

Talk of the Town with Dave Flett



YOUNG GUN MEETS OLD HAND: Trevor Kandol made his Football League debut as a second-half substitute during Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers. The promising 17-year-old striker struggled to make an impact in a difficult 13 minutes at the Memorial Ground and is watched here by ex-QPR defender Andy Tillson. Rovers skipper Tillson, 32, had earlier scored the only goal of the game to mark his return to the side after five months injured.

See Keegan at Luton

NEW England boss Kevin Keegan and his Fulham side visit Kenilworth Road on March 9 – and you could be there to see the game FREE!

The Nationwide Building Society has supplied the News-Gazette with two tickets for the game.

Answer this question and they could be yours:

Which former Hatters striker left Fulham to join Bristol City last summer?

All entries must be sent to: Tickets Competition, Sports Desk, News-Gazette, 60 Church Street, Luton, LU1 3JQ.

Carl Adams, of Clarks Road, Hatfield, was the winner of two tickets for this Saturday's game against Blackpool.

He correctly identified 1-0 as the score between the two sides when they met at Bloomfield Road in September.

Now try your luck for Keegan's visit.



LUTON DATE: Kevin Keegan.

Gerry move in jeopardy

LENNIE LAWRENCE is calling for a quick clarification of the club's transfer policy in the wake of David Kohler's announcement that he will resign as chairman.

The Hatters boss is concerned that the situation needs to be resolved to prevent him losing out on loan pair Gerry Harrison and Sean Dyche.

Harrison is his pressing concern with his loan period coming to an end after Saturday's home game against Blackpool, two weeks before the Dyche deadline.

The Sunderland man is currently injured with a hamstring strain which further complicates matters.

Lawrence said: "The board situation needs to be resolved because there's a million and one decisions to be made. At the moment, I can't move on anything temporary or permanent. It will be hard now to arrange a permanent deal for Gerry first because he's injured and second because of the uncertainty."

"So we might be in a position where he stays a third month but if his injury will keep him out for two weeks I need the space his loan takes up."

Lawrence would like former Tottenham left-winger Andy Turner to fill that loan space. The Crystal Palace man has been training with the club and has played in the last two reserve matches.

"We'd like to do something with him because he's done a bit in his career," Lawrence said.



GERRY HARRISON

It's Rover and out for Hatters play-off hopes

LUTON TOWN are beginning to look nervously over their shoulder as the league season enters its final third.

The roller-coaster crisis club need to apply the brakes quickly if they are to avoid hurting headlines into a relegation battle.

It is 16 games since the Hatters last beat a side with 11 men – the narrow 3-2 FA Cup victory over Boreham Wood! During that run, wins have only been chalked up against nine-man Wycombe and 10-man Burnley.

Both on and off the pitch, the club are in turmoil and, with a difficult March on the horizon – including games against three of the top four sides – results and confidence need to be found fast.

Saturday's defeat against Bristol Rovers saw manager Lennie Lawrence finally concede that the play-offs were an unrealistic target.

"I'm not thinking of anything beyond the next game," he admitted after his side went down to Andy Tillson's 26th-minute goal. "The next two are must wins; otherwise we're looking down very seriously."

This latest defeat was influenced by the absence of seven players. Gray, Fotiadis, Harrison, Spring, Evers, McGowan and Thomas were all out and, on this evidence, are desperately needed back.

Teenage wingers Michael McIndoe and Andre Scarlett were drafted in and made little impact but, whereas they have youth on their side, the peripheral Ray McKinnon, at 28, doesn't.

Strikers Gary Doherty and Stuart Douglas would have received better service during a weekend's stay at Fawley Towers than they did at the Memorial Ground on Saturday.

Their only chances came in the second-half when they decided to go it alone. Doherty forcing Lee Jones into his only save of the game and Douglas firing wide after strong runs into the home box.

As a spectacle, the game was the worst of the season, with the home side also contributing little in the

matchfacts

BRISTOL ROVERS 1 LUTON 0

- **BRISTOL ROVERS:** Lee Jones, Robbie Pethick, Trevor Challis, Robert Trees, Andy Thomson, Andy Tillson, Jamie Shore, Josh Low (Gary Penrice, 81), Ian Holloway, Jamie Cureton, Jason Roberts. Subs not used: Stephane Leoni, David Lee.
- **HATTERS:** Kelvin Davis, Graham Alexander, Alan White, Michael McIndoe (Tresor Kandol, 77), Sean Dyche, Marvin Johnson, Andre Scarlett (L'Andry Zahana-Oni, 73), Paul McLaren, Stuart Douglas, Gary Doherty, Ray McKinnon. Sub not used: Stuart Fraser.
- **Shots on target:** Bristol Rovers 5, Luton 1.
- **Off target:** Bristol Rovers 3 Luton 5.
- **Comers:** Bristol Rovers 9, Luton 5.
- **Attendance:** 6,361.
- **Referee:** George Cain (Seaforth, Merseyside).
- **Top Hatter:** Johnson – defended manfully.

LIAM GEORGE scored the reserves goal in Monday night's Avon Insurance Combination league 1-1 draw with Barnet. The Hatters left-winger, playing only his second game after breaking his leg in August, was on the pitch for 75 minutes. French trialist keeper Maxime Aguhue also played, as did Crystal Palace winger Andy Turner.

SEAN EVERS is likely to be out for at least two weeks with a stomach strain that has dogged him since November. The Hatters midfielder was seeking specialists this week and could need an operation. Andrew Fotiadis is expected to be out until April with ankle ligament damage and Paul Showler and Mitchell Thomas are still struggling for fitness.

way of entertainment. The most intriguing battle on the pitch was between Hatters skipper Marvin Johnson and bustling Rovers forward Jason Roberts.

Johnson did a sterling job on the in-form striker but, in his duty as captain, crucially failed to organise his defence in time for the home side's goal.

Rovers player-boss Ian Holloway floated a free-kick into the visitors' box and captain Tillson rose unchallenged to head home a six yards despite Kelvin Davis getting a full hand to his effort.

The goal marked Tillson's game since September and Rovers their first home win since October! It came against Luton side whose attacking inspiration, despite much defensive possession, could not match the defensive commitment of Johnson, Sean Dyche and White.

Lennie Lawrence's verdict

"We were hopeful that we might nick a point but we could not scramble a goal and did not have the quality to carve out clearcut chances. We deserved a point for commitment and effort, quality wise we probably didn't and we don't know what Bristol would have had in the tank if we'd equalised. It was difficult to play with so many changes."



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NOT THIS TIME, GARY: Hatters striker Gary Doherty, who had scored three goals in three games before Saturday's trip to Bristol Rovers, could not repeat the trick at the Memorial Ground. The 19-year-old Republic Of Ireland international, was starved of service for long periods in an ineffectual midfield display from the visitors.

Picture: GARETH OWEN

Lennie's problem 98-99 Story so far...

August	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 8	Wycombe	1-0	Davis (S) 36	5,252	10
Tues 11	OXFORD UTD (WC1)	2-3	Alexander 59 (pen), 63 (pen)	3,165	-
Sat 15	PRESTON	1-1	Marshall 54	5,392	7
Tues 18	OXFORD UTD (WC1)	3-1	Gray 37, Evers 48, McLaren 70	5,099	-
Sat 22	Reading	0-3	-	18,108	12
Sat 29	COLCHESTER	2-0	Douglas 62, Davis (S) 82	5,005	9
Mon 31	Wigan Athletic	3-1	Davis (S) 41, Evers 78, Gray 81	3,778	5
September					
Sat 5	BURNLEY	1-0	Douglas 47	5,554	2
Tues 8	Wrexham	1-1	McKinnon 36	2,951	3
Sat 12	BRISTOL ROVERS	2-0	Davis (S) 7, Alexander 9	5,558	-
Tues 15	Ipswich (WC 2)	1-2	Douglas, 60	9,032	-
Sat 19	Blackpool	0-1	-	5,695	5
Tues 22	IPSWICH (WC 2)	4-2	Fotiadis 52, Douglas 83, Davis (S) 99	5,655	-
			Johnson 120	5,530	7
Sat 26	WALSALL	0-1	-	-	-
October					
Sat 3	Fulham	3-1	Gray 3, Douglas 48, Davis (S) 65	11,856	7
Sat 10	York City	3-3	Douglas 22, Evers 43, Gray 55	3,780	4
Sat 17	OLDHAM	2-0	Gray 82, Scarlett 90	5,447	4
Tues 20	NORTHAMPTON	1-0	Alexander 19	6,087	3
Sat 24	Gillingham	0-1	-	5,602	4
Tues 27	COVENTRY (WC 3)	2-0	Gray 50, Davis (S) 78	9,051	-
November					
Sat 7	Stoke City	1-3	Douglas 81	12,964	6
Tues 10	BARNESLEY (WC4)	1-0	Gray 82	8,435	-
Sun 15	Boreham Wood (FA1)	3-2	Gray 33, 53, Davis (S) 76	1,772	-
Sat 21	Lincoln City	2-2	Gray 43, Doherty 76	4,893	6
Sat 28	MANCHESTER CITY	1-1	Doherty 76	9,070	7
December					
Tue 1	Sunderland (WC5)	0-3	-	35,742	-
Sat 5	HULL CITY (FA2)	1-2	Davis (S) 36	5,021	-
Sat 12	Macclesfield	2-2	Douglas 3, Gray 90	2,905	8
Sat 19	MILLWALL	1-2	Davis (S) 69	5,939	11
Mon 28	Bournemouth	0-1	-	8,863	14
January					
Sat 2	Colchester	2-2	Alexander (pen) 7, White 72	4,694	14
Sat 9	WALSALL (AWS 2)	0-3	-	1,870	-
Tues 5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	3-1	Spring 16, Evers 69, Douglas 75	5,063	13
Sat 9	WYCOMBE	1-2	Fotiadis 15	11,034	12
Sat 16	Preston	0-4	-	4,934	13
Sat 23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	0-4	-	5,426	14
Sat 30	BOURNEMOUTH	2-2	McKinnon 6, Doherty 53	-	-
February					
Sat 6	Burnley	2-1	Fotiadis 34, Doherty 87	10,285	12
Feb 13	WREXHAM	1-2	Doherty 47	4,759	13
Feb 20	Bristol Rovers	0-1	-	6,361	13

...and matches still to come

Sat 27	B'POOL	H	3pm	Tues 6	YORK CITY	H	7.45
Sat 6	MARCH			Sat 10	N'hampton	A	3pm
Sat 9	Walsall	A	3pm	Wed 14	Man City	A	7.45
Sat 13	FULHAM	H	7.45	Sat 17	LINCOLN	H	3pm
Sat 20	STOKE	H	3pm	Sat 24	Notts Co	A	3pm
Sat 27	Chesterfield	A	3pm	Tues 27	CHES'FIELD	H	7.45
Tues 23	READING	H	3pm	MAY			
Sat 27	G'INGHAM	H	11.30	Sat 1	MAC'FIELD	H	3pm
Sat 3	Oldham Ath	A	3pm	Tues 8	Millwall	A	3pm

Follow the Hatters every week by buying the News-Gazette.

Games and goals

APPEARANCES		(SUBS)	GOALS	
Lge	Cup		Lge	Cup
Nathan Abbey	1(0)	1(0)	0	0
Graham Alexander	21(0)	9(0)	3	2
Herve Bacque	2(5)	2(2)	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	9(0)	2(3)	0	0
Jimmy Cox	2(3)	1(1)	0	0
Kelvin Davis	28(0)	9(0)	0	0
Steve Davis	20(0)	9(0)	6	4
Simon Davies	2(0)	0(0)	0	0
Gary Doherty	3(9)	2(2)	5	0
Stuart Douglas	25(0)	7(1)	7	2
Sean Dyche	7(0)	1(0)	0	0
Sean Evers	27(0)	10(0)	3	1
Andrew Fotiadis	6(8)	2(2)	2	1
Stuart Fraser	1(1)	1(0)	0	0
Liam George	2(3)	0(2)	0	0
Phil Gray	22(2)	9(0)	6	5
Gerry Harrison	8(0)	1(0)	0	0
Marvin Johnson	27(0)	8(0)	0	1
Tresor Kandol	0(1)	1(0)	0	0
Dwight Marshall	3(1)	3(0)	1	0
Gavin McGowan	19(1)	9(0)	0	0
Michael McIndoe	9(3)	3(3)	0	0
Ray McKinnon	20(1)	6(1)	2	0
Paul McLaren	10(4)	4(3)	0	1
Kofi Nyamah	0(0)	1(1)	0	0
Andre Scarlett	2(3)	0(2)	1	0
Paul Showler	2(1)	0(0)	0	0
Matthew Spring	28(0)	8(1)	1	0
Mitchell Thomas	11(5)	3(0)	0	0
Alan White	9(12)	2(3)	1	0
L'Andry Zahana-Oni	2(2)	0(0)	0	0

Bad boys

WHERE the red and yellow cards have gone...

	Y	R	McKinnon	3	0
McGowan	12	1	Doherty	2	0
Alexander	7	1	George	2	0
Johnson	4	1	White	2	0
Thomas	4	1	Cox	1	0
Davis (S)	6	0	Dyche	1	0
Douglas	5	0	Evers	1	0
McLaren	5	0	Harrison	1	0
Gray	2	1	Scarlett	1	0
McIndoe	4	0	Spring	1	0
Davis (K)	1	1	TOTAL	65	6

Good boys

LUTON News Player of the Year standings (the Top Hatter awards given by Town reporter Dave Flett)...

Alexander	5	McLaren	2
Davis (S)	5	Abbey	1
Spring	5	Davis (K)	1
Johnson	4	Douglas	1
Gray	4	Dyche	1
Evers	2	Scarlett	1
Harrison	2	Showler	1
McGowan	2	Thomas	1
McKinnon	2	TOTAL	39

McGowan