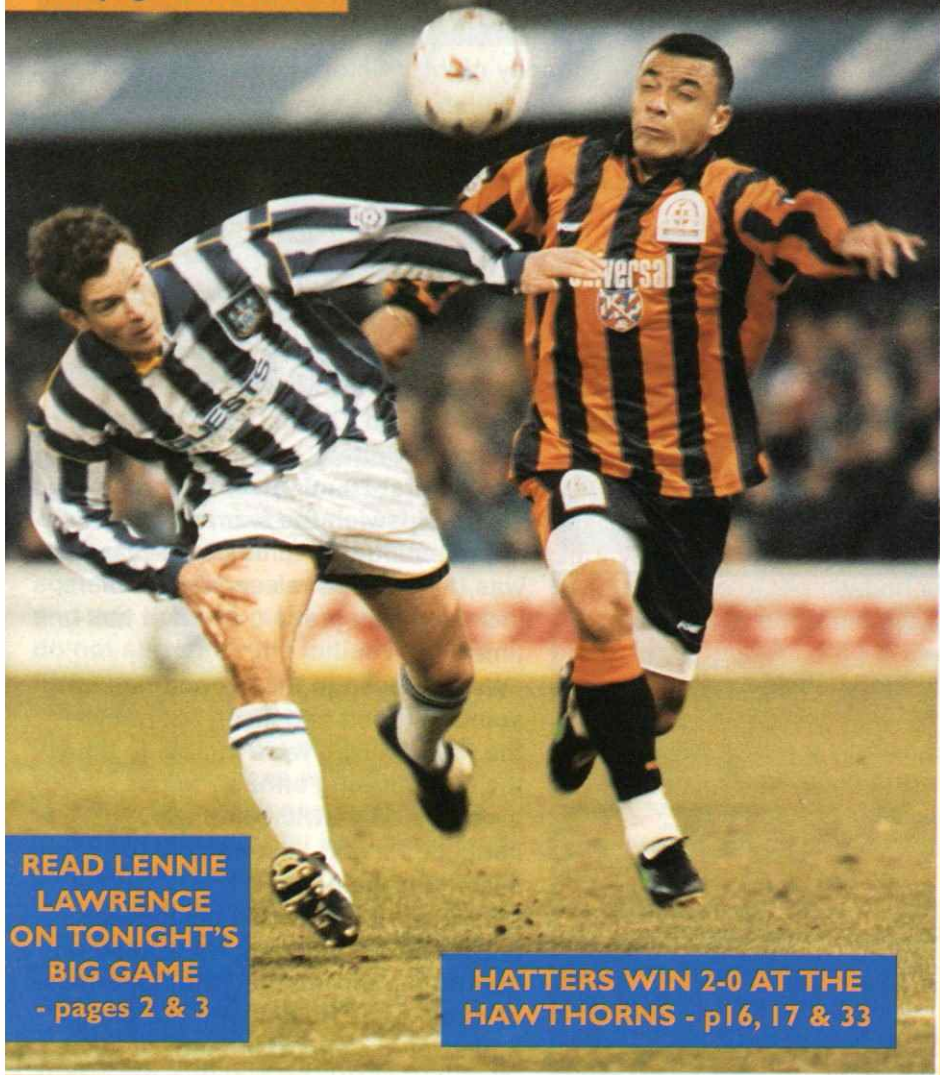


v STOKE CITY



**FourFourTwo
PROFILE OF NEW
SIGNING KIM GRANT**
- see pages 22 and 23

**LUTON UNIVERSITY'S
FINAL PLACE - page 39**



**READ LENNIE
LAWRENCE
ON TONIGHT'S
BIG GAME**
- pages 2 & 3

**HATTERS WIN 2-0 AT THE
HAWTHORNS - p16, 17 & 33**

LUTON TOWN

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1996, 7.45PM



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OUR PERFORMANCE AT WEST BROM WAS A MASSIVE BOOST TO ALL

LAST Tuesday night's victory against West Brom gave us all a much needed boost after the disappointment of the previous home game against Ipswich.

The result at Charlton was not known at the time of writing but if we have gained any sort of result, we will be going into tonight's game against Stoke with greater confidence that we did against Ipswich after three consecutive away defeats, at Huddersfield, Crystal Palace and Sheffield United.

In the first 20 minutes of the game against Ipswich the fear and apprehension of some of the players was there for all to see, and we were lucky to go in just 1-0 down at half-time.

We improved in the second half and scored a good equaliser, but not for the first time we were unable to hold the lead for long enough to put pressure on Ipswich, and we conceded a soft second goal to surrender the points.

In the period between the Ipswich and West Brom games we worked on getting the players into the right frame of mind, to be bolder with our tactics and strategy, and to attempt to take the game to West Brom which paid off.

We never looked in danger of defeat at the Hawthorns, and hopefully produced a similar performance against Charlton.

Tonight we welcome Stoke City, their players, officials and supporters. They have enjoyed an excellent run in



LEFT: Paul Wilkinson and Kim Grant up against West Brom duo Daryl Burgess (5) and Paul Raven (6) at the Hawthorns.

recent weeks and are genuine contenders for the play-offs.

Our last two home games, against Crystal Palace and Ipswich have been against sides in a similar situation, and this time we must make sure we do not surrender the initiative in the first period.

Playing those games a month apart did not help, but hopefully the last week's performances will have given us renewed confidence and optimism. We must be bold and brave and play our football.

We have to be strong enough mentally, we are certainly good enough physically, and after tonight's game we have six fixtures left most of which are winnable.

However, first and foremost we need to banish the spectre of the last two home performances and a win tonight would set up a grandstand finale.

There is a lot of talent at this club, and supporters can be sure that the players care about what happens. But

what everybody has to realise is that we are in a battle, and players must accept that you have to fight for survival.

At this stage of the season and in the position we find ourselves it is about heart, about being brave, about being hard, as well as about playing good football.

Other clubs are in a similar position, but we can't keep depending on other results, we have got to do it ourselves. Our position now is as it was when I came. It looked impossible then, but we turned things round and put a good run together. We have done it once, and we must do it again.

As I said to the press after the game at the Hawthorns: "It's not over until the fat lady sings..... she was climbing up to the podium, but now she has sat down again."

Try to get behind the team from the start rather than wait for us to give you cause to cheer.



Luton Town Football Club
Kenilworth Road Stadium,
1, Maple Road,
Luton, Beds LU4 8AW.
Tel: (01582) 411622
Fax: (01582) 405070
Ticket Office: (01582) 416976
Clubcall: 0891 121 123

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ARICS

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N.S. Terry

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C. Bygraves,
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J. Sapsworth.

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First-Team Coach:
Wayne Turner

Player Coach/Reserves:
Trevor Peake

Youth Team Coach:
John Moore

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Clive Goodyear

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Peter Saul

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Press Officer/P.R.O.:
Simon Oxley

AROUND THE TOWN



LEFT: West Brom keeper Stuart Naylor beats Bontcho Guentchev to this first-half cross at The Hawthorns

The final countdown!

WEST BROM

April 9 Leicester (A)
 April 13 Grimsby (H)
 April 20 Norwich (A)
 April 27 Sund'land (A)
 April 30 Barnsley (A)
 May 5 Derby (H)

MILLWALL

April 10 Birmingham (H)
 April 13 Hudd T (A)
 April 20 Oldham (H)
 April 27 Stoke (H)
 May 5 Ipswich (A)

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sunderland	39	20	13	6	55	31	73
Derby County	40	18	14	8	59	44	68
Crystal Palace	40	17	15	8	60	44	66
Charlton Athletic	38	16	14	8	52	41	62
Ipswich Town	38	16	11	11	69	55	59
Huddersfield T	39	15	11	13	53	50	56
Leicester City	39	14	13	12	55	56	55
Stoke City	37	14	12	11	48	41	54
Southend Utd	40	14	12	14	47	52	54
Barnsley	39	13	14	12	53	59	53
Port Vale	37	13	13	11	48	47	52
Wolves	38	13	12	13	52	50	51
Birmingham City	39	13	12	14	52	52	51
Norwich City	40	12	13	15	51	48	49
Tranmere R	38	12	12	14	51	48	48
Sheffield Utd	40	12	12	16	47	51	48
Grimsby Town	38	12	12	14	44	53	48
Millwall	40	12	12	16	39	55	48
Portsmouth	40	11	12	17	56	63	45
West Brom	39	12	9	18	48	61	45
Reading	38	9	16	13	44	52	43
Oldham Ath	38	10	12	16	46	45	42
LUTON TOWN	38	10	10	18	34	50	40
Watford	38	6	16	16	43	58	34

Table up to and including Tuesday, April 2, 1996.

READING

April 8 C Palace (H)
 April 13 Barnsley (A)
 April 16 Watford (A)
 April 20 Charlton (H)
 April 27 Sheff Utd (H)
 April 30 Wolves (H)
 May 5 Birmingham (A)

LUTON

April 9 Stoke (H)
 April 13 Birmingham (A)
 April 20 Watford (H)
 April 23 Port Vale (A)
 April 27 Barnsley (H)
 April 30 Port Vale (H)
 May 5 Oldham (A)

GRIMSBY

April 8 Ipswich (H)
 April 13 West Brom (A)
 April 16 Port Vale (A)
 April 20 SheffUtd (H)
 April 23 Watford (A)
 April 27 Tranmere (H)
 May 5 Barnsley (A)

OLDHAM

April 8 Port Vale (A)
 April 13 Wolves (H)
 April 17 Leicester (A)
 April 20 Millwall (A)
 April 27 Southend (A)
 April 30 Stoke (H)
 May 5 Luton (H)

WATFORD

April 8 Southend (A)
 April 13 Port Vale (H)
 April 16 Reading (H)
 April 20 Luton (A)
 April 23 Grimsby (H)
 April 27 Norwich (A)
 May 5 Derby (H)

SHEFF UTD

April 8 Portsmouth (A)
 April 13 Sunderland (H)
 April 20 Grimsby (A)
 April 27 Reading (A)
 May 5 Port Vale (H)

FRONT COVER: Kim Grant tests the West Brom defence during our 2-0 win last Tuesday. (Picture: ANDY HANDLEY)

Luton Town FC Matchday Programme
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LEADING THE LINE

by Club Captain STEVE DAVIS



LEFT: Darren Patterson in the thick of the action at Sheffield United



AFTER the disappointment of that home defeat by Ipswich we all knew the importance of last Tuesday's game against West Brom, and responded with a tremendous performance.

Against Ipswich we never really recovered from letting in an early goal, although I thought we were unlucky not to snatch an equaliser late on.

But at the Hawthorns we struck first with Bontcho's header, before sealing the points in the closing minutes with Kim Grant's goal.

Kim has made an immediate impact, and looks to be forming a useful partnership with Paul Wilkinson up front.

Having played against Paul, I know he is a very tough and experienced centre-forward, who commands a lot of respect from opposing defences.

But both he and Kim were required for some defensive duty at West Brom, as it was 'all hands on deck' as the Baggies threw everything at us in the second period.

We withstood a lot of pressure, and when West Brom did get through, Ian Feuer once again provided a reliable last line of defence.

We travelled to Charlton on Friday in confident mood, and now look forward to this evening's game against Stoke.

We will be looking to avenge a 5-0 beating at the Victoria Ground back in November, but unfortunately yours truly will not be in action tonight because of suspension.

I will also be missing for the game at Birmingham on Saturday which is frustrating to say the least. But we have strength-in-depth, and

Marvin is likely to return after injury to play alongside Darren Patterson in the centre of defence.

The three of us have worked well in various combinations through the season, and Darren has enjoyed a good spell of late.

He certainly enjoyed his return to the international stage with Northern Ireland, and his goal in the B game against Norway.

We need an independent witness though to back-up Darren's version of a diving header from 35 yards out!

Clarets' character collection

TOWN skipper Steve Davis will be featured in a new book to be produced by his former club Burnley.

The second division club have announced that they are to publish a comprehensive biographical study and statistical record of every player to have appeared in a competitive first team game for the Clarets since 1945.

This publication will commemorate 50 years of league football at Turf Moor since the end of the Second World War and will feature nearly 350 players, together with every manager.

'The Clarets Collection 1946-1996', has been written by the club's official historian Ray Simpson.

Keep up-to-date with all the news from Kenilworth Road on
LUTON TOWN CLUBCALL 0891 121 123

Steve Davis

FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR with Cherry Newbery



OUR match here against Watford on Saturday, April 20, has now been confirmed as all-ticket for all supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game.

See page 9 (opposite) for full details, and a reminder that Saturday's game at Birmingham is also all-ticket for Luton supporters.

We have now re-arranged all our outstanding reserve team matches, but there is one further youth team fixture to tell you about.

That is the semi-final of the Eastern Junior Cup, on Wednesday, April 24, kick-off 7.45pm, when we travel to Wivenhoe.

We will be hosting a number of matches here in May, starting with the final of the Beds Senior Cup on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6.

Bedford Town and Barton Rovers will contest the final, which kicks-off at 2pm. Ticket details will be confirmed shortly.

Then on Friday, May 10, we are delighted to be hosting the Under 18 English Schools FA international between England and Wales.

Kick-off is 7.15pm, and there is the possibility

of our youth team striker Andrew Fotiadis being included in the England side.

Tickets are £5 for adults, which includes one free child if required, £3 for children, and £3 for senior citizens and students. These tickets are available from the Kenilworth Road ticket office.

On Sunday, May 12, we are hosting a charity match in aid of the Luton YMCA, between the Luton All Stars and a team of Chiltern Radio DJs, kick-off 2pm.

Tickets are £5 for a family ticket (two adults and two juniors), £3 for adults and £2.50 concessions. Tickets must be purchased before the day of the game, and are available from the ticket office, the YMCA office, and from Chiltern Radio.

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated to our bucket collection at the Ipswich game, which raised £424 for the Beds Olympic Appeal.

LES MILLER, our club runner for the Flora London Marathon's Football Challenge on April 21, is certainly going through the pain barrier in preparation for the big race.

Les was three miles into a 15-mile training run, when a hungry albatross took a fancy to his leg, and he spent the next three hours in Bedford Hospital.

He assumes the dog must have been from Watford (!) but is able to carry on with his training programme, and is confident of lining up on April 21.

Les will be lining up on the London startline with runners from 100 other football clubs from the FA Carling Premiership, Endsleigh and Scottish Premier leagues to tackle the 26.2 mile course.

He is raising funds for the Luton and South Beds Hospice, and anyone who would like to sponsor him can either see Les, or contact Simon Oxley at Luton Town Football Club.

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Bobbers Travel Club - Coach Travel Price List 1995/96

Date	Destination	Adult	Child/OAP	Cranfield	Luton
Sat Apr 13	Birmingham	£7.00	£5.50	10.30am	11.30am
Tue Apr 23	Port Vale	£8.00	£6.50	2.30pm	3.30pm
Sun May 5 (or Sat May 4)	Oldham	£11.00	£9.00	8.30am	9.30am

Please note: Coaches from Cranfield also pick-up in Marston Moretaine, Stewartby, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning, and opposite the Luton Gateway Hotel, before departing from the junction of Hazelbury Crescent and Kenilworth Road.

You can book a place on the coaches in a number of ways:

- 1) From the ticket kiosk in the Kenilworth Road turnstiles. See Paul Deason before any Saturday first-team home match between 2.15 and 2.45pm. (No bookings taken at midweek matches).
- 2) On the return journey from the previous away game.
- 3) Telephone Paul Deason on Bedford (01234) 750996



LUTON TOWN TICKET OFFICE NEWS

Birmingham City v Luton Town

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, April 13, 1996, kick-off 3pm

This is an ALL-TICKET match for Luton supporters, and there will be no tickets available on the day at Birmingham.

Tickets, priced £12 (no concessions), are available at **ONE** per Season Ticket Holder only until 4pm on Thursday, April 4, subject to availability. Members will be able to purchase one ticket each (subject to availability) from Friday, April 5, at 10am until Friday, April 12 at 4pm.

(The ticket office will be open on Saturday, April 13, from 10am to 11.30am for the sale of other match tickets).

Luton Town v Watford

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, April 20, 1996, kick-off 3pm

THIS MATCH IS NOW AN ALL-TICKET MATCH. NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH.

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal league prices. Normal guesting facilities apply.

Port Vale v Luton Town

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Tuesday, April 23, 1996, kick-off 7.45pm

Pay on the night only at Port Vale. Seats only for Luton fans, priced at £10 (no concessions).

Luton Town v Barnsley

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, April 27, 1996, kick-off 3pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale at the discounted price. Normal guesting facilities apply.

Luton Town v Port Vale

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Tuesday, April 30, 1996, kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale at the discounted price. Normal guesting facilities apply.

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 10am-4pm. Saturday (matchdays): 9am-3pm and 4.45-5.15pm

Saturdays (non matchdays): Subject to change. Please contact ticket office on 416976

Good Friday, April 5 - 10am to 12 noon. Easter Saturday, April 6 - 9 to 11am. Easter Sunday, April 7 - Closed.

Easter Monday, April 8 - 10am to 2pm. Tuesday, April 9 - 10am to kick-off, and after match.

For bookings, membership and enquiries, ring the Ticket Office direct on (01582) 416976. Supporters wishing to order by credit card can do so by using the 24-hour credit card hotline on (01582) 30748

Travelling to...

Birmingham City

Address: St Andrew's Ground,
Birmingham, B9 4NH.
Tel: (0121) 772 0101

Take M1 north and M6 north, exiting M6 at junction 6 (Spaghetti Junction) and take A38M Aston Expressway. Exit Expressway after 1.1 miles, and at roundabout turn left onto Dartmouth Middleway. After 1.5 miles take left into St Andrew's Street for ground. An alternative route is M1 then M45 and A45 via Coventry.

Port Vale

Address: Vale Park, Burslem,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 1AW.
Tel: (01782) 814134

Take M1 north to M6, then M6 north exiting at junction 15. Take A5006 and A500 to Stoke, branching left after approximately 6 miles. Take first exit at roundabout onto A50. Turn right after a quarter of a mile, into Newcastle Street, and at end cross into Morland Road. Then left into Hamil Road for ground, where car parking is available.

Directions courtesy of AA.

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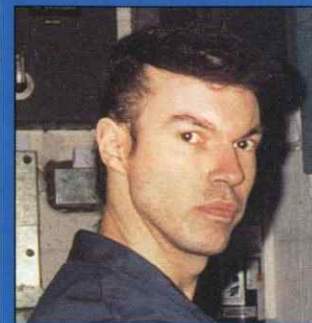


Endsleigh



WORLDWIDE HATTERS

LUTON TOWN FAN FILE



Name: WAYNE GELL
Age: 32
Area I live: Hemel Hempstead.
The first time I saw Luton play: *At home to Liverpool in 1983.*
Best Luton player I have seen: *David Moss - a quality crosser of the ball.*
If I had unlimited funds, which player would I buy for Luton, and why: *Jose Bakero of Spain, a superb passer whose skills would fill the ground.*
Best game ever seen: *Watford 2 Luton 2 in the FA Cup in the 1980s.*
My favourite away ground, and why: *Newcastle United's St James Park - an incredible atmosphere.*
One new football law I'd introduce: *No sendings off - making sides uneven totally ruins the game.*
What I like about Kenilworth Road: *Easy access to the Main Stand from both sides of the ground.*
And dislike: *No stand on the Bobbers side.*

Would you like to appear here? If so, simply copy out the questions, complete your answers and enclose a passport style photo, and send to: Fanfile, c/o Programme Editor, LTFC.



ABOVE: Hatters fan Wayne Southam, from Heath and Reach, celebrated his 21st birthday recently, after battling against the odds to reach that landmark age.

He survived a car crash 11 years ago which left him severely handicapped, but with the support of family and friends he still follows the fortunes of his favourite team.

Before the game against Ipswich, we were delighted to present Wayne with a team poster, a scarf, and a birthday card signed by the Hatters players, with Ian Feuer making the special presentation.



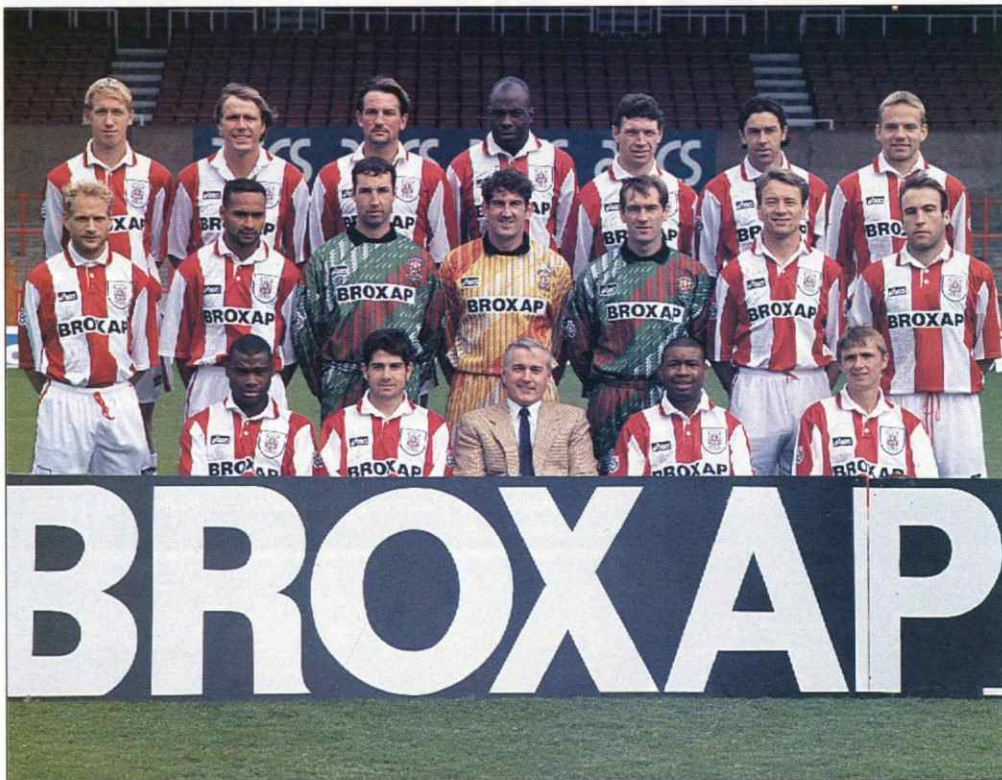
ABOVE: Pictured on holiday at the Grand Canyon in March this year, are father and son Brian and Tony Bridge, from Ampthill.

If you would like to be featured in the Luton Town matchday programme, send your picture to Simon Oxley, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW.

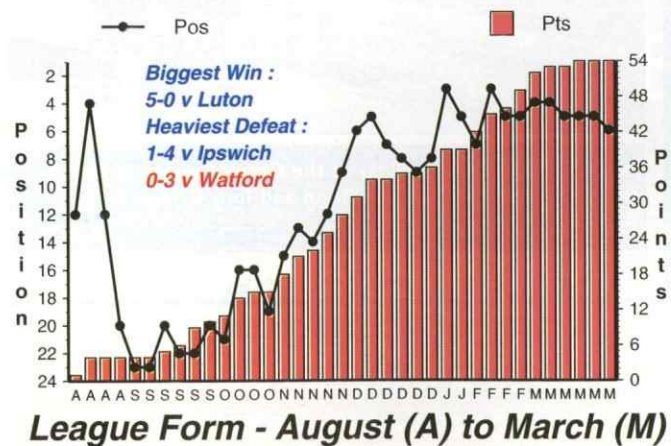


STOKE CITY 1995/96

Spotlight on today's visitors



ABOVE: Stoke City's first-team squad for the 1995/96 season.



LEFT: Stoke's league form this season

Graphics by FOOTBALL INFORMATION SERVICES (Stoke stats from season 1995/96). Due to Easter printing deadlines, stats do not include matches played since last weekend.

MARK PRUDHOE - Much travelled goalkeeper who started his career at Sunderland. Had a lengthy spell at Darlington, playing 146 league games, before moving to the Potteries for £120,000 in the summer of 1993.

IAN CLARKSON - Right-back signed from Birmingham City for £40,000, who can play anywhere in the back four or in midfield.

LEE SANDFORD - Left-back, and former England youth international, who joined Stoke from Portsmouth for £140,000 in December 1989.

KEVIN KEEN - Experienced midfielder who became manager Lou Macari's record signing when he was bought for £300,000 from Wolves in October 1994. Started his career with West Ham, and joined Wolves from Upton Park for £600,000 in July 1993.

CARL BEESTON - Locally-born midfielder who joined Stoke as an apprentice, but who has been dogged by injury in recent seasons.

NIGEL GLEGHORN - Midfielder who joined Stoke from Birmingham for £100,000, having been part of Lou Macari's Leyland DAF Cup winning squad at St Andrews. Formerly with Ipswich and Manchester City.

RAY WALLACE - Started his career at Southampton before moving to Leeds with his brother Rod. Joined Stoke at the start of last season on a free transfer.

LARUS SIGURDSSON - Despite not breaking into the team until midway through last season, he won four of the five supporters clubs awards. Joined Stoke from Thor Sports Club in Akureyi, Iceland.

VINCE OVERSON - Central defender and Stoke captain, formerly with Burnley and Birmingham, joining from the latter for £55,000.

IAN CRANSON - With Overson provides experience at the heart of the Stoke defence. Former England Under 21 international who started his career with Ipswich. Moved to Sheffield Wednesday, and was a club record signing for Stoke of £480,000 in 1989.

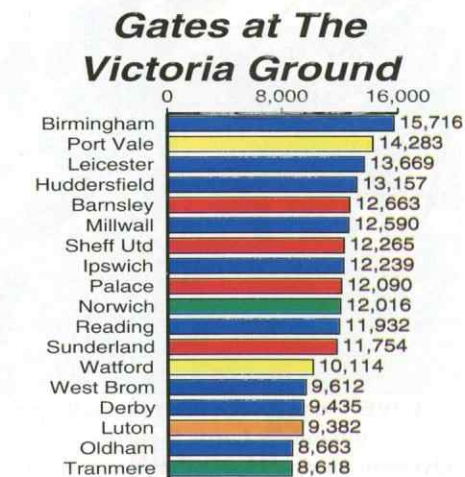
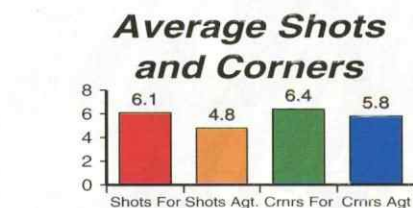
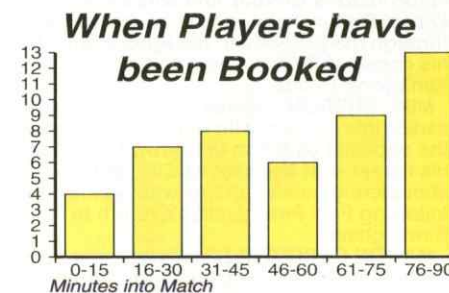
(Continued on page 14).



LEFT: Mike Sheron



RIGHT: Vince Overson



Today's visitors

STOKE CITY 1995/96

RONNIE SINCLAIR - Much travelled goalkeeper who joined Stoke from Bristol City, having previously been at Leeds.

CARL MUGGLETON - Third keeper at the Victoria Ground, who is currently on loan at Sheffield United.

GRAHAM POTTER - Signed from Birmingham in a player exchange deal.

JUSTIN WHITTLE - Defender who was signed from Celtic with Gary Holt - the pair having been bought to Parkhead by Lou Macari from the army. Holt has since returned to Scotland.

JOHN DREYER - Former Luton Town skipper who joined Stoke on a free transfer at the start of last season. Was sent off in last season's fixture at the Victoria Ground, and ended the season on loan at Bolton, helping the Lancashire side through the play-offs to the Premiership. Started his career at Oxford, and was a popular player at Kenilworth Road.

MIKE SHERON - Joined Stoke from Norwich earlier this season, with Keith Scott heading in the opposite direction to Carrow Road. Started his career with Manchester City, and is shouldering striking duties with Simon Sturridge following Paul Peschisolido's return to Birmingham.

MARTIN CARRUTHERS - Striker who scored against the Hatters at the Victoria Ground last season.

SIMON STURRIDGE - Signed from Birmingham City in September 1993 for £75,000. Brother of Derby striker Dean who scored twice here earlier this season.



ABOVE: Vidar Riseth finds himself up against defenders Larus Sigurdsson and Vince Overson, during November's match at Stoke.

Meet the Manager



LOU MACARI was capped 24 times by Scotland, during a distinguished playing career at Celtic and Manchester United.

He won three League Championships and two Scottish Cups with the Glasgow side, and collected an FA Cup winners' medal with Tommy Docherty's United in 1977.

He is now in his second spell at the Victoria Ground, having returned in September 1994, having previously been in charge in 1991/92.

As a manager he has also taken the reins at Celtic, Swindon, West Ham and Birmingham.

He is assisted at the Victoria Ground by coaches Chic Bates, former Town defender Ashley Grimes, and Mike Pejic.



LEFT: Graham Potter

RIGHT: Larus Sigurdsson

A Hatter and a Potter....

The third in a line of footballing Stein brothers who have played in the Football League, **MARK STEIN** joined the Town as a junior, signing professional in January 1984.

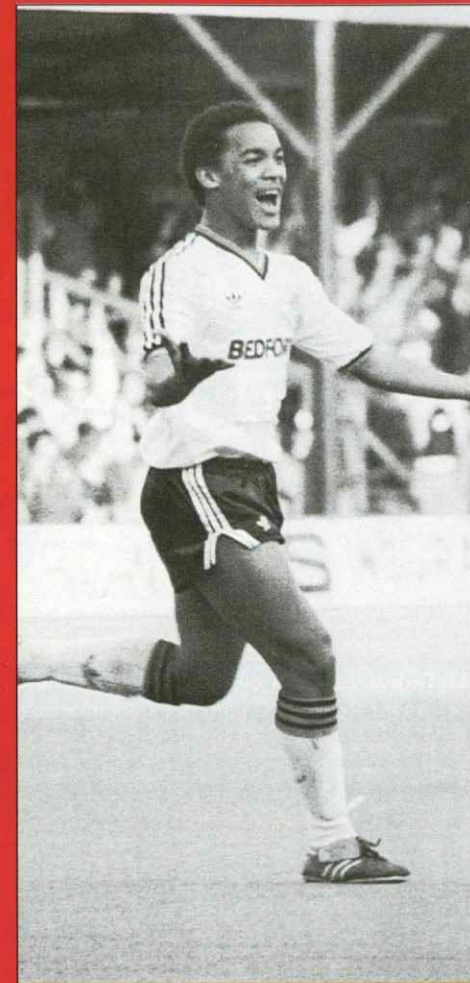
His first team debut was not long in coming when he appeared as striker in the 3-0 home defeat by Everton in April 1984, replacing the suspended Paul Walsh.

After this baptism he made only intermittent appearances over the next couple of seasons, and had a spell on loan at Aldershot to give him further experience.

Mark came into his own when he deputised for the injured Mick Harford in 1986/87 and scored a creditable eight goals in 21 appearances before becoming leading League scorer for the Town in the following season.

Surprisingly transferred to QPR in the summer of 1988 for £300,000 he lasted only one season in west London before enjoying two years at Oxford.

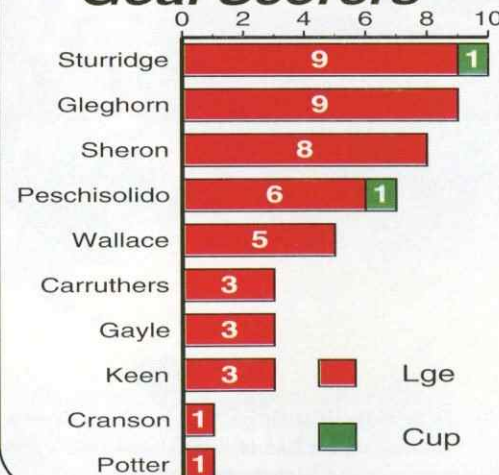
He moved to Stoke in 1991, after a period on loan at the Victoria Ground, and became a crowd favourite in the Potteries before his inevitable move back into the Premiership with Chelsea. - **ROGER WASH.**



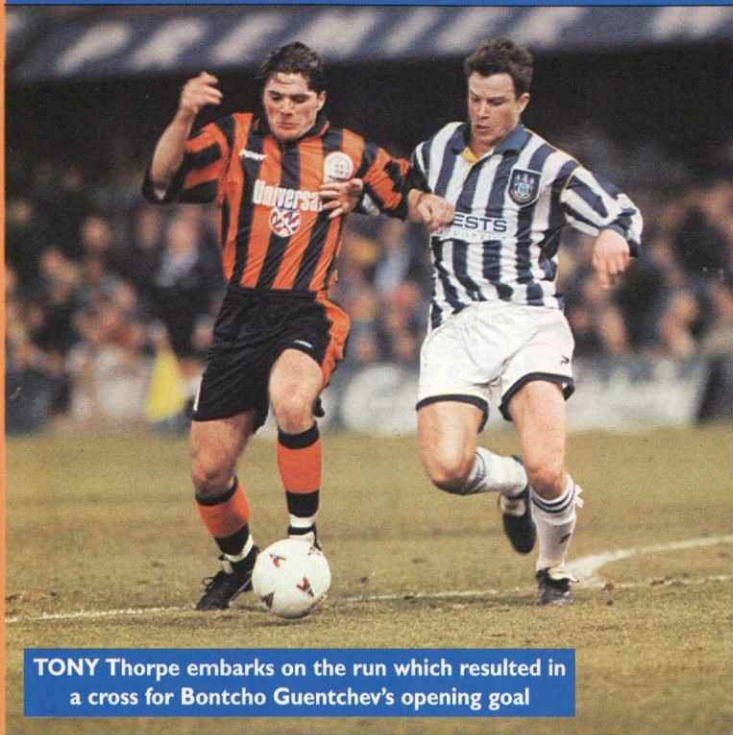
How 48 Goals have been Scored



Goal Scorers

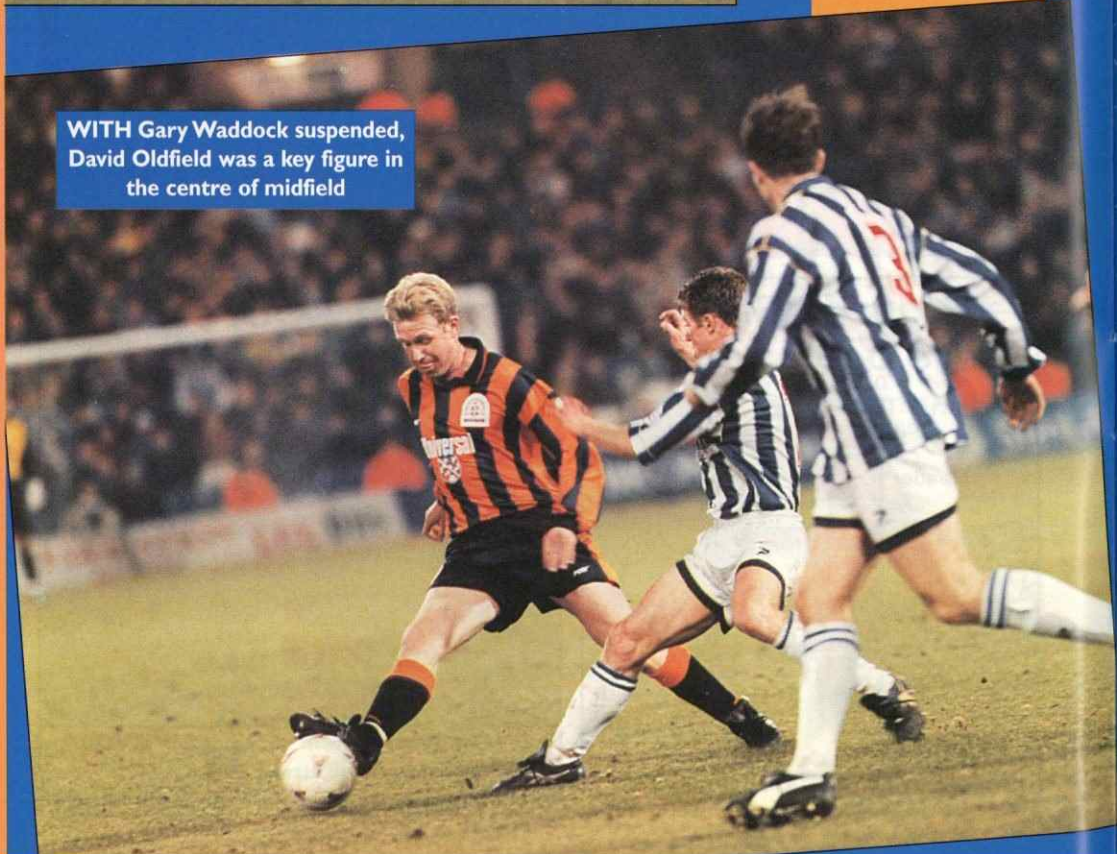


WEST BROM v LUTON TOWN

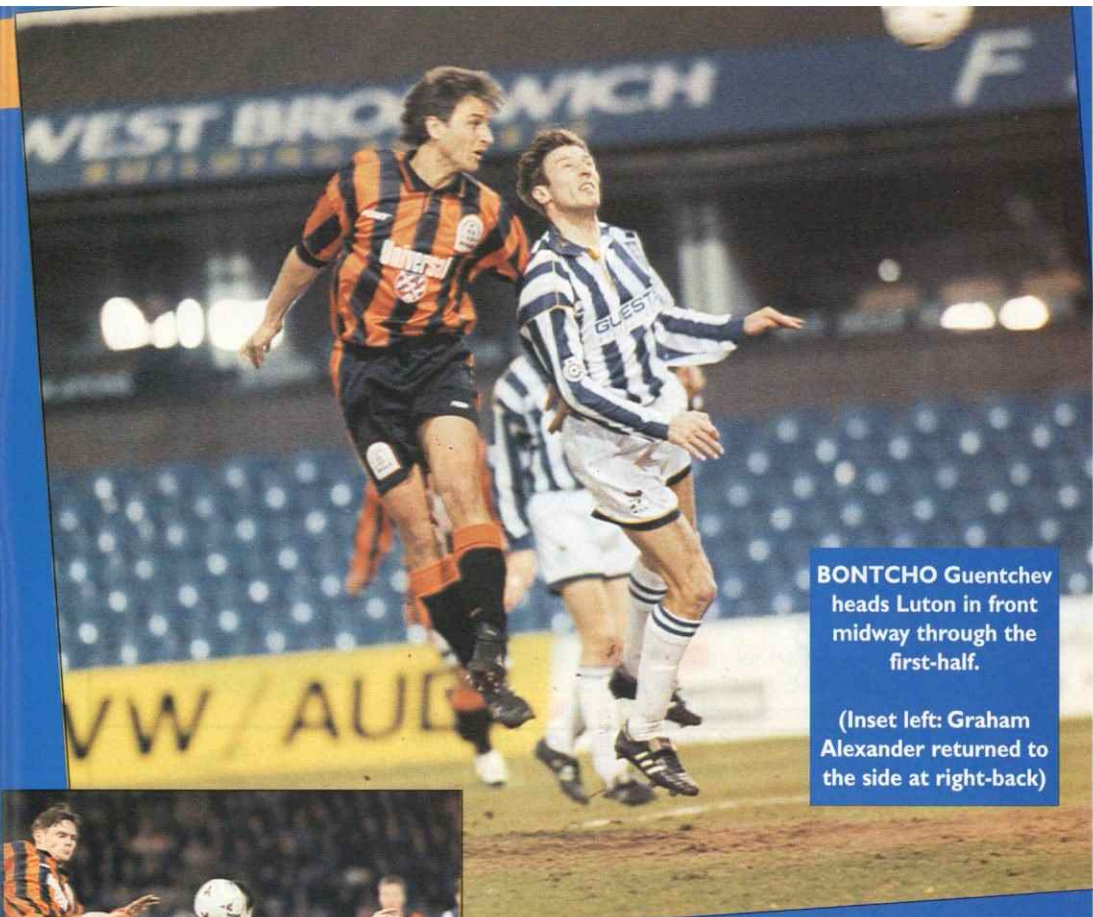


TONY Thorpe embarks on the run which resulted in a cross for Bontcho Guentchev's opening goal

From
The Hawthorns
Date
April 2, 1996
Result
WBA 0
Luton Town 2 (Guentchev, Grant)
Attendance: 15,131
Pictures by ANDY HANDLEY

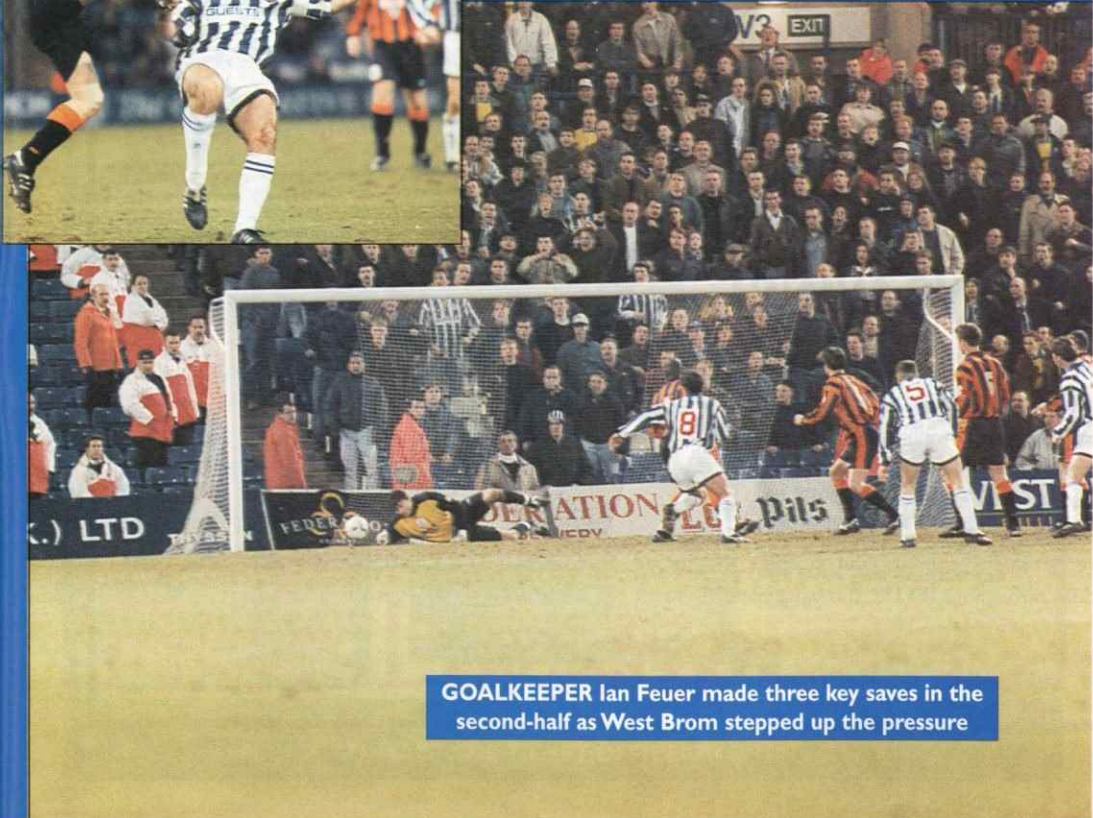


WITH Gary Waddock suspended, David Oldfield was a key figure in the centre of midfield



BONTCHO Guentchev heads Luton in front midway through the first-half.

(Inset left: Graham Alexander returned to the side at right-back)



GOALKEEPER Ian Feuer made three key saves in the second-half as West Brom stepped up the pressure

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VERNONS



LOOK out for Happy Harry badges which are now available in the Club Shop, priced at £2.50.

HARRY OF THE HATTERS

BOOK NOW FOR OUR END-OF-SEASON DISCO

THE Junior Hatters end-of-season disco will take place on Wednesday, May 8, at the Holy Ghost Church Hall, Westbourne Road, Luton.

Luton players will be there, and of course we will be announcing the winner of the Junior Hatters Player of the Season Award (kindly sponsored by GSB Tyre Services)..... so don't forget to send your votes in by April 27, on the voting slips sent out with the March newsletter.

Tickets for the disco, from 6.30 to 8.30pm, are £2.50, and are available from the Kenilworth Road ticket office. Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you to everyone who came with us to Charlton last week, and don't forget there are still places available for the trip to Birmingham this Saturday, April 13.

The cost for this trip is £8 for Junior Hatters and £10 for adults, which includes coach fare and match ticket. It is advisable to take a packed lunch with you, and please book early at the Club Shop.

Also, please book early for the Saturday Club for the game against Watford, on April 20, when we will be playing football against the Junior Hornets.

MATCH DAY MASCOT



Name: Steven Betts
Age: 13
School: Stopsley High School
Other hobbies: Tennis
Favourite Luton player: Ian Feuer and Steve Davis
Local team that I play for: Sacred Heart
Attends matches with: My Dad



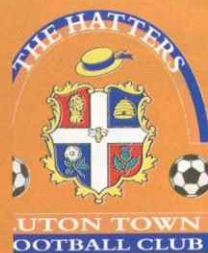
ELEVEN-year-old David Knightley, from Priory Middle School, was our Junior Hatters mascot against Ipswich.

He is pictured above at the pre-match line-up with captains and officials, and left with goalkeeper Ian Feuer.

**FOR ALL DETAILS ABOUT THE JUNIOR HATTERS
PLEASE CONTACT THE TICKET OFFICE ON (01582) 416976**

OVER THE BAR!

Drink a toast to the Hatters in the following pubs...

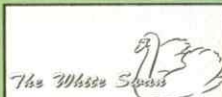


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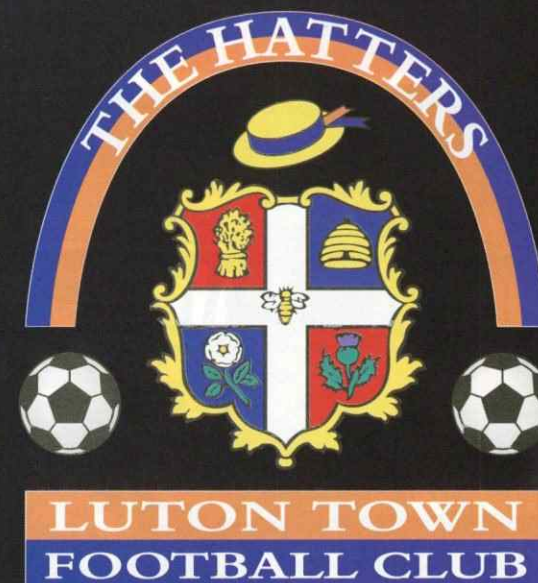
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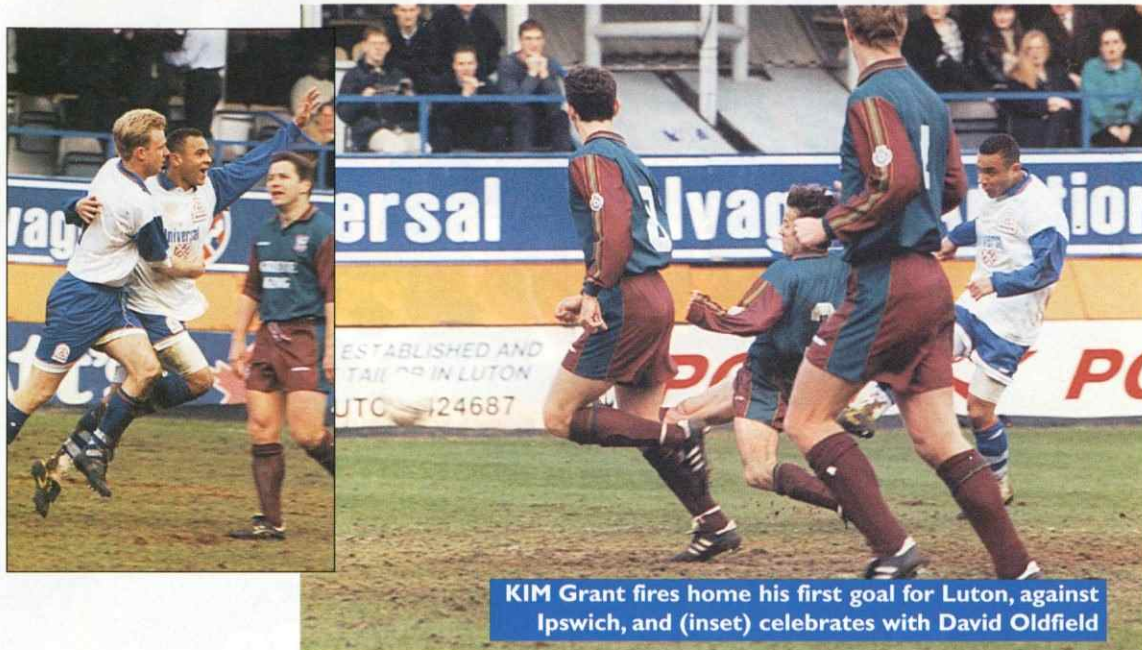
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PONY™

INTRODUCING LUTON'S £250,000 SIGNING KIM GRANT



KIM Grant fires home his first goal for Luton, against Ipswich, and (inset) celebrates with David Oldfield

KIM GRANT joined Luton from Charlton Athletic for £250,000, the day before the transfer deadline for the current season.

He made his debut against Ipswich, and scored just after half-time with a right foot shot from the edge of the area, justifying Lennie Lawrence's faith in the striker who also scored when the now Luton manager gave him his debut for Charlton back in 1991.

The following article, by OLIVIA BLAIR, is reproduced from this month's FOUR FOUR TWO magazine, with the publishers' kind permission. It was of course written before news of his impending departure broke.

Dressed as Kim Grant is, head to foot in black, you'd think he was in mourning. Which, in a sense, he is. It's the morning after the night before when Ghana had been trounced by South Africa in the African Nations Cup, and Grant, whose great great grandfather was president of Ghana, is 'gutted for them. I wish I'd been there'.

He hasn't been back to the south-western town of Sekondi-Takaradi in Ghana where he was born since his family was forced to leave during a military coup when he was ten. He longs to return but knows he wouldn't be where he is today - a key member of a Charlton side strongly fancied for promotion - if hadn't left:

'We used to play in the shanty towns, bare-footed on gravel, with plastic bags tied up with rope as balls, but only for fun. My father was in timber, I had no idea football could be a profession.'

He's a shy character, but eager for his share of a spotlight usually reserved for the likes of Lee Bowyer and Richard Rufus. And although he's had some pretty happy times at the Valley since signing YTS forms at 16, there have been occasions when he must have wished he was

falling trees rather than playing football.

In particular during the 1993/94 season when he couldn't put a foot right. Even his trusty right foot. 'The fans really got on my back after I missed a wide open goal against Notts County. I felt totally unwanted. Lennie Lawrence gave me my chance and it was hard when Steve Gritt and Alan Curbishley came because they wanted their own players and I felt I just got picked because of injuries. I was so nervous on the ball that I played best away from home where there was no pressure. When things aren't going for you you can hear the crowd abuse in stereo; when it's going well you hear nothing.'

But fans are notoriously fickle creatures. And the same fans who had been quick to condemn Grant had no qualms in championing him for his December brace against rivals Millwall and his FA Cup strike against Sheffield Wednesday. When the Valley rose, to a man, to give him a standing ovation after his performance against West Brom, their turnaround was complete.

So he's feeling really good right now. Really wanted. 'I was injured for Barnsley away yet came back into the side for the next match as if I was an automatic choice. Before it was always in the back of my mind that I'd be dropped however well I played. Now I've got eight in 16 games and am keeping last season's top scorer (David Whyte) on the bench. I must be doing something right.'

Yet he's still on the transfer list (at his own request), still unsure of getting the nod before Carl Leaburn, David Whyte or Garry Nelson. 'Curbs said he wanted me to stay but I'm desperate for first-team action. Keith Peacock (the reserve-team coach) told me to be patient and work as hard as I could, even in the reserves, because you never know who's in the stands watching.'

He looked for his family in the stands when he scored against Wednesday. 'It was just a blur of faces. But I was

so happy. I'd cost nothing yet scored against a team that cost millions. It was a great buzz.' His goal bore all the hallmarks of a classic Grant goal: pace, strength on the ball, confidence: 'I didn't have to think about it, just knew where I was going to put it.'

All strikers thrive on confidence but you sense that Grant does more than most. This is a player who buys the South London Press daily on the way to training with Steve Brown and John Robinson 'to see what marks we've got'; who says the best thing in football is 'scoring when you've not scored for ages - your shoulders just lift up'; and who stormed off after being substituted against West Brom: 'The others got the applause, I felt left out. It sounds childish but it meant a lot to me.'

Curbishley understands Grant's 'need to be reassured, even when he's playing well' - but won't make a special case for a striker who 'needs to hit the target more often from scoring positions. He's desperate to establish himself but he's got competition and it's up to him to respond to it. Like the team he can afford the odd hiccup but he's on the edge and needs to keep plugging away'.

Grant sounds like a football manager's equivalent of a problem child. 'He's up and down,' says Curbishley. 'If he'd scored a hat-trick the night before you wouldn't know it in the morning. I've told him to walk around the dressing room as if he believes he's in the team on merit.'

But these days the ups last longer than the downs as Charlton continue to play with a swagger that suits Grant's style. 'Before we were playing to Carl Leaburn's strengths, now we're playing to the whole team's. We feel we could beat anyone. And there's a great camaraderie which translates onto the pitch.'

Grant's currently known as Paul Parker around the Valley: he scored a goal like Parker's against Reading in training recently. Leaburn prefers to call him Shinboah, a tongue-in-cheek variation on Grant's countryman Tony Yeboah, a player whose power and skill he admires.

But his real heroes are Pele and Romario. He's got a good couple of inches on Romario but shares the same low centre of gravity and bustling style as the Brazilian star. And the need to be Number One - if you've never seen Grant lay you'll recognise him by the shirt hanging outside the shorts, the small feet (just size seven) and the characteristic white strips he wears round his ankles: 'OK so they're a fashion statement, but I like to be noticed, different. I'm not arrogant but I want to be the best, want to play against the best. I have to think like that.'

In the May issue of FOUR FOUR TWO, on sale now, the 'On The Bench' feature is with Town manager Lennie Lawrence, compiled at a recent home game at Kenilworth Road.

Keep up-to-date with all the news on
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ABOVE: Kim Grant pictured during his days at Charlton Athletic.

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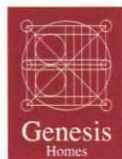
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INJURY UPDATE..... with LTFC physio Clive Goodyear



CERI Hughes has seen a specialist following the torn thigh muscle which has ruled him out for the remainder of the season.

The specialist has decided against an operation so the muscle will be allowed to heal on its own, as time is on our side with the end of the season just a month away.

Marvin Johnson returned to the first team as a substitute at West Brom, and was due to play a full game for the reserves at Arsenal on Wednesday following his ankle injury.

Julian James took a bad knock on the ankle against Ipswich but hopefully he was fit to resume on Friday at Charlton.

There is no further news yet of **Dwight Marshall**, while **Aaron Skelton** is making good progress with his knee injury.



ABOVE: Bontcho Guentchev goes down under a heavy challenge at West Brom.

-THE- GATEWAY Sunday GETAWAY

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WIN TICKETS FOR YOUR JUNIOR TEAM

THE winners of our Team of the Month Award for March are NEWPORT PAGNELL WANDERERS, who are in their second season in the Border Counties League.

They are currently third in their division, having battled through a difficult first season which included a 24-0 defeat.

Our February Team of the Month Winners were STOPSLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL, and they were our guests at the game against Ipswich.

The Loyal Luton Supporters Club have once again teamed up with LutonTown to offer junior teams in the area the chance to watch a Hatters home match absolutely free.

The fans have successfully applied for a grant from the National Westminster Bank, as part of the bank's community programme, and, supported by the Football Club, wish to donate tickets for youngsters in the area to try and attract new supporters to Kenilworth Road.

The winning team will be selected from nominations, and is not just aimed at the teams at the top of the leagues.

Managers or parents should write to the club telling them why their team should be the Team of the Month. It may be that you recorded a first win, or only lost narrowly to the top side in your league. Nominations should be sent to: Junior Team Award, c/o Simon Oxley, LTFC, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton.

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DAVID OLDFIELD Luton Town Supporters Club	BONTCHO GUENTCHEV The Bobbers Travel Club Committee and Members	STEVE DAVIS Loyal Luton Supporters Club	



Luton Town Football Club
 in the Community
 with Community Officer Jeff Vetere



COACHING COURSES - EASTER 1996

Coaching Clinics are a Luton Town Football Club 'Football in the Community' activity which offer children a well organised coaching programme, supervised by experienced, qualified Football Association coaches. There is a certificate for every participant, and a free match ticket to a game at Kenilworth Road. All boys and girls between 7 and 14 years old, can take part regardless of their footballing ability.

ONE AND TWO DAY COACHING CLINICS

HARPENDEN - Wood End JMI School, Yeomans Avenue, Harpenden Dates - Thurs April 11, from 10am to 2pm	£9.00
LUTON- Hillborough Junior School, Hillborough Road, Luton Dates - Fri April 12, from 10am to 2pm.....	£9.00
BERKHAMSTED - Bridgewater School, Bridle Way, Berkhamsted Dates - Tues April 9 and Wed April 10, from 10am to 2pm	£17.00



ADRIAN Poultney, Lee Bowyer and James Taylor



ABOVE: Under 11 Penalty Challenge participants Matthew Redmond, Conan Simon and Christopher Francis are pictured at the half-time shoot-out against Ipswich.

LOOK out for the Luton Town FC Penalty Challenge as part of your half-time entertainment, continuing this evening - a competition organised in conjunction with The Windowcraft Chiltern Youth Football League.

The clubs in the competition, which covers the age groups of Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12, have held their own penalty shoot-outs to select their champion to represent them here at Kenilworth Road.

This evening, in the Under 11 category, we welcome Adrian Poultney from Caddington Youth, Lee Bowyer from Water Eaton Youth in Bletchley, and James Taylor from Dunstable Town Youth.

Please give the youngsters a cheer!

For details of community events, or for details about a coaching course at your school, contact: Jeff Vetere, Football in the Community, LTFC, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW, or telephone on (01582) 411622.



RESERVES & YOUTH ROUND-UP

WITH TREVOR PEAKE AND JOHN MOORE



Mon Aug 14	Swindon Town (A)	drew 1-1
Wed Aug 23	Tottenham H (H)	drew 3-3
Tue Aug 29	Portsmouth (A)	drew 1-1
Wed Sep 6	QPR (H)	lost 3-1
Mon Sep 11	Watford (H)	drew 0-0
Wed Sep 20	Crystal Palace (H)	lost 1-0
Tue Sep 26	West Ham Utd (A)	lost 2-1
Mon Oct 2	Stotfold (A) (BPC)	won 3-2
Wed Oct 4	Bristol City (H)	won 2-0
Wed Oct 11	Brighton (A)	lost 3-1
Wed Oct 18	Charlton Ath (H)	won 6-2
Wed Oct 25	Ipswich Town (A)	won 1-0
Wed Nov 1	Wimbledon (A)	lost 2-1
Wed Nov 8	Norwich City (H)	lost 2-1
Wed Nov 15	Oxford Utd (A)	lost 3-2
Wed Nov 22	Southampton (H)	won 1-0
Tue Nov 28	Arsenal (H)	lost 4-0
Wed Dec 6	Bristol Rovers (H)	won 4-1
Mon Dec 11	Chelsea (A)	drew 0-0
Mon Dec 18	Barton (A) BPC	lost 2-1
Wed Jan 3	Portsmouth (H)	won 2-0
Thur Jan 11	QPR (A)	lost 2-1
Tue Jan 16	Watford (A)	won 1-0
Sat Feb 3	Tottenham (A)	lost 2-0
Wed Feb 14	Brighton (H)	won 2-0
Wed Feb 21	Charlton Ath (A)	lost 2-0
Wed Mar 6	Wimbledon (H)	won 3-1
Wed Mar 13	Norwich City (A)	lost 3-1
Wed Mar 20	Oxford Utd (H)	won 3-2
Wed Mar 27	Southampton (A)	won 1-0
Mon Apr 1	Crystal Palace (A)	lost 2-0
Wed Apr 3	Arsenal (A)	
Wed Apr 10	Bristol Rovers (A)	7.30
Mon Apr 15	Bristol City (A)	7.30
Wed Apr 17	Chelsea (H)	7.30
Mon Apr 22	Millwall (A)	7pm
Mon Apr 29	Ipswich Town (H)	7.30
Wed May 1	Swindon Town (H)	7.30
Tue May 7	West Ham (H)	7.30
Thur May 9	Millwall (H)	7.30

All home matches to be played at Kenilworth Road, with the exception of Ipswich Town, on Monday, April 29, which will be played at Hitchin Town FC.

THE Town's reserve side won 1-0 against Southampton on March 27, with Andrew Smith netting the winning goal with a 25-yard shot past Bruce Grobbelaar in the Saints goal.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Chenery, Linton, Simpson, Peake (Upson), Evers, Tomlinson, Douglas, McLaren, Smith.

Subs not used: Barr, Turner.

Last Monday, the reserves went down 2-0 to Crystal Palace, a game played at Dulwich Hamlet.

Team: Davis, Linton, Chenery, Willmott, Upson, Peake, Evers, McLaren, Douglas, Fotiadis, Kean.

Subs: Power, Barr Sweeney.

The reserves were due to play Arsenal at Highbury on Wednesday, and return to action tomorrow evening with a trip to Bristol Rovers.

All outstanding matches in the Avon Insurance Combination have now been

re-arranged and full details can be found from the fixture list (left).

The youth team progressed to the semi-finals of the Eastern Junior Cup with a 6-2 win over Cambridge City at Kenilworth Road, on March 26.

Liam George netted a hat-trick for the Hatters, with Andrew Barr scoring two, and Chris Willmott adding the sixth from the penalty spot.

In the semi-finals, Luton will play away to Wivenhoe, on Wednesday, April 24, kick-off 7.45pm.

Returning to league action on March 30, the youth side went down 2-0 to Tottenham.

Team: Kessell, Turner, Sweeney, Spring, Doherty, Upson, Scarlett, Fotiadis, Barr, Cox, Smith.

Subs (all used): Douglas, Evers, Kean.

Avon Insurance Combination Apps and Goalscorers (1/4/96)

	Apps	G		Apps	G
Barber	7		Fitzpatrick	1	
Chenery	23 (4)		Douglas	9 (5)	2
G Johnson	10	1	Evers	10 (3)	
James	9	1	Taylor	2	1
Greene	8		Power	6 (5)	
Skelton	12 (1)		Alexander	6	2
Linton	18	3	Augustine	3 (2)	
McLaren	18	2	Willmott	4 (3)	
Issott	3 (6)	1	Oldfield	9	1
Jones	10 (4)	2	Fotiadis	5	2
Matthews	3	2	Sharpe	1	
Woolgar	1 (2)		Simpson	15 (2)	1
K Davis	19		Jay Thomas	1 (1)	
Peake	12		Kean	4 (4)	
Woodsford	18 (1)	3	Guentchev	8	4
Hughes	3		Allen	1	
Thorpe	9 (1)	5	Turner	1	
M Thomas	8		Sweeney	(2)	
Waddock	7		Patterson	2	
Codner	2		Vilstrup	9	
Boskovic	1		Abbey	2	
Barr	(2)		Riseth	4 (1)	3
Smith	1 (2)	1	Harvey	6	1
Jason Thomas	1		Marshall	1	1
Upson	3 (1)		Tomlinson	2	1

South East Counties League, FA Youth Cup, Southern Jnr Floodlit Cup, and Eastern Junior Cup

Sat Aug 12	Crystal Palace (H)	lost 5-2	Thur Oct 26	C'bridge C (FAYC)(A)	9-1	Sat Feb 10	Bristol City (A)	won 2-0
Sat Aug 19	Swindon Town (A)	won 3-1	Sat Oct 28	C Palace (LC2)(A)	lost 4-1	Sat Feb 17	Wimbledon (H)	won 3-2
Sat Aug 26	Colchester U (H)	won 2-0	Sat Nov 4	Barnet (H)	lost 2-1	Mon Feb 19	Oxford United (A)	lost 4-1
Mon Aug 28	Coventry (SJFC) (A)	1-1	Sat Nov 11	Reading (A)	won 4-0	Sat Feb 24	Brentford (A)	won 2-0
Thur Aug 31	Coventry (SJFC) (H)	0-3	Wed Nov 15	Kettering(EJC)(A)	won 11-3	Sat Mar 2	Brighton (H)	lost 3-0
Sat Sep 2	Wycombe W (A)	lost 1-0	Sat Nov 18	Southampton (A)	lost 3-1	Sat Mar 9	Barnet (A)	won 3-1
Sat Sep 9	Oxford United (H)	drew 2-2	Sat Nov 25	Leicester C (FAYC)(A)	2-1	Sat Mar 16	Reading (H)	drew 2-2
Sat Sep 16	C'bridge (LC1) (H)	won 5-0	Sat Dec 2	Tottenham H (H)	drew 2-2	Sat Mar 23	Southampton (H)	won 2-1
Sat Sep 23	Bournemouth (A)	won 4-0	Sat Dec 9	Bristol Rovers (A)	won 1-0	Tue Mar 26	Cambridge C (EJC) w	6-2
Sat Sep 30	Bristol City (H)	won 3-2	Sat Dec 16	Bristol Rovers (H)	won 1-0	Sat Mar 30	Tottenham (A)	lost 2-0
Tue Oct 3	B'tham/S (EJC)(A)	won 6-0	Sat Jan 6	Swindon Town (H)	won 3-1	Sat Apr 13	C Palace (A)	
Sat Oct 7	Wimbledon (A)	lost 2-0	Tue Jan 9	L'pool (FAYC) (A)	lost 5-0	Sat Apr 27	Brighton (A)	
Sat Oct 14	Brentford (H)	won 4-1	Sat Jan 13	Colchester U (A)	drew 1-1	Sat May 4	Bournemouth (H)	
Sat Oct 21	C Palace (LC2) (H)	1-1	Sat Jan 20	Wycombe W (H)	lost 3-1			Home matches played at Luton RUFC.

Youth Team League & Cup Appearances and Goalscorers

	Lge apps	Lge goals	Cup apps	Cup goals	Statistics up to and including Sat, March 30
Abbey	13		7		Also played
Turner	17 (2)	1	8 (2)		Lawes - 5 league app + 2 sub, + 2 cup app
Sharpe	14		9		Ryan - 1 league app
Sweeney	23 (3)		7 (1)	1	Cox - 7 league app + 2 sub, 2 goal
Jones	11 (1)		1 (3)		Provencial - 2 league sub
Willmott	19 (2)	5	9	1	Bryson - 3 league app + 1 sub
Augustine	19 (4)	7	7 (2)	2	Boyce - 3 league app
Evers	17 (2)	2	8 (1)		Peterkin - 1 sub app
Douglas	13 (5)	5	6 (2)	6	Cornwall - 2 league app + 1 sub app
Barr	13 (6)	10	3 (3)	8	Kessell - 3 league app + 1 cup app
Kean	18 (2)	1	7 (3)	1	Clarke - 1 league app
Lawrence	(2)		1		Scarlett - 2 league app + 1 cup app
Fotiadis	15 (3)	8	9	5	C Spring - 1 league app
Webb	11		3 (1)		
Upson	23 (1)	1	7 (1)		
Smith	15 (8)	3	9 (1)	3	
George	13 (4)	3	4 (3)	12	
Thomas	10 (2)		4 (4)		
Doherty	2 (1)		3 (1)	1	
M Spring	5 (4)		6		

South East Counties League Div Two (up to and including 23.3.96)

	P	W	D	L	E	A	Pt
Crystal P	25	19	4	2	73	28	42
LUTON	26	14	4	8	50	38	32
Wycombe	27	14	4	9	46	39	32
Oxford	24	14	2	8	54	32	30
Southampton	26	12	3	11	44	25	27
Brighton	24	12	3	9	36	33	27
Tottenham	25	9	9	7	42	41	27
Bourn'mouth	25	11	5	9	41	41	27
Wimbledon	23	12	2	9	45	30	26
Brentford	27	10	6	11	34	43	26
Barnet	25	7	8	10	33	36	22
Bristol C	25	7	6	12	36	44	20
Swindon	25	6	7	12	28	41	19
Reading	25	6	6	13	27	61	18
Bristol R	26	5	5	16	32	53	15
Colchester	26	4	6	16	26	62	14

Avon Insurance Combination Div One (up to and including 13.03.96)

	P	W	D	L	E	A	Pt
Tottenham	27	20	2	5	55	25	62
QPR	28	20	1	7	54	33	61
Norwich	30	17	6	7	56	34	57
Arsenal	27	15	8	4	54	28	53
Wimbledon	30	15	4	11	56	48	49
C Palace	27	11	10	6	33	24	43
Southampton	28	11	9	8	39	32	42
Chelsea	29	12	6	11	40	38	42
West Ham	25	11	6	8	44	37	39
Oxford	29	8	9	12	43	49	33
Bristol C	28	9	6	13	29	36	33
Portsmouth	29	8	9	12	38	49	33
LUTON	26	9	5	12	36	38	32
Ipswich	23	8	7	8	37	32	31
Charlton	23	8	5	10	34	44	29
Millwall	27	6	7	14	39	57	25
Brighton	24	6	5	13	24	45	23
Bristol R	27	7	2	18	37	62	23
Watford	25	5	4	16	27	46	19
Swindon	26	2	1	13	20	40	17

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Join us for Birmingham City v
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match programme..... for details
contact the Commercial
Department on (01582) 411622.

PLEASE NOTE THESE RE-ARRANGED GAMES

**Port Vale v
Luton Town**
will now be played on
Tuesday, April 23,
kick-off 7.45pm

**Luton Town v
Port Vale**
will now be played on
Tuesday, April 30,
kick-off 7.45pm

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HATTERS ACTION EXTRA!



FOLLOW the
progress of Kim
Grant's goal at
West Brom, as
seen by
photographer
ANDY HANDLEY.



SAFETY NOTE

The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Stadium are conducted in such a way that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of everyone working at or attending that stadium is assured.

The club's primary responsibility through the Safety Officer, Officials, Staff and Stewards will be to ensure the reasonable safety of those attending the stadium.

In the interests of public safety, the safety authority (Beds County Council) have imposed a NO SMOKING restriction in and beneath our main stand. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Action pictures featured in the matchday programme are available at the special price of just £2 per print! Write to Simon Oxley, at the club, giving a brief description of the picture (programme and page number etc), and enclosing a cheque/postal order made payable to Luton Town Football Club.

Ring Clubcall on 0891 121 123

Hatters win double as Stoke struggle



by ROGER WASH

5 YEARS AGO

6/4/91: After going three-up at Chelsea, we contrived to end up lucky to salvage a point in drawing 3-3. The Luton goalscorers were Lars Elstrup, Sean Farrell and Kingsley Black.

10 YEARS AGO

6/4/86: Two second half goals from Mick Harford secured all the points in a 2-0 win at Birmingham. This win pushed us up to sixth position in Division One.

15 YEARS AGO

11/4/81: After three home games without a win we put on a sparkling display when seeing off QPR at Kenilworth Road. The Town scorers in the 3-0 win were Godfrey Ingram, Brian Stein and Raddy Antic.

20 YEARS AGO

10/4/76: A bored crowd of 8,277 watched the Town and Notts County battle out a meaningless 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road. Alan West had put us ahead only for Notts to equalise just before the end.

Heath, Hudson, Parkin.

Luton (second game): Sealey, Breacker, Nicholas, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill (Moss), Turner, Preece, Nwajobi, Stein, Harford.

Stoke (second game): Siddall, Bould, Dodd, Dyson, Maskery, Painter, Hudson, McIlroy, Heath, Bertschin, Chamberlain.



ABOVE: Steve Foster equalises for the Town during the FA Cup clash with Stoke in 1984/85.

AFTER the Town had ended the 1983/84 Division One season in dismal fashion, narrowly avoiding relegation after being in third position at Christmas, the signs were not good for the new campaign even before a ball was kicked in anger.

Skipper and midfield inspiration Brian Horton had gone to Hull; Raddy Antic, scorer of that memorable goal at Maine Road in 1983, had returned to Yugoslavia; Kirk Stephens had gone back to his home town club Coventry; and Paul Walsh had been transferred to Liverpool for a record Luton fee.

As replacements we had signed Ashley Grimes from Coventry; Andy Dibble from Cardiff; Vince Hilaire from Crystal Palace; and Steve Elliott from Preston, on cut price deals, and the supporters felt we should have splashed out on a couple of 'name' players.

The season opened with the visit of Stoke to Kenilworth Road, and Elliott, Dibble and Grimes made their Luton debuts, while Stacey North made his home debut deputising for Paul Elliott in the centre of the defence.

The lowest opening day crowd for five years, 8,626, was present to see the game and the supposed lack of inspired signings was put down as the major factor.

As it turned out, the Town seemed to play like worldbeaters and opened the scoring after three minutes when Steve Elliott forced Stoke goalkeeper Peter Fox to drop the ball, and then

netted as everyone else stood around waiting for the referee to blow his whistle.

It was one way traffic after that with Fox by far the busiest player on the pitch. When he was beaten, defenders were on hand to clear the ball off the line, but they were powerless to prevent the second Luton goal, scored just after the hour mark, when Brian Stein accelerated down the wing and cut the ball back to the onrushing Frank Bunn who smashed the ball home.

We went away jubilant and only regretted that we had not got the goals our play deserved, but we were brought back down to earth when manager David Pleat warned: "Don't take that one performance as a reflection of how we are going to do this season." It was a polite way of saying that Stoke were not up to much.

Pleat was proved right as the Town struggled after this early high spot and as Christmas approached we had dropped down into the relegation zone with only three wins recorded from 18 games played.

Something drastic had to be done, and signed in quick succession were David Preece from Walsall; Steve Foster from Aston Villa; Mick Harford from Birmingham; and Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace, for serious money which even made the football world look up and take notice.

Although it was pretty evident that the tide had turned in our favour out on the pitch, a

fixture pile-up, caused by the weather and an extended FA Cup run (during which we had beaten Stoke after a replay), looked like scuppering our chances of survival.

By the time of our return game with Stoke, at the beginning of April, we were still in 20th position and our only saving grace was that we still had 11 games to play with six at home.

Pleat's other prophesy was also correct as Stoke had only managed three wins all season, and were firmly rooted to the bottom of the table and were certainties for the drop.

Our main worry was that the players who would have one eye turned towards the FA Cup semi-final to be played against Everton the following week, and that Stoke, with nothing left to play for apart from pride, may have turned on an uncharacteristic performance as they had in their previous home game when they turned over Arsenal.

The Good Friday fixture at the Victoria Ground was watched by a crowd of 6,951, and it was clear from the very start that there was to be only one winner, with the Town taking the game to the Potters and attacking down the wings where the pitch was not ankle deep in mud.

We took the lead in the 17th minute when Mick Harford took advantage of a poorly hit backpass to tap the ball past Barry Siddall in the Stoke goal.

The Stoke goal led a charmed life throughout the remainder of the half but the game was as good as over just after the break when Harford, scoring his third double in four games, was first to react in a scramble following a near post corner.

David Moss, who had taken over from the injured Ricky Hill just before the break, extended the gap on the hour when his 33-year-old legs rounded Steve Bould to send in a cross-shot that beat Siddall with ease.

The scoring was completed by Meka Nwajobi soon after, when he latched on to a brilliant long ball from Preece to crash a shot past the helpless Stoke goalkeeper.

The win proved to be the springboard that set up a run of seven wins and a draw from the remaining games with relegation being avoided with style. Stoke, unfortunately, lost the rest of their games.

Luton (first game): Dibble, Thomas, Grimes, Breacker, North, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Elliott, Bunn, Moss.

Stoke (first game): Fox, Bould, Maskery, James, Dyson, O'Callaghan, Painter, McIlroy,

MILTON AT THE DOUBLE TO BOOST IPSWICH PLAY-OFF HOPES



LEFT: New signing Kim Grant takes on the Ipswich defence

BELOW: It's behind you..... Paul Wilkinson and Claus Thomsen battle for possession



ABOVE: Paul Wilkinson makes his point to the linesman

RIGHT: Scott Oakes is forced wide by Ipswich keeper Richard Wright



RIGHT: Kim Grant was Luton's scorer in the 2-1 defeat by Ipswich

BELOW: Skipper Steve Davis joins the attack to head for goal from this corner



LUTON TOWN 1
(Grant)

IPSWICH TOWN 2
(Milton 2)

at Kenilworth Stadium,
March 9, 1996
(Pictures: ANDY HANDLEY)



ABOVE: Bontcho Guentchev tackled by Gus Uhlenbeek

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It's a Sunday finale for Division One!

THE Football League have confirmed that the Endsleigh League First Division programme for the final Saturday of the season will be moved back 24 hours to Sunday, May 5.

The decision follows a request from ITV, under the terms of their contract with the League, to move selected fixtures to the Sunday for live transmission purposes.

Lee Walker, Controller of Broadcasting at the Football League, commented: "The integrity of the League Championship was paramount in the considerations of our Board of Directors.

"We were not prepared to sanction the movement of fixtures in isolation on the deciding afternoon of the season and as a result all First Division games will kick-off at 3pm on Sunday, May 5."

Should it become apparent that a particular club's final match of the season will not have a bearing on promotion or relegation issues, or if it has not been selected for a live broadcast by ITV, then there will be the option of moving the fixture back to the Saturday.

The tremendous progress made in implementing the Taylor Report across the country was once again recognised at a special luncheon prior to the Coca-Cola Cup Final at Wembley last month.

The Football League Achievement Awards portfolio, which was introduced last season, is designed to acknowledge the dedication and hard work undertaken by clubs to improve facilities for spectators during the previous twelve months.

The awards recognise two distinct categories. The accolades for 'Design and Innovation' went to Peterborough United and Preston North End for the planning and thought which went into their new recent constructions. Meanwhile, Barnsley and Scarborough picked up the awards in the 'Most Progress' category for their outstanding redeveloped stadia.

Promotion chasers get PFA boost

PROMOTION chasers Charlton, Leicester and Sunderland have received official acknowledgement for their impressive League campaigns with all three clubs boasting two players in the Division One representative side which was announced last month.

From Charlton, defender Richard Rufus and midfielder Lee Bowyer were selected.

Leicester players Gary Parker and Steve Claridge were picked, with Sunderland represented by defender Darius Kubicki and winger Michael Gray.

The side in full, picked by their fellow professionals, was: Kelly (Sheffield Utd), Kubicki (Sunderland), Richards (Wolves), Rufus (Charlton), Gordon (Crystal Palace), Bowyer (Charlton), Rae (Millwall), Gray (Sunderland), Parker (Leicester), Sturridge (Derby), Claridge (Leicester).

Former Town player Kurt Nogan, now with Burnley, was picked in the Division Two side.

Extra-time winner ends University's cup dream



CONGRATULATIONS to the Luton University football team who have finished as runners-up in the British Universities Sports Association competition - at their first attempt!

The BUSA is made up of 152 universities incorporating all UK institutes of higher education, with the Luton side convincingly winning their South-East group, including an 18-1 drubbing of nearby Cranfield.

Former winners West London Institute were beaten 2-0, followed by wins against St Marks and St Johns (Plymouth) and Coventry.

In the semi-final, played at the Luton Town training ground, Luton University beat Cardiff 5-2 to set up a final against Crewe & Alsager, at Loughborough.

With the sides level at 1-1 after 90 minutes, Crewe took the trophy with an extra-time winner.



THE Luton University squad which reached the UK final

Town trio's loan spells



ABOVE: David Greene is staying at Brentford



RIGHT: Gary Simpson on loan at Fulham

THREE Town players had loan deals confirmed on transfer deadline day.

David Greene is to remain on loan at Division Two Brentford until the end of the season.

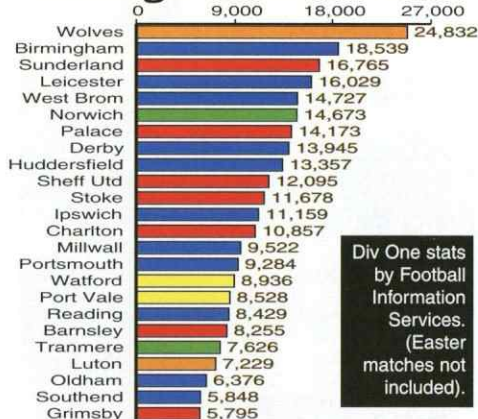
Fellow centre-half Gary Simpson has gone on loan to Fulham for a month, and made his league debut as a substitute in their 4-0 win over Plymouth last weekend.

Striker Jamie Woodsford is staying on loan at Portadown in Northern Ireland.

RIGHT: Jamie Woodsford is staying with Portadown until the end of the Smirnoff Irish League season

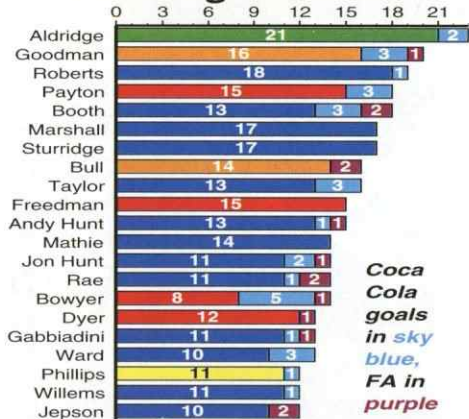


Average Attendances



Div One stats by Football Information Services. (Easter matches not included).

Leading Scorers



Coca Cola goals in sky blue, FA in purple

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Forthcoming live ITV coverage

THE following Endsleigh League Division One games have been confirmed for live ITV coverage:

- Sunday, April 14, 1996
 Charlton Athletic v Derby County - 3pm on LWT/ Central and Meridian.
- Sunday, April 21, 1996
 Sunderland v Stoke City - 3pm on Central, Anglia, Granada, LWT, Meridian and Tyne-Tees.
- Sunday, April 28, 1996
 Derby County v Crystal Palace - 3pm on Central, LWT, Anglia and Meridian.
- Ipswich T v Norwich City - 3pm on Anglia.

HATTERS SHOP



BELOW: LTFC 'Sideline' tracksuits are now available

Sizes: SB, B and LB - £39.99
S - £49.99
Grey bronx hat - £4.99

ABOVE: Premier sweat tops, also now available in grey, see below right for prices. LTFC rainjackets: £33.99 childrens, and £39.99 adults. Premier sports bag (black or blue) £19.00. LTFC duffle bag (black or blue) £15.50.



**LEFT: Premier sweat tops, as worn by the LTFC squad: B, LB - £29.99
S, M, L, XL - £34.99**



LTFC KIT PRICES 1995/96

Luton Town Home/Away Shirts
SB (22-24), B (26-28),
LB (30-32) - £27.99

S (34-36), M (38-40),
L (42-44) - £34.99

XL (46-48), XXL (50+) - £36.99

Luton Town Home/Away Shorts
SB, B, LB - £14.99
S, M, L - £19.99

Luton Town Home/Away Socks
B, LB - £5.99
Mens - £6.99

Luton Town Home/Away
GK Jersey
SB, B, LB - £29.99
S, M, L, XL, XXL - £39.99

'Premier Sweat Top
B, LB - £29.99
S, M, L, XL - £34.99

Jog Pants
LB - £21.99
S, M, L, XL - £24.99

**NEW..... range of sports bags
£13.50 - £19.00**

**Premier tracksuit (as pictured below)
SB, B, LB - £59.99; S, M, L, XL - £69.99**



ALSO NOW IN STOCK

LTFC 1995/96 full colour player pictures,
each individually signed.....£1.20
LTFC Kit badges (home and away).....£2.50

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday
10am to 4pm

Evening matchdays
10am to 10pm

Saturdays - matchdays
9am-3pm & 4.45-5.15pm

Saturdays - non matchdays - subject to change, please contact Club Shop

Enquiries

01582 411622



COMMERCIAL CORNER with Kathy Leather

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to this evening's match and matchball sponsors

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR GOLDEN GAMBLE TICKET

Each ticket costs just £1, with 50% going into the prize fund for the half-time draw made on the pitch

THIS evening we welcome a wide range of match sponsors - BURTON INTERNATIONAL PLC, STOTFOLD MOTOR CENTRE, CANNON LANE SERVICE STATION, and PREMIER COMPUTERS.

BURTON INTERNATIONAL PLC are one of Britain's leading security companies, and are locally owned and locally managed, with an international reputation.

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The STOTFOLD MOTOR CENTRE (Saunders Garages) are specialists in 24-hour car and commercial vehicle recovery, and MOTs, and are the leading Skoda dealership in Herts and Beds, at 28 Astwick Road, Stotfold, Hitchin.

They can also be contacted on (01462) 730222.

CANNON LANE is your local Chrysler Jeep and Daihatsu main agent, offering sales, service and forecourt facilities.

They can be contacted on (01582) 25506, and are open Monday to Saturday, and Sunday by appointment only.

PREMIER COMPUTER Supplies was founded in 1982, and since then has grown into one of the largest

computer companies in the Home Counties. Premier offer a large choice of the leading brand products in the consumable hardware and software industry.

Premier also have a printing division specialising in their customers' bespoke printing requirements. They can be contacted on (01582) 572727.

This evening's matchball sponsor is MR DEREK ORPEN who has made the long journey from Bideford, in North Devon.

We hope he and his guests have an enjoyable evening.

- We have a limited number of 5, 8 and 14 seat executive boxes available for forthcoming home games against Barnsley and Port Vale.

Prices range from £60 plus VAT per head, to include a three-course meal, to £50 plus VAT per head, to include buffet. There is also a complimentary bar facility.

For more details please contact the Commercial Department on (01582) 411622.

- A reminder that we are running an executive coach trip to the match at Birmingham on Saturday, for details see page 32, and there are

now only a few tickets left for our Sportsmen's Dinner at the Strathmore Hotel on Monday, May 20, when Kevin Connelly is our guest speaker. Tickets are £35 (+VAT), and are available from the Commercial Department.

LUTON Town can cater for everything from business breakfasts, lunches or dinners to birthday/ anniversary celebrations and wedding breakfasts.

We can help to plan events by either clients visiting the club or by making a private visit to the clients own premises.

We have a number of function suites available, from our boardroom, which is an exclusive setting for senior management meetings, to our adjacent suites which can cater for up to 100 or more delegates for conferences and seminars.

Our catering operation, which prides itself on a personal service, can provide quality refreshments to complement any occasion.



LEFT: Members of the first-team squad are pictured at the after-match presentation to our matchball sponsors against Ipswich, ADP Technical Services Ltd.

RIGHT: Tony Thorpe (pictured) and Des Linton attended the Sandy offices of Simkins Solicitors last month, to open the company's extended offices in the town, with Tony also launching the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Choices computer system there. The two organisations are the respective kit sponsors for Tony and Des for the 1995/96 season.



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Luton Town Supporters Club

Sunday, April 28, 1996, at 8pm
Kent Social Club, Tenby Drive, Luton
Luton Town Supporters Club
Presentation Evening

All first-team players will be present; tickets now on sale; £4 members and £5 non-members

Tickets are on sale on matchdays from the LTSC Kiosk in Kenilworth Road



BLADES TAKE THE POINTS



LEFT: Sheffield's Simon Tracey at full stretch to deny John Taylor.



BELOW: David Oldfield steps out of a tackle.

SHEFFIELD UNITED 1 (Hutchison)

LUTON TOWN 0

at Bramall Lane, March 23, 1996

(Pictures: ANDY HANDLEY)

LTFC EVACUATION PROCEDURE

IN the event of any emergencies at Luton Town Football Club, the emergency services and the club have agreed on an evacuation policy which is designed to:

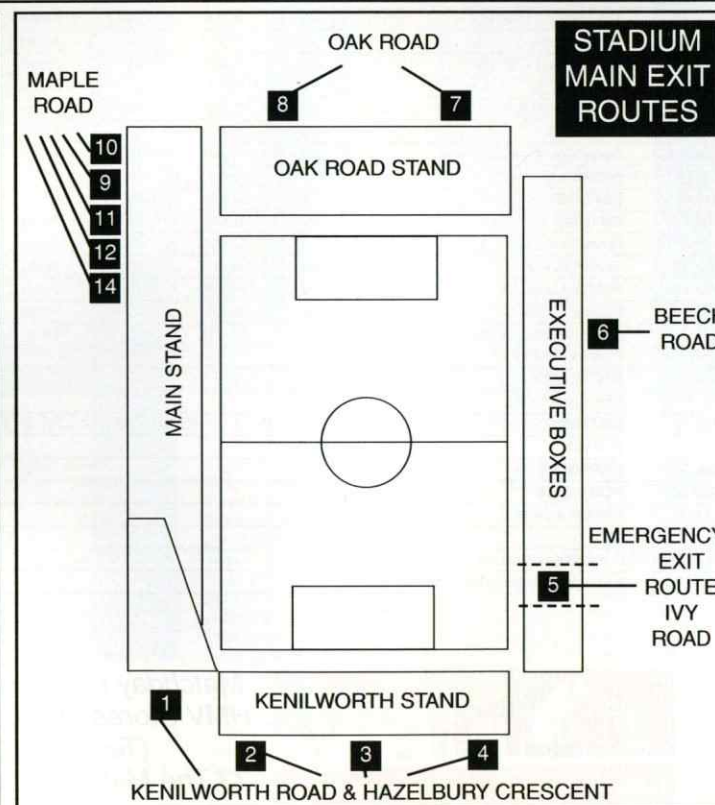
- Ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the ground.
- Ensure the dispersal of the crowd from the area to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks.

In the event on an evacuation of all or part of the stadium, you will receive instructions over the public address system on how you should leave the stadium. Stewards will direct you to the nearest exit. It may be that your normal exit route will not be available.

On leaving the stadium, you will find some roads closed to pedestrian traffic, to enable swift and unobstructed arrival of the emergency services.

Please leave the area of the ground as quickly as possible by the route directed. Your co-operation will be most appreciated.

GEOFF LOVELL,
Safety Manager.





TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Today's referee is

URIAH RENNIE,
from Sheffield.

Mr Rennie, the Assistant Manager of the Hillsborough Leisure Centre, in Sheffield, joined the Football League list last season, and lists boxing and kick-boxing amongst his hobbies.



L.E. Cable



R.
Coxhead

MIDWEEK GAMES IN DIVISION ONE

Also playing tonight:

Leicester City v West Brom

Playing tomorrow:

Millwall v Birmingham City

Please note:

Luton Town's match at Birmingham on Saturday is ALL-TICKET.

Our next home game, v Watford on April 20, is ALL-TICKET for ALL supporters. See page 9 for details.

TEAM CHECK

LUTON TOWN

Manager: Lennie Lawrence

Ian FEUER

Graham ALEXANDER

Mitchell THOMAS

David OLDFIELD

Steve DAVIS

Darren PATTERSON

Bontcho GUENTCHEV

Tony THORPE

Paul WILKINSON

Kim GRANT

Richard HARVEY

STOKE CITY

Manager: Lou Macari

1 Mark PRUDHOE

2 Lee SANDFORD

3 Kevin KEEN

4 Larus SIGURDSSON

5 Ian CRANSON

6 Graham POTTER

7 Carl BEESTON

8 Ray WALLACE

9 Mike SHERON

10 Simon STURRIDGE

11 Nigel GLEGHORN

12

13

14



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