# Big match facts Determined ... but unlucky

Sport 3 =

sion. Luton Town proved at Leicester that they are now learning to cope with setbacks. And they well deserved another valuable away point which put a little daylight between themselves

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

7,848 -4,630 -7,612 - 17 4,289 - 10

6,427 - 17 8,550 - 20 7,076 - 22 6,955 - 23 23,659 - 24

6,680 - 24 8,042 - 24

pen) OCTOBER

3-1 (Guentchev, Oakes 2)6,566 -1-0 (Guentchev pen) 12,474 -

MARCH

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

3 C. Palace 9 Huddersfield 16 Port Vale 23 Sheffield Utd 30 Ipswich

2 West Brom 5 Charlton 9 Stoke 13 Birmingham 20 Watford

4 Oldham To be arranged, Port Vale A

and the First Division's relegation Lennie Lawrence is turning the Town into a mean machine, disciplined and well-drilled as

> At Filbert Street he was able to welcome the appearance of the additional feature needed to complement it:- good passing on the

> The two abilities added up to another determined and very professional display which was unlucky not to come home with all three points - Leicester were let off the hook in the

Luton Town's season at a glance...

## REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN

LEICESTER CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 1 (Half-time: 0-0)

Lawrence was philosophical after seeing the three subs, Des Linton, Vidar Riseth and Dwight Marshall, all go close to late winners. At Norwich, where the Town won by a single goal they had nicked three points without playing particularly well in attack. At Filbert Street they had looked menacing on the break, but netted only one point. "These things balance out," he said.

With Julian James completing his suspen-

sion, three more changes had to be made Scott Oakes, Marvin Johnson and Bo Guentchev were ruled out by injuries up and in the midweek win over Sheffield

Ceri Hughes, David Oldfield and R Harvey were recalled, and with Dan Patterson switched inside to central defe the changes had no effect at all on the great all pattern demanded by Lawrence.

Steve Davis and Patterson were doning as promotion-chasing Leicester were allow to have plenty of possesssion, but not allow to do much with it

The only dodgy spell was in the open five minutes, when Neil Lewis and Ser Corica wasted opportunities with 20-yard

drives straight at la

Leicester last summe applied the finishing

touch, but the goal wa

Slowly the Town's to

way, and Graha Alexander showed the

defenders could attack

well, delivering a low?

Kevin Poole to dive

stretch to his right to

the shot around the pos Tony Thorpe, energy his best form for so

time since Lawrence

him a specific role, ser

notice of his resurg

which Poole saved

cracker in the 55th min

to mark his return

club that rejected

after he complete

It came in the

meet it in the inst

But even that boost was not mough to enable Leicester to go on and finish the job, as they would From then on the To gurly have done in the early-sea-gon days when the Town invariably

suggled to hold on to a lead.

Lawrence used all three subs as
the pattern evolved into Town puffed and got nowhere. The Town netted in its the pattern evolved into 170km formation: they were as good as ever in defence, and better by the minute as they swept the ball around accurately on counter-Davis went upfield for the bar. Oldfield, sold

Linton missed the best chance, two minutes after he was sent on, shooting wide after his run took him clear to collect Thorpe's pass. Riseth was desperately unlucky when he met Thorpe's cut-back from the byline at the near post. A tics and perseverant

ONITS WAY: Tony Thorpe shoots the Town into the lead. flick narrowly wide, and seven all over the place following a cor-ner, and Marshall's hooked shot beat Poole but was cleared off the line by Garry Parker.

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At the end, Leicester knew they were lucky to be level. "In the second half Luton deserved what they got," said Leicester boss Martin O'Neill, who left Norwich on the day Terry Westley vacated Kenilworth Road. "We lost our way, and the best chances fell to MANAGER Lennie Law-

O'Neill is still looking for his first win, in seven attempts, since he took over at Leicester. Perhaps they should have gone for Lawrence, but Town fans can be

## **NHC Sunday League**

St Joseph's	11 7	4	0	51	12	18	Britannia		8	1	1	34	19		
Kent Ath	14 6	5	3	24	20	17	*Houghton Tn R	11	3	6	2	25	15		
"Luton OB	11 7	4	0	27	10		Laporte	13	6	1	6	27	29		
Green Man	12 4	A	A	27		12	Moor Park	13	5	3	5	37	41		
Lowsey	13 4	3	6	21	31	11	AFC Oakley	11	4	4	3	29	18		
Celtic	6 5	0	1	25	4	10	Concorde 61	12	4	4	4	23	25	12	
FC Houghton	14 3	1	10	15	46	7	Les Spts Res	10	À	2	4	19	28	10	ш
Crawley Sports	14 2	2	10	20	48		*AFC Park Town	10	2	A	4	11	18	6	ш
Stag	12 1	1	10	11	33	6	Flint Utd	13	1	Ā	8	25	49	6	и
The State of the S	12 1	-1	10	-11	33	3		12	2	1	9	16	39	5	ш
Dana			_				Wyvern Res			TIVE		10	***		ш
DIVI	SION	ON	E				DIV		W	D		F	AF	2te	
Celtic Res	PW			F		Pts		15	W	0	5	41	34		и
Trident Park	12 10	2	0	39		20	AC Treporti		7	-	0	46		15	
Houghton Town	15 7	- 1	7	36		15	Hansom Cab	10		3	4	25	9	15	ш
Looking LOMU	9 7	0	2	33	10	14	Markyate		6		1	37		14	ш
Cravley Harriers Eve & Lamb	14 6		6	27		14	AFC Stopsley	14	7	0	7	23		12	ш
Wheelsheaf	13 3	6	4	25	31	10	Barbarians	11	5	2	4		21	11	ш
Wyvern	11 3	3	5	20	24	9	Swan Rgrs	8	5	1	2	33	23	11	
Lilley SR	11 5	1	5	21	26	9	Borough Res	10	5	-1	4	34		9	
Brewery	9 3	2	4	15	11	8	Hexton Res	6	4	1	1	18	7	5	и
Or In	11 4	0	7	15	27	B	Royal Mail	9	1	3	5	18	28		ш
St Joseph's Res	6 2	2	2	13		6	Wells Star	12	1	3	8	18	43	5	ш
Crawley Res	13 2	1	10				Streatley Chea	13		1	11	17	64	3	ш
The state of the s				10	-10	3	DIV	/ISIO	NC	SIX					ш
DIVI	SION	TW	0					P	W	D	L	F	Al	Pts	ш
	PW	, F		F		Pts	Woodstock	13		2	2	45	21	20	ш
Luton OB Rea	10 4			- 5		PIS	WOODSTOCK	11	7	2	2	39	24	16	

ous Alexander going another run down right, to take a past Oldfield. He ground, then fired perfect diagonal pass Thorpe, who cut across



keeper... but it drifted wide of the far post too

## **Defence proves** to be a sufficent form of attack

SHEFFIELD UTD 0

around the wall and into the far

fans will remember the result long after they have forgotten that it

reasons for the team being in such

good shape at Leicester or

Thomas; Alexander (Harvey 68

Waddock, Thorpe; Guentchev,

SHEFFIELD UTD: Kelly;

Nilsen, Vonk, Tuttle; Ward

THE GOAL: Bontcho

mins), Hutchison, Whitehous

White (Veart 72 mins), Angell

Guentchev stunning curling fre kick from 25 yards in the 39th

used sub: goalkeeper Tracey

more than for the previous home game. It was a very cold night,

and only a couple of hundred fan

were in the away section, so it

looks like Luton supporters are trickling back as results improve ENTERTAINMENT: Mainly

provided by the opposition, but

home fans got exactly what they

wanted, another priceless victory

through a determined and disci-plined team performance that con

centrated on defence first.

MATCH DETAILS

rence cheerfully agreed that Luton Town had hardly turned on the style as they took their run to three consecutive victories in a match that was crucial to both sides.

was not much of a match in terms "It was not a classic by any of entertainment. stretch of the imagination," he admitted. "But it was a game we ting out of the bottom three was did not want to lose."

Howard Kendall was contremendous, and was one of the

demned to his first league defeat as manager of the Blades, who were vell blunted despite having a lot more of the play. Revitalised Bontcho Guentchev finished them TOWN: Feuer: Patterson, Davis. off with a spectacular free kick, and Kendall moaned: "We dominated most of the game, but Luton sat back in numbers and we found t difficult to create chances. There was a lot of quality in our play, but we didn't finish, and I am very disppointed at losing."

The delighted roar that greeted the final whistle made it clear how pleased everyone connected with the Town felt: for the first time in 12 months the team had managed hree wins on the trot, and again it was a case of grinding out a result.

"The emphasis has been on not conceding goals," said Lawrence, when asked how he had managed to lift his new club out of the relegiation places for the first time in three months. "Sheffield must have played 50 or 60 balls into our box, but we were first to every

"We didn't pass as well as we can, or play well from an attacking point of view, but it was a battling performance.

Steve Davis and Gary Waddock led the stubborn defensive display, and the Town kept their shape despite losing Scott Oakes and Marvin Johnson through injury in the first half-hour.

The winning goal was the moment of inspiration among many of honest endeavour. David Tuttle tripped Tony Thorpe ten yards outside the area, and Guentchev bent the free kick



## James is bidding to win his place back

(Continued from page 44)
On top of that, right back
Julian James is available again for Saturday's match, after serving a two-game

Guentchev, with hamstring injuries, and Oakes, with a back muscle problem, were

still under treatment.
Said the manager:
"Johnson and Oakes are battling hard to try to be fit for the weekend, and it would

very good progress, and looks a 50/50 bet to make it. "But even if they are al fit, that's not to say they will be automatic choices against

"Those who came in at Leicester did well. Ceri Hughes played his first eague game for six weeks, and he got us going after we struggled a bit in the first ten or 15 minutes.

probably not really a right

probably not really a right
back, but he took on the job
and did it well
"But I will not be taking "And the three subs made

a point as well. It must be a 100-1 shot to put on all three and then see them all have Linton missed the best, shooting wide of the far post with only the goalkeeper to

beat, but the manager said:
"I am not complaining about that. He had only just gone on, and did very well to get into the right place to have a strike at goal. "Vidar Riseth made a good contact and was

good contact and was unlucky not to sore, and the same goes for Dwight Marshall's shot that was cleared off the line. But they two saved and four wide; United four saved and two wide. are good signs: it was the first time since I have been here that we could say we REFEREE: David Orr, Iver - too BOOKED: Scott Oakes, Gary Waddock, Mitchell Thomas and Ceri Hughes, and United's Roger Nilsen and Mark Patterson, all for were a bit unlucky not to get a second goal. And things like that tend to even them-ATTENDANCE: 6,995, 400

Tony Thorpe, who had his best game of the season against his former club, picked up a slight groin strain at Filbert Street, but that should not affect his chances of being available

But the manager said: "I can now admit that we took a bit of a chance against



game about Johnson and Guentchev. There were doubts about their ham-15 minutes. strings, but we got away with it. Oakes was a differ

they are perfectly fit even when they are not, because they are frightened of losing their places. Guentchev, for instance, is saying he will be 100 per cent by the week-end. He wants to be, because he wants to play, and he

on fitness will not be made ter for me, the physio an

the doctor.
"We still have plenty work to do, but if we stick at it we are on the right lines and we fancy ourselves against Grimsby. We owe them one. None of us will

forget in a hurry what they and we still want six of

seven more victories. scrap. Three points of

# **Hornets** hit rock bottom

2	Derby C	28	9	4	1	28	11	5	5	4	18	20	51
	Charlton	27	6	6	2	21	15	6	4	3	18	13	46
3	Huddersf'd	29	9	3	3	26	15	3	6	5	12	17	45
3	Southend	28	9	4	2	21	13	3	4	6	12	19	44
3	Sunderland	27	7	4	2	20	8	4	6	4	11	15	43
3 3 3	Ipswich	27	8	4	3	32	21	2	6	4	17	17	40
3	Leicester	27	4	5	4		19	6	5	3	22	18	40
3	Barnsley	28	7	5	2	20	17	3	5	6	17	26	40
4	Millwall	29	4	5	6		17	6	5	3	16	19	40
4	Norwich	29	5	6	4		15	5	3	6	23	20	39
4	Birmingh'm	27	6	5	2	22	16	4	4	6	16	21	39
4	Stoke	27	5	5	3		10	5	4	5	21	23	39
4	Grimsby	28	5	8	2		14	4	3	6	15	20	38
	Portsmouth	30	6	4	4	26		3	5	8	20	28	36
	Tranmere	27	6	4	3	24		3	4	7	12	16	35
4	Crystal P	26	2	6	3	13	15	6	5	4	19	18	35
4	Oldham	27	5	5	3	21	13	2	6	6	14	18	32
3	Wolves	27	5	6	4	21	18	2	4	6	14	19	31
1	Reading	27	6	3	5	19	18	1	7	5	13	19	31
1	Port Vale	27	3	4	6	16	20	4	5	5	17	20	30
•	Luton Tn	27	4	4	6	19	21	3	4	6	6	17	
	Sheff Utd	28	4	4	6	18	21	2	4	8	17		29
-	West Brom		5									26	26
	Watford	27	3	2 5	6	15		2	2	10	15	31	25
	wattord	26	3	5	4	15	13	2	5	7	14	21	25
_	100000000000000000000000000000000000000												

Jan 6 Round 3: Grimsby A 1-7 (Marshall) 5,387

COCA-COLA CUP

Aug 15 (1) Bournemouth H 1-1 (Marshall) 2,728

Aug 22 (2) Bournemouth A 1-2 (M. Johnson) 4,844

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP Sep 5 Perugia H 1-4 (Guentchev pen) 2,352 Oct 11 Genoa A 0-4 3,759 Nov 8 Cesena A 1-2 (Marshall) 400 Dec 13 Ancona H 5-0 (Oakes, Marshall, Taylor Thorpe, Guentchev pen) 2.091

## APPEARANCES... GOALS

#### **ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE**

GOALS: Marshall 7, Guentchev 5 (3 pens), Oakes 3. Thorpe 5, Davis and Oldfield 2; Hughes, Harvey, Douglas and McLaren 1

ASSISTS: Thorpe 5; Alexander 4; Oakes, Marshall Guentchev and Harvey 2; Taylor, M Johnson, G Johnson, S Davis, Vilstrup, Feuer and McLaren 1.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Harvey 24 (3); M Johnson 24; S Davis 23; Marshall 21 (1); Alexander 20 (1); Feuer 20; Hughes 17 (1); Waddock 15 (4); Oakes 15; Peake 14 (3); Oldfield 12 (6); James 12 (3); Guentchev 11 (7); Taylor 11 (4); McLaren 9; Thorpe 7 (7); Patterson and Thomas 6 (2); Vilstrup 6. Linton and Riseth 5 (2); G Johnson 5 (1); K Davis 5; Sommer 2; Douglas 1 (3); Woodsford 1 (2). Number

#### of players used: 26 (27 last season). COCA COLA CUP

GOALS: Marshall 1, Marvin Johnson 1. ASSISTS: Steve Davis 1, Alexander 1

APPEARANCES (subs in brackets): Sommer Marvin Johnson, Steve Davis, Oldfield, Alexander, Marshall, Taylor, Guentchev, Harvey 2 each; Thorpe (2) 0; Thomas (1) 1; James, Hughes and Waddock 1 each; Matthews (1) 0.

#### FA CUP

GOAL: Marshall. ASSIST: Guentchev

APPEARANCES: One each by Feuer, Patterson, James, Marvin Johnson, Thomas, Waddock, Guentchev, Oakes, Oldfield, McLaren and Marshall. One as sub by Alexander and Thorpe

### ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

GOALS: Marshall 2, Guentchev 2 penalties, Oakes 1, Taylor 1, Thorpe 1. ASSISTS: Taylor 2; Hughes, Linton, Marshall and

Harvey one each. APPEARANCES: Four each by K Davis, S Davis and Harvey; three each by Oakes, Linton and McLaren; Marshall and Guentchev (1) 2; Alexander and Waddock (1) 1; one each by Skelton, Evers, Hughes, Riseth, Taylor, Thomas and Upson;

# very grateful they didn't!

ш	Green Man	12	4	4	4	27	34 12				5	3	5	37		13
ш	Lowsey	13	4	3	6	21	31 11				4	4	3	29		12
ш	Celtic	6	5	0	1	25	4 10	)			4		4			12
ш	FC Houghton	14	3		10	15	46 7				4	2	4	19		10
ш	Crawley Sports	14	2		10	20	48 €				2	4	4	11	18	6
	Stag	12	1	1	10	11	33 3	1	Flint Utd		1	4	8	25	39	5
ш									Wyvern Res	12		1	9	16	39	9
ш	DIVI								DIVISION FIVE P W D L						AF	to.
ш	Celtic Res		W	D	L	F	APts					D	L	F 41		18
М	Trident Park	12		2	0	39	13 20		AC Treporti		8	2	2	46		15
	Houghton Town	15	7	1	7	36	39 15		Hansom Cab		7		1	25		15
	Crawley Harriers	9	7	0	2	33	10 14		Markyate	10	6	3	7	37		14
	Eve & Lamb	14	6	2	6	27	26 14		AFC Stopsley	14	5	2	4	23	24	12
	Whatshawf	13	3	6	4	25	31 10		Barbarians	8	5	1	2	33	21	11
	Wyvern	11	3	3	5	20	24 1		Swan Rgrs	10	5	1	4	34	23	11
	Lilley SD	11	5	1	5	21	26 !		Borough Res	6	4	1	1	18	7	9
	Brewery	11	3	2	4	15	11 1		Hexton Res	9	1	3	5	18	28	5
	St Joseph's Dan	6	2	0 2	7	15	27 1		Royal Mail	12	1	3	8	18	43	5
	Crawley Res	13	2		2	13	12		Wells Star		1	1	11	17	64	3
	7.100	13	2	1	10	15	40	5	Streatley Cheq			SIX				
	DIVI	SIO	MT	744	2				DIV	F		Pts				
		DIVISION TWO			Woodstock	P 13	W 9	0 2	2	45		20				
	Luton OB Res	12	10	1	1	41	12 2		Sporting Luton	11	7	2	2	39	24	16
			10	0	1	32	8 2		Windmill	14	6	4	4	31	23	16
		13		3	2	39	24 1		FC Toddington	12	6	3	3	41	21	15
	Lea Sports	15		4	4	41	26 1		Red Lion Sundon	14	6	3	5	35	31	15
	Crawley Har Res	14		1	6	31	27 1		Fidus	12	5	3	4	31	30	13
	Limburgo	10		4	1	20	15 1		Lynmore	12	5	2	5	35	39	
	Limbury B Swan	15		5	6	24	31 1		Black Swan Res	13	5	2	6	33	41	12
		13		1	7	31	40 1		Houghton Regis	9	4	2	3	20	14	
		15		3	8	27	36 1		Luton YS	10		2	4	29	29	
		15		3	8	34	46 1		O Most Res	13		.1	8	30	46	
	Boater ngra	14		3	8	28		9	Lilley SR Res	10		0	6	21	53	
	AFC Wigmore	15		1	10	24	44	9	Swan Rgrs Res	15		4	9	26	42	
	- note	16	2	3	11	22	47	7	Pulsebeat	12		2	8	22	42	0
	Done								DIVISION SEVE					F		Pts
	DIVISION THREE										W		Ļ	44		21
	Magnum	P	W		L	F	API	8	Magnum Res	15			4 2	44		20
		13		3	1	53	16 2		Icknield Ath	13		2		49	34	
		10		1	2	26	10 1		AC Helpline	15		0		51	36	
	GIS Windows	-33	6	2	3	38	16 1	4	Leagrave Wdrs	13	9	0	4	51		10