
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Sat 11th	EASTWOOD TOWN	(H)	FAT1	D 1-1	
Sun 26th	LUTON TOWN	(H)	BSBP		
Tue 28th	Grimsby Town	(A)	BSBP		
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Sat 1st	Luton Town	(A)	BSBP		
Mon 3rd	KETTERING TOWN	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 8th	ALTRINCHAM	(H)	BSBP		
Tue 11th	Eastwood Town	(A)	FAT1R		
Sat 22nd	Newport County	(A)	BSBP		
Sat 29th	TAMWORTH	(H)	BSBP		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Sat 5th	Cambridge United	(A)	BSBP		
Sat 12th	Gateshead	(A)	BSBP		
Sat 19th	BATH CITY	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 26th	Histon	(A)	BSBP		
<b>MARCH</b>					
Sat 5th	HAYES & YEADING UNITED	(H)	BSBP		
Tue 8th	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 12th	Wrexham	(A)	BSBP		
Sat 19th	SOUTHPORT	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 26th	AFC Wimbledon	(A)	BSBP		
<b>APRIL</b>					
Sat 2nd	Mansfield Town	(A)	BSBP		
Sat 9th	WREXHAM	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 16th	GATESHEAD	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 23rd	Crawley Town	(A)	BSBP		
Mon 25th	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	(H)	BSBP		
Sat 30th	Darlington	(A)	BSBP		
TBA	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	(H)	BSBP		
TBA	Hayes & Yeading United	(A)	BSBP		
TBA	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	(H)	BSBP		

**KEY:**

\* = score includes own goal • = sent off • = Booked CAPS = goalscorers  
SUBSTITUTED PLAYERS are in colour



Roberts	Miller	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Simmons	Farrell	Howe	Power	Corcoran 1	Spence	Johnson	Charles	Huke	Robinson	Day
Roberts	Miller	Porter 1	Stuart	Osano	Farrell	Howe	Power	Corcoran	Spence	Green	Robinson	Johnson	Charles	Huke	Day
Roberts	Robinson	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Howe	Power	Corcoran	Johnson	Charles	Green	Simmons	Huke	Spence	Miller	Day
Roberts	Robinson	Porter	Osano	Howe 1	Power	Corcoran	Johnson	Charles	Green	Huke	Miller	Spence	Koranteng	Day	Day
Roberts	Miller 1	Robinson	Porter 1	Stuart	Osano	Howe 1	Power	Johnson	Charles 1	Green	Spence	Koranteng	Day	Keehan	Day
Roberts	Miller	Robinson	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Howe	Power	Johnson	Charles	Green	Koranteng	Spence	Day	Keehan	Day
Roberts	Robinson	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Howe	Power	Johnson	Charles	Spence	Green	Johnson	Charles	Huke	Robinson	Day
Roberts	Miller	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Day	Miller	Power	Charles	Spence	Green	Farrell	Johnson	Spence	Robinson	Day
Roberts	Miller	Porter	Stuart	Osano	O'Connor 1	Farrell	Howe	Day	Power	Huke	Johnson 1	Charles	Robinson	Green	Key
Day	Miller	Porter	Stuart	Osano	O'Connor 1	Farrell	Howe	Day	Power	Huke	Robinson	Johnson	Green	Spence	Key
Day	Miller 1	Porter	Stuart	Osano	O'Connor 1	Farrell	Day	Power	Charles	Huke	Charles	Johnson	Green	Robinson	Key
Day	Miller 1	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Sills	O'Connor	Howe	Day	Power	Huke	Charles	Robinson	Spence	Green	Key
Day	Miller 1	Porter	Stuart	Osano	Sills	O'Connor	Howe 1	Day	Johnson	Huke	Charles 2	Robinson	Miller	Corcoran 1	Robinson
Day	Porter	Osano	O'Connor	Farrell	Howe	Day	Power	Corcoran	Huke	Spence	Miller	Robinson	Charles	Johnson	Roberts
Day	Porter	Stuart	O'Connor	Farrell	Howe	Day	Power	Corcoran	Spence	Green	Farrell	Charles	Johnson	Miller	Roberts
Day	Porter	Stuart	Osano	O'Connor 1	Howe	Day	Power	Keehan	Corcoran	Johnson	Sills	Spence	Charles	Farrell	Roberts
Day	Porter	Stuart	Osano	O'Connor	Howe	Day	Power	Corcoran	Charles	Huke	Sills	Johnson	Farrell	Spence	Key
Day	Miller	Robinson	Porter	Stuart	Sills	O'Connor 1	Farrell	Power 1	Huke	Spence	Smith	Johnson	Charles	Keehan	Roberts

**SAFETY MESSAGE:**

Rushden & Diamonds Football Club has a detailed evacuation procedure in place should the need arise. Supporters who visit Nene Park on a regular basis will become aware that throughout the season we will occasionally broadcast the following message: "STEWARDS TO POST". In the event that the message is given, please remain seated (if applicable) and listen carefully for further announcements. The public address system at Nene park is designed to reach people both inside and outside of the stadium. Any emergency messages may also be announced in the Corporate areas. Whole stands, part of stands, or the entire stadium may have to be evacuated. The public address system operates on a zone basis throughout the whole stadium. It may be that certain zones are affected but not others. Therefore any announcements will be directed to the area affected and the attention focused on the spectators using that part of the ground. If you hear an announcement broadcast within the stadium, which is not directed at the area where you are situated, please ignore it. You should only respond to messages directed at your section of the stadium. All spectators are asked to respond calmly, but as quickly as possible if you are in the affected area and comply with stewards' instructions without delay. In the event of an abandoned match, regardless of the amount of playing time remaining, stewards will issue vouchers at all exits from the stadium. Advice regarding these vouchers will be published in the local press and on the Club website at [www.thediamondsfc.com](http://www.thediamondsfc.com) in the day immediately following the match.

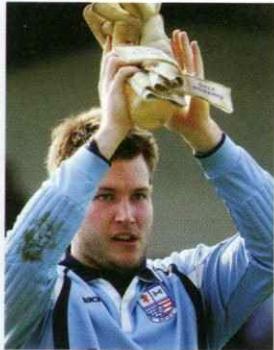


# the teams

v Luton Town // Sun. 26th December 2010 // Kick Off: 3.00pm



## Rushden & Diamonds



1 DALE ROBERTS R.I.P.

2 JUSTIN MILLER

3 KURT ROBINSON

4 MAX PORTER

5 JAMIE STUART

6 CURTIS OSANO

7 TIM SILLS

8 AARON O'CONNOR

9 CRAIG FARRELL

10 RENE HOWE

11 JAMIE DAY

12 NEIL COUSINS

13 JOE DAY

14 ALAN POWER

15 JOE KEEHAN

16 MICHAEL CORCORAN

17 SAM SMITH

18 MATT JOHNSON

19 RYAN CHARLES

20 SHANE HUKE

21 AYNESLEY McDONALD

22 NABIL SHARIFF

23 MAX YORK

24 LEWIS SPENCE

27 LANCE KEY

28 AARON KING

MANAGER: JUSTIN EDINBURGH

## NEXT UP AT NENE PARK

Blue Square Bet Premier

KETTERING TOWN

Monday 3rd – January 2011 – Kick Off: 3.00pm



## Luton Town

1 MARK TYLER

2 DANIEL GLEESON

3 FRED MURRAY

4 KEITH KEANE

5 CRAIG HINTON

6 GEORGE PILKINGTON

7 ADAM NEWTON

8 AMARI MORGAN-SMITH

9 MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER

10 TAIWO ATIENO

11 ANDY DRURY

12 SHANE BLACKETT

13 ZDENEK KROCA

14 ALEX LAWLESS

15 JAKE HOWELLS

16 ED ASAFAU-ADJAYE

17 PAVEL BESTA

18 CLAUDE GNAKPA

19 DANNY CROW

20 KEVIN GALLEN

23 JASON WALKER

24 ALEX LACEY

25 GODFREY POKU

26 JONATHAN O'DONNELL

27 TAYLOR NATHANIEL

28 ADAM WATKINS

29 DAN WALKER

30 KEVIN PILKINGTON

31 LEWIS KIDD

32 JORDAN PATRICK

33 CAULEY WOODROW

MANAGER: RICHARD MONEY

## OFFICIALS

Ref: M. Bull

Assts: A. Serrano & J. W. Martin

4th official: A. Tonks



NB: squadlist as per 20th December, 2010

