



Luton Town v Gillingham



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Saturday 27 March 1999

Kick-off 11.30am

Official matchday programme. Price £1.80



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Inside Forward

welcome to kenilworth road

Luton Town Football Club

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Division 4

Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Programme

Editor

Brian Swain

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

Brian Swain reports

THE RECEIVER who is now running Luton Town FC said on his first day in charge: "I have every reason to believe that the club will stay in existence."

Called in by director Cliff Bassett, who is owed over £2million, the receivers are well into their task of investigating the financial position of Luton Town, and trying to sell it as a going concern.

John Kelly, head of the team from top accountants Buchler Phillips, came in on Wednesday morning with vast experience of sports receiverships and administrations.

It had become clear a few hours earlier that rumours of a split in the boardroom were all too true. A month after David Kohler announced his wish to resign as soon as he could sell off his 60 per cent controlling interest in the club, negotiations between him and the other three directors were still deadlocked.

Mr Kohler has cleared his boardroom office and left, with the team from Buchler Phillips taking it over.

Mr Kelly is keen for Luton Town supporters to understand what has to be done next, and he was remarkably upbeat about the club's chances of pulling through the crisis.

He and Peter Phillips are heading the team of receivers. They are partners in a company which is the UK's leading independent accountancy practice, specialising in corporate recovery, financial consulting and insolvency.

The club is insolvent, with debts to Mr Kohler and the other directors totalling more than £3million. Buchler Phillips issued a concise Press statement explaining they had been called in by the Club's main creditor, Mr Bassett, head of Universal Salvage Auctions, which sponsors the Town.

The statement said: "The joint receivers will be looking into the full financial position of the company in the hope that the future position of the club can in some way be safeguarded. They are keen to hear from any potential investors who may be interested in funding the club in the future. In the meantime, the receivers emphasise the importance of the continued support of the club members.

"The appointment is as a result of a breakdown of negotiations at board level."

Mr Kelly had been speaking to the directors for a week or more, and makes no comment on any disputes there may have been before Mr Bassett's action ended a month of stalemate discussions. The job now, he said, was to safeguard the future.

"Our first priority is to find out exactly what the financial situation of the club is.

"We are talking to all the staff, and players, and in due course we will speak to fans' representatives. Then our intention is to look to see if there are any investors, singly or jointly, who may be prepared to fund the club. We have no reason to believe that should not be possible.

"In the meantime Luton Town will continue playing football - only if we run out of money would we have to close down. But our intention is to continue as normally as possible while we search for new investors. And we need as much support as possible."

It was possible there would have to be cuts in the Kenilworth Road payroll, but he had been impressed at the quality and lack of dead wood he had found in the staff.

Legally, the executive powers of directors now rest with Mr Kelly, and he met Lennie Lawrence to discuss raising cash from player sales. The manager's views would most certainly be taken into account, said Mr Kelly.

Lennie, who was manager of Charlton when they were wound up in the High Court for owing £109,000 to the Inland Revenue, said he understood the situation. The transfer of Graham Alexander to Preston was already under way before the receivers were appointed, and preliminary talks about another had also started ahead of Thursday's transfer deadline.



ON SONG: Phil Gray was back to his best on Tuesday night, and is pictured in action against Reading - match report and pictures page 37.

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Mr Kelly said: "We will fully consult the manager, and I have found him very sensible and helpful."

The receivers have plenty of experience of restructuring football and rugby clubs - Mr Kelly is an Aston Villa season ticket holder, and a Leicester rugby fan. Buchler Phillips have been involved as administrators in Moseley, Coventry and Richmond rugby clubs and were involved in the receivership sale of The Valley back to Charlton, a time Lennie Lawrence remembers with considerable pleasure. ("We sold a player to do it.")

Buchler Phillips also provided administrators for Millwall FC, and helped Tottenham with re-financing before Alan Sugar took a majority share holding.

Mr Kelly said: "I would hope to be out of here by the end of the season. I have told the staff here that the quicker they get rid of me, the better. While I am here, there is bound to be uncertainty. But I have to say that there is a very good team of people already here, under Cherry Newbery."

Deadline day transfers

THE RECEIVERS came in just in time to hear that much-needed money was coming into the club from the sales on Thursday, transfer deadline day, of Graham Alexander and Sean Evers. Because of the financial situation, the deals were being set up before Mr Kelly and his team moved in.

Alexander, a £100,000 buy from Scunthorpe nearly four years ago, went to Preston, having rejected terms for a new contract at Kenilworth Road. The Town had to accept £50,000, with a further £50,000 to come depending on appearances for a player who would command no fee at all after Thursday. Steve Davis spearheaded a late Burnley attempt to sign Alexander but the lure of possible promotion clinched it for Preston.

Meanwhile Sean Evers has for some time been tracked by Reading. The Town desperately needed cash to keep the club going while in receivership, so a deal was struck at around £500,000. Nearly fully recovered after stomach muscle surgery, Evers deserved his chance at a wealthier club which looks like taking a play-off place at least.

With those moves sorted out the receivers allowed Lennie Lawrence to bring in the two men he wanted: Sean Dyche has returned for a third month loan from Bristol City and from the same club we welcome back our former favourite Tony Thorpe, also on loan. But we could not do a deal on Gerry Harrison so he has left.



Graham Alexander



Sean Evers

Well done, that ref!

ALAN White breathed a sigh of relief when the referee's report on his red card offence against Fulham arrived at Kenilworth Road. He went into that game knowing he was about to serve a one-match suspension for collecting five bookings.

He was sent off for bringing down Barry Hayles, and for several days the Town were on tenderhooks as to how referee Michael Dean would view the foul.

Thankfully, his report called it denying a goal-scoring opportunity - a "professional foul" to most of us - and the punishment was another one-match ban. If it had been deemed serious misconduct it could have been anything up to three matches suspended.

Chairman and
Managing Director
David Kohler
Bsc (Hons) FRICS

Directors
C.S. Bassett, C.T.F Green,
N.S. Terry

Vice Presidents:
R.L. Banks, D. Ludlow,
C. Bygrave, R. Safranek,
P. Ireton, J. Sapsworth.

Chief Executive and
Company Secretary
Cherry Newbery

Manager
Lennie Lawrence

Reserves Coach
John Moore

Youth Coach
Paul Lowe

Club Coach
Trevor Hartley

Physiotherapist
Clive Goodyear

Consultant Physio
John Sheridan

Sales & Marketing
Manager
John Bailey

Financial Controller
Anthony McNally A.C.A.

Youth Development
Dean Rastrick

Scouting
Les Shannon

Fitness Trainer
Mandy Malins

Safety Manager
Geoff Lovell

Catering Manager
Fiona Wallace

Medical Officer
Dr Bill Berry

Club Dentist
A.Chris BDS (Syd)

Hatters Roll-Call 1998/99

	Appearances				Goals				
	League	WC	FAC	AWS	Total	League	WC	FAC	Total
Abbey	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Alexander	28(1)	7	2	0	37(1)	4(2p)	2p	0	6(4p)
Boyce	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cox	3(5)	1(1)	0	0	4(6)	0	0	0	0
Davis	35	7	2	0	44	0	0	0	0
Doherty	5(11)	0(1)	1(1)	0(1)	6(14)	5	0	0	5
Douglas	32	6	1(1)	0	39(1)	8	2	0	10
Evers	27	7	2	1	37	3	1	0	4
Fotiadis	6(8)	1(1)	0	1	8(9)	2	1	0	3
Fraser	1(1)	0	0	1	2(1)	0	0	0	0
Gray	27(3)	6	2	0	35(3)	7	3	2	12
George	5(4)	0(2)	0	0	5(6)	0	0	0	0
Harrison	14	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	0
Johnson	34	7	1	0	41	0	1	0	1
Kandol	0(1)	0	0	0(1)	0(2)	0	0	0	0
McGowan	22(4)	7	2	0	31(4)	0	0	0	0
McIndoe	9(4)	2(1)	(2)	1	12(7)	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	26(1)	4(1)	2	0	32(2)	2	0	0	2
McLaren	12(8)	1(3)	2	1	16(11)	0	1	0	1
Scarlett	2(4)	0	0(1)	0(1)	2(6)	1	0	0	1
Showler	2(1)	0	0	0	2(1)	0	0	0	0
Spring	35	7	1(1)	0	43(1)	2	0	0	2
Thomas	16(6)	3	0	0	19(6)	0	0	0	0
White	13(13)	0(3)	1	1	15(16)	1	0	0	1
Willmott	3(1)	0	0	0	3(1)	0	0	0	0
Zahana-Oni	2(3)	0	0	0	2(3)	0	0	0	0

Also played: S. Davis 21 league appearances, 6 goals; 6 Worthington Cup apps, 2 goals; 2 FA Cup apps, 2 goals. Dyche 8 league apps, 1 Auto Windscreens Shield. Marshall 3(1) League apps, 1 goal; 3 Worthington Cup apps. Davies 2 League appearances. Bacque 2(5) league apps; 1(2) Worthington Cup apps, 1 Auto Windscreens Shield. Nyamah 1 FA Cup appearance, 1 as sub Worthington Cup.

Lennie Lawrence

from the manager's chair



AFTER the recent traumatic off-field events, everyone associated with Luton Town must have taken a great deal of satisfaction from the team's performance against Reading on Tuesday - players, supporters, management and directors alike.

The players were not informed of the exact situation before the game, but it was impressed on them that psychologically it was a very important match for the club, and they responded very well.

I employed a different formation, with one or two changes in personnel, which saw us control the first half, and secure a one-goal lead which should have been two in view of the missed penalty.

Obviously a team with players of Reading's quality was bound to improve in the second half, and our younger players tired in the last 20 minutes, understandably so in view of the tremendous efforts they had put in earlier.

It was unfortunate to concede an equaliser, but in fairness to Reading they had threatened to score for ten or 15 minutes before they did.

But in terms of performance and commitment by our players, it was an enormous step forward, and hopefully the harbinger of better things to come.

The uncertainty of recent weeks has made it a difficult time for everybody at the club, but hopefully now the club can move forward again.

The transfer deadline was on Thursday evening, and by the time this magazine is published we may have lost players through financial necessity.

Graham Alexander was talking to two clubs after a deal was agreed. He wanted to leave, and I had to haggle for the best offer I could get. It would not reflect his true value if the Bosman ruling did not exist. But it does, and I thought supporters were unfair to pick on him because he wanted to better himself. It was unfortunate, to say the least, that alleged details of his salary negotiations with us were made public - details of any man's wages are a personal and private matter, whatever job you do.

Don't blame the player - blame the system that led to the situation that if we did not get a deal by Thursday he would be worth absolutely nothing to us on Friday. Graham Alexander has been good for us, and I think Luton Town has been good for him, in developing his career, and we wish him well, and understand his desire to move on.

I was as much concerned about the chances of

bringing players in. Gerry Harris's loan ends after today's match, and I was trying to get permission to bring in one or two new men, loans or short-term contract players, to help us finish the season on a successful note.

With Liam George and Gary Doherty away with Ireland for a month, and uncertainty over Harrison's future, plus two possible departures, we were in danger of being exceedingly short-handed.

Today's visitors have shown the value of a decent-sized squad of experienced players. They sold their two biggest stars, Ade Akinbiyi and James Corbett, for close on £2m, and re-invested £1million in Carl Asaba and Robert Taylor. It was successful trading, and Gillingham are serious challengers for a play-off place.

We lost a close game at Priestfield, and it would be brilliant if we could reverse it today. We will try, and it will help if the crowd can be as positive as on Tuesday - that was as good as it has been since the cup run before Christmas, and it was appreciated by the players, and by the coaching staff.

Let's hope we can keep it up today, and perhaps with an even better result than the well-earned point we took against Reading.



Lennie Lawrence

on the ball?.....



.....or on the bench?

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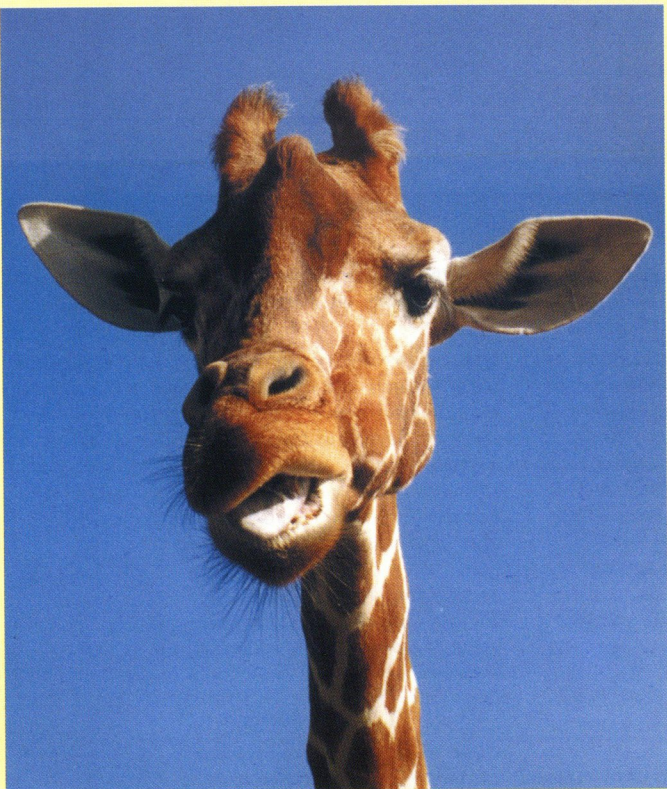


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Marv in charge

captain's log



AFTER our poor showing in the second half at Chesterfield, we were all very determined to do better in front of our own fans against Reading on Tuesday night. It was disappointing to concede a late equaliser, but give credit to Reading for coming back so strongly after we had dominated much of the game.

Before kick-off we did not know that receivers were about to move in, but of course for some weeks there have been plenty of rumours flying around the place. I gather the announcement about the receivers was made while the boss was talking to us in the build-up towards kick-off. All he said was that there would be massive changes within the club, and in the meantime we had a job to do.

Off-the-field activities do not affect players too much, and I don't think they have had a lot to do with recent performances. We can't claim them as an excuse for losing matches, and by the same token the much improved performance on Tuesday would have happened anyway, whatever the background.

We used a new system - well, new for most of our players, although men as old as me can remember 4-4-3 being quite commonplace in football! We worked on it in training, found we were comfortable with it, and then made it work in the match. It's a pity Gary Doherty, who came in as the third attacker, is now away with the Irish youth squad, along with Liam George.

The boss was willing to take the rap if the change of system did not work, but on the night we were pretty happy with its effect, and I know it surprised Reading. It took them a long time to fathom it out, and it's a pity we didn't get the extra goal our play deserved, to finish off Reading. Graham Alexander spoiled his farewell night by missing a penalty for the first time since he has been with us, and we felt for him. But he deserves the thanks of all of us, and of the supporters, for what he has done for Luton Town in the last four years. We certainly don't blame him for grabbing the chance to play at a higher level.

The missed penalty could have been a big setback, but we were focused enough to make sure it wasn't, and the game plan was pretty successful. We defended deeper than usual to stop Reading getting round the back of us, and our overall tactic was to play the way we do in away matches, doing exactly what visiting teams usually do with us at Kenilworth Road.

It so very nearly paid off with the victory we all dearly wanted, and Gerry Harrison has put his hand up for his contribution towards the equaliser. He tried to take one touch too many, and they punished us. Mind you,

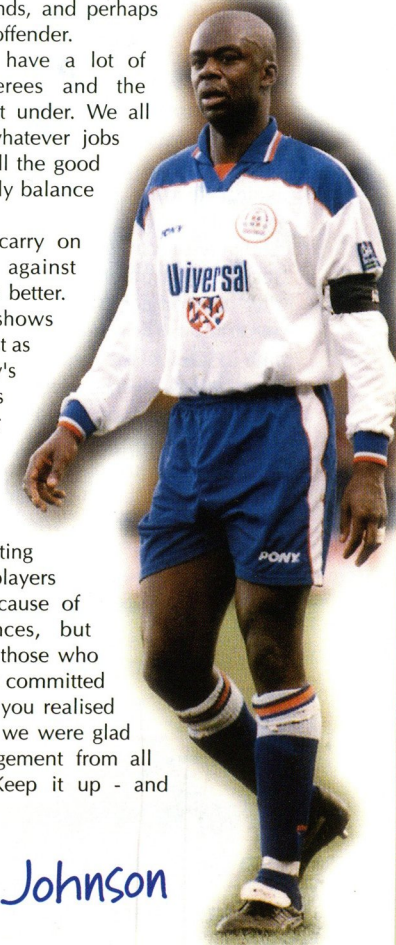
Reading deserve a bit of credit, and showed why they may be the next Fulham. They had hardly a sniff of goal, but made that chance count, and it was a peach of a cross by Ray Houghton that made it possible.

It was a shame the game had to end with Macca getting sent off. We thought it was unnecessary - it was an instinctive reaction when he kicked the ball away, and to get done for time-wasting in the last minute seems a bit pointless. All the ref had to do was add on a few more seconds, and perhaps wag his finger at the offender.

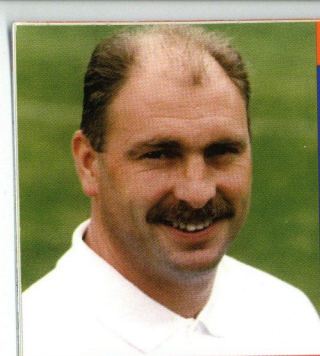
Having said that, I have a lot of sympathy with referees and the pressure they are put under. We all make mistakes, in whatever jobs we do, and in football the good and bad breaks usually balance out.

Today, we hope to carry on where we started against Reading, and go one better. The league table shows Gillingham will be just as difficult, but Tuesday's performance has given us cause for greater optimism, and certainly it has done our confidence no harm at all.

Like you, we are waiting to know what other players might be leaving because of financial circumstances, but you can be sure that those who stay are 100 per cent committed to the cause. We felt you realised that on Tuesday, and we were glad to hear the encouragement from all round the ground. Keep it up - and hopefully, so will we.



Marvin Johnson



Clive Goodyear

from the treatment room

THE most worrying moment for me on Tuesday evening, during the game against Reading, was when Marvin Johnson fell heavily after a collision and injured his right knee.

At the time he was in considerable pain, and having seen the way he twisted the joint as he hit the ground I had to think of the possibility that he might have ligament damage.

Happily that turned out not to be the case, but he probably knocked a nerve. It had settled down by the next day, and he will almost certainly be OK for today's game.

Unfortunately I cannot give a similar report on Ray McKinnon. He was suspended for the Reading match, but would not have played anyway because of a knee injury received at Chesterfield. He has slightly stretched a ligament, which meant treatment instead of training, and it was touch and go whether he would be ready to face Gillingham.

Stuart Douglas took his usual couple of knocks against Reading, but it was nothing serious, so it looks as though we came out of that game relatively unscathed in terms of injuries.

Back in light training this week was Sean Evers, after his stomach muscle operation, and as you will know by now it turned out to be vital for the club in view of the financial difficulties that have hit us. It has been a pleasure to work with him, and while we would like him in our team we understand why he has left. The surgeon who did the operation just over a month ago said that in some ways it was up to Sean to decide when he could play again - "when you're comfortable with it."

In the event, he was very nearly ready for a return to league football as transfer deadline day dawned.

With two players transferred out this week, and Liam George and Gary Doherty away with

Ireland, I was wondering whether I should offer my services until I heard Sean Dyche and Tony Thorpe were coming back!

I became a player again for one evening on Wednesday, turning out for Wimbledon over-35s in the PFA "Soccer Legends" indoor sixes at the Docklands Arena.

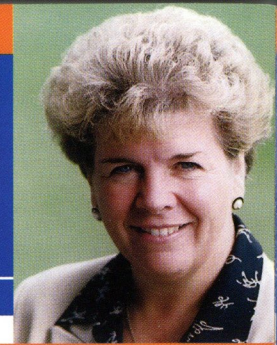
I know I will take a bit of stick in the dressing room for being dubbed a legend, but some of the others really were worthy of the title.

Trevor Hartley reckoned I had been selected so that Chris Waddle and Glenn Hoddle would have some-one to nutmeg, but they didn't. I helped us keep a clean sheet in the first match - Hans Segers was in goal - when we beat West Ham 2-0 but we went out of the tournament when we were unluckily beaten 2-1 by Spurs.

I scored our goal, and told the Press that it was a rasping shot. Our local ageing hack said he believed me, but still thought my best-ever goal was when I beat Peter Shilton in a 3-3 draw with Southampton on a very foggy night at Kenilworth Road. In those days, of course, I was lethal from three yards, even if that particular effort did take several minutes to travel the distance!

Wednesday's tournament was a very enjoyable occasion, but I didn't get a lot of sympathy on Thursday morning when I reported in feeling just a bit sore. Physio heal thyself was one of the more polite pieces of advice directed at me, so perhaps, in the circumstances, I will not be offering my playing services to Lennie Lawrence just yet!

Clive Goodyear



Cherry Newbery

club secretary

IT HAS been a strange week at Kenilworth Road for all the staff, but so far as is possible we have tried to make it business as usual.

I am pleased to tell you that the attitude here this week has been one of roll up the sleeves and redouble our efforts - most of us who work here are not just employees, but committed supporters of the club as well.

We know we have a problem and there may be some very difficult days ahead, but the overwhelming feeling now is one of "Let's get cracking and overcome it, and we will get there."

You could sense it around the ground on Tuesday night, and how nice it was to see and hear the crowd and players united.

Business as usual includes preparing for next season, and we are already looking at ways of complying with new regulations about the size of dug-outs. At present, they have to be big enough to accommodate eight people from each team, giving plenty of room for three subs, a manager, a coach and a physio. In practice, a lot of managers prefer to stand outside the dug-out, in the marked "technical area" from which they are never meant to stray.

Next season the Nationwide League will be similar to the FA Premiership in allowing five subs to be named, although it will still be only three allowed to take part in games.

So there will have to be room for ten bodies from each side, which means our dug-out must be enlarged. We are looking at how that might be done, and later on we will do a mock-up to show what is planned. Safety considerations are paramount, and it may be that some seats will no longer be available for spectators. When we have a better idea of what is likely, we will

invite supporters who sit in that area to come and have a look at how their seats might be affected.

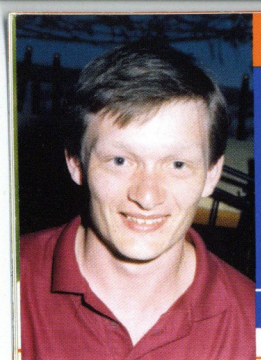
I hope supporters enjoy the efforts we have made to put on extra entertainment today, and in the next matchday magazine we will publish the pictures of the best entries in the face-painting competition. We also have the Sandye Band with us again, having been much appreciated on their last visit.

Finally, if you were in the main stand or new stand on Tuesday night and thought you saw men looking the spitten images of David Beckham, Paul Scholes and the Neville brothers, we can now admit that they were indeed the famous four from Manchester United. They were on their way to join up with the England party preparing for this afternoon's international at Wembley. The FA asked us to keep it a private and low-key visit, and we obliged. The players wanted to watch a game, and for a time they tried to be "ordinary" spectators in the new stand, but they attracted so much attention they retreated to one of the sponsor's lounges. They were all absolutely charming, and enjoyed the game. Our apologies to those who wanted to get autographs - all four were willing, but concerned about people's safety when there were signs that they would be swamped by well-wishers.

Cherry Newbery



For the latest news
0891 121 123
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times



Hatters Chatter

our marathon man

WITH apologies to readers who saw our article in Tuesday evening's matchday magazine, we want today to repeat our appeal for support for the official Luton Town runner in the London Marathon next month.

Paul Smith, an office worker from Linslade, has been a Town fan since he was six, and will be in the Football Challenge section, having run as a private entrant last year. That was to raise money for a hospice where his wife's father died. But the day before the race his wife was rushed to hospital with a lump in her brain. "I was all set to pull out, but she insisted I ran to raise the £550 pledged by my sponsors," said Paul. "I got through the race and finished in under four hours, despite very little sleep the night before."

"We then discovered my wife had brain cancer, and despite radiotherapy and surgery, she sadly passed away in August, aged 29."

She spent the last three weeks of her life at the Florence Nightingale House Hospice in Aylesbury, and Paul will be raising money for the Hospice in the Flora London Marathon on April 18. Our players and other staff at Kenilworth Road have already made their pledges and we invite supporters to do the same. If you would like to, please fill in the coupon, and make your cheque payable to Florence Nightingale House Hospice. Send it to Marathon Appeal, Luton Town FC, 1 Maple Road, Luton LU4 8AW.

The race is over 26 miles, and will be televised live so we will have a chance of catching a glimpse of our own marathon man.

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

I would like to sponsor Paul Smith, the official Luton Town entrant in the Football Challenge, to help him raise money for the Florence Nightingale House Hospice.

Name	Amount per mile	TOTAL
Address	* I wish to make the donation in any event.	
	* Please return my cheque for a replacement if Mr Smith completes less than the 26.2 miles.	
Postcode	* Please delete which is not applicable.	
Telephone		

The Football Trust has been providing support for football throughout the UK for 22 years.

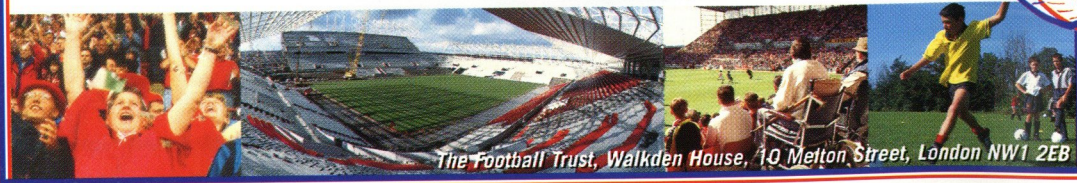
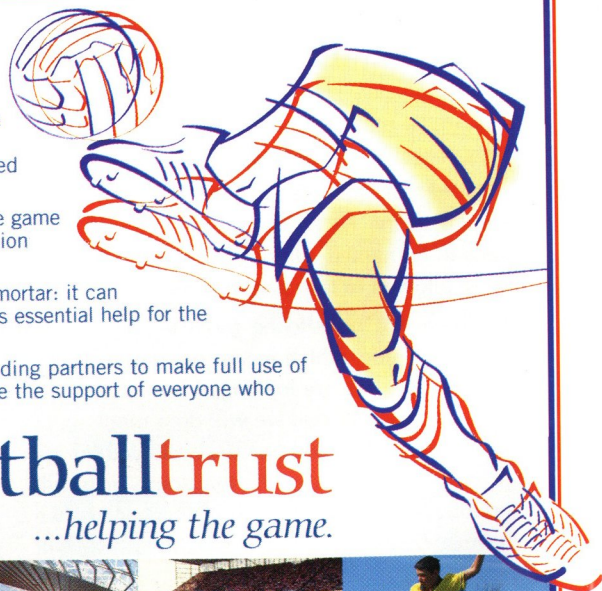
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

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

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.

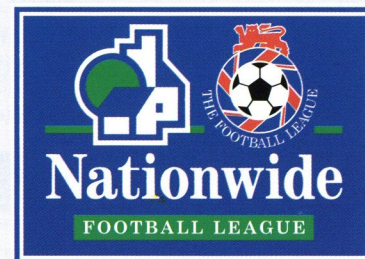
the football trust
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The Football Trust, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EB

Ticket Office

Nationwide Second Division



NORTHAMPTON TOWN v LUTON TOWN

Saturday April 10,
kick-off 3pm

THIS MATCH IS ALL-TICKET FOR LUTON SUPPORTERS. Seating only. Prices £10.50 adults, £7 concessions (under-16s & over 65s). Tickets for this match will be on sale at the Luton Town ticket office until 6pm on Friday April 9.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC v LUTON TOWN

Good Friday, April 2,
kick-off 3.30pm

This match is pay on the day only for away supporters, seating only. £12.00 adults, £5 concessions (under 16s & over 65s).

MANCHESTER CITY v LUTON TOWN

Wednesday April 27,
kick-off 7.45pm

THIS MATCH IS ALL-TICKET FOR LUTON SUPPORTERS. Seating only. Prices £10 adults, £7 concessions (under 16s & over 65s).

LUTON TOWN v YORK CITY

Tuesday April 6, kick-off 7.45pm

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

LUTON TOWN v CHESTERFIELD

Tuesday April 27, kick-off 7.45pm

This game has been re-arranged for the above date. Tickets already purchased can still be used.

PLEASE NOTE TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER EASTER

Good Friday	closed
Easter Saturday	10am - 1pm
Easter Sunday	closed
Easter Monday	10am - 2pm

Executive Members

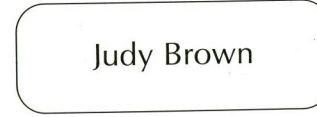
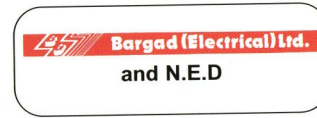
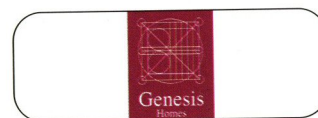
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Commercial



TODAY'S match sponsors are a perfect illustration of the spread of support we receive: one is a local company, and the other is a stalwart Luton Town fan being given a birthday present by his family.

Stanbridge Precision Turned Parts Ltd are based in Bilton Way, not far from the stadium, and many of their staff are Hatters fans. The company is a major player in the UK turned parts industry, with a growing share of the European market. With a staff of 100, production from its four factory units is running at over 500,000 components a week.

Household names who rely on Stanbridge include Ford, Vauxhall, IBC Vehicles, Rover, Bosch, Lucas, Black & Decker and Siemens. Technical excellence and management expertise is a prime requirement of success in such a competitive market and if you want to know more you can talk to Bob Knox or Leigh Welch on Luton 6170000 - except when the Town are playing!

Our other sponsors tonight are the family of Vic Fussell, helping him to celebrate his 60th birthday.

He lives and works in Milton Keynes, but is an avid Town fan and season ticket holder, and a founder-member of Luton Town Supporters Club. He has been chairman in the past, and is currently membership secretary.

As a youngster, Vic was known to visit Stamford Bridge, but has since matured! His favourite Town players include Mick Cullen and Peter Nicholas, and when not watching the Hatters he likes golf and table tennis. And he says that what he really wants for his birthday present today is a Town victory to ensure the celebrations go with a swing.

We hope he gets what he wants, and that all our guests enjoy their time with us.

We offer all kinds of sponsorship schemes, a wide variety of value-for-money packages to suit all budgets. To find out more, please ring Luton 411622 and ask for the commercial department.

Golden Gamble

MIKE Harris and Jean Bates, keen Town followers from the Century Club balcony, had more than 300 reasons to smile at Tuesday's match. Their mini-syndicate scooped the Golden Gamble jackpot of £351.

In the middle of the picture is John Bailey, sales and marketing manager, whose efforts at Kenilworth Road are becoming ever-more vital.

The Golden Gamble is a good bet as well as a bit of fun, and tickets cost only £1 each. The size of the jackpot and the odds of winning it depend on how many tickets are sold. Sellers do the rounds at every game, and the draw is made at half time. The prize fund is a straight 50/50 split, half going into club funds and half to the holder of the lucky jackpot ticket.



see every



goal

Goals, goals, goals! See every goal from the weekend with ITV's Nationwide Football League Extra, in association with Nationwide Building Society.

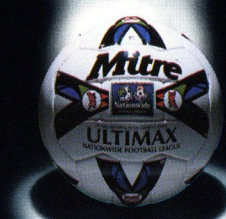
We'll be on air just after midnight on Mondays and repeated later in the week in many regions.

The programme is introduced by Gabriel Clarke and includes interviews, competitions, the latest news and talking points, and all the goals scored at the weekend from the Nationwide Football League.

Check your TV listings for details and set your video.



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The Nationwide Football
League saw an Increase in
Attendance of 13.5%;
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The Quality of the Football

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Hatters Away

THREE of our next four matches are away from home, starting with Friday's trip to Oldham, where the kick-off will be at 3pm.

Then after a home match with York on April 6 we go to Northampton and Manchester City, and Town on Tour have announced a special offer for the game at Sixfields. The price will be £5 for adults, and £2 for concessions.

Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club will both be running Good Friday coaches to Boundary Park.

The Bobbers trip starts from Cranfield at 8.30, picking up at Marston-Moretaine, Amptill, Flitwick and Westoning. They leave Kenilworth Road at 9.30 and a few minutes later pick up passengers from opposite the Gateway Hotel near junction 11 of the M1. You must join the Bobbers Travel Club to take advantage of the facility, and the fare to Oldham will be £12 for adults and £10 for senior citizens and under-16s. Contact the club's kiosk in Kenilworth Road this evening, or on Saturday, for bookings.

Town on Tour coaches will leave Maple Road at 10.30 am, calling at Milton Keynes Coachway, near junction 14 of the M1, at about 10.50. Secure car parking is available in the LTFC Maple Road car park if booked in advance at £3. The coach fare is £13.50 for members of Luton Town Supporters Club, £10 for junior and senior citizens, and £12.50 for passengers who are not in LTSC.

Seats can be booked this afternoon from the Town on Tour kiosk in Kenilworth Road, through the club shop except on match days, or by phone at other times to the club shop.

For do-it-yourself drivers, you can motor to Oldham comfortably in three hours, with two alternative motorway routes.

To avoid bank holiday traffic on M6, especially around the M5 junction, head north out of Luton on M1 and keep going to Yorkshire. Take the M62 west, leave at junction 20, and follow the signs to Oldham on the A627(M). See the route below for directions from there.

The trip is slightly shorter in miles, just under 200 each way, if you go up M1, then M6 and M62 east.

Leave M62 at junction 20 and after half a mile, where the road divides, keep to the right, on the road signposted to Manchester East. After another 1.4 miles pick up the A627, signposted to Oldham and Ashton

and at the first roundabout take the second exit, into Chadderton Way. You will see the ground on your left: and there is a big club car park.

The Man in the Middle

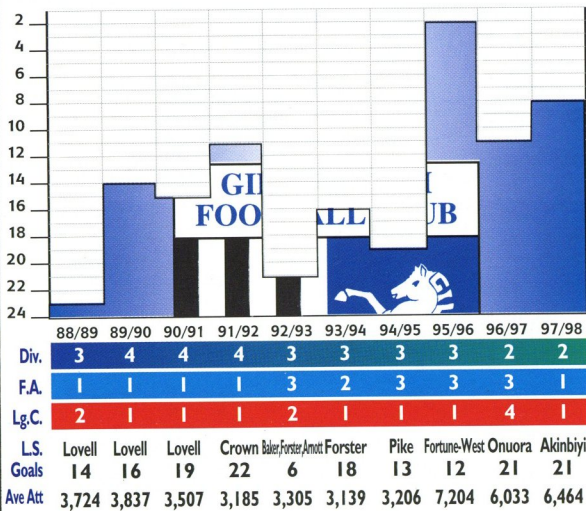


PAYING his first visit to Kenilworth Road this season, this afternoon's referee is Steve Baines, who first took up the whistle at the very bottom of the refereeing ladder. He has reached the Football League list in ten years after beginning in the local Saturday and Sunday leagues in Chesterfield. He came up through the Whitbread County Senior League and the Northern Premier League. An insurance broker, and father of two, Mr Baines, 44, rates keeping fit as his main interest outside football and his career.

TOWN TEASER

WE LOST 2-1 at Gillingham last season, and the man who scored for us was our most consistent marksman in the closing stages of the campaign. He was on loan from Spurs. Who is he? Listen for the PA announcer to ask this question this afternoon - if you know the answer you could win a prize.

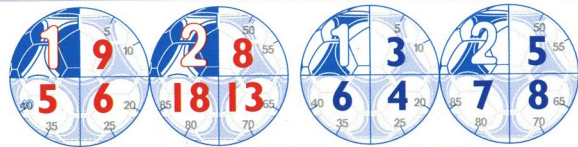
Gillingham's last ten years - the full record



Who's played for The Gills this season...

Player	Pos	Lge	Lge	Age	Ht	Weight	Prev. Club	Int.
		Apps		Gls				
Paul Smith	M	35	4	27	60	13	10	Brentford
Vince Bartram	G	34		30	62	13	07	Arsenal
Mark Patterson	D	33	2	30	510	11	05	Plymouth
Bob Taylor	F	33	13	27	61	13	06	Brentford
Carl Asaba	F	31	16	26	61	13	07	Reading
Barry Ashby	D	30		28	61	13	08	Brentford
Adrian Pennock	D	29(1)		27	60	12	07	Bournemouth
Andy Hessenthaler	M	26(3)	6	33	57	10	04	Watford
Nicky Southall	M	25(8)	4	27	510	13	00	Grimsby
Mark Saunders	M	22(4)	3	27	510	11	06	Plymouth
Darren Carr	D	20(3)	2	30	62	13	07	Chesterfield
Matthew Bryant	D	16(7)		28	60	12	04	Bristol City
Mick Galloway	M	15(5)	2	24	511	11	05	Notts County
Guy Butters	D	13	1	29	62	14	01	Portsmouth Eng U21
Paul Williams	D	9(1)	1	29	510	11	0	Plymouth
John Hodge	F	7(19)	1	29	57	11	13	Walsall
Steve Butler	F	4(3)		37	61	12	02	Cambridge
Kevin Lisbie	F	3(1)	3	20	58	10	12	on loan from Charlton Eng Yth
Tony Dobson	D	2		30	61	13	07	West Brom Eng U21
Jim Stannard	G	2		36	62	16	07	Fulham
Roland Edge	D	1(7)		20	59	11	06	
Frank Rolling	D	1		30	62	13	00	Bournemouth
James Pinnock	F	(4)		20	58	11	11	
Nayron Nosworthy	D	(2)		18	60	12	07	

When Gillingham have scored goals... and conceded them



GILLS' CRIMINALS

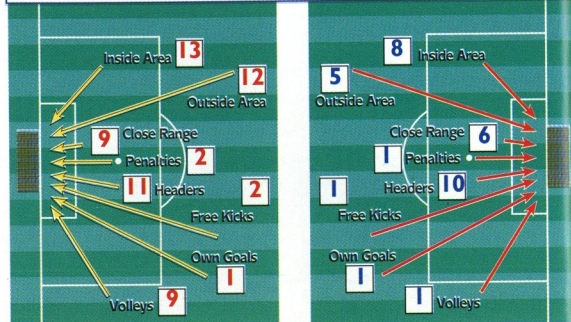
- Hessenthaler 9
- Ashby 7
- Carr 7
- Smith 6
- Asaba 5
- Patterson 5
- Saunders 5
- Southall 3
- Taylor 3
- Bryant 2
- Butters 2

HATTERS' HARD MEN

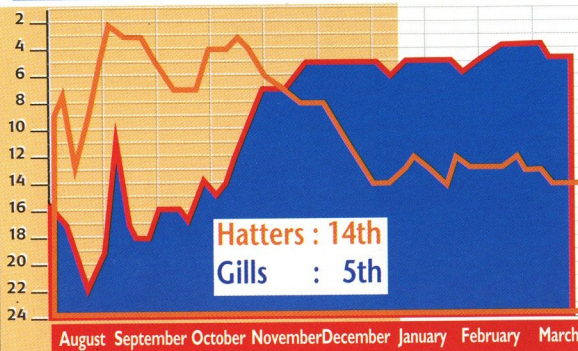
- McGowan 8
- Alexander 5
- McKinnon 5
- McLaren 5
- Davis S 4
- Thomas 4
- Douglas 3
- Gray 3
- Johnson 3
- White 3
- George 2

N.B. LEAGUE DETAILS ONLY

How The Gills have scored goals... and conceded them



League Positions throughout the season



When The Hatters have scored goals... and conceded them

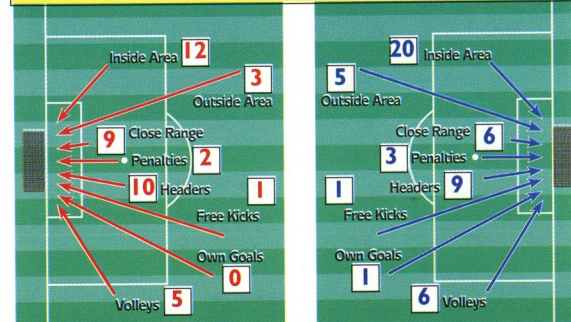


Hatters v Gills

FORM GUIDE	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Sequence
Luton Town	1	1	4	4	11	4	DLLLLW
Gillingham	3	1	2	12	6	10	WLLDWW

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

How Luton have scored goals... and conceded them



Gillingham

welcome to today's visitors

TONY PULIS (Manager)

Has completely rebuilt the side since being appointed team boss in June 1995. Achieved promotion from Division 3 in his first campaign and took the club to within a whisker of the Division 2 play-offs last season. A Welshman, he began his playing career with Bristol Rovers, apart from spells with Bournemouth (twice) and Gillingham as a midfielder player, totalling well over 300 Football League appearances in the process.

He returned to Bournemouth as coach in 1990 and succeeded Harry Redknapp as manager two years later.



Back row (left to right): Adrian Pennock, Paul Smith, Darren Carr, Barry Ashby, Vince Bartram, Jim Stannard, Guy Butters, Matt Bryant, Steve Butler (no longer with club), Carl Asaba.

Standing: Mark O'Connor (Coach), Simon Ratcliffe (Youth Development), Paul Williams (no longer with club), John Hodge, Franck Rolling (no longer with club), Matthew Cook (Community Officer), Mark Saunders, Nicky Southall, Bob Taylor, Tommy Osbourne, Kevin Bremney (Youth Team Manager), Wayne Jones (Physiotherapist).

Seated: Nyron Nosworthy, Mick Galloway, James Pinnock, Roland Edge, Linsay Parsons (Assistant Manager), Paul Scally (Chairman), Tony Pulis (Manager), Andy Hessenthaler, Neil Masters, Mark Patterson, Ben White.

On Ground: Adam Collis, Danny Spiller, Paul Hobbs, Simon Austin, Russell Ampofo, Jimmy Carter, Gavin Hopper, Barry Sinclair, Dean Morris, Luke Watts, Danny Mahoney, Jon Neal, Dean Chamberlain.

BARRY ASHBY

Strong central defender secured from Brentford at the start of last season for a tribunal set fee of £140,000. Won an FA Youth Cup winners' medal during his days as a trainee with Watford and went on to make 127 first-team appearances before transferring to Brentford in March 1994.

VINCE BARTRAM

Tall and agile goalkeeper who joined Bournemouth from Wolves in July 1991. He then figured in a £400,000 move to Arsenal three years later but found his opportunities limited there. Gillingham took over the remainder of his contract in March last season and he joined the club on a free transfer during the summer.

GUY BUTTERS

Former England Under-21 central defender who missed the latter part of fast season after breaking his leg in March. Began his career as a Tottenham trainee and progressed to make 35 appearances in the top division. Transferred to Portsmouth (154 apps) for £375,000 in September 1990 and from there to Gillingham for £225,000 six years later.

MATT BRYANT

Nippy centre-back who made over 200 appearances for Bristol City, his home town club, after graduating through the youth ranks. Transferred from Ashton Gate to Priestfield for £365,000 in August 1996.

ROLAND EDGE

Talented young central defender now knocking on the door of first-team opportunity

A product of the club's youth system, he became a full contract player during the summer of 1997.

MICK GALLOWAY

Impish midfield all-rounder signed from Notts County in the summer of 1997 after spending the latter part of the previous campaign on loan from Notts County.

ANDY HESSENTHALER

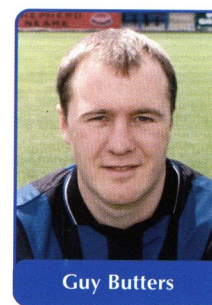
Joined the Gills from Watford for a then club record fee of £235,000 in August 1996 and was voted player of the year in his first season at Priestfield. A highly competitive midfielder, he made his name with Dartford and Dagenham Redbridge before linking up with Watford. Made more than 200 senior appearances in his five years at Vicarage Road.

JOHN HODGE

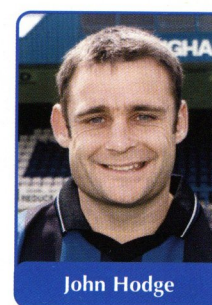
Quick and tricky winger signed on a free transfer from Walsall, under the Bosman ruling, in July. Progressed from non-league circles to make the grade with Exeter City (65 league apps, 10 goals) and then spent three seasons with Swansea (112/10) before moving on to Walsall in October 1996. He figured in 96 league and cup matches for the Saddlers, scoring 14 goals.

NEIL MASTERS

Quality left back and Northern Ireland B international whose career was set to blossom after joining Wolves from Bournemouth for £380,000 in December 1993. But, dogged by injuries, he made only a dozen appearances and in March 1997 accepted a switch to Priestfield in a deal potentially worth £150,000.



Guy Butters



John Hodge



Nicky Southall



TOMMY OSBORNE

Equally at home in midfield or as sweeper, his consistent displays for the youth team last season earned him the offer of a full professional contract during the summer.

MARK PATTERSON

Former Carlisle and Derby County full back who was secured from Plymouth for a bargain fee of £45,000 in October 1997.

ADRIAN PENNOCK

Born in Ipswich but started his career as a trainee with East Anglian rivals Norwich. Became a first-team regular in defence, or midfield, after transferring to Bournemouth and clocked up 136 games before sustaining a bad injury which was to keep him out for a year. Has made a full recovery since joining the Gills for £325,000 in October 1996.

JAMES PINNOCK

Lively young striker who graduated to full professional status after finishing 1996-97 as top scorer for the club's youth team.

MARK SAUNDERS

Goalscoring midfielder snapped up from Plymouth in June. Shot to prominence after starring for Tiverton in the 1993 FA Vase final and became a full professional with Plymouth, netting 11 goals in 72 appearances.

PAUL SMITH

A consistent midfield performer of genuine all-round ability. Ever-present last season - his first at Priestfield - and was voted player of the year. Formerly with Southend, he went on to make over 150 appearances for Brentford from whom he joined the Gills, for a tribunal set fee of £195,000, in July 1997.

NICKY SOUTHALL

Attacking and hard-shooting midfielder who scored on his league debut for Gillingham after being secured on a free transfer from Grimsby in December 1997. Born in the north-east, he learned his trade with Hartlepool (138 apps, 24 goals) before being sold to Grimsby for £70,000 in 1995.

JIM STANNARD

Extra large and vastly experienced goalkeeper who equalled the Football League record of 29 clean sheets in a season in Gillingham's promotion-winning campaign of 1995-96. Kept goal in over 400 first-team matches in two spells with Fulham plus another 100 in between with Southend. Joined the Gills on a free from Craven Cottage in June 1995.

ROBERT TAYLOR

Joined Gillingham from Brentford just before the start of the season for a club record fee of £500,000. The 27 year old striker netted 56 goals for Brentford in 172 appearances. Previously played for Leyton Orient.

CARL ASABA

Gillingham broke their club record fee for the second time in a few weeks signing the Reading striker for £600,000. Previously played for Brentford with Robert Taylor.

DARREN CARR

Experienced 29 year old central defender signed from Chesterfield for a small fee just before the start of the season. Previously played for Bristol Rovers, Sheffield Wednesday and Crewe Alexandra.

David Kohler



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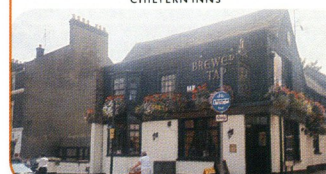


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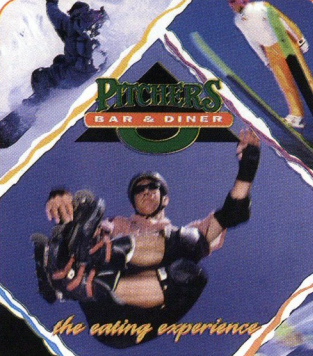


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Footie on the Giant Screen

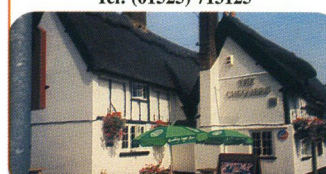


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Hatters Abroad

carrying the colours

THIS column is normally about Luton Town fans demonstrating their affection for the club by wearing the colours all over the world, but today's smiling faces include boys in Ethiopia who might never have heard of Luton Town but for a couple of fans who went out there to spread the word.

Fifth from the left in the back row is Graeme Itzinger, and the guy in the Luton Town strip is Paul Wilson. They are both regulars at Kenilworth Road, and the picture is the result of an approach they made to the club late last year when, as members of Toddington Baptist Church, they were setting up a trip to an African country that has seen more than its fair share of trouble in recent years.

An approach to Cherry Newbery resulted in a collection of matchday programmes being donated, and as the picture shows the proud new owners are the football team at a youth centre in a re-developed slum of Addis Ababa.

Paul and Graeme reported: "The trip was a fantastic experience, with the time we spent at the youth centre being the highlight. The centre is

the only one of its kind in Ethiopia, and gives the youth of the area a safe and enjoyable place to spend their social time."

DO YOU fancy being in the matchday magazine? Whether it's "Hatters Abroad" pictures or any sort of fans' photographs that will be of interest to other supporters we would be delighted to consider them for publication. Send them, with a few details, to the matchday magazine editor at Luton Town FC. And please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want them back.





Gerry Harrison

Born: Lambeth, 15.4.72

Previous clubs: Watford, Bristol City, Cardiff, Hereford, Burnley, Sunderland

Joined Luton Town: December 1998 (on loan)

Luton debut: v Bournemouth (A) 28.12.98

Luton Town record: 15 appearances

Top Hatters Gallery



Autograph

Gerry Harrison

UNIVERSAL MOTORS

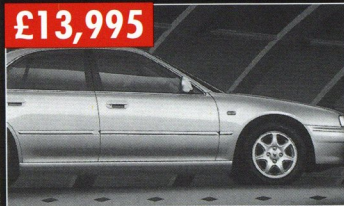
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- 98 S **Mondeo ST 24** Radiant Red, Hatch, RS kit, alloys, air conditioning, 300 miles **£15,495**
- 95 M **Escort 1.8 Ghia** Toumaline Green, 4 door saloon, alloys ABS, air bags, 57,00 miles **£4,995**
- 95 M **Escort 1.6 LX** Radiant Red, 5 door hatch, 37,000, power steering **£4,995**



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- 97 P **420 Si 4 door**, Tahiti Blue, single SRS, sun roof, P.A.S. **£8,250**
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Metallic Black, rear spoilers
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- 96 P **416 Si** Blue Metallic, central locking, electric windows, sun roof, 22,000 miles **£7,495**
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- 96 P **216 Si 5 door**, Grey Metallic, central locking, electric windows, 20,000 miles **£7,500**
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- 98 S **Land Rover Discovery V8 IS** automatic, 3 door, Bright Red, electric windows, alloys, roof bars, delivery mileage only **£14,995**
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- 96 P **Saab 9000 Cdi ECO 4 door** automatic, White, air conditioning, full service history **£11,995**
- 95 M **Laguna 20 RT** Dark Red, manual, central locking, electric windows, rear spoiler, 79,000 miles **£5,995**
- 93 K **Volvo 940 Turbo** automatic, White, immobiliser, full service history, 71,000 miles **£5,995**
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- 93 K **Jaguar 3.2 XJ6** automatic, Red Metallic, air conditioning, 92,000 miles **£5,995**
- 95 M **Land Rover Discovery TDI 3 door**, manual, Red, alloy wheels, 39,000 miles **£10,500**
- 96 P **Mercedes C250 TD Elegance** automatic, Silver Metallic, grey velour interior, twin SRS, sun roof **£17,995**
- 95 M **Mercedes E280** estate, Dark Blue Metallic, grey leather interior, alloys, 22,000 miles **£17,495**
- 96 N **Saab 9000 2.3 Turbo 5 door**, manual, Dark Blue, 30,000 miles **£10,500**
- 94 M **Vauxhall Astra Cabriolet** automatic, 51,000 miles **£5,995**
- 97 R **Range Rover DSE 2.5** manual 2.5, Epson Green, sand leather interior **£27,495**

by Roger Wash

March 27th 1970 Luton Town 2 Rotherham 1

Despite the vast amount of money at the club's disposal, in Luton Town terms, the team was making hard work of winning promotion from the old Division Three. On the previous Saturday a 2-3 defeat at lowly Tranmere seemed to signal the end of hopes of moving up a grade and this was reflected by a crowd of 'only' 14,315 that turned up at Kenilworth Road to see the Good Friday fixture against Rotherham.

An injury to John Collins at Tranmere and the loss of form of goalkeeper Sandy Davie meant debuts for youngsters Viv Busby and Alan Starling and it was the latter who gifted an equaliser to the Millers after a bout of frantic juggling after failing to catch the ball cleanly. Luckily he settled down to put in an assured performance between the sticks and Keith Allen's headed opener was followed by a strike from Alan Slough who was set up by Busby.

All these goals came in the first half with neither side able to add to the scoreline in the second period as the strong wind, hard pitch and light ball made football increasingly more difficult. At least the promotion show was back on the road!

27th March 1978 Luton Town 1 Crystal Palace 0

Following the appointment of David Pleat to the managerial hot seat in the previous January the Town had tumbled down the league table and those supporters of a more pessimistic nature were sensing a relegation battle.

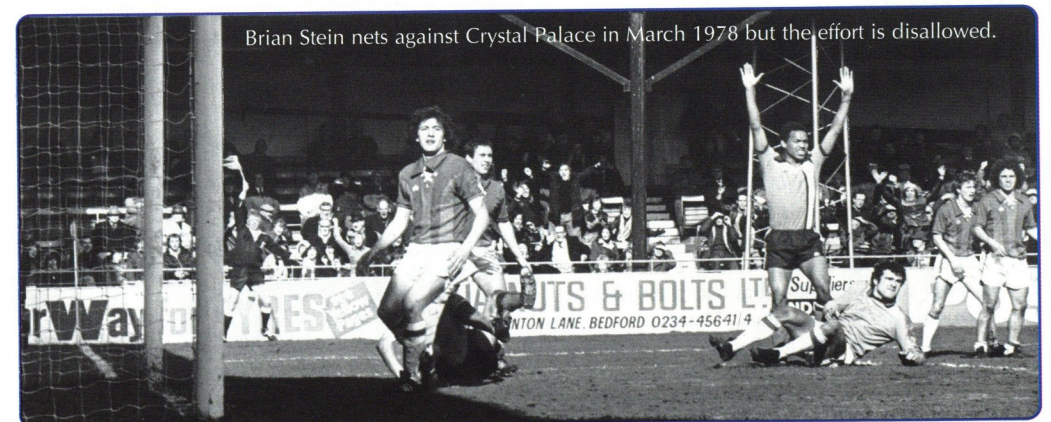
Back to back home wins over Blackpool and Bolton eased the situation and it was hoped that a victory over Palace would set the Town up to a gentle end to the campaign.

In a turgid game of few thrills, which was ruined by a strong wind, only one goal separated the sides. After 57 minutes Lil Fuccillo was upended in the box by Nicky Chatterton with the fouled player picking himself up and slotting home the penalty. The only other bright spot of the afternoon came with five minutes to go when Palace's Phil Holder, who had already been booked, was sent off for pacing out the ten yards that he felt the Luton wall should have gone back.

27th March 1993 Luton Town 2 Cambridge 0

Another 'six pointer' as the Town, who were in 21st spot, took on a Cambridge side that was one place above us. After pulling away from the bottom of the table a run of four games without a win had sucked us back into trouble.

Luckily, early nerves were settled when Kerry Dixon, still on loan from Southampton, flicked the ball up, turned and then volleyed it into the top corner from 20 yards. Cambridge were always chasing the game after this and the Luton defence had to contain an aerial assault which they coped with easily. The points were assured when Scott Oakes dived to head in a deep cross from Martin Williams soon after the break and the Town celebrated by climbing up to the heady heights of 17th spot!



Brian Stein nets against Crystal Palace in March 1978 but the effort is disallowed.

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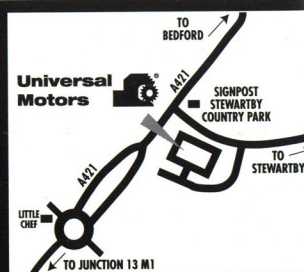
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Into the Archives

a blast from the past courtesy of Roger Wash

A few weeks ago I was asked in a radio interview as to the lowest spot in my Luton supporting days, which goes back almost forty years, and although losing to Everton in the 1985 F.A.Cup semi-final sprang to mind there was only one real candidate. The Town had started the 1966/67 season, their second in the old Division Four, in a surprisingly reasonable fashion considering the players at their disposal. Gone from the squad of the previous campaign, which so nearly won promotion, were sharpshooter John O'Rourke, stalwart centre-half Matt Woods as well as first team regulars John Reid and Tom McKechnie.

The new look team consisting of free transfer signings, a couple of hoary old pro's and a smattering of promising youngsters saw off Halifax in the sunshine of Kenilworth Road on the opening day in front of a respectable crowd of 6,149. After a 2-2 draw at Aldershot in the League Cup in the following mid-week all seemed set fair but then the poor away form that was to dog the team all season started to show its true colours.

Five away defeats in a row at Brentford, Rochdale, Barnsley, Wrexham and Southport were worrying but while the home record stood up, a mid-table position was guaranteed. When the home wins started to turn to draws and defeats, however, the situation looked bleak and after a 2-2 draw at home to Bradford P.A. at the end of October manager George Martin decided he had enough and handed in his notice.

His replacement, ex-Town inside forward Allan Brown, saw his charges for the first time at Port Vale and, in typical fashion for the time, they went down 0-1 to make it just one point and two goals from their travels that season. "I have a lot of work to do", said Brown curtly at the end of the game.

Maximum effort was called for by Brown in the next game, at home to Crewe, and for once the team played with a passion that had been missing since the start of the campaign. The Railwaymen were seen off 2-1 and the long suffering supporters believed that the corner had been turned and the new man was about to wave his magic wand.

Unfortunately the wand soon went back in its case as the Town tumbled 1-2 at Bradford City, despite scoring first through Bruce Rioch, and were then crushed 0-3 at Barrow to give the Holkermen only their second home victory of the season. The Town were now second from bottom of the table and looked odds on having to go cap in hand and suffer the ignominy of applying for re-election for the first time in their history.

Before the next league game, away to bottom placed Lincoln, there came a brief respite in the shape of the F.A.Cup and a fighting 1-1 draw at St James' Park went some way towards boosting confidence. For reasons best known to themselves the Town had taken to organising Cup replays for Thursday evenings and in a mud spattered return game with the Grecians a 2-0 win was recorded, but at a cost.

With Exeter using 'uncompromising tactics' the Town were down to ten men with a quarter of the game to go and most of the players left on the pitch came in the walking wounded category. There was no time to get the injured players fully fit and it was very much a makeshift side that took to the field at Sincil Bank to play Lincoln less than forty-eight hours later.

Lincoln, who had scored only twenty goals in eighteen league games prior to the Town's visit, included new signing Billy Cobb in an effort to add more punch to their forward line and he made an immediate impact. Cobb netted twice in the first half as the Imps cruised into a 3-1 interval lead but the unsuspecting Town defence had no idea as to the roasting that was about to come their way in the second period.

As it turned out the Hatters held their own until the 72nd minute and had come close a couple of times to reducing the deficit. Suddenly the effects of two hard games on muddy pitches in such a short space of time hit the Town and the floodgates opened.

Lincoln notched four goals in a seven minute spell and went on to net another just before the end to finish winning an amazing game 1-8. Brave Tony Read in the Luton goal, who was nursing six



The Luton players smile for the camera before going down 0-3 at Rochdale during the ill-fated 1966/67 season. **Back row (left to right);** Thomson, Slough, Rivers, Read, Moore, Jardine, Thear. **Front row (left to right);** Pleat, French, Riddick, Rioch, Whittaker.

stitches in a head wound as the legacy of a stray Exeter boot from the previous Thursday, did not stand a chance as the shots rained in- incredibly there were no headers amongst the Lincoln eight.

Although there were indeed mitigating circumstances for the thrashing, the league table still did not make pretty reading the following day and reflected the lowest spot in my lifetime as well as the club's history.

Manager Brown refused to be downhearted and went straight out into the transfer market and paid Leicester £7,000 for centre-half Max Dougan. The new defender made his debut on the following Saturday in a 3-2 home win over Chesterfield and the Town slowly climbed away from the basement to finish in 17th spot four points away from the re-election positions. Lincoln finished bottom!

The Luton side on that fateful day at Lincoln was:- Read, Thomson, Jardine, Riddick, Moore, Slough, Johnson, Thear, Pleat, Rioch, King.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION FOUR										
Up to and including Saturday, 3rd December, 1966										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Stockport County ...	19	14	2	3	28	10	30			
Southport ...	20	11	4	5	34	19	26			
Wrexham ...	19	7	10	2	35	18	24			
Barrow ...	20	8	8	4	37	29	24			
Southend United ...	19	10	3	6	34	22	23			
Tranmere Rovers ...	19	7	8	4	24	17	22			
Aldershot ...	21	8	6	7	31	27	22			
CHESTERFIELD ...	18	8	5	5	24	19	21			
Bradford City ...	19	9	3	7	31	25	21			
Hartlepool Utd. ...	19	8	4	7	26	23	20			
Brentford ...	19	8	4	7	27	29	20			
Crewe Alexandra ...	18	7	6	5	26	28	20			
Newport County ...	19	7	5	7	25	23	19			
Port Vale ...	18	6	6	6	19	22	18			
Halifax Town ...	19	6	5	8	30	34	17			
Barnsley ...	20	6	4	10	26	29	16			
Bradford ...	19	5	6	8	28	34	16			
Exeter City ...	19	4	8	7	20	27	16			
York City ...	19	5	5	9	29	34	15			
Chester ...	18	5	5	8	20	36	15			
Rochdale ...	18	4	6	8	20	28	14			
Notts County ...	20	4	6	10	28	41	14			
LUTON TOWN ...	20	5	3	12	22	41	13			
Lincoln City ...	19	3	6	10	28	37	12			



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Sacred Heart Jnr School
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12th - 13th April

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Dunstable Leisure Centre
Coaching - Tue & Wed 6th
and 7th April

Streetfield Middle School
Coaching - Thur & Fri 8th
and 9th April

HARPENDEN

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Wed 29th to 31st March

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School
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& 7th April

Linslade Middle School
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12th and 13th April

FLITWICK

Woodlands Middle School
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& 7th April

AMPTHILL

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and 9th April



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The Luton News

The Leader

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NTL CableTel SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT



Pictured are pupils from Sundon Park and St Josephs Junior Schools in Luton and from Oughtonhead Junior School in Hitchin having taken part in our NTL CableTel Schools Visit Project. The boys and girls all took part in one of our coaching sessions being funded jointly by NTL CableTel and the Institute of Sports Sponsorships Sportsmatch scheme.

Since announcing our NTL CableTel School Visits Project our phones and mail-bag have been extremely busy and our coaches are now out and about every day in schools delivering football and PE lessons and already have lots of coaching sessions in Luton, Amptill, Flitwick, Bedford, Hitchin, Harpenden, Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable ahead of us leading up to the Easter holidays.

Our Schools Visit Project is aimed at covering all schools throughout Beds & Herts and will encourage youngsters to participate in sport through free football coaching from our coaching staff. Our Community & Schools Programme have set a target of 300 schools visits this year and look forward to hearing from local schools who would like us to pay a visit.

If you would like your school to take part in our NTL Schools Visit Project then simply write or phone us at the Club and well do our best to pay you a visit.



LEIGHTON BUZZARD
Observer

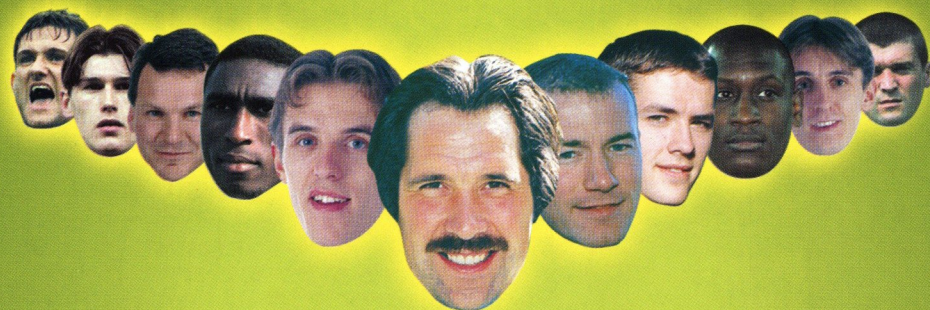
The Dunstable Gazette



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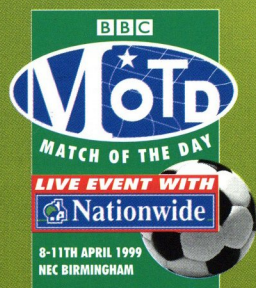
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Hatters on card

by Alan Robinson

**Fosse Collection,
Soccer Stars, 1919-1939,
second series**

INTEREST in collecting football cards has risen dramatically over the past few years, with the result that several firms have produced sets in the style of the pre-war issues in cigarette packets.

Unlike the earlier offerings, these modern productions have been offered for sale direct, rather than being given away with commodities such as cigarettes, tea, or breakfast serials.

Between 1996 and 1998 several such sets were produced by the Leicester football programme dealer and historian, Garth Dykes.

Entitled 'The Fosse Collection,' cards ran to several series of 48 subjects, and concentrated on football from the inter-war years.

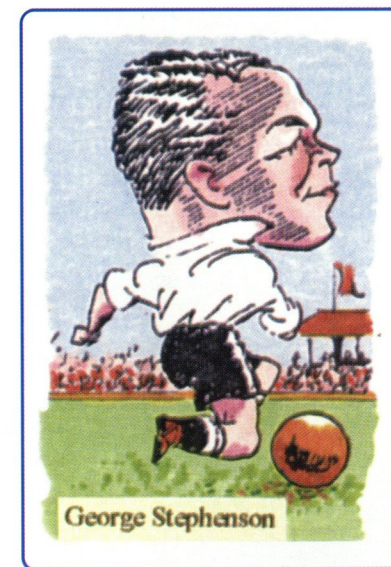
Players were portrayed in caricature form, and were shown in the authentic club colours of that era.

However, unlike most of their pre-war counterparts, there were no biographical details given on the reverse, only the player's name and club, plus the series title.

All levels of English and Scottish League soccer were covered, including such extinct outfits as Aberdare Athletic, Thames Association and Third Lanark.

As far as I can ascertain there were three different Luton Town players in the collection. First to appear, in the second series, was winger George Stephenson, who is illustrated here. Andrew Rennie, our second-highest scorer in league football, and Ralph Hoten, who was an inside-forward in the mid-1920s, appeared in later issues.

Stephenson, who was a Durham lad who began his career with his local league club, joined us from Aston Villa in the summer of 1934. After making his debut in the opening match of the season at inside-left, he soon switched to the wing, where he was to remain for the rest of his Town career.

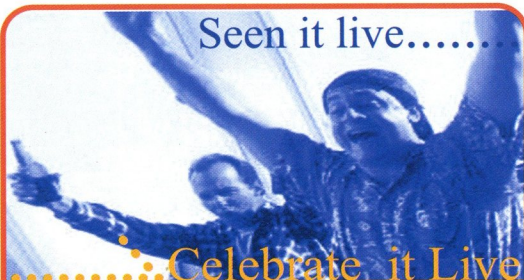


Although he was a little on the heavy side for a winger, he possessed great pace and wonderful ball control. According to the Luton News handbook of 1936 George "when in the mood, can win matches almost single-handedly."

As well as laying on many goals for the legendary Joe Payne, he packed a powerful shot himself, and found the net 64 times in just over 200 senior outings for the Hatters.

Stephenson was in the Luton side which drew at Fulham on September 2, 1939, but like so many of his contemporaries, that was to be his last Football League appearance. When football resumed after the second world war he was 38 and too old to resume his career.

The sets produced by Fosse Collections originally cost £48 a series, with single cards available at £1.25 each. Unfortunately, cards are no longer manufactured by the company, and it is therefore likely that they will become quite scarce and expensive in the future.



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The use of foul or abusive language, or gesturing, will not be tolerated by Luton Town Football Club. Any supporter doing so is liable to be ejected from the stadium. Anyone who refuses to leave will be arrested, charged, and banned from the Club.

This policy has been in effect for over six years, and notices regarding unacceptable behaviour and the consequences are clearly displayed around the stadium.

GEOFF LOVELL - Safety Officer

Action Replay

Chesterfield 3 Luton Town 1

MATCH DETAILS

Luton Town: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, Willmott, Johnson, Harrison (Doherty 67 mins), McKinnon (McLaren 75 mins), Douglas (George 85 mins), Gray, McGowan.

Booked: Mitchell Thomas, 23 mins, foul on David Reeves.

Chesterfield: Mercer, Hewitt, Nicholson, Curtis, Williams, Blatherwick, Howard (Lee HT), Holland, Reeves, Beaumont, Wilkins. Unused subs Jules, Willis.

Booked: Tom Curtis, 21 mins, foul on Stuart Douglas.

The goals: 1-0, 51 minutes - Steve Wilkinson, crisp drive from edge of the box from pull-back by David Reeves; 2-0 55 mins - Wilkinson again, swift run and sharp shot after taking the ball from Gavin McGowan in midfield; 3-0 65 mins - David Reeves, put through by Wilkinson; 3-1 81 mins - Phil Gray shooting his 12th goal of the season; after Gary Doherty's challenge opened up a gap.

Referee: Roy Pearson, Peterlee

Attendance: 3,921 including 490 from Luton.

AFTER playing with enough discipline and organisation in the first half to suggest they were capable of earning a draw at least, the Town lost the plot after the break. They were outpowered as Chesterfield found another gear by sending on Jason Lee as a second-half sub.

Two goals in four minutes all but ended the contest, and for the second game in succession we did not start to play until it was too late.

We might just have nicked an early goal, but Stuart Douglas miskicked from an opening made by Mitchell Thomas's header from a corner by Graham Alexander.

Steve Wilkinson hit the first two goals, both excellent strikes, but also courtesy of questionable defending. A lenient referee also raised question-marks about the opener, with Lee catching Thomas in the face in the build-up before setting up David Reeves to pull the ball back to the edge of the penalty area.

Wilkinson struck it cleanly and powerfully, and before we had time to regroup after that 51st-minute goal, we were hit by a sucker punch. We won a corner which Chesterfield half-cleared, and Gavin McGowan shaped to play the ball back into the danger area. But Wilkinson beat him to it, and strode forward at pace before shooting home, with no-one closing him down.

Ten minutes later, with the Town starting to chase the game, Wilkinson was the provider for Reeves to make it 3-0.

Phil Gray snatched a consolation nine minutes from time, thanks to Gary Doherty's unsettling effect on the Chesterfield defence after Alexander played the ball in, but we were lucky to escape with only three goals conceded, because Kelvin Davis made a superb tip-over save from Chris Beaumont, and in injury time made two brave stops from Lee when the big striker was odds-on to score.



HOLD-UP EXPERT: Phil Gray shields the ball, with two men blocking the route to goal. But he found a way through later for his 12th of the season.



OUTNUMBERED: Stuart Douglas trying to find a way through the Chesterfield defence.



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Action Replay

Luton Town 1 Reading 1

BOTH managers found cause for pleasure as one of the Town's best performances for some time put the brakes on Reading's drive for a play-off place.

The visitors were comprehensively outplayed in the first half, with the Town fielding a 4-3-3 formation for the first time in years. Gary Doherty came in as the extra attacker, with Gavin McGowan dropping back to replace Mitchell Thomas in defence, and Paul McLaren recalled for suspended Ray McKinnon, and after the poor show at Chesterfield it was a pleasure to see the Town's pace, determination and commitment.

Reading were lucky to be only one down at the interval. Graham Alexander blotted his swan song by striking a sixth-minute penalty wide after Doherty had been pulled down by Andy Bernal. But before Reading could build on that bonus, Gerry Harrison and Stuart Douglas put their goal under pressure, with Matthew Spring completing the move with a close-range goal.

Reading escaped several close calls after that, notably when Phil Gray, looking lively and determined, saw a thundering drive go just too high, and a powerful header brilliantly headed off the line by Darrren Caskey.

After four successive wins, Reading came with a late surge, and were the stronger team in the closing stages, with Tony Barras heading their 84th-minute equaliser after a rare misjudgement by Harrison.

MATCH DETAILS

Luton Town: Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Willmott, Johnson, Harrison (McIndoe 85 mins), McLaren, Douglas, (Zahana-Oni 89 mins), Gray, Doherty (Thomas 90 mins).

Booked: McLaren, 7 mins, foul on Graeme Murty; Gavin McGowan, 72 mins, time-wasting; McLaren again, 90 mins, time-wasting.

Sent off: McLaren, two bookings, to earn a one-match ban.

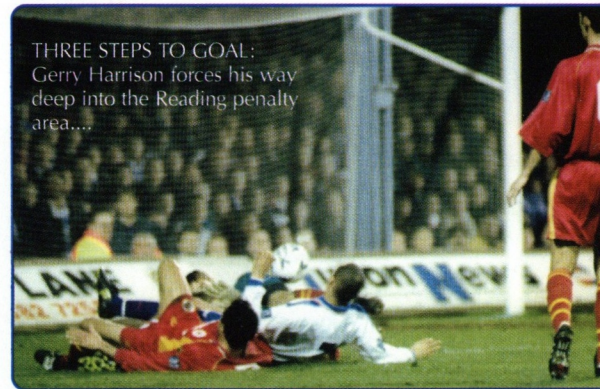
Reading: Howie, Bernal, Gray, Parkinson, Barras, Casper, Murty (Brebner 11 mins), Caskey, McIntyre, Houghton, McKeever. Unused subs Brayson, Glasgow.

Booked: Chris Casper, 15 mins, foul on Phil Gray.

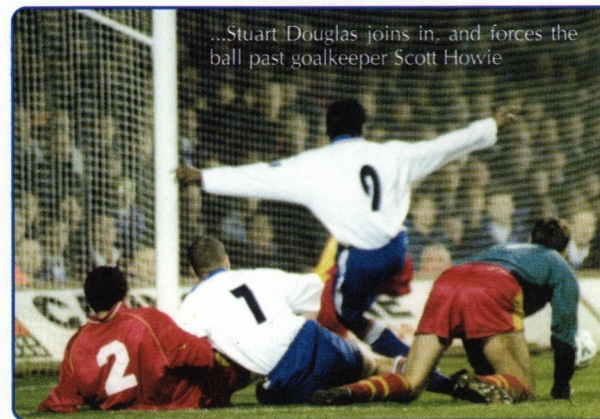
The goals: 1-0 13 mins: Matthew Spring, close range after Gerry Harrison and Stuart Douglas forced the ball past the goalkeeper; 1-1 84 mins: Tony Barras header, from delightful chipped cross by Ray Houghton after Gerry Harrison lost possession.

Referee: Lee Cable, Woking

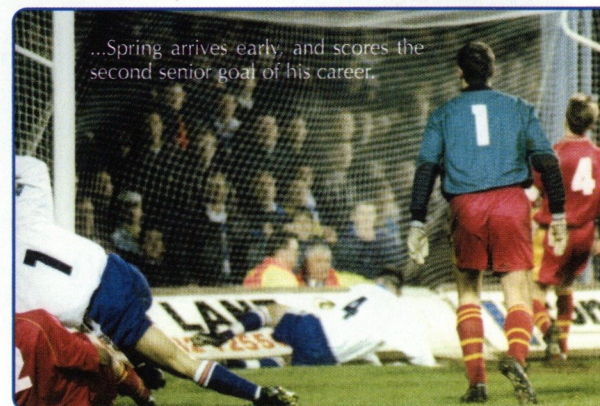
Attendance: 5,572



THREE STEPS TO GOAL:
Gerry Harrison forces his way deep into the Reading penalty area....



...Stuart Douglas joins in, and forces the ball past goalkeeper Scott Howie



...Spring arrives early, and scores the second senior goal of his career.

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Junior Hatters

welcome

THE JUNIOR Hatters Saturday Club missed its usual meeting today because of the early kick-off, but other activities are going on as usual, and we will be running a coach to Oldham on Friday.

We have been invited to join the Oldham juniors before the game, and we will take them on at table football. Years ago, we used to have a proper match before the league games, but that was in the days of the plastic pitches at Kenilworth Road and Boundary Park.

Prices for the trip will be the usual £10 for Junior Hatters, including admission to the match, and £17 for adults. That is higher than usual, but it is still a bargain because the match ticket alone is £12.

Bookings can be made in person, or by phone on credit cards, at the ticket office in Kenilworth Road, starting after today's match. The last time for booking will be on Thursday at 4pm - unless the seats are all sold before then. Departure time is 10.30 am from Luton and we expect to be home before 9pm.



ALL SQUARE: It was one mascot each as well as a goal apiece when we played Reading on Tuesday. Pictured with the match officials and teams skippers before kick-off are the two mascots, one supporting the visitors, and the other proudly wearing his Luton Town kit. He is Serdar Ismail, the Junior Hatters mascot on the night, and the good news for him was that Phil Gray was in our side - the striker is 13-year-old Serdar's favourite player.

Today's Mascot



IT'S A real family affair when Junior Hatter Sarah Tripp comes to Luton Town matches. She sits with her mum, dad and sister in the main enclosure, but today she will be a lot closer to the action, because she is the Junior Hatters Mascot. Aged 14, she lives in Eldon Road, Luton, and goes to Queensbury

School, Dunstable, and she says her hobbies are swimming and supporting Luton Town. She will be in very close support today, joining the players before they come out onto the pitch, and going up with skipper Marvin Johnson to meet the ref and Gillingham captain Andy Hessenthaler for the toss-up.

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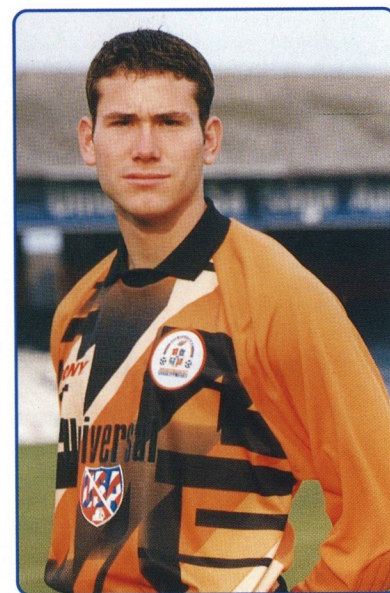
SB, B, LB	£33.99	£22.50
Youths	£39.99	£27.50
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Y, S, M, L, XL	£22.99	£15.00

Socks

B, LB	£7.99	£5.00
Mens	£9.99	£6.00



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John Moore & Trevor Hartley reserves



WITH no match this week in the Avon Insurance Combination, we were pleased to see that last week's 3-1 home victory over Wycombe has pushed us up three places in the league table, to 15th.

Naturally we would rather be top, instead of Watford, but for us reserve games are about performances and bleeding young players more than results.

So although it was a good home win over Wycombe, we knew we should have done better. We are too often not ruthless enough in front of goal. We built up a two-goal lead in the first half but spoiled it to some extent by allowing Wycombe to pull one back before the interval.

In the second half we dominated the attacking play, and created loads of chances, especially one-on-ones, but had only one more goal to show for it. We really should have run out very easy winners, and could certainly have doubled our score.

That said, the victory was well-deserved and all the more welcome after so many previous good displays when we did not get the right result. You always feel that with a young and inexperienced defence you are likely to let in a goal or two, so it is important to put them away at the other end.

Our most consistent scorer at present is Tresor Kandol, and so far he has avoided the "drought" spells that affect most strikers. His opener against Wycombe was his fifth for the reserves, to add to his 17 for the youth team.

It was a well-taken goal, and Michael McIndoe added another with a left foot drive after a bit of a scramble in the goalmouth, and doubtless that helped him persuade Lennie Lawrence to recall him to the first team squad for Tuesday's game against Reading.

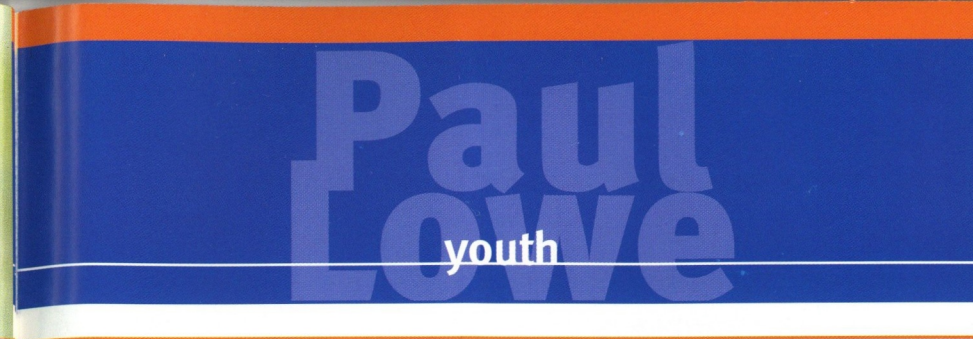
Two of our men went for the same ball to let in Wycombe's reply, with Tanny Abbey having no chance to save, before Stuart Fraser got our third, cutting in from the left and firing a low right foot shot into the bottom corner. It was nice for him as it made up for an own goal in the defeat at QPR.

Luton Town: Abbey, Lawes (Jerry 75 mins), Fraser, Clarke, Ayres, Boyce, Scarlett, Zahana-Oni (Taylor 85 mins), Kandol, McIndoe, Showler (Akurang 75 mins).

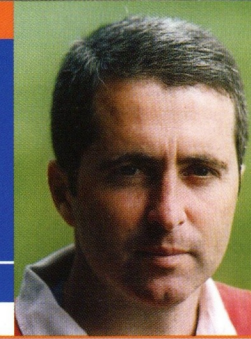
WE ARE away to Arsenal on Monday, at Borehamwood (2pm) and then have no league fixture until after Easter. We will play Oxford on Wednesday April 7 at Kenilworth Road, kick-off 2pm.

Reserve appearances, including as sub, (goals in brackets):

Abbey 19, Agueh 2, Akurang 6, Alexander 1, Ayres 7 (1), Bacque 14 (2 + 1 pen), Boyce 22 (1), Clarke 17, Cox 14 (1), Davies 11, Doherty 12 (3), Douglas 1 (1), Fotiadis 13 (9), Fraser 13 (2), George 2 (1), Hudson 6, Jerry 7, Kandol 12 (5), Lawes 17, Lough 10 (1), Lopez 1, McIndoe 14 (3), McKoy 2, McLaren 5 (1), Minton 1, Nyamah 13 (2), Scarlett 22 (2), Showler 7, Sylla 2, Sweeney 4, Tate 5, Taylor 5, Thomas 3 (1), Turner 2, White 8 (5), Willmott 20 (1), Zahana-Oni 8 (2)



Paul Lowe youth



Bristol Rovers 0 Luton Town 0

TWO points got away in Saturday's game, but in all the circumstances we did well not to lose, and although we have lost our top spot in the South East Counties League, we have a game in hand on new leaders Leyton Orient.

We had to leave Luton at 7.30 am for a two and a half hour journey by minibus. The game was at Bath University, and it is a lovely place - except that the pitch was the worst we have encountered all season. It was rutted and uneven, and cut up during the game, and it was very difficult to play good football on it.

It was hard to get the ball under control, and one of the poorest referees we have had all season did not help as the game became over-physical and aggressive.

To make matters worse, goalkeeper Daniel Tate had to come off after 15 minutes, feeling dizzy and suffering blurred vision. With no keeper on the subs' bench, right back Ryan Moran took over in goal, and to his credit he kept a valuable clean sheet. He is around six foot tall, and sometimes plays in goal in training sessions, but it was a sacrifice for him to do it on Saturday because he is trying to impress as an outfield player.

We had to reshuffle the side, with schoolboy Lee Mansell going on as sub, and although we came under a lot of pressure, the whole team defended well, and Moran was well protected.

We did not have too many chances, but no-one could understand it when the home goalkeeper rushed out of his area when Moses Jerry put Tresor Kandol through for a one-on-one. The keeper clattered TK to prevent a goal, and surprisingly was not even yellow carded, when the Rovers bench expected a red. All we got was a free kick outside the box, and the ref later said he did not send off the goalie because the foul was an accident. Our understanding of the laws of the game is that if it was accidental, it was not a foul.

The game became more aggressive in the second half, with lots of late challenges. The ref's control was poor, and illustrated by one incident in which a fight broke out. A parent supporting the home team got involved as well, and grabbed one of our players. Punches were thrown, and both players should have been sent off. Unbelievably, no-one was even booked.

Our player has been told in no uncertain terms how lucky he was, but to their credit that was the only time our boys lost their discipline with so many things going on.

In all the circumstances, we came home knowing we had done well not to lose.

Luton Town: Tate (Mansell 15 mins), Moran, Ayres, Stirling, Taylor, Akurang, Minton, Hudson, Kandol, Jerry, Rattray (Harrington 60 mins). WE WERE away to Reading this morning, and on Tuesday we play Brighton at Bognor Regis in the second round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup (7.30).

Youth team appearances, including as subs (goals in brackets):

Akurang 25 (10), Ayres 27 (1), Barrieau 3, Carroll 8, Clarke 5 (3), Crane 3 (2), Dogbe 5, Dollin 6, Harrington 10 (2), Hammond 2, Hook 1, Howe 26 (1), Hudson 14, Jerry 27 (1), Kandol 28 (17), Mansell 7 (1), McKoy 20 (4), Mentore 4, Minton 28, Moran 22, Mortara 3, Orchard 1, Osborne 1, Plant 1, Rattray 2, Roffey 1, Stirling 27 (1), Tate 25, Taylor 28 (3), Thomas 12 (1), Tyson 11 (2), Ward 2, Woodland 1, Wraight 3.

Avon Insurance Combination

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	22	12	8	2	42	18	44
Peterborough	23	13	5	5	45	24	44
Southampton	22	14	2	6	46	29	44
Tottenham	23	14	2	7	38	21	44
Charlton	21	13	3	5	35	21	42
Norwich	24	11	4	9	35	27	37
Ipswich	19	11	3	5	35	24	36
Chelsea	21	11	3	7	25	20	36
Fulham	22	10	5	7	47	35	35
Colchester	24	11	2	11	40	41	35
West Ham	20	9	7	4	43	23	34
Northampton	20	10	3	7	29	21	33
QPR	24	9	4	11	35	30	31
Portsmouth	22	9	4	9	30	31	31
Luton Town	23	8	6	9	34	37	30
Bournemouth	23	8	5	10	39	34	29
C. Palace	21	8	5	8	38	34	29
Arsenal	21	7	6	8	29	26	27
Brighton	22	6	8	8	18	28	26
Wimbledon	22	5	10	7	23	29	25
Oxford Utd	20	8	1	11	24	36	25
Swindon	21	7	3	11	24	39	24
Barnet	21	7	3	11	25	47	24
Cambridge	20	5	5	10	30	49	20
Millwall	20	5	4	11	23	39	19
Wycombe	20	4	5	11	18	41	17
Brentford	17	3	6	8	20	30	15
Reading	19	4	3	12	21	33	15
Gillingham	21	2	5	14	14	38	11

Avon Insurance Combination League Fixtures - Season 1998/99

Wed 12 August	Brighton & Hove	H	4-1
Wed 26 August	Cambridge United	A	2-2
Wed 02 September	Portsmouth	A	3-2
Wed 16 September	Reading	H	3-0
Wed 23 September	Swindon Town	A	1-0
Wed 30 September	Charlton Athletic	H	1-3
Wed 07 October	Millwall	H	1-1
Wed 14 October	Gillingham	A	2-1
Wed 21 October	Brache Sparta (BPC)	A	8-0
Wed 28 October	Brentford	A	2-2
Wed 04 November	Crystal Palace	H	1-3
Wed 11 November	Watford	A	0-0
Mon 16 November	Kempston Rov (BPC)	A	3-0
Thur 19 November	Norwich City	A	0-6
Wed 25 November	Ipswich Town	H	2-3
Mon 14 December	Colchester United	H	0-2
Mon 21 December	Tottenham Hotspur	H	3-0
Mon 11 January	Wimbledon	H	1-1
Wed 20 January	Southampton	A	0-1
Mon 01 February	AFC Bournemouth	H	1-0
Mon 08 February	Fulham	A	2-3
Mon 15 February	Chelsea	A	0-1
Mon 22 February	Barnet	H	1-1
Wed 03 March	Biggleswade (BPC)	A	2-1
Wed 10 March	Queens Park Rangers	A	1-3
Wed 17 March	Wycombe Wdrs	H	3-1
Mon 29 March	Arsenal	A	2pm
Wed 07 April	Oxford	H	2pm
Thur 15 April	Northampton Town	A	
Wed 21 April	Stotfold	A	7.30pm
Wed 05 May	Peterborough United	H	2pm
To be arranged	West Ham	A	

South East Counties League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
L. Orient	28	17	7	4	61	30	58
Luton Town	27	17	6	4	49	23	57
Brentford	27	17	4	6	62	28	55
Bristol Rov	28	12	6	10	51	49	42
Wycombe	28	9	11	8	33	32	38
Reading	29	8	12	9	36	40	36
Cambridge	27	9	9	9	43	50	36
Barnet	25	10	5	10	32	31	35
Portsmouth	30	8	10	12	41	56	34
Brighton	25	9	6	10	38	36	33
Colchester	27	10	2	15	43	44	32
Swindon	26	9	5	12	37	39	32
Bournemouth	26	9	2	15	37	52	29
Oxford	25	8	5	12	27	42	29
Southend	39	8	5	17	37	55	29
Gillingham	27	7	5	15	31	51	26

Youth Team Fixtures

Sat 08 August	Brentford	A	2-4
Sat 15 August	AFC Bournemouth	H	4-2
Sat 22 August	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	0-0
Sat 29 August	Bristol Rovers	H	3-1
Sat 05 September	Oxford United	A	3-0
Sat 07 September	Swindon (SJFCP)	H	2-0
Sat 12 September	Reading	H	2-2
Sat 19 September	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0
Sat 26 September	Gillingham	H	2-2
Sat 03 October	Leyton Orient	A	3-0
Sat 10 October	Portsmouth	H	3-0
Sat 17 October	Cambridge United	A	4-0
Tue 21 October	Colchester (FAYC)	H	0-1
Sat 24 October	Colchester United	H	2-0
Sat 31 October	Southend United	H	3-1
Sat 07 November	Swindon	A	1-0
Wed 11 November	Northampton (SJFC1)	H	3-1
Sat 14 November	Barnet	H	2-0
Sat 21 November	AFC Bournemouth	A	2-1
Sat 28 November	Brighton & Hove Albion	H	2-0
Sat 05 December	Barnet	A	0-2
Sat 12 December	Brentford	H	2-1
Sat 23 January	Wycombe Wanderers	H	0-0
Sat 06 February	Leyton Orient	H	1-3
Sat 13 February	Portsmouth	A	1-1
Sat 20 February	Cambridge United	H	2-1
Sat 27 February	Colchester United	A	0-2
Sat 06 March	Southend United	A	1-0
Sat 13 March	Swindon Town	H	3-0
Sat 20 March	Bristol Rovers	A	0-0
Tues 30 March	Brighton (SJFC2)	A	
Sat 27 March	Reading	A	
Sat 10 April	Oxford United	H	
Sat 17 April	Gillingham	A	



Critical Research – Main Sponsors of Luton Town Youth Team

How Clubs have scored goals... and conceded them

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	see key below	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG
14	8	6	6	2	4	15	1	Bournemouth	6	10	5	3	0	1	8	0
8	5	4	6	2	1	6	1	Blackpool	7	6	9	5	0	5	8	1
4	9	5	0	0	3	26	0	Bristol Rovers	10	9	3	3	0	3	14	1
6	5	5	8	0	1	12	0	Burnley	10	15	12	3	0	4	20	1
11	8	5	3	0	3	9	1	Chesterfield	11	3	6	2	0	1	7	2
15	2	6	1	0	6	9	0	Colchester United	9	6	7	12	0	6	11	2
18	9	3	7	1	3	22	0	Fulham	11	3	2	2	4	0	4	0
11	9	12	9	2	2	13	1	Gillingham	10	6	5	1	1	1	8	1
8	8	4	1	0	2	9	1	Lincoln City	12	13	5	4	0	2	19	2
10	9	3	5	1	2	12	0	Luton Town	9	6	5	6	1	3	20	1
8	6	6	1	0	0	5	0	Macclesfield Town	5	6	6	5	3	3	11	2
13	7	9	4	2	1	12	1	Manchester City	7	4	1	2	0	4	9	0
11	8	6	4	0	1	11	1	Millwall	12	3	8	4	1	4	13	0
6	7	3	2	1	5	4	0	Northampton Town	15	4	5	5	0	2	7	2
14	7	3	5	1	5	7	1	Notts County	14	8	3	5	1	2	18	1
14	7	4	5	0	1	5	1	Oldham Athletic	13	11	7	5	1	2	11	0
20	15	6	5	0	1	16	2	Preston North End	12	4	3	2	1	4	7	2
12	13	3	4	1	4	9	1	Reading	10	9	7	4	0	5	10	1
17	4	2	5	0	4	9	2	Stoke City	14	9	3	3	0	1	12	0
14	10	6	4	0	4	10	3	Walsall	12	12	3	3	0	2	8	0
11	8	7	6	0	3	15	2	Wigan Athletic	6	2	6	5	1	0	10	2
5	6	4	5	0	1	12	4	Wrexham	15	7	1	9	0	4	12	0
9	1	5	5	1	3	11	0	Wycombe Wanderers	13	9	4	4	3	4	10	1
7	2	4	3	3	6	17	1	York City	24	8	4	5	0	3	18	2

Key: H = Header; CR = Close Range; OB = Outside Box; V = Volley; FK = Free Kick; P = Penalty; IB = Inside Box; OG = Own Goal

Yellow & Red Cards

	Yellow	RedPts
Millwall	71	10	101
Wycombe Wanderers	75	7	96
Burnley	65	7	86
Bristol Rovers	56	9	83
Wigan Athletic	75	2	81
Manchester City	62	6	80
Gillingham	62	5	77
Luton Town	54	7	75
Reading	58	5	73
Blackpool	72	0	72
Northampton Town	63	3	72
Oldham Athletic	51	5	66
Lincoln City	55	3	64
Stoke City	56	2	62
Colchester United	55	2	61
Chesterfield	43	4	55
Preston North End	41	4	53
Wrexham	47	2	53
Walsall	42	3	51
York City	36	5	51
AFC Bournemouth	43	2	49
Macclesfield Town	39	3	48
Notts County	44	1	47
Fulham	44	0	44

1998-99 Season Division Two Campaign Records

Highest/Lowest Gates	Biggest Away Win
32,134 Man City v Blackpool 8-Aug	Reading 0-6 Bristol Rovers 16-Jan
1,868 Macclesfield v Gillingham 9-Mar	Burnley 0-6 Man City 9-Mar
Highest Aggregate Scores	Consecutive Wins
Preston 3-4 Stoke 22-Aug	Fulham, Stoke 6
Lincoln 3-4 Preston 29-Aug	Games Unbeaten
Bristol Rovers 3-4 Walsall 31-Oct	Gillingham 17
Bristol Rovers 3-4 Burnley 9-Jan	Consecutive Defeats
Biggest Home Win	Lincoln, Macclesfield 6
Wigan 5-0 York 31-Oct	Games without a Win
Bournemouth 5-0 Burnley 21-Nov	Wycombe 12
Preston 5-0 Lincoln 23-Feb	

Key: PU = Players Used; GF = Goals For; GA = Goals Against; CS = Clean Sheets; LP = Lowest position; HP = Highest Position

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins
Fulham, Wigan 5
Games Unbeaten
Fulham 12
Consecutive Defeats
York 4
Games without a Win
York 11

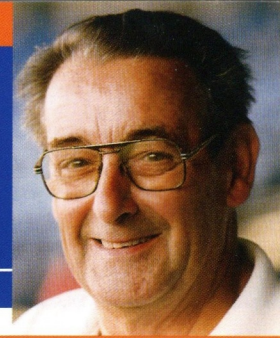
Div. 2 Stat Attack

Div. 2 Attendance Details

	Highest	Lowest	Average
Manchester City	32,134	24,291	28,055
Stoke City	23,272	8,218	12,920
Preston North E.	15,888	8,656	11,240
Fulham	14,284	7,447	10,914
Reading	18,108	7,914	10,640
Burnley	17,251	8,526	10,514
Millwall	12,726	4,249	7,044
Bournemouth	10,964	4,863	6,973
Gillingham	9,581	4,575	6,343
Bristol Rovers	8,011	4,833	6,170
Northampton T.	7,557	4,710	5,979
Notts County	10,316	4,445	5,794
Luton Town	9,070	4,021	5,589
Oldham Athletic	12,976	4,195	5,528
Blackpool	10,868	2,990	5,170
Wycombe Wndrs	8,129	3,361	5,069
Walsall	9,517	3,098	5,053
Lincoln City	7,338	2,949	4,565
Chesterfield	8,245	3,372	4,562
Colchester United	6,554	3,228	4,461
Wrexham	9,048	2,716	4,220
Wigan Athletic	6,700	2,784	4,060
York City	7,527	2,075	3,740
Macclesfield T.	6,381	1,868	3,314

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

Brian Swain



THE TOWN'S performance against promotion play-off contenders on Tuesday evening was only some of the good news that was desperately needed at Kenilworth Road hours after the announcement that receivers were being appointed.

In the night's other Second Division game, bottom club Wycombe Wanderers, beaten 2-1 at Reading on Saturday, broke their away duck at the 17th attempt, winning 2-0 at Bristol Rovers. It was their first away win since May last year.

The bonus for us was that Rovers would have gone ahead of us if they had won, but instead we stayed in 14th place. Reading's disappointment was that they came to Luton seeking a win which would put them within three points of Manchester City, who hold the last play-off place. The game against us was Reading's game in hand, and left them five points adrift of City.

And the fixtures computer makes today interesting for Reading and City, because they meet at the Madejski Stadium.

After looking well out of contention, City have lost only once in their last 15 league outings, and the sequence includes a 3-0 home victory over Fulham. Shaun Goater's 17th goal of the season was enough to give City their seventh away win of the campaign at Colchester on Saturday.

They are level on points, but behind on goals scored, with our visitors today. Gillingham hammered struggling

Lincoln City 4-0 at Priestfield, with two goals from skipper Andy Hessenthaler, and a brace by Kevin Lisbie, who is on loan from Charlton.

Fulham have no game today because of international calls. They were due to entertain Walsall, who had to bow to football regulations. Fulham asked them for a postponement because Kevin Keegan was wanted by England at Wembley, but third-placed Walsall refused. In the event it was taken out of their hands, so they will remain in third place tonight, hoping that Preston do not widen the gap by winning at home to struggling Northampton.

Fulham beat Blackpool 4-0 on Saturday, making it 12 games without defeat, to move 15 points clear of Preston, who lost 1-0 at home to Bournemouth. Walsall dropped two home points with a 3-3 draw against Bristol Rovers. They were two up at half-time, but Jamie Cureton's second-half hat-trick for Rovers included a fluke last-minute equaliser.

Lincoln's thrashing at Gillingham was not as costly as it might have been: they are still a point above the relegation line, thanks to Burnley's continued bad run. The good news for Steve Davis and Co was that Micky Mellon scored their first goal in five matches, in which 15 have been let in. It gave them a point from a draw at Wrexham but they are still in the bottom four.

Notts County, who were there for a long time, continued their astonishing rise: a 3-2 win at Stoke was their fifth win in six matches, starting with their victory over us, and after the game disgruntled home fans staged a pitch demonstration against the board.

Today's Second Division fixtures

- Bournemouth v Colchester
- Bristol Rovers v Notts County
- Chesterfield v Blackpool
- Luton v Gillingham
- Millwall v Wrexham
- Preston v Northampton
- Reading v Manchester City
- Wigan v Stoke
- Wycombe v Oldham

Tomorrow's Games

- Burnley v Macclesfield
- Lincoln v York

Statistics

fixtures, results, appearances, goalscorers

Date	Competition	Home Team	Score	Goalscorers	Appearances	Goals
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 1-1 (Marshall)	5,392	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 18	WC1(2)	OXFORD UNITED	A 7.45pm 3-1 (Gray, Evers, McLaren)	5,099	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 22		READING	A 3.00pm 0-3	18,108	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 29		COLCHESTER UNITED	H 3.00pm 2-0 (S. Davis, Douglas)	5,005	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
MON 31		WIGAN ATHLETIC	A 3.00pm 3-1 (S. Davis, Evers, Gray)	3,778	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 05 SEPTEMBER		BURNLEY	H 3.00pm 1-0 (Douglas)	5,554	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 08		WREXHAM	A 7.45pm 1-1 (McKinnon)	2,951	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 12		BRISTOL ROVERS	H 3.00pm 2-0 (S. Davis, Alexander)	5,558	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 15	WC2(1)	IPSWICH TOWN	A 7.45pm 1-2 (Douglas)	9,032	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 19		BLACKPOOL	A 3.00pm 0-1	5,695	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 22	WC2(2)	IPSWICH TOWN	H 7.45pm 4-2 (Fotiadis, Douglas S.Davis, Johnson)	5,665	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 26		WALSALL	H 3.00pm 0-1	5,530	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 03 OCTOBER		FULHAM	A 3.00pm 3-1 (Gray, Douglas, Davis)	11,856	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 10		YORK CITY	A 3.00pm 3-3 (Douglas, Evers, Gray)	3,780	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 17		OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H 3.00pm 2-0 (Gray, Scarlett)	5,447	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUES 20		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H 7.45pm 1-0 (Alexander)	6,087	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 24		GILLINGHAM	A 3.00pm 0-1	5,602	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUES 27	WC3	COVENTRY	H 7.45pm 2-0 (Gray, S. Davis)	9,051	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 07 NOVEMBER		STOKE CITY	A 3.00pm 1-3 (Douglas)	12,964	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUES 10	WC4	BARNSELY	H 7.45pm 1-0 (Gray)	8,453	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SUN 15	FA CUP(R1)	BOREHAM WOOD	A 1.00pm 3-2 (Gray 2, S. Davis)	1,772	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan McLaren
SAT 21		LINCOLN CITY	A 3.00pm 2-2 (Gray, Doherty)	4,893	K. Davis	McGowan Thomas Spring
SAT 28		MANCHESTER CITY	H 3.00pm 1-1 (Doherty)	9,070	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
TUES 01 DECEMBER	WC5	SUNDERLAND	A 7.45pm 0-3	35,742	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 05	FA CUP (R2)	HULL CITY	H 3.00pm 1-2 (S. Davis)	5,021	K. Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 12		MACCLESFIELD TOWN	A 3.00pm 2-2 (Douglas, Gray)	2,902	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 19		MILLWALL	H 3.00pm 1-2 (S. Davis)	5,939	K. Davis	McGowan Fraser Spring
MON 28		A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	A 3.00pm 0-1	8,863	K. Davis	White Thomas Spring
SAT 02 JANUARY		COLCHESTER UNITED	A 3.00pm 2-2 (Alexander pen, White)	4,694	K. Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUES 05	AWS(2)	WALSALL	H 7.45pm 0-3	1,870	Abbey	Boyce Fraser Evers
SAT 09 1999		WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H 3.00pm 3-1 (Spring, Evers, Douglas)	5,063	Davis	Harrison White Spring
SAT 16		PRESTON NORTH END	A 3.00pm 1-2 (Fotiadis)	11,034	Davis	Harrison White Spring
SAT 23		WIGAN ATHLETIC	H 3.00pm 0-4	4,934	Davis	Harrison White Spring
SAT 30		A.F.C BOURNEMOUTH	H 3.00pm 2-2 (McKinnon, Doherty)	5,426	Davis	Harrison McGowan Spring
SAT 06 FEBRUARY		BURNLEY	A 3.00pm 2-1 (Fotiadis, Doherty)	10,285	Abbey	Harrison McGowan Spring
SAT 13		WREXHAM	H 3.00pm 1-2 (Doherty)	4,759	Davis	Harrison Alexander Spring
SAT 20		BRISTOL ROVERS	A 3.00pm 0-1	6,361	Davis	Alexander White McLaren
TUE 23		NOTTS COUNTY	H 7.45pm 0-1	4,021	Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 27		BLACKPOOL	H 3.00pm 1-0 (Douglas)	4,646	Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 06 MARCH		WALSALL	A 3.00pm 0-1	4,508	Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUE 09		FULHAM	H 7.45pm 0-4	7,424	Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 13		STOKE CITY	H 3.00pm 1-2 (Alexander pen)	5,221	Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
SAT 20		CHESTERFIELD	A 3.00pm 1-3 (Gray)	3,921	Davis	Alexander Thomas Spring
TUE 23		READING	H 7.45pm 1-1 (Spring)	5,527	Davis	Alexander McGowan Spring
SAT 27		GILLINGHAM	H 11.30am			
FRI 02 APRIL		OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A 3.30pm			
TUE 06		YORK CITY	H 7.45pm			
SAT 10		NORTHAMPTON TOWN	A 3.00pm			
WED 14		MANCHESTER CITY	A 7.45pm			
SAT 17		LINCOLN CITY	H 3.00pm			
SAT 24		NOTTS COUNTY	A 3.00pm			
TUE 27		CHESTERFIELD	H 7.45pm			
SAT 01 MAY		MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H 3.00pm			
SAT 08		MILLWALL	A 3.00pm			

Substitutes

S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	George for Bacque 71; McGowan for Marshall 81. Unused: White
S. Davis	Johnson	McGowan	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	McLaren for Thomas 30; George for Marshall 71; McIndoe for Gray 78. Unused: Abbey, White
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Bacqué	Gray	Marshall	McLaren for McKinnon 69; George for Bacque 69; White for McGowan 85.
S. Davis	Johnson	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	George for Douglas 84; McKinnon for Marshall 90. Unused: White, Abbey, Bacqué.
S. Davis	White	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Marshall	McKinnon for Marshall 10; George for McLaren 15; Thomas for Douglas 62.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	George	Thomas for Gray 56; Fotiadis for Douglas 72; Bacque for George 79.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	George	McIndoe for George 45; Bacque for Douglas 72; Unused: Thomas
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Fotiadis for Douglas 73 Thomas for McIndoe 81. Unused: Bacque.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Bacque for Douglas 72. Unused: Thomas Cox
S. Davis	White	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Fotiadis for Douglas 62 Thomas for McKinnon 89. Unused: Marshall.
S. Davis	Johnson	Cox	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Fotiadis for Douglas 77 Bacque for Cox 82. Unused: Abbey Thomas White
S. Davis	Johnson	Cox	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Marshall for Douglas 68 Bacque for Gray 84. Thomas for McIndoe 88.
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Fotiadis	Marshall	Cox for Marshall 66; Bacque for Fotiadis 73; White for McKinnon 78. Unused Abbey, McIndoe
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Fotiadis	Cox	Gray for Douglas 60 McIndoe for Cox 67 White for Spring 87
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McGowan	Cox for McGowan 86, Fotiadis for Douglas 87. Unused: White
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	White for McKinnon 75, Cox for Douglas 84. Unused: Fotiadis
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Scarlett for McIndoe 67, White for McKinnon 69, Fotiadis for Douglas 74
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	White for Spring 81 Fotiadis for Douglas 81 Unused: Scarlett
S. Davis	Johnson	Evers	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	McGowan	Fotiadis for McGowan 71, White for McKinnon 75. Unused: McLaren
S. Davis	Johnson	Evers	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	McGowan	Fotiadis for Douglas 89. Unused: White Abbey McIndoe McLaren
S. Davis	Johnson	KcKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McGowan	McLaren for Thomas 43, Doherty for Spring 70. Unused: White
S. Davis	Johnson	Evers	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	McLaren for McKinnon 56, Nyamah for McIndoe 57, White for Douglas 82. Unused: Abbey Scarlett
S. Davis	Johnson	KcKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Nyamah	McIndoe for Nyamah 62, Doherty for Douglas 66, Spring for McKinnon 89. Unused: White, Abbey
White	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	Davies	Doherty for Davies 64, McLaren for Spring 70. Unused McIndoe
S. Davis	Johnson	Evers	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	Davies	McLaren for Davies 54, Doherty for Douglas 64, White for McGowan 84
S. Davis	Johnson	McKinnon	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McGowan	Doherty for Douglas 63, McLaren for McKinnon 70, White for McGowan 75. Unused Abbey, McIndoe
S. Davis	White	McKinnon	Evers	Doherty	Gray	McLaren	McIndoe for McKinnon 61, Douglas for Doherty 64, Scarlett for McLaren 80. Unused Abbey, Thomas
S. Davis	Johnson	McLaren	Evers	Douglas	Gray	McIndoe	Showler for McIndoe 63, Doherty for Douglas 67, White for Spring 82
S. Davis	Johnson	Scarlett	McLaren	Douglas	Gray	Showler	Fotiadis for Showler 63, White for Gray 77. Unused: McIndoe
S. Davis	Johnson	Evers	Harrison	Fotiadis	Gray	Showler	Scarlett for Showler 60; Bacque for Harrison 74. Unused: McIndoe
White	Johnson	McLaren	Harrison	Douglas	Gray	Evers	Doherty for Douglas 65. Unused McIndoe, Fraser
White	Dyche	McLaren	Harrison	Bacque	McIndoe	Fotiadis	Kandol for Bacque 58, Doherty for Fotiadis 58, Scarlett for McLaren 72
Dyche	Johnson	Evers	McLaren	Douglas	Gray	Zahana-Oni	Doherty for Zahana-Oni HT, Scarlett for Douglas 81. Unused: Fraser
Dyche	Johnson	Evers	McLaren	Douglas	Fotiadis	McGowan	Doherty for Douglas 83, Fraser for McGowan 89. Unused Zahana-Oni
Dyche	Johnson	McGowan	Evers	Douglas	Fotiadis	Zahana-Oni	Doherty for Fotiadis HT, McIndoe for Zahana-Oni 64. Unused: Scarlett
Dyche	Johnson	Evers	McLaren	Douglas	Doherty	McKinnon	Zahana-Oni for Douglas 74; White for Harrison 79. Unused: Scarlett
Dyche	Johnson	Evers	McLaren	Douglas	Fotiadis	McKinnon	Doherty for Douglas 72; Alexander for McKinnon 77; White for McGowan 88
Dyche	Johnson	Evers	McLaren	Doherty	Fotiadis	McKinnon	Gray for Fotiadis 25; Cox for McKinnon 67; White for Harrison 73
Dyche	Johnson	Scarlett	McLaren	Douglas	Doherty	McKinnon	Zahana-Oni for Scarlett 73; Kandol for McIndoe 77. Unused: Fraser
Dyche	Johnson	Cox	McLaren	Douglas	Doherty	McKinnon	White for Johnson HT, Gray for Douglas 66; Scarlett for Cox 73
Willmott	White	Harrison	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	George	McGowan for Spring 73, Cox for George 83, McLaren for Harrison 89
White	Johnson	Harrison	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	George	McGowan for George 66; McLaren for Harrison 76. Unused: Willmott
White	Johnson	Harrison	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	George	Cox for Douglas 62; McLaren for George 62; McGowan for Thomas 73
White	Johnson	Harrison	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	George	Doherty for George 56; Willmott for White 78; McLaren for Harrison 83
Willmott	Johnson	Harrison	McKinnon	Douglas	Gray	McGowan	Doherty for Harrison 67; McLaren for McKinnon 75; George for Douglas 85
Willmott	Johnson	Harrison	McLaren	Douglas	Gray	Doherty	McIndoe for Harrison 85; Zahana-Oni for Douglas 89, Thomas for Doherty 90



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Luton Town v Gillingham

Kelvin Davis	1	1 Vince Bartram
Gavin McGowan	2	2 Nicky Southall
Mitchell Thomas	3	3 Paul Smith
Matthew Spring	4	4 Guy Butters
Sean Dyche	5	5 Adrian Pennock
Marvin Johnson	6	6 Matt Bryant
Chris Willmott	7	7 Mark Patterson
Paul McLaren	8	8 Andy Hessenthaler
Stuart Douglas	9	9 Carl Asaba
Phil Gray	10	10 Mark Saunders
Ray McKinnon	11	11 Robert Taylor
Tony Thorpe	12	12 Kevin Lisbie
Alan White	13	13 John Hodge
Landry Zahana-Oni	14	14 Mick Galloway

Referee: Steve Baines, Chesterfield

Assistants: M. C. Dexter, Thurmaston (yellow flag)

S. G. Clingo, King's Lynn (yellow & red flag)

Reserve official: S. Graham, Corringham



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