

Sports News

SMALL STROKE DEALS A CRUEL HAMMERS NICK



● **BATTLE SCARRED:** Chris Kamara plays on with a gash over the eye. He did not stop for treatment until the ref called a halt.

THE SEASON SO FAR

THE TOWN'S record in league and cup competitions to date:

Barclays League Div One

● Results showing Town score first, Town goalscorers, attendances and league position:

1991

August		
17 West Ham (a) 0-0	25,079	—
21 Coventry (a) 0-5	10,084	—
24 Liverpool (h) 0-0	11,132	—
27 Arsenal (a) 0-2	25,898	21
31 Chelsea (a) 1-4 (Gray)	17,457	22
September		
4 Southampton (h) 2-1 (Gray, Harvey)	8,055	19
7 Wimbledon (a) 0-3	3,231	20
14 Oldham (h) 2-1 (Harford 2)	9,005	17
17 QPR (h) 0-1	9,185	19
21 Man Utd (a) 0-5	46,491	21
28 Notts Co (h) 1-1 (Gray)	7,629	20
October		
5 A. Villa (a) 0-4	18,722	21
19 Sheff Wed (h) 2-2 (Harford, Nogan)	9,401	21
26 Norwich (a) 0-1	10,514	21
November		
2 Everton (h) 0-1	8,002	21
16 Tottenham (a) 1-4 (Harford)	27,543	22
23 Man City (h) 2-2 (Harford, Dreyer)	10,031	22
30 Sheff Utd (a) 1-1 (Telfer)	21,804	22
December		
7 Leeds (h) 0-2	11,550	22
20 Coventry (h) 1-0 (Harford)	7,533	22
26 Arsenal (h) 1-0 (Harford)	12,665	22
28 Chelsea (h) 2-0 (Harvey, Dreyer pen)	10,738	20

1992

January		
1 Nottm Forest (a) 1-1 (Pembroke)	23,809	19
11 Liverpool (a) 1-2 (OG Tanner)	35,095	20
18 West Ham (h) (0-1)	11,088	22

LEAGUE APPEARANCES, including as sub in brackets:

Ever-presents, 25 each: Dreyer and Pembroke; Peake 21, Stein 19(3), Preece 17(4), Chamberlain 17, Telfer 16(3), Harvey 16(1), Harford 14, Rodger 11(1), James 11, Kamara 11, Gray 9(2), McDonough 9, Sutton 8, Nogan 6(8), Oakes 6(5), Hughes 3(2), Linton 2(1), Campbell 1(4), Rees 1.

Before transfers out: Jackson 7(2), Beaumont 6(3), Thompson 5, Black 4, Farrell 3(1), Holsgrove 1, Glover 1.

Number of players used: 28, seven more than last season.

FA CUP — THIRD ROUND

Jan 4 Sheff Utd (a) 0-4 12,201

Appearances: One each by Chamberlain, James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey, Telfer, Kamara, Pembroke, Preece, Oakes and Stein. One as sub by Campbell.

The Rumbelows Cup

Round 2(1): September

25 Birmingham (h) 2-2 (Gray, Nogan) 6,315

Round 2(2): October

9 Birmingham (a) 2-3 (Gray 2) 13,252

APPEARANCES: Two each by Chamberlain, Jackson, Preece, Beaumont, Pembroke, Thompson, Telfer and Gray. Stein 1(1). One each by Peake, Harvey, Dreyer, Rodger and Harford. Nogan two as sub. Salton one as sub.

GOALS: Gray 3, Nogan 1.

Zenith Data Systems Cup

Rd 2: Oct 22 Ipswich (a) 1-1 Telfer (lost on pens) 5,750

APPEARANCES: one each by Chamberlain, Telfer, Rodger, Salton, Allpress, Pembroke, Nogan, James, Hughes, Williams and Harford. One each as sub: Rees and Campbell.

By Sports Editor Brian Swain

defence is now much better, and no longer has the highest goals against figure in the First Division.

Absent

But 18 scored in 25 games is the worst.

And ten of those have been netted by Mick Harford and Phil Gray.

With those two out of action, we again saw a Town side suffering shortcomings in the last 20 yards.

It is galling that on football skill the Town are now capable of matching any side in the country. But it counts for nothing if it does not result in goals.

On Saturday the vital opening eluded them again.

And having survived shakily for the first 20

minutes the Hammers always looked capable of grabbing some reward, despite being restricted to much less attacking than the Town.

Painful

And there was a painful irony in the fact that their attacking threat came in great measure from Frank McAvennie, who was set to join the Town ten years ago until West Ham pulled a fast one and nipped in to recruit him.

He was the Harford the Town lacked, although John Dreyer had a magnificent match, joining Peake in a partnership which has kept the goals against figures to only four in the last six league games.

Peake was dreadfully

unlucky with the goal but lucky in the fact that when he seemed to have a little incident that was not typical of the game.

Dive

The West Ham tried to con the referee by giving a penalty when he was diving when he was not. Peake reacted with a diving header and the referee was forced to follow.

It could have ended in a red card for the skipper, but having been settled for a lecture by both men.

The Town had made the better of the last stages, with the little slice of luck they were missing three times.

Pictures: Josh Levy

First David Preece and Kurt Nogan worked a short corner play which ended with Richard Harvey cutting into the edge of the box and cracking in a drive that Luke Miklosko beat out with difficulty.

Saved

Preece and Mark Pembroke combined to get Chris Kamara in with a shooting chance, but the goalkeeper saved well with his legs.

Brian Stein, so full of hard work and effort, headed over the bar from a cross by Paul Telfer, and West Ham were very much on the back.

And for all their reputation for good football, they also had a nasty cutting edge to their game.

McAvennie escaped with a verbal warning after a crude challenge on Sutton.

Pressure

He arrived in time to see the Town enjoy more attacking pressure, with Nogan shooting wide after clever work by Preece and Stein.

Julian James joined the attack for a volley

over the bar after a corner was half-cleared, and the game was once more going the Town's way until there was a five-minute stoppage when Bishop went down after a challenge by Mark Pembroke.

He played on, and it transpired that he had cracked two ribs.

Nearly

Stein looked as though he had scored his first goal of the season a few minutes later. Preece set up the chance, and the low drive was bulleting towards the bottom corner until Miklosko flung himself full-length to tip the ball round the post.

At this stage the Town were playing most of the football, and mostly in the West Ham half, but that led to them being caught out.

Bishop forced the ball away from Kamara on the edge of the box, Small took it in his stride, turned James, and let fly.

Sutton had it covered until the ball hit Peake and changed direction, leaving the keeper helpless.

To their credit, the Town kept playing their

Dangerous

The visitors put up a very strong defence, with Colin Foster outstanding — another man the Town tried to sign, when Ray Harford



● **JUMP TO IT:** David Preece and Tim Breacker rise to the occasion.

● **HOPING:** John Dreyer in a Town attack.

THE FULL MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN 0 WEST HAM UTD 1 (Half-time: 0-0)

TOWN: Sutton; James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey; Telfer (Oakes 80 mins). HAMMERS: Miklosko; Breacker, Potts, Foster, Dicks; Brown, Thomas.

THE GOAL: Micky Small, 55th minute, claiming it, and given it by West Ham.

West with Town boss David Pleat saying that the cruel deflection which left Steve

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town seven saved, five wide; West Ham five saved, three

REFEREE: Ray Bigger, Norwich. Handled the game well.

ATTENDANCE: 11,088, pretty good for an all-ticket match, and boosted by

ENTERTAINMENT: It was so nearly a good match: both sides played well, but

some fans it was misery as the Town's attacking failed to be as effective as the

West Ham threw up a frustrating deep defence after the goal, and the

Town did not have the wit to get through it.

Town match verdict ★ ★

OF BAD LUCK BLOW AS THE THE POINTS



● **DEFENDER ON THE ATTACK:** Richard Harvey breaks clear with the ball on a day when the Town needed every man to back up the forward line.

'There's still a long way to go'

BILLY BONDS admitted that while he thought West Ham deserved their first league win in ten attempts, the goal that clinched it was 'a bit lucky.'

'It was an own goal by Trevor Peake,'

said David Pleat.

"No it wasn't," said Michael Small, an apprentice at Kenilworth Road 13 years ago, and then sold by Mr. Pleat to Go Ahead of Amsterdam for £20,000 without getting a full game in the Town's side. 'I hit it well, and it was my 15th goal of the season. You can't blame it on the defender.'

His manager and the Town boss were both at pains to point out that with 17 league games still to play the relegation battle will go on for some time yet.

Defending better as a team

"It will be a long hard battle," said the West Ham boss.

Mr. Pleat agreed, and spoke of how galling it was to lose a game which his side had dominated.

"We are very disappointed, but not down. The effort and application was first class, and we lost to a West Ham goal that was fortuitous.

"In recent weeks we have improved our defending as a group. Now we need to score goals as a group."

● **ME AND MY SHADOW:** Brian Stein trying to ghost away from Colin Foster.

Local soccer league tables

THE LUTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
N & P	10	9	0	1	69	14	18
N. King	13	9	0	4	47	18	18
Strawp'lers	9	8	0	1	49	11	16
Lea U.	12	7	0	5	51	29	14
Stopsley	14	7	0	7	37	57	14
Lea Sp.	12	5	0	7	35	32	10
Barn Owl	12	2	0	10	16	60	4
Independ't	12	0	0	12	9	92	0

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
High Tn	14	11	2	1	74	18	24
Limbury U	12	10	1	1	55	22	21
Salisbury	13	8	1	4	56	31	17
Herts BTR	12	7	1	4	48	24	15
Emerald R	13	5	3	5	47	54	13
Islefield	12	5	1	6	41	41	11
L. Dukes	12	5	0	7	22	45	10
Meds	10	4	1	5	31	27	9
Stone	13	1	2	10	18	63	4
Comets	13	0	1	12	13	80	0

A & B SPORTS SUNDAY LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
NT S. Loaf	10	12	1	2	127	14	21
Sundon Pk	8	6	0	1	28	15	13
Wheatsthal	9	6	1	2	23	11	13
Chilton S.	8	4	3	1	16	13	11
GM Clap II	9	5	0	4	22	10	10
F. Eagles	12	2	4	6	19	32	10
W. Horse	11	1	5	2	20	20	9
Oakley	12	2	3	15	15	32	8
R&B Legion	8	1	3	3	14	10	5
Moor Pk	7	1	1	3	12	15	4
LA Rgrs	10	1	1	7	13	34	4

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Slip End	14	5	1	4	21	21	21
Emerald	11	8	1	2	46	26	17
Coach & H	12	6	3	3	43	22	15
Oaks	7	6	1	0	39	11	13
Rose & C.	8	5	1	2	17	12	12
M Park R.	13	4	2	7	27	31	12
Tophill	12	5	0	7	32	30	10
Camford	9	2	3	2	29	28	8
Macon	9	1	4	2	26	6	6
Britannia	10	3	0	7	27	36	6
Engline	10	1	3	15	15	32	5
Crown & K	11	0	1	10	10	54	1

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicester	13	13	1	1	79	11	27
S. Systems	12	9	0	2	41	13	19
Yeoman	12	8	0	3	43	12	17
Vine	11	5	3	3	39	13	17
EG Chilli	12	8	1	3	41	17	17
Chilton R.	9	7	1	1	45	11	15
Ramridge	13	6	2	4	32	19	15
S. Loaf	13	6	2	4	29	39	15
George W.	16	6	3	7	29	45	15
Sportsman	14	5	3	6	38	39	13
Bird	11	3	4	2	26	10	10
Blackberry	12	3	1	8	18	45	7
Wanderers	12	3	0	9	14	49	6
Mercury	14	2	0	11	41	4	4
Centurion	13	1	1	10	15	60	4
Bedco	15	1	1	13	16	78	3

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wheatst'R	11	10	0	1	51	6	22
Wigmore	10	8	0	1	48	11	17
Inter-C	9	7	0	2	54	11	14
R&B Leg R	13	7	0	6	28	46	14
Painters	7	6	1	0	40	6	13
W Horse R	10	5	0	4	41	24	11
Vaux Gril	9	2	2	4	28	39	7
Sundon R.	7	3	0	4	31	20	6
Air Ex.	13	2	2	9	24	57	6
Bromley	10	1	2	7	26	53	4
Brewers	12	1	1	9	23	64	4
Engline R	9	1	0	8	7	66	2

LUTON DISTRICT & S. BEDS LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Luton OB	15	12	3	1	41	12	27
Lewsey P.	14	10	3	1	50	17	23
S. Sabha	16	8	4	4	41	25	20