LUTON TOWN

Saturday, February 19, 2000, 3pm

Official Matchday Magazine £2.00

v Bristol Rovers

Match Sponsor: Ist Harlington Boys' Brigade Company

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Inside Forward

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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor
Brian Swain

Design & Layout
Wolff Evans

Printing
Regal Litho

Photography
Gareth Owen

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

Front cover: Adam Locke in action, having forced his way into the Luton Town team, and done well enough to be offered a new contract.

WITH a third of this season to play, the Town are already looking ahead to the 2000/01 campaign, with manager Lennie Lawrence keen to retain the services of four of his few experienced players, Marvin Johnson, Phil Gray, Adam Locke and Julian Watts.

He wants them all to stay, and new contracts will be offered. If they decline they will all be due free transfers. First the manager is talking to 29-year-old Locke about extending his current deal through to the summer. The midfielder has had to settle for short-term deals since arriving from Bristol City on a free transfer five months ago, but is now established in the side.

Next month sees the transfer deadline, when Town fans traditionally get nervous about the future, but at least this time new chairman Cliff Bassett has said there will be no enforced sales so long as the club is in with a chance of a play-of place. He has also said he thinks that if we do not make it this year, there must be a good chance of success next season.

By then the manager will know who is staying and who is leaving, and can look for fresh blood, particularly the "Bosmans" who are likely to be on the market in the summer, perhaps 600 or more.

Meanwhile, the latest young player to come through and make a big impression in league football has been given a well-deserved reward - Emmerson Boyce, 20, has accepted an improved contract running through to the summer of 2002.

ALAN White has turned down the chance to join Colchester, preferring to stay where he is happy and try to gain a regular place in the Town side. The decision was left to him: Lennie Lawrence was ready to accept a bid of around £35,000 for a player who cost a touch more when he followed the manager from Middlesbrough to Kenilworth Road in September 1977. If the centre-half wanted to stay, said Lawrence, that was fine by Luton Town.

White had a month on loan at Colchester just before Christmas, and became an instant hit at Layer Road. But after talking to them about what they were offering, he has decided not to accept their offer to return. An early result was his recall to the Town side at Bury, where he was used as a defensive midfielder - "Not my ideal position, but I'll play anywhere just to get a game," he said.

"Luton have been brilliant to me in letting me talk to Colchester because I could not be guaranteed first team football here. I had a word with them, but could not agree terms, so I want to stay here and hopefully help us get into the play-offs. If I can play some small part in that, then I will. I'll play anywhere - in goal if they want me to!"

That ambition may affect White's future. He will be 24 in March, and if he leaves the Town at the end of the season it would be on a free transfer. He might then have a couple of options - Colchester, if they are still interested, and possibly his home town club Darlington, who are looking good for a play-off place at least in Division Three.

But he said: "At the moment I have no desire to leave Luton, so long as I am playing and involved in the team. I have my own house, and have settled really well. The gaffer says if I want to stay there will be a contract for me. If we get promoted I might well want to stay and be a squad player. But if we stay in the Second Division then I will have to look and think if I will get a game. If not then perhaps I will have to go somewhere else, but at the moment I have no desire to do that.

"We think a play-off place is possible, especially with our home form. If we can pull our away results around, then we are capable of doing it easily - we are better than any team in this division on our day."

CENTRAL defender James Ayres, who has been on the fringe of the first team squad, and played in the Auto Windscreens Shield game at Oxford, has gone to Stevenage to further his football education in the Nationwide Conference. He has gone on a month's loan initially, with the Town manager making it very clear that it is not a move to sell the centre-half who skippered the youth team to the South East Counties League championship a year ago.

Born in Luton, the 19-year-old is seen as one of the outstanding young prospects at Kenilworth Road. He earned good reports in making his debut for Stevenage on Saturday in their 2-0 win at Woking.

SUPPORTERS who remember Don Givens as a flying winger who supplied much of the ammunition to Malcolm Macdonald in the early 70s will wish him luck in his latest job. He has just left Arsenal's academy staff to become coach to the Irish under-21 squad. He was already an Irish international when he joined the Town in the summer of 1970 from Manchester United, in a package deal that also brought Jim Ryan and Ken Goodeve. After two years he went on to QPR, Birmingham and then Switzerland, where he ended his playing career and began coaching.

ANOTHER old friend was in the stand to see the Town play at Bury - Danny Bergara, youth coach at Kenilworth Road in the mid-seventies. A colourful coaching and managing career took him on to Sheffield United with Harry Haslam, and then Rochdale, Stockport, Sheffield Wednesday, Rotherham and Doncaster. He is working for his old mate David Pleat, scouting for Spurs in the North of England, and sends his best wishes to all who remember him from his five years at Luton.

Brian Swain

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The Manager

Lennie Lawrence

OUR LAST two performances have seen contrasting fortunes, with the latest in a series of exciting home games, with the obvious exception of Bournemouth, producing a stirring second half and victory snatched against Stoke. The manner of it, and the difficulty of it, matched anything we have achieved in the league this season.

The players put in a tremendous effort to get the better of Stoke in both penalty areas after being unlucky to be a goal down at half time.

It buoyed up our confidence for the trip to Bury, where we were presented with a different set of problems, circumstances, and eventually result. It can be a difficult scenario when you get three games in seven days, and a heavy pitch and strong wind did nothing to help our cause.

We battled well, and I would not criticise the players for a defeat that was harsh. Two or three were finding it difficult to maintain the tempo and style we had shown against Stoke. I decided to rest a couple, and alter the system slightly, and it looked a good move at half time.

The first goal is always important, doubly so away from home, and trebly so when you are fielding only two forwards.

We started the second half well until Bury got a goal out of nothing, forcing us to chase the game, and we did that reasonably well. We created two or three chances, but did not take them. I don't criticise strikers or midfielders for that - it was the first time for a while that we had failed to score.

Then came a blatant and deliberate handball which was ignored by the referee. Ball striking hand is always a matter open to debate and conjecture. But this was clear cut. It affected Adam Locke's balance and his ability to strike the ball. The defender slid in and moved it with his hand, and in full view of the referee. It was hard to take, knowing that we should have had a penalty and the chance to take a point. We deserved a draw - we certainly did not deserve to lose.

A draw would have kept the momentum going, and the Bury result means that today's game takes on greater importance. Bristol Rovers are having a very good season, despite limited resources, and I expect them to be in the play-offs at the very least. They have strength, organisation, and goal-power in the shape of Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton, especially on the break.

We have seen it for ourselves in three games already this season, so we know what to expect. We need to recapture the form we showed against Stoke to maintain our outside chance of a top six finish, and the two consecutive home games starting today will have a major bearing on our hopes. We need four points at least from today and next Saturday, with six the target. If we lose today or against Brentford, it will be extremely difficult to achieve our ambitions.

As always, it calls for a big effort on and off the pitch alike, and backing from the terraces is as important as ever. And finally, thanks to all of you who went to Gigg Lane - we share your disappointment at the result, and will do everything possible to put it right today.

Lennie Lawrence

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Today's Referee

PAYING his second visit of the season to Kenilworth Road is Mick Fletcher, today's referee. He was last here for the match against Wrexham in September.

A local government worker from the West Midlands, he passed his first ref's exam, to be a class three official in the Birmingham area, in 1981, and was promoted to class one four years later.

By 1990 he was running the line in the Football League, and he became a League referee in 1995.

Mr Fletcher, married with two children, was in charge of the Third Division play-off final in 1998, and has had some big games as an assistant, running the line in a UEFA Cup game in Famagusta, Cyprus, at the Coca Cola Cup semi-final in 1993 and in the FA Cup semi-final the same year.

Outside of football, Mr Fletcher enjoys golf and snooker, and likes watching most sports.

TOWN TEASER

OUR "Town Trivia" quiz offers a free prize to another supporter today. Before the game the PA announcer will ask the latest Town Teaser. If you know the answer, listen for your chance to have a go, for a bit of fun and to win a little prize.

THE QUESTION

Which member of Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup-winning team is currently with Grimsby Town?

Hatters Roll-Call Season 1999/2000

	APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets)					GOALS			
	League	FAC	WC	AWS	Total	League	FAC	WC	Total
Nathan Abbey	31	5	2	1	39	0	0	0	0
James Ayres	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	12(5)	0(2)	2	1	15(7)	1	0	0	1
Gary Doherty	29	5	0(2)	1	35(2)	1	2	1	4
Stuart Douglas	25(3)	5	2	1	33(3)	3	1	0	4
Andrew Fotiadis	6(8)	0	0(2)	0	6(10)	2	0	0	2
Stuart Fraser	19	5	1	1	26	1	0	0	1
Phil Gray	15(1)	1	2	0	18(1)	5	1	0	6
Liam George	26(2)	5	0(1)	1	32(3)	13(1p)	2	0	15(1p)
Marvin Johnson	29	5	0	1	35	0	0	0	0
Tresor Kandol	1(3)	0	1	0	2(3)	0	0	1	1
Adam Locke	16(4)	3(1)	1	1	21(5)	3	0	0	3
Gavin McGowan	4(1)	0	0	0	4(1)	0	0	0	0
Michael McIndoe	2(14)	0(2)	2	0	4(16)	0	0	0	0
Ray McKinnon	0(3)	0	1	0	1(3)	0	0	0	0
Paul McLaren	17(2)	4	1	0	22(2)	0	0	0	0
Neil Midgley	8(2)	0	0	0	8(2)	3	0	0	3
Paul Read	0	0	0	0(1)	0(1)	0	0	0	0
Andre Scarlett	2(1)	0	0	0(1)	2(2)	0	0	0	0
Efetobore Sodje	4(4)	1(1)	2	1	8(5)	0	0	0	0
Matthew Spring	30	5	1	1	37	6(1p)	2	0	8(1p)
Matthew Taylor	27	5	1	0	33	2	1	0	3
Tony Thorpe	3(1)	0	0	0	3(1)	1	0	0	1
Julian Watts	31	5	2	0	38	2	0	0	2
Alan White	4(1)	0	2	0	6(1)	0	0	0	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0

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Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson

WE CAME home from Bury puzzling about a result which we still think was unjust as well as unlucky. It was another case of us being up one day, down the next, in terms of matches.

The home defeat against Bournemouth was a nasty shock, and that made us all the more determined to put things right in the next game, against Stoke. I think you will agree that we did - our second half performance was one to remember.

Memories of the Bournemouth game ensured that we got moving right from the early stages against Stoke, and although we were behind at half time we all felt we could still win it. We have confidence in our ability to score goals, and that was one of the occasions when we knew that if we could just get one, another one or two would follow, and so it proved, thanks to a good team performance and Tippy Gray's eye for a chance. In the end we could have won by a bigger margin, and everyone was pleased at the way we had dealt with a top six team.

And so to Bury, and having redressed matters in the midweek game and got back on track, it all went wrong at Gigg Lane. We paid for missing the best chances and being caught out when Bury produced their only worthwhile shot on goal and scored. I was too far away to judge the strength of our penalty appeals late on, but everyone who was close to it was incensed that the referee missed a clear handball when Adam Locke was bearing down on the goal.

If we were Manchester United I suppose we would have mobbed the ref and got our pictures on the back pages of the papers! Instead, we tend to have a quick moan - well in Tippy's case quite a long one - and then get on with the game. The fact is that footballers know the referee will not change his mind, giving or rejecting penalties, and over a season things tend to balance out. We were given a lucky penalty at Stoke, but as things have turned out I wish that one had not been given and that the ref had got it right at Bury.

The fact that the home goalkeeper took the man of the match award tells its own story about our overall performance. Alan White came in to do a defensive job in midfield, and for a long time it looked as though we would get at least a point out of a classic away performance - keep it tight at the back, and wait for the chance to strike on the break. On the day, we got it half right, and although the goal was very well struck we were only too well aware that the chance arose after we gave the ball away in midfield.

We hae worked hard to become harder to beat away from home, and since the turn of the year are doing reasonably well in that respect. Conceding three goals at Cambridge and Colchester was a shock to the system, and we can't afford to do that again if we are to have a chance of breaking into the top six.

After the Bournemouth match, we were in the right frame of mind to bounce back, as we did against Stoke. Now we have to do it all over again after the Bury result and we are ready to redress the balance once more, this time at the expense of Bristol Rovers.

I suspect this will be our toughest test at Kenilworth Road since Preston were here, and having played Rovers three times already this season we have a good idea of what to expect. They were deserving winners in the Worthington Cup at Kenilworth Road way back in early August, but we have made a lot of progress since then. We drew at their place in the second leg, and were done 3-0 in the league in November, so today we owe it to ourselves, as well as to the supporters, to even things up with another home victory.

We know the menace of Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton, but we too have a bit of goal power in the team, and I expect that this afternoon we will be reverting to three forwards. We can pack a bit of a punch as well, and we are all looking forward to testing ourselves against a good team, and giving you the right result.

Marvin Johnson

For the latest ticket and travel information call the Luton Ticket Office on
01582 416976

Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear

I WENT to Southend on Wednesday night to see the reserves in action, with a particular interest in how Paul McLaren got on. He had played for an hour a week earlier, at Barnet, and at Roots Hall he came through a full 90 minutes, with a good goal a welcome bonus.

His dislocated toe problems seem to be behind him, an his performance, in terms of fitness, was a big improvement on his first game. He was running a lot easier, and looked much more comfortable.

He is not yet ready for a return to the first team, but is making very good progress. Early next week he will go to a rehabilitation clinic in London for a bio-mechanical examination, which may result in a modification to his football boot to clear up the problem.

Like many players, McLaren tends to run on the outside of his foot, and this injury has exaggerated that. It can cause problems to the lower leg, and to the lower back, and the purpose of next week's trip to London will be to have a full examination and assessment.

The answer might well be to have a special boot insole made, shaped to his foot to give it extra support. Lots of players wear them to cope with various conditions, usually in connection with legs or backs. The insoles help them to run by reducing the discomfort.

I expect that McLaren will need at least one more reserve game to get back to full fitness, but I am very pleased with the way things are going, and with the way he got through the game at Southend, where the pitch became quite hard as frost started to set in.

Michael McIndoe completed the 90 minutes as well, and being a very fit young man, sailed through, proving that there is nothing wrong with his general fitness.

Landry Zahana-Oni is now our only player unable to train, but he too is doing well after a minor cartilage operation. He should be ready to start jogging in a few days, and then perhaps in a fortnight or so we can step up the schedule gradually to something like full training.

All in all, it is good to see the treatment room under very little pressure (touch wood!), and perhaps now it can be disclosed that Julian Watts was near to missing the home match against Stoke. He had an ankle injury earlier this season which caused a little discomfort and pain, but not enough to stop him playing.

The day before the Stoke game, he went over on the ankle during training, and it rapidly became very swollen. At the time I doubted if he would recover in time to play a league match the following evening, but we worked on him for the rest of that day, and overnight the swelling disappeared. He underwent a stringent fitness test on the day of the game, replicating all the running, stopping, jumping and twisting he would expect to do during a match. He came through with flying colours, and was able to declare himself fit and comfortable, and in the event played well in the win over Stoke. I really enjoyed watching that match!

The trip to Bury was a disappointment in terms of the result, but thankfully we picked up no further injuries, so the boss has got his wish of ever-more competition for places from a very fit squad.

Clive Goodyear

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Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery

IF YOU were at the Bournemouth game, you will know that a safety exercise was conducted at the end of the match, and my thanks to everyone who co-operated. Leaflets from the Luton Borough Council Safety Advisory Group chairman Robin Holder were distributed at the following game, against Stoke, which went into details about how and why the exercise was carried out.

That asked for any comments or observations to be sent to the Group at the Town Hall, and some have come into my office, and my thanks to all who had constructive comments to make.

The club had no warning before the day that the exercise was to take place, to ensure that our resources and personnel were thoroughly tested - the first they knew of it was during the half-time interval. That was to ensure that it was treated as though it were a genuine emergency.

We know it inconvenienced a lot of people, but the vast majority seemed to understand what it was all about, and why it was happening. It was something that needed to be done, not just to comply with our safety certificate, but also for the good of everyone who comes to football at Kenilworth Road.

We have had a de-brief, with all the agencies involved, and from it we have learned some valuable lessons.

No-one wants a real emergency to happen in this or any other football stadium, but if it did, it is imperative that we are prepared to deal with it. The fire and rescue services and the police were also involved, testing their procedures.

If you were annoyed at the inconvenience, sorry, but it was unavoidable, and for everyone's benefit. As Mr Holder said in his statement afterwards: "Spectator involvement was considered essential in order to truly test the emergency plans devised on the day. Valuable experience was gained, and lessons learned from this exercise will be of enormous benefit to the club in developing their future emergency evacuation plans."

Fortunately, the charity collectors that day had already done their work, and on behalf of the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf thanks to all who supported their bucket collection. It raised £529.29, which was an excellent result, and the collectors tell me that Happy Harry did his bit to help.

On the subject of thanks to fans, I would like to pass on the appreciation of various student groups and individuals who use the football club when they are carrying out surveys and questionnaires. They usually get a good response, so thank-you if you are one who has taken a little time to help them. As a club, we are pleased to strengthen our links with the local community, students included.

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that we are already working on next season's arrangements, and I am now able to confirm that there will be a pre-season friendly at Kenilworth Road. It will be on Monday August 7, when we will entertain Wimbledon, kick-off 7.45pm. We are looking at possible away fixtures as well, but there are no definite arrangements made yet.

I hope to be able to give you another date for your diaries shortly, for an Open Day at the end of the season, when Kenilworth Road will welcome all supporters to come in and have a look round. We are organising it in conjunction with the official Luton Town Supporters Club. The date cannot be fixed at present - we are still hoping that our league season will be extended by a couple of weeks because of the play-offs!

Finally, another reminder about car parking being available on match days - there are still some spaces left at Dallow Road School, and the price is £25 for the rest of the season. Get in touch if you are interested, cheques payable to Luton Town FC.

Cherry Newbery

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Tickets

Nationwide League Division Two

Luton Town v Brentford

Saturday February 26, kick-off 3 pm

Tickets are on sale at normal league prices Cash turnstiles will be open on the day, subject to availability. Supporters are advised to come early to avoid disappointment.

Special offer to season ticket holders

Bring a friend to this match for just £5. Offer available through the ticket office until Friday February 25.

Luton Town v Millwall

Saturday March 11, kick-off 3 pm

THIS IS AN ALL TICKET MATCH FOR ALL SUPPORTERS

No tickets will be sold on the day and there will be no cash admission.

Tickets are now on sale at discounted pices. None will be available after 6pm on Friday March 10.

Wrexham v Luton Town

Saturday March 4, kick-off 3 pm

Admission will be pay on the day only. Adults £12, Concessions £7

Burnley v Luton Town

Tuesday March 7, kick-off 7.45 pm

Admission will be pay on the night only. Adults £13, Concessions £8

LUTON TOWN CREDIT CARD HOTLINE RELAUNCH

As promised, we have upgraded our Telephone Hotline system, and you an now order tickets (up to **48 hours** prior to any match), using the same telephone number as before,

01582 730748

But we do promise you a much more effective service, and we will be looking to utilise this improved service next season.

Further information will follow.

Discounts for early purchase of match tickets are available until a fortnight before each match. Cash turnstiles are open at all games, EXCEPT all-ticket matches.

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm,
except on Fridays before Saturday home matches when it is 10am-6pm.
Saturdays: 9am to 5.30pm on matchdays;
10am until the away coaches depart on days when there is no game at Kenilworth Road.

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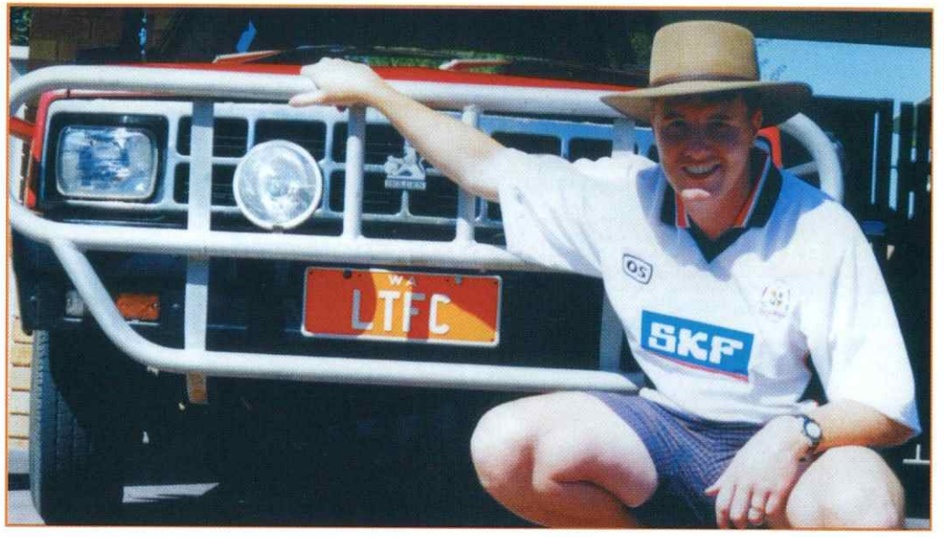
Hatters Abroad

carrying the colours



IT IS surprising how many items for this page come from Australia, and you have to take our word for it that today's Hatters Abroad offering is from Down Under - until you look closely.

The vehicle is what the Aussies call a ute - utility vehicle, known in this country as an off-roader.

And if you look carefully at the unique registration plate there is every confirmation that the man in the photograph is a real live Hatter, and that he is very much abroad. Above the LTFC registration mark is WA, the issuing state being Western Australia.

The owner of the ute and its very special registration plate is 27-year-old Mark Newman, a Town fan since he was 11, who used to live in Chesford Road, Luton. The Town kit he wears so proudly was a Christmas present from his mother, Mrs Agnes Newman, who spends a fortune on postage to send Town souvenirs, newspaper clippings and match programmes to Mark, who used to be a season ticket holder in the Kenilworth Road end.

He has been living and working in Perth, Western Australia, for the past two years, and loves the life except for the inability to watch the Town every week. He has an understanding wife - the customised number plates were a Christmas present from her.

Mark asks us to pass on his best wishes to all Luton Town supporters. Every weekend the most important news he seeks from back home is the Town result and latest league table.

IF YOU have an interesting snap of Town kit in far-off places, we would like to consider it for publication. Please send it, with a few details, to the matchday magazine editor at Luton Town FC. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back.

We are also interested in hearing about our very young fans sporting the Town's colours for our occasional "Mini Hatters" series.

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Commercial

John Bailey

TODAY'S match sponsorship is music to our ears - literally! I am sure we will all enjoy music by the bugle and drum band of the 1st Harlington Company of the Boys' Brigade, and it is a pleasure to welcome them to Kenilworth Road.

Since 1883 the Boys Brigade has given boys the opportunity to learn about the Christian way of life through enjoyment of everything from education to sport. In fact, one of today's Luton Town squad was discovered while playing for his local BB company.

Mel Westwood, who has organised today's sponsorship, says it is being done to show the Harlington company's support for the local football club. In turn we are grateful for their support, not least for backing our Kids at Kenilworth scheme.

We think you will enjoy the band's music, and you can be sure it will be good because the junior section of the band has just won the figure-marching trophy for the Luton district. If you have a summer fete or something similar planned, the band is always willing to help a good cause. Contact Mel Westwood on 01525 873782 for further information.

And for information on how you can follow the BB's example and sponsor a match, at affordable prices that might surprise you, ring the Luton Town commercial department on Luton 411622.

PS: Phil Gray is our ex-BB member.

John Bailey

GOLDEN GAMBLE

DEREK Golder came to the Stoke game expecting to enjoy himself, but went home even happier than he expected. Not only did the team do the business magnificently to win 2-1, but he scooped the night's Golden Gamble jackpot, and collected £435. Mr Golder, of Boswell Drive, Ickleford, was the season's 21st winner and the prizes have totalled £8,823, an average of £420 each - not bad considering the stake is only £1.

The winner at the Bournemouth match was Adrian Brown, of Osborn Road, Barton, who collected the season's biggest prize so far, £555. He is pictured with our Golden Gamble supervisor Dawn Keveren. Someone will go home today with another handful of Golden Gamble cash. Sellers are on duty in all parts of the ground. The prize fund is 50 per cent of the day's takings, with the other half going to club funds, so even if you are not a winner, you are helping Luton Town FC, and your support is much appreciated. The draw is made during the interval, with the money handed over instantly.

OUR match ball sponsor today is the Leighton Buzzard Observer, a local paper which has taken pride in its sports and news coverage since its launch in 1861. Now, 139 years on, it boasts four and a half pages of local sports coverage every week, including Luton Town match reports as well as a comprehensive round-up of other sporting news from the town and villages. If you want to be on to a winner, catch the Leighton Buzzard Observer every Tuesday for just 30p.

HE LIVES on the outskirts of London, but Joseph Newns, today's commercial mascot, is a regular Luton Town supporter. He was born to it: his father Simon has followed the Town for years, and when he moved away to a new job 12 years ago he remained a loyal regular.

This afternoon Mr Newns, of Colwyn Avenue, Perivale, will have the pleasure of seeing ten-year old Joseph play a part in the day's events.

The mascot and his dad will have a close look at what goes on behind the scenes before a match is played. Joseph will enjoy meeting the players in the dressing room, especially Matthew Spring, because the star midfielder is his favourite. Joseph's other interests are swimming, the cubs and F1 racing.

We are sure today will be one to remember, and if you have a youngster who deserves a special treat we still have some vacancies for mascots at future matches - phone Luton 411622 for information.

To advertise in this matchday programme call the Commercial Department on
01582 411622

Hatters On Card

Alan Robinson

IN THE early 1990s there was a host of football "trading card" series on offer from various companies, usually sold in sealed packets of six. They normally featured entire first-team squads of clubs in the top division of the Football League, which meant that full sets could consist of up to 500 cards.

As the Town were then members of the First Division, now the Premiership, they figured prominently in these productions, such as a set of "Shooting Stars" issued by Merlin Publishing in 1991.

Card No. 130 featured Lars Elstrup, Luton's most expensive signing. It was reported that the Town paid around £850,000 to bring in the Danish international striker from OB Odense in August 1989, although there was talk at one time of Raphael Meade going in the opposite direction in part-exchange.

Merlin Publishing Co Shooting Stars, 1991

Elstrup was 26 when he came to Luton as the owner of 12 Danish caps. He made his league debut as a sub against eventual champions Liverpool at Kenilworth Road in August, and came off the bench for the following match, at QPR. Both were 0-0 draws. His full debut was against Charlton at Kenilworth Road, when he saw Danny Wilson's penalty give us the only goal of the game.

Although Elstrup scored five times against Mansfield in a two-legged Littlewoods Cup tie, it was not until the end of October that he scored his first league goal, in a 1-1 draw at Millwall.

He struggled to find his form, and further disappointment came on Boxing Day, when he limped off injured in a 1-1 draw with Nottingham Forest at Kenilworth Road. A torn cartilage needed surgery, which meant he did not start another match that season.

Fortunately, despite his absence, the Town just managed to hang on to their top-flight status, and in the following season Elstrup at last found some consistency, missing only one game in the 1990/91 campaign. He scored some valuable goals, reaching double figures by Christmas, including a hat-trick in a memorable 3-1 away win at Norwich in September. But after scoring twice in a 3-1 FA Cup victory against Sheffield United in January, the goals suddenly dried up. But he headed one that was priceless - his 18th of the season and our second against Derby County on the final day in a 2-0 win that ensured safety from relegation yet again.

However, before the next season kicked off Elstrup decided that he wanted to go back to Denmark, and threatened to retire if he did not get his way. He announced he was going anyway, and would play as an amateur if he could not have a transfer. The Town were forced to sell him back to Odense for a cut-price fee, reported to be around £250,000.

On his day Elstrup was strong, fast and skillful - not many forwards beat Des Walker for pace as he did to score against Forest in December 1990 - but most of us felt that we had not got full value overall from his transfer.

The last most of us saw of him was in Denmark's victorious Euro 92 side in Sweden. After that he faded from the scene, reportedly retiring through injury and joining a religious sect in Denmark.

Apart from Elstrup, there are 11 other "Shooting Star" Hatters to look out for in this set, including David Beaumont, Mark Pembridge, John Dreyer, Sean Farrell and Jason Rees, and they can be easily obtained for around 50p each from most leading cigarette card dealers.

New baby wear available now in the Club Shop
See pages 40-41

Hatters v Pirates

Pirates' Goals For & Against

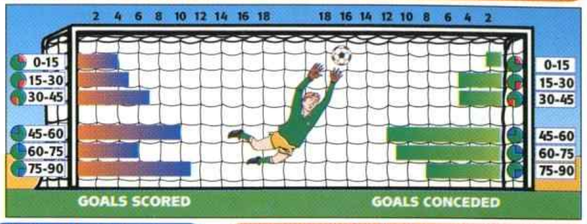
	For	Against
Close Range	5	3
Inside Area	18	6
Outside Area	6	8
Headers	9	3
Volleys	3	2
Free Kicks	2	1
Penalties	4	1
Own Goals	0	0

Pirates' Perpetrators

Roberts...8
Challis......7
Mauge 6
Thomson.6
Pethick....5
Foster.....3
Walters...3
Cureton...2
Hillier 2
Pritchard.2
Tillson 2
Astasjevs.1
Trees 1
Zabek........1

n.b League Details Only

Hatters' Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded



Pirates' last time out

Lee Jones (1)
Goalkeeper 25 Apps 0 Goals
Age 29 Ht 6'3" Wt 15:10
Prev Club: Swansea Int.: -

Steve Foster (4)
Defender 29 Apps 1 Goal
Age 25 Ht 6'1" Wt 13:00
Prev Club: Woking Int.: -

Andy Thomson (5)
Defender 28 Apps 2 Goals
Age 25 Ht 6'3" Wt 14:03
Prev Club: Portsmouth Int.: -

Andrew Tillson (6)
Defender 27 Apps 1 Goal
Age 33 Ht 6'2" Wt 13:05
Prev Club: QPR Int.: -

Robbie Pethick (12)
Defender 24(1) Apps 1 Goal
Age 29 Ht 5'10" Wt 12:07
Prev Club: Portsmouth Int.: -

Trevor Challis (3)
Defender 24(4) Apps 0 Goals
Age 24 Ht 5'8" Wt 11:06
Prev Club: QPR Int.: Eng U21

Jamie Cureton (10)
Midfield 30 Apps 15 Goals
Age 24 Ht 5'7" Wt 11:00
Prev Club: Norwich Int.: Eng Yth

David Hillier (8)
Midfield 24 Apps 0 Goals
Age 30 Ht 5'10" Wt 12:07
Prev Club: Portsmouth Int.: Eng U21

Mark Walters (30)
Midfield 13(1) Apps 5 Goals
Age 35 Ht 5'9" Wt 11:05
Prev Club: Swindon Int.: England

Vitalijs Astasjevs (15)
Midfield 2(1) Apps 0 Goals
Age 28 Ht - Wt -
Prev Club: Skonto Riga Int.: Latvia

Jason Roberts (11)
Forward 28 Apps 17 Goals
Age 22 Ht 6'1" Wt 13:06
Prev Club: Wolves Int.: -

Nathan Ellington (18)
Forward 4(17) Apps 3 Goals
Age 18 Ht 5'10" Wt 12:10
Prev Club: - Int.: -

Ronnie Mauge (7)
Midfield 22 Apps 0 Goals
Age 30 Ht 5'10" Wt 10:06
Prev Club: Plymouth Int.: -

David Pritchard (2)
Defender 21 Apps 1 Goal
Age 27 Ht 5'7" Wt 12:00
Prev Club: West Brom Int.: Wales B

Simon Bryant (31)
Midfield 10(3) Apps 0 Goals
Age 17 Ht 5'8" Wt 10:07
Prev Club: - Int.: -

Tom White (23)
Defender 3 Apps 0 Goals
Age 24 Ht 5'11" Wt 14:03
Prev Club: - Int.: -

Luton's Goals For & Against

	For	Against
Close Range	7	6
Inside Area	14	9
Outside Area	7	4
Headers	10	16
Volleys	3	6
Free Kicks	0	1
Penalties	2	0
Own Goals	0	1

Bristol Rovers' Last Ten Years - The Complete Record

	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99
Div.	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
F.A.	1	3	4	3	1	3	1	1	3	5
W.C.	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
L.S.	Mehew	Saunders	White	Taylor	Taylor	Miller	Stewart	Beadle	Hayles	Cureton
Goals	18	16	11	14	22	16	21	12	23	25
Ave Att	6,209	5,933	5,876	5,752	5,288	5,173	5,279	5,630	6,413	6,263

Statistics compiled by FOOTBALL INFORMATION SERVICES Telephone: 0151- 632 5679

Pirates' Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded

Bristol Rovers' Form Guide - Result, Points, Position

S	W	W	W	W	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	W	L	S
29	32	35	38	41	44	47	47	50	50	53	56	59	59	60
5	6	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	2

Form Guide shows last 15 results. W = Won, L = Lost, S = Score Draw, D = No Score Draw.

MATCH

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Matchmen of the Month

Matchman of the Month for January was Colchester's Gavin Johnson with 2 star ratings in 5 outings and a Matchman average of 8.00. Robert Trees came in at number 5 for Bristol Rovers with 2 star ratings and an average of 7.66.

Player	Team	GP	SR	AVE
1.Gavin Johnson	Colchester	5	2	8.00
2.Neil Roberts	Wrexham	4	2	8.00
3.Ryan Williams	Chesterfield	5	3	7.80
4.Lee Hodges	Scunthorpe	3	2	7.66
=Robert Trees	Bristol Rovers	3	2	7.66
6.Rob Edwards	Preston	3	1	7.66
=Brynjar Gunnarsson	Stoke	3	1	7.66
=Brian Carey	Wrexham	3	1	7.66
9.David Ridler	Wrexham	3	0	7.66
10.Shaun Garnett	Oldham	5	2	7.60

Key: GP = league games played during month : SR = no. of star ratings achieved during month : AVE = average, sum of dividing total ratings points by number of games played during month

Bristol Rovers' History

Ground: The Memorial Ground
Capacity: 9,173
Pitch Measurement: 101 x 68
Record Attendance: 9,173 v Northampton, play-off semi-final 1st leg, 10 May 1998 (Memorial Ground)
9,646 v Liverpool, FA Cup 4th round, 8 Feb 1992 (Twerton Park)
38,472 v Preston, FA Cup 4th round, 30 Jan 1960 (Eastville)
Record Receipts: £74,592 v Northampton Town, play-off semi-final first leg, 10 May 1998
Year Formed: 1883
Record League Win: 7-0 v Brighton, Division 3 (S), 29 Nov 1952
7-0 v Swansea Town, Division 2, 2 Oct 1954
7-0 v Shrewsbury Town, Division 3, 21 Mar 1964
Record Cup Win: 6-0 v Merthyr Tydfil, FA Cup 1st round, 14 Nov 1987
Record Defeat: 0-12 v Luton Town, Division 3 (S), 1989-90
Most Lge Goals: 92, Division 3 (S), 1952-53
Most Lge Points: 93, Division 3, 1989-90
Top League scorer in a season: Geoff Bradford, 33, Division 3 (S), 1952-53
Most Capped Player: Neil Slatter, 10 (22), Wales
Most Lge Appearances: Stuart Taylor, 546, 1966-80

Today's Visitors

welcome to Bristol Rovers

IAN HOLLOWAY (PLAYER/MANAGER)

Ian is now in his third spell with his hometown club, having made his senior debut in April 1981. Joined Wimbledon for a £35,000 fee in July 1985 and nine months later, Brentford paid £25,000 to take him to Griffin Park. Had a loan spell at Torquay before the then Rovers manager, Gerry Francis, brought him back to the club in August 1987. The influential midfielder helped Rovers to the 1998/99 play-off final and one year later, was a vital member of the side that clinched the Third Division Championship and reached Wembley for the first time, where they lost to Tranmere in the Leyland Daf Cup. Francis left to take charge of Q.P.R in 1991 and one of his first signings for the London side was Holloway, for a fee of £230,000. Ian went on to make 147 appearances at the highest level before being given the opportunity to rejoin Rovers, as player/manager, in May 1996. Although he has said that it is his intention to end his playing career, the fact that he enjoys the involvement as a player so much and remains one of the fittest members of the squad means it is unlikely that he has pulled on a Rovers shirt for the last time.

GARY PENRICE (PLAYER/COACH)

Gary is now back at the club where his career began. He first signed for Rovers, as a part-time professional, in 1983, though it was January 1985 before he made his senior debut. Watford paid £500,000 to take him to Vicarage Road in November 1989 and in March 1991, he moved to Aston Villa for a £1m fee. He was on the move again just seven months later, this time to Q.P.R, where he renewed acquaintances with Francis and his former team mate, Ian Holloway. He was to spend a second spell with Watford before rejoining Rovers in the summer of 1997.

BRISTOL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB 1999/2000

Back row, left to right: David Hillier, Michael Meaker, Ronnie Mauge, Jamie Cureton, Tom White, Stephane Leoni, David Pritchard.

Third row: Rod Wesson (director youth and education), Phil Kite (physio), Robbie Pethick, Steve Foster, Andy Thomson, Michel Kuipers, Lee Jones, Marcus Anderson, Andy Tillson, Jason Roberts, Roy Dolling (youth development manager), Roger Brinsford (secretary).

Second row: Toni Watola (company secretary), John Gingell (fitness coach), Vernon Stokes (director), Ron Craig (director), Garry Thompson (coach), Geoff Dunford (vice-chairman), Ian Holloway (player-manager), Denis Dunford (chairman), Gary Penrice, Ray Kendall (kit manager), Phil Bater (director of youth football).

Front row: Rob Tress, Mike Trought, Bobby Zamora, Nathan Ellington, Ray Johnston, Mark Smith, Jamie Shore, Trevor Challis, Frankie Bennett.

For all the latest news, views and interviews call
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the players

GARRY THOMPSON (COACH)

Garry is the latest recruit to the backroom staff, having joined the club from Northampton in January 1999. His playing career took in nine clubs including Coventry, West Bromwich Albion, Sheffield Wednesday and Q.P.R, where he was a team mate of Ian Holloway and Gary Penrice. He spent just over three years assisting Ian Atkins at Northampton prior to joining Rovers.

VITALIJS ASTAFJEVS (MIDFIELD)

Rovers had to fight to secure the signature of the most capped player in Latvian history. Astafjevs, who is the current skipper of his national side, was originally refused a work permit. However, the Department of Employment eventually granted one after a successful appeal by the club and he made his league debut as a substitute against Wrexham last month. The left-sided midfielder, strong in the tackle and with an eye for goal, is expected to be a key figure for the remainder of the campaign.

JAMIE CURETON (FORWARD)

A Bristolian who was on Southampton's books as a youngster, though he joined Norwich as a trainee and graduated to the pro ranks at Carrow Road. Scored 6 goals in 29 league appearances for The Canaries and also spent a brief spell on loan at Bournemouth. Returned to Bristol to sign for Rovers, initially on loan, in September 1996 and his strike rate of 4 goals in 6 appearances led to the move being made permanent, with a fee of £250,000 changing hands. The only player to have appeared in all Rovers first team fixtures last season, Jamie is an exciting player who enjoys taking on opponents as well as hitting the back of the net.

NATHAN ELLINGTON (FORWARD)

A number of Premiership clubs expressed an interest in signing Nathan from Ryman League side Walton and Hersham, before manager Ian Holloway persuaded the then 17 year old to join Rovers in February 1999. A highly rated striker who topped the scoring charts for the non-league sides trophy winning youth team in 1997/98, Nathan is also an accomplished athlete, having competed in the high jump, long jump and 100 and 200 metre events as a junior.

DAVID HILLIER (MIDFIELD)

David graduated through the ranks at Highbury and broke into Arsenal's first team during 1990/91, when he also won an England U-21 cap. In 1996, after eight years and 104 league appearances for The Gunners, he moved to Portsmouth for a fee of £250,000, and eventually followed former Pompey team mates Andy Thomson and Robbie Pethick to The Memorial Stadium, in February 1998.

LEE JONES (GOALKEEPER)

A change of club certainly worked wonders for Lee Jones, as he quickly established himself as Rovers' first choice goalkeeper. He joined Swansea as a youngster, but was released before being given a first team opportunity. He played in Welsh non-league football before rejoining The Swans from AFC Rhonda. However, he was understudy to the experienced Roger Freestone and first team chances were limited. He spent a month on loan with Rovers before joining on a permanent basis in March 1998.

STEPHEN FOSTER (DEFENCE)

Stephen Foster

Joined his hometown club, Mansfield, as a schoolboy and signed a pro contract for them after two years as a trainee. He left Mansfield to team up with his former boss, George Foster, at Telford and gained a reputation as one of the finest central defenders in Conference Football. Signed for Woking for a fee of £9,000 in October 1996. His final appearance for them was at Wembley the following May, as he finished on the winning side in the FA Umbro Trophy. Three days later, he signed for Rovers.

STEPHANE LEONI (DEFENCE)

First came to Rovers attention via his agent, during the summer of 1998. Joined on trial, and later signed a two year pro contract. Born in Metz, he had previously spent his entire career with his hometown club and has over 30 international caps to his name, having represented his country at every age level, from schoolboy through to U-21 level.

RONNIE MAUGE (MIDFIELD)

Although he began his career as a trainee with Charlton, it was another London club Fulham, that

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Today's Visitors

the players

gave Ronnie his first taste of league football. He has since made over 100 league appearances for Bury, and more recently, Plymouth Argyle. He signed a two year deal with Rovers on 1 July 1999.

MICHAEL MEAKER (MIDFIELD)

Another Rovers player with Q.P.R connections, Michael spent just over a year as a youth team player with Rangers before being offered his first pro contract.He won two Welsh U-21 caps and also played in a Welsh "B" international. He moved to Reading in the summer of 1995 and was valued at £250,000 in an exchange deal with Simon Osborne. Remained with the Berkshire club for three years and on his release, his former Q.P.R team mates, Ian Holloway and Gary Penrice persuaded him to sign a three year deal with Rovers.

ROBBIE PETHICK (DEFENCE)

Served his apprenticeship with Plymouth, but was released without being offered a pro contract. For the next five years, played non-league football for Saltash and, later, Weymouth before Jim Smith signed him for Portsmouth in October 1993. Made some 200 first team appearances during his time at Fratton Park, but found himself out of favour midway through last season and eventually followed his former Pompey team mate, Andy.

NIGEL PIERRE (FORWARD)

A twenty year old striker from Trinidad, Nigel signed for the the Rovers on 7th February. He already has four full international caps for Trinidad and Tobago to his name, as well as a host of youth international honours.

DAVID PRITCHARD (DEFENCE)

Dave joined Rovers for a £20,000 fee, from Telford United, in February 1994. Prior to that, he was with West Bromwich Albion. He quickly became a firm favourite with Rovers fans and made the right back position his own. During the 1997/98 season, demonstrated his versatility by playing a number of games in the left back berth and won a Welsh B cap.

JASON ROBERTS (FORWARD)

Joined Wolves for a fee of £250,000 from non-league Hayes in the Autumn of 1997. However, strong competition for places at Molineux saw him sent out on loan to Torquay and Bristol City before the end of the 1997/98 campaign. Signed for Rovers two days before the start of last season. His partnership with Jamie Cureton last season yielded a total of 52 goals in all competitions, with Jason netting 23 of them. Has ben capped by Grenada.

Robert Trees

ROBERT TREES (MIDFIELD)

Graduated through the ranks at Old Trafford, where he earned his first pro contract. Was unable to make the breakthrough into the first team and and he joined Rovers in the summer of 1998.

ANDY THOMSON (DEFENCE)

Swindon born Andy joined his hometown club straight from school and signed his first pro contract on completion of his time as a trainee. Made his first team debut in Swindon's last game in the Premiership at the end of the 1993/94 season. Moved to Portsmouth, for a £75,000 fee in December 1995 and signed for Rovers in January 15 1999.

ANDY TILLSON (DEFENCE)

Andy joined Grimsby from non-league Kettering in July 1988 and made over 100 league appearances for The Mariners before being transferred to Q.P.R for a fee of £500,000 in December 1990. First team opportunities were limited at Loftus Road and in November 1992, he became Rovers record signing, as the club paid £370,000 to secure his signature. Led Rovers out at Wembley for the 1995 play-off final and continued to perform consistently at the heart of the defence over the next few seasons.

MARK WALTERS (MIDFIELD)

Mark joined Rovers, from Swindon in November. He began his career with Aston Villa and moved to Glasgow Rangers for a £500,000 fee in 1987. Whilst in Scotland, he won Premiership medals in 1989, 1990 and 1991 and picked up Scottish League Cup medals in 1989 and 1991. Liverpool paid £1.25m to secure his signature in 1991 and whilst at Anfield he won an FA Cup winners medal in 1992. Loan spells at Stoke and Wolves were followed by moves to Southampton and Swindon. He won an England cap in 1991. Rovers League Debut:27 February 1999 v Lincoln (a) L 0-1.

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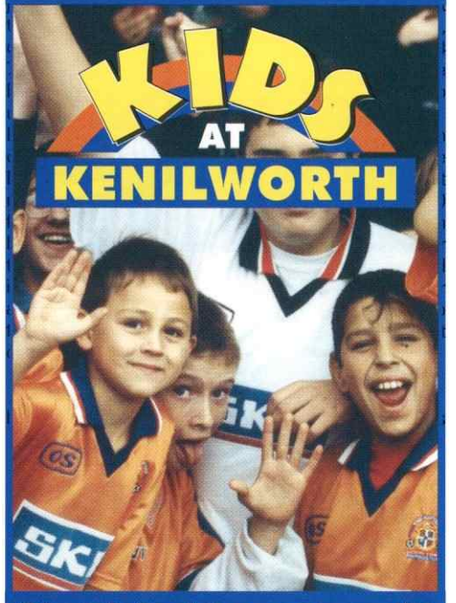

Kids at Kenilworth is a new sponsorship package soon to be introduced at the Club. It is designed for organisations to provide disadvantaged children and young supporters with an opportunity to watch Luton Town play at Kenilworth Road for Nationwide League matches for the 1999/2000 season.

There are many benefits for the sponsoring organisation as well as helping the children.

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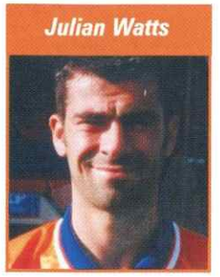
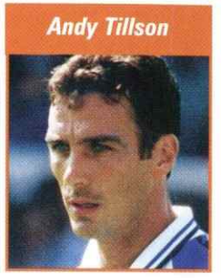
Head-to-Head


Julian Watts

Today's Carling Opta statistics compare two of the defensive strong men in oppposition at Kenilworth Road - the Town's Julian Watts v Andy Tillson of Bristol Rovers


Andy Tillson

JULIAN Watts has proved to be a shrewd addition to the Hatters' ranks since his free transfer move from Bristol City following his loan spell during the summer.

Andy Tillson has been a rock for Rovers, forming a resilient defensive trio alongside Andy Thomson and Steve Foster that has allowed wing-backs Robbie Pethick and new signing Mark Walters to attack at every opportunity.

Watts is better in front of the opposition's goal, having scored twice to Tillson's single strike. Watts scored his first for the club against Reading in the 3-1 home win on the 22nd January and followed this with Luton's first against Cardiff at Ninian Park. He completed his electric spell in front of goal with an effort in Town's home fixture against Bournemouth - beating Nathan Abbey with an own goal!

Both centre backs have passed with a similar degree of accuracy and have dribbled out of defence with near perfect completion rates.

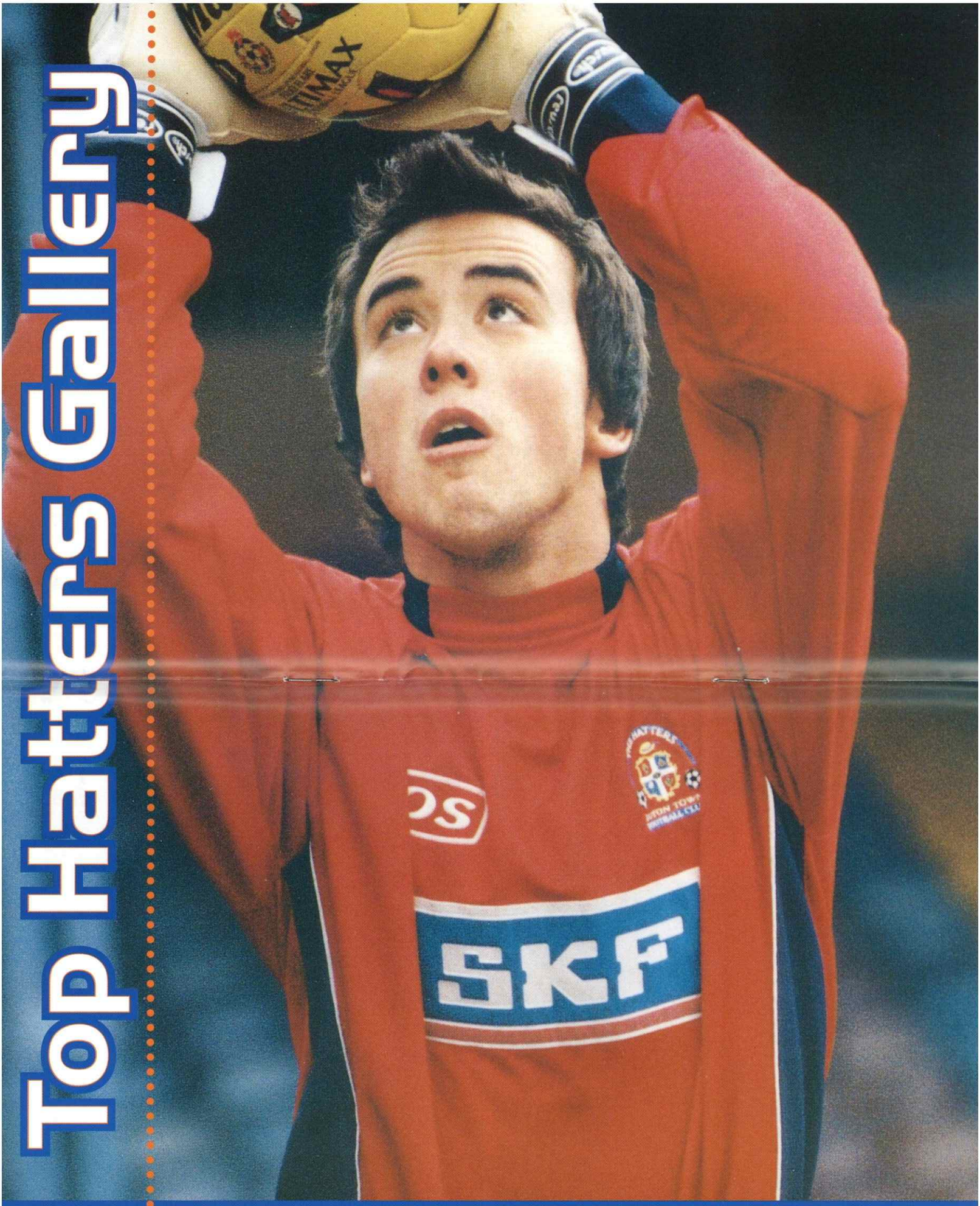
Tillson has attempted more tackles for the Pirates, and has been alert to cutting out the loose ball with 23 interceptions to his name. Due to Luton's mid-table position Watts has been under more pressure, hence his 89 blocks, while Tillson has been keen to get rid of the loose ball having made 50 more clearances than his opponent, despite his fewer minutes on the pitch.

The stats suggest that Watts and Tillson are similar sorts of players, but they will have to be at their best this afternoon as Watts has to cope with the dual threat of Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton. Tillson may have to deal with Liam George, who will be keen to prove a point to Lennie Lawrence having been omitted form the starting line-up in the disappointing 1-0 defeat against Bury.

	Watts	Tillson
Minutes on Pitch	2,787	2,405
Goal Attempts		
Goals	2	1
Shots on Target (inc goals)	5	10
Shots off Target	4	8
Blocked Shots	2	3
Passing		
Goal Assists	0	0
Total Passes	793	839
Pass Completion	61%	62%
Crossing		
Total Crosses	8	10
Cross Completion	63%	70%
Dribbling		
Dribbles and Runs	22	29
Dribble Completion	95%	97%
Defending		
Tackles Made	66	71
Tackles Won	53%	54%
Blocks	89	57
Clearances	340	390
Interceptions	11	23
Discipline		
Fouls	32	34
Offside	4	1
Yellow Cards	4	2
Red Cards	0	0

Courtesy of Carling Opta

Top Hatters Gallery



Daniel Tate

Born: Bedford, 12.11.80
Previous clubs: None
Joined Luton Town: Summer 1997 as a YTS boy, February 1999 as professional
Luton debut: v West Brom (A) 23.9.97
Luton Town debut: Still awaited as understudy to Nathan Abbey

Autograph

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Hatters Away

travel information

Wrexham v Luton Town

Saturday 4th March, kick-off 3pm

WE ARE at home again next Saturday, to Brentford, but we then have two away games on the trot, Wrexham in a fortnight, and Burnley the following Tuesday. Burnley travel details will be in next week's matchday magazine.

As usual the Bobbers Travel Club and Town on Tour will be running coaches to the games. For Wrexham, the Bobbers will have a coach leaving Cranfield at 9am, with various pick-up points on the way to Luton, and departure time from Kenilworth Road is 10am. The fare is £11.50 adults, and £9.50 for junior and senior citizens and tickets can be bought at the Bobbers Travel Club kiosk before home matches, or by phone call to Paul Deason after 6pm on 01234 750996. He will also be pleased to enrol you into the Bobbers Travel Club - membership is obligatory to use the service, but life membership costs only £1.

Town on Tour, an offshoot of the Luton Town Supporters Club, set off at 10.30, picking up at Milton Keynes Coachway 20 minutes later. The fare is £13.50 for adult members of LTSC, £11 for concessions, and £15 for all others. You can book at the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road before or after tonight's game, or through the club shop at other times.

Stewarded car parking is available for all coach travellers at Maple Road, price £3.

DIY Travellers

THE ROAD journey to Wrexham is one of the most awkward of the season, with a slowish drag making up for quick motorway driving in the first half of the trip. Leave Luton on M1 north, and take the M6. Leave M6 at junction 10a and take the M54, to Telford and beyond. The road becomes the A5, and follow that to go past Shrewsbury and Oswestry. After by-passing Oswestry take the A483 which is signposted to Wrexham. Follow that road, which becomes the Wrexham by-pass. Leave to follow the signs to Wrexham and Mold, follow the signs to Wrexham, and you will see the Racecourse Ground on your left as you approach the town.

Mileage from Luton: about 170.

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www.wayahead-careers.co.uk

Blast FROM THE Past

Roger Wash

Town sink the Pirates

After the narrow miss of 1979/80 most Luton supporters were hoping that David Pleat's young side would go that little bit further in the new campaign and win promotion back to a top flight it had left six years before.

For once, the close season was quiet on the transfer front with the only departure of note that of much travelled striker Bob Hatton who never liked to dwell at one place for more than a couple of seasons. Pleat had no choice but to let him go but felt that he had achieved his major aim in getting the old master to train, coerce and coach his young pupil Brian Stein. Stein was now regarded as the finished article and ready to assume the goalscoring mantle aided by the fully fit again David Moss.

The season opened gloriously with a 2-1 win at West Ham where the home players had paraded the F.A.Cup, which they had won after beating Arsenal at Wembley a few short months before, before the kick-off. This was unfortunately to prove a false dawn as, by the middle of October, the Town had slipped to 19th position in the table following a string of less than convincing performances.

A gutsy display at Cambridge, where a 3-1 victory was achieved with only ten men including a makeshift goalkeeper when Jake Findlay retired hurt after the substitute had already been used, seemed to be the turning point in the Town's season.

Gradually the players managed to haul themselves up the table once more and by Christmas were challenging for a top three spot. A Boxing Day victory over fellow promotion chasers Chelsea at Kenilworth Road set the Town up nicely for a trip to Eastville to take on Bristol Rovers the following day.

The Pirates were struggling. A fire which destroyed the South Stand at Eastville in August meant that several early season games had to be switched to Ashton Gate and from then on the campaign went from bad to worse. Only one win had been achieved (against Watford!) by the time of the Town's visit and quite naturally the Rovers were propping up the rest of the division.

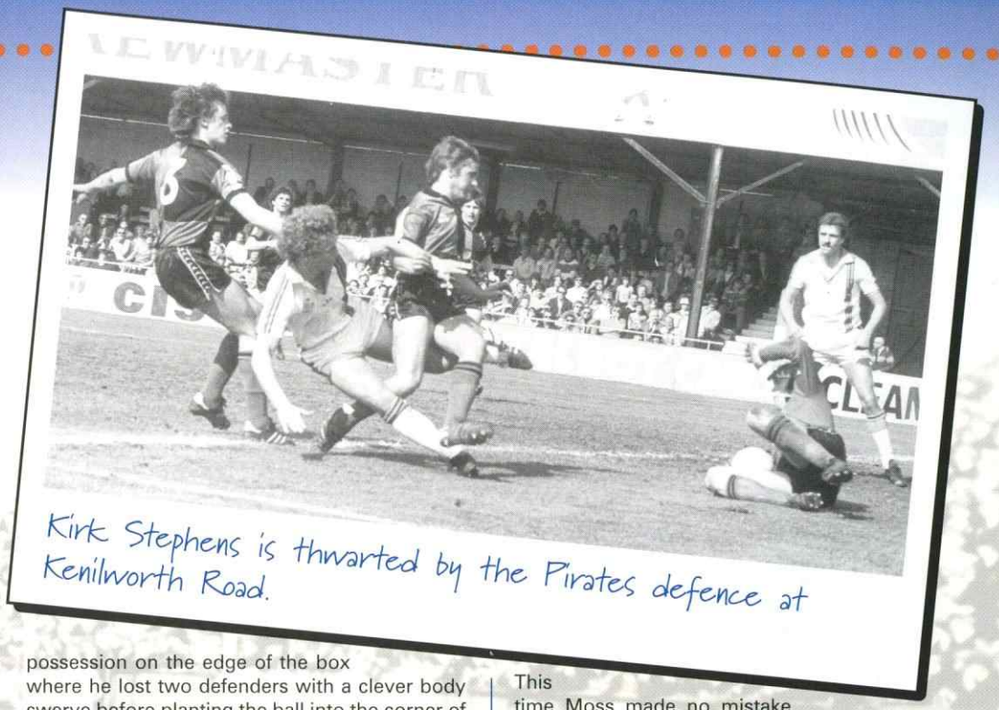
The Town had the worst possible start to the match when full-back, Kirk Stephens, carrying an ankle injury from the previous day's battle with Chelsea, limped off after only five minutes. Before the Hatters had chance to bring on substitute Raddy Antic, Rovers went into the lead when a cross from Mike Barrett was converted by Stewart Barrowclough.

With Antic on as substitute, midfield ballwinner Tony Grealish had to move to right-back and Luton supporters felt that with less bite in the middle of the park that area might be conceded to desperate opponents. They need not have worried as Alan West won an important tackle with Pirates' player-manager Terry Cooper and put Stein through to equalise.

Back came Rovers in the 17th minute with Barrett providing another cross with this time Gary Mabbutt converting, but from then on the Hatters seemed to get a firm hold of the game and settled down to play controlled football.

In the 35th minute a sweeping move which carried the ball the length of the pitch finished with Godfrey Ingram seeing his shot blocked only for Stein to rifle in the rebound. Two minutes later Ingram was fouled on the right flank and Ricky Hill made scoring look easy as he timed his forward run perfectly to sweep the Town into the lead from Moss's free-kick.

The Hatters seemed to stroll through the second half with Rovers offering little threat although Mal Donaghy did find time to wander upfield to hit the bar, as he had done in the first period. The game was eventually put completely beyond Rovers reach ten minutes from time when the Town strung together a dozen passes to make gentle progress down the left wing. Mark Aizlewood's final pass put Stein in possession on the edge of the box where he lost two defenders with a clever body swerve before planting the ball into the corner of the net for the first hat-trick of his career.



Kirk Stephens is thwarted by the Pirates defence at Kenilworth Road.

By Easter the Town seemed to have failed in their bid to make a top three spot (no play-offs in those days) but a superb 3-0 home win over Q.P.R had pushed them back into the frame. Easter had invariably proved to be the graveyard of the Town's ambitions in the past but surely they would be good enough to overcome a Bristol Rovers side which would be relegated if they suffered defeat at Kenilworth Road.

On a bone-hard, bumpy pitch the Town had difficulty in controlling the ball and struggled to put together the flowing movements that had been the trademark of their season. Only a flying save from Findlay prevented Paul Randall from putting Rovers into the lead and as the Town became more nervous and frustrated it took an eagle eyed referee, Michael Taylor, to break the deadlock.

As Stein tried to wriggle his way past Pirates' Mark Hughes in the area he tumbled over. At best it appeared obstruction but the official saw it as a penalty and although Moss watched his spot-kick saved by Tom McAllister it was ordered to be retaken as the goalkeeper had moved early. This time Moss made no mistake, sending the keeper the wrong way, and the Town were on their way to very fortunate two points.

At the end Rovers' boss Terry Cooper said, 'We didn't look like a relegation team and Luton didn't look good enough for promotion.' This confirmed the thoughts of everyone in the Kenilworth Road crowd of 9,009!

First game.

Luton: Findlay, Stephens (Antic), Donaghy, Grealish, West, Price, Hill, Stein, Ingram, Aizlewood, Moss.

Rovers: Thomas, Jones, Bater, Hughes (Gillies), D.Williams, Emmanuel, Cooper, Mabbutt, S.Williams, Barrowclough, Barrett.

Second game.

Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Moss.

Rovers: McAllister, Gillies, Hughes, Slatter, Mabbutt, McCaffrey, Emmanuel, G.Williams (D.Williams), Barrett, Randall, Lee.

To advertise in this matchday programme call the Commercial Department on
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Community & Schools Programme

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COACHING VENUES

All courses run from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm except Dunstable and Shefford.
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LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Vandyke Upper School Sportshall

Mon 21st & Tue 22nd
School Years 4 to 8 (Advanced)

Wed 23rd & Thur 24th
School Years 1 to 3

DUNSTABLE

Northfields Upper School Sportshall

Wed 23rd to Fri 25th
School Years 1 to 3 from
9.00am to midday

School Years 4 to 8 (Advanced)
1.00pm to 4.00pm

FLITWICK/AMPTHILL

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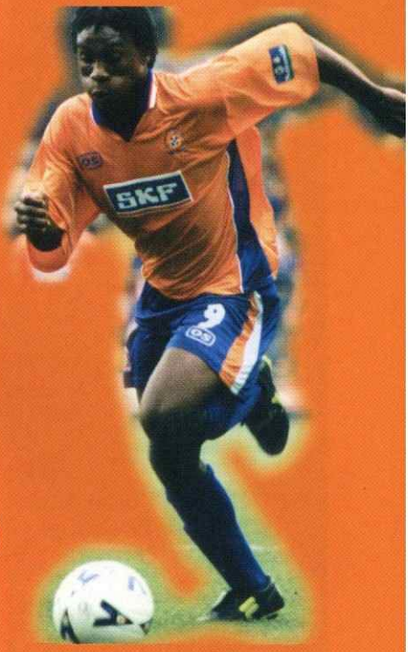
Dealing with shots on goal, heading for goal, volleys, free kicks, positional play and communicating with team mates.



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COACHING COURSES

GOALKEEPERS

Luton

Luton Regional Sports Centre

Wed 23rd

School Years 1 to 3 &
4 to 8 (Advanced) each day

Flitwick/Ampthill

Alameda Middle School Sportshall

Fri 25th

School Years 3 to 4
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STRIKERS

Luton

Luton Regional Sports Centre

Fri 25th

School Years 1 to 3 &
4 to 8 (Advanced) each day

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Junior Hatters

welcome

WE WELCOME our guests from Bristol Rovers this afternoon - a coachload of Young Pirates, looked after by John Lock, have joined us for a football tournament before kick-off and to watch the game after our normal Saturday Club activities.

In a fortnight's time it will be our turn to travel, to meet more old friends at Wrexham. The price will be £10 for Junior Hatters and £13 for guests and adults, and bookings can be made at the ticket office in Kenilworth Road.

Today's Mascot

HAVING enjoyed coming to Kenilworth Road to watch a lot of Luton Town games, 11-year-old Ross Horn will have an even better day today, because he has been chosen as the Junior Hatters mascot.

It means he becomes a VIP for the day, meeting the team before kick-off, joining them for the pre-match routines, and then taking part in the centre-circle formalities as the skippers meet the ref and assistants for the toss of the coin.

Ross lives at The Dell, Caddington, and goes to Five Oaks Middle School in the village. We hope he has a smashing afternoon, and we know that when he is introduced to the players his best moment will be when he talks to Julian Watts, because the defender is Ross's favourite player.

Ross watches the Town from the Kenilworth lower tier with his mum, her friend, and Ben, his friend, and doubtless this afternoon they will enjoy seeing him being a part of the day's events. Needless to say, his number one hobby is football, but he tells us he also enjoys wrestling.

IT WAS all smiles before kick-off at the Bournemouth game, as Junior Hatters mascot Ricky Allsop, 8, from Heathfield Close, Caddington, joined his Bournemouth opposite number with the captains and match officials at the toss-up for choice of ends. Ricky enjoyed the experience - except for the result!

At the Stoke match Laura Warren, 14, from Weltmore Road, Limbury Mead, brought us better luck after taking part in the usual pre-match formalities.

If you would like join the Junior Hatters, call the Ticket Office on 01582 416976

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Action Replay

Luton Town 2 Stoke City 1 (HT 0-1)

Brian Swain reports

A MATCH we dare not lose was in danger of slipping away as one of the Second Division's top six teams went in at the interval a goal to the good, without looking the better side. Stoke had scored from one of their two first-half shots on target, and all they had to do was to hold on and we would be left 11 points adrift of the nearest play-off spot which Stoke held.

Three days earlier, we had been unable to overturn a half-time deficit against Bournemouth, but this time the Town came roaring back. Phil Gray struck twice to avenge the unlucky defeat a month previously at the Britannia Stadium.

The second half became one of the most rousing contests we have seen for some time, and left the visiting manager complaining that Stoke threw it away, having deserved a point at the very least. Gudjon Thordarson blamed his forwards, particularly for wasting a wonderful chance to make it 2-0, and his defence for slackness at the goals.

That did less than justice to the Town, who showed the spirit, pace, perseverance and sharpness to turn it round. Lennie Lawrence said: "We felt unfortunate to be one down at half time. We had controlled the game but weren't cute or bright enough in their box, which was our only criticism after the first 45 minutes.

"It was going to take a big physical effort, but the players provided it. The game became like a cup-tie, and I am well pleased with the players. It became end to end, and when that happens we usually win."

James O'Connor grabbed the lead with a quality goal after the Town's right flank was pierced by O'Connor's best mate and fellow Irish under-21 international Clive Clarke.

The Town had plenty of possession, without bringing goalkeeper Gavin Ward into serious action, but it was a different story after the break. Stoke were forced back, defending in numbers, and a close offside call rubbed out a header by Julian Watts which looked like a 54th-minute equaliser.

The turning point came on the hour: after a lot of Town pressure, Stoke broke crisply, and Paul Connor put Graham Kavanagh clear down the middle. A golden chance to make it 2-0 vanished as he shot wide with only Nathan Abbey between him and the target.

Two minutes later Gray forced his way through a mass of bodies at the far post to head the equaliser from a far post corner by Matthew Taylor, and then it really was game on. Both sides needed to win, and both went for it. Frode Kippe put a header inches over the bar, and sub Kyle Lightbourne, scourge of the Town no matter what shirt he is wearing, was denied by Taylor's clearance off the line, hard up against a post.

The winner came on 78 minutes. Stoke defenders hesitated because they thought they heard a whistle in the build-up after Andrew Fotiadis closed down a clearance attempt to send perpetual motion man Stuart Douglas haring down the right wing. Douglas also stopped for a moment, but quickly resumed his chase for the ball, pulled it across the back line of the penalty area, and Gray clinically dispatched a low drive for the winner, his sixth goal of the season.

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, Boyce (McGowan 63 mins), Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George (Fotiadis 74 mins), Locke, Douglas, Spring, Gray, Taylor. Unused subs: Scarlett, Fraser, Tate.

Booked: Marvin Johnson, 27 mins, foul on Paul Connor; Nathan Abbey, 57 mins, foul on Connor outside his area.

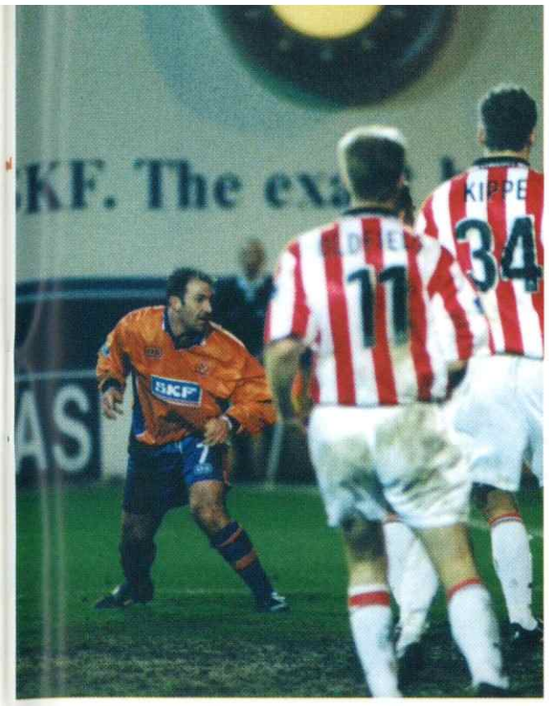
Stoke: Ward, Hansson, Clarke, Mohan (Petty HT), Jacobsen, Kippe, O'Connor, Gunnarsson, Kavanagh, Oldfield (Lightbourne 63 mins), Connor (Thorne 84 mins). Unused subs: Robinson, Muggleton.

Booked: Nicky Mohan, 21 mins, foul on Stuart Douglas; Ben Petty, 49 mins, foul on Liam George; James O'Connor, 50 mins, dissent.

The goals: 0-1 33 mins - James O'Connor, expert side-footed drive into the far corner from the edge of the penalty area after Clive Clarke got down Stoke's left and pulled back a perfect pass; 1-1 62 mins - Phil Gray far post header despite several would-be markers as he met a deep right-wing corner by Matthew Taylor; 2-1 78 mins - Gray again, sweetly-struck shot after Stuart Douglas's perseverance enabled him to deliver a low pass to the back of the area.

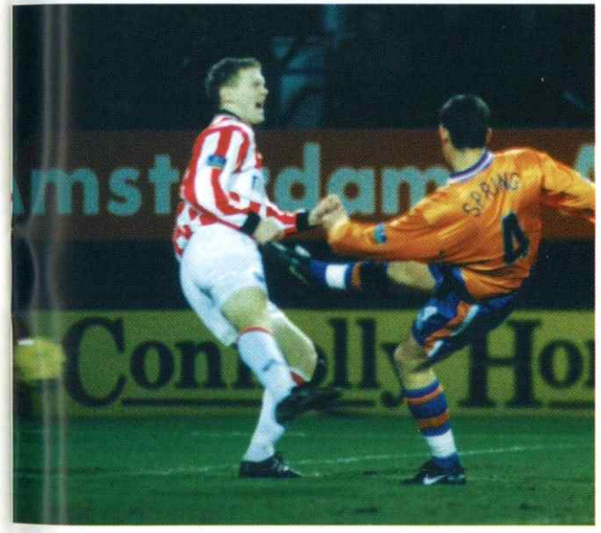
Referee: Bill Burns, Scarborough

Attendance: 5,396, including 719 away supporters.

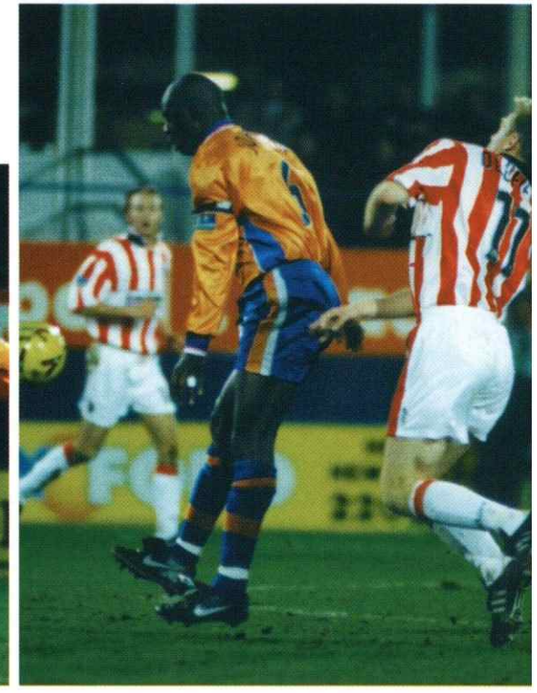


● ON OUR WAY: Phil Gray is outnumbered, but still makes the space to head the equaliser against Stoke, to set up a rousing match-winning finale.

● BEST FOOT FORWARD: Liam George escapes the attentions of three defenders, but hooks his first-half shot too high.



● SHOOTING STAR: Matthew Spring tries his luck from the edge of the box.



● SKIPPER LEADS: Marvin Johnson gets a Town attack moving, leaving James O'Connor in his wake.

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Action Replay

Bury 1 Luton Town 0 (HT 0-0)

Brian Swain reports

DEFEAT at Gigg Lane was hard to take for the Town and their supporters, on a day when the team deserved at least a point, and would have got it but for two crucial moments. The game's best chance went begging early on, and later a clear penalty that might have brought a deserved equaliser was not given.

So a tremendous amount of hard work, thoughtful football, and organised determination counted for nothing as Bury's exhausted players trooped off to the sounds of cheers of relief from their fans.

Their player-manager, Andy Preece, admitted that his men had been forced to give every last ounce of effort to get the result, and had heeded his demand to work till they dropped against a team for which he had much respect.

We were left to curse our luck, and the astonishing mistake by referee Paul Robinson in an incident when even Preece expected a penalty to be awarded.

The Town set out their stall to do a specific job: Alan White was recalled for a midfield defensive job which he carried out perfectly. The plan was to ensure no goal was conceded, and then cash in when the inevitable dip in Bury's form occurred.

It was going smoothly for an hour, with Bury becoming more and more frustrated as the Town smothered their attacks, with Nathan Abbey making decent saves when he had to.

Conditions were awful - a blustery icy wind, with rain, snow and sunshine chasing each other around Lancashire. The pitch, used for Rugby League as well as soccer, cut up, not helped by a kids' five-a-side tournament taking place on it before kick-off and during half time.

For most of the first half Bury pressed forward without looking lethal, and the best opening of that 45 minutes was created by the Town. Phil Gray won the ball in midfield, and sent Stuart Douglas on a run for goal. He did well to muscle his way past Danny Swailes, but Paddy Kenny saved Bury in the one-on-one confrontation, saving with his leg as he spread himself.

Town counter-attacks always looked sharp and promising, and at the start of the second half Bury duly went through the bad patch Lennie Lawrence had forecast. But Kenny made one of several good saves that earned him the man of the match award to frustrate Adam Locke, and just as the Town seemed to be ready to take full command, a mistake by Douglas in midfield gave Bury the chance to counter-attack. They showed how it should be done: Preece took the ball from Douglas, and set up Adrian Littlejohn for a run down the left wing. He evaded Gavin McGowan, who got the nod ahead of Emmerson Boyce in the Town side, and expertly curled a shot into the far corner of the net.

The Town responded by putting on the subs to revert to three attackers, with plenty of support to make it four or five on occasions.

Bury were on the ropes for the last 25 minutes, but 14 minutes from time they had an amazing let-off. Locke worked his way deep into their penalty area with the ball, and left defender Paul Williams turned inside out so comprehensively that he fell over. On the ground he scooped the ball away with his hand, and few could believe that referee Johnson, a school groundsman, had not seen it.

Match Details

Luton Town: Abbey, McGowan (Boyce 72 mins), Watts, Doherty, Johnson, White (George 67 mins), Locke, Douglas (Fotiadis 62 mins), Spring, Gray, Taylor. Unused subs: Fraser, Tate.

Booked: Gavin McGowan, 32 mins, foul on Adrian Littlejohn.

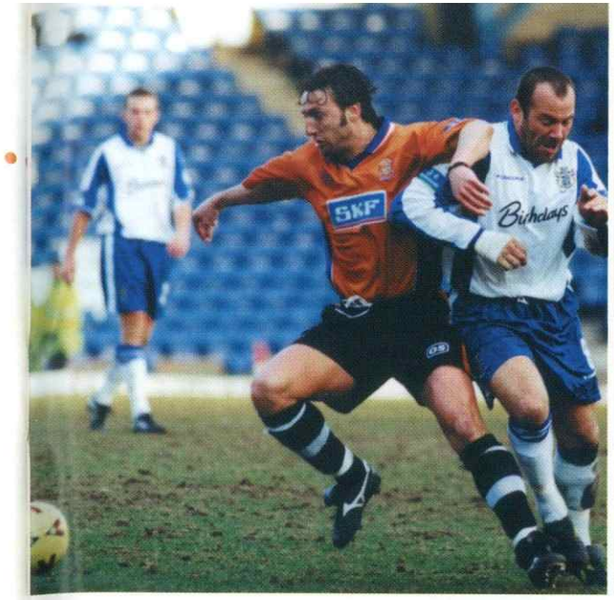
Bury: Kenny, Williams, Daws, Bullock, James (Avdiu 74 mins), Redmond, Preece, Lawson (Billy 78 mins), Littlejohn, Swailes, Barrass.

Booked: Player-manager Andy Preece, 28 mins, dissent with language which was clearly foul and abusive, which is supposed to earn a red card; Darren Bullock, 30 mins, foul on Adam Locke.

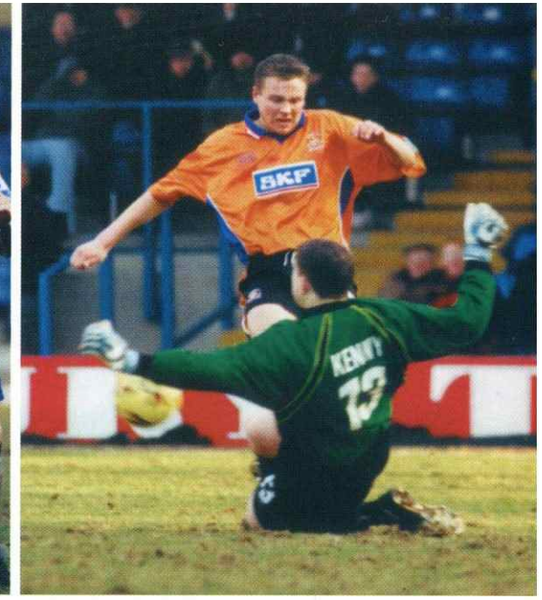
The goal: Adrian Littlejohn, excellent strike into the far bottom corner from the left wing, near the angle of the penalty area.

Referee: Paul Johnson, Hull.

Attendance: 3,760, including 554 supporting the Town.



● DRIVING ON: Adam Locke gets the better of Darren Bullock on a run into the opposition's penalty area at Gigg Lane.



● LAST DITCH: Paddy Kenny spreads himself to beat Matthew Taylor to the ball, one of several saves which led to the goalkeeper taking the man of the match award.

● CONCENTRATION: Phil Gray in typical action at Bury, trying to elude two defenders.

● CLOSE QUARTERS: Stuart Douglas battles for possession with Danny Swailes.

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The Reserves

Trevor Hartley and John Moore

Barnet 1 Luton Town 1

WITH three trialists in the team we played well at Underhill, and would have won if we had taken more of the chances we created. Andy Smith, from Barnsley, was playing his second trial match, and two others came in: Neil Murphy from Liverpool, and 17-year-old midfielder Dean Standen, who made a big impression when he played against us for Welling Utd in the FA Youth Cup.

Smith's free kick led to our first-half goal, with Andre Scarlett tapping in after Alan White's header was parried by the keeper.

Paul McLaren, who was given an hour in his first game after injury, and Standen, who replaced him, also went close, but we conceded en equaliser when wing-back Murphy tried to chest the ball back to goalkeeper Daniel Tate - shades of Gary Neville! - but gave it to a Barnet player instead.

Luton Town: Tate, Murphy, White, Fraser, Ayres, Stirling, Smith, McLaren (Standen 60 mins)., Kandol, McIndoe, Scarlett (Fotiadis HT). Unused subs: Moran, Jerry, Ward.

Southend Utd 0 Luton Town 2

WE HAD more experience than usual in our team at Roots Hall on Wednesday, and for a change we were up against a younger side. With Andrew Fotiadis playing well, particularly as a provider for others, the result was never in doubt. Paul McLaren played his second game, and this time for the whole 90 minutes, and scored.

He lashed in a right foot shot from a telling run and pass by Fotiadis in the 30th minute. We created numerous chances, and Tresor Kandol should have had more goals. But it was encouraging to see him get into the right positions at the right time. He got his reward in the 70th minute, taking his time and shooting into the corner of the net after being played in by a through-ball by Fotiadis.

Stuart Fraser had a good game in a solid defence, and trialist Andy Wright, a young left-footer who has been with Leeds and Fortuna Sittard, Phil Gray's old club, put in a good performance wide on the left. His dribbling and pace caught the eye, and we will probably have another look at him. Michael McIndoe also did well, despite being used out of position, as left wing-back.

Luton Town: Tate, Murphy, Moran, Scarlett, Fraser, Stirling, Wright. McLaren, Kandol, McIndoe, Fotiadis Subs, all unused: Minton, Jerry, Carroll, Mansell, Ward.

Reserve team appearances, including as sub: Kandol 14, Stirling 14, Scarlett 13, Ayres 13, Jerry 11, Tate 11, Boyce 10, McIndoe 10, Moran 8, Sodje 7, White 7, Fotiadis 6, Locke 5, Ward 5, Zahana-Oni 4, Fraser 4, Minton 4, Mansell 3, O'Connor 3, Graham 3, Clarke 3, Barriteau 3, McGowan 3, Read 2, Gray 2, Pearson 2, Davis 2, Brkovic 2, Dogbe 2, Mortara 2, Harrison 2, Murphy 2, Smith 2, McLaren 2, Carroll 1, Wright 1, Barnett 1, Standen 1, Cummings 1, Thorpe 1, Jones 1, Hunt 1, Bowes 1, O'Brien 1, Ryan 1, Jack 1, Antunes 1, McKinnon 1, Estebar 1, Quailey 1, Whitby 1.

Goals: Kandol 9, Jerry 2, Scarlett 1, McIndoe 1, Fotiadis 1, McLaren 1, OG 1.

WE WILL be at home next Wednesday to Millwall in the Avon Insurance Combination. Kick-off at Kenilworth Road will be at 2pm.

Avon Insurance Combination

Results and Fixtures

AUG	**Wed 18**	**Bristol City**	**H**	**1-3 (Kandol)**
SEPT	Wed 1	Portsmouth	A	0-1
	Wed 8	**Swindon**	**H**	**0-1**
	Tue 28	Oxford	A	2-4 (Jerry, Kandol)
OCT	**Wed 6**	**Wycombe**	**H**	**5-2 (Kandol 4, OG)**
	Wed 13	Brighton	A	2-1 (Jerry, Kandol)
	Wed 27	Bristol Rov	A	0-0
NOV	**Wed 3**	**Norwich**	**H**	**1-1 (Kandol)**
	Wed 17	Ipswich	A	0-2
DEC	**Wed 1**	**Colchester**	**H**	**1-1 (McIndoe)**
	Wed 22	**Peterborough**	**H**	**0-4**
JAN	Wed 12	Cambridge Utd	A	1-3 (Fotiadis)
	Wed 19	**Northampton**	**H**	**0-1**
FEB	**Wed 2**	**QPR**	**H**	**0-2**
	Wed 9	Barnet	A	1-1 (Scarlett)
	Wed 16	Southend	A	2-0 (McLaren, Kandol)
	Wed 23	**Millwall**	**H**	**2pm**
MAR	Wed 1	L. Orient	A	2pm
	Wed 29	**Gillingham**	**H**	**2pm**
APRIL	**Wed 5**	**Bournemouth**	**H**	**2pm**
	Wed 12	Fulham	A	2pm

Avon Insurance Combination, Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QPR	15	10	3	2	34	12	33
Millwall	15	9	5	1	32	13	32
Ipswich	14	9	3	2	35	22	30
Swindon	15	9	2	4	26	19	29
Peterborough	16	7	4	5	31	19	25
Bristol City	12	7	4	1	23	13	25
Fulham	14	7	3	4	22	15	24
Portsmouth	12	7	2	3	20	14	23
Cambridge	16	6	4	6	27	28	22
Bournemouth	13	6	3	4	19	21	21
Norwich	15	4	6	5	21	17	18
Leyton Orient	15	5	3	7	21	33	18
Gillingham	11	5	1	5	14	16	16
Oxford	16	4	3	9	26	35	15
Bristol Rovers	12	3	5	4	17	15	14
Brighton	10	4	1	5	17	18	13
Luton Town	**16**	**3**	**4**	**9**	**16**	**27**	**13**
Colchester	14	3	4	7	16	31	13
Northampton	13	3	3	7	16	24	12
Southend	15	3	1	11	19	39	10
Wycombe	10	2	1	7	11	23	7
Barnet	13	1	3	9	14	24	6

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Youth Soccer

Paul Lowe

Luton Town 1 Cambridge Utd 0

A WELL-deserved victory against one of the top teams in our division gave us a satisfying conclusion to our fixtures in the South Central Conference of the Football League Youth Alliance.

It left us wondering about what might have been, because for a change we had a full squad to choose from, and the win was no fluke against opponents who needed only to be sure of the championship.

A very strong wind made it difficult to play passing football, and when we had it behind us in the first half we over-hit our forward passes too often, so we had nothing to show for dominating the first 45 minutes. We had created a few half chances, and one very good one, when Rene Barriteau crossed to the far post. Ryan Moran was unmarked for his header, but put it wide.

We knew what to expect in the second half, with Cambridge enjoying conditions that favoured their long-ball game, but we defended well, and put together some good passing moves. Scott Ward had to make a couple of saves, and we got the winner with 20 minutes to go, thanks to quick thinking by Moses Jerry and Jude Stirling. We were awarded a free kick, and Jerry took it quickly, with Stirling already on an overlap run. He got behind their back four and delivered a good cross. Tresor Kandol was going for it, but a defender beat him to the ball, and in trying to put it away for a corner he hammered in a spectacular own goal.

We had to withstand a barrage after that as Cambridge threw everyone forward, but we held firm, and the only dodgy moment came when Ward was penalised for delaying a clearance too long. Our defensive wall did its job from the shot that followed the indirect free kick in the penalty area.

In all the circumstances, with Cambridge up for it, I felt it was a very pleasing result, showing that we can compete with the best when we have all our players available.

Luton Town: Ward, Stirling, Moran, Carroll, Minton, Dogbe (Deeney 85 mins), Mansell, Jerry, Barriteau (Mortara 70 mins), Clarke (Jeffrey 60 mins), Kandol. Unused subs: Mentore, Wraight.

WE WERE expecting to begin our supplementary season in the Alliance today, with the first of eight fixtures, but details had not reached us as we went to press.

Youth team appearances, including as sub: Mortara 24, Moran 24, Clarke 23, Carroll 22, Mansell 22, Barriteau 21, Dogbe 21, Stirling 21, Jerry 17, Ayres 15, Deeney 15, Jeffrey 14, Mentore 13, Ward 12, Minton 12, Wraight 11, Flaherty 6, Crane 6, Kandol 6, Oughan 3, Thresher 3, Milton 2, Coktas 2, Osborne 2, de Freitas 2, Talbot 2, Tate 1, Dosdogru 1, Cooper 1, Miller 1, Wilson 1, Nurse 1.

Goals: Stirling 6, Clarke 4, Ayres 3, Jeffrey 3, Kandol 3, Moran 3, Flaherty 2, Jerry 1, Mentore 1, OG 3.

Football League Youth Alliance South Central Conference

AUG	**Sat 14**	**Walsall**	**H**	**0-0**
	Sat 21	**West Brom**	**H**	**2-1 (Kandol 2)**
	Sat 28	Cambridge Utd	A	1-4 (Ayres)
SEPT	**Sat 4**	**Notts Co**	**H**	**2-1 (Ayres, Stirling pen)**
	Sat 18	**Oxford Utd**	**H**	**1-1 (Jerry)**
	Sat 25	Wolves	A	0-5
OCT	**Sat 2**	**Northampton**	**H**	**3-1** (Jeffrey, Clarke, Stirling)
	Sat 16	Shrewsbury	A	0-2
	Wed 20	**Sutton Utd** (FAYC1)	**H**	**2-0 (Moran, Flaherty)**
	Sat 23	**Southend** (FLAYC)	**A**	**1-2 (Ayres)**
NOV	**Sat 6**	**Cambridge** (FLYAC)	**H**	**1-2 (OG)**
	Wed 10	**Maidenhead** (FAYC2)	**H**	**5-0** (Clarke 2, Stirling 2, Jeffrey)
	Sat 13	Barnet (FLYAC)	A	0-1
	Sat 20	**Colchester** (FLYAC)	**H**	**0-1**
	Sat 27	Notts Co	A	0-0
	Mon 29	Welling (FAYC3)	A	3-1 (Flaherty, Jeffrey, Clarke)
DEC	Sat 11	Oxford Utd	A	2-2 (Stirling, Moran)
	Sat 18	**Wolves**	**H**	**2-2 (OG, Kandol)**
JAN	**Sat 8**	**Shrewsbury**	**H**	**1-3 (Stirling)**
	Tues 11	Southampton (FAYC4)	A	0-4
	Sat 15	Northampton	A	2-0 (Moran, Mentore)
	Sat 22	Walsall	A	0-2
FEB	Sat 5	West Brom	A	0-1
	Sat 12	**Cambridge Utd**	**H**	**1-0 (OG)**
MAR	Wed 1	Cup quarter-final		
	Wed 22	Cup semi-final		
APR	Sun 16	Cup final		

League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	15	8	4	3	30	17	28
Walsall	16	8	4	4	28	21	28
West Brom	14	7	1	6	30	21	22
Wolves	15	6	4	5	22	21	22
Notts Co	14	5	5	4	14	10	20
Luton Town	16	5	5	6	17	24	20
Oxford	13	4	5	4	16	23	17
Northampton	15	4	2	9	25	32	14
Shrewsbury	16	3	4	9	19	32	13

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Biggest Wins & Defeats ; Top Scorers

Goals	Player	League / Lge Cup / FA Cup
4-0 v Oxford & Colchester 1-5 Notts County		
13	Stein	10 2 1
2-0 v Wycombe / 3-1 v Gillingham 0-5 Bury		
10	Murphy	10 0 0
3-0 Colchester 1-4 v Bournemouth / 0-3 v Oldham & Bristol Rovers		
10	Owusu	9 0 1
5-2 v Blackpool / 3-0 v Chesterfield 0-3 v Gillingham & Oxford		
7	Thorpe	6 1 0
5-0 Oxford 1-3 Wigan		
20	Roberts	17 3 0
5-0 Wrexham 2-4 v Bury / 0-2 v Notts County		
19	Payton	19 0 0
5-0 Blackpool 5 games by a 2 goal margin		
12	Lawson	11 1 0
5-2 Colchester 4 games by a 2 goal margin		
11	Benjamin	8 0 3
3-0 Colchester 0-4 Preston		
10	Nugent	7 1 2
4-2 v Cambridge / 2-0 v Millwall & Preston 0-3 v Bristol City & Wycombe & Wigan		
11	Reeves	9 2 0
3-0 Luton 0-4 Bournemouth		
11	Tresor Lua Lua/McGavin	9/1 11/0 1/0
5-1 Wrexham 4 games by a 2 goal margin		
9	Southall	5 1 3
4-1 Scunthorpe 0-3 v Colchester & Bristol Rovers		
15	George	13 0 2
5-0 Reading 5 games by a 2 goal margin		
15	Harris	15 0 0
5-1 Bournemouth 0-2 v Wigan & Preston & Bristol Rovers		
10	Stallard	10 0 0
3-0 Brentford 0-3 Burnley		
11	Allott	10 1 0
3-0 Bristol City 0-5 Bristol Rovers		
14	Murphy	8 3 3
4-0 v Oxford & Cardiff 1-4 Wigan		
21	Macken	18 2 1
4 games by a 2 goal margin 0-5 Millwall		
21	Butler	16 3 2
3-1 v Cambridge & Bournemouth 5 games by a 3 goal margin		
9	Ipoua	9 0 0
4-0 Wycombe 0-3 Gillingham		
10	Thorne	9 1 0
3-0 v Chesterfield & Scunthorpe / 4-1 v Preston 0-1 v Colchester & Oldham		
21	Barlow	17 2 2
2-0 v Scunthorpe & Bury 0-5 Burnley		
10	Faulconbridge	9 0 1
3-0 Chesterfield 0-4 Stoke		
18	Devine	16 1 1

1999-00 Season Division 2 Campaign Records

Highest Gate.....16,821 Preston v Blackpool 18-Dec
Lowest Gate.....2,254 Chesterfield v Bristol City 7-Dec
Highest Aggregate Score .....Colchester 5-4 Bristol Rovers 8-Jan
Biggest Home Win .....Burnley 5-0 Wrexham 2-Nov
.....Millwall 5-0 Reading 16-Nov
Biggest Away Win.....Blackpool 0-5 Bury 16-Oct
.....Oxford 0-5 Bristol Rovers 22-Jan
Consecutive Wins .....Bristol Rovers, Millwall 6
Games Unbeaten.....Wigan 24
Consecutive Defeats.....Oldham 5
Games without a Win.....Chesterfield 18

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins...Bristol City, Burnley, Bury, Gillingham, Notts .....County, Reading 2
Games Unbeaten.....Bristol City 8
Consecutive Defeats.....Blackpool, Chesterfield, Oldham, Wrexham 2
Games without a Win .....Cardiff 8

NATIONWIDE DIVISION 2 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Stats compiled by FOOTBALL INFORMATION SERVICES Tel: 0151-632 5679

In association with MATCH (The UK's Biggest Selling Football Magazine)

How Clubs have scored... and conceded

	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG
Bournemouth	13	7	6	2	1	5	12	0
Blackpool	14	12	6	1	1	1	16	1
Brentford	8	6	5	3	1	5	12	1
Bristol City	6	4	5	4	1	0	11	1
Bristol Rovers	3	3	8	2	1	1	6	0
Burnley	3	6	6	1	0	3	3	2
Bury	6	5	5	2	0	0	18	0
Cambridge United	12	7	5	7	0	3	9	0
Cardiff City	12	4	6	10	0	3	6	0
Chesterfield	12	3	6	3	0	2	8	1
Colchester United	13	10	7	5	1	2	19	1
Gillingham	7	7	4	4	1	4	7	0
Luton Town	16	6	4	6	1	0	9	1
Millwall	4	5	5	1	1	4	12	1
Notts County	9	5	1	5	0	3	7	1
Oldham Athletic	11	9	2	3	0	4	7	0
Oxford United	6	12	4	7	2	3	12	0
Preston North End	7	4	3	2	1	2	6	0
Reading	10	5	5	8	1	2	15	2
Scunthorpe United	15	0	7	7	2	1	13	1
Stoke City	9	5	2	1	0	3	9	2
Wigan Athletic	8	1	0	4	0	4	7	0
Wrexham	10	10	8	2	1	1	13	0
Wycombe Wanderers	15	7	4	7	0	2	3	0

	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG
9	4	7	6	1	2	10	3	Bournemouth
11	3	2	3	1	1	11	0	Blackpool
9	4	9	5	0	0	13	0	Brentford
5	7	4	7	0	2	10	1	Bristol City
9	5	6	3	2	4	18	0	Bristol Rovers
16	8	2	1	0	4	10	0	Burnley
11	9	5	3	0	3	9	2	Bury
12	5	2	4	0	3	5	2	Cambridge United
6	6	5	7	0	1	2	1	Cardiff City
3	2	4	2	0	3	3	0	Chesterfield
9	9	7	3	1	3	8	0	Colchester United
8	4	10	9	1	2	16	0	Gillingham
10	7	7	3	0	2	14	0	Luton Town
11	8	1	6	0	3	15	0	Millwall
16	7	4	1	2	0	12	1	Notts County
14	3	2	2	2	1	8	0	Oldham Athletic
5	4	2	3	0	3	7	1	Oxford United
11	13	7	4	2	5	9	2	Preston North End
9	6	2	3	1	4	12	0	Reading
7	3	4	1	0	3	10	0	Scunthorpe United
13	7	6	6	0	1	8	1	Stoke City
10	7	9	5	0	4	13	1	Wigan Athletic
8	4	3	7	0	1	7	0	Wrexham
6	9	5	3	3	3	9	0	Wycombe Wanderers

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

Referee	G	R	Y	Ave
Hill	19	5	82	4.32
Barry	6	3	25	4.17
Bates	20	7	78	3.90
Wilkes	20	5	74	3.70
Fletcher	23	5	85	3.70
Tomlin	20	3	72	3.60
Bennett	12	1	43	3.58
Foy	21	7	74	3.52
Wilkie	6	0	21	3.50
Parkes	19	5	66	3.47
Warren	17	1	59	3.47
Lynch	20	12	67	3.35
Knight	11	4	36	3.27
Ryan	20	8	64	3.20
Wiley	6	1	19	3.17

refs who've officiated more than 4 games

Key :
G = Number of games
R = Number of red cards
Y = Number of yellow cards
Ave = Number of yellow cards per game

Club	Y	R	Points
Millwall	68	4	80
Wrexham	49	5	64
Reading	56	2	62
Wycombe	39	7	60
Bristol Rovers	49	2	55
Blackpool	44	3	53
Bury	42	3	51
Notts County	48	1	51
Cardiff	35	5	50
Brentford	37	4	49
Cambridge	40	3	49
Wigan	40	3	49
Burnley	41	2	47
Stoke	41	2	47
Colchester	40	2	46
Oxford	40	2	46
Bristol City	35	3	44
Luton	35	2	41
Oldham	33	1	36
Scunthorpe	31	1	34
Preston	27	2	33
Bournemouth	27	1	30
Gillingham	27	1	30
Chesterfield	21	1	24

2nd Division Scene

Brian Swain

THE thrilling home win over Stoke used up the Town's game in hand over Brentford, and edged them above the Londoners in the Second Division table to ninth, on goal difference. But we dropped back to tenth on Saturday, because while we were losing at Bury Brentford were collecting a 1-1 draw at Cardiff, who dropped into the bottom four as a result.

With the transfer deadline a month away, clubs are looking for new recruits, to boost promotion efforts, or stave off relegation.

Brentford's new signing was their old favourite Carl Hutchings, returning on loan from Bristol City, and today's visitors have made a couple of signings to strengthen their bid for First Division football next season. They paid £150,000 for Vitalijs Astafjevs, the captain of Latvia, and another £50,000 for 20-year-old Trinidad and Tobago striker Nigel Pierre, on the recommendation of his international team-mate Dwight Yorke.

On the Latvian's home debut Rovers were surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw by Scunthorpe, after a Mark Walters free kick had given them the lead. That kept the Pirates in second place, but Preston moved two points clear at the top by winning 1-0 at Chesterfield, thanks to a 25-yard cracker by Sean Gregan.

Our chances of reaching the play-of places depend on us having a good run, and teams above hitting a bad patch. Notts County, perhaps? Cambridge did us a favour on Tuesday, collecting their first away win of the season, 3-2 at Meadow Lane after being 2-1 down at half time.

Perhaps Wigan are also due for a tumble. League leaders from mid-November to late last month, they went 21 games without defeat until early December, the best record anywhere in the country. But since the turn of the year they have managed just one victory, at Oxford on January 3, and have failed to win any of their five league games since. Saturday's 1-0 home defeat by Colchester left Wigan leading the play-off chasers.

Burnley are up to fourth, and their latest signing is 36-year-old former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright, who has joined them from Celtic until his retirement at the end of the season. Before his arrival, Andy Payton's header, his 19th goal of the season, was enough to earn Burnley their third away win of the season, at Bournemouth.

Millwall dropped a peg with a surprise 2-0 defeat at Reading, another club where they hope that money talks. Survival is Reading's aim - their defeat at Kenilworth Road last month made it 13 games without a win, but they have since taken 10 points out of 12. But they were beaten 43-0 at Bristol City on Tuesday in the Auto Windscreens Shield quarter-finals. Reading have bought defender Matthew Robinson from Portsmouth for £150,000 and striker Martin Butler from Cambridge for £750,000.

Victory over Millwall pushed Reading up to 17th place - and chairman John Madejski thinks they can now push for a play-off spot. If he's right, we must still have a wonderful chance with a mere eight-point deficit to make up over the last 15 matches compared to Reading's 19!

Gillingham, 3-1 winners at Oldham, may be the team we most need to overhaul - currently seventh, by tonight they will have three or four games in hand on most, because they are in the FA Cup quarter-final tomorrow, at Chelsea. The game that had to be postponed today was at home to Cardiff.

The Second Division

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	29	10	2	2	25	14	8	6	1	28	11	62
Bristol Rov	30	10	4	1	22	9	8	2	5	25	15	60
Wigan	29	10	3	2	25	9	5	9	0	24	15	57
Burnley	29	12	1	1	29	9	3	8	4	12	15	54
Millwall	31	9	5	1	23	11	6	4	6	21	22	54
Stoke	31	7	6	3	21	15	7	3	5	21	16	51
Gillingham	28	9	2	3	29	15	5	5	4	21	19	49
Notts Co	31	7	3	6	25	20	7	4	4	20	14	49
Brentford	31	8	3	4	23	18	4	5	7	17	23	44
Luton Town	31	9	4	2	31	19	3	3	10	12	24	43
Bristol City	30	4	11	0	18	8	5	3	7	18	24	41
Wycombe	30	7	3	5	22	19	3	6	6	16	19	39
Bournemouth	31	8	4	4	27	14	3	2	10	15	32	39
Bury	28	6	6	3	27	23	3	5	5	15	13	38
Oldham	30	6	3	6	19	16	4	4	7	13	20	37
Colchester	31	6	3	6	24	28	4	4	8	16	30	37
Reading	30	5	8	3	18	14	2	3	9	19	34	32
Wrexham	30	4	5	5	15	17	3	5	8	15	28	31
Scunthorpe	30	4	3	8	11	21	3	6	6	17	25	30
Oxford	30	3	4	8	13	24	4	3	8	12	22	28
Cardiff	30	3	8	4	15	20	2	4	9	13	21	27
Blackpool	31	2	6	8	17	28	3	4	8	15	24	25
Cambridge	29	4	5	5	23	22	1	4	10	13	23	24
Chesterfield	30	3	5	7	9	13	1	5	9	8	22	22

Today's other Second Division fixtures

Brentford v Wycombe	Millwall v Bournemouth
Bristol City v Notts County	Oxford v Chesterfield
Burnley v Wigan	Preston v Bury
Cambridge v Blackpool	Scunthorpe v Reading
Colchester v Stoke	Wrexham v Oldham

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Statistics

fixtures 1999/2000

	date	opposition		result	scorers	league place	attnd.	team										substitutes
AUGUST	Sat 7	Notts Co	A	0-0		–	6,141	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Johnson	Douglas	McLaren	Gray	Spring	McIndoe	Taylor	Boyce for Taylor, 70 mins. Unused: George, Scarlett, Zahana-Oni, Tate
	Tue 10	**WC1 (1) Bristol Rov**	**H**	**0-2**		**–**	**2,984**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**White**	**Boyce**	**Douglas**	**McLaren**	**Gray**	**Spring**	**McIndoe**	**Taylor**	**Doherty for White HT; Fotiadis for Douglas 60 mins; George for McIndoe 60 mins. Unused: Zahana-Oni, Tate**
	Sat 14	**Blackpool**	**H**	**3-2**	**George 2, Spring**	**7**	**5,176**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**McLaren**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Fotiadis**	**Taylor**	**McKinnon for Fotiadis 75 mins; Zahana-Oni for Douglas 83 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 89 mins. Unused: Boyce, Tate**
	Sat 21	Reading	A	2-1	Fotiadis, George	3	8,741	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	McIndoe for Fotiadis 79 mins. Unused: Sodje, White, McKinnon, Tate
	Wed 25	WC1 (2) Bristol Rov	A	2-2	Kandol, Doherty	3	4,414	Abbey	Locke	Sodje	Boyce	White	Watts	Gray	McKinnon	Douglas	McIndoe	Kandol	Doherty for Douglas 67 mins; Fotiadis for Kandol 67 mins. Unused: Scarlett, Davis, Ward
	Sat 28	**Cardiff**	**H**	**1-0**	**Gray**	**2**	**5,374**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**McLaren**	**Gray**	**Spring**	**Fotiadis**	**Taylor**	**Douglas for Fotiadis 66 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 81mins; McKinnon for George 84 mins. Unused: Sodje, Tate**
	Tues 31	Bournemouth	A	0-1		2	4,797	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren	Gray	Spring	Fotiadis	Taylor	Douglas for Fotiadis 60 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 81mins. Unused: McKinnon, Sodje, Tate
SEPT	**Sat 4**	**Bury**	**H**	**1-1**	**Fotiadis**	**5**	**4,633**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**McLaren**	**Gray**	**Spring**	**Fotiadis**	**Taylor**	**Douglas for Fotiadis 73 mins; McIndoe for George 73 mins. Unused: McKinnon, Sodje, Tate**
	Sat 11	**Wrexham**	**H**	**3-1**	**Taylor, Spring, George**	**3**	**5,121**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**McLaren**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Fotiadis**	**Taylor**	**Kandol for Fotiadis HT; McKinnon for McLaren 62 mins; Sodje for Johnson 75 mins. Unused: Scarlett, Tate**
	Sat 18	Brentford	A	0-2		5	7,039	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	Kandol	Taylor	Sodje for Kandol 70 mins. Unused: White, Boyce, Scarlett, Tate
	Sat 25	**Oxford Utd**	**H**	**4-2**	**George 2, Fraser, Locke**	**3**	**6,102**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Locke**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Midgley**	**Taylor**	**McIndoe for Midgley 66 mins. Unused: Sodje, Kandol, Scarlett, Tate**
OCTOBER	Sat 2	Wigan	A	0-1		8	6,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for McLaren 73 mins; Midgley for Locke 77 mins. Unused: Sodje, White, Ward
	Sat 9	Oldham	A	1-2	Midgley	10	4,532	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	Gray	Locke	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Kandol for Gray 50 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 67 mins; Midgley for Douglas 67 mins. Unused: White, Ward
	Sat 16	**Gillingham**	**H**	**3-1**	**George 2 (1pen), Douglas**	**7**	**6,394**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Midgley**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**McLaren**	**Taylor**	**Locke for Midgley 80 mins; McIndoe for McLaren 85 mins. Unused: Kandol, Sodje, Ward**
	Tue 19	**Wycombe**	**H**	**1-1**	**Douglas**	**7**	**5,820**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Midgley**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**McLaren**	**Taylor**	**McIndoe for Midgley 75 mins. Unused: Kandol, Sodje, Ward**
	Sat 23	Oxford Utd	A	1-0	George	7	5,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Midgley 72 mins; Locke for Douglas 77 mins. Unused: Kandol, Sodje, Ward
	Sat 30	**Kingstonian (FA Cup 1)**	**H**	**4-2**	**Gray, George, Spring, Taylor**	**7**	**4,682**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Gray**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**McLaren**	**Taylor**	**McIndoe for Gray 30 mins; Boyce for Fraser 39 mins. Unused: White, Sodje, Ward**
NOVEMBER	Tue 2	Millwall	A	0-1		9	6,181	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	McIndoe for Midgley HT. Unused: White, Sodje, Locke, Ward
	Sat 6	**Burnley**	**H**	**2-1**	**Midgley 2**	**8**	**7,205**	**Abbey**	**Boyce**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Midgley**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**McLaren**	**Taylor**	**McIndoe for Douglas 73 mins; Locke for McLaren 79 mins; Kandol for Midgley 88 mins. Unused: Sodje, Ward**
	Fri 12	Cambridge Utd	A	1-3	George	9	6,211	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Sodje for Boyce HT; Locke for McLaren 59 mins; McIndoe for Midgley 59 mins. Unused: Kandol, Ward
	Fri 19	**Lincoln (FA Cup 2)**	**H**	**2-2**	**Doherty 2**	**10**	**4,291**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Locke**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**McLaren**	**Taylor**	**Sodje for Locke HT; McIndoe for McLaren 83 mins. Unused: Boyce Kandol, Ward**
	Tue 23	**Preston**	**H**	**0-2**		**10**	**5,124**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Sodje**	**George**	**Midgley**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**McLaren**	**Taylor**	**McIndoe for McLaren 62 mins; White for Midgley 62 mins; Boyce for Fraser 75 mins. Unused: Locke, Ward**
	Sat 27	Bristol Rov	A	0-3		10	7,805	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty	Locke	Spring	McLaren	McIndoe	Thorpe for Doherty 61 mins; Boyce for Watts 86 mins. Unused: Taylor, Douglas, Ward
	Tue 30	Lincoln (FA Cup 2R)	A	1-0	Douglas	10	3,822	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty	Douglas	Spring	McLaren	Taylor	Locke for McLaren 50 mins. Unused: Boyce, Kandol, McIndoe, Ward
DECEMBER	**Sat 4**	**Notts County**	**H**	**2-2**	**Doherty, Thorpe**	**11**	**5,195**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Thorpe**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Locke**	**Taylor**	**Boyce for Fraser 60 mins; Sodje for Douglas 81 mins. Unused: Kandol, Scarlett, Tate**
	Tue 7	Oxford (AWS 1)	A	0-2		11	1,220	Abbey	Fraser	Sodje	Ayres	Johnson	George	Doherty	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Boyce	Read for Douglas HT; Scarlett for Locke 69 mins. Unused: Taylor, Jerry, Tate
	Sat 11	Fulham (FA Cup 3)	A	2-2	George, Spring	10	8,251	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Taylor	All unused: Boyce, Scarlett, Jerry, Ayres, Tate
	Fri 17	Colchester	A	0-3		11	3,049	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Thorpe	Doherty	Spring	Locke	Taylor	McLaren for George 62 mins. Unused: Boyce, Scarlett, Read, Ward
	Tues 21	**Fulham (FA Cup 3R)**	**H**	**0-3**		**11**	**8,170**	**Abbey**	**Fraser**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**McLaren**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Locke**	**Taylor**	**Boyce for Fraser 59 mins. Unused: Scarlett, Kandol, Ayres, Tate**
	Sun 26	**Chesterfield**	**H**	**1-1**	**Locke**	**13**	**5,870**	**Abbey**	**Boyce**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Thorpe**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Locke**	**Taylor**	**McLaren for Spring 73 mins; Gray for Thorpe 74 mins. Unused: Fraser, Fotiadis, Tate**
	Tue 28	Bristol City	A	0-0		12	11,832	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	White	Gray	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Taylor	Fotiadis for Douglas 83 mins. Unused: George, Fraser, Scarlett, Tate
JAN 2000	**Mon 3**	**Scunthorpe**	**H**	**4-1**	**Spring 2, Douglas, Gray**	**11**	**5,574**	**Abbey**	**Boyce**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Gray**	**Douglas**	**Spring**	**Locke**	**Taylor**	**Fotiadis for Gray 73 mins. Unused: White, Fraser, Scarlett, Tate**
	Sat 8	Stoke	A	1-2	Spring (pen)	12	10,016	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	White	Gray	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Taylor	Fotiadis for Douglas 70 mins; George for White 87 mins. Unused: Fraser, Scarlett, Tate
	Sat 15	Blackpool	A	3-3	Locke, Gray, Taylor	13	5,262	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray	Douglas	Spring	Locke	Taylor	Fotiadis for George 75 mins. Unused: Fraser, Scarlett, Ayres, Tate
	Sat 22	**Reading**	**H**	**3-1**	**Watts, George 2**	**10**	**6,044**	**Abbey**	**Boyce**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Gray**	**Douglas**	**Scarlett**	**Locke**	**McGowan**	**Fotiadis for Douglas 81 mins. Unused: Fraser, Kandol, Ayres, Tate**
	Sun 30	Cardiff	A	3-1	Watts, Spring, George	10	6,185	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Fraser	George	Gray	Douglas	Scarlett	Spring	McGowan	Fotiadis for Douglas 78 mins. Unused: Kandol, Ayres, Stirling, Tate
FEB	**Sat 5**	**Bournemouth**	**H**	**1-2**	**Boyce**	**10**	**5,961**	**Abbey**	**Boyce**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Gray**	**Douglas**	**Locke**	**Spring**	**McGowan**	**Scarlett for McGowan 72 mins; Fotiadis for Douglas 78 mins. Unused: Kandol, Ayres, Tate**
	Tues 8	**Stoke**	**H**	**2-1**	**Gray 2**	**9**	**5,396**	**Abbey**	**Boyce**	**Watts**	**Doherty**	**Johnson**	**George**	**Gray**	**Douglas**	**Locke**	**Spring**	**Taylor**	**McGowan for Boyce 63 mins; Fotiadis for George 74 mins. Unused: Scarlett, Fraser, Tate**
	Sat 12	Bury	A	0-1		10	3,760	Abbey	McGowan	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	White	Gray	Douglas	Locke	Spring	Taylor	Fotiadis for Douglas 62 mins; George for White 67 mins; Boyce for McGowan 72 mins. Unused: Fraser, Tate
	Sat 19	**Bristol Rov**	**H**	**3pm**															
	Sat 26	**Brentford**	**H**	**3pm**															
MARCH	Sat 4	Wrexham	A	3pm															
	Tue 7	Burnley	A	7.45pm															
	Sat 11	**Millwall**	**H**	**3pm**															
	Sat 18	Preston	A	3pm															
	Tue 21	**Cambridge Utd**	**H**	**7.45pm**															
	Sat 25	Chesterfield	A	3pm															
APRIL	**Sat 1**	**Colchester**	**H**	**3pm**															
	Sat 8	Scunthorpe	A	3pm															
	Sat 15	**Bristol City**	**H**	**3pm**															
	Sat 22	Gillingham	A	3pm															
	Mon 24	**Wigan**	**H**	**3pm**															
	Sat 29	Wycombe	A	3pm															
MAY	**Sat 6**	**Oldham**	**H**	**3pm**															

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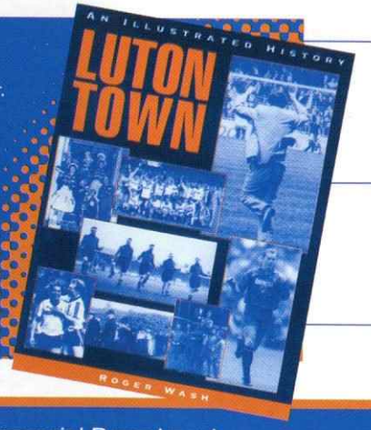

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Today's Teams

V

Luton Town

NATHAN ABBEY	1
EMMERSON BOYCE	17
JULIAN WATTS	40
GARY DOHERTY	12
MARVIN JOHNSON	6
LIAM GEORGE	11
ADAM LOCKE	28
MATTHEW SPRING	4
PHIL GRAY	7
STUART DOUGLAS	9
MATTHEW TAYLOR	15

Substitutes

ALAN WHITE	5
ANDREW FOTIADIS	14
GAVIN McGOWAN	2
STUART FRASER	13
DANIEL TATE(GK)	22

Bristol Rovers

1	LEE JONES
12	ROBBIE PETHICK
5	ANDY THOMSON
6	ANDY TILLSON
4	STEVE FOSTER
30	MARK WALTERS
26	ROB TREES
8	DAVID HILLIER
15	VITALIJS ASTAFJEVS
10	JAMIE CURETON
11	JASON ROBERTS

Substitutes

3	TREVOR CHALLIS
16	MIKE TROUGHT
17	STEPHANE LEONI
18	NATHAN ELLINGTON
29	BRIAN PARKIN

Today's Officials

Referee: Mick Fletcher, Warley, West Midlands
Assistants: J. J. Ross, Chingford (red flag)
R. A. Smith, Loughborough (yellow and red flag)
Reserve official: S. J. Gadsden, Oakley