



JIG OF DELIGHT: Simon Davies runs the length of the Kenilworth Road pitch to taunt the Luton fans after his 35th minute killer goal for Macclesfield.

'Big club' chase Chris

CHRIS WILLMOTT is attracting interest from "a big club".

Hatters boss Lennie Lawrence has confirmed that Willmott is the subject of strong enquiries from a higher division team.

Lawrence refused to name the interested party but it is no secret that ex-Luton coach Trevor Peake is a big fan of the 21-year-old defender and his new employers Coventry City are favourites to secure Willmott's signature.

Representatives from Middlesbrough and Spurs also watched the Hatters game against Macclesfield on Saturday.

Willmott is out of contract at the end of this season and the Hatters might have to go to a tribunal should any interested buyer's valuation fall short of that of Lawrence.

But the Hatters boss has not yet given

up hope of keeping Willmott. He said: "There is big club interest in him as there is in several of our players."

"It's come for Willmott especially as his contract is up."

"My advice to him has been to sign here another year so he's not trapped for years and, if he has a good year, then there will be even more interest."

"But the player, agent and father might say there won't be another chance. I can't stop him signing for anyone else."

"All of that could be superseded anyway by the need to get money in."

About the prospect of going to a tribunal over Willmott, Lawrence added: "Clubs won't fancy that but neither do I particularly. I would rather agree a fee."

"If we go to tribunal, I would say that's what Upson went for, that's what Evers went for, so we'll take our chances."

Loan trio top targets

LENNIE LAWRENCE has named his three for the summer as he looks ahead to next season.

Tony Thorpe, Gerry Harrison and Sean Dyche, all on loan at Kenilworth Road this season, are the trio Lawrence would like to bring in if off-field matters allow him to.

Lawrence said: "We want Thorpe on some basis, we want Dyche and we want Gerry Harrison because of his value as a utility player."

"Those are the three I want. That's no secret. We may need another player - a flank player but it depends on the wage bill and who sets it as to who we can get in."

Harrison would be available on a free transfer but Thorpe and Dyche would

command fees, with Thorpe's likely to be the biggest.

Nevertheless, Lawrence believes a return to Luton for Thorpe would be in the club's financial interests.

"I think if I had him here I could spruce him up and sell him again," Lawrence said. "He's only 25 and, if he had a good season, he would not be too old to go again."

"Whoever runs the club must decide whether we go for it or that the goal is just to survive in the Second Division."

"If you get rid of all the players whose contracts are up and cut the wage bill all you're going to do is survive if you're lucky. But if we get two or three in we could have a go at getting out of it."



GERRY HARRISON

Hatters' reject Davies gets the last laugh!

SIMON DAVIES was often the butt of the comics at Kenilworth Road but the joke was on Luton when he came back and scored Macclesfield's killer second goal.

Davies, who was given a free transfer by Hatters in December, was not expected to figure in the Silkmen's squad.

But he was on the substitutes' bench, got into the action after 30 minutes and scored five minutes later.

OK, Davies admitted later that he had lost control of the ball during a dazzling run down the left-wing and mis-hit the shot which sent Kelvin Davis the wrong way.

That aside, it was a moment he will treasure and he ran the length of the Kenilworth Road pitch to taunt the Luton fans who had earlier jeered his arrival.

Davies, who came on when Steve Hitchen limped out of the game, said: "It was great to come back and get a goal. The crowd gave me some stick at the start but I expected that. I enjoyed giving some of it back with the goal." Davies, who has another year on his Macclesfield contract, also earned the praise of boss Sammy McIlroy after filling in at left-back.

McIlroy said: "I had no worries about playing Simon in that position. He's an experienced player with a terrific left foot."

Luton boss Lennie Lawrence was not so generous with his words after a Hatters performance which started well, then died away until the last few, frantic minutes.

Lawrence said: "I'm very disappointed. This was Lincoln all over again. We were technically safe after Tuesday's win over Chesterfield and that took the edge off our performance."

"We let ourselves down and we let down the fans. I wanted so much more because this was a day we were all looking forward to."

"I wanted to finish our home programme on a good note. It didn't happen. We had a decent crowd and this was the last thing we wanted."

That special day Lawrence referred to included the appearance at half-time of 10 members of the 1959 FA Cup final side.

Sadly, the script on the pitch went a little awry. Tony Thorpe fired inches wide in the fifth minute and then shared a one-two with Matthew Spring, who brought a fine diving save from Ryan Price.

Ray McKinnon, Thorpe again and Chris Willmott all went close for Hatters. But Neil Sorvel silenced the home fans when he fired home right-footed from 10

match facts

LUTON 1 MACCLESFIELD 2

● **HATTERS:** Kelvin Davis, Chris Willmott, Mitchell Thomas, Matthew Spring, Alan White, Marvin Johnson, Tony Thorpe, Ray McKinnon (Gary Doherty, 56), Stuart Douglas (Andrew Fotiadis, 56), Michael McIndoe, Stuart Fraser (Liam George, 71).

● **MACCLESFIELD:** Ryan Price, Darren Tinson, Steve Hitchen (Simon Davies, 30), Steve Payne, Ben Sedgemore, Efetobore Sodie, John Askey (Richard Landon, 18), Neil Sorvel, Graeme Tomlinson (Steve Soley, 67), Pedro Matias, Kieron Durkan.

● **Shots on target:** Luton 12, Macclesfield 6.

● **Off target:** Luton 5, Macclesfield 1.

● **Corners:** Luton 8, Macclesfield 3.

● **Attendance:** 5,738.

● **Referee:** Alan Butler (Sutton-in-Ashfield).

● **Top Hatter:** Alan White - solid throughout.

THE HATTERS finish the season with a trip to Millwall's New Den on Saturday and the match is pay-on-the-day only. Admission is for seating only with adults charged £11 and children and OAPs £6. Gavin McGowan could be back in Luton's starting line-up after serving a four-game suspension.

LENNIE LAWRENCE is concerned second year YTS players may have to be released because of the club's financial situation. Six youngsters are out of contract in May. Lawrence said: "I am concerned that normal football considerations about their future will be superseded by financial considerations."

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Ray McKinnon, Thorpe again and Chris Willmott all went close for Hatters. But Neil Sorvel silenced the home fans when he fired home right-footed from 10

yards in the 25th minute and then Davies popped up for his goal.

Gary Doherty, who had arrived in the 56th minute, led a late revival for Hatters with some searing runs down the left-wing.

And it was fitting that he should get their only goal. A right-wing cross by Spring was moved on by Andrew Fotiadis and Doherty was on hand to tap home from six yards.

Thorpe then came desperately close to getting the equaliser in the dying seconds.



Lennie Lawrence's verdict

This was Lincoln all over again. We were technically safe after Tuesday's win over Chesterfield and that took the edge off our performance. We let ourselves down and we let down the fans. I wanted so much more because this was a day we were all looking forward to. We had a decent crowd and this was the last thing we wanted.



WIDE OPEN: Stuart Douglas has all the goal to aim at but he failed to make a connection and another Hatters' chance goes begging against Macclesfield. Picture: JANE SHERLOCK

Thorpey gets winner to sink Spireites

TONY THORPEY grabbed the only goal of the game as Luton Town secured victory against Chesterfield last Tuesday.

Thorpe's goal settled matters between two sides free of relegation and promotion concerns.

The Bristol City loan striker put the seal on a spell of sustained Hatters pressure by heading in from close range on 63 minutes.

Matthew Spring created the chance with a strong run into the visitors' penalty box, his pull back being mis-hit into Thorpe's path by striking partner Stuart Douglas.

White, Johnson, Thorpe, McKinnon, Douglas (Fotiadis, 84), McIndoe, Fraser, Hesterfield: Mercer, Hewitt, Jules Perkins, 78), Beaumont, Blatherwick, Ebdon, Howard, Holland, Lenagh (Willis, 7), Ebdon, Carrs. Not used: Simpkins.

Match Facts: Shots on target - Luton 6, Chesterfield 4. Shots off target - Luton 3, Chesterfield 4. Corners - Luton 6, Chesterfield 2. Top Hatter - Johnson.

Division 2 table

to May 3 1999

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Walsall	44	30	7	7	74	30	97
Millwall	44	26	8	10	61	43	86
Sheff Wed	45	22	13	10	78	47	79
Sheff Utd	45	21	16	8	65	33	79
Wrexham	45	21	14	10	74	44	77
Bournemouth	45	21	12	12	63	41	75
Sheff Sat	44	21	10	13	71	45	72
Sheff Wed	44	20	6	18	57	62	66
Millwall	45	17	13	15	45	41	64
Sheff Wed	45	17	11	17	52	58	62
Sheff Wed	45	16	13	16	54	61	61
Sheff Wed	45	15	10	20	50	60	55
Sheff Wed	45	13	15	17	52	71	54
Sheff Wed	45	12	17	16	61	53	53
Sheff Wed	44	14	11	19	51	59	53
Sheff Wed	45	13	14	18	42	53	53
Sheff Wed	45	12	16	17	51	68	52
Sheff Wed	44	13	13	18	43	61	52
Sheff Wed	45	13	11	21	56	76	50
Sheff Wed	45	10	17	18	41	55	47
Sheff Wed	44	11	12	21	49	57	45
Sheff Wed	44	12	9	23	45	66	45
Sheff Wed	44	12	7	25	41	73	43

98-99...with one to go

August	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 8	Wycombe	1-0	Davis (S) 36	5,252	10
Tues 11	OXFORD UTD (WC1)	2-3	Alexander 59 (pen), 63 (pen)	3,165	-
Sat 15	PRESTON	1-1	Marshall 54	5,392	7
Tues 18	Oxford Utd (WC1)	3-1	Gray 37, Evers 48, McLaren 70	5,099	-
Sat 22	Reading	0-3	-	18,108	12
Sat 29	COLCHESTER	2-0	Douglas 62, Davis (S) 82	5,005	-
Mon 31	Wigan Athletic	3-1	Davis (S) 41, Evers 78, Gray 81	3,778	5
September					
Sat 5	BURNLEY	1-0	Douglas 47	5,554	2
Tues 8	Wrexham	1-1	McKinnon 36	2,951	3
Sat 12	BRISTOL ROVERS	2-0	Davis (S) 7, Alexander 9	5,558	3
Tues 15	Ipswich (WC 2)	1-2	Douglas, 60	9,032	-
Sat 19	Blackpool	0-1	-	5,695	5
Tues 22	IPSWICH (WC 2)	4-2	Fotiadis 52, Douglas 83, Davis (S) 99, Johnson 120	5,655	-
Sat 26	WALSALL	0-1	-	5,530	7
October					
Sat 3	Fulham	3-1	Gray 3, Douglas 48, Davis (S) 65	11,856	7
Sat 10	York City	3-3	Douglas 22, Evers 43, Gray 55	3,780	4
Sat 17	OLDHAM	2-0	Gray 82, Scarlett 90	5,447	4
Tues 20	NORTHAMPTON	1-0	Alexander 19	6,087	3
Sat 24	Gillingham	0-1	-	5,602	4
Tues 27	COVENTRY (WC 3)	2-0	Gray 50, Davis (S) 78	9,051	-
November					
Sat 7	Stoke City	1-3	Douglas 81	12,964	6
Tues 10	BARNESLEY (WC4)	1-0	Gray 82	8,435	-
Sun 15	Boreham Wood (FA1)	3-2	Gray 33, 53, Davis (S) 76	1,772	-
Sat 21	Lincoln City	2-2	Gray 43, Doherty 76	4,893	6
Sat 28	MANCHESTER CITY	1-1	Doherty 76	9,070	7
December					
Tue 1	Sunderland (WC5)	0-3	-	35,742	-
Sat 5	HULL CITY (FA2)	1-2	Davis (S) 36	5,021	-
Sat 12	Macclesfield	2-2	Douglas 3, Gray 90	2,905	8
Sat 19	MILLWALL	1-2	Davis (S) 69	5,833	14
Mon 28	Bournemouth	0-1	-	8,963	14
January					
Sat 2	Colchester	2-2	Alexander (pen) 7, White 72	4,694	14
Tue 5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	0-3	-	1,870	-
Sat 9	WYCOMBE	3-1	Spring 16, Evers 69, Douglas 75	5,063	13
Sat 16	WIGAN ATHLETIC	1-2	Fotiadis 15	11,034	12
Sat 23	BOURNEMOUTH	0-4	-	4,934	13
Sat 30	BOURNEMOUTH	2-2	McKinnon 6, Doherty 53	5,426	14
February					
Sat 6	Burnley	2-1	Fotiadis 34, Doherty 87	10,285	12
Feb 13	WREXHAM	1-2	Doherty 47	4,759	13
Feb 20	Bristol Rovers	0-1	-	6,361	13
Feb 23	NOTTS COUNTY	0-1	-	4,021	13
Feb 27	BLACKPOOL	1-0	Douglas 54	4,646	12
March					
Sat 6	Walsall	0-1	-	4,508	13
Sat 13	FULHAM	0-4	-	7,424	13
Tue 9	STOKE CITY	1-2	Alexander (pen) 47	5,221	14
Sat 13	Chesterfield	1-3	Gray 82	3,921	14
Sat 20	Reading	1-1	Spring 12	5,527	14
Sat 27	GILLINGHAM	1-0	Dyche 42	6,705	13
April					
Fri 2	Oldham	1-1	Gray 4	4,948	12
Tue 6	YORK CITY	2-1	Spring 51, Douglas 90	4,667	12
Sat 10	Northampton	0-1	-	6,856	12
Wed 14	Lincoln City	0-2	-	26,130	13
Sat 17	LINCOLN CITY	0-1	-	5,122	14
Sat 24	Notts County	2-1	Thorpe 32, 65	5,583	12
Tue 27	CHESTERFIELD	1-0	Thorpe 63	4,287	12
May					
Sat 1	MACCLESFIELD	1-2	Doherty 88	5,738	12
Sat 8	Millwall	(A)	-	-	-

Games and goals

	APPEARANCES		GOALS	
	Lge	Cup	Lge	Cup
Nathan Abbey	1(0)	1(0)	0	0
Graham Alexander	28(0)	9(0)	4	2
Hervé Bacqué	2(5)	2(2)	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	1(0)	1(1)	0	0
Jimmy Cox	3(5)	1(1)	0	0
Kelvin Davis	44(0)	9(0)	0	0
Steve Davis	20(0)	9(0)	6	4
Simon Davies	2(0)	0(0)	0	0
Gary Doherty	5(14)	2(2)	6	0
Stuart Douglas	41(0)	7(1)	9	2
Sean Dyche	14(0)	1(0)	1	0
Sean Evers	27(0)	10(0)	3	1
Andrew Fotiadis	8(12)	2(2)	2	1
Stuart Fraser	4(3)	1(0)	0	0
Liam George	6(5)	0(2)	0	0
Phil Gray	31(3)	9(0)	8	5
Gerry Harrison	14(0)	1(0)	0	0
Marvin Johnson	41(0)	8(0)	0	1
Tresor Kandol	2(2)	1(0)	0	0
Dwight Marshall	3(1)	3(0)	1	0
Gavin McGowan	27(4)	9(0)	0	0
Michael McIndoe	16(5)	3(3)	0	0
Ray McKinnon	29(1)	6(1)	2	0
Paul McLaren	14(9)	4(3)	0	1
Kofi Nyamah	0(0)	1(1)	0	0
Andre Scarlett	2(4)	0(2)	1	0
Paul Showler	2(1)	0(0)	0	0
Matthew Spring	44(0)	8(1)	3	0
Mitchell Thomas	25(6)	3(0)	0	0
Tony Thorpe	6(1)	0(0)	2	0
Chris Willmott	12(1)	0(0)	0	0
Alan White	17(15)	2(3)	1	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	4(4)	0(0)	0	0

Bad boys

WHERE the red and yellow cards have gone...

	Y	R
McGowan	14	2
Alexander	8	1
McLaren	8	1
Thomas	6	1
Johnson	5	1
White	4	1
Davis (S)	4	0
Gray	3	1
Douglas	3	0
McIndoe	4	0
McKinnon	4	0
Davis (K)	1	1
TOTAL	83	9

Good boys

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

	Spring	McGowan
Johnson	7	2
Alexander	5	2
Davis (S)	5	2
Gray	5	2
Davis (K)	3	1
Harrison	2	1
Dyche	2	1
Evers	2	1
White	1	1
Spring	1	1