

Big match facts

TOWN: Feuer, James, Patterson, Davis, Thomas; Alexander (Oldfield 68 mins), Waddock, Hughes, Thorpe; Guentchev (Harvey 75 mins), Taylor (Marshall 53 mins).

MILLWALL: Keller; Lavin, Stevens, Witter, Thatcher; Nelli, Savage, Bowry, Van Blerk; Taylor (Dobly 7-0 mins), Malkin, Unused, subs Webber and Rogan.

THE GOAL: Tony Thorpe penalty, 84th minute, after Dwight Marshall had been brought down by Tony Witter.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town five saved and four wide; Millwall one saved and three wide.

CORNER: 9-5 to the Town.

REFEREE: Jim Rushton, Stoke. Seemed over-keen on waving yellow cards. He was right to send off Hughes, but why only a yellow for Witter's offence to stop a strong run for goal?

BOOKED: Van Blerk, Witter and

Bowry of Millwall for fouls; Taylor, Thomas and Hughes twice, all for fouls.

SEN OFF: For the second time this season, and for the fifth time in his career, Carl Hughes, for two cautions, a 68th-minute foul on Van Blerk and a 75th-minute repeat on Bobby Bowry.

ATTENDANCE: 7,308, another slight increase, and 500 more for Millwall's visit last season.

ENTERTAINMENT: Another barnstormer from the Town - the football quality was very lively, but the result was much more important.

SHAMED: Millwall right back Gerard Lavin, formerly of Watford, reported to the police for spitting at Town fans. He should have had a plate of sandwiches thrown at him!

Luck evened out for Hatters

REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

LUTON TOWN 1 MILLWALL 0 (Half-time: 0-0)

It was a struggle, but you say, right, at the very least we will not concede and you hope someone nicks a goal. And sure enough, Dwight Marshall comes up with the goods.

So did Lawrence, once again making the substitutions that brought his record to 17 points out of the 21 on offer since he took over.

John Taylor and Graham Alexander were subbed to put Marshall and David Oldfield into the fray, and the pair repeated their magic act of the previous week, against Grimsby. Oldfield supplied the 84th-minute pass, and Marshall went racing for goal. Witter brought him down, got away with a booking, but still felt very aggrieved because the foul, as proved by video, was just outside the box, even though Marshall tumbled into it.

Boncho Guentchev, the Town's penalty expert, had been

taken off to enable Richard Harvey to strengthen the midfield defensive capability after the dismissal of Hughes.

But Thorpe, who took penalties regularly when he was in the reserves, cheerfully accepted the responsibility and hit the spot kick with enough power and accuracy to beat Kasey Keller, even though the American dived with the right way.

From then on it was a case of solid defence to protect the lead, with Mr Rushton adding four minutes and 50 seconds of stoppage time to give Millwall every chance of repeating their last-gasp success at the New Den in September.

But they never really threatened, with the covering so strong and solid that Ian Feuer was never called into serious action. Sadly, the same had been true of Keller, but Town fans had no complaints about that.

As Lawrence said, when he came to Luton there was a mountain to be climbed by a team that was bottom of the table. Now it's a hill.



STIFLED: Millwall concentrated on defence - they had eight men in their own penalty area as this cross was caught by goalkeeper Kasey Keller.



DEFENDER ATTACKS: Darren Patterson is airborne to power in a header from a corner, but Kasey Keller made a good save.

Two games could be off

THE TOWN could face two more league match postponements next month, because of cup-ties, with a possibility of two successive Saturdays without a game.

Brian Horton's Huddersfield have an FA Cup fifth round replay against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park next Wednesday, and if they win they will be away to Grimsby or Chelsea in the sixth round on March 9, which is



Norwegians flock to support Lennie

THE TOWN'S revival under Lennie Lawrence is as welcome on the other side of the North Sea as it is in Luton. The Supporters Club of Scandinavia this week reported that its membership has reached a record total, passing the 80 mark for the first time.

Thomas Moller, who runs it, has sent the latest issue of its fanzine. It is all in Norwegian, but a lot of the content has a familiar ring in this office - Mr Moller and several of his pals subscribe to the Luton News, and use it as the raw material for their articles, including match reports. They also now have direct contact with the dressing room, via Vidar Riseth and Johnny Vilstrup.

The front cover's main heading is also clear enough: Is Lawrence a new Houdini? One front-page "teaser" is about Wesley out, Lawrence in, and the other shows that the Norwegians well understand the importance of local rivalry: it gleefully reports that Riseth scored the only goal of the game when the reserves won at Watford. Front page news in Norway, and quite right too!

The Luton Town Supporters Club of Scandinavia has been going since 1991, but Mr Moller says: "Most of the members have been following Luton for several years before that. We have supporters over here who in fact then having a beer together with us as George Best after his Fulham trip. Luton back in 1976. Not to mention how many of us make the trip to Luton every season."

They are following the debate about the Town's new home and Mr Moller says: "We believe a Kholerod project would be a success, although it seems a bit unrealistic. Anyway, good luck David Kohler."

Lads need a good run-in for title

THE TOWN's youth side regained second place in the South East Counties League Division Two with a 3-2 home win over Wimbledon, but coach John Moore says his lads need a remarkable late-season run if they are to stand the title. Palace are ten points clear at the top, in a competition which awards two points for a win.

A goal at Newlands Road spoiled the match against Wimbledon. In a wind-assisted first half the Town led 2-1, and then had to defend carefully before going 3-1 up. Five minutes from time a Wimbledon long-ball attack made it a hairy finale: a midfielder took a poacher from 45 yards, and the wind carried the ball onto the bar, and it rebounded off Nathan Abbey's back into the net. Robert Keen, Steve Augustine and Stuart Douglas were the Town's scorers.

The boys are away to Brentford on Saturday.

SCOTT OAKES IS BACK IN TRAINING
MIDFIELDER Scott Oakes, who has missed three games with a back injury, was back in training yesterday, and could play a comeback game tonight, for the reserves at Charlton.

"He is looking pretty good, but is not yet ready for the league squad," said manager Lennie Lawrence. "I am thinking of giving him a game in the reserves, and if he gets through that OK he might have a chance of being considered for Saturday's game at Sunderland."

Luton Town's season at a glance....

DATE...	OPPONENTS...	RESULT...	SCORERS...	ATTENDANCE...	LEAGUE POSITION
ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE					
1995					
AUGUST					
13 Norwich	H	1-3 (Guentchev pen)	7,848 -		
19 Southend	A	1-0 (Thorpe)	4,630 -		
26 Leicester	H	1-1 (Hughes)	7,512 -	17	
29 Grimsby	A	0-0	4,289 -	10	
SEPTEMBER					
2 Derby	H	1-2 (Marshall)	6,427 -	17	
2 Reading	A	1-3 (Marshall)	8,550 -	20	
13 Millwall	A	0-0	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 W Brom	A	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 -	23	
11 Oldham	H	1-1 (Douglas)	6,047 -	23	
18 Birmingham	H	0-0	7,920 -	23	
21 Watford	A	1-1 (Davis)	10,042 -	23	
25 Barnsley	A	0-1	6,437 -	23	
DECEMBER					
2 Tranmere	H	3-2 (Marshall 2, McLaren)	6,025 -	23	
9 Wolves	H	2-1 (Guentchev)	6,997 -	24	
16 Portsmouth	A	0-4	7,012 -	24	
23 Huddersfield	A	2-2 (Marshall, Oldfield)	7,076 -	24	
1996					
JANUARY					
13 Southend	H	3-1 (Guentchev, Oakes 2)	566 -	24	
20 W Brom	A	0-0 (Guentchev pen)	12,474 -	23	
31 Sheff Utd	H	1-0 (Guentchev)	6,995 -	21	
FEBRUARY					
3 Leicester	A	1-1 (Thorpe)	14,821 -	21	
10 Grimsby	A	3-2 (Alexander, Guentchev, Marshall)	7,158 -	20	
MARCH					
17 Millwall	H	1-0 (Thorpe pen)	7,308 -	19	
21 Derby	A				
24 Sunderland	A				
27 Reading	H				
APRIL					
2 C. Palace	H				
5 Port Vale	A				
9 Huddersfield	A				
16 Port Vale	A				
23 Sheff Utd	A				
30 Ipswich	H				
MAY					
2 West Brom	A				
5 Charlton	A				
9 Stoke	A				
13 Birmingham	A				
20 Watford	A				
27 Barnsley	A				
4 Oldham	A				

APPEARANCES... GOALS

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

GOALS: Marshall 8, Guentchev 6 (three pens), Oakes 3; Thorpe 3 (1 pen). S Davis and Oldfield 2; Hughes, Harvey, Douglas Alexander and McLaren 1.

ASSISTS: Thorpe 5; Alexander 4; Marshall 3; Oakes, Guentchev, Harvey 2; Oldfield, Taylor, M Johnson, G Johnson, S Davis, Vistrup, Feuer, Hughes, Thomas and McLaren 1.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: S Davis 25; Harvey 24 (4); Johnson 24; Alexander 22 (1); Feuer 22; Marshall 21 (3); Hughes 19 (1); Waddock 17 (4); Oakes 15; James & Peake 14 (3); Guentchev 13 (7); Taylor 13 (4); Oldfield 12 (8); Thorpe 9 (7); McLaren 9; Patterson & Thomas 8 (2); Vistrup 6; Linton & Riseth 5 (2); K Davis 5; Douglas 1 (3); Woodsford 1 (2). Before transfers: G Johnson 5 (1); Sommer 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 & 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 sub by Alexander and Thorpe.

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

GOALS: Marshall 2, Guentchev 2 pens; Oakes, Taylor and Thorpe 1.

ASSISTS: Taylor 2; Hughes, Linton Marshall and Harvey 1.

APPEARANCES... GOALS

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

GOALS: Marshall 8, Guentchev 6 (three pens), Oakes 3; Thorpe 3 (1 pen). S Davis and Oldfield 2; Hughes, Harvey, Douglas Alexander and McLaren 1.

ASSISTS: Thorpe 5; Alexander 4; Marshall 3; Oakes, Guentchev, Harvey 2; Oldfield, Taylor, M Johnson, G Johnson, S Davis, Vistrup, Feuer, Hughes, Thomas and McLaren 1.

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FA CUP

GOAL: Marshall.

ASSIST: Guentchev.

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

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

GOALS: Marshall 2, Guentchev 2 pens; Oakes, Taylor and Thorpe 1.

ASSISTS: Taylor 2; Hughes, Linton Marshall and Harvey 1.

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GOAL: Marshall.

ASSIST: Guentchev.

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

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

GOALS: Marshall 2, Guentchev 2 pens; Oakes, Taylor and Thorpe 1.

ASSISTS: Taylor 2; Hughes, Linton Marshall and Harvey 1.

APPEARANCES... GOALS

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ASSIST: Guentchev.

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

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

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ASSISTS: Taylor 2; Hughes, Linton Marshall and Harvey 1.

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