



Luton Town v Preston North End



Saturday 15 August 1998

Kick Off 3.00pm

Official matchday programme. Price £1.80



Matchday Sponsor. **The Regular Rabbit**

Luton Town Football Club

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Champions 1981-82

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Division 4
Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Programme

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Brian Swain

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Wolff Evans

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Gareth Owen
Home Counties Newspapers

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club

Going up?

Brian Swain checks out the odds

PROMOTION for the Town? Forget it, if you believe the bookies. Ask for the odds on the second Division championship race, and at 25-1 the Hatters are rated as no more than mid-table.

And the bookies always get it right, don't they? Well no, not quite true, as those of us who backed the Town last season know to our cost.

A year ago the Town and Bristol City were joint favourites at 8-1 to take the title, with Watford at 9-1. As Watford and City went up, as first and second in the table, the bookies can fairly claim a two out of three success rating.

But at the other end of the table, it was one out of three. Championship odds of 50-1 for Bournemouth and Plymouth, and 66-1 on York, made them the choices for relegation, with Bristol Rovers and Wycombe bracketed together as likely contenders for fourth from bottom. In the event, Plymouth did go down. But on odds offered, there should have been mid-table finishes at least for the other three who are now in the Third Division, Brentford, Carlisle and Southend.

So, looking at this year's offers from the bookies, we need not worry too much about being written off for a place in the playoffs at least.

But it is hard to argue with the bookies' choice of this season's top two: Manchester City, never before in the Second Division, are 2-1 favourites to go straight back up. It's desperately needed at Maine Road, which was hosting Premiership football only two years ago.

Fulham are second favourites, at 6-1, followed by Stoke at 8-1 and Reading at 10-1. The two clubs to complete the play-off frame with top six finishes are Wigan at 14-1 and Burley 16-1.

The bookies think Notts County, Northampton and Bristol Rovers are all 20-1 shots, and likely to finish equal seventh, and we are rated alongside Bournemouth, Wycombe and Millwall at equal tenth.

Below us in the bookies' judgement come Wrexham and Gillingham at 28-1, and at 33-1 Blackpool, Preston, Oldham and Chesterfield.

Walsall are expected to struggle, priced at 40-1, and the longest odds for the title, the bookies' choice for relegation, are four 50-1 shots: Colchester, York, Lincoln and Macclesfield.

So have I diverted some of the housekeeping to back the Town at 25-1? You bet!



Front Cover:
Liam George in action at Wycombe, where he went on as sub and frightened them to death with his pace.

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Second Division table forecast by the odds for last season, actual finishing places in brackets.

- 1 Bristol City (2)
- 2 Luton Town (17)
- 3 Watford (1)
- 4 Burnley (2)
- 5 Fulham (6)
- 6 Oldham (13)
- 7 Brentford (21)
- 8 Wigan (11)
- 9 Grimsby (3)
- 10 Blackpool (12)
- 11 Chesterfield (10)
- 12 Millwall (18)
- 13 Preston (15)
- 14 Gillingham (8)
- 15 Carlisle (23)
- 16 Southend (24)
- 17 Walsall (19)
- 18 Wrexham (7)
- 19 Northampton (4)
- 20 Bristol Rovers (5)
- 21 Wycombe (14)
- 22 Bournemouth (9)
- 23 Plymouth (22)
- 24 York (16)

How the bookies expect this season to pan out

- 1 Manchester City
- 2 Fulham
- 3 Stoke City
- 4 Reading
- 5 Wigan
- 6 Burnley
- =7 Notts County
- =7 Northampton
- =7 Bristol Rovers
- =10 Luton
- =10 Bournemouth
- =10 Millwall
- =10 Wycombe
- =14 Gillingham
- =14 Wrexham
- =16 Blackpool
- =16 Chesterfield
- =16 Oldham
- =16 Preston
- 20 Walsall
- =21 Colchester
- =21 Lincoln
- =21 Macclesfield
- =21 York

**The odds quoted came from one local betting shop, before the season kicked off. Other bookies might have better or worse deals on offer.*

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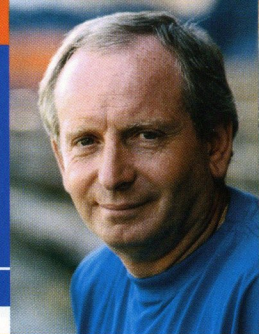


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PONY™

Lennie Lawrence

from the manager's chair



In all my years in football I have rarely experienced a night of such contrasting emotions and fortunes as we went through in Tuesday's Worthington Cup-tie.

Oxford came as a First Division side, and for 20 minutes they looked a division above us, moving the ball and themselves very quickly, without creating any real chances.

Then we got on top, and had a good spell, but we were too slow to react to a straightforward free kick, and then we lost concentration again soon afterwards to concede a second goal.

There was some straight talking in the dressing room during the interval, and to their great credit our players made a tremendous effort in the second half.

We thought the night's most justifiable penalty appeal was turned down, while the least justifiable was given. But whatever the rights and wrongs of that, there was no doubt we deserved to get it back to 2-2.

I still think that on our overall performance we should have got a draw, but Oxford's late winner was a dagger to the heart, coming from a needless corner.

It means that for the second leg we are at the bottom of a hill looking up, but we have a good away record, and will go to Oxford knowing that the task is difficult, but not beyond us. The result was all the more disappointing because we had played well at Wycombe, where we thoroughly deserved to open the season with a victory, and of course we wanted to open our home campaign with another one. Today, for the first home league game of the season, we cannot afford another

setback, and we know from recent experience that Preston will offer a very real challenge.

They did the double over us last season, and I have very sharp memories of the one-goal defeat at Deepdale on a miserable wet night in March. We dominated the first half, but in the second their crowd really got behind them, and we lost. We might have been a touch unlucky, but seldom have I seen and heard a crowd play such a big part in the team's success.

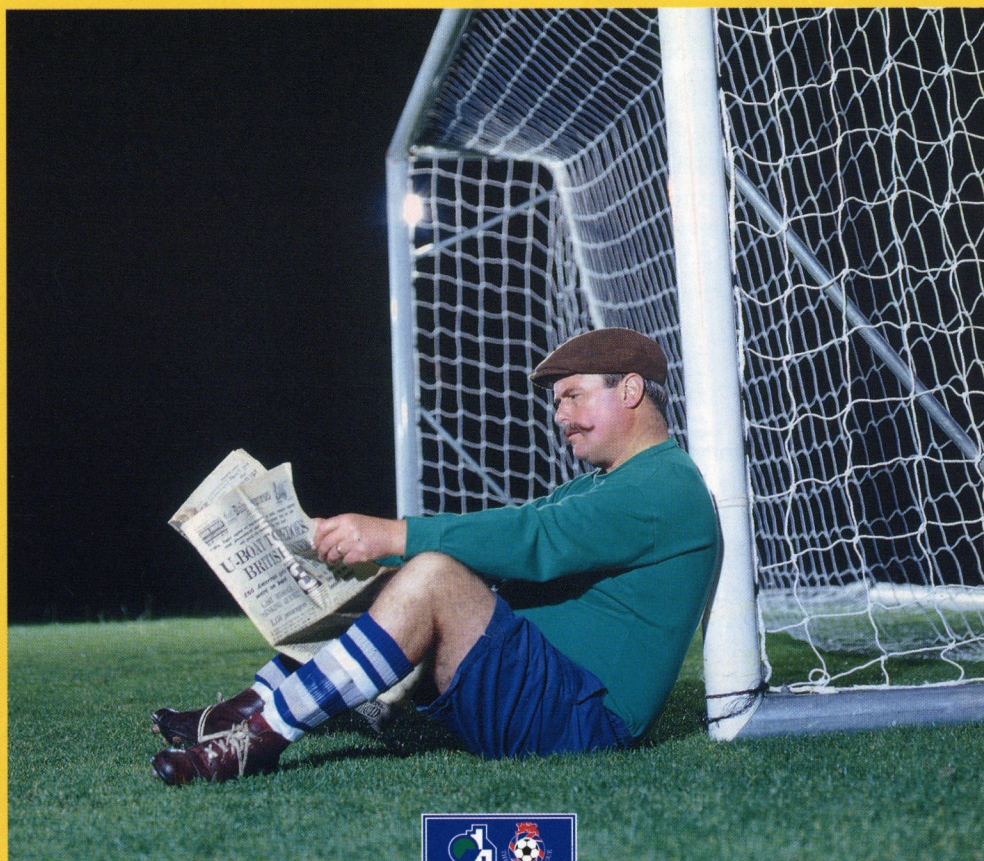
There is a lesson there for every club, and it is a pleasure to say thank you to all our supporters in the ground on Tuesday night for the way they backed the team as we fought back from two down. It underlines the point that real fans can make a difference.

Preston have similar aspirations to ours, and I admit that I expected them to finish higher up the table last season than they did.

But three points for us today would put us in a great position in the league. If we play like we did in the second half against Oxford, and if fans are as supportive again, we can do it.

Lennie Lawrence

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Last season the Nationwide Football League saw some spectacular saves

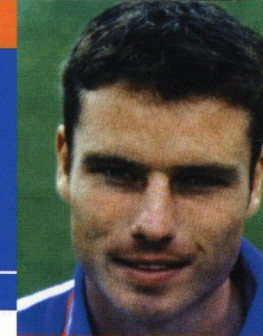
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Steve Davis captain's log



Having got off to a great start at Wycombe it was disappointing to lose on Tuesday especially after pulling ourselves back to 2-2 having been two nil down. We are, however by no means out of the tie and I don't think Oxford will think its a case of just turning up and they are through, but hopefully they will! There's still plenty to play for.

The league is the important thing as I'm sure you'll all agree and to get three points from our opening game sets us nicely for todays match versus Preston who also started with a win.

The heat at Wycombe was unbelievable but despite the conditions we still managed to pass the ball and dominate the game and thanks to a tap in from myself we deservedly won, which I'm told for Luton, doesn't happen too often on the opening day!

Preston will give us a tough test today and with a few ex-Burnley lads playing it spices the game up from my point of view, have you managed to cure your snoring habit Parky?

So far we managed 3 goals this season all from set-pieces and all from defenders I might add, so meat pies, sausage rolls come on forwards give us a goal! (if you're wondering what I'm going on about that was a song the Oldham supporters sang last season!)

The injury list at the Club at the minute has only a few names on it thankfully. Showls is looking fit and should hopefully

be back training shortly, and having taken a nasty knock on Tuesday let's hope Mitch is back soon.

Having been knocked out he could be out for a couple of weeks, which will be a blow this early in the season.

One player who has come back from injury is Marv. I think he's been outstanding in all the games so far, including pre-season.

He's lost weight, is fit and is playing out of his skin. It must be married life!

It's important now that we keep the momentum going in the league. Your support was superb on Saturday and more of the same would be nice today. Take a couple of logs off the fire and 1-0 victory again will do champion.

Enjoy the game.

Steve Davis

Awayday

Supporters going to away games this season have a choice of two organised coach travel operations.

The Bobbers Travel Club has been following the Town for nearly two decades, and has teamed up with Shoreys Travel to offer the lowest possible fares.

Town on Tour is the new travel arm of the Luton Town Supporters Club, and has gone for a more luxurious style.

Both offer very good value for money, and the assurance that you will be travelling with semi-official bodies who carry only responsible supporters.

The Bobbers offer more facilities for fans in outlying districts, with pick-up points at Cranfield, Marston-Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick and Westoning. They also operate services from the villages to Kenilworth Road for home matches.

Kenilworth Road and the M1 junction with Dunstable Road are the Luton pick-up points for away games.

The Town on Tour coaches, with toilets, hot

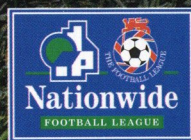
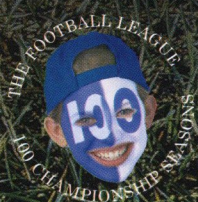
drinks and video facilities, depart from the club's Maple Road car park, and supporters can leave their own vehicles there, with security in attendance. Seats are allocated when you book. So, if you want to travel the country in the company of others who are dedicated followers of the Town, take your pick. Both are laying on trips to Oxford on Tuesday and to Reading next Saturday.

You have to become a member of the Bobbers Travel Club to use their service. Town on Tour is open to all, but offers discounts to those who join the Luton Town Supporters Club.

For BTC information, contact their ticket kiosk near the Kenilworth Road turnstiles between 2.15 and 2.45 before any Saturday home match. Or you can phone Paul Deason on 012324 750996.

For Town on Tour bookings, use the LTSC kiosk on match days, the club shop on other days or on any Town on Tour trip.

**Nationwide Building Society
would like to wish all clubs
success in this 1998/99
centenary season of
The Football League**



Cherry Newbery

club secretary



Welcome to the first home league game of the season – and let's hope that today we have another exciting match, but with a better result than we got against Oxford.

Supporters might have noticed that just before the interval, and again just before full-time, the fourth official was on his feet displaying a board to show how many minutes were being added on, for stoppage time.

It was tried as an experiment in the National Football League for the second half of last season, and the general impression seems to be that everyone agrees it is a good idea for the referee and his team to make it clear how much "extra time" is to be played.

He has to make allowances for such things as substitutions, assessment of injuries, removal of injured players, wasting time "or any other cause."

When the board is shown it indicates the minimum amount of stoppage time. There can, of course, be further stoppages after it has been put up, and they too have to be taken into account.

Reaction to the experiment of not selling reserved seats in advance seems to have been good. At the time of writing we had received no complaints, but any supporters with a view on this, or anything else, are welcome to write in and let me know how they feel. Our reserves' season got underway on Wednesday, and don't forget we have another very interesting match this

coming Wednesday, when a Town side will take on the Kuwait national squad. Kick-off will be 2pm.

Finally, a reminder about our match at Reading. It will be the first in their new ground, and likely to attract a big attendance. Our allocation was 2,500 tickets, 10 per cent of the capacity at the Madejski Stadium, and our sales have been brisk, but please believe it: this game is an **all-ticket** match for our supporters, and Reading are very insistent that they will not relax that decision. So if you want to go to cheer on the team, please get your tickets in advance.

Meanwhile, enjoy today's game.

Cherry Newbery

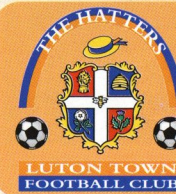
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Please contact

Fiona Wallace, Catering Manager

Phone: Luton (01582) 411622



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Calls cost 50p per minute at all times

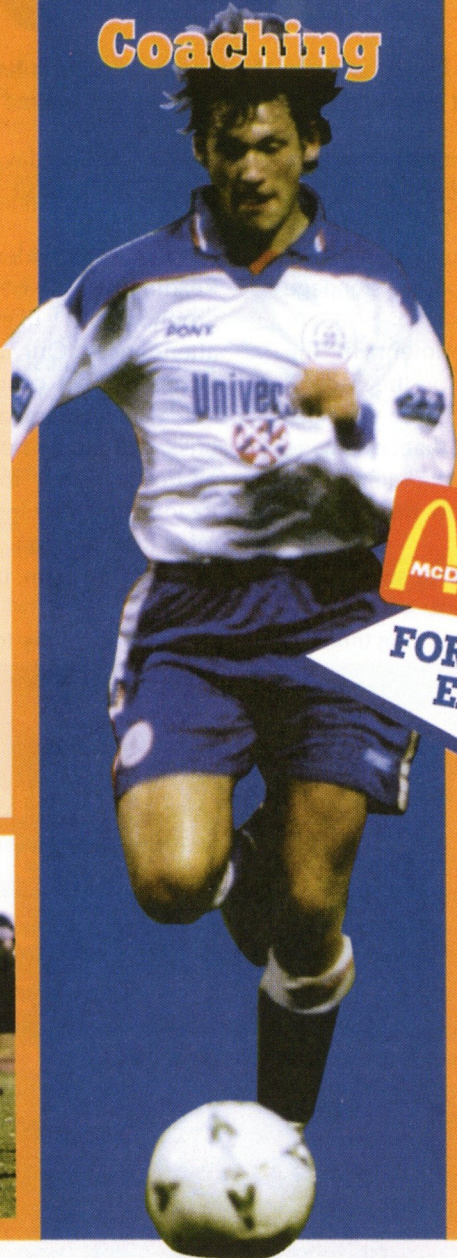
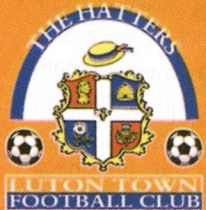
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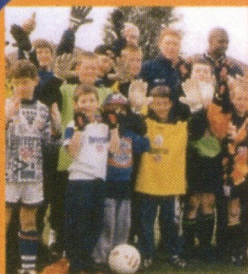
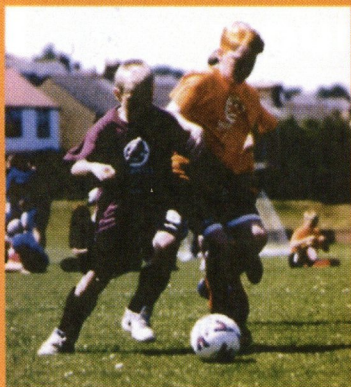
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Have you recently added to your collection of Luton Town F.C. Club Badges and Key Rings? If not why not pay the Club Shop in Kenilworth Road a visit.

From the Preston North End game on the 15th August until Friday 21st August we are offering 20% discount on any badge or key ring shown below.

Prices range from £1.50 £2.95 with only a few old badges and key rings reduced to clear at £1.00.

Discount will be given on presentation of this offer at the counter.



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4.45pm to 5.15pm
non matchdays
9am until coach
leaves for
away game

PLEASE NOTE: NORMAL SEASON TICKET CONCESSIONS DO NOT APPLY ON THIS OCCASION

How Clubs scored goals... and conceded them

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	
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

Club	Y	R	Points
Bristol Rovers	75	7	96
Oldham Athletic	79	5	96
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	77
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 Southern Utd. 21 Oct	Highest Aggregate Scores: Burnley 7 York City 2 31 Jan
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	Consecutive Wins: Bristol City ~ 8 Games Unbeaten: Bristol City ~ 15
Biggest Away Win: Luton Town 0 Watford 4 4 Oct Bristol Rovers 0 Grimsby Town 4 12 Dec	Consecutive Defeats: Bristol Rovers, Carlisle United, Southend United ~ 5 Games Without A Win: Preston North End ~ 11

Final Sequences

Consecutive Wins: Watford ~ 2	Games Unbeaten: Gillingham, Wycombe Wanderers ~ 6
Consecutive Defeats: Carlisle United ~ 4	Games Without A Win: Millwall ~ 8

Keys: H=Header; CR=Close Range; OB=Outside Box; V=Volley; FK=Free Kick; P=Penalty; IB=Inside Box; OG=Own Goal PU=Players Used; CF=Goals For; GA=Goals Against; CS=Clean Sheets; LP=Lowest position; HP=Highest Position

Div. 2 Stat Attack

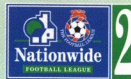
Division Two Statistics, Club by Club

Club	PU	GF	GA	CS	LP	HP	LS	NL	FAC	CCC	T
Bournemouth	24	57	52	17	14	4	Fletcher	13	1	0	13
Blackpool	35	59	67	10	17	7	Clarkson	12	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	12	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	11,846
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

Statistics compiled by Football Information Services Telephone: 0151-632 5679



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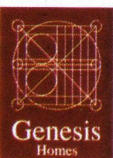
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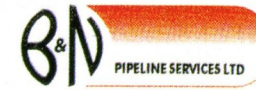


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England went out on penalties and Argentina lifted the World Cup!

That was the story in Vauxhall's dress rehearsal for the real thing. Ten under-12 teams from five regional qualifying groups converged on the Vauxhall Recreation Centre for a festival of football that was a fitting warm-up for the greatest show on earth.

England's inevitable shoot-out departure came in the quarter-final against Colombia, when the distraught Dunstable Colts' goalkeeper hit the ball too close to his MK Wanderers counterpart, a la Gareth Southgate. Perhaps the biggest shock of all though was Brazil's exit in the group stages.

The famous yellow colours were worn by Sundon Park Rangers but defeats against Italy (Beauesert Old Boys), Colombia (MK Wanderers), Spain (Dunstable Town Youth) and a draw against Germany (Amphill Boys) saw them make an early departure from this prestigious tournament.

The Samba beat never really got going and Martin Richards' double strike in the final group match against Germany proved too little, too late.

At least they didn't have to go straight home, with all competing teams invited to the Presentation Dinner in the Reception Centre after the final.

The final itself was a repeat performance of the 1978 Argentina v Holland encounter. There was no tickertape this time around, but the atmosphere was just as intense, with the South Americans, more commonly known as Bedford Park Rangers, lifting the trophy after a penalty shoot-out defeat of Scot Youth's orange army.

Luton's other representatives in the competition, organised by the Hatters' Luton News-sponsored Community and Schools Programme, were the Gallic Lewsey Centre, who progressed to the knockout stages thanks to a superb hat-trick by Lewsey's Youri Djorkaef impersonator, Man oLanglais.

Mano destroyed Mexicans, Leighton United with a dazzling second-half display that was to later earn him the Player of the Tournament Trophy.

Sadly for Mano and his teammates, their World Cup dream was in ruins after a 3-0 defeat to Spaniards, Dunstable Town Youth, a game in which their star striker limped off to complete the drama.

Italy (Beauesert Old Boys) took the Fair Play Trophy, a consolation for their quarter-final defeat at the hands of Argentina.

Kevin Thorburn of the Luton Town Schools and Community Programme said: "The tournament was a great success and attracted some very talented teams and players. We would like to thank Vauxhall for all their help."



Alan Denton, Head of Promotions and Sponsorship, Vauxhall; Marvin Johnson, LTFC; Peter Brown, Secretary Beds FA with World Cup winners Bedford Park Rangers – representing Argentina.

Luton Car Sales Under 8's Five a Side

Almost 30 teams from the Luton and Dunstable area entered our Under 8's tournament held at Barnfield College on the Friday evening prior to the Arsenal game with the winning semi finalists playing their final on the pitch at half time during the Arsenal game.

Crawley Rams, AFC Houghton, Sundon Park Rangers and Hadrian all made the semi's and for those of you who made the

Arsenal game you would have seen Crawley Rams beat AFC Houghton in a penalty shoot out.



AFC Houghton and Crawley Rams receiving their medals from Martine Kenningham of Luton Car Sales

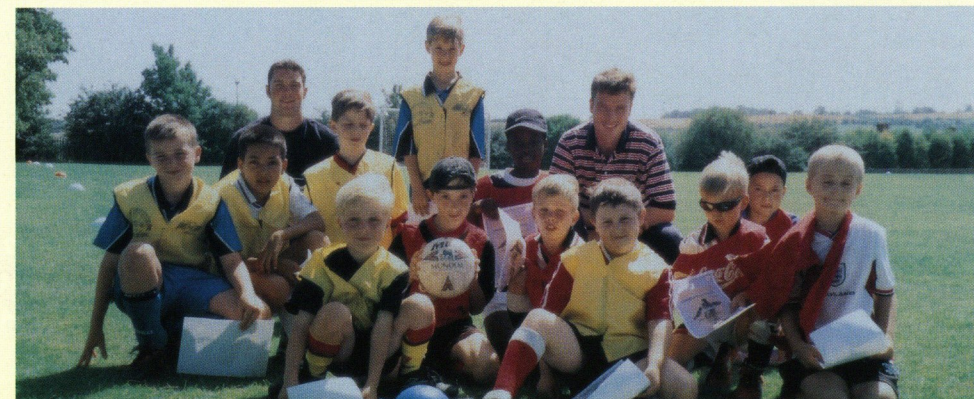


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LU8 4 St. Josephs Junior School, Luton	Tues-Fri	£36	Coaching
DU2 4 Dunstable Leisure Centre, Dunstable	Mon-Thur	£36	FA Soccer Stars/Coaching, Free Swim
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4 Eddlesborough County Combined	Mon-Thurs	£36	Coaching



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Preston North End

welcome to today's visitors

David Moyes

Became Preston North End manager after the sudden departure of Gary Peters in the middle of last season. His main brief once installed as the number one was to stave off the threat of relegation which he achieved with a degree of comfort in the end. Has already shown signs that he has got what it takes to eventually lead Preston into a higher division. He is tactically aware and has the man-management skills to motivate players to believe in their own capabilities. He also re-introduced one or two players into the team toward the end of last season who hadn't been able to command a place in the side. The players concerned, the likes of Davey and McKenna, showed their gratitude to the manager by turning in some excellent displays for North End.



BACK ROW (left to right): Michael Jackson, Paul Morgan, Colin Murdock, David Lucas, Teuvo Moilanen, Ryan Kidd, Gary Parkinson, Julian Darby.

MIDDLE ROW (left to right): Mick Rathbone (Physio), Jonathan Macken, Michael Appleton, Simon Davey, Lee Cartwright, Kurt Nogan, Stuart King, David Eyres, Brian Hickson (Kit Manager).

FRONT ROW (left to right): Paul McKenna, Dominic Ludden, Sean Gregan, David Moyes (Manager), Kelham O'Hanlon (Coach), Lee Ashcroft, Mark Rankine, Michael Holt.

Preston North End

Michael Appleton

Michael was one of three Manchester United players who joined the club last summer, having signed for a club record fee of £500,000. He came with limited Football League experience but didn't let that stop him from impressing many of the PNE faithful last season with a number of forceful displays in the centre of midfield. Found it difficult to score goals last season but will be hoping for more on that score this year.

Lee Cartwright

Lee has come through the youth ranks at Deepdale and, injury aside has been a regular in the PNE first team for the past five seasons. The Rossendale born winger is renowned for being one of the fittest and most athletic players at the club. Has recovered sufficiently from his bad injury suffered in 1996 to compete for his place once again.

Julian Darby

The former Bolton, Coventry and West Brom player joined North End as part of the deal that took Kevin Kilbane to the Midlands. Julian is a player with extensive experience at all levels of the game having played his football both in the Premiership with Coventry City and Nationwide League with his other clubs. A hard working midfielder who also has experience of playing full-back he struggled to establish himself in the PNE line-up last season. Still has time, though, to hit the kind of form which prompted former manager, Gary Peters to bring him to Deepdale in the first place.

Simon Davey

One of Gary Peter's first signings as manager when he snapped up the Welshman for a bargain £75,000 in February 1995 from Carlisle United. The central midfielder began his career at his home-town club Swansea City, making his first team debut in the 1986/87 season. He only spent six weeks at the Vetch Field, collecting a Welsh FA Cup winners medal in that brief time, before joining the Cumbrian club on a free transfer in August 1992.

David Eyres

Liverpool born David excelled on both wings for North End last season. An extremely skillful winger with the ability to confound any defence he was the key which unlocked a number of opposition defences last season. The former Burnley player is also a valued team member who is willing to muck in whenever the need arises. His partnership with Dean Barrick on the left flank helped avert attacks from opposing teams and also helped initiate forward moves for Preston North End last season.

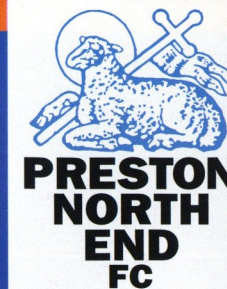
Michael Holt

A former Blackburn Rovers trainee Michael joined North End in the summer of 1996 on a free transfer from the Ewood Park club, after a brief spell at Scarborough where he had trials. He was born in Barnoldswick and having supported Rovers as a boy fulfilled a dream by joining the Premiership outfit straight from school.

Michael Jackson

A powerful defender who possesses talent in

Pen Pics



abundance, the former Bury player joined North End on transfer deadline day in 1997 for £125,000. Made his first team debut for Preston against Notts County last season and hasn't looked back since. An absolute stalwart in defence his consistent high level performances have earned rave reviews since he first arrived on the scene. Rather unlucky not to get the player of the year award last season but will be striving to capture that prize this season.

Ryan Kidd

A likeable and extremely versatile defender, Ryan has become an integral member of the first team squad. Possesses a good left foot which he used to good effect down the left flank last season. Can also play in the centre of defence and showed he has a future in that position a number of times last season.

Dominic Ludden

The 24 year old left back has joined North End on a 1 year contract from Watford. He was previously with Orient. He was a regular member of the Watford side for 4 years before a cracked vertebrae restricted his chances last year.

Paul McKenna

A product of Preston North End's youth training scheme, Paul has finally begun to show his potential in the first team. A number of promising displays toward to the end of last season showed many people the regard which the North End management team have for him. Actually scored on his league debut for North End against Wycombe Wanderers a couple of seasons ago.

Jonathan Macken

Signed from Manchester United during the summer of 1997, Jonathan showed considerable promise of better things to come last season. Slightly unlucky with injuries but showed the ability to bounce back from setbacks by forging a prolific link with Ashcroft during much of last season.

Tuevo Moilanen

Now an established member of the Finnish international squad, Tepi joined North End in December 1995 from Jaro for an appearance

based fee. The 6ft 5in goalkeeper has immense potential which he began to fulfil in abundance last season. For such a tall goalkeeper he is particularly adept at getting down to shots and is very commanding in the penalty area.

Colin Murdock

A very likeable and well-read chap, Colin is one of the most popular players at Deepdale. He has already represented Northern Ireland at full international level and looks set for a bright future in the game. Joined North End for an undisclosed fee during the summer of 1997 and quickly became a regular member of the side. When he signed for the club former manager Gary Peters enthused, 'I was very lucky to get his signature as a host of other clubs were after the lad. It speaks volumes for the set-up here that he has decided to come to Preston in preference to some of the other clubs chasing him.'

Kurt Nogan

Signed from Lancashire rivals Burnley for a fee of £150,000 Kurt, who started his career at Kenilworth Road, has added a bit of sparkle to the Preston North End front line. Saying that, he struggled to score goals for much of last season though his two goals in the home game against eventual champions Watford certainly did him no harm in the eyes of the Deepdale faithful.

Gary Parkinson

Signed from Burnley for a bargain basement price of £50,000 it's fair to say that it was money well spent by North End after producing a number of excellent displays for the team last season. Made his mark in spectacular fashion last year with a number of terrific long range drives which ended up in the back of the opposition's net.

Mark Rankine

Mark really set the Deepdale crowd alight last season with a number of potent displays in North End's engine room. Having been written off by many people before the start of the last season the former Wolves player certainly made his critics eat their words as he became an integral member of the side.



Richard Bird

Luton Town Head Groundsman

Summer, as usual, waited for the football season to kick off before putting in an appearance. But throughout the June and July washout, there was one man in Luton delighted to see every drop of rain that fell.

It was manna from heaven so far as Richard Bird was concerned, and helped him make the pitch look absolutely perfect for the new campaign.

You might call the rain pennies from heaven as well; while it bucketed down the hosepipes and sprinklers, which run off expensive metered water supplies, were redundant.

It's not just professional pride for Richard as he seeks to produce a perfect playing surface; it's part of his support.

A Dunstable man, he was already a Town fan before he became groundsman just over five years ago.

Work on preparing the pitch for this season started within hours of the final fixture of last campaign, when the goalposts were removed and supplies brought in to make good the wear and tear of the previous nine months.



Richard and his assistant, Ken Everett, fuss and fret over the pitch as much as any keen gardener who takes a pride in manicured lawns.

The basic task is the same – weed, feed, seed and water well. But the quantities involved are a bit more than you take home in the boot from the garden centre.

The equipment is also a little more sophisticated than your average spade and hoe. With goalposts cleared away, the first task is to hollow tine and verti-drain every square inch of the pitch. That is groundsman's jargon for breaking up compaction and letting air and moisture get down to the roots of the grass, and beyond.

Then came 70 tons of top dressing, spread evenly and quickly disappearing from view. Then 550 lbs of new seed was sewn.

And normally, that signals the start of one of the most boring but important jobs: watering.

But Richard wore a sunshine-bright smile all through the rain that seemed to fall on Luton for weeks.

"It was lovely," he said. "Plenty of rain, nicely spread over the weeks that mattered, and nearly always the right sort of rain."

The results are plain to see today, even if the long-delayed summer means that the sprinklers are now having to be used.

And if you think the recipe for near-perfect grass is missing one vital ingredient, take a tip from Richard if you want a weed-free lawn.

"I never use chemical weedkillers," he said. "If you use them during the growing season they can easily kill off newly-sown grass. I walk the pitch and pull out the weeds individually, and you can do that without damaging the grass."

THE GRASS IS GREENER: Richard Bird, having nurtured the pitch all summer, makes sure it stays neat and tidy.

Hervé Bacqué

player interview



NEW signing Hervé Bacqué speaks simply and very much to the point when you ask him what he hopes to achieve at Luton Town: "I want to score goals. I like to score goals."

We need hardly doubt it, after the 22-year-old French striker knocked in four in three trial games for the Town. His brace against Coventry - a powerful and perfectly placed header and a near-post poacher's strike - confirmed his instant cult figure status with supporters who had already drooled at a quality strike to earn a draw against Arsenal.

Embarrassingly, his name was mis-spelled on those team-sheets due to a little difficulty in reading a document written in longhand. For the record Hervé Bacqué is pronounced Ervay Back-Kay, and he politely repeated it several times for the benefit of a reporter who learned his schoolboy French in the days when Manchester City were FA Cup winners.

Bacqué speaks English well enough to make it very clear that he has a burning ambition to succeed in football in England, and he was disappointed that he missed a good chance to open his league account at Wycombe.

Born in Bordeaux, he was spotted as a youngster by French pro clubs when he was playing for a local village side. At 19 he joined Lorient, in Brittany, and by 21 he was enjoying a football dream, signed by Monaco, the club which last season put paid to Manchester United's European Champions League aspirations.

But the dream soon faded: Monaco are one of the wealthiest clubs in the world, willing to spend huge sums on start players.

"I had a nice year with them, learned a lot and found it very interesting," he said.

"But because they are one of the biggest clubs in the world, and one of the richest, they could fill the team with internationals. I didn't

have a place in the first team, so I asked them to give me my release."

A Christmas holiday trip to London fired the young player's ambitions. "I had always thought I would like to play in England," he recalled. "At Christmas I was invited to watch two Arsenal games by Asene Wenger, who used to be at Monaco, and what I saw and felt at those matches was amazing. With Monaco reserves I was playing in front of perhaps 50 persons. The first team gets about 2,000. At Lorient, where it was very successful team, we would get about 2,500 or 3,000.

"But they are not fans the way the English are. They just sit quietly and watch. You only hear them if you lose, and they shout at you then, not very nice things.

"At the Arsenal games everyone was shouting and cheering, and at the end the losing team's supporters applauded their players. It was all so different, and I knew then I wanted to play football in England."

Blackpool and Portsmouth were also ready to offer the young striker his chance, as was a Spanish club. but the atmosphere of Kenilworth Road, and the "selling job" done by Lennie Lawrence, swung the argument the Town's way.

"I thought this was a very nice club," said Bacqué. "It's a good group of players, with good competition between old and young and that can be a good team. And I got a good feeling about the manager."

That feeling is mutual, and judging by the fans' reaction from his few appearances so far, supporters could be in for a lot more good feelings.

Action Replay

Wycombe Wanderers 0 Luton Town 1

The margin might have been slender, but the Town were very good value for their first opening-day win since the visit of Watford five years ago.

Two were making debuts for the Town: striker Herve Bacqué and midfielder Ray McKinnon, and it was the Scot who edged the honours after a tentative first half. He started the match on the right of midfield, but looked much more comfortable after the break, when he moved inside and deeper.

Bacqué ran his heart out in the sweltering heat, and afterwards apologised for not taking a very acceptable chance produced by Dwight Marshall's cross in the first minute of the second half. Perhaps the Frenchman was a little too eager to please, suggested Lennie Lawrence. But he and Phil Gray both looked a much more potent attack than anything Wycombe could muster.

But who knows what might have happened if the home side had taken two early opportunities; Keith Scott was put clear, with McKinnon wrecking the offside trap, and shot against a post, and Mark Stallard put a free header over the bar.

"If they had scored, we would have been chasing the game, but I still think we had enough quality to have got back into it," said the Town boss.

Wycombe were big and strong, and very direct, a game plan which saw them lose only three home games last season.

But they were left without a prayer once Steve Davis had smacked an angled free kick from 25 yards into the far corner after Matthew Spring was wrestled to the ground by Steve Brown.

The Town defence got organised, never again

showed the chinks that appeared in the first 20 minutes, and you could sense that Wycombe knew it was all over.

In a good team performance, McKinnon, despite suffering an early knee injury, settled into a versatile midfield role, composure personified in giving and taking the ball, with rarely a one wasted.

Kelvin Davis was in danger of being bored to death in the sunshine, while Martin Taylor, in the other goal, had to sweat more than most. Liam George, sub for Bacqué for the last 20 minutes, seemed to be on fire. His first touch was a challenge on Taylor to earn a booking. George and Gray each in turn produced excellent crosses for the other to go close to doubling the Town's lead, and on the run of play 3-0 would have been about right. "We won the battle in the first half, and controlled the game in the second," was the summing up of a happy Town manager. "It was a solid, professional, and very pleasing performance."

Wycombe: Taylor, Kavanagh (Cornforth 57 mins), Vinnicombe, Ryan, Cousins, McCarthy, Carroll, Scott, Stallard, Harkin (Read 62 mins), Brown. Unused sub: Beeton. Booked: Ryan, 19 mins, foul on Gray.

Luton Town: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Bacqué (George 71 mins), Gray, Marshall (McGowan 81 mins). Unused sub: White. Booked: George, 72 mins, foul on goalkeeper Taylor.

The goal: Steve Davis free kick thunderbolt, 36 mins.

Referee: Tony Bates, Stoke.

Attendance: 5,252

Report: Brian Swain / Pictures: Gareth Owen



NUMBER ONE: Steve Davis despatches a right foot free kick from just outside the penalty area at Wycombe...
IN THE NET: Goalkeeper Martin Taylor stretches in vain as the Town's first goal of the season is registered emphatically.

SPOT DECISION: Dwight Marshall tumbles over a challenge by Dave Carroll, but to the dismay of Town fans referee Tony Bates decided it was not a penalty.

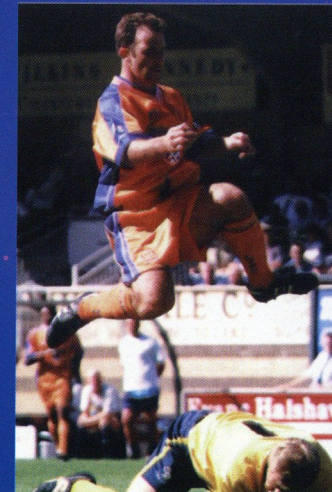
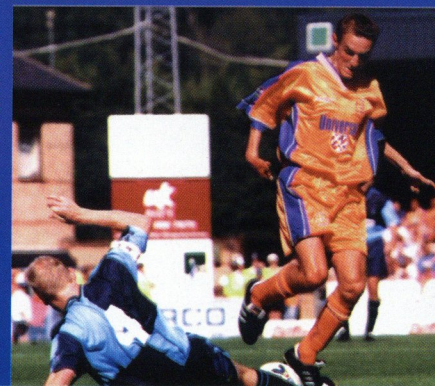


CLOSE CALL: Phil Gray airborne to power in a diving header from a cross by Liam George. Wycombe's defence had been torn apart, but were saved because Gray's effort whistled inches the wrong side of the woodwork.



FLYING FRENCHMAN: Hervé Bacqué in hair-raising form with a header at Adams Park.

LAST DITCH: Sean Evers goes from midfield for goal at Wycombe, but is stopped by Keith Ryan on the edge of the box.



TAYLOR MADE IT: Phil Gray leaps over Wycombe goalkeeper Martin Taylor, after just failing to beat him to the ball during our opening day victory at Adams Park.

Luton Town Football Club

1998/99



BACK ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT: Dwight Marshall, Terry Sweeney, Richard Clarke, Mathew Spring, Emerson Boyce, Steve Augustine, Gavin McGowan, Russel Lawes, Stuart Fraser, Stuart Douglas, Jimmy Cox, Michael McIndoe, Andre Scarlett.
 MIDDLE ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT: Clive Goodyear (Physio), Paul Lowe (Youth Team Coach), Cherry Newberry (Club Secretary), Andrew Fotiadis, Simon Davies, Paul Showler, Gary Doherty, Alan White, Kelvin Davis, Nathanael Abbey, Julian James, Chris Willmott, Paul McLaren, Graham Alexander, Lee Lough, Les Shannon (Scout), Mandy Malins (Fitness Trainer), John Moore (Reserve Coach).
 FRONT ROW: Left to Right: 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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It happened on this day

by Roger Wash

15th August 1970.

Bolton 4 Luton Town 2.

Normally vociferous Luton manager, Alec Stock, was lost for words after this heavy defeat on the Town's first game back in the old Division Two since 1963. Defensive errors leading to a hat-trick for Trotters winger Terry Wharton made it an unhappy baptism for the Hatters. Wharton opened the scoring from the spot after a hard cross from Gordon Taylor hit Alan Slough on the hand but, although skipper Mike Keen levelled for the Town, further goals from Roy Greaves and Wharton made the game safe.

Terry Branston manhandled John Byrom to the floor in the area to enable Wharton to hit his third goal before Malcolm MacDonald grabbed a late consolation for the Hatters from the spot after Jim Ryan was tripped. Goalkeeper Alan Starling and veteran Terry Branston never appeared for the Town again after this humiliation and Bolton were relegated at the end of the campaign!

15th August 1987.

Derby 1 Luton Town 0

The Hatters got off to the worst possible start to this opening day game when striker Mick Harford was sent off after only 4 minutes 46 seconds for a late and rash challenge on Rams defender Mel Sage. Manager Ray Harford, in his first game in charge of the Town, held himself partly responsible for the dismissal having pumped the players up before the kick-off.

Newly promoted Derby were full of running and enthusiasm and for a while threatened to overwhelm the Hatters. They took the lead after 16 minutes when John Gregory's header was parried by goalkeeper Les Sealey with the Rams midfielder the first to the rebound.

Gradually the Town players sorted themselves out and spent the remainder of the game giving as good as they got, without joy, with

new signing Danny Wilson making a magnificent debut.

15th August 1992.

Leicester 2 Luton Town 1

After ten years in the top flight the Town found themselves back in Division Two, now perversely called Division One, with an opening day game at strongly fancied Leicester.

Having just sold terrace favourite Mick Harford to Chelsea the shortage of punch in the forward line was evident but all seemed forgotten when the Town took the lead in the 38th minute. Jamie Campbell taking advantage of the Hatters first corner scrambled the ball into the net off goalkeeper Carl Muggleton's body for his first senior goal for the club.

Stev Walsh levelled for the Foxes with a thumping header just before the interval but, just as the game seemed to be petering out for a draw, came a cruel late winner for Leicester. Mike Whitlow firing home through a crowd of players, following a corner from ex-Hatter Steve Thompson, in the third minute of injury time!



David Preece tangles with ex-Hatter Steve Thomson at Leicester on the opening day of the 1992/93 season.

Steve Bennett, in his fourth season as a Football League referee, is a school teacher from Orpington who took up the whistle in his local leagues 14 years ago. He graduated via the Isthmian League and Vauxhall Conference to become a Football League linesman in 1992 and Premiership flag man a year later. As a FIFA linesman since 1995, he has visited

Norway, Poland, Russia and Bulgaria. He has also had the honour of officiating at Wembley, as a linesman in the 1995 Manchester v Everton FA Cup Final, and for the Division One play-off between Bolton and Reading the same year. Chairman of Bromley Referees Association, he lists golf, cricket and computing as his hobbies.

New season - new laws



For the second year in succession, changes to the laws of football have come into effect for the new season.

By far the biggest change concerns the unfair tackle from behind. The new laws came into effect on July 1, but by concession they were implemented for the World Cup in France. Law 12 now states: "A tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play." And the sub-text adds that a player guilty of such an offence must be sent off.

Although that wording should clarify the offence, it was seen in France 98 that once more its interpretation can cause considerable confusion unless a uniform guide can be laid down for referees. There is a major difference: what was treated as a yellow card offence last season will now become a red card foul, unless it is borne in mind that the tackle from behind is not an offence if the ball is cleanly taken.

Referees, however, seem to have been universally instructed that even if the tackler plays the ball first and then brings down an opponent, this will still be classified as an unfair tackle from behind.

Last season's rewording of the laws of the game was an attempt to make them more up to date, and to use language that was simpler. Although the 17 laws remain the same in essence, the changes unfortunately led to the removal of substantial references to a number of offences previously encompassed by the indirect free kick of law 12, and therefore discrepancies arose.

The remedy has been to insert a new phrase to cover such omissions. It now reads "An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, commits any other offence not previously mentioned in law 12 for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player."

Denying a goal scoring opportunity, which is a sending-off offence, has now been reworded, enlarging its extent so it now becomes denying the opposing team rather than simply an opponent.

The experiment of goalkeepers being restricted to holding the ball for no more than five or six seconds has moved from last season's recommendations to an International Board decision, and doubtless will be further upgraded into the laws next season, as this seems to be the way the timetable of change operates.

To speed up the game, a player returning to the field after injury may now re-enter from any boundary line if the ball is dead, but only from the touchlines if the ball is in play. The referee must signal for the player to return.

Finally, FIFA have authorised an experiment in Jersey whereby defending players, who do not retreat the appropriate distance at a free kick, or show dissent from the referee's decision, will be cautioned, and then the ball will be moved ten yards closer to their goal, a rule which has done much to cut out dissent in Rugby League.

*Ken Goldman,
of the North Middlesex Referees Society.*

Bitterly disappointed after his first failed attempt to make the grade in English league soccer, midfielder Ray McKinnon, our signing from Dundee United, is determined to make it all happen now he has been given a second chance

Born in Dundee, he was something special as a schoolboy player, and Dundee United grabbed the chance to sign up a local boy. He had already won Scottish under-15 international honours as a schoolboy, and at 16 he became a YTS boy at Tannadice.

More Scottish caps, at under-18 youth level, followed, and McKinnon was soon in United's first team, and good enough to win Scottish under-21 honours.

He attracted scouts from all over Britain and his five years with his home town club ended when Brian Clough beat competition to make him a Nottingham Forest player.

Forest lashed out £750,000 but Clough was approaching the end of his career as a manager, and McKinnon looks back on his days at the City Ground with very mixed feelings.

"I was with Forest for 20 months, but it didn't really work out for me," he said. "I only got eight games in the Premiership, and after Brian Clough retired Frank Clark came in and put me on the transfer list."

McKinnon had had precious little chance to add to his reputation at Forest, but in Scotland he was still well remembered for his stylish mixture of ball-winning, holding, and safe distribution. Clark's decision to unload the midfielder led to his return to Scotland, to play for Aberdeen. He had two years there,

and then his old club Dundee United came in with an offer, so it was back to his first love. "Dundee is like Liverpool and Nottingham," he said. "Some support Dundee and some support Dundee United, and there has always been great rivalry between them. I had always supported United as a boy, so I was more than pleased to take the opportunity to go back for a second spell at Tannadice. For me, it was something special to play for Dundee United, but at the end of last season, with my two-year contract completed, I felt that with my 28th birthday coming up the time was right to move on again, and try to make it in England."

Dundee United tried to persuade McKinnon to sign another contract, but his mind was made up, and he became one of the army of Bosman frees looking for new clubs in the summer.

Around 600 players in the English game were released at the end of last summer, and many will find that is the end of their professional careers. But McKinnon's decision to leave Tannadice was soon justified.

"I had quite a few offers," he said. "A couple of clubs in Scotland were interested, and one in France. but I wanted to get into the English market."

And he echoed the words of Herve Bacque when asked why he chose Luton - "The Gaffer impressed me. I liked him from the very first minute we met."

Into the Archives

a blast from the past courtesy of Roger Wash

Although league games against Preston did not start until the Lilywhites relegation to the old Division Two in 1949, the two sides did clash in the F.A.Cup at a time when Preston were regarded as one of the powers in the land.

Founder members of the Football League in 1888 they had won the league and cup double in that first season and retained the championship in 1889/90. Runners-up over the next three seasons, they came to Luton for a 1st round F.A.Cup tie on 2nd February 1895 hot on the heels of leaders Sunderland who they had beaten at Deepdale the month before.

The Town were in their first season in the newly formed Southern League and in their last league game had forced a 2-2 draw at Millwall, the future champions. Unfortunately they had suffered an embarrassing defeat at Wolverton in the Luton Cup the week before, for which they had received a justifiable panning in the local press.

Having beaten such sides as City Ramblers, St Albans, Ilford and Tottenham on their way to the 1st round, equivalent to today's 4th round, the Reds, as we were then known, looked on the visit of Preston as the biggest day in the club's ten year history. They were also mindful of the fact that Preston had beaten Reading 18-1 at the same stage in the competition the year before!

In the week before the game, heavy snow fell and 50 men were employed on the Friday to clear the pitch. Unfortunately, during the night another fall of snow meant that they had to start clearing again only hours before the match.

The referee, however, passed the pitch fit for play even though there was still a covering of snow, and the gates were opened to let in the biggest crowd ever seen at Dallow Lane.

Such was the interest in the game that 'excursions had been run from all parts of the district' and all together about 4000 spectators were present and 'during the interval of waiting the Red Cross Silver Prize Band played some excellent selections.'

The teams lined up as follows :

Luton: Bee (goal); Chesher and McEwen (backs); Collins, McCrindle and Watkins (half-backs); Gallacher and Finlayson (right forwards); Galbraith (centre); Jack and Dimmock (left forwards).

Preston: Trainer (goal); Dunn and Holmes (backs); Orr, Grier and Saunders (half-backs); Henderson and Barr (right forwards); Smith (centre); Beckton and Drummond (left forwards).

'The old champions mustered a big, heavy and stoutly built eleven eclipsing the Reds considerably in weight and size. Trainer won the toss for Preston and chose to defend the Workhouse end (the Union Workhouse was at the junction of Dunstable Road and Dallow Lane now Road) and at 2.34 Hugh Galbraith kicked off.'

From reading the report, the game turned into one way traffic with Preston having the majority of the play and putting the ball in the back of the Luton net six times, with four of them being disallowed for offside. Jim Trainer in the Preston goal only touched the ball twice during the ninety minutes, fielding back passes, whereas at the other end the Luton defence was always under pressure.

The first goal came twenty minutes into the second half when Drummond centred for Henderson to head home and then three minutes later the referee, after consulting a linesman, awarded a penalty for a handling offence by Luton full-back Jimmy 'Punch' McEwen. Moses Saunders, who had, apparently, scored more goals from the spot than any one else in the game, made no

mistake and the remainder of the match was played out with North End content to sit on their comfortable lead.

The general consensus of opinion was that the Town had done well to hold the formidable Preston side for as long as they did and that 'speed and science were out of the question owing to the snow and ice which covered the field.' The club had the consolation of picking up a 'gate' of £86 but it was thought that if the weather had been favourable another £50 would have been picked up.

As a nice touch it is reported that, 'after tea at the George Hotel, the Preston men left Luton at 8 o'clock and reached home at 2.13 a.m. on Sunday morning.' Perhaps the current Preston team could give us 'three rings' when they get home?

Elsewhere it is mentioned that the Town's home game with Woolwich Arsenal had been scheduled for the following week and it is casually noted that the Arsenal ground at Plumstead had been closed for six weeks due to the crowd assault on a referee.

Preston
North End

LUTON TOWN 1894/95



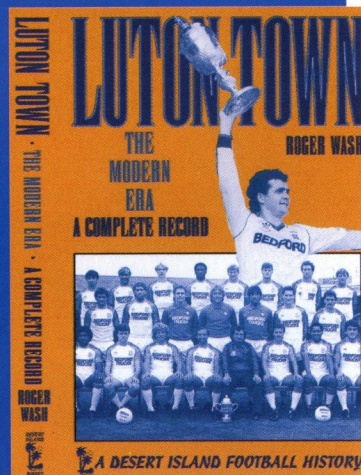
Coming soon - this great new book on the Hatters

- Q. Which Hatters game kicked off with the opposition fielding only ten men?
 A. In the match at Reading in 1970 the home side's goalkeeper, Steve Death, was delayed in traffic and came running on to the field two minutes after kick-off.
- Q. Before last Saturday the Town had only won once away on the opening day since the War. Where and when?
 A. West Ham in 1980.

These are two of the countless fascinating facts to be found in Roger Wash's monumental book, which covers the period from 1967 to 1998.

The book will include a match report of every game from that Division Four championship winning season until the present, together with full statistical information such as away teams, goal times and referees, a full review of each season, photographs- and much more. From Keith Allen to Rory Allen!

You can now subscribe to this 350 page hardback, to be published in October. Your name will appear in the book alongside your choice of favourite Luton player. Postage is free to subscribers (U.K. only). Send a) your name and address, b) the name of your favourite player, together with a cheque or postal order for £16.99 to Desert Island Books (Luton), 89 Park Street, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7PD. Also enclose a SAE if a receipt is required. Closing date for subscriptions; Friday 4th September 1998.

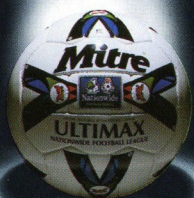


Roger Wash writes: 'Ever since the club's Centenary history 'The Luton Town Story' went out of print in 1985 there has been a constant queue of enquiries asking for a follow up. Rather than re-write the club's early history it was decided to look at the modern era, with 1967 being a good starting off point as it coincides with the Hatters winning the Division Four championship. I would guess that around 80% of Luton supporters have watched their first match over the intervening 31 years and can therefore readily relate to the period. Also, quite a lot has happened since 'The Luton Town Story' was published! The book looks in depth at the period since 1967 with the first half in words and photographs and in the second, full statistical information including a match report of every game. Supporters will be able to dip into the book and recall past games and personalities. It will also be interesting to find out whether they saw the same match I did!'

Last Season
 The Nationwide Football
 League saw an Increase in
 Attendance of 13.5%;
 Why...?



The authority...



The Quality of the Football

Image by Empics 0115 840 444 Digital Artwork by SentryBox 01895 251 220

Junior Hatters

welcome

A warm welcome to all Junior Hatters to the first home league match of the 1998/99 season. We hope you are enjoying the summer break from school and are looking forward to the new season as much as we are at the club. The Saturday Club will not begin until Saturday 12th September when we will be visited by the Junior Pirates of Bristol Rovers for football and lunch.

Our first away trip will to Reading's new Madejski Stadium on Saturday 22nd August when we will be playing football in the morning against the Young Royals prior to the match. Prices for the Saturday Club are £5.00 for season

ticket holders, which includes a lunch of sausage and chips with a drink, and £9.00 for non-season holders which includes a match ticket and lunch. The price for the trip to Reading is £12.00 adults and £10.00 Juniors, Bookings are now being taken for both matches, and can be made by calling the Ticket Office on 10582 416976.

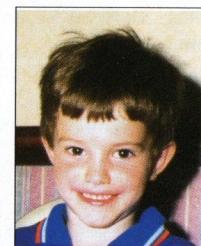
MATCHDAY MASCOT

Carl Ibbeson is today's Junior Hatters Mascot. He is six years old and goes to Lower Watling School. He attends matches with the Junior Hatters, and his favourite player is Kelvin Davis.

Commercial

STAR LINE-UP: ten-year-old Laura Collett and Gary Quinn, aged 8, pose proudly with skippers, officials, and Happy Harry, when they were mascots for the pre-season friendly with Arsenal. Today, Timothy Owen (pictured), who celebrated his sixth birthday a couple of weeks ago, has the honour.

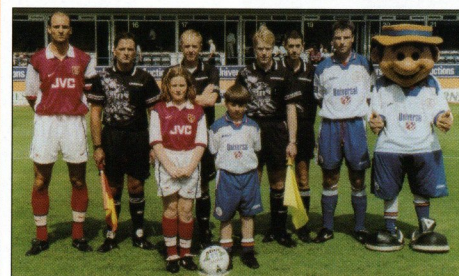
He lives at Kislingbury, Northants, and comes to Town games with his father, and his favourite player is Kelvin Davis. Timothy and his dad will have a day to remember. The commercial sponsorship deal includes seats in the



directors balcony, a three course meal, complimentary bar, free programme, a car parking space, and unique mementoes of the occasion, photographs of the day and a framed certificate. And the mascot also receives a junior football kit, the authentic Luton Town strip. If you want to know more about making it a special day out for your son or daughter, ring the commercial office on Luton 411622.

Today we welcome as our match sponsors a group of dedicated Luton Town fans who self-deprecatingly call themselves The Regular Rabble.

Having met many of them on the Town's travels all over the country, we know that they are in fact a credit to the football club. They have got together with one ambition beyond watching the Town: to raise funds to sponsor matches, and hope to be in this feature two or three more times before our season ends at Millwall in May. Most of them belong to other fan groups, including the Bobbers Travel Club and WHOSH, our internet fans and friends. If you're wondering, it stands for Worldwide Hatters on the Super Highway. In addition to sponsorships like today's, several of the Regular Rabble also sponsor players' kits.



Action Replay

Luton Town 2 Oxford United 3

Despair, delight, and ultimately disappointment was the cup-tie fare for Town fans at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday. Apparently dead and buried at half-time, they stormed back to equality after being given a gee-up by Lennie Lawrence and John Moore, only to concede a late goal that sets a tricky task for Tuesday's second leg at the Manor Ground.

We're 200-1 shots to win the Worthington Cup, and Oxford are on offer at 150-1, but the two teams provided excellent entertainment on a night of swaying fortunes.

The Town survived Oxford's early pressure, then started to look very good. But Mitchell Thomas was taken to hospital with concussion after half an hour, and it took some time for the re-shuffled defence to regain its normal well-drilled efficiency.

Gavin McGowan filled in well at left back, with sub Paul McLaren going into midfield, and the Town were looking every bit as good as their First Division opposition until two clangers in quick succession just before the interval.

Matt Murphy, in the Oxford side only because Kevin Francis was injured, cashed in to score twice in two minutes.

There was some straight talking in the Town dressing room over the half-time refreshment, and in the second half Oxford were given the fright of their lives.

The whole Town side played with a mixture of passion and determination, and Oxford were on the ropes.

Referee Brian Knight, of Orpington, might be grateful that football has not yet adopted cricket's "third umpire" system, because he was set four penalty posers, and both managers think he got at least one very wrong.

A lot of us thought Dean Windass used a hand to help clear up a scramble caused by a cross by Graham Alexander. No penalty, said Mr. Knight. Then Sean Evers tumbled under a challenge from Martin Gray after the Town cleared a corner and Steve Davis swept the ball upfield. No penalty was the ref's decision. Oh yes it was, agreed Lennie Lawrence and Oxford's Malcolm Shotton. Both bosses thought it a questionable decision when the third incident gave us a lifeline. From another cross by Alexander Davis headed the ball back, and Phil Gilchrist and Phil Gray tangled and fell. Three minutes later, from a cross by Evers,

Hervé Bacqué, who had a quiet game, flopped face down as Brian Wilsterman challenged. Another penalty, and Alexander accepted his second goal. The first had been stroked into Phil Whitehead's right hand corner and the second was hit almost straight down the middle.

"I didn't think the first penalty was one, and the lads said the second wasn't either," said Shotton. "But the result in the papers will show that they were!"

For Lawrence, there was a belief that whatever the rights and wrongs of the penalties, the draw was the right result. Except that it was snatched away three minutes from time, when a corner was watched by the defence as Simon Weatherstone met it with the winning header.

So all we need now is a 2-0 win in the second leg at the Manor Ground on Tuesday.

Luton Town: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, Thomas (McLaren 30 mins), Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, McGowan, Evers, Bacqué, Gray (McIndoe 78 mins), Marshall (George 71 mins). Unused subs: White, Abbey.

Booked: Paul McLaren, 32 mins, foul on Dean Windass.

Oxford: Whitehead, Robinson, Marsh, Gray, Wilsterman, Gilchrist, Banger (Weatherstone 78 mins), Windass (Smith 57 mins), Rose (Powell 72 mins), Murphy, Beauchamp.

Booked: Phil Gilchrist, 27 mins, foul on Gavin McGowan.

Goals: 0-1 42 mins: Matt Murphy header from Dean Windass free kick; 0-2 44 mins; Murphy 25-yard drive from headed pass by Joey Beauchamp; 1-2 59 mins: Graham Alexander penalty after Phil Gray was brought down by Gilchrist; 2-2 62 mins: Alexander penalty after Hervé Bacqué fell under Brian Wilsterman's challenge; 2-3 87 mins: Simon Weatherstone header from corner by Beauchamp.

Referee: Brian Knight, Orpington.

Attendance: 3,165.

Words by Brian Swain, pictures by Gareth Owen.



DONE IT: Graham Alexander shows his delight at netting his second penalty to wipe out a two-goal deficit.



UPS A DAISY: Phil Gray is about to join Oxford defender Phil Gilchrist on the deck as another Town attack ends.



ONES THAT GOT AWAY: Oxford goalkeeper Phil Whitehead denies Hervé Bacqué...



...and does it again at Phil Gray's feet.

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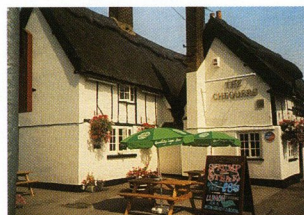
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The Chequers

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(off J12, M1)

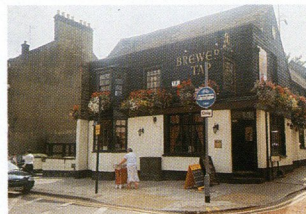
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Travel

Oxford United

Travel to Oxford United, Worthington Cup, August 18 (7.30)
Leave Luton on the A505 to Dunstable, and go straight on through the crazy roundabouts in the centre of Dunstable. Follow the signs to Aston Clinton and Aylesbury. Then pick up the signs to Oxford, via Thame on the A418. Go into Oxford on the A40, and as you approach Oxford, at the ring road go straight ahead at Headington roundabout, and the Manor Ground is a few minutes down the road, or your right. Street parking only, and can be hard to find. Mileage from Luton town centre: 47.

Reading

To Reading, Division Two, August 20 (3pm)
Leave Luton on M1 south, then take M25 west, then M4 west. Leave M4 at junction 11 and turn right, following the A33, signposted to Reading. After three miles, turn left at Bennet Road, which is signposted to the new Madejski Stadium. Follow the signs, and there is plenty of parking at the stadium, but the price is £5, a fee set by the local council, which gave the land to the club on condition that parking fees were higher than the cost of family bus tickets to the ground. Mileage from Luton town centre: 64.

Worthington Cup - First Round, Second Leg
Oxford United v Luton Town
Tuesday 11th August 1998, kick-off 7.45pm

Pay on the night only at the turnstile
Terrace £11 Adults £6.50 SC/Juniors
Seating £14 Adults £9.50 SC/Juniors

Nationwide League Division Two
Reading v Luton Town
Saturday 22nd August 1998, kick off 3.00pm

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters and tickets are now available.

Prices: £14 Adults
£8 SC/Under 15

town teaser

Two players scored their first-ever Luton Town goals in the 3-1 win over Walsall on October 5, 1996. Who were they?

Listen for the PA announcer to repeat this question this afternoon - you can win a prize if you know the answer.

today's other second division matches

Bristol Rovers v Reading
Chesterfield v Burnley
Lincoln City v Wigan Athletic
Millwall v Wycombe Wanderers
Notts County v Bournemouth
Stoke City v Macclesfield Town
Walsall v Northampton Town
Wrexham v Colchester United
York City v Gillingham

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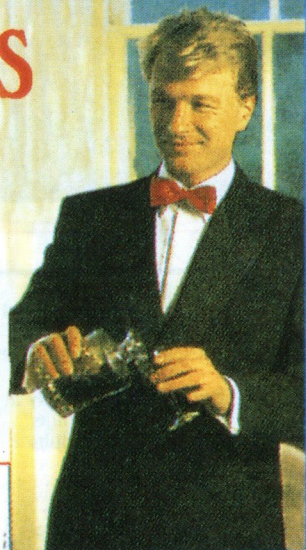
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The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

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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The Football Trust, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EB

Clive
Goodyear
from the treatment room

It might be tempting fate to say it, but the treatment room at present is nowhere near as busy as it was in the early stages of last season, and a word of praise is due to the players. It is obvious that they have been good professionals through the holiday period, and kept themselves in shape.

Mitchell Thomas certainly did so, but sadly he is now about to take an enforced break from competitive football. He was knocked out for about a minute in the clash of heads that saw him stretchered off during Tuesday's game against Oxford. He also had a bad cut beside the eye, and that required five stitches, Safety first is always the watchword with injuries, so Mitchell was taken to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital as a precaution, for a check-up.

By that time he was already looking perky, and he did not have to be kept in overnight. But the regulations say that after being knocked out a player cannot take part in any game for ten days. That might not always please the player but it is a sensible precaution because any hard blow to the head bangs the brain around, against the skull. Mitchell has taken a couple of daysoff to rest and recover, and I would expect him to resume training on Monday, but obviously with some restrictions.

Ray McKinnon twisted a knee at Wycombe,

and it was too risky to play him against Oxford. He hopes to be all right for today's game, but we won't take chances - you never can where there might be ligament problems. Paul Showler has been given well-deserved good news. He has had terrible luck with injuries, and needed surgery for a cyst on the knee and a cartilage tear, but he is now only a week or so away from resuming training.

Our two broken leg patients are doing as well as can be expected. Julian James is waiting for his tibia bone to heal. The fibula is OK now, but he still has a metal rod in his leg. He will see the specialist again within the next fortnight. Meanwhile he is able to work on fitness, on the exercise bike and in the gym, and he is a very good worker in that respect - sometimes I have to make him slow down a little.

Steve Augustine is now jogging, but is still some way off full training. Apart from that, we have only the usual bumps and bruises to contend with, and I hope the rest of the season is the same.



CONCERN: The club doctor, and physio Clive Goodyear, attend to Mitchell Thomas after he was felled during the Oxford game. He was OK after hospital treatment.

HATTERS SHOP

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

New Luton Town away kit

Shirts	
S Boys, M Boys, L Boys	£29.99
Youths	£34.99
Small - XXL Mens	£39.99

Shorts	
S Boys, M Boys, L Boys	£15.99
Youths - XL Mens	£19.99

Socks	
Boys, L Boys	£7.99
Mens	£9.99

Please be aware this kit from Pony is only available from Pony for this season 1998/1999.



Statement from Peter Lindau, Merchandise Executive

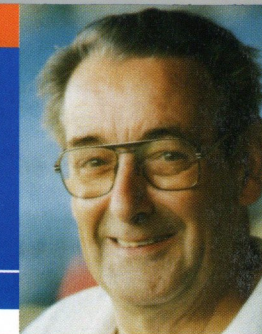
Kit News

We recognise that football kits and the changing of them is an emotive subject and that it is why we are making it clear to anybody who buys either the current home kit or the new away kit that we will be changing our Kit Supplier for season 1999/2000.

This unfortunately means a new home and away kit in that season. However in view of the overwhelming success of the current orange away kit (at the time of writing both on and off the pitch), it is likely we will be producing something similar, although not branded by Pony.

The New Team

Brian Swain and Wolff Evans



Supporters will probably notice that we have a new-look programme this season, and any comments, or criticisms, will be welcome. The aim is to give the customers what they want, and produce a well-designed matchday magazine which is a good read.

The overall look of the magazine is down to the Wolff Evans Partnership, an award-winning graphic design company. They are experts at harnessing the talents of good writers and photographers and the latest computer technology.

Their business includes company literature like sales and marketing brochures, but they are also very much into football. Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur use Wolff Evans for their matchday magazines, as do UEFA for their youth championships, so we are in pretty good company.

While Wolff Evans were discussing the programme project with the Town, Simon Oxley, matchday magazine editor for the past four years, had decided to give up the job.

He had been operating latterly as a freelance journalist, with his Town work fitting into a schedule that included a lot of football. Most supporters will know Simon's voice – he is a broadcaster of considerable expertise, best known for his coverage of the Town's matches for BBC Three Counties Radio.

He is now on the staff of the radio station, which means he no longer had time to write articles for the matchday magazine. He will still be a regular in the Kenilworth Road Press box, wearing his headphones and microphone at Town matches, but will also be covering Watford on occasions.

Needing a new matchday magazine editor, Wolff Evans were advised by David Kohler to have a word with Brian Swain, another

freelance who covers any sort of sport for any sort of newspaper, magazine or broadcasting agency... so long as the sport is Luton Town FC.

Born to be a Luton fan, he was Sports Editor of the Luton News for nearly 25 years until just over a year ago. He walked out, a sort of Bosman free, 15 months ago rather than accept changed working conditions.

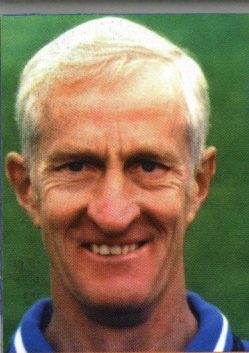
Since then, he has maintained his record of never missing a Town game. Since Christmas 1972 he has seen them all except for one Anglo-Italian non-event during Terry Westley's reign. He went on the supporters' coach to Genoa, but there wasn't one to Cesena, and he failed in attempts to find anyone to share the petrol bill if he took his own car.

Except for that, Brian's record is 1,314 consecutive matches, not including friendlies, although he has seen plenty of them as well.

His highlights are the obvious ones: the great Manchester City showdown in May 1983 he rates as the single most important victory he has reported on. Next, of course, was the 1988 Littlewoods Cup triumph over Arsenal.

But now, what he wants for this season is the need to produce a promotion celebration matchday magazine in May!

In the meantime, he will be delighted to hear from supporters on what they feel about today's magazine. You can write to him at the football club, and all suggestions, or gripes, will be gratefully received.



reserves

Luton Town 4 Brighton 1



Showing too much power and pace for an opposition defence that included 36 year old youth coach Dean Wilkins at sweeper, the Town's first outing of the season in the Avon Combination brought an emphatic victory. But while the result gave pleasure, it was no more than a reasonable start to the season. You look at the whole performance, and to be truthful the opposition did not really test us as much as I would like.

As a result we played well within ourselves, and did not extend ourselves enough.

But there were some plus points: it was good to see the front two scoring goals and Andre Scarlett did well. He played like a man who wants to succeed and get something out of football, and that is a vital requirement in a player's make-up. His application was tremendous.

We had two trialists at fullback. Robert Camara from Monaco is unfortunately carrying a little bit of an injury so we cannot make firm decisions on him yet.

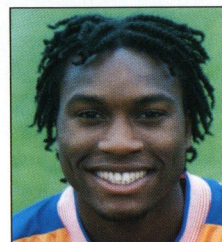
On the other flank was Kofi Nyamah, who has been released by Stoke. He did OK, but I think he would have appreciated it if Brighton had given him a more thorough testing.

Andrew Fotiadis hit two goals and Stuart Douglas was also on target, but on the run of play we should have had more goals. Scarlett was the other marksman on a day when our defence was rarely seriously troubled.

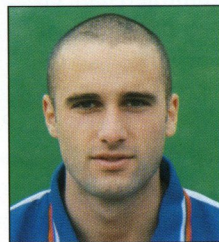
Pressbox view: Brighton's problems were illustrated when their team included 36 year old Dean Wilkins in a back three formation which looked brave but also vulnerable. The persistence of Fotiadis brought the first goal, after nine minutes. A long ball by Nyamah dropped near the edge of the penalty area, and Fotiadis held off an indecisive challenge before slamming a right foot drive into the net.

Set piece defending was below par when Brighton had two half chances, but each time the headers went wide.

Douglas outpaced Wilkins down the left to pull



Stuart Douglas



Andrew Fotiadis

back a pass which gave Scarlett an easy goal after 23 minutes, and in the second half a penalty for hands, awarded by the referee's assistant, enabled Fotiadis to wrap it up with a 68th minute penalty. Tanny Abbey had to make a good save from Simon Wormull's drive, and Brighton's dogged determination brought them a consolation goal five minutes from time, aided by lethargic Town defending, but Douglas put the final gloss on a good team performance with a solo run and accurate drive three minutes later.

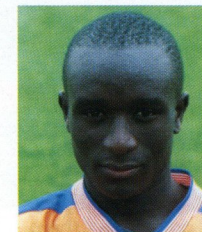
Avon Combination League Fixtures - Season 1998/99

Wed 12	August	Brighton & Hove	H	4-1
Wed 26		Cambridge United	A	
Wed 12	September	Portsmouth	A	
Wed 16		Reading	H	2.00pm
Wed 23		Swindon Town	A	
Wed 30		Charlton Athletic	H	2.00pm
Wed 7	October	Millwall	H	2.00pm
Wed 14		Gillingham	A	
Wed 28		Brentford	A	
Wed 04	November	Crystal Palace	H	2.00pm
Thur 19		Norwich City	A	
Wed 25		Ipswich Town	H	2.00pm
Tues 01	December	West Ham United	A	
Mon 07		Arsenal	A	
Mon 14		Colchester United	H	7.00pm
Mon 21		Tottenham Hotspur	H	7.00pm
Mon 04	January	Chelsea	A	
Mon 11		Wimbledon	H	7.00pm
Wed 20		Southampton	A	
Mon 01	February	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H	7.00pm
Wed 10		Fulham	A	
Mon 22		Barnet	H	7.00pm
Wed 10	March	Queens Park Rangers	A	
Wed 17		Wycombe Wanderers	H	2.00pm
Wed 31		Watford	A	
Wed 07	April	Oxford	H	2.00pm
Thur 15		Northampton Town	A	
Wed 21		Peterborough United	H	2.00pm

Paul Lowe
youth



Brentford 4 Luton Town 2



Joe Harrington is from Biggleswade, another midfielder whose progress has been monitored in our centres of excellence. He has represented Bedfordshire County in schools football, and was introduced to the club by

Richard Green, our Peterborough scout. Jude Stirling is from Highgate, and has played for London County schools. He was still at Ravenscroft School, Barnet, when he played for our youth team and under 16 schoolboy squad last season.

Ryan Moran is from Hatfield and can play in central defence or at right back. He has represented Herts County schools, and is another boy we have brought through, having attended centres of excellence for the past five years.

With second year lads, we now have a total of 13 YTS boys, Leaving one or two vacancies.

The result in our first South East Counties League fixture of the season was certainly not what we wanted, but it was not all bad news.

Football at this level is more about bringing on new talent, win or lose, and to illustrate that just look at the squad at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday which met Oxford. Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Matthew Spring, Marvin Johnson, Sean Evers, Liam George, Paul McLaren and Tanny Abbey - exactly half the squad on duty started with our youth set-up.

On a very hot day on Saturday Tresor Kandol (pictured), who had a very productive pre-season run scored both our goals, and always looked a threat. He outjumped the Brentford defence to give us a 35th minute lead with a far post header from a cross by Clifford Akurang.

But then poor defending saw two goals conceded in as many minutes before the interval, so we had to push on in the second half. That made us vulnerable and Brentford scored twice more from crosses, reminding some of our team that we have to work on positional play in defence.

Five minutes from time a diagonal ball by Dean Mortara saw three men going in. Tresor beat the goalkeeper and a defender in the air to head his second goal.

And despite disappointment over the result, it was pleasing to see good performances by Tresor, Dean and Jerome Thomas. And there are other likely lads working for their chance: our squad included four under 16 schoolboys.

Pre-season friendlies: Charlton 1 Town 1 (Kandol); West Brom 2 Town 1 (Akurang); Aston Villa 1 Town 4 (Kandol 2, Howe, Akurang); Spurs 1 Town 4 (Minton 2, Thomas, Akurang).

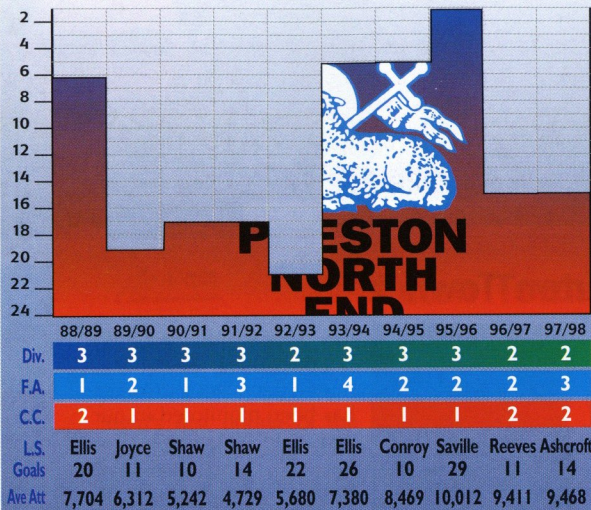
THE CLASS OF 98

Four 16 year olds who have just left school are the latest YTS recruits at Kenilworth Road, with one or two others close to being offered the chance to be "apprentices" with the Town. Alex Minton is a central midfielder from Grendon Underwood, near Aylesbury, and has attended our centres of excellence in Milton Keynes and Luton. He was introduced to the club by Dave Barker, our Buckinghamshire scout.

South East Counties League Fixtures - Season 1998/99

Wed 12	August	Brighton & Hove	H	4-1
Sat 08	August	Brentford	A	2-4
Sat 15		AFC Bournemouth	H	
Sat 22		Brighton & Hove Albion	A	
Sat 29		Bristol Rovers	H	
Sat 05	September	Oxford United	A	
Sat 12		Reading	H	
Sat 19		Wycombe Wanderers	A	
Sat 26		Gillingham	H	
Sat 03	October	Leyton Orient	A	
Sat 10		Portsmouth	H	
Sat 17		Cambridge United	A	
Sat 24		Colchester United	H	
Sat 31		Southend United	H	
Sat 07	November	Swindon	A	
Sat 14		Barnet	H	
Sat 21		AFC Bournemouth	A	
Sat 28		Brighton & Hove Albion	H	
Sat 05	December	Barnet	A	
Sat 12		Brentford	H	
Sat 19	January	Bristol Rovers	A	
Sat 09		Oxford United	H	
Sat 16		Reading	H	
Sat 23		Wycombe Wanderers	H	
Sat 30		Gillingham	A	
Sat 06	February	Leyton Orient	H	
Sat 13		Portsmouth	A	
Sat 20		Cambridge United	H	
Sat 27		Colchester United	A	
Sat 06	March	Southend United	A	
Sat 13		Swindon Town	H	

PNE's last ten years - the full record



When Preston scored goals... and conceded them



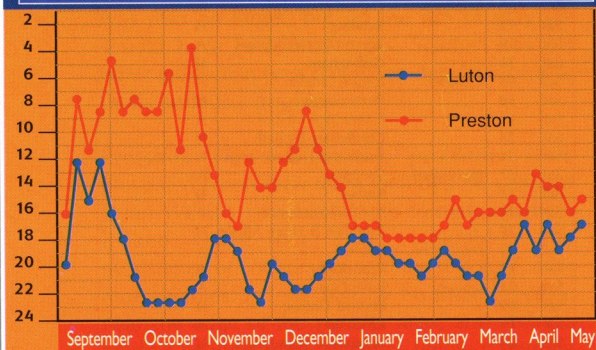
PRESTON PERPETRATORS

Barrick.....7	Parkinson.....3
Gregan.....7	Macken.....2
Jackson.....7	Moyes.....2
Kidd.....6	Mullin.....2
Murdock.....6	Reeves.....2
Appleton.....5	Lorimer.....1
Rankine.....5	McKenna.....1
Ashcroft.....3	Sissoko.....1
Davey.....3	
Eyres.....3	
Holt.....3	

HEINOUS HATTERS

McLaren.....9	Allen R.....2	McGowan.....1
Patterson.....7	Douglas.....2	Patterson.....1
Alexander.....6	Feuer.....2	Spring.....1
Davis S.....6	James.....2	
Thomas.....6	McGowan.....2	
Gray.....4	Johnson.....1	
White.....4	Marshall.....1	
Davis.....3	Small.....1	
Oldfield.....3	Spring.....1	
Thorpe.....3		
Waddock.....3		

Form comparison throughout the season



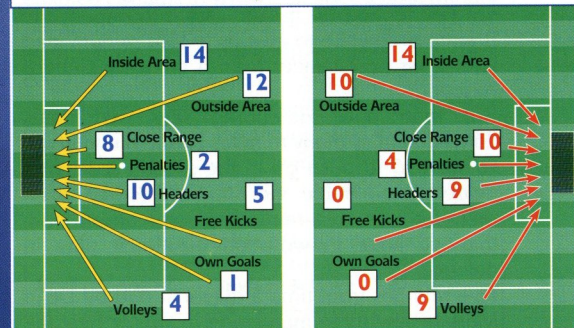
When Luton scored goals... and conceded them



Who played for Preston last season...

Player	Pos	Lge	Lge	Age	Ht	Weight	Prev. Club	Int.
		Apps		Gls				
Gary Parkinson	D	44(1)	5	30	5 11	13 00	Burnley	
Teuvo Moilanen	G	40		24	6 5	13 10	Jaro	
Michael Jackson	D	39(1)	2	24	5 11	13 10	Bury	
Lee Ashcroft	F	37	14	25	5 10	11 02	West Brom	Eng U21
Mark Rankine	D	34(1)	1	28	5 10	11 01	Wolves	
Sean Gregan	D	33(2)	2	24	6 1	13 09	Darlington	
Ryan Kidd	D	32(1)	2	26	6 1	13 03	Port Vale	
Michael Appleton	M	31(7)	2	22	5 9	12 04	Man Utd	
Colin Murdock	D	27	1	23	6 3	12 13	Man Utd	
David Eyres	F	26(2)	4	34	5 9	11 10	Burnley	
Lee Cartwright	M	24(12)	2	25	5 9	11 00		
Jonathan Macken	F	20(9)	6	20	5 10	12 08	Man Utd	Eng Yth
Simon Davey	M	17(1)	2	27	5 10	12 00	Carlisle	
Kurt Nogan	F	14(8)	5	27	5 11	11 11	Burnley	Wales U21
David Moyes	D	8(1)		25	6 1	12 12	Hamilton	
Julian Darby	M	6(6)		30	6 0	11 04	West Brom	Eng Sch
David Lucas	G	6		20	6 1	13 04		Eng Yth
Michael Holt	F	4(10)	2	21	5 10	11 06	Blackburn	
Paul McKenna	M	4(1)		20	5 7	11 13		

How PNE scored goals... and conceded them



HATTERS v PNE

FORM GUIDE	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Sequence
Luton Town	3	1	2	11	8	10	WDLWLW
Preston North End	2	3	1	9	8	9	WDDDWL

Statistics compiled by Football Information Services Telephone: 0151-632 5679

How The Hatters scored goals... and conceded them



Brian Swain

second division scene

Preston enjoyed the sort of pleasure we experienced at Wycombe - the rare delight of an opening day victory. And in their case it was even greater pleasure because the 3-0 trouncing of York at Deepdale ended a run of 13 first day games without a win. They followed up with a 0-0 draw at Grimsby on Wednesday in the Worthington Cup.

On Saturday record signing Michael Appleton, formerly of Manchester United, scored with the season barely two minutes old and after Mark Rankine made it two Kurt Nogan, who learned his football at Luton when Jim Ryan was manager, wrapped it up.

Several other names familiar to Town fans figured on scoresheets. Paul Dickov, who was a bit of a disappointment when he had him on loan from Arsenal five years ago, was hailed as the man of the match as relegated Manchester City played their first-ever match outside the top two divisions. His efforts played a major role in a 3-0 win over Blackpool watched by 32,134 fans. Notts County, runaway champions of the Third Division last season, opened the new campaign with a 3-1 win away to Oldham. Two of the goals came from Sean Farrell, who started his career with us in the youth squad then run by Jum Ryan.

He never quite made it with us, but starred for County in their Third Division title surge last season. He arrived at Meadow Lane via Northampton, Fulham and Peterborough. Mark Stein was another opening-day marksman, in Bournemouth's 2-0 home win over Lincoln.

He suffered a little at Kenilworth Road through the inevitable comparisons with older brother Brian, but still built a very good career.

The highlight of his Town career was in 1988. He was furious when he discovered he was not in the starting line-up for the Littlewoods Cup final, and walked out of

the Town squad two days before the big match.

Brother Brian and Ricky Hill led moves to persuade him to change his mind, and they did. Ray Harford relented after threatening to blank out the younger Stein, and the striker put it all behind him, playing well when going on as sub at Wembley, and collecting a winner's medal.

But a few months later he was on his way out, moving to QPR, then to Oxford (Brian Horton was manager), Stoke and Chelsea.

At Stamford Bridge he was one of the victims of the big money signings designed to challenge for top honours, and went back to Stoke on loan, then Ipswich and finally Bournemouth in the spring of this year.

An oddity of the opening day's Second Division programme was that not one match was drawn. There were six home winners:

Bournemouth, Burnley, Colchester, Manchester City, Preston and Wrexham.

Player coach Ian Rush made his debut for Wrexham as they surprisingly beat expensively assembled Reading 3 at the Racecourse. Andy Legg scored a classic own goal, and another next Saturday will be accepted with due commiseration!

Northampton's 1-3 reverse at Stoke saw the League's first red card: Colin Hill was sent off after seven minutes for handling a goal bound shot.

As well as ourselves, the day's away winners were Walsall at Gillingham, Fulham at Macclesfield, Stoke, Notts County and Millwall at Wigan.

Statistics

fixtures, results, appearances, goalscorers

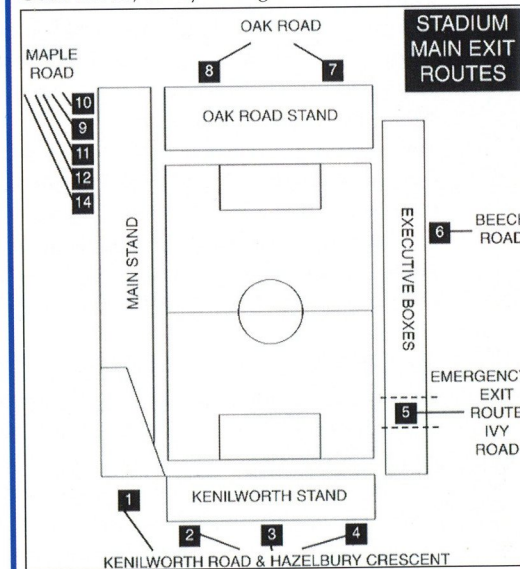
Sat	08	AUGUST	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	A	3.00pm	1-0 (S. Davis)	5,252	K. Davis	Alexander	Thomas	Spring
TUES	11	WC1(1)	OXFORD UNITED	H	7.45pm	2-3 Alexander 2p	3,165	K. Davis	Alexander	Thomas	Spring
SAT	15		PRESTON NORTH END	H	3.00pm						
TUES	18	WC1(2)	OXFORD UNITED	A	7.45pm						
SAT	22		READING	A	3.00pm						
SAT	29		COLCHESTER UNITED	H	3.00pm						
MON	31		WIGAN ATHLETIC	A	3.00pm						
SAT	05	SEPTEMBER	BURNLEY	H	3.00pm						
TUES	08		WREXHAM	A	7.45pm						
SAT	12		BRISTOL ROVERS	H	3.00pm						
TUES	15	WC2(1)	BLACKPOOL	A	3.00pm						
SAT	19										
TUES	22	WC2(2)									
SAT	26		WALSALL	H	3.00pm						
SAT	03	OCTOBER	FULHAM	A	3.00pm						
SAT	10		YORK CITY	A	3.00pm						
SAT	17		OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	3.00pm						
TUES	27	WC3									
TUES	20		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	7.45pm						
SAT	24		GILLINGHAM	A	3.00pm						
SAT	31		CHESTERFIELD	H	3.00pm						
SAT	07	NOVEMBER	STOKE CITY	A	3.00pm						
TUES	10		NOTTS COUNTY	H	7.45pm						
TUES	10	WC4									
SAT	14	FACUP(R1)	LINCOLN CITY	A	3.00pm						
SAT	28		MANCHESTER CITY	H	3.00pm						
TUES	01	DECEMBER	WC5								
SAT	05	FA CUP (R2)									
TUES	08	AWS(1)									
SAT	12		MACCLESFIELD TOWN	A	3.00pm						
SAT	19		MILLWALL	H	3.00pm						
SAT	26		READING	H	12 noon						
MON	28		A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	A	3.00pm						
SAT	02	JANUARY	COLCHESTER UNITED	A	3.00pm						
		or FA CUP (R3)									
TUES	05	AWS(2)									
SAT	09	1999	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	3.00pm						
SAT	16		PRESTON NORTH END	A	3.00pm						
SAT	23		WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	3.00pm						
		or FA CUP (R4)									
WED	27	WC SF(1)									
SAT	30		A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	H	3.00pm						
SAT	06	FEBRUARY	BURNLEY	A	3.00pm						
SAT	13		WREXHAM	H	3.00pm						
		or FA CUP (R5)									
WED	17	WC SF(2) or AWS SF									
SAT	20		BRISTOL ROVERS	A	3.00pm						
SAT	27		BLACKPOOL	H	3.00pm						
SAT	06	MARCH	WALSALL	A	3.00pm						
		or FA CUP (R6)									
TUES	09		FULHAM	H	7.45pm						
		or AWS (AF1)									
SAT	13		STOKE CITY	H	3.00pm						
WED	17	AWS (AF2)									
SAT	20		CHESTERFIELD	A	3.00pm						
SUN	21	WC FINAL									
SAT	27		GILLINGHAM	H	3.00pm						
SAT	03	APRIL	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A	3.00pm						
TUES	06		YORK CITY	H	7.45pm						
SAT	10		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	A	3.00pm						
SUN	11	FA CUP SF									
WED	14		MANCHESTER CITY	A	7.45pm						
SAT	17		LINCOLN CITY	H	3.00pm						
SUN	18	AWS FINAL									
SAT	24		NOTTS COUNTY	A	3.00pm						
SAT	01	MAY	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H	3.00pm						
SAT	08		MILLWALL	A	3.00pm						
SAT	22	FA CUP FINAL									

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: a) Ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd. b) ensure the dispersal of the crowd from the area to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks.

In the event of 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.



S. Davis Johnson McKinnon Evers Bacqué Gray Marshall Subs: George for Bacque 71, McGowan for Marshall 81. Unused: White.
S. Davis Johnson McGowan Evers Bacqué Gray Marshall Subs: McLaren for Thomas 30, George for Marshall 71, McIndoe for Gray 78. Unused: Abbey, White

News

RARE PLEASURE: Victory at Wycombe was a little overdue for the Town. It was only the second time in 15 attempts we had kicked off a new season with a win.

Not since Watford came to Kenilworth Road in 1993 for what used to be their annual beating have we got the league programme off to the perfect start – Paul Telfer and Kerry Dixon netted in a 2-1 win.

Before that you have to go back to 1984, when David Pleat was coming to the end of his first spell as manager for an opening day success – 22-0 at home to Stoke, with goals from Steve Elliott and Frankie Bunn.

A year later, Neil Webb of Nottingham Forest scored the first ever league goal on our new plastic pitch, with Brian Stein replying in a 1-1 draw.

John Moore's only season as manager made club history when he took us to seventh place, our best-ever finish in what is now the Premiership, but even he could not open with a victory – Stein scored in a 1-1 draw at Leicester.

Ray Harford tried three times to start with a win, but we lost all three, although they were difficult away games, at Derby, Sheffield Wednesday and Spurs. Our only goal in that sequence was by Roy Wegerle, in the 2-1 reverse at Tottenham in 1989.

Jim Ryan's only season as manager started with a 1-1 draw at home to Crystal Palace, with Iain Dowie our scorer.

Pleat's second spell turned out to be one out of four in the search for opening day victories, a draw at West Ham and defeat at Leicester coming before the Watford game.

Pleat's final season started with a 1-1 draw at home to West Brom, with Scott Oakes our scorer.

Terry Westley's brief reign opened with a 3-1 home defeat against Norwich. New signing Bontcho Guentchev converted a penalty, and went downhill from there.

He missed a penalty in Lennie's first opening day fixture, with Tony Thorpe scoring at Kenilworth Road while Norwich netted twice. And last season, on a beautiful sunny day we were considerably less than impressive in losing 1-0 at Blackpool.

SECRET FORMULA: We've discovered an apparently sure-fire method of winning evening matches on grounds far, far away from Luton... send the directors and VIPs by air, and then wait for them to leave before seeing the vital goal. Twice in the last 12 months our top Hatters have chartered private planes to avoid long and boring motorway trips.

Some of us who went to Carlisle last season for a Tuesday night match didn't get home until well into Wednesday. We had a good excuse for staying until closing time to celebrate – Alan White headed the winner from an 88th-minute corner by Graham Alexander.

But the flying directors missed it: Carlisle airport closes at 10 pm, so they had to leave Brunton Park before the game ended.

So they might have guessed what would happen when they took to the air again for the pre-season friendly at Hull. Especially when they knew that Hull's local airport also closes before the pubs do.

Sure enough they were barely a goal kick away from the ground when Steve Davis popped in the only goal.

Hatters Roll-Call 1998/99

	Appearances				Total	Goals				
	League	WC	FAC	AWS		League	WC	FAC	AWS	Total
Alexander	1	1	0	0	2	0	2p	0	0	2p
Bacque	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
K. Davis	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
S. Davis	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Evers	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gray	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
George	0 (1)	0 (1)	0	0	0 (2)	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
McGowan	0 (1)	1	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
McLaren	0	0 (1)	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
McIndoe	0	0 (1)	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Spring	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

The teams



Kelvin Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teuvo Moilanen
Graham Alexander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Parkinson
Gavin McGowan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Kidd
Matthew Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colin Murdock
Steve Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Jackson
Marvin Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Gregan
Ray McKinnon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Appleton
Sean Evers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Rankine
Hervé Bacqué	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kurt Nogan
Phil Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Macken
Dwight Marshall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Evers
Alan White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominic Ludden
Paul McLaren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul McKenna
Liam George	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Holt

Referee: S. G. Bennett, Orpington
Assistants: S. L. Gagen, New Malden (yellow flag)
P. W. Melia, Frimley (yellow/red flag)
Reserve Official: C. M. Ross, Kempston