How they stand in the local leagues

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brache Sparta	11	7	2	2	12	6	23
Arlesey Town	9	7	0	2	21	10	21
London Colney	10	6	2	2	26	13	20
Royston Town	11	5	5	1	19	13	20
Hatfield Town	10	5	4	1	26	12	19
Potters Bar Town	9	5	0	4	19	16	15
Dunstable Utd	13	4	3	6	14	22	15
Hoddesdon Town	8	4	2	2	11	7	14
Harpenden Town	10	4	2	4	19	18	14
Toddington Rov	9	3	4	2	11	12	13
Langford	9	3	3	3	11	13	12
Welwyn GC	11	3	3	5	13	18	12
Biggleswade Tn	8	2	2	4	11	10	8
Shillington	8	2	1	5	15	17	7
Milton Keynes	9	2	1	6	12	26	7
Buckingham Ath	11	1	3	7	12	22	6
Letchworth	10	0	3	7	9	26	3

SENIOR DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ACD	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Leverstock	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Ampthill Town	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Totternhoe	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Holmer Green	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
61FC Luton	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
New Bradwell	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Risborough Rgrs	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Kent Ath	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Stony	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Winslow Utd	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Bedford Utd	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Tring Ath	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Houghton Town	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crawley Green	11	8	1	2	24	16	25
Leighton Ath	9	7	1	1	31	15	22
Walden Rgrs	10	7	1	2	17	12	22
De Havilland	9	6	2	1	18	10	20
Bow Brickhill	11	6	2	3	21	18	20
Mercedes Benz	7	6	1	0	18	2	19
Bridger Pack	10	5	2	3	28	22	17
Abbey National	11	5	1	5	20	23	16
Emberton	9	4	1	4	20	16	13
Cranfield Utd	8	3	1	4	25	21	10
Caddington	8	3	1	4	16	17	10
Buckingham Ath	9	3	0	6	22	20	9
Scot	11	2	3	6	14	21	9
Flamstead	11	1	5	5	15	23	8
O Dunstablians	10	1	2	7	11	28	5
Pitstone	12	0	4	8	11	43	4
Old Bradwell	8	1	0	7	20	26	3

LUTON AND SOUTH BEDS LEAGUE

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Christians	7	6	0	1	26	7	12
White Swan	7	5	1	1	21	8	11
Stockwood K A	8	5	1	2	20	11	11
Lewsey Social	5	5	0	0	18	3	10
Singh Sabha	7	5	0	2	17	10	10
Harveys	6	4	1	1	19	8	9
AC Cadoza	5	3	2	0	15	8	8
Laa Sports	7	1	3	3	8	10	5
Markyate	9	1	3	5	12	27	5
Studham	7	2	0	5	5	23	4
Luton Eagles	8	1	0	7	7	27	2
Flitwick Town	7	0	1	6	12	28	1
Luton OB	5	0	0	5	5	15	0

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitbread Log	7	7	0	0	25	2	14
Cork & Bull	9	7	0	2	37	20	14
FC Scholl	7	6	0	1	32	18	12
Lewsey Social	10	4	2	4	48	24	10
Manshead Gilder	7	5	0	2	22	20	10
Luton OB	9	5	0	4	23	22	10
Magnilto Dynamos	8	4	1	3	19	18	9
Thomas De La Rue3	3	2	2	10	11	8	
OEG	8	3	0	5	22	24	6
Harlington	9	2	1	6	17	29	5
Studham	8	2	0	6	17	32	4
Dynamo Parrot	7	1	0	6	8	31	2
Flitwick Town	10	1	0	9	14	43	2

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birch Link	9	8	1	0	36	5	17
St James	9	6	1	2	37	21	13
Whitbread Log	9	5	2	2	24	11	12
Hockley Teachers	8	5	2	1	22	13	12
International	8	5	0	3	22	16	10
Lewsey Park	8	5	0	3	17	16	10
First & Last	9	3	4	2	15	16	10
Dragons	7	4	1	2	14	9	9
Christians	10	4	0	6	27	24	8
White Swan	9	3	1	5	27	31	7
OEG Res	9	2	3	4	23	27	7
Whitbread SS	6	1	2	3	19	16	4
Markyate	10	1	2	7	10	30	4
Flitwick Town	10	1	2	7	17	62	4
Heron Manor	9	0	3	6	16	32	3

Big match facts

TOWN: Feuer; Peake, Davis, Marvin Johnson; Alexander, Hughes, McLaren (Patterson 60 mins), Harvey; Oakes (Oldfield 61 mins), Douglas, Riseth. Unused sub James.

OLDHAM: Gerrard; Snodin, Fleming, Redmond, Makin; Halle, Rickers, Richardson, Brennan; Wilkinson (Beresford HT), McCarthy. Unused subs Serrant and goalkeeper Hallworth.

GOALS: 1-0 40 mins: Stuart Douglas, on his debut, crisp right foot drive into the roof of the net after Marvin Johnson headed down a left wing cross by Scott Oakes; 1-1 65 mins: Gunnar Halle, close range tap-in under Marvin Johnson's body after Ian Feuer did brilliantly to parry a piledriver by David Beresford.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town eight saved and four wide; Oldham seven saved and four wide. Corners: 8-4 to the Town.

REFEREE: Andrew D'Urso, Billericay: made a few mistakes, with inconsistency the worst: he forced Stuart Douglas to be stretchered off for a minor injury, then allowed Paul Wilkinson to be treated on the field for three minutes when the Oldham man was much more seriously hurt.

BOOKED: Steve Davis for dissent and Stuart Douglas and Ceri Hughes for fouls, with Hughes lucky it was not a red card for unloading Lee Richardson; Oldham's Sean McCarthy for a foul on Trevor Peake.

ATTENDANCE: 6,047, lowest of the season for a Kenilworth Road league game.

ENTERTAINMENT: What a load of rubbish was the second-half cry, but over the 90 minutes it wasn't. The Town controlled the first half, but all the old crisis of confidence resurfaced in the second, when both teams had chances to snatch victory.

Youngster has dream debut

LUTON TOWN 1
OLDHAM ATH 1

REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN
PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

MANAGER **Terry Westley** heard more crowd calls for him to be sacked, and then agreed it was a case of two points lost after Luton Town failed yet again to win at home.

Five points from 24 at stake so far at Kenilworth Road is the statistic that is leaving the fans frustrated. The lowest league gate of the season turned up to see a 17-year-old boy make a memorable debut, only for the Town to go off the boil once more in the second half, and conceded an equaliser.

It could have been worse because Oldham, stung by their manager's half-time ear-bashing, missed two clear chances to snatch victory when nerves and tension got to a Town side that needs a run to regain confidence.

Equally, it took a remarkable save by Paul Gerrard in the third minute of injury time to deny **Ceri Hughes,** whose thundering volley looked a winner all the way until the keeper's flying fingertips made contact.

Town goalkeeper **Ian Feuer** made a point that Westley's critics forgot in their second-half frustration. "We didn't lose, and that is a step in the right direction," he said. "Defensively we were solid, and after we got in front it was a fight to try to preserve the lead. And in the last 20 minutes we got a bit tired.

"If our luck changes we will be OK. We have too much talent here to be where we are in the table. I know the fans are on Terry Westley's back, but off the pitch he is doing his work."

Seventeen-year-old YTS boy **Stuart Douglas** was the instant hero of Kenilworth Road after his surprise debut. A flu bug ruled out **Dwight Marshall** and **Johnny Vilstrup,** and was also affecting **Scott Oakes** so much that he was pysically sick in the dressing room at half-time.

Douglas's first league appearance, after eight goals in 11 youth team games, and two more in three outings for the reserves, might turn out to be the biggest bonus of all from a game that rarely hit the heights.

With the Town since he was 11, he grabbed his bid chance with the enthusiasm of youth, and Oldham soon knew that he was ready to put himself about a bit.

Within the first 15 minutes he had flattened goalkeeper Paul Gerrard and in turn been clattered by the goalkeeper. He forced Craig Fleming to make a last-ditch tackle to halt a run for goal, and in the 35th-minute young action man Douglas collected his first senior yellow card, for an over- exuberant tackle on Lee Richardson.

Five minutes later, after a spell in which the Town had begun to get the measure of lacklustre visitors, came his moment of glory. Oakes delivered a good cross from the left to the back of the penalty area and **Marvin Johnson** headed the ball back across the face of goal. Douglas did the rest instinctively, controlling the ball with his first touch, and lashing it into the roof of the net with his second.

With **Vidar Riseth** getting in a lot of flicked headers, the pity of it was that the Town had only one goal to show for their first-half supremacy. **Steve Davis** had volleyed a hard drive straight at the keeper, and headed wide from a corner by **Richard Harvey.**

Alexander tried an angled chip shot which was saved after Riseth's head set him up, and loud crowd appeals for a penalty came to nothing after Fleming forced the ball off Oakes from Douglas's headed pass.

At the other end, Feuer made one good save, spreading himself at Paul Wilkinson's feet.

The big striker, on loan from Middlesbrough after refusing the chance to come to Luton for a month or two, played an unwitting part in Oldham's second-half revival.

He was knocked groggy in a clash of heads with team mate Mark Brennan, and taken to hospital for 24 hours with concussion and a broken nose.

Manager Graeme Sharp told his team how awful they had been in the first half, demanded better, and got it.

David Beresford went on as sub, with Sean McCarthy a loan central striker and Gunnar Halle on the other flank.

It was the first anniversary of Sharp's appointment as manager of Oldham. His first game was 0-0 at home to the Town, on a day when Halle was sent off in the closing minutes.

That was a case of mistaken identity by the ref, but Halle was glad to have his name recorded this time, poking in the 65th-minute equaliser. It was tough on Feuer, because he had done wonderfully well to get down to a stinging drive by Beresford. The ball bounced off the keeper, and Halle beat Johnson to it to score from close range.

Hughes tried to liven things up as the Town became nervy, and was lucky to escape with a yellow card and not a red with a feet-first lunge at Lee Richardson.

McCarthy headed weakly at Feuer just before the Oldham goal, and just after it chipped accurately into the keeper's hands after a mistake by Johnson.

The Town battled back, with **David Oldfield** replacing Oakes, and in an incredible goalmouth melee massed ranks of defenders somehow beat out Oldfield's shot and Johnson's follow-up header.

But Oldham had the better of the last 20 minutes, save for the final seconds, and the Town were indebted to Johnson's block and Richardson's slowness when Beresford raced clear down the left and set up what should have been an easy goal for the Oldham man.

The final ten minutes saw **Darren Patterson** make his long-awaited debut, in place of **Paul McLaren,** who had performed very steadily and consistently in midfield in place of Vilstrup, and on a day when **Gary Waddock** had been given time off to be with his wife to await the birth of a baby.

The strains of "What a load of rubbish' were rolling around the ground again when the Town made the fans forget their disgruntlement for the last couple of minutes.

Oldham had to hang on for dear life, with Riseth's cross-shot saved by the keeper, and Gerrard making the save of the match from Hughes after Harvey's corner had been half-cleared.

On balance the draw was probably about right, with the sides winning half a match each.

But for Town fans it was more frustration. "On our first-half showing, it was two points lost," said the manager.

"I knew that Stuart Douglas would run himself into the ground for us. I have been working with him since he was 14. I knew he would work hard and cause problems. He has strength and pace. He may not be the greatest finisher in the world, but he has a chance of making a living from the game."

Sharp was unsure of his feelings at the end. "We were awful in the first half," he said.

"I told the players so in no uncertain terms. At the time I would have settled for a draw. But in view of how we played in the second half I am disappointed that we didn't win, because we had the chances."

And he had a dig at referee Andrew D'Urso, who was certainly not the best we have ever seen. Sharp joked that the bank manager from Billericay played three minutes of stoppage time to try to give Luton time to get another goal.

INSTANT HERO: Douglas is mobbed after his spectacular debut goal.

Hughes was in line for another Welsh cap

MIDFIELDER Ceri Hughes reports back to Kenilworth Road tomorrow after being on international duty with Wales in Albania in the European Championships.

After several members of the original squad withdrew, Hughes was in line for another cap last night.

If he got it he will be congratulated by Town manager Terry Westley, and then given a reminder about the need to keep his cool on the pitch.

At Southend in August he was red-carded for the fourth time in his career, for violent retaliation when he was fouled.

He was close to another against Oldham, but escaped with his fourth yellow card of the season for a reckless studs-showing challenge on Lee Richardson.

"It was fortunate he didn't make contact," said Westley. "It looked as though he intended to, and there is no place in football for that."

Defender almost makes history

TERRY WESTLEY

DEFENDER Matthew Upson almost made Luton Town history when he made his debut for the club in Cesena. It made him the second-youngest man to play in the first team.

Born in April 1979, he missed the record by five months. Goalkeeper Mike O'Hara, a Belfast lad who came to Luton in 1959, is still the youngest-ever to play for the Town. His four appearances were in the 1960/61 season, including a debut against Liverpool in the Football League Cup when he was 16 years and two months old. He hardly enjoyed the inaugural season of the competition: a 1-1 draw at Anfield was a decent result, but in the replay at Kenilworth Road Liverpool won 5-2.

The other 16-year-old to play for the Town in modern times was defender Graham Jones, who made his league debut a month before his 17th birthday, in May 1976.

O'Hara never achieved the promise held out by his early arrival in a Town team on its way to relegation from the old First Division in 1960: he had a couple of years at Swindon, and went out of football after 30 appearances for them.

Jones, a basic and steady defender from Manchester, played 39 league games for the Town, and after an £18,000 transfer he ended his league career at Torquay, playing 109 matches for the Devon club.

Manager is out to beat the bug

MANAGER Terry Westley is looking for three Luton Town victories in the next seven days: one against a flu bug, and two on the pitch, at home to Birmingham on Saturday and at Watford on Tuesday.

A virus has swept through all ranks of the playing staff of Kenilworth Road, with the result that the building was shut, except for admin staff, for the first two days of this week.

Players were told to stay at home, and not mix with each other, on Monday and Tuesday, and when they report back today the boss will anxiously check their condition.

Four members of the youth team were struck down last week, suffering sore throats, coughs and a feeling of nausea. Striker Dwight Marshall and midfielder Johnny Vilstrup joined the victims a few hours before the Oldham match.

Scott Oakes was also suffering. "It was touch and go if he could play," said the boss. "In view of the illness, he did well."

Oakes was laid low during the interval, but insisted on trying to carry on after being physically sick during half time.

And by Saturday night skipper Steve Davis and goalkeeper Ian Feuer were feeling under the weather, showing the first symptons of the bug.

Said Westley: "I can't begin to think about team selection for Saturday's game against Birmingham. It will be a matter of watching the players come back, and hoping they will be OK.

"They should be - the earlier cases all cleared up in three or four days."

Youth romp to victory

THE YOUTH team romped to a 4-0 victory in the South East Counties League at Reading, with the goals shared by Andrew Fotiadis and Steve Augustine.

John Moore's lads are away to Kettering tonight in the Eastern Junior Cup, and on Saturday travel to Southampton in the SEC League.

The reserves play at Kenilworth Road for the last time this year next Wednesday, against Southampton. Avon Insurance Combination League fixtures will then be switched for the mid-winter months to Top Field, Hitchin.

Italian job is ended by a last minute goal

CESENA 2 LUTON TOWN 1

AN AMAZING goal in the last minute killed off the Town's faint hopes of further progress in the Anglo Italian Cup, leaving Terry Westley feeling "absolutely gutted, just like the players."

He said: "They gave so much and deserved better."

The difference between the sides, not for the first time this season, was the opposition's finishing ability.

"Both Cesena goals were real quality, and so was ours," said the Luton boss. "But we had two or three other chances, apart from the goal, and we paid for not putting them away."

The bonus points for the Town were that 16-year-old Matthew Upson, recruited from Diss as a schoolboy thanks to Westley's knowledge of that area, made a confident debut at left back in a three-man rearguard. And Darren Patterson began his long-awaited Luton Town career with 55 minutes at right back.

In the second half Stuart Douglas replaced Scott Oakes and with Gary Simpson also going on as a sub, for Patterson, the Town's young side drew praise from Cesena's manager, former Italian World Cup star Marco Tardelli.

The Town went behind after 22 minutes, after a corner was half-cleared. The ball reached Naenza, 30 yards from goal, and he let fly with a spectacular drive. "It flew in like a rocket, a great goal," said Westley.

The Town's first point in the competition looked assured in the 78th minute, when Dwight Marshall netted with a diving header from a cross by Richard Harvey at the end of an excellent move started by Paul McLaren's short pass to Johnny Vilstrup. The Dane drew the Italians' right back before setting Harvey free on the left wing.

But the Town missed other chances, with Douglas just short of contact with an attempt to emulate Marshall's goal, Marshall over-running the ball when he was put through, and Vidar Riseth being denied by a good save.

And disaster struck with just over a minute to go. The Town won a corner, and knowing they needed nothing less that victory goalkeeper Davis did a Schmeichal and joined the attack. In a goalmouth melee Steve Davis shot against a post, and referee Gurnam Singh from Wolverhampton blew for a free kick.

The Italians took it quickly and goalkeeper Davis was still well out of his area when Scugugia received the ball a yard inside the Town's half, close to the right-hand touchline. He saw the possibilities, and carefully chipped Davis from 50 yards or more.

Said Westley: "It was a stunning piece of football skill, a real goal of the season, but we were all gutted to lose in the last minute."

ATTENDANCE: 461 according to Cesena.

Town's season at a glance....

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

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV I

August 1995				
13	**Norwich**	(H)	1-3 (Guentchev, pen)	7,848 –
19	Southend	(A)	1-0 (Thorpe)	4,630 –
26	**Leicester**	(H)	1-1 (Hughes)	7,612 16
29	Grimsby	(A)	0-0	4,289 10
September				
2	**Derby**	(H)	1-2 (Marshall)	6,427 17
9	Reading	(A)	1-3 (Marshall)	8,550 20
13	Millwall	(A)	0-1	7,076 22
16	**Sunderland**	(H)	0-2	6,955 23
23	Wolves	(A)	0-0	23,659 24
30	**Portsmouth**	(H)	3-1 (Marshall, Davis, Guentchev pen)	7,795 23
October				
7	Tranmere	(A)	0-1	6,680 24
14	**West Brom**	(H)	1-2 (Harvey)	8,042 24
22	Ipswich	(A)	1-0 (Oldfield)	9,123 21
29	**Charlton**	(H)	0-1	6,270 22
November				
4	Stoke	(A)	0-5	9,382 24
11	Oldham	(H)	1-1 (Douglas)	6,047 23

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)

August 1995				
15	**Bournem'th**	(H)	1-1 (Marshall)	2,728
22	Bournemouth	(A)	1-2 (aet) (M Johnson)	4,844
			(Bournemouth win 3-2 on aggregate)	

ANGLO ITALIAN CUP

September 5 1995				
	Perugia	(H)	1-4 (Guentchev pen)	2,352
October 11				
	Genoa	(A)	0-4	3,759
November 8				
	Ceseba	(A)	1-2 (Marshall)	400

How they stand in Div One

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	16	4	2	2	10	8	5	3	0	11	6	32
Leicester	16	3	2	3	13	13	6	2	0	15	7	31
Birmingham	16	4	4	0	14	6	4	1	3	13	10	29
Sunderland	15	3	3	1	10	7	3	4	1	8	7	25
Tranmere	14	4	3	1	18	9	2	3	1	8	5	24
Norwich	16	4	3	1	9	5	2	3	3	13	13	24
West Brom	16	5	1	2	12	7	2	2	4	10	14	24
Grimsby	16	4	4	0	10	5	2	2	4	9	13	24
Charlton	16	3	4	1	11	8	2	4	2	8	6	23
Barnsley	16	4	3	1	12	12	2	1	5	11	18	22
Oldham	16	4	3	1	15	9	1	4	3	7	9	22
Huddersf'd	16	5	1	2	15	10	1	3	4	6	13	22
Stoke	16	2	4	2	10	6	3	2	3	14	15	21
Derby Co	16	3	4	1	10	6	2	2	4	10	17	21
Ipswich	16	4	1	3	16	13	1	4	3	11	12	20
Southend	16	4	2	2	8	8	1	2	5	7	14	19
Reading	16	3	1	4	13	15	1	5	2	7	8	18
Wolves	16	3	3	2	10	8	1	3	4	8	12	18
Sheff Utd	16	3	1	4	13	14	2	1	5	11	15	17
C. Palace	15	1	3	3	7	10	3	2	3	9	10	17
Watford	16	2	4	2	11	9	1	2	5	9	15	15
Portsmouth	16	2	3	3	11	11	1	2	5	10	17	14
Luton Town 16		**1**	**2**	**5**	**8**	**13**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**10**	**13**
Port Vale	16	0	2	6	7	15	2	4	2	9	8	12

APPEARANCES... GOALS

League appearances (as sub in brackets)
Harvey 16
Steve Davis . . 14
Marshall. 14
M Johnson 14
Alexander 13
Oldfield. . . . 12 (2)
Peake. 11 (3)
Hughes. 11
Feuer 10
Guentchev . . 8 (5)
Waddock. . . 7 (4)
James 6 (3)
Vilstrup. 6
Taylor. 5 (3)
Linton 5 (1)
G Johnson. . . 5 (1)
Oakes. 5
Kelvin Davis. . . 4
Riseth 2 (1)
McLaren 2
Sommer 2
Thorpe 1 (3)
Woodsford. . . 1 (2)
Thomas 1 (1)
Douglas 1

League goals
Marshall 3
Guentchev . 2 pens
Thorpe 1
Hughes. 1
Davis 1
Harvey 1
Oldfield. 1
Douglas 1

Assists
Alexander. 2
Taylor. 1
Guentchev 1
M Johnson 1
G Johnson 1
Marshall 1
S Davis. 1
Feuer 1

Cup goals
Marshall 1
M Johnson 1

Assists
S Davis. 1
Alexander. 1

Anglo Italian Cup
K Davis. 3
S Davis. 3
Harvey 3
James 2
Linton 2
Guentchev 2
Oldfield. 2
McLaren 2
Vilstrup. 2
Oakes. 2
Alexander . . . 1 (1)
Marshall 1 (1)
Thorpe 1 (1)
Skelton 1
Evers 1
Hughes. 1
M Johnson 1
Riseth. 1
Patterson 1
Upson. 1

Goals
Marshall 1Guentchev 1 pen

Assists
Hughes and Harvey 1 each.

Coca Cola Cup
Sommer 2
M Johnson 2
S Davis. 2
Oldfield. 2
Alexander. 2
Marshall 2
Taylor. 2
Guentchev 2
Harvey . . . . . (2)
Thorpe 1 (1)
Thomas. 1 (1)
James 1
Hughes. 1
Waddock . . . . . (1)
Matthews 1

Goals
Marshall and Marvin Johnson 1 each

Assists
Steve Davis and Alexander 1 each