LOCAL LEAGUE TABLES

South Midlands League placings

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arlesey Town	36	22	4	6	68	33	70
Wingate	36	22	4	6	67	35	70
Biggleswade	35	20	7	8	59	32	67
Brache Sports	34	19	6	9	49	22	63
Stotfold	36	19	6	11	79	52	63
Shefford	36	19	5	12	67	49	62
Huddleston Town	36	13	12	16	51	48	49
Biggleswade Town	36	14	7	15	54	57	49
Potters Bar Town	36	13	10	13	51	54	49
Ampthill	36	13	9	14	48	46	48
Waterlooville	36	13	9	14	44	46	48
Milton Keynes	36	11	9	16	50	52	42
Leighton Town	36	11	9	16	47	52	42
Letchworth Town	36	10	11	15	44	51	41
Buckingham Athl.	35	7	12	16	36	54	31
Hoppingham Town	36	7	10	19	34	61	31
Letchworth GC	36	4	8	24	31	81	20

SENIOR DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Colney	34	19	5	10	60	37	62
Leverstock	32	13	8	11	47	32	48
Cockfosters Rec	34	13	8	13	47	46	47
Jersey Sharpies	31	13	7	11	52	47	46
Hoddesdon	34	11	12	11	52	49	45
ACS	34	12	9	13	46	50	45
Tring Athl.	33	12	9	12	46	50	45
Cockfosters Athl.	34	12	7	15	47	56	43
Tottenhoe Rangers	34	12	7	15	47	57	43
Wivelsfield	22	7	8	7	42	55	37
Ridgehill	34	10	7	17	45	62	37
EFFC Luton	34	9	6	19	35	62	33
Hoddesdon Rec	34	8	6	20	42	71	30
Pegasus	34	6	3	25	27	140	21

South Beds Sunday League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ATC Tavistock	17	11	2	4	59	41	35
Brillantes	17	11	2	4	59	41	34
Cambridge Rec	17	11	2	4	57	41	34
Maxwell Stars	17	10	3	4	52	31	33
Blackstone Fire	17	9	2	6	28	27	14
Farley Eagles	17	9	2	6	28	27	14
Dunstan Park	18	5	2	11	23	43	12
Stig End Utd	17	3	2	12	18	42	11

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Oaks	21	12	3	6	74	42	27
Phoenix Arms	21	12	3	6	67	42	27
EU Chilton	20	12	1	7	55	37	25
Stanford	20	11	2	7	59	32	24
Lidlington	20	10	3	7	52	44	23
Hightown WMC	16	8	3	5	40	36	21
The Dolphin	17	8	3	6	41	34	21
Suspension Bridge	21	8	3	10	46	49	19
Ivan's Bar Utd	21	7	3	11	38	48	17
Queen & Kate Arms	21	6	3	12	40	57	15
Brickslayers	18	4	3	10	40	59	12
Allston	20	3	3	14	32	67	12

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Parkstown	19	12	3	4	73	29	27
Eversholt	19	10	5	4	73	28	25
Eversholt FC	19	10	3	6	73	28	23
Engineers	19	11	1	5	59	24	23
Woburn Sands	19	10	2	7	59	34	22
Wilstead Utd	19	9	3	7	49	34	21
Lea Rovers	20	7	2	11	39	49	16
Farley OB	19	6	3	10	34	49	15
Bromley Ath	19	5	3	11	37	52	13
Stanford Utd	19	3	4	12	32	59	10
Toddi	19	3	2	14	27	61	8
Emeralds	21	2	2	17	21	71	6

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Houghton Town	15	14	1	0	37	8	43
Wrackon Rigrs	20	12	4	4	45	21	40
Kempston	20	12	3	5	47	27	39
Bedford Utd	20	9	4	7	34	31	31
Sand Utd	20	8	7	5	34	21	31
Cranfield Utd	20	8	3	9	36	37	27
Sold	21	8	4	9	36	42	28
Aspley National	20	7	4	9	32	36	25
Cottesbrook	20	7	3	10	32	41	24
Cardington	17	6	0	11	20	35	18
Wootton Utd	20	5	3	12	29	45	18
Mercedes Benz	20	3	7	10	22	36	16
Bedford Rec	20	3	3	14	20	52	12
Colmer Old	20	2	3	15	19	43	11

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eddies Bar	18	14	2	2	72	21	44
NV Athletic	18	11	2	5	72	41	34
Cambridge Utd	18	11	1	6	72	41	34
O'Shea's	18	10	1	7	57	34	31
Wilgrove	18	11	0	7	57	40	33
Beds Freeman Rec	18	10	1	7	53	40	31
Clarence Rec	18	9	2	7	53	34	29
Bedford Rec	18	5	2	11	34	71	17
Salisbury	18	3	1	14	43	90	10
AH Express Rec	17	4	1	12	26	94	5
Green Man Dunstable	18	1	1	16	21	91	4

Luton Sunday

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Leo Sports A	18	14	2	2	44
AMC Utd	18	11	4	3	37
Ivy	18	11	3	4	36
Leighton Strollers Utd	18	11	2	5	35
Purkey Tavern	13	7	1	5	23
Rugby Tavern	18	7	1	10	22
Oak Tree	18	5	3	10	18
Leo Sports B	18	5	3	10	18
Icknield Utd	18	5	2	11	17
Leighton Town	18	4	3	11	15
Rugby Tavern	18	4	3	11	15
Stockwood Park	18	3	3	12	12
Dunstable Drivers	18	3	2	13	11
Dunstable Town	18	3	2	13	11
AFC Oakley Rec	18	3	1	13	10

Spot-on Davis saves the day

ANOTHER dent in the home record all but finished Luton Town's promotion dreams when they outplayed Watford for 45 minutes and then needed a penalty save to avoid defeat at the hands of the old enemy.

On the balance of play the result was right, but it was a huge disappointment to the Town were unable to turn their first-half showing into more, and not prevent Watford handing themselves back into contention.

Manager David Pleat took consolation from a performance of pluck and heart greater than the home debut of 18-year-old Kevin Davis. The Leighton Buzzard lad showed why Pleat, against the advice of some of his coaching staff, was prepared to put Jurgen Sommer go to the USA for an international.

Davis, whose previous league record was a non-event match at Stoke for the season and two Third Division games on loan at Torquay, carried in a live TV spectacular. He should keep the tape to show to his grandchildren when he is an old man.

Both goalkeepers carried my star ratings, in if local derby which was full of good attacking by both teams. Neither could afford anything less than victory in the quest for a play-off place.

John Taylor, on his Luton debut after his deadline day signing from Brentford, was instantly popular for the enthusiasm and effort he gave, but did not stake up an immediate understanding with Dwight Marshall, who had a very quiet game.

In defence, Richard Harvey, who has had appalling luck with injuries, came in at left back in place of Mitchell Thomas, who picked a hamstring at Barnsley.

In his second full game of the season, Harvey had a tremendous first half, and was involved in the two major incidents.

After only four minutes Paul Telfer, David Preece and Bob Bolder worked the ball across the field to get Harvey clear on the crossing for Marshall to tap in.

He skipped round the floundering Gerard Lavin, and hit a perfect cross with his right, supposedly inferior, foot.

Telfer's header went straight into the air, but before any Watford defender reacted

KELVIN DAVIS

JOHN TAYLOR

LUTON TOWN 1
WATFORD 1
(Half-time 1-0)

Telfer twisted his body and in a flash volley into the net.

It should have been the first of many goals, because for the rest of the first half Luton ran riot on the pitch.

Preece was in miraculous form, and Marshall, power in the penalty area, had the visitors defence in tatters.

But Kevin Miller made a great save to keep out a top corner rocket shot from Harvey, who had been set up by Marshall.

Marshall failed to make contact with a cross from Bolder, and Lavin, who had replaced Miller, was lucky to get a header on target.

Watford finally realised that they had to do something to get back into the game in the last 45 minutes, but they put together after the interval a much better second half.

The second goal, Tony Coton's error, was a gift for Luton, who had to keep out a top corner rocket shot from the rebounding Telfer.

And Kevin Davis, who had then succeeded the injured Marshall, had to do well to keep Watford at bay.

Watford came back strongly through the middle of the defence, which was vulnerable.

Porter's 30-yard strike slipped through some bodies and was saved by Davis, who was well placed to make the equaliser.

PERFECT START . . . David Preece is first to congratulate Paul Telfer, who pictured Insert, on the early goal that put the Town ahead.

The greater later Davis went through a dangerous when Watford looked like taking the winner.

Ian Porter's pass set up sub Peter Kennedy for a chance of a carbon copy second goal. Davis brought him down.

Referee Kevin Breen would found no penalty, which the FIFA ruling in the penalty area. Instead he settled for a yellow card.

Breen, who I thought guessed that a dive was intended, was lenient.

I held to defaulter Watford, and Gary Blissett had to hand off the line from Porter's header from a corner shortly before.

Breen tightened up after that, but by trying from one end to the other at the other end, the Town street nicked it winner in the last minute.

Tim Sheller's 20-yarder was tipped round the post by Miller, who, like Davis, did not deserve to be a loser.

REPORTS BY BRIAN SWAIN
PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

Luton Town's season at a glance

DATE... OPPONENTS... RESULT... TOWN SCORERS... ATTENDANCE... LEAGUE POSITION

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV 1
August 1994

13 West Brom	(H) 1-1 (Davis)	8,640	4
20 Derby Co	(A) 0-0	13,062	7
27 Southend	(H) 2-2 (Horton, Hughes)	5,818	17
30 Tranmere	(A) 1-2 (Davis, Hughes)	9,455	20
3 Port Vale	(A) 1-0 (Marshall)	8,541	15
10 Barnsley	(H) 0-1	5,911	19
17 Bolton	(A) 0-0	5,764	20
17 Watford	(A) 1-2 (Telfer 2, Dixon)	6,880	16
24 Millwall	(A) 0-0	7,150	16
	October		
1 Bristol City	(A) 0-1	6,633	20
9 Stoke City	(A) 2-1 (Marshall, Preece)	11,712	18
15 Middlesbro	(A) 1-1 (Marshall 2, Preece, Horton, Jog)	15,000	19
22 Sheffield Utd	(A) 3-1 (Davis 2, Horton, og)	13,317	7
29 Barnsley	(H) 0-1	7,577	12
	November		
1 Grimsby Tn	(H) 1-2 (Davis)	5,839	12
5 Wolves	(A) 2-2 (Davis, Marshall)	26,749	9
12 Oldham Ath	(A) 0-0	7,907	8
19 Portsmouth	(H) 2-0 (Dixon, Preece)	8,218	8
26 Swindon	(A) 2-1 (Dixon, Oakes)	9,455	7
	December		
3 Sheffield Utd	(H) 3-6 (Horton, Johnson, og)	8,516	8
11 Derby	(H) 0-0	6,400	10
18 West Brom	(A) 0-1	15,901	12
26 Reading	(A) 0-0	11,623	12
27 Sunderland	(H) 1-0 (Oakes 2, Harton)	9,853	8
31 Notts County	(A) 1-0 (Telfer)	6,249	8
	January 1995		
2 Charlton Ath	(H) 0-1	7,642	8
14 Barnsley	(A) 1-3 (Dixon)	4,808	11
	February		

4 Oldham Ath	(H) 2-1 (Marshall 2)	6,908	10
11 Grimsby	(A) 0-1	4,615	10
18 Swindon	(H) 3-0 (Marshall 2, og)	6,595	10
21 Portsmouth	(A) 2-6 (Telfer, Jones)	7,265	10
25 Bristol City	(A) 2-2 (Oakes 2)	7,939	10
	March		
4 Millwall	(H) 1-1 (Marshall)	6,664	10
11 Port Vale	(H) 2-0 (Telfer, Dixon)	5,941	9
11 Southend	(A) 0-3	4,556	11
18 Tranmere	(H) 3-0 (James, Biggins)	6,669	11
21 Burnley	(A) 1-2 (Marshall)	9,551	11
25 Watford	(H) 1-1 (Telfer)	7,984	11
	April		
1 Wolves	(H)		
8 Notts County	(H)		
15 Reading	(H)		
15 Sunderland	(A)		
22 Bolton	(H)		
22 Charlton Ath	(A)		
29 Middlesbro	(H)		
	May		
1 Stoke City	(H)		

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)
August 1994

16 Fulham	(H) 1-1 (Davis)	3,287	
23 Fulham	(A) 1-1 (Marshall)	5,134	
		Luton lost on penalties.	

FA CUP (Third Round)
January 1995

7 Bristol Rov	(H) 1-1 (Hartford)	7,571	
18 Bristol Rov	(A) 1-0 (Marshall)	8,218	Replay
	Fourth Round		
28 Southampton	(H) 1-1 (Biggins)	9,938	
	February		
8 Southampton	(A) 0-6	15,075	Replay

Who's who

APPEARANCES... GOALS

League appearances (as sub in brackets)		League goals
Kelvin Davis	46	0
Peake	38	0
Dixon	38	2
Telfer	37 (1)	7
Johnson	37	1
Marshall	32 (6)	14
Horton	32	3
Thomas	31 (2)	0
Preece	31 (2)	3
Oakes	31 (1)	6
Hughes	31 (1)	3
Biggins	6 (1)	2
Greene	6	0
Alan	5	0
Hawkins	3 (3)	0
Lavin	3 (3)	0
Skelton	3 (2)	0
Hayward	2 (2)	0
James	3	1
Davis	2	0
Bolder	2	0
Hartford	(5)	0
Porter	(3)	0
Adcock	(2)	0

CUP APPEARANCES... GOALS		
Cup appearances	Cup goals	
Sommer	6	0
Peake	6	0
Johnson	6	0
Dixon	6	0
Preece	6	0
Oakes	5 (1)	1
Marshall	5	0
Davis	4 (1)	0
Thomas	4	0
Hughes	4	0
Wadlock	4	0
Harton	4	0
Greene	2	0
Biggins	2	0
Lindon	1 (1)	0
Hartford	1	0
Hughes	1	0
Telfer	1	1
Williams	(1)	0
Barton	(1)	0
Adcock	(1)	0
Cup goals		
Marshall	4	
Oakes	1	
Harton	1	
Biggins	1	

RICHARD HARVEY . . . in contention for a place in the first team place kick

PAIR OF HANDS . . . Kelvin Davis, on his debut, shows the style that won him the supporters' man of the match award.

Pleat subdued by derby draw

DAVID Pleat was in subdued mood as he talked about a match the Town should have wrapped up in the first half, and so nearly lost in the second.

"We have up to the last 20 minutes," he said. "We should have got further in front in the first half, but Watford kept at it very well in the second, and Philips took his goal very well."

He took consolation from some plus points: the performance of teenage goalkeeper Kelvin Davis, the return of Richard Harvey, and the signs that he may have recruited two useful players in Rob Matthews and John Taylor.

He added that his biggest worry about Watford was the effort they put into their content. Davis made the same point when he was grabbed by Pressmen who make him the man of the match, despite Andy Hessenthaler being the ITV choice.

When he made his debut at Stoke, Davis was not said about it until very shortly before kick-off.

This time he had plenty of time to think about it, and admitted he felt much greater pressure, partly because he had gone was at home, and a derby. "I felt I had to be, I enjoyed the day very, very much, although I would have been happier if we had won, and if I had kept a clean sheet.

"Overall, I was happy with the way it went, and at half-time, after we had done so well in the first half, we were very pleased. We had a good chance.

But he was relieved when referee Kevin Breen let him off with a caution in the incident that led to Watford's penalty. "He seemed to take a long time to blow. I felt I had barely left the pocket," said Davis.

"I wondered if it might be a red, but he pulled out a yellow, and I think he was right. It was a penalty, but I was going for the ball."

Normally when I face penalties I try to wait and see which way the ball will go. But I felt Bazza which way the shot was going, so I dived to the right, and managed to make it."

Watford manager Glenn Roeder had no complaints about the ref's decision. He brushed a little at the suggestion Luton had outplayed his team for the first 45 minutes, saying "Luton did well, but we dominated."

He added: "We took the game to them in the second half, and I think we have come out of it with some credit. And considering the points at stake, we let Luton off the hook. But the keeper had a very impressive debut."

Roeder's major pleasure came from the performance of 21-year-old Kevin Phillips, whose equaliser was his fifth goal in six outings. He was picked up from non-league Baldock for £10,000 three months ago. "He is already a super professional," said the Hornets' manager.

"He will find another yard and a half of pace next season, then who knows what we have got on our hands."

Big match facts

● **TOWN:** Davis; James, Peake, Johnson, Harvey; Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Matthews (Thorpe 79 mins); Marshall, Taylor. Other subs: Adcock and goalkeeper Margetson.

● **WATFORD:** Miller; Lavin, Millen, Foster, Porter; Hessenthaler, Ramage, Johnson, Payne; Gavin (Blissett 65 mins), Phillips. Other subs: Blissett and goalkeeper Dickov.

● **THE GOALS:** 1-0, 4 mins: Paul Telfer, cracking volley after Watford failed to deal with a left wing cross by Richard Harvey; 1-1, 63 mins: Kevin Phillips, springing the offside trap and expertly beating man of the match Kelvin Davis with a careful shot.

● **OTHER ATTEMPTS:** Town nine saved and fine wide; Watford left saved, including Gary Porter's penalty which should have made it 2-1, and four wide. Corners: 9-10 in the Town favour.

● **THE REFEREE:** Kevin Breen, Liverpool: made some contentious decisions, but had a good game.

● **BOOKED:** Kelvin Davis for bringing down Peter Ramage. The ref settled for a yellow card, the sensible decision, although under the FIFA ruling he could easily have shown the red.

● **ATTENDANCE:** 7,984 – pretty good for a game being played in a Saturday afternoon kick-off, but not a capacity crowd. Watford brought a very good local derby, with the ground well on the way to being filled, but Luton's support let up in the second. The result was about right, with the two goalkeepers the biggest stars on a day when both teams went all out for victory.

Hatters fail to the distance

COACH John Moore was furious about the way the Town threw away a golden chance of their first away win of 1995.

They had the Ficar Division's bottom club by the throat, but then backed off and were beaten by two goals in the last 17 minutes.

The home side's fine and passionate performance was a tribute to football skills of the Town's Dwight Marshall, who led from the season's start and hadn't kept days later, in the local derby.

They lost points at Portsmouth and Bristol City through concentration lapses in the last minutes.

Burley were lucky to equalise, because two attackers took Darren Sommer out of the game in the build-up before John Mullin netted in the 73rd minute.

"It was a brilliant second half match in which we had created very good saves – and while he was impeded, perhaps he might have made better use of his body frame to withstand the goalkeeper challenge.

The goal changed the tempo of the game. Suddenly Burnley and their long-suffering fans could see the possibility of a point, and a determination born out of desperation.

A sweeping move, there best of the game, led to Gerry Harrison shooting the winner seven minutes from time.

The Town's inability to keep their game going until the final whistle is getting to be a problem. Last week it happened twice in days later in the local derby.

They lost points at Portsmouth and Bristol City through concentration lapses in the last minutes.

"The game lasts 90 minutes and that appears to be a problem. I'm sick of our players.

"We were so much on top then that to be a danger that Burnley would have their period at some stage.

"They had it in the last 20 minutes. We have had enough chances to have made it two or three and didn't take them. We have not we were at our best.

And after that we were at our worst."

BURNLEY 2 LUTON 1

THE MATCH DETAILS

● **BURNLEY:** Russell; Hamilton, Davis, Pender, Mullin (85 mins); Winstanley, Harrison, Cooper, Bandail, Eyres; Nogan, Cross. Unused subs: Davis and goalkeeper Beresford.

● **LUTON TOWN:** Sommer; James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas (Harvey 70 mins); Wadlock, Preece (Woodstock 80 mins), Marshall, Oakes; Matthews. Sub keeper Davis.

● **GOALS:** 0-1, 49 mins: Dwight Marshall from cross by Richard Harvey; 1-1, 73 mins: John Mullin, after Jurgen Sommer was showed down but he went to punch clear; 2-1, 83 mins: final winner by Gerry Harrison, cracking drive shot to complete Burnley's revival.

● **OTHER ATTEMPTS:** Town eight saved and six wide; Burnley seven saved, four wide, shot by David Eyres hit a post three minutes after Harrison's 1-1. Corners: 4-3 in Burnley favour.

● **REFEREE:** Richard Poulain, Huddersfield.

● **ATTENDANCE:** 9,551, including 200 from Luton.

DAVID PLEAT