

THE SEASON SO FAR

Chart shows Luton Town score first, Town scores, after-dance and league position

KNOSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV I		August	
13	Wendle	A1	8,640
10	Conby Co	A1	13,060
27	Southend	A1	5,818
20	Trautman	A1	5,840
3	Port Vale	A1	5,811
10	Burnley	A1	6,911
10	Burnley	A1	6,911

GOALS: Harrison and Hughes two each, Oakes and Marshall one each.
ASSISTS: Taylor 2, Pearce, Harrison, Oakes and Johnson 1, Marshall one each.
APPEARANCES: (as sub in brackets) Evergood 15, Peake, Johnson, Taylor, Pearce, Hughes, Harrison, Taylor and Peake, Oakes 5, Marshall 4 (2), Owsen 3 (1), Hughes 3, Pearce 3, Harrison 1, Oakes 1 (1), Hughes 1, Woodcock 1, Shelton 3, Harrison 1, Oakes 1 (1), Harrison 1 (1), Oakes 1 (1), Thomas 0 (1), Woodcock 1 (1). Number of players used: 18.

COCA COLA CUP (first round)		August	
16	Fulham	A1	2,287
23	Fulham	A1	9,134
23	Fulham	A1	9,134

APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, James, Greene, Peake, Johnson, Taylor, Pearce, Hughes, Harrison, Oakes and Marshall. One each by Harrison, Taylor, Pearce, Hughes, Harrison, Oakes and Marshall.

GOALS: Oakes and Marshall one each.

Sommer's howler caps a mixed week



FOILED AGAIN: Burnley skipper Steve Davis is there before Dwight Marshall to clear off the line after his own clearance threatened to give the Town a fluke equaliser.

EVEN their best friends found it hard to lose Luton Town Saturday when an astonishing inability to hit the target left them seeking their first home win of the season.

A week ago had cheered as the Town pinched the points at Vale Park. The team's progress was marginal. I didn't think the quality of football in approach was all that far from the finish was!

Burnley, without a win before they arrived at Kenilworth Road, and struggling to come to terms with First Division life after a play-off promotion, didn't so much seal the result.

The victims gave it in their formations, through a single, schoolboy howler at the end and a lot more at the other.

The Town threatened and flattered, but had one of those days when confidence blazes at it all come to nothing in the penalty area.

At Stretton men charged with marking players out of ten found it almost impossible to choose a star man for the Town.

"Give it to Fred Barber," was one suggestion. He at least did not make a mistake because he stayed in the box!

Even the usually reliable David Pearce, on his 100th league appearance for the Town, was overcome by the inertia that marked the first half, although he picked up considerably after the break.

Midfield colleague Gary Woodcock, on his Luton debut after being signed in from Bristol Rovers, had an important start, with strong tackling in halfback.

But he, later felled on Barber on himself, was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

Until that goal, Burnley had led in the taking. The Town were also through their defence, but Scott Dunn on an early chance, made by a shot by John Harrison, ended with Oakes putting the ball into the net.

When Burnley counter-attacked and when David Greene fell over in the box, Burnley were not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

But both are common. Burnley were not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

Greene, at 20, looked a tough, but he has signed a new contract with the club. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

And he risked, and put a head injury in the second half. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

Peake, as he was, was a head injury in the second half. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

Marshall was used in the second half. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

Chris Vintcent, Dwight Marshall was a solo run and scored a goal. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

Shooting in the second half. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

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being given very little. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game. He was not to be a factor in the game.

FRINGE BLANKS: Scott Oakes, also pictured inset, is clear of Burnley goalkeeper Wayne Marshall and the net looks inviting. But the header, from a cross by David Pearce, was high and wide.

However, the Town were a spent force in terms of ideas and accuracy.

Taylor almost did the business with a strong drive, but which Russell saved with a dive to the left, but as the Town pressed forward hopefully they were caught on the break when Heath should have converted their misery.

But this time Sommer made an excellent save, tipping the volley over the bar. The keeper also had to close down Ted McMillan when he was allowed to wriggle along by the line and was set to lay on a chance for Heath.

Belatedly Gerry Dixon was called on to save, tipping the volley over the bar. The keeper also had to close down Ted McMillan when he was allowed to wriggle along by the line and was set to lay on a chance for Heath.

The Town's passing got a little better in the second half, but the end product was well below First Division standards.

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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Clarets give Hatters boss the blues!

BURNLEY manager Jimmy Mullen had been hearing that his job was in danger before he brought his team to Luton.

Two points from the first five league games had left the Clarets bottom one in the First Division table, and first fears were beginning to surface among Hatters about the manager.

Even when they were winning at home to Stoke and Bristol City, they had conceded late equalisers, and they had also lost at home to Burnley.

The Lancashire Press corps knew that at Kenilworth Road, Burnley had been given the first victory by a goalscoring mistake.

But the manager, if it was a gift, I am thankful for anything that comes our way.

"Chances are taken, however they arise, and you have to get them. But I'm not bothered about other team's mistakes."

He believed the margin should have been wider. "We have conceded late goals in other games, and that was on my mind because we should have scored more goals."

Adrian Heath should have scored right on half and I had done it. It would have sealed us down."

David was a very well, and we caused goal two problems. And we could have had another goal or two in the game, personification of disappointment, giving one of his briefest Press conferences for a week.

"We gave them a goal in the first half in which we held victory," said the town manager.

"It was an incredible mistake, yet, because Sommer didn't have a save to make in the first half."

"I thought our midfield pairing improved in the second half, when David Pearce got his game going."

"Their keeper did well and often kept him out. The ball was kicked off the line five times, but in the last ten minutes we left him alone and Sommer saved us."

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The big match facts

★ **TOWNS:** Sommer, James, Peake, Greene (Thomas 70 mins), Johnson, Taylor, Pearce, Woodcock (Dixon 41 mins), Oakes, Marshall, Harrison, Gosker, Barber.

★ **BURNLEY:** Russell, Rankin, Davis, Winstanley, Vintcent, Harrison, Randall, Harty, McMillan, Heath, Robinson, Soss, Gledhill, Deary and goalkeeper Barry Siddall.

★ **THE GOAL:** Liam Robinson, 43 mins, got into an unguarded net after Jürgen Sommer dropped the ball on the edge of the box and Adrian Heath helped himself to deliver a simple cross.

★ **OTHER ATTEMPTS:** Town six saved and 11 wide; Burnley five saved and three corners; 7 to the Town.

★ **REFEREE:** Steve Dunn, Bristol; both managers were less than delighted with his performance.

★ **BOOKED:** Gerry Woodcock on his Town debut, for a foul on Ted McMillan, Gerry Harrison and Liam Robinson of Burnley for fouls.

★ **ATTENDANCE:** 6,811, including about 1,000 from Burnley.

★ **ENTERTAINMENT:** In very short supply for Town fans who were left very frustrated at the inability to bury a team that arrived without a league win to its name this season.

REPORTS BY BRIAN SWAN
PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

American keeper's ups and downs



GOALKEEPER Jürgen Sommer took the blame for the goal that beat Luton, and apologized to his team-mates for his defence.

It came in a week which, like his career, has seen a strange mixture of ups and downs. At Wembley on Wednesday he finally won his first international cap for the USA, going in as sub for the last ten minutes against England, and keeping a clean sheet after England had put two past Brad Friedel.

By Saturday night he was in despair after the mistake that cost the Town their first home defeat of the season. But his colleagues were not complaining. Said skipper Trevor Pearce: "Jürgen has put his hand up for the goal. But he was a spent force in terms of ideas and accuracy."

Taylor almost did the business with a strong drive, but which Russell saved with a dive to the left, but as the Town pressed forward hopefully they were caught on the break when Heath should have converted their misery.

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Town's TV date

LUTON TOWN'S First Division game at Stoke City, scheduled for October 8, has been postponed for 24 hours because of the demands of television.

It will be screened live by Central and London Weekend on Sunday, October 9.