# How they stand in the local leagues

**LUTON AND** 

SOUTH BEDS

LEAGUE

# Big match facts

Marvin Johnson; Alexander, Hughes, Oakes, McLaren (Douglas 72 mins), Harvey; Marshall (Thorpe 83 mins), Riseth. Unused sub Oldfield.

RMINGHAM: Bennett; Hiley, Edwards, Johnson, Cooper Hunt, Tait (Finnan HT), Ward, Otto (Martin 62 mins); Charlery Rushveldt) 57 mins), Claridge.

OAL ATTEMPTS: Town three saved and four wide; Birmingham five saved, six

wide, and one deflected onto the bar. Corners: 10-4 to

REFEREE: Jim Rushworth, Stoke. BOOKED: Town's Trevor Peake for

dissent and Gaham Alexander for a foul on Jae Martin; Birmingham's Hunt for dissent, and Cooper and Edwards, both for fouls on Douglas.

TTENDANCE: 7,920, second highest of the season, with their end because their fans

object to paying £15 a year for the right to buy tickets to away NTERTAINMENT: Very poor, with

both sides struggling to string passes together, and the result was right, despite the late scare when Jee Martin should have grabbed a late winner, but was denied when lan Feuer deflected

# Battling is worth the point

(Continued from back page)
But a packed Pressroom struggled to
understand his claim that his shotshy attack, the worst in the First Division, had

created scoring opportunities.

It turned out he meant chances to get in shots which were not delivered.

In football entertainment terms, the draw which kept the Town one place above the bottom rung of the league table

But the team's willingness to fight with the odds stacked against them was worth

its point.

Ceri Hughes, after a tiring match for Wales in Albania, and a horrendous journey home, is at last showing the quality that was promised years ago, before injuries struck him down.

The temperament might be a little too

The temperament might be a little too fiery at times, but against promotion-chasing Birmingham he was by a long way the best player on the pitch.

If he can add a few goals from his midfield surges he will become an even greater target for top clubs - Manchester United, Tottenham and Chelsea had scouts at Kenilworth Road, although noone knows who they were looking at.

The other big success for the Town was

Julian James, whose confidence and commitment must have been sorely tested whenn he was dropped.

He was recalled because skipper Steve

Davis and Darren Patterson were both sidelined by flu.

And the way James, along with Trevor Peake and Marvin Johnson, kept Birmingham's prolific attack at bay sug-gested the second consecutive home draw could yet be a platform for a move up the

The problem is still at the other end, with the Town's attack rarely looking capable of unsettling defences.

When the manager was asked about

scoring opportunities which had been created, but which were not noted in ly sharp

League appearances (as

sub in brackets) Harvey . . . . . .

M Johnson

Oldfield.

Waddock

G Johnson

Riseth

Thomas .

Hughes Davis

League goals

Guentchev . 2 per

Kelvin Davis.

Dwight Marshall, Just before the interval a slip by Andy Edwards seemed to open to way to goal, but Scott Hiley tackled and cleared before Marshall could reac. "He should at least have fired off a shot

said the manager. He also recalled an angled effort by Scott Oakes which was

angled either system to the same was wide of the target.

The closest call was from Hughes, with a blistering 25-yarder that stretched las Bennett to the full. From the corner Paul

McLaren, maturing rapidly, headed wide.

The biggest impression was that the
Town, bottom but one, looked no worse, though no better, than a Blues team that came to Luton in third place in the First

"Player for player and club for club there "Player for player and club for club their is not a massive difference between teams in this division," said Westley. "We are a good as anything I have seen, except that we have not got the scoring power of other teams. That is our problem.
"But we are creating scoring opportunities, for instance when Marshall and Oaks, were through

"As we have had nine players unable to train this week because of flu, including four who played today, I have got to be pleased with our effort."

I would not disagree, but fans want more than that, and if Kenilworth Road cannot be turned into a home fortress it is going to be a long hard season.

Birmingham, after a traumatic week which included a punch-up in the Aggro-Italian Cup in Ancona, were delighted to be able to pick their way through a potential

"We were tired, and it showed," said Fry. "But that was rubbish - I have never seen us give the ball away as much as we

did in the first half."

Fortunately for Fry and his men the
Town suffered something similar, and as
Fry said no player on the pitch looked real-

## REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN **PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN**

# Town's season at a glance.

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

August 1995					
13 Norwich 19 Southend 26 Leicester 29 Grimsby	(H) 1-3 (Guentchev, pen) (A) 1-0 (Thorpe) (H) 1-1 (Hughes) (A) 0-0 September	7,848 - 4,630 - 7,612 16 4,289 10			
2 Derby 9 Reading 13 Millwall 16 Sunderland 23 Wolves 30 Portsmouth	(H) 1-2 (Marshall) (A) 1-3 (Marshall) (A) 0-1 (H) 0-2 (A) 0-0 (H) 3-1 (Marshall, Davis, G	6,427 17 8,550 20 7,076 22 6,955 23 23,659 24 uentchey pen) 7,795 23			
7 Tranmere 14 West Brom 22 Ipswich 29 Charlton	(A) 0-1 (H) 1-2 (Harvey) (A) 1-0 (Oldfield) (H) 0-1	6,680 24 8,042 24 9 123 21 6,270 22			
4 Stoke 11 Oldham 19 Birmingham	(A) 0-5 (H) 1-1 (Douglas) (H) 0-0	9,382 24 6,047 23 7,920 23			

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)

(Bournemouth win 3-2 on aggregate)
ANGLO ITALIAN CUP

15 Bournem'th (H) 1-1 (Marshall ) 2,728 22 Bournemouth (A) 1-2 (aet) (M Johnson) 4,844

Perugia (H) 1-4 (Guentchev pen)

Genoa (A) 0-4

Ceseba (A) 1-2 (Marsha

How they stand in Div One

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		P	W	D	L			W	DI		FA		Pts	а
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	Leicester	17	3	2	4	14	13 (	6	21		5 7		31	м
	Birming'm	17	4	4	0	14	6	4	2			0	30	м
	Sunderland	16	4	3	1	12	7	3	4			7	28	-
	Tranmere	15	4	3	1	1	9 :	3	3		9	5	27	а
	Norwich	17			1	11	6	2	3	3	13	13	27	ж
	Grimsby	17	5	4	0	11	5	2	2	4	9	13	27	40
	Oldham	17	4	3	1	15	9	2	4	3		10	25	ш
	West Brom	F7	5	1	2	12	7	2	2	5	10	15	24	ж
	Derby Co	17	4	4	1	12	6	2	2	4	10	17	24	м
	Barnsley	17	4	3	1	12	12	2-	2	5	11	18	23	ж
	Huddersfld	17	5	1	2	15	1	1		4		13	23	
	Charlton	17	3	4	1	11	8	2	4	3		8	23	а
	Stoke	17	2	4				3	-3	3	17	18	22	ш
	Ipswich	17	4	1	3	16	13	1	4	4	12		20	ш
		17	4	3	2	10	9	1	2	5		14	20	м
	Reading	17	3	2	4	13	15	1	5	2	7		19	ж
	Wolves	17		3	3	11	11	1	3	4	8	12	18	
		16		3	3	7	10	3	3	3	10	11	18	ж
	Sheff Utd	17	3	1	4	13	14	2	1	6	11	17	17	-
	Watford	17		4 :			9	1	3	5	10	16	16	а
ı	Portsmouth			4 :		14	14	1	2	5				
ı	Luton Town			3	5	8	3 1	3 2	2	4		3 1	0 14	
ı	Port Vale	17	0	3 1	5	8	1	2	4	2	9	8	13	
п														-

\*Not including last night's matches

Assists	Upson
Alexander2	Goals
Taylor1	Marshall 1Guentch
Guentchev 1	1 pen
M Johnson 1	Assists
G Johnson 1	Hughes and Harve
Marshall 1	1 each.
S Davis 1	O Cola CUD
Feuer 1  Cup goals	Commer
Marshall1	
M Johnson 1	S Davis.
Assists	S Davis
S Davis 1	Oldfield
Alexander1	
Anglo Italian Cup	
K Davis 3	
S Davis3	
Harvey 3	
James2	
Linton 2 Guentchev 2	
Oldfield2	
McLaren 2	Hughes
Vilstrup2	
Oakes2	Matthews (1
Alexander 1 (1)	Matthews
Marshall 1 (1)	
Thorpe 1 (1)	Marshall and Marvin
Skelton1	
Evers , 1	ASSISIS
Hughes1	Steve Davis and
M Johnson 1	Steve der 1 each

Douglas . . . . . 1 Patterson . . . . . 1

**OVER THE TOP: During a** spell of pressure on the Birmingham goal Vidar Risethi rises above the defence but sends his header too high

# Town want to hang on to giant American goalkeeper

said: "He is enjoying himself

here. At West Ham he was not

Feuer, 6ft 7in and 14 stone, completes the maximum three December 10, when the Town entertain Wolves in a live TV

LUTON TOWN 0

BIRMINGHAM CITY 0

Mistakes littered the 90 minutes, and the Town's point was all the more welcome because Birmingham might have snatched it

away in the closing stages.

lae Martin, one of three subs Fry used, was

put clear down the inside left slot, and should have scored. "I know I should," he admitted later. "But what do you do against a ten-foot

goulkeeper?!"
In feuer must look that big to opponents. He used every inch of his 6ft 5in frame to present the Town's point in the 87th minute, delleuing Martin's drive on to the bar.
He shad have scored, "said Fry, "But on balance, I am not disappointed at the result in balance, I am not disappointed at the result in the shadow of the

view of the way we played and the troubles we

"Some of them were playing from memory.
That's 15 games unbeaten, and it's a good

That's 19 games habi, not losing.

As it was the first time the Town had enjoyed two games without defeat, it is to be hoped Westley's men develop a similar taste. Sheer hard work and determination is the Sheer hard work and determination is the

requirment if results cannot be achieved by

flair and talent

flair and talent.

And it is not so long ago that the value of grinding out results was all too clear for another former youth coach who made a rapid transition into management: I recall David Pleat's first full season, when he too made major team

changes at Kenilworth Road. At one stage the

Town were in almost as bad a predicament as they are today, and he feared the board would

run out of patience and sack num.

They didn't, and were rewarded with promotion three years later. It was done with style and with goalscorers like Bob Hatton, Brian Stein and David Moss. We need three more

run out of patience and sack him.

teen to overtake Sommer and

"He has settled in well, and has given every indication thing for our first team spot."

that he would like to stay.

even getting regular reserve "It has been a great opporteam football. With us he can tunity for him, and I hope we press his international claims can reach agreement with West Ham. I would love to by appearing in the league

enough to prove he is capable

of playing in the First

DAVID Greene, a regular in the Irish under-23-year-old centre-half, whose Town contract

Manager Terry Westley And he has certainly shown

# Greene joines Gillingham on loan

21. Leam, but unable to force his way into Luke Town's First Division side, has joined Luke Town's First Division side, has joined Luke Town's First Division for a month.

Il means a dop to the Third Division for the regular league gotobial, which will help to progress his career."

## Hoping to be fit to face Barnsley

MIDFIELDERS Gary Waddock and Johnsy Vlistrup are hoping to be able to reclaim their places in Lation Town's squad for Saturday's visit to Oakwell. The Town take on Danny Wilson's Barruley needing to east depressing record; the being relegated from the old First Division, and have scored only once, in a 3-1 defeat two years gar.

First Division, and nave score only observations as a 3-1 defeat two years ago.

Before last night's game at Watford, the injury list was clearing up steadily, with the flu bug that hit nine players at long last banished.

but the part in the disc payers at song and banished.

Darren Patterson and Steve Davis were expected to play last night, but Waddock's knee injury and Vilstrup's thigh strain needed more time.

The manager was not saying who sould be dropped to make vay for the vetura of skipper Davis, on the expected full debut of right back has been some of the candidate of

Italian job could be wiped out

urnament, at home to Ancona on December could be wiped out by the trouble Simingham City had in the Italian club's sta-

The Blues won 2-1, but the game was marred fights on and off the field, and three Birmingham players face the threat of extradition back to Italy to face charges of violence.

Birmingham say they were the victims, not aggressors, and football authorities in ingland and Italy are investigating what went on. The Ancona manager is accused of running onto the pitch to attack Birmingham players. Fights that started during the game continued in the tunnel shortly after the final whistle, and

en the referee was injured. The Football League are making no com-

thinking of ducking out of the final game in the

The match means nothing to them, or to the Town, who have no hope of qualifying for the

If it goes ahead, there will be drastic price cuts in a bid to attract customers: Admission will be £2 for adults, to sit in any home areas, and free for juniors, pensioners, students and

Students and UB40 customers must claim UB40 holders. their free tickets before the day of the match.

nothing more than handshakes all round after

Ricky Otto for one suggests the Town would be better off not playing the match. He and his teamates were delighted that on Saturday it was

He said: "Those Italians just don't like the English, and it didn't matter whether you were black, white, or blue. I felt sorry for our fans, because they had it worse than we did - bottles

were thrown at them, and they were spat at." For the record, that is all in very stark contrast to the Town's experiences, in Genoa and Cesena. One of my abiding memories of Genoa will be the Italian fans who came to shake hands with visitors from Luton, and one dear lady made the point of buying souvenir stickers from the Genoa club shop, and handed them out for free to any English supporters she could find. And lots more swapped scarves.



FOOTBALL CLUB

# Chairman shows change in thinking

A CHANGE in thinking from Milton Keynes seems to have lessened the danger that Luton Town might move there. And for the first time Town chairman David Kohler has talked about the club remaining at Kenilworth Road into the

next century.

The local council confirmed this week that officials have been talking to the club chairman about building

a new multi-purpose indoor arena at Milton Keynes. Mr Kohler said: "The prerequisite for Luton Town to play in it is not there.

"I am acting here as a property developer, not as chairman of the football club. Milton Keynes are interested in the Kholerdome concept. If it can work in Luton, and I am certain it

Luton, and I am certain it can, it can work at Milton Keynes as well. "I have always said that junction 10 of the motorway is the best site for Luton Town's new stadium, and I

still believe that.

A planning enquiry on the Luton Kholerdome scheme s to be held in July next year, with a decision likely in January 1977. But even if approval is given, the Town

ownership of the land.

The trustees of Luton Hoo have refused to sell to him, and prefer a more modest and prefer a more inducts scheme, with a supermarket development funding a stadi-um, which has been put for-ward by Wyncote, a Sussex

development company.

The chairman said: "If I do
the development at Milton Keynes and Luton Town are made homeless, then Milton Keynes must be considered

as a home for the club. "But I believe Luton Town

Meanwhile Mr Kohler says he has heard no more about potential buyers for his

controlling interest in the football club. "I think there

Youth side on the rampage



who claim to be part of syn dicates that could afford to buy the club. All they have to do is get in touch and pro

they have the money, and I will talk to them."

He will also be talking to Luton Borough Council about the Town's future after the leave on Kamilaonia.

the lease on Kenilwork Road expires at the end of the season.

The club has lived ren

The club has lived rent-rec since a previous board sold the site for £3.2million. But the council will now seek a rent. Normally, ten per cent is the going rate, which would saddle the club with an extra yearly bill of with an extra yearly bill over £300,000.

But the Town chairman says that the Kenilworth Road site has been subject to falling property valuations, and the figure of £3.2million is no longer realistic sever

years on.

The normal rule of thumb rent to be a set proportion of income, about four or five per cent. In the Town's case that would be between £50,000 and £60,000 a year

tion," said the chairman.
"And in all the circumstances, I would be looking

THE TOWN'S youth side went on the rampage in the FA Youth Cup at Kettering last week, winning 11-3, Line George scored six goals, and there were two each care for each of each of the factor of the f