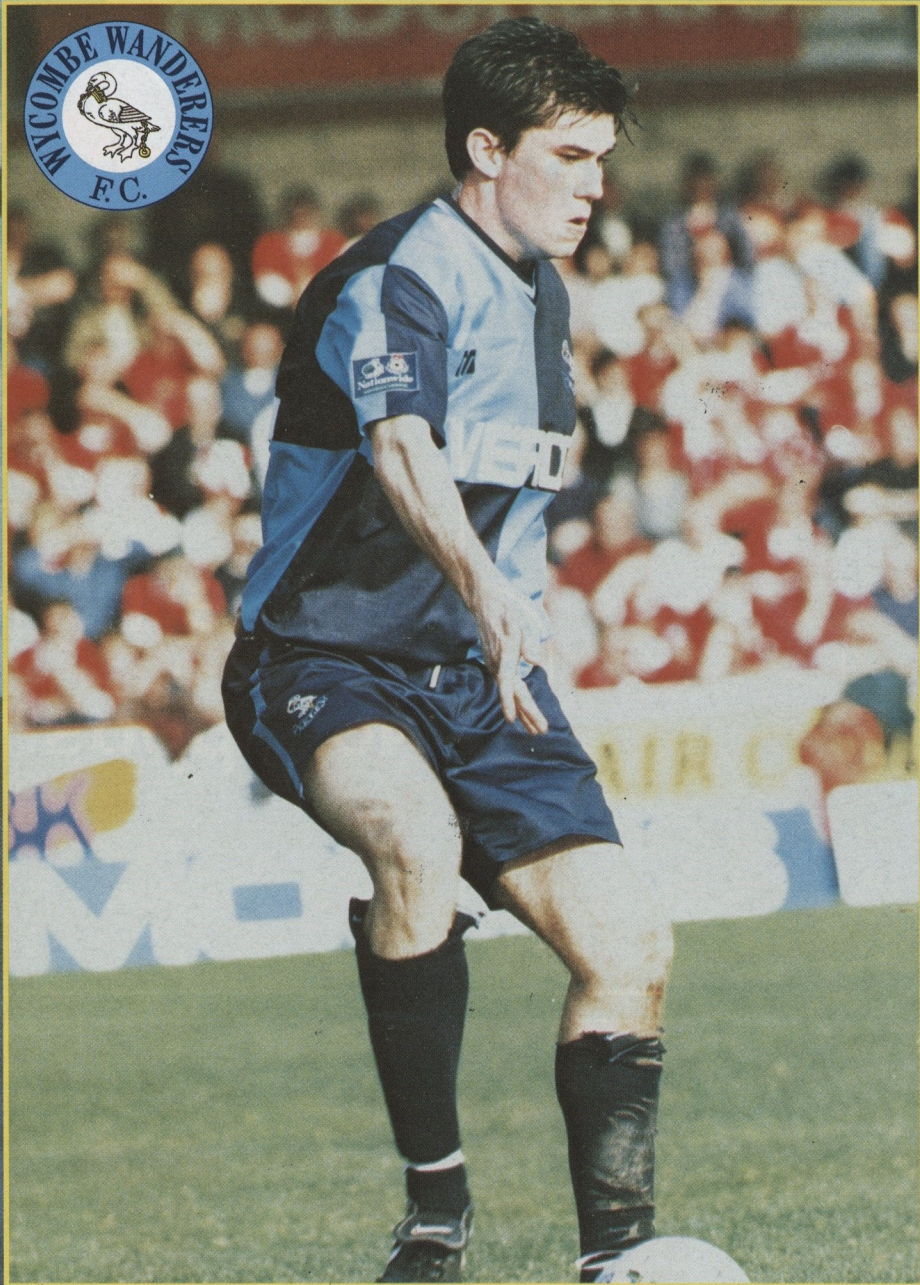


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## NEIL SMILLIE SAYS . . .

Good afternoon and welcome to Lennie Lawrence, the players, directors and supporters of Luton Town. So the start of the 98 season is upon us already, it doesn't seem a moment since Walsall last season. In between we have seen a World Cup full of quality football although I am sure you felt, like me, a bit cheated of a real spectacle in the final due to the non performance of Brazil. England's performances really lifted everyone and I think we could have gone all the way had we overcome Argentina. It was good to see John Gorman, who worked with us last year, urging on the likes of Shearer and Owen.

The transfer merry-go-round has continued, mainly in the Premiership mostly purchasing foreign players. I think the younger, home grown, talent will have a problem coming through, something they should guard against. Certainly we aren't touched by the scramble for players costing millions and the gap between Premier and the rest is getting bigger. This year our division is more powerful than any other season and we are competing with some financial big guns, the season has some exacting fixtures to come. The players and I are looking forward to the challenge.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Gary Micklewhite to the Club as my assistant. He brings with him a wealth of experience from years of playing with Derby and QPR at the highest level. Gary has been my assistant before and I look forward to working with him and big Terry Evans who becomes part of the management team while still continuing his physio education under Jonah - something he is very committed to.

On a personal note I look to continue the progress this Club has made with developing some of the younger players to come through from our own youth policy. You've seen Mo and Alan Beeton, lets hope there's more to come. In the meantime we still need to strengthen the blend of experienced and youth players.

Myself, my staff, Gary Micklewhite, Terry, Jonah, Ada and Gary Goodchild and the players welcome you all to the new season. Please become part of the team, make loads of noise and get behind the boys this afternoon.

Regards

Neil

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Front Cover Photo:- Maurice Harkin - Man of the Match against Crystal Palace and promises much for the new season. - photo Paul Dennis

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**Be Our Guest**  
Gina Allan

Our football fanatic doctor, Gina Allan, is part of the matchday medical team that looks after the players. Today Gina recalls experiences from France 98.

After all the talk of allocation of World Cup tickets, we did not really believe we could be lucky, then the envelope arrived from The England Members Club with news of tickets for England v Columbia in Lens, Northern France. Fantastic. There was a bit of worry as last time we had seen England abroad we had spent an interesting time in Rome being pelted by Italian coins and incarcerated in the ground for three long inexplicable hours after the match. However, undaunted, the scramble for travel arrangements and accommodation began. Even in April, most places were fully booked but eventually a cheap hotel and Le Shuttle were confirmed (or I hoped they were as my knowledge of French is poor). The tournament grew closer and everyone was talking football-nothing better. The tournament began. The rioting in Marseilles was a great talking point. Friends (those without tickets I may add) were happy to offer promises of bail money. Very funny. The big day grew closer with increasing excitement. When WWFC are playing at Walsall on a Tuesday night, I like to be at the ground very early to prevent an acute attack of "we will never get there on time" anxiety. I am too embarrassed to say what time we set off on the Friday morning. At Folkestone, we were advised of delays as England fans were being checked for alcohol and weapons. Very reassuring. Determined not to waste valuable time, off came the English scarves and clutching our "Tourist Guide to France", we were waved straight through. It was a happy drive through France, hooting the car horn at any other car with an English number plate, supporter or not. On the good advice of Monsieur Alan Parry, we used the Park and Ride facility (field), 20 minutes from the ground. I changed into my WWFC shirt in the field, safe in the knowledge I would never be recognised. Was immediately recognised by a Luton Town Supporter whose laughter was only partially squashed by my discussion of Luton's poor performance last season. Onward. An easy ride to the stadium, home to France's League Champions, Lens. I sat next to a cheery but outnumbered Columbian. We chatted on as only those who do not speak each others language do, but not a cross word was exchanged, I think. Getting off the bus, we followed the crowds to the ground. It was amazing. The organisation was flawless. We saw no trouble at all. We had fantastic seats just near the goal where England twice triumphantly scored. The whole evening was full of the best football, cheering singing and dancing. When Darren Anderton's goal went in, the whole place erupted. When Beckham scored, we were hysterical. He came running to the stand just in front of me to celebrate his goal. I like to think he mistook me for Posh but was rather hurt by the great distance he realised his mistake. However, a girl can dream. It was 90 minutes and more of magic. We tumbled out of the ground as if we had won the World Cup already. We were all sure 1998 was going to be England's year. I dreamt that night that England won the 2006 World Cup final at Wembley, the winning goal being scored by a young lad from the Premiership side Wycombe Wanderers. Excellent dream. Excellent day.



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# MEDIA MINUTE

with Alan Hutchinson

Villa are certainly the team of the headlines at the moment. With a total of 44 pressmen here for the match last Tuesday the saga has continued in every newspaper on a daily basis. One thing that did emerge was two articles by Niall Hickman of the Daily Mail who took a pop at our ground and the behaviour of some of our fans at the Villa match. Needless to say a swift fax was sent to the Sports Editor pointing out one or two things overlooked by a journalist who only covers Premier League clubs and is not aware what real football is all about. To give the Mail credit the Sports Editor rang me to say the reporter did not mean for the article to sound offensive toward the club and would be having a word with him. The following Saturday we played host to Charlton Athletic, new boys of the Premier League. Unfortunately we ended up losing 3-0 for the second successive game and just taking one win from our five pre season friendlies. This afternoon it all starts for real as Luton Town are the visitors for our first game of the new season. Looking at the League structure for the 1998-99 campaign there is not an easy game among them. This particular match would probably not have been the chosen opening fixture by either club. All previous encounters have been very close with both teams having to work very hard for 90 mins.

Let me remind all of you about the new club magazine the Quarterman. This is on sale at the club shop Wanderers In Town and various WH Smith outlets at High Wycombe, Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross and Marlow and also Wycombe Wines. For season ticket holders and Leagueline members they can collect their copies from either Wanderers In Town or the Commercial Offices at the football club. The club will not be posting any copies to season ticket holders or Leagueline members, they must be collected either by using the Q1 voucher at the back of the season ticket book, or by producing a Leagueline membership number.

Next Saturday we visit the Den for another tough match with Millwall. This will be the first of our commentary matches being brought to you by *elevenSEVENTY*AM.

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8	12	7	9	2	4	14	1	Bournemouth	8	11	4	5	1	5	16	2
13	9	9	15	0	1	11	1	Blackpool	18	8	7	6	0	5	21	2
13	7	6	6	1	3	14	0	Brentford	8	17	11	5	1	1	25	3
14	8	6	9	4	8	18	2	Bristol City	4	9	3	8	0	2	12	1
13	7	11	6	1	5	27	0	Bristol Rovers	13	7	4	7	1	7	25	0
17	13	2	6	0	3	13	1	Burnley	19	9	8	4	2	3	20	0
15	9	7	7	1	4	14	0	Carlisle United	17	12	13	9	2	4	16	0
10	10	4	7	0	2	13	0	Chesterfield	8	5	6	9	0	4	10	2
11	11	6	4	0	2	23	3	Fulham	12	5	9	3	0	2	12	0
5	3	4	4	0	5	29	2	Gillingham	5	6	7	5	1	4	19	0
9	6	5	8	3	6	17	1	Grimsby Town	6	6	2	7	1	1	14	0
12	4	6	6	1	1	29	1	Luton Town	12	6	6	10	2	5	22	1
8	7	7	2	1	1	15	2	Millwall	12	3	9	6	2	3	18	1
12	6	2	9	0	7	15	1	Northampton Town	6	12	3	4	0	1	11	0
18	14	4	9	0	2	14	1	Oldham Athletic	9	5	8	8	0	3	18	3
16	12	8	2	0	4	12	1	Plymouth Argyle	16	11	8	7	2	4	18	4
10	8	12	4	5	2	14	1	Preston North End	9	10	10	9	0	4	14	0
7	7	7	9	0	2	14	1	Southend United	10	9	10	16	5	3	25	1
8	7	5	7	0	3	12	1	Walsall	7	11	7	3	1	2	20	1
10	6	12	7	2	2	28	0	Watford	8	8	2	4	2	2	15	0
14	13	9	8	1	4	14	1	Wigan Athletic	14	7	7	8	2	5	22	1
8	6	8	2	4	2	24	1	Wrexham	13	4	8	6	2	3	15	0
8	6	5	10	0	3	18	1	Wycombe Wanderers	18	6	7	4	0	5	12	1
8	3	13	3	2	5	17	1	York City	15	7	6	6	1	3	19	1

### Yellow & Red Cards

	Y	R	Points
Bristol Rovers	75	7	96
Oldham Athletic	79	5	94
Brentford	78	4	90
Wycombe Wand.	72	6	84
Gillingham	63	7	84
Walsall	74	3	83
Byrnley	70	4	82
Carlisle United	67	5	82
Plymouth Argyle	63	6	81
Millwall	67	4	79
Southend United	64	5	79
Blackpool	63	5	78
Wigan Athletic	72	2	78
Luton town	68	3	77
Northampton Town	66	2	72
Preston North End	69	1	72
Wrexham	66	1	69
York City	53	4	65
Fulham	64	0	64
Watford	54	1	57
Bristol City	52	0	52
Bournemouth	47	0	47
Chesterfield	40	2	46
Grimsby Town	43	0	43

### 1997-98 Season Division Two Campaign Records

**Highest & Lowest Attendances:**  
19,141 Bristol City v Watford 13 April  
2,039 Wrexham v Southend Utd. 21 Oct

**Highest Aggregate Scores:**  
Burnley 7 York City 2 31 Jan

**Consecutive Wins:**  
Bristol City ~ 8

**Games Unbeaten:**  
Bristol City ~ 15

**Consecutive Defeats:**  
Bristol Rovers, Carlisle United, Southend United ~ 5

**Games Without A Win:**  
Preston North End ~ 11

**Biggest Home Win:**  
Burnley 7 York City 2 31 Jan  
Carlisle Utd 5 Southend Utd 0 10 Jan  
Bristol Rovers 5 Wigan Athletic 0 10 Apr  
Fulham 5 Carlisle United. 0 13 April

**Biggest Away Win:**  
Luton Town 0 Watford 4 4 Oct  
Bristol Rovers 0 Grimsby Town 4 12 Dec

**Consecutive Wins:**  
Watford ~ 2

**Games Unbeaten:**  
Gillingham, Wycombe Wanderers ~ 6

**Consecutive Defeats:**  
Carlisle United ~ 4

**Games Without A Win:**  
Millwall ~ 8

### Final Sequences

**Consecutive Wins:**  
Watford ~ 2

**Games Unbeaten:**  
Gillingham, Wycombe Wanderers ~ 6

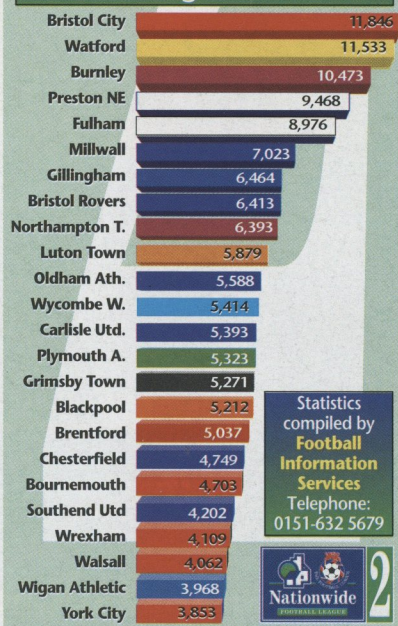
**Consecutive Defeats:**  
Carlisle United ~ 4

**Games Without A Win:**  
Millwall ~ 8

### Division Two Statistics, Club by Club


	PU	GF	GA	CS	LP	HP	LS	NL	FAC	CCC	T
Bournemouth	24	57	52	17	14	4	Fletcher	12	1	0	13
Blackpool	35	59	67	10	17	7	Clarkson	13	2	0	15
Brentford	37	50	71	10	24	11	Taylor	13	2	3	18
Bristol City	28	69	39	16	19	1	Goater	17	0	1	18
Bristol Rovers	27	70	64	9	14	3	Hayles	23	2	0	25
Burnley	33	55	65	10	24	18	Cooke	16	1	1	18
Carlisle United	34	57	73	8	24	16	Stevens	17	0	0	17
Chesterfield	29	46	44	17	14	2	Willis	8	1	2	11
Fulham	37	60	43	17	18	3	Moody	15	0	0	15
Gillingham	29	52	47	17	17	3	Akinbiyi	21	1	0	22
Grimsby Town	25	55	37	23	23	3	Donovan	16	1	1	18
Luton Town	33	60	64	14	23	16	Thorpe	14	0	3	17
Millwall	38	43	54	12	18	3	Shaw	11	0	1	12
Northampton Town	29	52	37	18	8	2	Seal	12	1	1	14
Oldham Athletic	36	62	54	15	16	3	Barlow	12	1	0	13
Plymouth Argyle	27	55	70	10	24	17	Corazzin	17	0	0	17
Preston North End	26	56	56	14	18	3	Ashcroft	14	2	0	16
Southend United	33	47	79	7	24	13	Boere	14	0	0	14
Walsall	25	43	52	16	22	12	Boli	12	4	2	18
Watford	26	67	41	14	2	1	Kennedy	11	1	1	13
Wigan Athletic	31	64	66	11	21	6	Lowe	16	1	0	17
Wrexham	26	55	51	15	20	3	Connolly	7	5	1	13
Wycombe Wanderers	23	51	53	17	19	3	Stallard	17	0	0	17
York City	28	52	58	12	18	3	Rowe	10	3	1	14

### Div. 2 Average Attendances



Bristol City	11,346
Watford	11,533
Burnley	10,473
Preston NE	9,468
Fulham	8,976
Millwall	7,023
Gillingham	6,464
Bristol Rovers	6,413
Northampton T.	6,393
Luton Town	5,879
Oldham Ath.	5,588
Wycombe W.	5,414
Carlisle Utd.	5,393
Plymouth A.	5,323
Grimsby Town	5,271
Blackpool	5,212
Brentford	5,037
Chesterfield	4,749
Bournemouth	4,703
Southend Utd	4,202
Wrexham	4,109
Walsall	4,062
Wigan Athletic	3,968
York City	3,853

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 Front Row: Liam George, Phil Gray, Steve Davis, Chris Green (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Nigel Terry (Director), Mitchell Thomas, Marvin Johnson, Sean Evers  
 Photo: Gareth Owen/LTFC

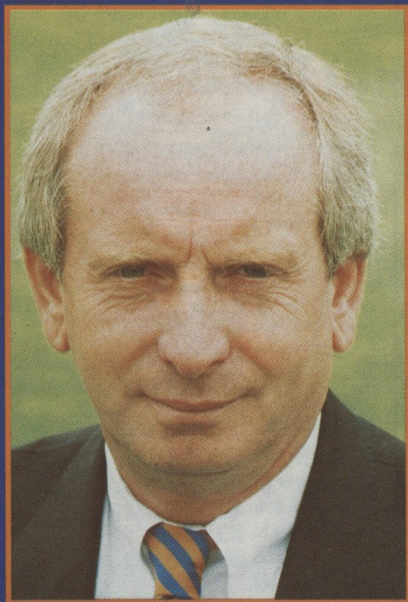
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**Lennie Lawrence, Born Brighton 14.12.47**

Four months in the autumn of 1995 saw £2 million spent, but only four matches won out of 22. Luton decided they needed an experienced hand and Lawrence fitted the bill perfectly. Perhaps more importantly, he knew about running clubs on shoestring budgets, having made his name by taking impoverished Charlton into what is now the Premiership.

Lawrence was a non-League player, with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton United. His managerial career started as assistant at Plymouth and then Lincoln. He went to Charlton as reserve team coach before landing the hot seat. He had been boss for nine years when he left Charlton in 1991 and took over at Middlesbrough. He led them to promotion to the Premiership a year later. Bradford City offered the next opportunity, but he left after 18 months to return south. A few weeks later he became Luton's 21st manager. The survival task proved too much, with the December leeway too big a gap to close, but relegation was followed by a thrilling recovery. In their first season back in Division Two, Luton were rarely out of the promotion frame, but it ended in disappointment, with play-off semi-final defeat against Crewe. Last season beset by injuries, and forced to sell leading scorer Tony Thorpe to balance the books, relegation was a real threat until Luton picked themselves up in the last couple of months of a frustrating campaign.

The manager's record at Luton, to the start of this season: Played 138, won 49, drawn 42, lost 47, goals for 182, goals against 162.



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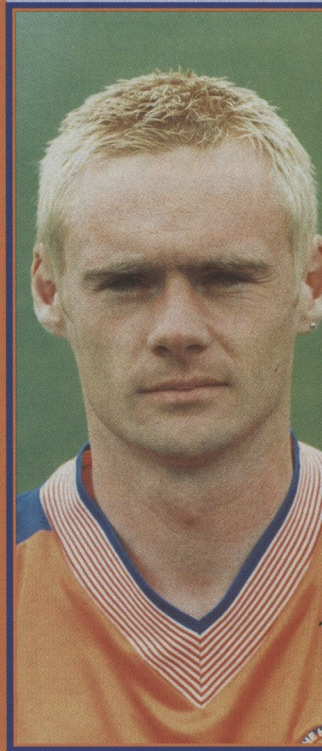
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**Kelvin Davis. Born Bedford 29.9.76**

After seeing off two Americans, finally became first choice goalkeeper last season. A product of the Hatters' youth development programme, he started his league career on loan to Torquay early in the 1994/95 season and, despite having few chances at Kenilworth Road because of the form of Juergen Sommer, he won England Youth and Under-21 caps. Davis eventually ousted Sommer but went through a rocky spell in a struggling Luton team and lost his place to Ian Feuer. Feuer lost his place through injury last season and this time Davis proved too good to drop again.

Luton record to the start of this season: 55 appearances.



**Graham Alexander. Born Coventry 10.10.71**

Bought for £100,000 from Scunthorpe in the summer of 1995, Alexander is a midfielder who can also fill in at the back when necessary. An injury crisis forced Luton to use him as an emergency right back several times last season, but his best performances have been on the right side of midfield, looking to back up the attack. He contributed eight valuable goals to help Luton out of relegation danger.

Luton record to the start of this season: 145 appearances, 11 goals.

**Matthew Spring. Born Harlow 17.11.79**

A competitive midfielder, Spring was a driving force in the Luton side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997, and it was no surprise when he was called up for a league debut when still only 17 in September 1997. His full debut followed a month later and boss Lennie Lawrence called Spring's display "the best debut I have seen in a long time".

Luton record to the start of this season: 13 appearances, no goals.

**Steve Davis. Born Hexham 30.10.68**

A massive bonus from Terry Westley's short reign as Luton manager in 1995, Davis was formerly Burnley's skipper and the Turf Moor Club

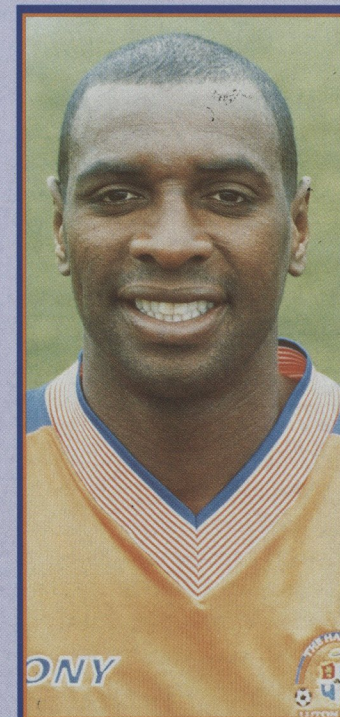
wanted £1.5 million for him, in the days before Bosman. Luton offered £300,000 and happily accepted a tribunal decision of £750,000. He was immediately appointed skipper, and as well as being a commanding figure in central defence he has a habit of popping up in attack and powering in goals.

Luton record to the start of this season: 144 appearances, 17 goals.

**Marvin Johnson. Born Wembley 29.10.68**

A versatile defender, normally a centre-half but capable of filling in on the flanks or in midfield, Johnson is celebrating a full decade as a first-team regular at Luton, his only club. Injuries have been a problem, but he has always bounced back, and is a former winner of the Players' Player of the Year Award at Kenilworth Road after becoming a regular in central defence.

Luton record to the start of this season: 306 appearances, 8 goals.



**Mitchell Thomas. Born Luton 2.10.64**

Now the senior professional at Kenilworth Road and appointed player-coach at the start of this season. Luton signed him on schoolboy forms, and he moved up through the ranks to make a league debut in the old First Division in January 1983. He won England Under-21 honours and Luton were not entirely delighted when then manager David Pleat left for Spurs three years later and persuaded Thomas to go with him. The tribunal fee was £250,000, half of what Luton wanted.

Thomas moved on to West Ham for £500,000 in the summer of 1991, and three years later returned to Kenilworth Road, signing for David Pleat again, on a free transfer. By the start of this season Thomas had made 456 League appearances for his three clubs.

Luton record in his second spell, to the start of this season: 175 appearances, 5 goals.

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**Gavin McGowan. Born Blackheath 16.1.76**

A right back fighting for a Premiership place against very stiff competition at Arsenal, McGowan signed for Luton for the third time in June 1998. The first time was a loan deal in March 1997, but that ended after only two impressive appearances. A calf muscle injury needed surgery, and after getting over that he joined Luton on loan again, this time for three months, at the start of the 1997/98 season. Lennie Lawrence rated him, but could not afford to make an offer, and was delighted to conclude a quick deal a year later when Arsenal offered the defender a free transfer.

Luton record to the start of this season: 10 appearances, no goals.

**Herve Bacque. Born Bordeaux 13.7.76**

Signed from Monaco a week before the season kicked off, the 22 year old striker admits that one of his reasons for joining Luton was that he had a special feeling for the English way of life. He started his career with Lorient, in Brittany, and after two years, and still only 21, he was recruited by Monaco.

There, at a very rich club full of international stars, he found it frustrating playing his football for the reserves. Monaco agreed to a free transfer, and after looking at several English clubs Bacque settled for Luton, because he said he was more impressed by Lennie Lawrence than the other managers he met.

**Phil Gray. Born Belfast 2.10.68**

Greeted like a prodigal son when he signed for Luton for the second time in September 1997, the Northern Ireland striker soon discovered that football can be cruel. A succession of injuries struck, culminating in surgery to cure a back problem, leaving Gray determined to make up for lost time when this season kicked off. He was in Spurs reserves when David Pleat splashed out £275,000 for him in August 1991. Two years later he moved on to Premiership football with Sunderland for £800,000 and after three years at Roker went to Nancy in France, and then to Fortuna Sittard in Holland. He needed little encouragement to return to Kenilworth Road in exchange for £400,000.

Luton record to the start of this season: 19 appearances, 2 goals.

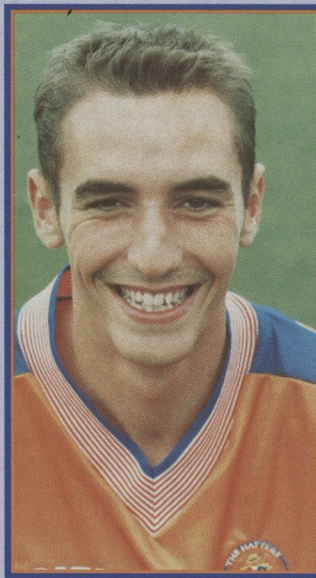
**Dwight Marshall. Born Jamaica 3.10.65**

A late starter in pro football - he was playing with non-league Grays Athletic until he was 24 - a succession of defences have paid the price as Marshall has made up for lost time with a string of goals. Plymouth gave him his League chance and the nippy striker rewarded them with 34 goals in 119 full appearances. Luton paid £150,000 for him in the summer of 1994, and despite being used occasionally as a wide attacker he still averaged better than one goal every three games. A broken leg at Sunderland in February 1996 forced him to take a year off, but he came back to show every sign he still had an appetite for goals. Luton record to the start of this season: 156 appearances, 37 goals.

**Alan White. Born Darlington 22.3.76**

Lennie Lawrence went back to Middlesbrough, one of his old clubs, when an injury crisis robbed him of three of his back four in September 1997. The Luton boss, as ever, had little money to spend, but centre-half White was a prospect he knew well: Lawrence had signed him as a 17 year old at Ayresome Park. White was unable to force his way into Middlesbrough's Premiership squad and grabbed the chance to rejoin Lawrence and sample League football. And the £40,000 fee has looked a bigger bargain with every match.

Luton record to the start of this season: 33 appearances, 1 goal.



**Sean Evers. Born Hitchin 10.10.77**

Another young player brought on through Luton's productive youth squad, Evers was on the fringe of the League squad until midway through last season. But when injuries struck Lennie Lawrence had to "ask boys to do men's jobs". The tenacious midfielder coped very well and established himself as a regular.

Luton record to the start of this season: 32 appearances, 3 goals.

**Simon Davies. Born Middleswich 23.4.74**

Midfielder who was in the Manchester United squad that won the FA Youth Cup in 1992, but with so much talent at Old Trafford found it difficult to make an impact in the Premiership and was loaned out to Exeter. Luton offered a realistic chance of regular League football, and bought him for £200,000 in the summer of 1997. However, despite being capped by Wales, Davies was unable to command a regular place in the Luton team, but he hopes to do so now.

Luton record to the start of this season: 27 appearances, 1 goal.

**Stuart Fraser. Born Edinburgh 9.1.80**

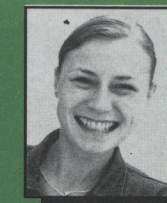
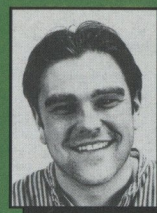
Stylish defender and skipper of the Luton youth team which ran away with the South East Counties League Championship last season. Reckoned by the Luton coaching staff to be an outstanding prospect, he was given his League debut against Carlisle, in a 3-2 win, on the final day of last season.

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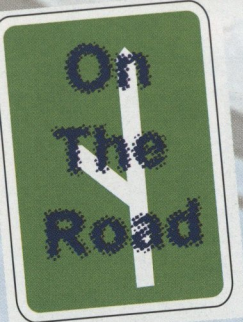
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### 1st Round, 1st Leg **SWINDON TOWN**

at the County Ground

Wed, August 12th - kick-off 7.45 p.m.

This will be only our second visit to The County Ground. On a bitterly cold Boxing Day 1995 we made the trip to Wiltshire to take on the high-flying Robins who were currently second in the table. A fine all-round team performance by The Chairboys, then in eighth place, secured a 0-0 draw. Swindon went on to become worthy champions.

#### Ticket Information

We have received a supply of tickets for Reserved seats (uncovered). These are priced at £14 for adults and £8 for concessions (65 and over, students). Children aged 15 or under will gain free entry only when a paying adult purchases a ticket, otherwise children pay the concession price of £8.00. Tickets will be available on the night at the same prices as above, but the children go free offer does not apply and they will be charged at the concession price of £8.00. Tickets will be on sale until lunchtime Tuesday August 11th from The Commercial Offices or via the Creditcard Hotline.

#### Recommended Road Directions

Take the westbound M4, exiting at junction 15. Follow Swindon signs to the Coate Roundabout and then signs to the County Ground (through the Drakes roundabout to the "Magic Roundabout"). The tall floodlights of The County Ground can be seen from quite a distance along this route.

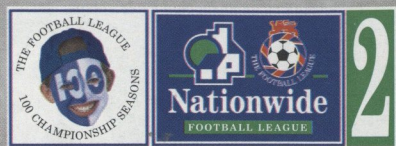
Distance from High Wycombe = 65.

#### From Railway Station

Distance 0.7 miles. Turn left outside station into Station Road. Turn right at Transfer Bridges Roundabout into County Road and the ground is on the left.

#### Car Parking

Swindon Town F.C. recommends the multi-storey car parks in the town centre. There are car parks by the railway station, or, if you get there early, try Shrivenham Road next to the ground. Watch out for residents' parking only signs.



### **MILLWALL**

at the New Den, London SE16

Sat, August 15th - kick-off 3.00 p.m.

We will be hoping to make it third time lucky at The New Den next Saturday. We went down by the odd goal in three in 1996/97, Michael Forsyth heading our goal. Last season a solitary Paul Shaw strike meant we returned home pointless once again.

I personally felt we played well enough to obtain something in both games.

#### Admission Prices

Seats in the North Stand, priced Adults £11, OAPs and Juniors £5.

#### Matchday Programme

This is priced £1.80

#### Car Parking

No Club Car Park - street parking only.

#### Travel Arrangements

By far the easiest way to reach The New Den is by Public Transport. South Bermondsey BR Station is 5 mins walk away - this is served by trains from Victoria and Charing Cross via London Bridge. In addition Surrey Quays underground station (on the East London line) has now reopened.

If you do drive, the shortest way is through Central London, over Tower Bridge, then via The Old Kent Road, the A2. I wouldn't recommend however unless you know the City well and/or have a good map. Best to go with The Travel Club and let Motts' drivers do the hard work!

### COMING NEXT TO ADAMS PARK



Round 1, 2nd Leg

### **SWINDON TOWN**

Tuesday, August 18th, 1998, kick-off 7.45 p.m.



### **WALSALL**

Saturday, August 22nd, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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CHAMPAGNE  
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**Laurent-Perrier**

Tuesday 28th July brought John Gregory's Aston Villa to Adams Park for their pre-season friendly game with Wycombe Wanderers. It was striker Maurice Harkin who was named as the Laurent Perrier Man of the Match by Match Sponsors Mizuno. Jeanette Cant from Mizuno presented Maurice with a bottle of Laurent Perrier Brut Champagne and an Ely Trophy.

Maurice Harkin's Mark Your Man Sponsors are Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club (home shirt) and Melanie and Duĥcan (away shirt).

On July 15th Match Sponsors Kenning Car Van & Truck Rental chose Mark Stallard as the Laurent Perrier Man of the Match in a pre-season friendly v Crystal Palace. Mark was presented with a bottle of Laurent Perrier Brut Champagne and an Ely Trophy.

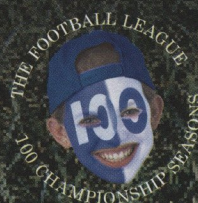
Mark Stallard's Mark Your Man Sponsors are Vince's Table (home) and Dave and Gill Meredith (away).

On August 1st Match Sponsors Syan chose Wanderers long serving midfielder Dave Carroll as the Laurent Perrier Man of the Match in a pre-season friendly v Charlton Athletic. Dave was presented with a bottle of Laurent Perrier Brut Champagne and an Ely Trophy.

Dave's Mark Your Man Sponsors are Thrislington Partitions (home), Graham Slope and Family (away).



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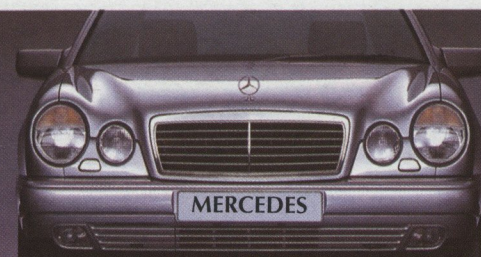
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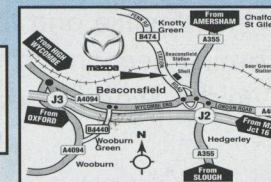
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# CONGRATULATIONS!



All the best to the Wanderers at the start of the season although not there in person will be in spirit. Stan Allen, Denia, Spain.

Happy Birthday to Colin Edwards, 18 today. Love from Mum, Dad and Michael

Today John Ward celebrates 20 years as a Wanderers supporter.

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Ted and Jean Phillips. 20 years together on the 9th August

It's the big 60 for Doreen Chapman on Tuesday 11th August. Have a great time. From all your friends in the ServisPak Stand.

Greetings from the Australian branch of the Wycombe Wanderers supporters club Downunder. All the best for 1998-99. Bob Lewis and Mick Pym

Happy 65th birthday to Nancy and also Happy Anniversary to you and George, both on the 9th. Love from all the family.

To My Darling Mandy, Happy Birthday for tomorrow, With love Phil

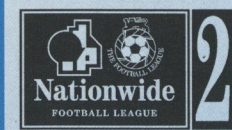
Chris and Tony Moxley, Happy Wedding Anniversary on 10th August, married 18 years.

Happy Birthday to Jennie Cooke, 22 on Friday 7th. Love from Annie, Duncan and Maggot.

**JASON KAVANAGH**  
sponsored by Richard Vere



**JASON KAVANAGH**  
sponsored by Frances Carvell

## LEAGUE TABLE

FINAL TABLE SEASON 1997/98

	HOME					AWAY					PTS	AV.ATT.	LEADING SCORER		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F				A	GS
Walford	46	13	7	3	36	22	11	9	3	31	19	67	88	11,533	Kennedy 11
Bristol City	46	16	5	2	41	17	9	5	9	28	22	69	85	11,846	Goater 17
Grimsby Town	46	11	7	5	30	14	8	8	7	25	23	55	72	5,271	Donovan 16
Northampton Town	46	14	5	4	33	17	4	12	7	19	20	52	71	6,389	Seal 12
Bristol Rovers	46	13	2	8	43	33	7	8	8	27	31	70	70	6,413	Hayles 23
Fulham	46	12	7	4	31	14	8	3	12	29	29	60	70	8,974	Moody 15
Wrexham	46	10	10	3	31	23	8	6	9	24	28	55	70	4,109	Roberts 8
Gillingham	46	13	7	3	30	18	6	6	11	22	29	52	70	6,464	Akinbiyi 21
A.F.C. Bournemouth	46	11	8	4	28	15	7	4	12	29	37	57	66	4,703	Fletcher 12
Chesterfield	46	13	7	3	31	19	3	10	10	15	25	46	65	4,749	Willis 8
Wigan Athletic	46	12	5	6	41	31	5	6	12	23	35	64	62	3,968	Lowe 16
Blackpool	46	13	6	4	35	24	4	5	14	24	43	59	62	5,212	Clarkson 13
Oldham Athletic	46	13	7	3	43	23	2	9	12	19	31	62	61	5,588	Barlow 12
<b>WYCOMBE WANDERERS</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5,414</b>	<b>Stallard 17</b>
Preston North End	46	10	6	7	29	26	5	8	10	27	30	56	59	9,468	Ashcraft 14
York City	46	9	7	7	26	21	5	10	8	26	37	52	59	3,853	Rowe 11
Luton Town	46	7	7	9	35	38	7	8	8	25	26	60	57	5,879	Thorpe 14
Millwall	46	7	8	8	23	23	7	5	11	20	31	43	55	6,979	Shaw 11
Walsall	46	10	8	5	26	16	4	4	15	17	36	43	54	4,062	Bali, 11
Burnley	46	10	9	4	34	23	3	4	16	21	42	55	52	10,446	Cooke 16
Brentford	46	9	7	7	33	29	2	10	11	17	42	50	50	5,037	Taylor 13
Plymouth Argyle	46	10	5	8	36	30	2	8	13	19	40	55	49	5,319	Corazzin 16
Carlisle United	46	8	5	10	27	28	4	3	16	30	45	57	44	5,393	Stevens 17
Southend United	46	8	7	8	29	30	3	3	17	18	49	47	43	4,198	Boere 14

### This Afternoon's Division Two Fixtures

- AFC Bournemouth v Lincoln City
- Burnley v Bristol Rovers
- Colchester United v Chesterfield
- Gillingham v Walsall
- Macclesfield Town v Fulham
- Manchester City v Blackpool
- Northampton Town v Stoke City
- Oldham Athletic v Notts County
- Preston North End v York City
- Wigan Athletic v Millwall
- Wrexham v Reading
- Wycombe Wanderers v Luton Town

### Ten To Test

by Neil Smith

1. Prior to Tony Thorpe who was the last Luton player to finish the Club's leading goalscorer two seasons in succession?
2. Who made his only Football League appearance for the Chairboys in what was the first League encounter between the Blues and Luton?
3. Name the former Luton player who's cousin scored twice in a European Cup Winners Cup Final?
4. Which Luton player became the first new full international following the appointment of Bobby Robson as England Manager?
5. From which club did Luton sign their most capped player, Mal Donaghy?
6. Who is the only Luton player to be voted Footballer of the Year?
7. Who scored Wycombe's first League goal against the Hatters?
8. What was significant about Luton's F.A. Cup Semi Final clash with Wimbledon at White Hart Lane in April 1988?
9. Two current Wycombe players, Michael Forsyth and Jason Kavanagh both played in what is Luton's biggest post war F.A. Cup defeat at home, a 5-1 scoreline in January 1993. However which current Premiership player scored a hat-trick that day, himself a former Luton player?
10. Who did Luton defeat in an F.A. Cup Fourth Round tie 3-1 after having trailed 6-2 in a previous abandoned match?

Answers can be found on page 33

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# NEWS



## THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CELEBRATES 100TH CHAMPIONSHIP

The world's original league football competition enjoys its centennial season in the coming campaign and this promises to be a celebration for all 72 clubs and their supporters.

The Football League Championship, which has provided the blueprint for other domestic competitions around the world since its foundation in 1888, lost eleven campaigns due to the two World Wars and therefore enjoys its 100th Championship this season.

The competition has been won by no fewer than 26 different clubs with Nottingham Forest being the most recent winners of the famous Football League Championship Trophy following their Division One success last season.

A list of all The Football League Championship Trophy winners is shown below.

## FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS - 1888/89 - 1997/98

Liverpool 18, Arsenal 10, Everton 9, Aston Villa 7, Manchester United 7, Sunderland 7, Newcastle United 5, Sheffield Wednesday 4, Huddersfield Town 3, Leeds United 3, Wolverhampton Wanderers 3, Blackburn Rovers 2, Burnley 2, Derby County 2, Manchester City 2, Nottingham Forest 2\*, Portsmouth 2, Preston North End 2, Tottenham Hotspur 2, Bolton Wanderers 1, Chelsea 1, Crystal Palace 1, Ipswich Town 1, Middlesbrough 1, Sheffield United 1, West Bromwich Albion 1.

\*Football League Champions - Season 1997-1998

## WORLD CUP FINAL MAN ON LEAGUE'S LIST

The Football League's list of referees for the new season has 72 names and includes World Cup Final assistant referee Mark Warren.

The 38 year old policeman from the West Midlands is one of eight new referees officiating in Nationwide Football League fixtures. The other seven are Lee Cable (Woking), Mark Cowburn (Blackpool), Phil Dowd (Stoke-on-Trent), Keith Hill (Royston), Bill Jordan (Tring), Ray Oliver (Sutton Coldfield) and Peter Walton (Winwick).

## LEAGUE PREDICTS FURTHER ATTENDANCE BOOM

Attendances in the Nationwide Football League smashed through the 13 million barrier last season and also the total recorded for the previous campaign's competition.

The Football League are once again confident that this unprecedented climb - which has seen attendances rise for twelve consecutive seasons - will continue in the forthcoming campaign.

This statistic makes The Football League the largest supported football competition in Britain. Indeed, the three divisions of the Nationwide Football League can boast more spectators in one campaign than any other British sporting event or competition. Average attendances for last season were up more than 13% on the previous year's levels with Division One showing the most striking rise thanks to a 20% increase.

Last season's attendances in the Nationwide Football League, compared to the previous campaign's totals, are shown below.

	SEASON	AGGREGATE	GAMES	AVERAGE	+/-%
Division One	96-97	6,931,539	552	12,557	
	97-98	8,330,018	552	15,091	+20.2%
Division Two	96-97	3,195,223	552	5,788	
	97-98	3,503,264	552	6,346	+9.6%
Division Three	96-97	1,851,639	552	3,354	
	97-98	1,767,220	552	3,201	-4.6%
Total	96-97	11,978,401	1,656	7,233	
	97-98	13,587,946	1,656	8,205	+13.4%

The Football League can also confirm that gates in the three divisions of the Nationwide Football League have increased by a staggering 6,000,000 spectators over the last twelve years since the introduction of the Play-Offs.

Average attendances for last season compared to the 1985/86 campaign - the last season before the Play-Off system was introduced - show a phenomenal 72% increase. Division One leads the way with an incredible increase of more than 96% over the last decade, while Divisions Two and Three are boasting a 40% and 25% rise respectively. An attendance analysis of Nationwide Football League figures for last season in comparison to the 1985/86 campaign totals is detailed below.

	SEASON	AGGREGATE	GAMES	AVERAGE	+/-%
Division One	85-86	3,551,968	462	7,688	
	97-98	8,330,018	552	15,091	+96.3%
Division Two	85-86	2,490,481	552	4,518	
	97-98	3,503,264	552	6,346	+40.4%
Division Three	85-86	1,408,274	552	2,551	
	97-98	1,767,220	552	3,201	+25.5%
Total	85-86	7,450,723	1,566	4,758	
	97-98	13,587,946	1,656	8,205	+72.4%



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1. Young pretenders clash - Lee Hendrie (Villa) and Mo Harkin contest the ball. 2. Keith Ryan and Julian Joachim in action. 3. Dave Carroll and Jason Kavanagh chase the ball. 4. Mark Sillard comes away from Ugo Ehiogu. 5. Action from Chesham with Aaron Patton on the ball, former Wanderer Paul Barraclough looks on.

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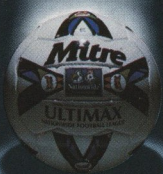


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## BLUES Supporters Club

It's that time of the year again when the "phoney war" of pre-season friendlies gives way to the real thing. It's nice to be back. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Luton Town supporters today. We hope you enjoy yourselves here, and let's hope that both our teams have a great season.

To our supporters, please do not forget to take advantage of the 10% discounts at the Club Shops, 10% off your Woodlands Club subscription and also the reduction of £3 on our coach travel. If you haven't already joined us, join today; you will find application forms in the Commercial Office, Wanderers in Town and you can get them from Committee members. Do not forget that only the first 300 to join up or rejoin this year get a free Supporters Diary.

### COACHES TO AWAY FIXTURES

We are taking bookings for the first away League match at MILLWALL and of course the away fixture at SWINDON in the Worthington Cup. Rena will be in her usual position in the vestibule at the entrance to the Vere Suite and you can of course book by telephoning 01296-429307.

*Details are as follows:-*

**Swindon Town August 12th.** Coaches depart 5.00 pm. Prices for members:- Adults £7, Senior Citizens £6, Juniors £5.

**Millwall August 15th.** Coaches depart 11.45 am. Prices for members:- Adults £6, Senior Citizens £5, Juniors £4.

For both trips, non-members pay £3 extra on all categories.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

An advance note for your diaries; September 3rd at Adams Park in the Woodlands Club at 7.30 pm when we shall be holding our first Forum of the season. Our manager, Neil Smillie, will be here along with Terry Evans so put the date down in your new Supporters Diary and come along to welcome Terry back.

## One For The Record

**Against whom did David Unsworth make his only appearance for Aston Villa? The answer of course - Wycombe Wanderers. In a remarkable week, the England international moved for £3m from West Ham United to Villa, played against Wycombe (conceding a penalty), and then moved back to Everton, his original club, also for £3m! During those few days several dozen Villa fans forked out around £50 for club shirts bearing the new signing's name. Villa have now offered those fans full refunds! Remember that question for those quizzes in a few years time!!**

## Just For The Record

*(Some facts about today's visitors unearthed by Neil Smith)*

Luton are accepted as the first club from the South of England to turn professional - doing so in the 1890s. At the time, the club's colours were a rather striking Navy Blue and Pink halved shirt and caps.

Whilst today's players often take on managerial and coaching duties in addition to their playing commitments, this has not always been the case. Luton were thus somewhat unique in the first season following the Second World War - Scottish International Dally Duncan was Player Manager, and wing-half Frank Soo was their Player Coach.

Duncan went on to become Manager outright and took the club into the First Division for the first time in their history in 1955. In their first season in the top flight the club produced the shock of the season when beating Sunderland 8-2 at Kenilworth Road - at the time Sunderland were the First Division leaders.

Duncan left in 1958 to manage Blackburn Rovers and Luton remained managerless until the end of the season. That season culminated in an F.A. Cup Final appearance when they were led out by Chairman Tom Hodgson.

Goalscoring centre forwards are numerous in the Hatters' past - MacDonald, Davies, Harford and Thorpe in recent years. Earlier, Joe Payne is best remembered for his 10 goals in a fixture with Bristol Rovers in 1936. He scored 83 times in just 72 League games and while still in Division Three, was capped by England. He scored twice on his debut against Finland - his only full international. Another England international from Kenilworth Road was goalkeeper Ron Baynham. After playing his part in the Hatters' promotion to the First Division in the 50s, he was selected to replace the Wolves custodian Bert Williams. Capped three times in the space of two months, he was on the winning side each time. His international days came to an end however when England manager Walter Winterbottom selected a Third Division keeper to replace him - Coventry City's Reg Matthews.

**BLUES FAXBACK 09003 446856** (Calls charged at 50p per minute all times)



I'm getting old. I know I'm getting old because policemen now call me 'sir' and because, if I was a footballer, I'd qualify for my pension before the end of the season. Another sign of age is the fact that the new season comes round so quickly these days. The last campaign seems all too fresh in the memory and what with the World Cup and the fact that the European campaigns have kicked off already, we really appear to have had no break at all this summer. I was in Switzerland a couple of weeks ago and they were already three games into their new campaign. However, the main reason for that is because they do something sensible in the bleak midwinter - they have a three week break.

### Coupe de Monde

So, what did you make of the World Cup? Pretty much as expected I'd say. Three of my four tips for the semis lived up to expectations (I actually don't think it was possible for all of my tips to make the last four). I was very pleasantly surprised by Croatia, and badly let down by Spain. I watched the Spaniards knock four past Northern Ireland on the eve of the World Cup when they looked terrific. I then saw them leading 2-1 against Nigeria and again, I felt they looked a good bet to go far in the competition. At that point, I went out when I came back, they'd lost. Against Paraguay they were awful - they reminded me of England when faced by a poor side - totally lacking in the ability to do something creative to win the match. Of course, in their final tie, Spain were superb. But by then, it was too late.

And what of England and Scotland? I get so fed up of following 'gallant losers and bravehearts'. The Scots got all offended when Norwegian Manager Egil Olsen stated they were the worst side in the Group. Results proved him right.

England played to the best of the team's abilities but lost to Romania and failed to beat a pretty ordinary Argentina. Sure we had Beckham to blame. His petulance and sheer immaturity let England down badly. But the signs at the end of the first half when Argentina equalised from a well-worked free kick was that they had weathered England's storm and were warming to the

task in hand.

With a month and more of hindsight, I'm beginning to form an opinion of England's World Cup that's less coloured by the emotions of the fortnight when football fever rivalled Diana's death in the media stakes.

On the positive side, Gazza wasn't missed at all and Glenn Hoddle was vindicated in his decision to leave him behind. Secondly, youth was given its head. In past World Cups, England have come unstuck due to injuries to elder statesman such as Brooking and Keegan in '82 and Robson a few years later. The bonuses for me this time round were the emergence of players with real international calibre such as Campbell, Scholes and even Beckham (though he has to grow up - and quickly). Owen, of course was the real star and I can polish my halo and grin along with all those other pundits who were urging Hoddle to draft him into the England side back before Christmas.

### Negatives

The negatives occurred both on and off the field. On the field, some of the players, Sherringham, Adams and Le Saux to name a few looked jaded mentally - if not physically - reflecting the fact that we play too many games in this country which clearly detracts from our international performance. The other negative is that we still lack creativity in too many departments. Ince, Batty and the back line will give their body and soul to England's cause, but I never once saw that telling pass that the likes of Dunga or Deschamps conjured on occasion that had the ability to turn a game.

Clearly, the real negative was off the field where the 'little Englander' mentality of the minority spoiled it for the majority again. There is a very sizeable minority among England's following who purport to follow the flag where the three lions with pride and will defend the fact that England is best to the last man. Unfortunately, they failed to realise that they were going to a festival not a war. Instead of celebrating and joining the party, they became entrenched in a battle zone and ghettoised themselves.

I was in the USA in '94 and watched the Irish fans get drunk and have a party. As far as I could see, the Scots and every nation other than the Germans and the English did the same in France. It appals me that the English attitude is to get drunk and not have a party, but have a fight. And, though I may incur the wrath of the apologist, I feel that attitude is endemic in the majority who follow England. Too many around the edges get sucked into the bone-headed mentality of the hard-core nutters who are only out for a right. The result is that bottles get thrown rather than drunk from, and that the police go storming in with the obvious consequences.

Anyway, enough of my soap box. The new season is a time for optimism and expectation. Both Wycombe and Luton will be hoping for better things than the last couple of campaigns have produced. So, get behind your team and remember - Wycombe could be top of the League by the end of this afternoon. And at worst, they'll only be three points behind the leaders! **Come on you Blues!**

# Combination Countdown

compiled by Gary Trimby

## update on our reserve side

**O**n Monday evening the reserves completed their pre-season friendlies away at Yeading (unfortunately after the printers deadline) looking to make it three wins out of three, following their 1-0 victory at Hemel Hempstead and the 6-2 thumping of Chesham.

### Avon Insurance Award Scheme

As part of their continuing sponsorship of the Combination, Avon Insurance will be giving a series of awards this season. The first is the Enterprise Award, which will go to the clubs that promote and build attendance at Avon Insurance Combination matches through local community involvement. The second award is for the most comprehensive coverage of the Avon Insurance Combination in club first team programmes and magazines. Both these awards are worth £1000 to the successful club, to invest in a local community project of their choice. There will also be a Fair Play Trophy awarded to the club with the best disciplinary record during the season and a trophy for the Top Scorer in the Combination.

### Share In Merit Cup

Although the reserves finished a disappointing tenth in last season's Optimum Interiors Capital League, they were in fact joint top goalscorers with Colchester United (5th) with 49 goals and would have won the trophy outright had Colchester not won their last game with Welling United 9-0.



Aug	19	PORTSMOUTH	H	2 p.m.
	26	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	7 p.m.
Sept	7	Reading	A	7.30 p.m.
	16	SWINDON TOWN	H	2 p.m.
	22	Millwall	A	2 p.m.
	29	CHELSEA	H	7.45 p.m.
Oct	7	GILLINGHAM	H	2 p.m.
	15	Crystal Palace	A	7.30 p.m.
	28	Ipswich Town	A	7 p.m.
Nov	4	BRENTFORD	H	2 p.m.
	18	Colchester United	A	2 p.m.
	25	NORWICH CITY	H	2 p.m.
Dec	1	Tottenham Hotspur	A	7.30 p.m.
	9	Chadton Athletic	A	7 p.m.
	16	WEST HAM UNITED	H	7.45 p.m.
	22	ARSENAL	H	7.45 p.m.
Jan	6	Wimbledon	A	7.30 p.m.
	13	SOUTHAMPTON	H	7.45 p.m.
	20	AFC Bournemouth	A	2 p.m.
Feb	7	FULHAM	H	2 p.m.
	10	Barnet	A	7.30 p.m.
	24	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H	2 p.m.
Mar	17	Luton Town	A	2 p.m.
	24	WATFORD	H	2 p.m.
	30	Oxford United	A	7.30 p.m.
Apr	7	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	2 p.m.
	12	Peterborough United	A	7 p.m.
	21	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H	2 p.m.

All Home games to be played at Adams Park.  
Dates and kick-off times of fixtures liable to change

### Avon Insurance Combination

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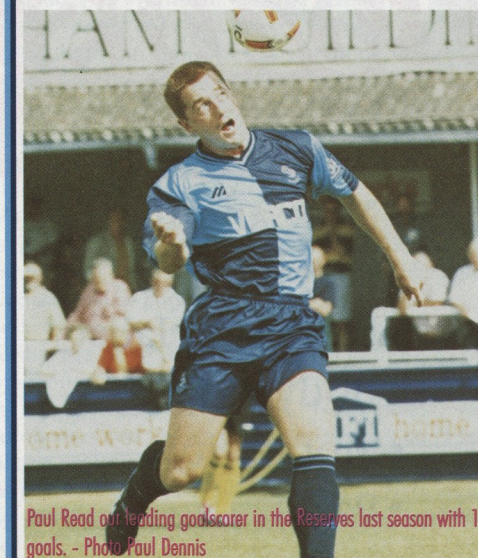
## PORTSMOUTH

Wednesday, 19th August

Kick-off 2.00 p.m.

Admission: Adults £3

Concessions £1



Paul Read our leading goalscorer in the Reserves last season with 17 goals. - Photo Paul Dennis

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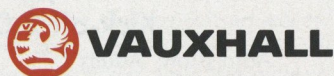


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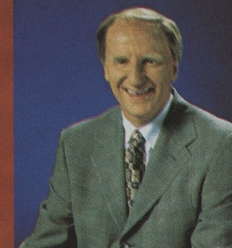
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# 'AP REPORTING'

by Alan Parry  
Sky Sports Commentator and Director of Wycombe Wanderers F.C.



From dodging flying bottles in the middle of a riot in Marseille to sipping champagne beside the Arc de Triomphe, my summer of 1998 was nothing if not eventful!

Covering the World Cup for Talk Radio provided me with enough stories to bore fellow drinkers in my local for the whole of the long season which stretches ahead - so it's difficult to know where to start.

However, the moment of the World Cup for me was Michael Owen's magnificent goal against Argentina - if not my commentary which followed it. As an unashamed Owen fan I blurted out, "A world super star has been born here tonight - and I love him so much I want to adopt him!"

Not surprisingly, I haven't heard anything from young Michael since so I can only assume that he's quite happy in the company of Mr and Mrs Owen and won't be taking up my offer. Still, you have to admit - he's some player.

There seems to be mixed opinions about how good World Cup '98 was and where it stands in comparison to other tournaments. Personally, I thought it was an excellent competition with most teams trying to play attacking football. There were great games and great individual performances and a marvellous atmosphere at most venues.

Although France were worthy winners I thought that Holland were the team with the best balance and I would have loved to see them make the final. England were beaten but not disgraced and in Tony Adams, Sol Campbell and young Owen we had three of the best players of the tournament.

Sadly, some of England's so called supporters did not come out of the World Cup so creditably. My hotel in Marseille was right in the middle of the rioting before the game against Tunisia and I can honestly say that I felt ashamed to be English that night.

It doesn't matter what spin some people have tried to put on it - I was there and saw yobs in England shirts throwing bottles and bar stools. To blame the local youths or the riot police is to ignore the truth.

Fortunately, the atmosphere in most other towns and cities was superb and I have to complement the French for their excellent organisation. France really is a beautiful country and it's a lot easier to get round than our own overcrowded island.

Except, of course, on the night of the final! What a party that was, it seemed like the whole nation crowded into the Champs d'Elysee to celebrate. I managed to find a pleasant - if rather expensive - watering hole near the Arc de Triomphe to watch the fun and games. It was a very late night!

Although Adams Park seemed a long way away, Wycombe Wanderers connections kept cropping up. My boardroom colleagues Ivor Beeks and Graham Peart joined me in Toulouse for England v Romania and our club doctor Gina Allan was in Lens for England v Colombia.

I had a couple of nights out with former manager Martin O'Neill when we were in the south of France and shared a few drinks with ex-player Kenny Swain - who might have become Wycombe's manager - before Martin - down in Marseille.

I will treasure some very special memories of France '98 and it's a subject I'm bound to come back to over the coming season - you've been warned!

## Toughest Yet

After the World Cup I took a two week holiday in Italy, so I've managed to miss most of the so called British "Summer". Unfortunately, I also missed Wycombe's pre-season friendlies so I'm not in the best position to judge our prospects for the coming season.

One thing that I am sure of - this will be our toughest season since we entered the Football League five years ago. The Second Division has never had so many clubs with wealth, support and tradition. Just consider the size of clubs like Manchester City, Fulham, Stoke City, Burnley, Preston North End and Reading.

Wigan Athletic have a multi-millionaire as chairman and the likes of Luton, Millwall, Oldham, Blackpool, Northampton and Notts County have all experienced life at the highest level of English football.

I detest the word "consolidation" but when you compare the size of Wycombe Wanderers to those clubs I have mentioned it makes you realise that we do well to compete so vigorously at this level. Nevertheless, we remain ambitious and there's no reason why we can't set our sights on a place in the top six.

Please get behind Neil Smillie and the players right from the start and we can all enjoy another eventful season at Adams Park.

JASON COUSINS

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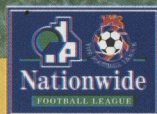
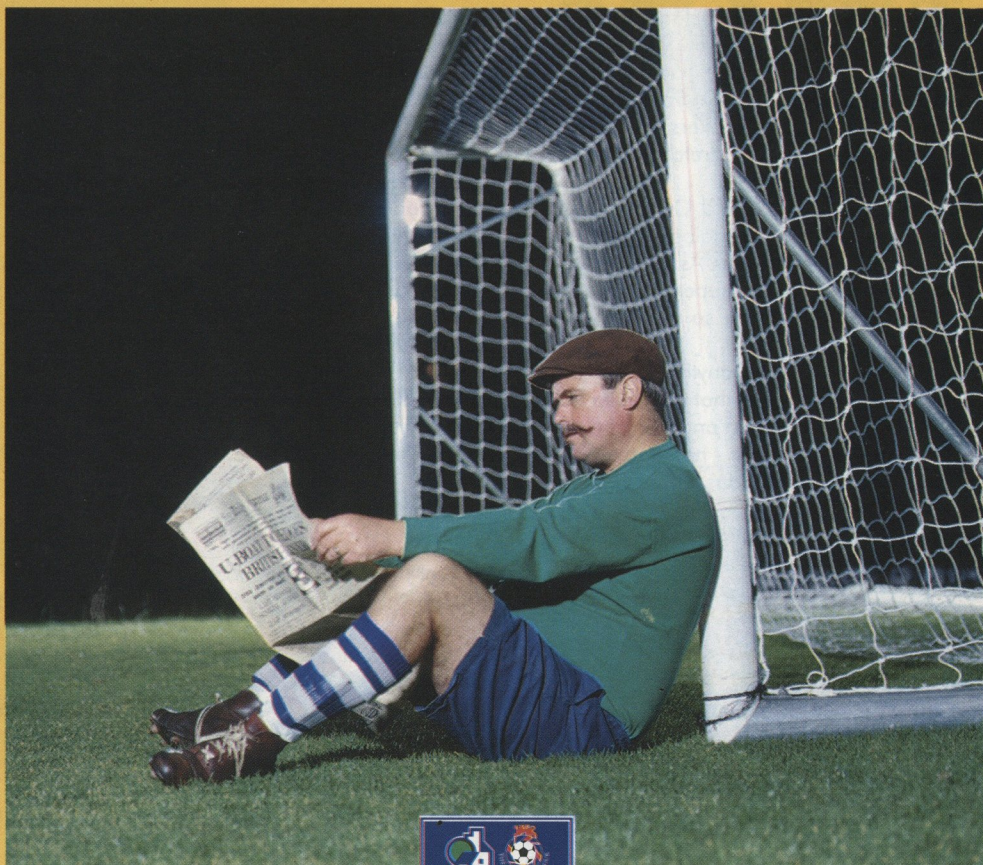


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# Counties Crusade

compiled by Gary Trimby

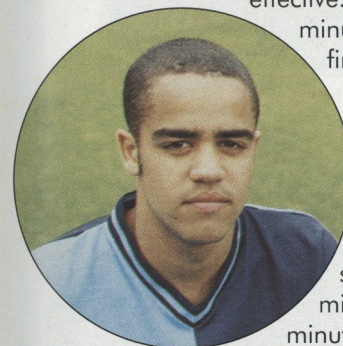
## update on our youth side

In a week that should have seen the youth team play two matches in their preparations for the new season, they had a set back when the game with Reading due to be played on Monday, 27th July had to be cancelled because the Royals were unable to field a side. So it was just the one game.

### Pre-Season Friendly

Wednesday, 29th July  
vs. Crystal Palace (Away) Won 4-0

Palace's new training ground at Godstone was the venue for a game that was played over three, 30 minute periods. The Eagles fielded a young side so it was not surprising that we dominated the latter stages. Manager Gary Goodchild started with a 3-5-2 formation for the first period but afterwards switched to 4-4-2 a formation that was far more effective. It was not however, until three



minutes into the third period that the first goal came. Danny Senda (left) who was fouled inside the box took the penalty himself to give us the lead. In fact he was to score all four goals in a seven minute blitz. Kevin Powell and Ben Townsend combined well to set-up Danny's second in the 65th minute. Then a great solo run on 67 minutes culminated in him tucking the ball under the keeper for his hat-trick. Finally in the 70th minute he turned his marker to hit a first time effort for this fourth to complete the scoring.

**Line-Up:-** M.Osborn, S.Reeks (C.Gledhill 60 mins), I.Hendry, B.Townsend, D.Senda, M.James, K.Powell (R.Gostick 30 mins), M.Lee, N.Copeman, B.McCoy (P.Johnson 30 mins), E.Gray.

\* Other substitutions took place during the game.

On Tuesday afternoon the youngsters played their final warm-up game away to Tottenham. Match summary in future programme. While this morning, they got their season under way with a South-East Counties fixture against Southend United at RAF Halton. Hopefully they got off to a winning start.

### South-East Counties League

98/99 fixtures

Aug	8	SOUTHEND UNITED	H*
	15	Gillingham	A
	22	LEYTON ORIENT	H**
Sept	5	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H
	12	Colchester United	A
	19	LUTON TOWN	H
	26	Swindon Town	A
Oct	3	BARNET	H
	10	Brentford	A
	17	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H
	24	Brighton & Hove Albion	A
	31	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Nov	7	Oxford United	A
	14	READING	H
	21	GILLINGHAM	H
	28	Leyton Orient	A
Dec	5	Reading	A
	12	Southend United	A
Jan	2	PORTSMOUTH	H
	9	Cambridge United	A
	16	COLCHESTER UNITED	H
	23	Luton Town	A
	30	SWINDON TOWN	H
Feb	6	Barnet	A
	13	BRENTFORD	H
	20	AFC Bournemouth	A
	27	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H
Mar	6	Bristol Rovers	A
	13	OXFORD UNITED	H

\*Played at RAF Halton \*\*To be played at Bisham Abbey

All other home games in South-East Counties League to be played at Molins Sports Ground, Mill Lane, Princes Risborough. Kick-off 11.00 a.m.

### South East Counties League

division two

FINAL TABLE - SEASON 1997/98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G/Diff	Pts
Luton Town	28	18	7	3	71	24	+47	61
Bristol City	28	17	6	5	54	35	+19	57
Brentford	28	15	9	4	49	31	+18	54
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	28	11	10	7	42	30	+12	43
Colchester United	28	11	8	9	49	42	+7	41
Swindon Town	28	13	2	13	46	46	-	41
Wimbledon	28	11	5	12	46	50	-4	38
Oxford United	28	11	5	12	50	59	-9	38
Southampton	28	10	5	13	53	56	-3	35
Bristol Rovers	28	9	7	12	53	49	+4	34
AFC Bournemouth	28	8	8	12	43	58	-15	32
Reading	28	8	6	14	37	49	-12	30
Tottenham Hotspur	28	8	6	14	36	49	-13	30
Barnet	28	7	7	14	47	61	-14	28
Brighton & Hove Albion	28	4	7	17	32	69	-37	19

MARK STALLARD

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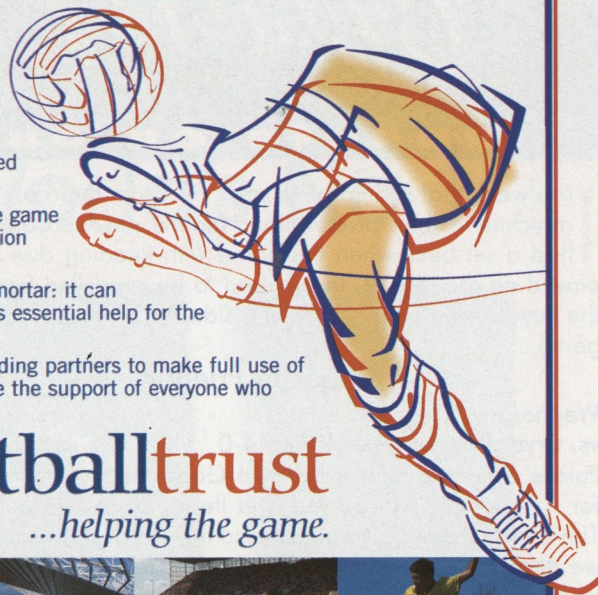
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

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The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

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Hello supporters, we hope you have enjoyed the pre-season friendlies and are all ready for the season to start. This time of year is our busiest time. With all the children being on their summer holidays, we are currently running football coaching courses all over the Wycombe area right through to the end of August. Below are a list of times and dates of the sessions with the different venues and locations listed.

Enjoy the game and we hope you all get behind Neil and the team.

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**August 10th - 14th**

Cost £37.50 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

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**August 17th-21st**

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### Quiz Answers

1. Dwight Marshall 1994/95 & 1995/96
2. Ray Wilkins
3. Les Sealey, cousin Alan scoring twice for West Ham at Wembley in 1965
4. Ricky Hill v Denmark, September 1982
5. Larnie
6. Syd Owen
7. Mark Stallard
8. The lowest post war attendance for an FA Cup Semi-Final
9. Mark Pembridge
10. Manchester City

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# NAMES & GAMES

football historian Leigh Edwards focuses on connections with our visitors



## League Record Against Luton

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	2	0	1	1	2	3
Away	2	0	2	0	0	0
Total	4	0	3	1	2	3

Goals by Mark Stallard and Steve McGavin gave Wycombe Wanderers a 2-2 Second Division draw on Luton Town's last visit to Adams Park on 1st November 1997. The two sides drew a blank in the return fixture at Kenilworth Road four months later. Wycombe have failed to beat Luton in their four League meetings to date, while the Hatters triumphed here 1-0 in September 1996 with a goal from David Oldfield.

## Turner's Triumph



Wayne Turner - a brief spell at Adams Park as assistant to Neil Smillie.

Wycombe Wanderers' Former first-team coach Wayne Turner featured in Luton Town's 1981/82 Second Division title triumph. Signing professional as a midfielder at Kenilworth Road in April 1978, he scored twice in 84 League outings for Luton prior to joining First Division rivals Coventry City for £75,000 in July 1985. He rejoined the Hatters as reserve team coach under David

Pleat, then coached their first-team until replaced by John Moore in November 1997 and briefly moved to Wycombe in a similar capacity this summer.

## Star Graduate

Former Wycombe Wanderers striker Viv Busby helped Luton Town to clinch promotion in 1969/70. A notable graduate from Wycombe's non-League days, he scored 19 goals in 50 Isthmian League outings for Wanderers prior to joining Luton in January 1970. He played alongside the likes of Malcolm Macdonald and Don Givens at Kenilworth Road, netting 16 times in 77 League games before following manager Alec

Stock to Fulham for £25,000 in August 1973 after a loan spell at Newcastle United.

## Relegation Escape

Wycombe Wanderers' former loanee striker Trevor Aylott was an influential figure as Luton Town managed to cling on to top-flight status in 1982/83, winning 1-0 at relegation rivals Manchester City in the final match of the season. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Millwall for £55,000 in March 1983, he scored ten goals in 32 First Division games before being swapped for Crystal Palace's Vince Hilaire in July 1984. He joined Wycombe on loan from Gillingham in March 1993, making three Conference League appearances as Martin O'Neill's side clinched the title that season.

## First Meeting



David Oldfield - he netted the winning goal at Adams Park in September 1996.

Wycombe Wanderers' first League meeting with Luton Town was at Adams Park on 7th September 1996. Watched by 6,471, David Oldfield's second-half strike gave the following Luton team a 1-0 Second Division victory: Ian Feuer, Julian James, Mitchell Thomas, Gary Waddock, Steve Davis, Mervin Johnson, Ceri Hughes, Graham Alexander, David Oldfield, Andy Fotiadis (Tony Thorpe), Bontcho

Guentchev. The two sides drew a blank in the return fixture at Kenilworth Road seven months later and Luton reached the play-offs that season.

## Ever-Present

One-time Wycombe Wanderers manager Mike Keen was ever-present in three consecutive seasons for Luton Town, including their 1969/70 promotion success. Following manager Alec Stock from QPR to Luton for £17,500 in January 1969, he became captain at Kenilworth Road and scored 11 goals in

145 League outings prior to joining Watford on a free transfer in June 1972. He became Wycombe's Manager for four years in April 1980 and his son Kevin played three games in Wanderers' 1982/83 Isthmian League Title campaign.

## Promotion Winner

Wycombe Wanderers' former England Amateur international midfielder Peter Cruse featured in Luton Town's 1973/74 promotion campaign. Moving to the Hatters from Arsenal in July 1973, he made his League debut at Nottingham Forest on the opening day of that season and made three further Second Division appearances prior to joining Enfield in July 1974 after a loan spell at Shrewsbury Town. He

played ten Isthmian League games for Wycombe during the 1976/77 title challenge.

## Much-Travelled

Much-travelled midfielder Barry Silkman briefly played for both Luton Town and Wycombe Wanderers during his career. He joined Luton on loan from Plymouth Argyle in February 1979 and made three Second Division appearances while at Kenilworth Road. Moving to Wycombe from Crewe Alexandra in October 1986, he replaced the injured Kevin Durham and played six consecutive games in that season's Isthmian League triumph prior to joining Chelmsford City.

# 'YESTERDAYS HEROES

VIV BUSBY



Viv assisted Howard Kendall at Everton last season.

Born locally, he scored on his Wycombe debut in a 6-2 win at Woking in November 1966 and netted 19 goals in 50 Isthmian League outings prior to joining Luton Town in January 1970. He helped them to clinch promotion that season and had a loan spell at Newcastle United before following Alec Stock to Fulham for £25,000 in August 1973.

An F.A. Cup finalist in 1975, he moved via Norwich City to Stoke City for £50,000 in November 1977 and featured in their 1978/79 promotion success. He was loaned to Sheffield United and Tulsa Roughnecks prior to joining Blackburn Rovers for £40,000 in February 1981, then York City as player-coach in August 1982. Helping to plot their 1983/84 Fourth Division title triumph, he also assisted Denis Smith at Sunderland before managing Hartlepool United for nine months, then assisted Howard Kendall at

Sheffield United and Everton until last month.

	L	FAC	AC	T
1966/67	12 (5)			12 (5)
1967/68	16 (8)			16 (8)
1968/69	14+1 (4)			14+1 (4)
1969/70	6+1 (2)	4 (1)	3 (2)	13+1 (5)
Total	48+2 (19)	4 (1)	3 (2)	55+2 (22)

**Would you like your favourite player of the past to be featured in this column? If yes, please write to the Programme Editor at Adams Park giving your selection and the reason for your choice. We will then do the rest!!**

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# LAST SEASON - MATCH BY MATCH

## Match Facts

Date	Opponents/Cup	Score	Goals	Pos.
Sat Aug 9	Wigan Athletic	L 2-5	4,706	17
Tue Aug 12	FULHAM (Coca-Cola 1)	L 1-2	4,360	17
Sat Aug 16	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	D 0-0	5,130	17
Sat Aug 23	Bristolpool	W 4-2	4,733	9
Tue Aug 26	Fulham (Coca-Cola 1)	D 4-4#	5,055	9
Sat Aug 30	FULHAM	W 2-0	6,278	5
Tue Sept 2	SOUTHEND UNITED	W 4-1	4,528	3
Sun Sept 7	Walford	L 1-2	12,100	3
Sat Sept 13	CARLISLE UNITED*	L 1-4	6,018	10
Fri Sept 19	Brentford	D 1-1	4,838	6
Sat Sept 27	PRESTON NORTH END	D 0-0	4,838	9
Sat Oct 4	Burnley	D 2-2	9,057	11
Sat Oct 11	Gillingham	L 0-1	5,545	16
Sat Oct 18	BRISTOL ROVERS	W 1-0	5,836	15
Tue Oct 21	WALSALL	W 4-2	3,884	9
Sat Oct 25	Chesterfield	L 0-1	4,119	12
Sat Nov 1	LUTON TOWN	D 2-2	6,219	11
Tue Nov 4	Plymouth Argyle	L 2-4#	2,993	14
Sat Nov 8	York City	L 0-2	3,343	16
Sat Nov 15	BASINGSTOKE TOWN (FAC1)	D 2-2	3,932	16
Tue Nov 18	WREXHAM	D 0-0	3,635	15
Tue Nov 22	Bristol City	L 1-3	11,129	15
Tue Nov 25	Beisingsdale Town (FA Cup 1R)	L 2-2**	5,085	-
Sat Nov 29	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	D 1-1	4,340	17
Tue Dec 2	Grimsey Town	D 0-0	4,160	16
Tue Dec 9	Southend United (AWST)	W 1-0	1,577	-
Sat Dec 13	OLDHAM ATHLETIC*	W 2-1	5,327	17
Fri Dec 20	Milwall	L 0-1	6,092	18
Fri Dec 26	WATFORD	D 0-0	8,090	18
Sat Jan 10	Wigan Athletic*	W 2-1	5,162	15
Tue Jan 13	Fulham (AWST)	L 1-3	4,319	-
Sat Jan 17	Fulham	D 0-0	10,468	19
Sat Jan 24	BLACKPOOL	W 2-1	5,073	16
Sat Jan 31	Cardiff United	D 0-0	6,220	17
Tue Feb 7	BRENTFORD	D 0-0	6,328	17
Sat Feb 14	BURNLEY	L 1-2	5,303	17
Sat Feb 21	Preston North End	W 2-1	5,976	14
Tue Feb 24	Bristol Rovers	D 1-1	7,665	14
Sat Feb 28	GILLINGHAM	L 1-3	5,805	14
Tue Mar 3	YORK CITY	W 1-0	5,583	14
Sat Mar 7	Luton Town	D 0-0	6,114	14
Sat Mar 14	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	W 5-1	5,508	10
Sat Mar 21	Wrexham	L 0-2	4,290	14
Sat Mar 28	BRISTOL CITY	L 1-2	6,326	16
Sat Apr 4	AFC Bournemouth	D 0-0	4,271	14
Fri Apr 10	GRIMSBY TOWN*	D 1-1	5,846	13
Mon Apr 13	Oldham Athletic	W 1-0	4,305	12
Sat Apr 18	MILLWALL	D 0-0	5,371	13
Sat Apr 25	CHESTERFIELD	D 1-1	5,113	15
Sat May 2	Walsall	W 1-0	4,412	14

Key: # = own goal. Substitute replaced player in brackets. \* = Quid-a-Kid. § = Lost 5-6 on aggregate. ^ After Extra Time. # Last 4-5 on penalties.

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# Milestones

by Dave Finch

Welcome to a new season. I'll start by rounding off last season. The 1-1 draw in our last home game of the campaign was the first time that the two teams had shared the points (Chesterfield had won four, we had won three of the previous seven games).



Chesterfield's goal was the 100th that we have conceded at home in the Football League, while Andy Baird (pictured) became the 76th player to appear in the League for us.

The total of 18 drawn matches is a new club record, as is the 10 drawn at home.

We then ended the season on a high note, winning at Walsall and completing our fourth double of the season. It was the first time since November 1995 (when we won 4-1 at Oxford and 2-1 at Swansea under Alan Smith) that we had won two consecutive away League games.

It also meant that we were unbeaten in our last six League games, our best ever finish to a Football League season. John Cornforth made the 300th appearance of his career in this game, whilst Aaron Patton became the 77th player to appear in League games for us, even if it was for just one minute!

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## Final Roll Call 1997-98

	APPEARANCES				GOALS				TOTAL		CAREER	
	NL	CC	FA	AW	NL	CC	FA	AW	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS
BAIRD Andy	0+2	-+	-+	-+	-	-	-	-	0+2	-	)+2	-
BEETON Alan	15+5	-+	1+1	-+	-	-	-	-	16+6	-	16+6	-
*BODIN Paul	5+1	-+	-+	-+	-	-	-	-	5+1	-	5+1	-
BROWN Steve	40+-	1+1	1+	2+-	3	-	-	-	44+1	3	175+14	11
CARROLL Dave	35+4	2+-	1+-	2+-	1	-	-	-	40+4	-	475+11	87
COUSINS Jason	25+4	-+	2+-	1+-	-	-	-	-	28+4	-	312+7	6
CORNFORTH John	18+6	2+-	2+-	0+1	5	-	2	-	22+7	7	30+9	7
FORSYTH Michael	25+-	2+-	1+-	1+-	-	-	-	-	29+-	-	53+1	2
HARKIN Maurice	13+22	1+1	1+-	2+-	2	1	-	1	17+23	4	17+29	4
KAVANAGH Jason	43+2	2+-	1+1	2+-	1	-	-	-	48+3	1	78+3	1
*KERSLAKE David	9+1	-+	-+	1+-	-	-	-	-	10+1	-	10+1	-
McCARTHY Paul	28+3	2+-	1+-	1+-	1	-	-	-	32+3	1	77+7	2
McGAVIN Steve	35+2	1+1	2+-	2+-	2	-	2	-	40+3	4	116+17	17
MOHAN Nicky	33+-	-+	2+-	1+-	-	-	-	-	36+-	-	36+-	-
*PARKIN Brian	1+-	-+	-+	-+	-	-	-	-	1+-	-	29+-	-
PATTON Aaron	0+1	-+	-+	-+	-	-	-	-	0+1	-	0+1	-
READ Paul	14+14	2+-	1+1	-+	4	1	-	-	17+15	5	24+21	9
RYAN Keith	40+-	1+-	2+-	2+-	3	1	-	-	45+-	4	227+36	29
SCOTT Keith	28+1	1+-	2+-	0+1	11	1	-	-	31+2	12	174+4	90
SIMPSON Michael	10+11	2+-	0+2	1+-	-	-	-	-	13+13	-	30+17	1
STALLARD Mark	43+-	1+1	-+	2+-	17	-	1	-	46+1	18	57+1	22
TAYLOR Martin	45+-	2+-	2+-	2+-	-	-	-	-	51+-	-	55+-	-
WRIGHT Gary	1+-	-+	-+	0+2	-	-	-	-	1+2	-	1+2	-
	OWN GOALS											
					1	1	-	-		2		

\* = No longer with Club

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with Dave Finch

# Last Time

Luton's last visit was on Saturday, 1st November for last season's Division two encounter. The Hatters had got off to a disappointing start to the season due to an exceptionally long injury list but, at the time of their visit, were more or less back to full strength, although keeper Ian Feuer was still missing. Wycombe welcomed Nicky Mohan (suspension) and Keith Scott (injury) back to their side. On the day, honours were even in a 2-2 draw after a pulsating and hard-fought match in front of a crowd of 6,219, including a large and vociferous contingent from Luton.

Wycombe started well, although it was the visitors who had the first attempt at goal when Paul McLaren tried his luck from 25 yards, and took the lead in the 13th minute when Jason Kavanagh's determination won a throw-on in the corner. Kavanagh took it himself and threw to Steve McGavin. His cross was met-first time by Mark STALLARD in the six-yard area. Seven minutes later, they should have gone two up. Kavanagh broke clear and squared across goal, only for the on rushing Dave Carroll to blast over. Encouraged by this let-off, Luton began to get a grip of the game and after a good spell of pressure, equalised four minutes before half-time. Wycombe failed to clear an attack instigated by Steve Davis' run into the area and David OLDFIELD drove in a low shot which cannoned off of Martin Taylor's legs onto the bar and over the line before hitting the post and bouncing out. Referee, John Brandwood, was well-positioned to award the goal. As the interval approached, Kelvin Davis did well to hold Keith Scott's volley at the other end.

Luton began the second half as they ended the first and forced several early corners. From one of them Oldfield's back-header

landed on top of the bar. It was against the run of play therefore when the Blues went in front again with a superb goal in the 63rd minute. Scott outpaced Bryan Small from Keith Ryan's pass up the line and passed inside to McGAVIN, who turned his man inside the area and fired home into the far corner for his first goal of the season. Luton equalised 12 minutes later when Julian James pumped a cross into a crowded area and Tony THORPE'S looping header caught Taylor off his line.

### Line-Ups:-

**Wycombe:** M.Taylor, J.Cousins, J.Kavanagh, K.Ryan, N.Mohan, M.Forsyth, D.Carroll, K.Scott, M.Stallard (M.Harkin), S.McGavin, S.Brown (M.Simpson).

**Luton:** K.Davis, J.James, B.Small, G.Waddock, S.Davis, M.Johnson, P.Gray, P.McLaren, D.Oldfield, A.Thorpe, G.Alexander.



Wanderers' Steve McGavin and Jason Kavanagh keep a close eye on Luton's Gary Waddock. Photo - Paul Dennis

### Previous Football League Results

(Wycombe score first)

		HOME	AWAY
1996-97	Division Two	0-1	0-0
1997/98	Division Two	2-2	0-0



**KEITH RYAN**

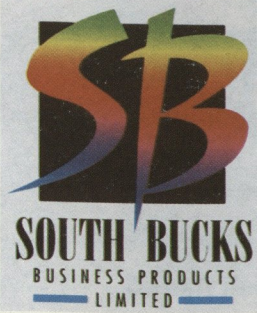
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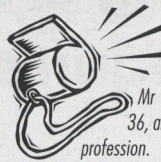
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2. **Jason KAVANAGH** .....
3. **Chris VINNICOMBE** .....
4. **Keith RYAN (capt)** .....
5. **Jason COUSINS** .....
6. **Paul McCARTHY** .....
7. **Dave CARROLL** .....
8. **Keith SCOTT** .....
9. **Mark STALLARD** .....
10. **Maurice HARKIN** .....
11. **Steve BROWN** .....
12. **Alan BEETON** .....
13. **Michael SIMPSON** .....
14. **Paul READ** .....

Background Photo:- Keith Ryan

## MATCH OFFICIALS



### REFEREE

**Mr A Bates**

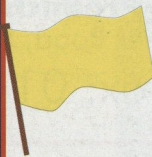
Stoke on Trent

*Mr Tony Bates is single, aged 36, and a Production Manager by profession. He began refereeing in 1986/87 and progressed via the WMRL and Panel Leagues. He is now in his third season on the Football League List. He was a linesman in the 1996 FA Cup Final and also during the Euro 96 Championships. His other interests include watching speedway and playing cricket.*

*We trust Mr Bates and his assistants will enjoy our hospitality during their short stay at Adams Park today.*

### ASSISTANT REFEREES

**Mr G Bone**



**Mr B Wade**



### RESERVE OFFICIAL

**Mr J Ford**

## LUTON TOWN

Manager: Lennie Lawrence

1. **Kelvin DAVIS** .....
2. **Graham ALEXANDER** .....
3. **Mitchell THOMAS** .....
4. **Mathew SPRING** .....
5. **Steve DAVIS (capt)** .....
6. **Marvin JOHNSON** .....
7. **Gavin McGOWAN** .....
8. **Sean EVERS** .....
9. **Herve BACQUE** .....
10. **Phil GRAY** .....
11. **Dwight MARSHALL** .....
12. **Alan WHITE** .....
13. **Simon DAVIES** .....
14. **Stuart FRASER** .....

Background Photo:- Kelvin Davis

**PK**  
GRAPHICS



For our first home League match is Gemma Priest from Chinnor. Gemma is 14 years old and lists her hobbies as drawing and playing tennis. Gemma likes fish and chips and her favourite TV programmes are 'Friends' and 'Sister Sister'. Her favourite Wycombe player is Jason Kavanagh.

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LIVE AWAY MATCH COVERAGE

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