

LUTON TOWN

Saturday, February 26, 2000, 3pm

Official Matchday Magazine £2.00



v Brentford

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Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

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Gareth Owen

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



Front cover:
Phil Gray rising to the challenge during last week's game against Bristol Rovers - a report and more pictures

are on pages 38 and 39.

A NATIONWIDE search for a goalkeeper ended with Lennie Lawrence going back to one of his old clubs this week to sign 24-year-old Ben Roberts on loan from Middlesbrough.

He comes with some Premiership experience, one England under-21 cap, and two runners-up awards from Wembley - he played for Middlesbrough in the 1997 FA Cup final when they lost to Chelsea, and for Millwall nearly a year ago in the final of the Auto Windscreens Shield, won by Wigan by a single goal.

Roberts was then on loan to Millwall, and played against us in the final game of last season. Millwall wanted to make it a permanent move, but could not agree a deal with Middlesbrough

At the Riverside Roberts is now third choice behind Mark Schwarzer and Marlon Beresford, and as he can opt for a free transfer in the summer, a loan move offering league football suits him as well as the Town. He fits the manager's stock description of players he considers as additions to the squad - "Young and hungry for success."

The same is true of Nathan Abbey, but it was time for the 21-year-old keeper to be taken out of the firing line after his painful experience in last week's game.

Abbey had the bottle to come out to the press area after the game and speak frankly about his feelings. He apologised to the team, the manager and the supporters for "the worst experience of my life."

He feels very low at present, but it's not the end of his world - I remember a young Kelvin Davis getting into the team then suffering a loss of form and a bit of stick from the crowd. He was dropped and Ian Feuer replaced him, but Davis eventually reclaimed the No. 1 jersey and finished up with a big-money move to Wimbledon.

WHILE bringing in one player on loan, the Town were letting it be known this week that they will entertain offers for another - Efe Sodje, who has just come back from the African Nations Cup tournament. He had been away for eight weeks, but failed to get into the Nigerian team for an international debut, although as a squad member he received a runners-up medal after Cameroon won the final in a penalty shoot-out.

Lawrence was angry because a player who was still being paid by the Town took eight days to return, without phoning in the meantime. When the defender did get back, it was to be told that he was being fined and put on the transfer list with immediate effect. The manager will listen to loan or permanent move offers, for a player whose contract expires in the summer.

"I am bitterly disappointed," said the manager. "We were good enough to let him go two weeks before the tournament to give him his chance. If the Nigerian FA can't get them back, then in future they can't have them. For a week after the tournament ended we didn't see or hear from our player, and that is out of order."

TWO more trialists have passed through Kenilworth Road without persuading the Town that they are better than youngsters already on the books. Andy Wright, a left winger who was a trainee at Leeds, and more recently was playing for Fortuna Sittard in Holland - Phil Gray's former club - showed promising flashes in the reserves, but his style would be difficult to accommodate in the pattern the Town use in the Football League, and he was also felt to be less than 100 per cent match fit.

The boss was more interested in 20-year-old Neil Murphy, but he is under contract to Liverpool. That meant he could play no more than two reserve matches as a trialist. The Town would have liked to see him again, but the regulations forbid it, and it became a catch 22 - the trial could not be extended unless he was signed, and there was no way he would be signed unless he had further trials. Who'd be a manager!

TWO players have been "signed up" for a fixture with the fans later this month. Julian Watts and Adam Locke have agreed to be guest speakers at the next Luton Town Supporters Club meeting in the Eric Morecambe Suite on Monday March 13. Tickets are now on sale at £2 for members of LKTS and £3 for others, and can be bought after today's game from the Supporters Club kiosk in Kenilworth Road.

Travelling fans

OURS ON THE ROAD

Notts County	1,531
Reading	1,536
Bristol Rovers (WC)	134
Bournemouth	665
Brentford	1,704
Wigan	985
Oldham	451
Oxford	1,523
Millwall	688
Cambridge	2,152
Bristol Rovers	417
Lincoln (FAC2R)	294
Oxford (AWS)	126
Fulham (FAC3)	2,346
Colchester	384
Bristol City	461
Stoke	651
Blackpool	450
Cardiff	286
Bury	554

Total17,338
Average866

VISITORS TO LUTON

Bristol Rovers (WC)	240
Blackpool	464
Cardiff	992
Bury	198
Wrexham	307
Oxford	745
Gillingham	1,241
Wycombe	711
Kingstonian (FAC1)	571
Burnley	1,392
Lincoln (FAC2)	523
Preston	578
Notts County	328
Fulham	907
Chesterfield	274
Scunthorpe	501
Reading	691
Bournemouth	348
Stoke	719
Bristol Rovers	1,158

Total12,888
Average644

WELL RESPECTED

LIKE the rest of football, we mourn the death this week of Sir Stanley Matthews, and as a mark of respect there will be a minute's silence in his memory before this afternoon's game kicks off. We ask all supporters to be in their places in good time to pay their tribute to one of the true football legends.

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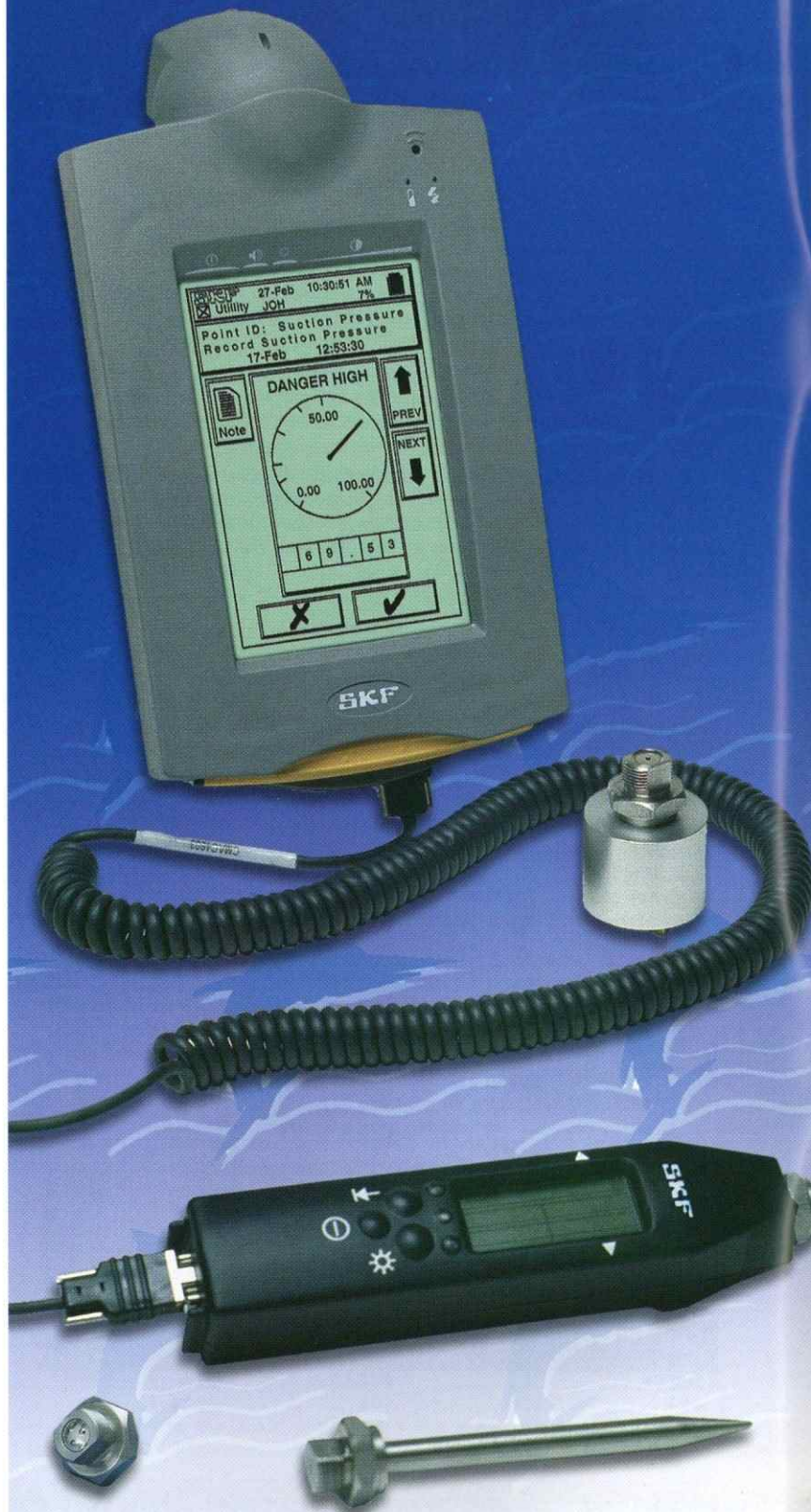
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The Manager

Lennie Lawrence



LAST Saturday's encounter between us and Bristol Rovers will hold a unique place in this season's chapter in the history of Luton Town.

The opening 25 minutes gave no indication of what was to follow. We started the game better than at any time since before Christmas. We scored the important first goal. We created four other clear-cut chances. Equally, we defended extremely well at the other end of the field.

Bristol Rovers did not have a chance or a shot before the errors that led to them scoring twice to give them a lead at half time.

They are just about the last team in the Second Division to surrender a lead, and as we tried to get back at them their counter-attacking style had us at full stretch in the second half.

Having had two efforts from corners cleared off the line, and considering that the fourth Bristol goal came in stoppage time, we felt the result did not do us justice. But you cannot make basic mistakes like those we saw on Saturday and still expect to beat teams like Bristol Rovers.

Games are won and lost in the two penalty areas, and that was cruelly underlined on Saturday. Against Stoke we defended resolutely and took two of our chances to earn victory. Against Bristol Rovers we probably enjoyed more of the play between the two areas than we had done against Stoke. The big difference was in what we did in the penalty boxes - we were not good enough in either of them.

The result was a body-blow to everyone, inside the club and on the terraces. Now we must steady the ship and action was taken this week to bring in Ben Roberts, a goalkeeper from Middlesbrough. We welcome him to Kenilworth Road, and wish him well as a member of our squad. I felt it was a change that had to be made to enable us to move forward again.

But don't forget this is still a young team, and one or two players are finding it difficult at the moment. Those who come through in the end are those who have the character to overcome setbacks and adversity.

There are a lot of points still to play for, and last week's result makes today's game all the more important. Much hangs on it for both teams - the league table shows that today's winners of this game will have struck a telling blow against the losers.

We welcome Brentford, who enjoyed a bright start to the season, including a victory over us at Griffin Park, but who have dipped somewhat in recent times. When we played them in September Hermann Hreidarsson was outstanding, one of the few players in this division who looked capable of moving straight into the Premiership. He did, with Wimbledon, and Brentford are bound to have missed him.

But they are a good side, well coached and well organised, with a lot of good young players. Like us, they now have only an outside chance of reaching the play-offs, which is why I expect to see both teams trying to win today's game. We have been fortunate that despite failing to put a consistent winning run together we have not slipped further behind the top six, but of course the gap gets harder to close as the season's end draws nearer.

My reading of it is that Luton Town and Brentford both need to embark on a better than average run, with four or five wins on the trot needed to put us in contention. That being so, we should be in for a very good contest this afternoon. And, as always, supporters can play their part in giving the team a lift. We are sorry we gave you so little to cheer about last week, and I have no complaints about the reactions of a very disappointed crowd. We shared your feelings, and hopefully today we will make it a much happier occasion for all of us.

Lennie Lawrence

For all the latest news, views and interviews call
CLUBCALL - 09068 121 123

(Calls charged at 60p per minute at all times)

Today's Referee

ONE of the longest-serving referees in the country is in charge of today's game. Kevin Lynch, now from Kirk Hammerton, near York, was a lad of 15 when he passed his first ref's exam and started his career with the whistle in local leagues in Derbyshire in 1967.

He progressed up the pyramid via the Northern Intermediate, Northern Premier and panel leagues to become a linesman with the Football League in 1985, being promoted to the referees list in 1992. That same year he joined FIFA's linesmen's register.

That was much more than a blazer badge, because that same year he ran the line in the UEFA Cup final, Torino v Ajax. In this country, his biggest game to date was as referee of the Football League play-off semi-finals in 1996.

Regional sales manager for a finance company, he lists his hobbies and interests as travelling abroad and enjoying classical music.



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

When Mick Harford returned for another spell at Kenilworth Road during the 1991/92 season he scored two goals in his first match. Who against?

Hatters Roll-Call Season 1999/2000

	APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets)					GOALS			
	League	FAC	WC	AWS	Total	League	FAC	WC	Total
Nathan Abbey	32	5	2	1	40	0	0	0	0
James Ayres	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Emmerson Boyce	13(5)	0(2)	2	1	16(7)	1	0	0	1
Gary Doherty	30	5	0(2)	1	36(2)	1	2	1	4
Stuart Douglas	26(3)	5	2	1	34(3)	3	1	0	4
Andrew Fotiadis	6(9)	0	0(2)	0	6(11)	2	0	0	2
Stuart Fraser	19	5	1	1	26	1	0	0	1
Phil Gray	16(1)	1	2	0	19(1)	6	1	0	7
Liam George	27(2)	5	0(1)	1	33(3)	13(1p)	2	0	15(1p)
Marvin Johnson	30	5	0	1	36	0	0	0	0
Tresor Kandol	1(3)	0	1	0	2(3)	0	0	1	1
Adam Locke	17(4)	3(1)	1	1	22(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	31	5	1	1	38	6(1p)	2	0	8(1p)
Matthew Taylor	28	5	1	0	34	2	1	0	3
Tony Thorpe	3(1)	0	0	0	3(1)	1	0	0	1
Julian Watts	32	5	2	0	39	2	0	0	2
Alan White	4(2)	0	2	0	6(2)	0	0	0	0
Landry Zahana-Oni	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0

Captain's Log

Marvin Johnson



WE HAVE been feeling a bit sick in the dressing room and on the training pitch this week, after what happened in Saturday's game against Bristol Rovers. And I mean all of us, because we were well aware that we had a great chance of beating one of the promotion favourites and narrowing the gap between us and the top six.

In the end it wasn't to be, for a variety of reasons. You can't gift the lead to a team like Rovers, and they were expert at making the most of their good fortune. But 4-1 did not really reflect how it went, when you think that we hit the post when we might have gone two up, and went very close to goals on several occasions.

Not surprisingly the crowd had a bit of a go at Tanny Abbey, and he suffered agonies about the part he played in the game. He got a bit of stick from some of us as well, but we also tried to give him encouragement at half-time. Everyone makes mistakes, whatever profession they are in, and of course they are worse for goalkeepers because they are often punished dramatically. I still get embarrassed about the time the crowd really got at me for a mistake - the day I scored for Aston Villa with a 40-yard "shot" over Les Sealey's head. Believe me, I got a bit of stick in the dressing room as well!

Tanny was feeling very low at half time, and angry with himself. We knew how he felt, because we all felt mentally and physically drained. But we stick together as a team, and knowing Tanny he will get over it, and one day be all the better for it.

He was asked to do a difficult job as the only senior goalkeeper on the books, and overall I think he has been getting better with every match. But as with all young players, it is no bad thing to be taken out of the firing line for a spell, and we are pleased to welcome Ben Roberts into the squad. Hopefully he can help us get moving again, and we, for our part, can help him in his career. He comes from the North East, so I expect Alan White and he will become friends, and

perhaps help each other with translating Alan's brand of Geordie!

Naturally we are pleased to see the back of Bristol Rovers for this season, having met them four times and managed only one draw and three defeats. And while we look at our shortcomings on the day, they deserve some credit for the way they played. It's just a shame that we could not go in at the interval one or two goals to the good, because for the first 25 minutes we more than had the measure of them.

But they are too good to throw away a lead easily, and as we had to push forward to try to get into the game their counter-attacking was always dangerous.

I suspect they will be in the First Division next season, and the question remains about whether we can get there as well. The odds against us have lengthened after recent results, yet the gap has not widened after so many top teams dropped points last week.

We need a lot of results to go in our favour between now and the end of the season, but we still have 42 points to play for, and while the play-offs remain as a mathematical possibility we have got to believe in ourselves and keep trying.

I expect Brentford players are thinking along the same lines. They looked a good side when they beat us at Griffin Park in September, but that was at a time when we had not really sorted ourselves out. I think we are a better team today than we were then, and if you look at the league table it is obvious that today's game is very important for both teams. If we win, we know we will go up one place in the table. If we don't, Brentford will be another team pulling away from us.

We want to get our home results on the right track again, and after losing for three Saturdays in a row we are due a good performance and result today. I know the supporters want the same, and hopefully we will deliver. I have no quibble when supporters let us know they are displeased with what they see. But at the same time, I have learned that encouragement can help us all get the result we want.

Marvin Johnson

Treatment Room

Clive Goodyear



WE ARE reaching a stage of the season when the treatment room is often a very busy place, but at the risk of tempting fate I can report that so far we have avoided a spring-time rush.

It might well be the result of the new fitness regime and long-term benefits from its use during the pre-season training programme. Work done in July and August is always important in preparing professional athletes for a long season, and I think we are now reaping the benefits of the latest knowledge in what you might call sports science.

Much of it is down to the players themselves, and ours have proved to be very professional in following fitness disciplines, including the correct diet.

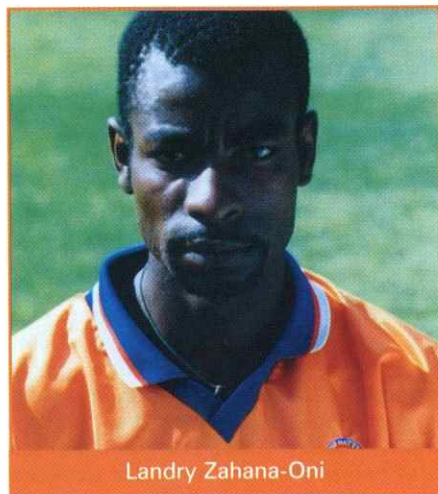
This week, apart from the normal minor aches and pains, our two "customers" in the treatment room have been Paul McLaren and Landry Zahana-Oni. Both are making good progress after injuries, with McLaren now getting close to being available for first-team duty.

On Wednesday he played his third game in the reserves after his toe dislocation and so far as fitness is concerned he has looked better every game he has played.

But it is difficult to judge if his fitness level is back to Football League requirements - reserve matches in this context are very different from first team games. You take no chances with fitness, and you rarely know for sure until the player gets back into the league side.

Luckless Zahana-Oni is still some way short of putting himself into contention for the first team. He is working with a will to get over his knee operation, which means a lot of boring exercise bike riding. It's a matter of hard work to build up muscle strength, and it is not

something you can rush. My judgement is that he needs a couple more weeks of treatment and exercise before he can think about stepping up the pace towards full training, so it is impossible to forecast yet when he might be playing again.



Landry Zahana-Oni

Finally, we breathed a collective sigh of relief when Liam George and Gary Doherty reported back to Kenilworth Road after playing for the Republic of Ireland under-21s in Dublin on Tuesday night. You never now what to expect when players go away for internationals, and it is not unknown for them to pick up injuries in their enthusiasm to serve their country.

In the match against the Czech Republic, George played for half the game and Doherty for the full 90 minutes. Congratulations to Doherty on scoring the opening goal, even though the Czechs came back to win with two in the second half. The other good news for us was that both came back fully fit, and ready to play for us again this afternoon if selected.

Clive Goodyear

Club Secretary

Cherry Newbery



THERE was plenty of comment at the last home game about the entertainment provided by the 1st Harlington Boys Brigade band, and on behalf of the club I would like to thank Mel Westwood for their support. Usually, it

costs money to provide live music at a football ground, but on this occasion the Boys Brigade was actually paying us, as match sponsors.

It was a thank-you for help the club has given the Boys Brigade in the past. A lot goes on quietly behind the scenes in our efforts to contribute to our local community, and it is nice to know that our efforts are appreciated.

I don't suppose supporters ever think too much about another little service we provide, giving out the half-time scores of other games during the interval. I have had several requests from supporters who want the Stevenage score to be added to the normal list. We buy the results service from the Press Association, and they supply score flashes from the Premiership and the Nationwide Football League first. Non-league results reach us later. We do not normally get Conference scores in time to give them out before the PA has to switch off again when our games kick off for the second half. But we will do our best to get the Stevenage score for you where possible.

After today's game our next two fixtures are away, but in a fortnight we entertain Millwall, and I want to stress again that this is an ALL-TICKET match for ALL SUPPORTERS. None will be available on the day, nor will there be cash turnstiles open. Tickets will not be sold after the ticket office closes at 6pm on Friday March 10 and there will be NO EXCEPTIONS to any of these sales conditions.

You don't need a ticket, however, to watch our youth team in action, and we now know their fixtures for the rest of the season. Having completed their South Central Conference programme in the Football League Alliance, they now have an eight-match merit table programme. We have been put into a league along with Plymouth, Exeter, Swansea, Portsmouth,



YOUNG PLAYERS - members of the 1st Harlington Boys Brigade drum and bugle band who provided live music at the last home game.

Brentford, Wolves, Notts County and Wycombe. Our first game was at home this morning against Notts County, and next Saturday we are at home to Wolves.

Youth team matches are played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, with an 11 am kick-off on Saturday mornings, and spectators are welcome. There is no charge for admission.

We now have confirmation about the kick-off in the Nationwide League for next season. The first fixtures will be on August 12, and the season will finish on the weekend of May 5 and 6, 2001. Kenilworth Road, however, will open for the new season on Monday August 7, when we will entertain Wimbledon in a pre-season friendly.

Finally, and very regrettably, I have had a serious complaint from a group of disabled people who attended last Saturday's game. They were from Turning Point, Great Gaddesden, and unfortunately one of their members had a seizure on leaving the ground. Their bus driver, a lady, became the subject of abuse while trying to get the gentleman away from the ground as quickly as possible. It is very sad that such a thing should happen. Our closed circuit TV tapes are being studied by the Police, for them to take such action as they think fit. As a club we deplore what happened, and especially at a time when we are trying to encourage supporters into the round. It is very doubtful if this group will return, all because of a very small minority who let down the rest of us.

Cherry Newbery

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Tickets



Nationwide League Division Two

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 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 normal league prices. None will be available after 6pm on Friday March 10.

Preston v Luton Town Saturday March 18, kick-off 3 pm

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

Luton Town v Cambridge Utd

Tuesday March 21, kick-off 7.45 pm
Tickets are now on sale at discounted prices. Cash turnstiles will be available on the day but to avoid disappointment supporters are advised to book early.

Chesterfield v Luton Town Saturday March 25, kick-off 3 pm

Admission will be pay on the day only.
Seats: Adults £23, Concessions £7.
Terracing: Adults £11, Concessions £6.

LUTON TOWN CREDIT CARD HOTLINE RELAUNCH

As promised, we have upgraded our Telephone Hotline system, and you can 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.

Luton Town Ticket Office Credit Card Hotline
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Head-to-Head

Stuart Douglas



Lloyd Owusu



Today's Carling Opta statistics compare two strikers who are in opposition at Kenilworth Road - the Town's Stuart Douglas and Brentford's Lloyd Owusu

STUART Douglas and Lloyd Owusu are two of the Second Division's most promising strikers. Owusu has been in fine form in front of goal for Ron Noades' side, and currently tops Brentford's scoring charts with nine league goals so far this season, plus one in the FA Cup.

Douglas has not been quite so impressive in the scoring stakes, but the pacy forward has had a hand in setting up five goals for his team-mates. Last Saturday's match against Bristol Rovers saw Douglas break away down the right flank out pacing the Rovers defence to centre for Phil Gray's opener after 13 minutes.

His anxiety in front of goal was evident in his two misses later on in the match, but at least he is in the right place when opportunities occur. If he continues to do this it can only be a matter of time before he is hitting the back of the net on a regular basis once more. His tally so far is three league goals and one in the FA Cup.

Both players have similar passing and crossing statistics, although Douglas' higher pass completion rate suggests that he is more aware of his colleagues' movement off the ball, and is more likely find them accurately than Owusu.

Owusu has the more imposing physical presence, so he finds it easier to shrug off opponents when running with the ball, hence his higher number of dribbles and better completion rate. Douglas makes up for his lack of physical presence by tackling back whenever possible and by putting defenders and 'keepers under pressure when they are clearing the ball.

He has won an impressive percentage of tackles, but his never-say-die attitude has meant that he has arrived late a number of times, and consequently has committed more fouls than his Brentford opponent.

This afternoon is a good opportunity for the Hatters to make up for their disappointing performance a week ago, but will there be a sting in the tail from Owusu as the Bees aim to gatecrash the play-offs and claim their second successive promotion? Or will Luton gain revenge for the two-goal defeat they suffered at Griffin Park in August?

	Douglas	Owusu
Minutes on Pitch	2,256	2,217

Goal Attempts

Goals	3	9
Shots on Target (inc goals)	11	22
Shots off Target	12	20
Blocked Shots	9	11

Passing

Goal Assists	5	4
Total Passes	600	603
Pass Completion	64%	51%

Crossing

Total Crosses	21	21
Cross Completion	19%	24%

Dribbling

Dribbles and Runs	44	75
Dribble Completion	55%	60%

Defending

Tackles Made	32	22
Tackles Won	53%	32%
Blocks	3	10
Clearances	2	26
Interceptions	5	11

Discipline

Fouls	53	23
Offside	14	19
Yellow Cards	2	0
Red Cards	0	0

Courtesy of Carling Opta

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Commercial

John Bailey



WE welcome friends old and new alike to our sponsorship lounges this afternoon. The match sponsors are Bramwell Office Equipment and a bunch of loyal supporters who, for the purpose of sponsoring games, call themselves the

Regular Rabble.

We know they are not really a rabble, and Sue Miller, one of their leading lights, is famous for having the name of Luton Town very close to her heart, literally, in the form of a tattoo of the club crest.

She and her husband Les have for years been very supportive of the club and its commercial activities, and they are regulars at away matches as well.

It's nice to see them back in the sponsorship areas, and we thank them for giving the support we most need, to help the battle to balance the books.

For Bramwell Office Furniture, match sponsorship at Kenilworth Road today is a new experience, and we trust they will find it very enjoyable.

The company manufactures a complete range of furniture products at its factories at Crayford, Kent, but the sales and marketing group for the office product division is based at Witan Court, in central Milton Keynes. From there a full service of sales support, design and installation management is provided to Bramwell's national network of clients. The product range includes storage wall systems, Powerflex design and steel storage systems from Europe.

We welcome Mark Stubbs and his Bramwell colleagues and guests, and hope they enjoy their visit to Kenilworth Road.

And for information on how you can sample similar enjoyment, perhaps as a match sponsor, at affordable prices, ring the Luton Town commercial department on Luton 411622. There are so many packages on offer we are confident we can find one just right for you.

John Bailey

GOLDEN GAMBLE

THE RESULT at Saturday's game against Bristol Rovers was depressing for us and our supporters, but for one Luton Town fan there was considerable consolation. Russell Pope, from Kingsmead Court, Dunstable, went home with £495 in cash, after scooping the Golden Gamble jackpot.



The winning ticket cost just £1, and if our prize fund is not in the National Lottery league, the odds of winning are certainly very much shorter - they depend on Golden Gamble ticket sales. Out of every £1 ticket sold, 50p goes into the jackpot and the other 50p goes to club funds, so even if you are not a winner you are helping the club.

So far this season the Golden Gamble has paid out £9,318 to 22 winners, an average of £424 each. Youth team striker Tresor Kandol is in the picture with Mr Pope after pulling his lucky £1 ticket out of the drum.

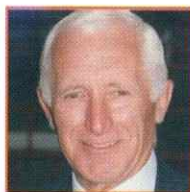
Someone will win another handful of Golden Gamble cash today, so it's worth a flutter. Sellers are on duty in all parts of the ground and the draw is made during the interval, with the money handed over instantly.

OUR match ball sponsors today are more old friends, who have been regular backers of the club - G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd. They are based in Northampton, but with long-time Luton connections, and are one of the country's most successful companies in supplying and fixing ceramic tiles to house builders. Locally, builders like Connolly Homes have taken advantage of the services Owen's offer, knowing they can rely on their suppliers for quality and reliability. The company has many other customers as well, with a wide range of contracts for construction projects all over the country.

Today's Visitors



welcome to Brentford



RON NOADES (MANAGER)

Ron Noades, having left the RAF, played non-league football for Southall before he was forced to quit the game through ill health. He made a living in the property business, invested funds in Southall Football Club, whilst at the same time took an FA coaching course and became a qualified referee.

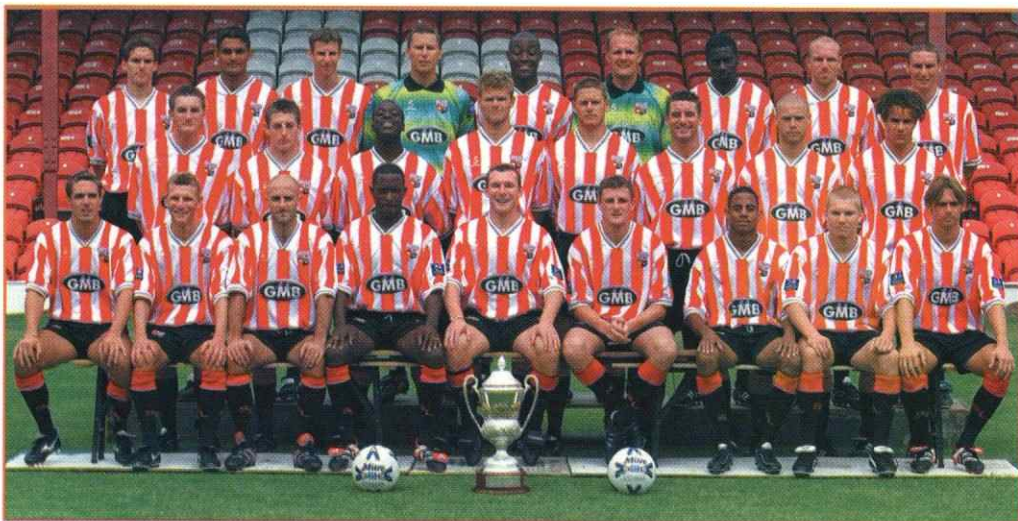
In 1974 he took control of Southall, and two years later, in 1976, became benefactor and Chairman of Wimbledon, guiding them to League status. In 1981 he became Chairman of Crystal Palace and remained at Selhurst Park until June 1998, when he became owner of Brentford, and appointed himself Manager prior to the start of the 98/99 season.

Honours:
Wimbledon promoted from Division Four 1978/79
Crystal Palace won the Division One play off final 1996/97.
Division One Champions 1993/94
FA Cup runners up 1990
Brentford Division Three Champions 1998/99
Nationwide Football League Division Three Manager of the Month: August 1998, April 1999

THE PLAYERS

ANDY WOODMAN

Goalkeeper previously with Crystal Palace, Exeter and Northampton Andy joined the Bees from the Cobblers for £75,000 just over a year ago, in time to make an important contribution to the Bees Championship push in the closing months of the season.



BRENTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB 1999/2000

Back: Dave McEwan (No longer with Club), Nevin Saroya, Dave Theobald, Jason Pearcey, Lloyd Owusu, Andy Woodman, Darren Powell, Leon Townley (No longer with club), Andy Scott.

Middle: Dean Clark, Richard Kennedy, Derek Bryan, Hermann Hreidarsson (No longer with club), Steve Jenkins, Robert Quinn, Danny Cullip (No longer with club), Gavin Mahon.

Front: Danny Boxall, Martin Rowlands, Scott Partridge, Ijah Anderson, Paul Evans, Tony Folan, Clement James, Michael Dobson, Phil Warner.

the players



DANNY BOXALL

Previous Clubs: Crystal Palace, Oldham Athletic (loan). A talented young defender, was signed on a free transfer from Crystal Palace during the 1998 close season. His exciting form earned him recognition by the Republic of Ireland's Under 21 squad, and he has become an integral part of the Bees first choice defence.

IJAH ANDERSON

Fans' favourite Ijah is the Brentford's longest-serving player having joined them from Southend United in July 1995 on a free transfer. He has made the number three berth his own. His last goal, against Chester, in April last year, meant that he was the 21st player to score for the Bees that term, a new club record.

ROBERT QUINN

Until suspension ruled him out of the Bee's last League match, at Cardiff, Robert, a former Republic of Ireland Under 21, and B International, had figured in every Brentford match this season. His ability to play in a number of positions is of enormous benefit.

PAUL EVANS

The former Welsh Under-21 International joined from Shrewsbury in March of last year for £100,000, and his signing was the catalyst for the successful assault on the Championship. His exceptional skills as a captain are matched by his ability in midfield, and his long range scoring prowess this season has made him become known nationally.

GAVIN MAHON

Gavin was the Bees only ever-present this season until injury forced him to miss the recent match at Blackpool. This was only the second game he had missed since forcing his way into the side at Christmas '98. An

influential midfielder he cost the Bees £50,000 plus when moving from Hereford in November '98.

LLOYD OWUSU

Twenty three year old Lloyd, having been the Third Division's second top scorer last season, has continued to hit the net with a further ten to his credit in this campaign. Brentford pipped Walsall to his signature in August 1998, and the £25,000 fee to Slough Town has turned out to be a real bargain.

SCOTT PARTRIDGE

Previous Clubs: Bradford C, Bristol C, Plymouth A (loan), Scarborough U (loan), Cardiff C, Torquay. Scott joined Brentford from Torquay United for £100,000 almost a year ago, where he had been their leading scorer with 15 goals. He scored a further seven for the Bees on the way to the Third Division Championship, and has been on target six times this season, including the clincher in Brentford's 2-0 win over Luton at Griffin Park in September. However he has missed the last four games through injury.

DARREN POWELL

Having signed from non-league Hampton for £15,000, Darren was an instant hit in his first full season in the League - last summer he picked up the Supporters Player of the Year award, and has continued to impress with almost every performance this season. In the recent "Half Term" Opta Nationwide Second Division Team of the Season, Darren was the only player to average over 1,000 points.



ANDY SCOTT

Andy is now the second longest-serving player at the club. His return from injury recently coincided with an upturn in the Bees fortunes, whilst his injury two months earlier was the precursor for a run of disappointing results for the Bees.

Today's Visitors



the players

MARTIN ROWLANDS

In only eighteen months of League football, 21 year old Martin, previously with Farnborough Town, has gained Football League representative honours and has become a mainstay of the Republic of Ireland Under-21 squad. Meanwhile he is enjoying another outstanding season for his local side, and scored his sixth goal of the season at Cardiff recently.

JASON PEARCEY

The Bees are lucky to have two experienced goalkeepers on their books, but it has meant that 28-year-old Jason has had his appearances strictly limited this season.

IVAR INGIMARSSON

Ivar, a former Player of the Year in Iceland, has been capped by his country at Under 16, 18,

and 21 levels. He was signed having completed a nine month loan with Torquay United, for a deal totalling £150,000, and has been ever-present since

GARETH GRAHAM

The tigerish midfielder, a Northern Ireland Under 21 International, joined Brentford on a free transfer from Crystal Palace in October. His appearances have been restricted through injury, but he made a reappearance in the team when coming off the bench last Saturday.

STEVE JONES

Today marks the final match of Steve's one-month loan from Bristol City. The deal is with a view to a permanent transfer. He went to Charlton for £400,000 three years ago this month from West Ham and moved on to Ashton Gate for £500,000 last summer.



Lloyd Owusu

RICHARD KENNEDY

The 21-year-old midfielder joined the Bees from Wycombe Wanderers on a free transfer in the summer and made his first appearance when coming on as a substitute in the home game against Cardiff City in September.

JULIAN CHARLES

The pacy forward joined the Bees in December for £25,000, having impressed at Ryman League Club Richmond and Hampton Borough.

LORENZO PINAMONTE

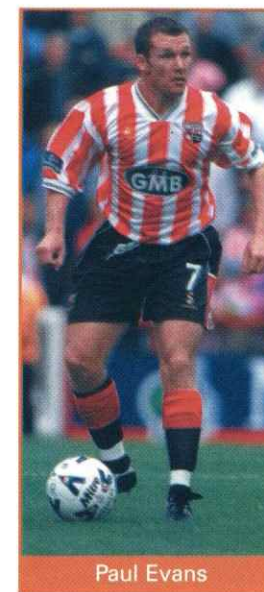
The 6' 3" striker joined Bristol City from Italina football in September '98, but had to wait until the final game of the season to make his debut, and he joined the Bees for £50,000 + earlier this month, while in the middle of a loan spell at Brighton.

KEVIN O'CONNOR

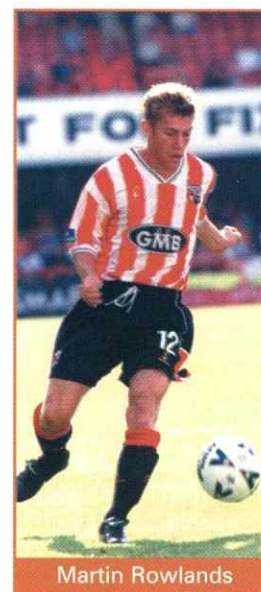
Kevin celebrated his 18th birthday ten days ago and after regular goals for the juniors he signed professional forms before last Saturday's home game with Wycombe, and subsequently made his full League debut later that same afternoon.

CARL HUTCHINGS

In the summer of 1998 season Carl picked up a collection of Brentford end of season awards. He subsequently moved to Bristol City for £130,000, but has been unable to command a regular first team place. He rejoined Brentford two weeks ago and made his 199th appearance for the Bees at Cardiff City. Having been on the bench last Saturday, selection today would make it 200 for the 25-year-old.



Paul Evans



Martin Rowlands



Andy Woodman

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IT IS surprising how many items for this page come from Australia, and today, a week after we had a snapshot from Mark Newman in Perth, Sydney harbour bridge is appearing alongside Luton Town colours for the third time this season.

The photograph is of the son of a famous Town fanatic father, 20-year-old Andy Owen. His dad explains: "He has been a Luton Town fan since he was five, as his early years were spent in Berkhamsted, and he had no option because of his dad!"

Andy is a useful cricketer, and is spending our winter playing for Queensland University in Brisbane, and if you haven't guessed it, his father is Nick Owen, who has been watching the Hatters since 1958, and is President of the Luton Town Supporters Club.

Andy's first-ever match was the 1985 FA Cup semi-final against Everton at Villa Park, when a ref's mistake led to an unlucky defeat in extra time.

Says Nick: "Andy's favourite players of all time are Ricky Hill, scorer of the first goal he ever

saw, Mick Harford, Brian Stein and Marvin Johnson, but anyone who wears a Luton shirt is a legend in this house! Andy calls us most weekends at 3am, his time, as he comes out of a dodgy Aussie nightclub to get the Luton result. Very well brought up!"

The Owens had a weird experience when the new millennium came in - Andy phoned from Sydney when he was in the 21st century, while the family back home in Birmingham were still in the 20th!

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.

Top Hatters Gallery



Alan White

Born: Darlington, 22.3.76
Previous club: Middlesbrough
Joined Luton Town: September 1997
Luton debut: v West Brom (A) 23.9.97
Luton Town record: 79 appearances, 2 goals.

Autograph



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The Nationwide Football
League saw an Increase in
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Hatters Away

travel information

Wrexham v Luton Town

Saturday 4th March, kick-off 3pm

WE ARE on the road again for our next two games, at Wrexham next Saturday, and Burnley the following Tuesday, and as usual Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club will both be running coaches to the games.

For Wrexham, the Bobbers leave 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, sets 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 today's game, or through the club shop at other times.

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

Admission for away supporters at The Racecourse is pay on the day only, £12 for adults, £7 for concessions.

Road to Wrexham

THE journey to Wrexham is one of the most awkward of the season, with a bit of a drag following 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 sign posted to Wrexham. Follow that road, which becomes the Wrexham by-pass. Leave to follow the signs to Wrexham and Mold, and into Wrexham, and you will see the Racecourse Ground on your left as you approach the town. There is a large car park next to the ground.

Mileage from Luton: about 170.

Burnley v Luton Town

Tuesday March 7, kick-off 7.45pm

TURF Moor has been one of our happier hunting grounds in the past, although the fixture list compilers did us no favours by making this season's game a mid-week evening match. But early coach bookings suggest that we will have a good following to see a Burnley team likely to include Steve Davis, Mitchell Thomas and Ian Wright.

Town on Tour will leave Maple Road at 2.30pm, picking up at Milton Keynes Coachway about 20 minutes later, and the fare is £16 for adult members of LTSC, £14 for concessions, and £17.50 for non-members.

The Bobbers leave Cranfield at 1.15, Luton at 2.15 and their fares are £14.50 for adults, £12 for junior and senior citizens.

Ground admission is by cash turnstiles on the night, £13 for adults, £8 for concessions.

Motorway Choice

THE shortest route to drive to Burnley is via M1 and M6, but well worth considering despite being about 20 miles longer, is all the way up M1 and then across the Pennines on the M62, following the signs into Burnley - on a nice day it is a pleasant drive. Watch for the signs to take you onto the M65, which you leave at junction 10. See below for details of the route from there.

Either way, leave Luton on M1 going North. If you choose to turn onto the M6, carry on until junction 29, then take the M65 east as far as junction 10. From there follow the A671 sign posted to Burnley, and at the next roundabout turn left, following the signs towards Burnley town centre. You will soon reach a set of traffic lights, where you bear right, and Burnley FC is sign posted from there. Follow the signs towards Rochdale, along Centenary Way, a dual carriageway, straight over the first roundabout and soon after that watch for the Sparrowhawk Hotel where you turn right into Ormerod Road. At the first crossroads turn right into Belvedere Road and the ground is ahead, on your left. There is plenty of street parking.

Mileage from Luton via M6: About 215.

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

Blast FROM THE Past

Roger Wash

Town Sting the Bees



When the Town beat lowly Bradford Park Avenue on Boxing Day 1967, to extend a run of only one defeat in twelve games, they had maintained second spot in the old Division Four and looked set fair for promotion.

In front of the biggest crowd of the campaign, at that stage, of 16,599 the Town had admittedly struggled against a side anchored at the foot of the table and the 2-0 victory flattered the players. It was left to skipper Terry Branston, with a towering header, and Ray Whittaker, from the spot, to spare the Town's blushes but we all thought that if we could win after a poor performance then the rest of the season was going to be a stroll.

How wrong could we be! Four days later we played the return with Bradford and, against a side that was without its normal full back pairing, we went down 1-2 in a dreadful performance. On a quagmire pitch Avenue certainly seemed to want the win rather more than we did and although Rodney Green opened the scoring with an overhead kick, two goals from Bradford either side of the interval settled the issue as we were made to look second best.

Worse was to follow as we failed to pick up a win in our next four outings which meant that our season was fast turning sour as we slipped down to sixth position. Fortunately the bad run ended abruptly when Rochdale were the visitors to Kenilworth Road in early February.

Recalling mercurial winger, Graham French, to the side for the first time in two months, manager Allan Brown instructed his players to go for all out attack. French led the Rochdale defence, which included former Town stalwart John Reid, a merry dance and was instrumental in the Hatters winning 4-1 with all the goals coming in the first half.

The victory pushed the Town up to second once more and promotion was back on again.

Next up was Brentford at Griffin Park. The Bees had just introduced their 'I'm backing Brentford' campaign which was a throwback to an abortive attempt at a take-over by Q.P.R, and for the first half the Town seemed to be fully paid up subscribers.

The first period was a turgid affair with referee Clive Thomas adding to a sorry spectacle with over use of his whistle but in the second half the Town seemed to step up a gear. On 56 minutes a sweeping move ended with Alan Slough smashing the ball home much to the relief of the large Luton contingent in the crowd of 7,726.

Four minutes later Bruce Rioch hit home a similar effort and from then on there was only one likely winner with the Town ending up playing carnival football which should have led to more goals.

When the final whistle was sounded the players and supporters soon learnt that the Town had gone to the top of the table for the first time and I clearly remember the Luton party being mobbed as they made their way back to their coach for the short trip home. Present day supporters must remember that this was the first signs of glory since the F.A.Cup final in 1959 after which the Town had tumbled from Division One to the basement in double quick time.

The Hatters never remotely looked like being ousted from the top spot and by the time of the return with Brentford, on the final day of the campaign, the championship had been won at a canter and all that was left was the presentation of the medals and the Division Four trophy.

To be honest the occasion was a bit of an anticlimax. The championship had been won 17 days before when Crewe were steamrollered at Kenilworth Road on a never to be forgotten night in front of a crowd of 18,904. Since then the Town had surrendered their long unbeaten



Skipper Terry Branston shows off the Division Four championship trophy.

home record when Bradford City, who still had eyes on promotion, won 3-1 at Kenilworth Road in a game that could clearly be labelled 'after the Lord Mayor's show'. In the penultimate game of the campaign the Hatters had travelled to Crewe who needed a win to ensure promotion alongside us and eventually won through 2-1 amidst scenes reminiscent of those at Kenilworth Road when we clinched the championship.

A record points total for the division was therefore outside our grasp and all we could do was hit 66 by beating Brentford and share the honour with Peterborough who amassed the same haul in 1961.

Len Shipman, President of the Football League presented the trophy to skipper Terry Branston before the start and after a lap of honour the players were presented with their individual medals. A.T.V. cameras were present to record the game for the following day's 'Star Soccer' programme but after all the pre-match excitement had died down it was quickly realised that there was little to play for.

Heavy showers on the morning of the match had turned the pitch into a mud heap and neither side managed to adapt to the difficult

conditions in the first half which was similar to the opening 45 minutes at Griffin Park earlier in the campaign.

The second half sparked to life, though, when top scorer Bruce Rioch gathered the ball in his own half and sped through the retreating Brentford defence before slipping it past Bees goalkeeper Gordon Phillips. On the hour Ray Whittaker darted in to net Luton's second, finishing off a goalmouth skirmish in which Rodney Green had harassed Phillips into losing possession of the ball.

The Bees were not prepared to roll over and die and reduced the deficit when John Moore deflected an Ian Lawther shot past Tony Read in the Luton goal. Read then had to pull off a brilliant save from another Lawther shot before Whittaker had the chance to make the game safe when he was presented with a spot kick after Green was bundled over in the area.

Phillips, however, saved the penalty and Brentford stepped up several gears as the game drew to a close in search of an equaliser that eventually eluded them despite their best efforts.

Community & Schools Programme

ntl: Schools Visit Project

With everyone back at school on Monday our NTL Schools Visit Project is back in full swing with our coaches visiting schools throughout Herts and Beds. In fact visits are already planned for schools in Toddington, Hitchin, Ampthill, Luton, Dunstable and Baldock.

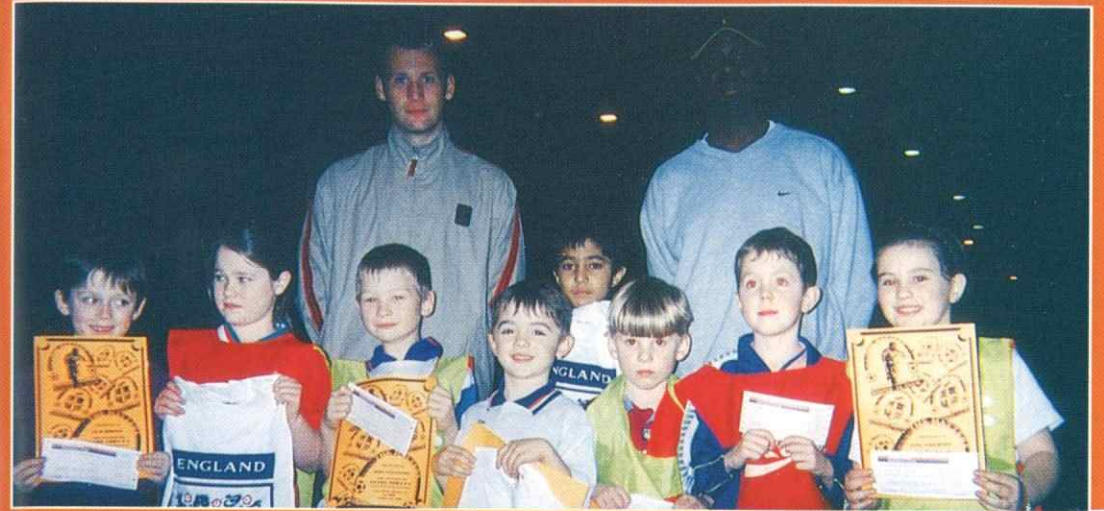
The project is jointly funded by NTL and Sportsmatch and aims to provide curriculum time PE and football coaching in schools to youngsters of all abilities. If you would like further information about the project or to book a visit from us then it couldn't be easier - just give us a ring at the Club on 01582 411622 and we will do our best to arrange a visit or answer any questions you may have.

ntl:

SPORTS
MATCH



February Half Term Indoor Coaching Courses



MACCA AND MARV DO THE HONOURS

Skipper Marvin Johnson and Paul McLaren were on hand to present certificates, England T-Shirts and match tickets for today to this lucky group of Under 6's and Under 9's who attended our Coaching Course up at the Luton Regional Sports Centre last week.

Our courses proved as popular as ever in Luton, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Ampthill, Harlington and Shefford as you can see from the group photo's. Look out in our next matchday program for lots more photo's with our first team players who visited us this week.



INDOOR WINTER COACHING PROGRAMME

LUTON TUESDAYS

Luton Regional Sports Centre
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Luton Regional Sports Centre
School Years 4 to 8
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

FRIDAYS

Cardinal Newman High School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

School Years 4 to 8
at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Lealands High School
(times as above)

HARLINGTON THURSDAYS

Harlington Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

School Years 4 to 8
at 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm

DUNSTABLE THURSDAYS

Manshead Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

School Years 4 to 8
at 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm

FRIDAYS

Northfields Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

School Years 4 to 8
at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

LEIGHTON BUZZARD MONDAYS

Cedars High School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

School Years 4 to 8
at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

THURSDAYS

Vandyke Upper School
School Years 1 to 3
at 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

AMPHILL TUESDAYS

Alameda Middle School
School Years 1 to 3
at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

School Years 4 to 8
at 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

HOUGHTON REGIS

WEDNESDAYS

Houghton Regis Sports Centre
School Years 1 to 2
at 4.00 pm to 4.50 pm

School Years 3 to 4
at 4.50 pm to 5.45 pm

To book a place
or for further
information please
contact the Community
& Schools Department
on

01582 411622



Hatters On Card

Alan Robinson

IN RECENT years there has been a growing number of firms and individuals who have produced football cards for sale on a commercial basis, as opposed to them being given away with products like cigarettes or confectionery.

One such individual was W. R. Priddy of Portsmouth, who, around 1990, produced a large series of plain-backed cards that featured copies of caricatures of footballers that were originally drawn by Mickey Durling, a leading sports cartoonist of the 1940s and 50s.

This set is believed to cover nearly 650 different subjects, with half a dozen Hatters among them.

One of these is Les Hall, who in February 1952 got a rare first-team outing against today's opponents in an FA Cup fourth round second replay at Highbury.

The Town and Brentford had drawn 2-2 at Kenilworth Road and 0-0 at Griffin Park, and Hall was drafted into the Luton side at centre-half for the third match owing to the absence of Syd Owen.

This time Luton got through 3-2 in extra time, and by all accounts Hall had a storming game. He kept his place for the fifth round tie against Swindon at Kenilworth Road, played a few days later on February 23, and again Luton were successful, winning 3-1. But by the time the quarter-final against Arsenal came round, Owen was fit again, and Hall was not in the team beaten 3-2 at Kenilworth Road in front of 28,433 spectators.

Hall had been spotted playing for St. Albans in 1942, and the 21-year-old defender was quickly signed by Luton, and made his Town debut in war-time football. Service overseas interrupted his progress, and it was not until January 1948 that he made his league debut,

against Birmingham City at Kenilworth Road.

This ended in a 1-0 defeat, but he kept his place for the rest of the season, and his form was so good that the club felt able to accept an offer from Nottingham Forest for popular Horace Gager in March.

A regular for most of the following season, Hall suffered an injury in April, and that resulted in Owen being shifted across from wing-half to centre-half, and he made the position his own.

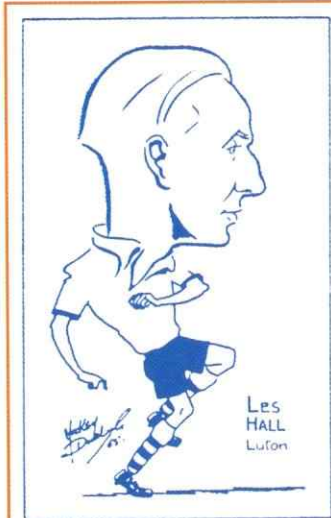
From that point onwards Hall's opportunities were limited, and in the six seasons between 1949 and 1955, when we won promotion, he managed only 32 appearances.

However, whenever called upon to deputise for Owen he never let the team down - Luton were fortunate indeed to have such an able and loyal clubman.

In his later years Hall captained the reserves, and led them to the Football Combination Division Two championship.

During his career with the Town he always remained part-time, combining a day job in St. Albans with evening training. After his final league appearance in October 1954, against Swansea at Kenilworth Road - a 2-1 defeat with Gordon Turner our marksman - 34-year-old Hall joined Hemel Hempstead. In total he had mustered 79 league and 12 FA Cup starts for the Town.

The other Luton players appearing in this series are Billy Arnison, Ron Baynham, Doug Gardiner, George Stobart and Bernard Streten. Despite their simplicity, these cards are quite difficult to get hold of these days, with most major dealers either not listing them, or declaring them out of stock.



W. R. Priddy
Footballers, 1990

Junior Hatters

welcome

WE enjoyed the company of our guests from Bristol Rovers last Saturday, even if we were not so happy about what their league team did to ours! A party of 53 Young Pirates and their guests joined us, and in the football matches we loaned them some of our players to make

up four teams, and overall we won 10-6. Well done Junior Hatters for an excellent turn-out of 26 players.

Next week it is our turn to be visitors, when we go to meet old friends at Wrexham. We will be leaving at 8am, and will have a football match against the Young Robins at 12.30 before watching the big game. We expect to get back to Luton at about 9pm. We have been invited to supply a mascot, so if you are planning to come, bring your Luton Town strip with you! The choice will be made on the journey.

The price will be £10 for Junior Hatters and £13 for guests and adults, which is tremendous value, because it includes admission to the game. Bookings can be made at the ticket office in Kenilworth Road.

We will not be going to Burnley the following Tuesday, but plans are being made for a visit to Preston on March 18 - more details will be given in a later programme.

Today's Mascot



WE are always pleased to welcome very young members into the Junior Hatters, and this afternoon our mascot is one of the youngest we have ever had. Cindy Brown will not be four until

August, but already she is a keen supporter of Luton Town.

She lives at Mayne Avenue, Luton, and goes to Leagrave Nursery School. And she knows a bit about football, being a regular at our home games with her parents in the main stand block D. When she is not shouting for the Town, she likes playing with her Barbie doll, riding her bike, and playing with her brothers.

Today, she will be in the dressing room before kick-off, looking up to the players she idolises, and especially her favourite, Matthew Spring.

She will then run out onto the pitch for the pre-match kick-about, and accompany skipper Marvin Johnson when he goes into the centre circle for the toss-up.



THERE were two mascots on duty for the game against Bristol Rovers, and in the picture taken at the toss-up are 11-year-old Ross Horn, whose name was picked out at random from among the Junior Hatters membership, and ten-year-old Joseph Newns, who was the commercial mascot.

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Hatters Chatter

London Marathon

LUTON Town's colours will again be carried in the Flora London Marathon when the world-famous race is run in April. Our choice this year to represent the club in the football section is 32-year-old insurance worker Perry Glover, from Harveys Hill, Bushmead, Luton.

He is in training, running a minimum of five miles a day, plus at least two and a half hours of cross-country running every weekend.

Perry has been a regular at Kenilworth Road, and at some away games, since 1986, when he was courting the girl who is now his wife and mother of their two young children. The man who was to become his father-in-law was a Town supporter, and persuaded Perry to come to watch us play Liverpool.

"We were beaten 1-0, but I enjoyed the game and I've been a regular ever since," he recalled. He got into running through a friend who was keen, and as with watching football, he was soon hooked despite early pain. "The first five miles I did with him nearly killed me, but now I enjoy running," he said.

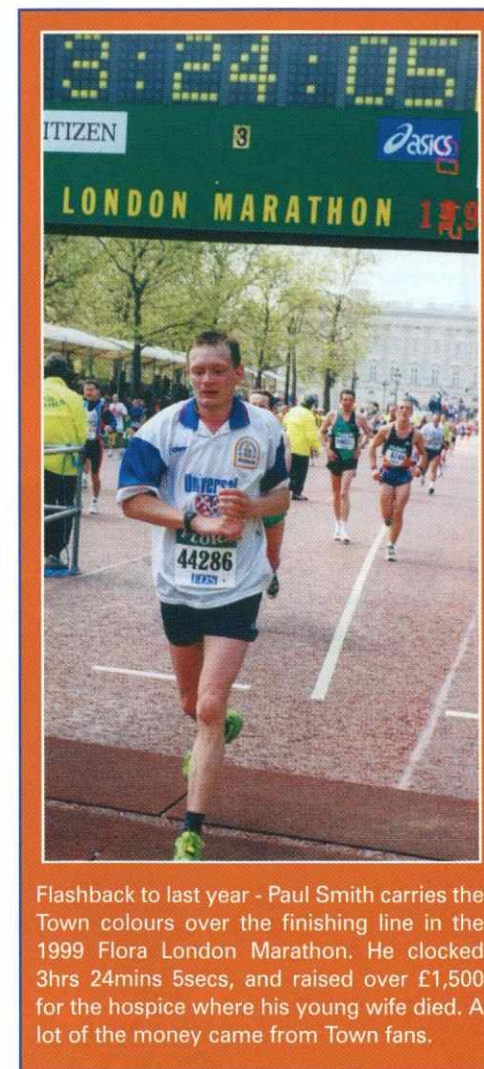
Perry has been in the London marathon once before, finishing the 1998 event in four hours and ten minutes, after a hamstring strain in the final stages wrecked his plans to beat four hours.

He has since run several half-marathons, including the Great North Run, and is looking forward to being one of the thousands tackling the London course on April 16.

"It's hard to explain the feelings when you are part of an event like that," he said. "You get carried along with it to some degree, and you get encouragement from spectators every yard of the way. You have got to be a bit stupid to do it, but it is a fantastic feeling when you reach the finishing line."

His target will be simple - "I want to do a sub-four hour time, but more important I want to get home before the Watford bloke!"

Perry is already raising sponsorship pledges, and we will invite Town supporters to add their backing. His 1988 marathon run raised £1,200 for charity, and in April he will be raising cash for local good causes, the Luton and Dunstable Ambulance Appeal, and the Keech Cottage children's hospice.



Flashback to last year - Paul Smith carries the Town colours over the finishing line in the 1999 Flora London Marathon. He clocked 3hrs 24mins 5secs, and raised over £1,500 for the hospice where his young wife died. A lot of the money came from Town fans.

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Hatters Chatter

Andy Finch

FOR the first time in many years supporters now have a choice of coach travel to away games. Town On Tour started at the beginning of last season, and has been very successful.

It began because some of us felt there was a need and a market for an alternative coach-based travel facility, to complement rather than compete with the long-established and reliable Bobbers Travel Club service.

Town on Tour is backed by the Luton Town Supporters Club, and in its first season well over a thousand bookings were taken, and the client base grew rapidly to 500. Many are now regular Town On Tour passengers.

The primary objective is to provide a service centred around its passengers, making the journey an enjoyable part of the day out, rather than merely a means of getting from A to B.

Each coach is fully stewarded by at least two people, who look after the clients throughout the journey. They offer a range of hot and cold drinks on board, complimented by a good selection of snacks. All the on-board eats and drinks are priced well below what you would pay at service stations, and are served by the stewards.

Entertainment is also provided for those who want it. Competitions have a wide range, from quiz-time to the popular predict-the-score, and are all football-based. Prizes usually come from the club shop in the form of tee-shirts, videos and so on. But Town On Tour clients don't have to rely on winning a competition to receive goodies: many of last season's regular passengers were rewarded with freebies from the club shop in return for their loyalty.

We are currently looking at another "too good to miss" offer for our regulars as we look at the long journeys involved to go to Town games next month, at Wrexham, Burnley, Preston and Chesterfield.

You never know what the Town On Tour crew have up their sleeves, so it's worth going a few times with them just in case!

Video entertainment is provided on both outward and return journeys, which can help the hours to



HAPPY TRAVELLERS: Part of our away following, one of the best in the Second Division.

pass by during long motorway trips. Town On Tour aim to provide a friendly service, and it has been enjoyed by players' families and the local radio station. The major advantage welcomed by many clients is the facility to choose exactly where you wish to sit on a coach. This avoids any mad scramble to get on board, and allows friends and families to sit together.

You can also choose where you prefer to sit (front, back, window or aisle seat). This, in conjunction with the pay on the day secure parking in the Maple Road car park, means that Town On Tour passengers can enjoy a total away-day package at competitive prices.

We have had plenty of appreciative comments from passengers, such as "ToT provides the 3 C's, comfort, convenience and camaraderie". "It's a brilliant service and a friendly atmosphere". "It's less hassle than travelling by car and the service is good".

Considering the vast majority of away supporters have become used to travelling by car the success of Town On Tour, in its short existence, should not be underestimated. If you have travelled with Town On Tour, thank you for your custom. If you have not, then give us a try. You might enjoy discovering that travelling by coach isn't as bad as it used to be - especially when you are among football friends!

For details of trips to Wrexham and Burnley, see page 27.

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Action Replay

Luton Town 1 Bristol Rovers 4 (HT 1-2)

Brian Swain reports

THE blackest day of the season Lennie Lawrence called it after the Town slumped to their worst home defeat since Wigan embarrassed us 4-0 just over a year ago. In terms of taking goals Bristol Rovers showed they are going strong for promotion - this was their ninth away win of the season - but the Town suffered because so much of the pain was self-inflicted.

Two mistakes by Nathan Abbey were ruthlessly punished, to turn a Town lead into a deficit, and Rovers were too good a team after that to be caught out again after being second best in the early stages.

A spell of 90 seconds was the pivotal time. The Town took a 14th-minute lead through Phil Gray, after excellent work by Stuart Douglas, who skinned a defender named Steve Foster for pace far more comprehensively than the original had ever been.

Nine minutes later it should have been 2-0. Gray sent Douglas on a run down the inside left channel and with the Rovers defence all over the place the goalkeeper came out to the edge of the area, and he too was left stranded. Having done brilliantly to get that far, Douglas had the bad luck to see his shot hit a post instead of the unguarded net. Within a minute Abbey's poor clearance led to Jason Roberts accepting a gift equaliser, and eight minutes later the luckless 21-year-old's fumble gave Jamie Cureton another present.

It was as good as all over after that, with Rovers playing to a controlled pattern, five at the back, three in midfield, and get the ball early to pacey front men Roberts and Cureton. The Town did plenty of attacking, and Lee Jones made several good saves, and there were clearances off the line by Mark Walters and Trevor Challis denying Alan White and Gary Doherty.

Matthew Taylor also had to knock one away off the line from Roberts, but the striker had the last word, with his second goal of the game in stoppage time after the Town were caught on the break. Cureton had completed his double after 57 minutes, after cleverly beating Gary Doherty and curling an angled shot into the net.

Mistakes destroyed us, said the Town boss, and for once the display was ragged. It was not helped by Matthew Spring being below par - he was suffering from a migraine, which eventually forced him to be subbed.

Rovers were thoroughly professional once they had gone in front, but their manager, Ian Holloway, was not entirely happy. Their defending, he said, had been pretty awful in the early minutes, and he, like Lawrence, thought it could have been a very different game if the shot by Douglas had hit the target to make it 2-0 after 25 minutes.

"We can play a lot better than that," said Holloway. Thankfully, so can the Town - and they will need to if they are genuine play-off contenders.

It was the fourth time we had met Rovers this season, and three defeats and a draw have produced an aggregate score of 11-3 to the Pirates - and Roberts and Cureton have netted nine of the 11 goals.

Match Details

Town: Abbey, Boyce, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George (Fotiadis 70 mins), Locke, Spring (White 64 mins), Gray, Douglas, Taylor. Unused subs: McGowan, Fraser, Tate.

Booked: Marvin Johnson, 67 mins, foul to stop Jason Roberts breaking clear; Julian Watts, Luton, 70 mins, foul on Roberts; Alan White, 88 mins, foul on Robbie Pethick.

Bristol Rovers: Jones, Pethick, Thomson, Tillson, Foster, Walters, Challis, Hillier, Astafjevs, Cureton, Roberts. Subs, all unused: Trees, Trought, Leoni, Ellington, Parkin.

Booked: Robbie Pethick, 88 mins, retaliation after being fouled by White.

The goals: 1-0 14 mins - Phil Gray's seventh of the season, easy chance presented by Stuart Douglas's run down the right flank and accurate low cross; 1-1 26 mins - Jason Roberts, after a weak clearance by Nathan Abbey was headed back into the path of the striker by Robbie Pethick; 1-2 38 mins - Jamie Cureton, after Abbey fumbled an over-hit pass by Pethick to the edge of the box; 1-3 57 mins - Cureton again, shot from a narrow angle after side-stepping Gary Doherty; 1-4 90 mins - Roberts, fiercely-struck shot from the edge of the penalty area after the Town were caught stretched, forlornly chasing the game.

Referee: Mick Fletcher, Warley

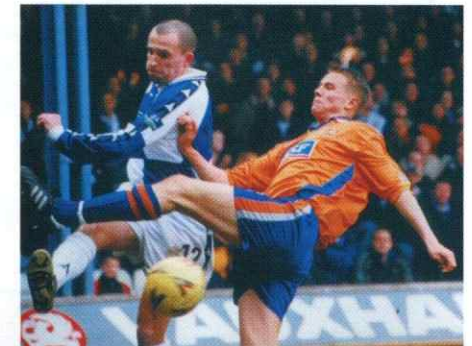
Attendance: 6,520, including 1,185 in the away end.



● **Top:** Promising start - Phil Gray knocks in the opening goal to give us the lead against Bristol Rovers, thanks to an excellent run and pull-back by Stuart Douglas, on the right.

● **Right:** Matthew Taylor and Robbie Pethick in close-quarters competition for the ball.

● **Below:** Adam Locke takes on Trevor Challis in midfield.



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We also visit students in year 9 upwards in local schools and colleges. So the next time the team visits your school or college take the opportunity to get invaluable advice and guidance through group sessions and individual interviews.

Opening Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9.30am-4.30pm (except Leighton Buzzard; Thurs. 9.30am-4.00pm)
Telephone Enquiries: Mon. – Fri. 8.30am-5.30pm

The Reserves

Trevor Hartley and John Moore



Luton Town 0 Millwall 1

ONE mistake cost us the draw we probably deserved on the run of play at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday in a game which saw Millwall go to the top of the Avon Insurance Combination.

Their side included Sean Dyche, who played for an hour as part of his comeback after a serious back injury, while for us Paul McLaren was making his third appearance after his toe dislocation. He had a good first 45 minutes, but then faded a little. Efe Sodje also played, for the first time since getting back from Nigeria, wearing his "Against All Odds" bandanna. He played with a good attitude, as did Stuart Fraser, who was used as left wing-back and put in a strong performance.

We also included another trialist, midfielder Chris Jones, who used to be on schoolboy forms for us before going to Loughborough College. He has played non-league football for Cambridge City, but at 23 he has got to be very close to first team standard if he is to join us, and he didn't show enough to suggest he is.

He was subbed to make way for Moses Jerry ten minutes into the second half, and coach Trevor Hartley puts his hand up to admit that the change did not work, because Jerry failed to make much of an impact.

Against a strong visiting side our commitment and closing down was good. We competed very well and worked hard, but neither side created many chances.

It was one of those games where you could sense that one

goal would settle it, and unfortunately when it came it was a bit of a gift. Daniel Tate spilled a cross midway through the second half, and Millwall accepted the chance to groans from supporters who had seen it all before in the first team's game on Saturday.



In a pretty even match we thought we should have had a penalty when Andrew Fotiadis cut across a defender and got into the box. In our opinion he was pulled down as he prepared to shoot, but the ref would have none of it.

Luton Town: Tate, Stirling, Fraser, Jones (Jerry 55 mins), Moran, Sodje, Scarlett, McLaren, Fotiadis, Kandol, McIndoe. Unused subs: Carroll, Minton, Barriteau, Ward.

Reserve team appearances, including as sub: Kandol 15, Stirling 15, Scarlett 14, Ayres 13, Jerry 12, Tate 12, McIndoe 11, Boyce 10, Moran 9, Sodje 8, White 7, Fotiadis 7, Locke 5, Ward 5, Fraser 5, Zahana-Oni 4, Minton 4, McLaren 3, 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, 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, Esteban 1, Quailey 1, Whitby 1, Jones 1.

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

NEXT Wednesday we are away to Leyton Orient in the Avon Insurance Combination. Kick-off at Brisbane 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	0-1
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
Millwall	16	10	5	1	33	13	35
QPR	15	10	3	2	34	12	33
Ipswich	14	9	3	2	35	22	30
Swindon	15	9	2	4	26	19	29
Fulham	15	8	3	4	25	15	27
Bristol City	12	7	4	1	23	13	25
Peterborough	17	7	4	6	31	22	25
Cambridge	17	7	4	6	32	29	25
Bournemouth	14	7	3	4	20	21	24
Portsmouth	13	7	2	4	21	18	23
Norwich	15	4	6	5	21	17	18
Leyton Orient	15	5	3	7	21	33	18
Gillingham	12	5	1	6	15	21	16
Colchester	15	4	4	7	20	32	16
Oxford	16	4	3	9	26	35	15
Bristol Rovers	12	3	5	4	17	15	14
Brighton	11	4	1	6	17	19	13
Luton Town	17	3	4	10	16	28	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



KIDS AT KENILWORTH

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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	date	opposition	result	scorers	league place	attn.	team											
AUGUST	Sat 7	Notts Co	A 0-0		-	6,141	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Johnson	Douglas	McLaren					
	Tue 10	WC1 (1) Bristol Rov	H 0-2		-	2,984	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	White	Boyce	Douglas	McLaren					
	Sat 14	Blackpool	H 3-2	George 2, Spring	7	5,176	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren					
	Sat 21	Reading	A 2-1	Fotiadis, George	3	8,741	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren					
Wed 25	WC1 (2) Bristol Rov	A 2-2	Kandol, Doherty	3	4,414	Abbey	Locke	Sodje	Boyce	White	Watts	Gray						
Sat 28	Cardiff	H 1-0	Gray	2	5,374	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren						
Tues 31	Bournemouth	A 0-1			2	4,797	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren					
SEPT	Sat 4	Bury	H 1-1	Fotiadis	5	4,633	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren					
	Sat 11	Wrexham	H 3-1	Taylor, Spring, George	3	5,121	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren					
	Sat 18	Brentford	A 0-2		5	7,039	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke					
	Sat 25	Oxford Utd	H 4-2	George 2, Fraser, Locke	3	6,102	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke					
OCTOBER	Sat 2	Wigan	A 0-1		8	6,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke					
	Sat 9	Oldham	A 1-2	Midgley	10	4,532	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	Gray	Locke					
	Sat 16	Gillingham	H 3-1	George 2 (1pen), Douglas	7	6,394	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley					
	Tue 19	Wycombe	H 1-1	Douglas	7	5,820	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley					
Sat 23	Oxford Utd	A 1-0	George	7	5,866	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley						
Sat 30	Kingstonian (FA Cup 1)	H 4-2	Gray, George, Spring, Taylor	7	4,682	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray						
NOVEMBER	Tue 2	Millwall	A 0-1		9	6,181	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley					
	Sat 6	Burnley	H 2-1	Midgley 2	8	7,205	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley					
	Fri 12	Cambridge Utd	A 1-3	George	9	6,211	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Midgley					
	Fri 19	Lincoln (FA Cup 2)	H 2-2	Doherty 2	10	4,291	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Locke					
Tue 23	Preston	H 0-2		10	5,124	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Sodje	George	Midgley						
Sat 27	Bristol Rov	A 0-3		10	7,805	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty						
Tue 30	Lincoln (FA Cup 2R)	A 1-0	Douglas	10	3,822	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty						
DECEMBER	Sat 4	Notts County	H 2-2	Doherty, Thorpe	11	5,195	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Thorpe					
	Tue 7	Oxford (AWS 1)	A 0-2		11	1,220	Abbey	Fraser	Sodje	Ayres	Johnson	George	Doherty					
	Sat 11	Fulham (FA Cup 3)	A 2-2	George, Spring	10	8,251	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Doherty					
	Fri 17	Colchester	A 0-3		11	3,049	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Sodje	Johnson	George	Thorpe					
Tues 21	Fulham (FA Cup 3R)	H 0-3		11	8,170	Abbey	Fraser	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	McLaren						
Sun 26	Chesterfield	H 1-1	Locke	13	5,870	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Thorpe						
Tue 28	Bristol City	A 0-0		12	11,832	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	White	Gray						
JAN 2000	Mon 3	Scunthorpe	H 4-1	Spring 2, Douglas, Gray	11	5,574	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray					
	Sat 8	Stoke	A 1-2	Spring (pen)	12	10,016	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	White	Gray					
	Sat 15	Blackpool	A 3-3	Locke, Gray, Taylor	13	5,262	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray					
	Sat 22	Reading	H 3-1	Watts, George 2	10	6,044	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray					
Sun 30	Cardiff	A 3-1	Watts, Spring, George	10	6,185	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Fraser	George	Gray						
FEB	Sat 5	Bournemouth	H 1-2	Boyce	10	5,961	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray					
	Tues 8	Stoke	H 2-1	Gray 2	9	5,396	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray					
	Sat 12	Bury	A 0-1		10	3,760	Abbey	McGowan	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	White	Gray					
	Sat 19	Bristol Rov	H 1-4	Gray	10	6,520	Abbey	Boyce	Watts	Doherty	Johnson	George	Gray					
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															

The FA Cup final will be on May 20

COMING SOON!

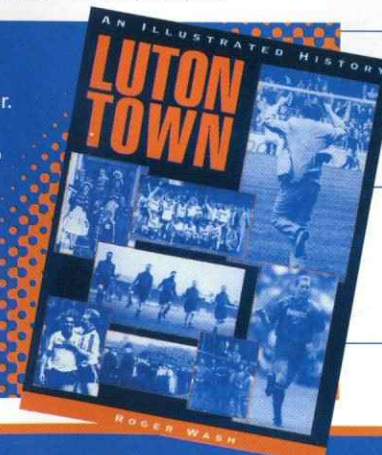
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Today's Teams



Luton Town

BEN ROBERTS	32
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

V



Brentford

1 ANDY WOODMAN
2 DANNY BOXALL
3 IJAH ANDERSON
4 ROBERT QUINN
5 DARREN POWELL
7 PAUL EVANS
8 GAVIN MAHON
9 LLOYD OWUSU
10 SCOTT PARTRIDGE
11 ANDY SCOTT
29 LORENZO PINAMONTE

Substitutes

12 MARTIN ROWLANDS
13 JASON PEARCEY
16 IVAR INGIMARSSON
21 STEVE JONES
31 CARL HUTCHINGS

Today's Officials

Referee: Kevin Lynch, Kirk Hammerton
Assistants: M. J. Cairns, Basingstoke (red flag)
M. Ebbage, Burnham (yellow and red flag)
Reserve official: G. B. Parish, Harlow

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