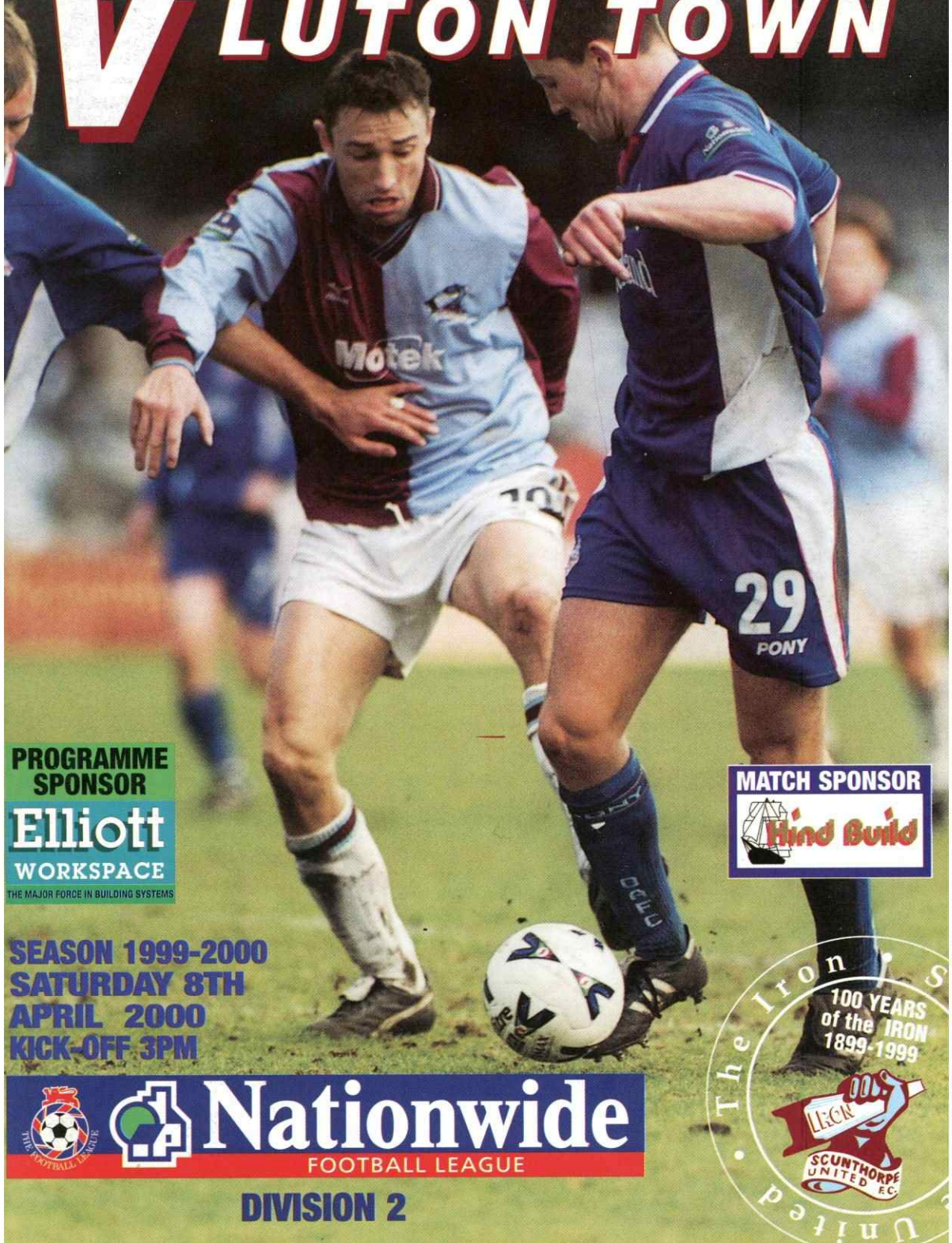


# SCUNTHORPE UNITED V LUTON TOWN



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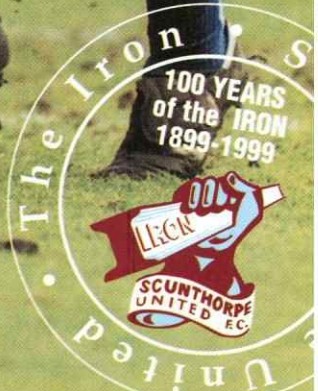
**SEASON 1999-2000  
SATURDAY 8TH  
APRIL 2000  
KICK-OFF 3PM**



# Nationwide

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**DIVISION 2**





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## Welcome

GOOD AFTERNOON, and welcome back to Glanford Park for today's encounter with visitors Luton Town. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Hatters who have made the trip up north and wish them a safe journey home.

Three defeats on the bounce have seen us fall further into relegation trouble, with United

now lying four points behind Oxford who occupy the position above the relegation zone. The pressure is really on for Brian Laws and his players to produce the goods today to start the climb up the table. With only six games to go United can ill afford to lose today, and risk falling even further behind the teams just above them.

## Form

Form (most recent on right)

SCUNTHORPE	LUTON TOWN
Form LDLLL	Form WLDWW
Home form DLDDL	Away form WLLWLW
Games since win 6	Games since win 0
Games since loss 0	Games since loss 3
Games since draw 3	Games since draw 2
Home games since win 8	Away games since win 0
Home games since loss 0	Away games since loss 1
Home games since draw 1	Away games since draw 6

English Division 3 (old)	Scunthorpe United 8-1 Luton Town 24-04-1965
English Division 2	Scunthorpe United 2-0 Luton Town 12-04-1963
English Division 2	Scunthorpe United 2-0 Luton Town 10-03-1962
English Division 2 (old)	Scunthorpe United 1-0 Luton Town 29-10-1960

Luton have never won this fixture  
This fixture has never been a draw

## Iron Diary

SCUNTHORPE 1-2 OLDHAM

A Tom Evan's penalty save was not enough for United as they succumbed to their 14th home defeat of the season against Oldham.

Evans made a brilliant 76th minute penalty save to deny the Latics a two goal cushion at Glanford Park, but at the other end United were unable to break through.

The Iron were behind again when they failed to clear their lines and the ball fell invitingly for Paul Rickers to drive in an unstoppable 20-yard shot.

WREXHAM 3-1 SCUNTHORPE

A goal after only 28 seconds by Robin Gibson set Wrexham on their way to a well-deserved 3-1 victory over relegation troubled Scunthorpe. It was not an ideal start for United and meant they again would have to come from behind to get anything out of the game.

The return of Lee Hodges to the starting line-up

was a boost to United and he brought two fine saves from the Wrexham keeper as United looked for an equaliser.

Wrexham though always looked dangerous when they went forward and particularly veteran forward Kevin Russell and it was that man who put the Welsh side 2-0 up just before the break when United failed to clear their lines the ball went into the box and Russell was the first to react firing into the bottom corner past Evans dive.

Brian Quailey gave United some hope just after the interval when he reduced the deficit with a close range shot he beat the Wrexham keeper to a ball on the edge of the box but his resulting header drifted wide of the post.

Darren Ferguson though wrapped up the points for Wrexham with a 65th minute penalty after Richard Logan and had made a rash challenge.

BURY 3-0 SCUNTHORPE

Scunthorpe will feel hard done by to have crashed to a 3-0 defeat at Bury, a result which leaves the Iron in serious relegation trouble. They produced a spirited performance after giving manager Brian Laws a mid-week vote of confidence but nothing went right for them. On-loan striker Dean Crowe converted Bury's only chance of the first half for a home debut goal after 21 minutes.

The Shakers won a disputed penalty after 64 minutes when Iron goalkeeper Tom Evans was adjudged to have tripped Nick Daws.

Andy Preece converted the spot-kick and United were shell-shocked.

Justin Walker, Lee Hodges and Nathan Stanton all brought the best out of Bury 'keeper Paddy Keeny and a host of other openings went begging before an injury time strike from substitute Paul Barnes completed United's afternoon of woe.

CAMBRIDGE PUT UNITED IN FURTHER TROUBLE

Cambridge United's 3-0 home victory to Bury put the Iron in further trouble, opening up a four point gap between the Iron and the safety zone. It was the U's first half performance that did the damage, cruising into a 3-0 lead before Lutel James and Paul Reid of Bury were dismissed before the break. The second half was a less exciting affair with Bury opting to use their remaining nine players to defend in numbers to keep the score down.

## PARK LIFE

### THE RELEGATION RUN-IN

**Cambridge United:** Bristol Rovers (H), Cardiff City (A), Colchester United (A), Preston North End (H), Burnley (A), Wycombe Wanderers (H).

**Oxford United:** Wigan Athletic (A), Burnley (H), Brentford (H), Bristol City (A), Scunthorpe United (H), Millwall (A).

**Cardiff City:** Preston North End (A), Gillingham (A), Cambridge United (H), Oldham Athletic (A), Bury (H), Stoke City (A), Bristol Rovers (H).

**Scunthorpe United:** Luton Town (H), Blackpool (A), Preston North End (A), Stoke City (H), Oxford United (A), Burnley (H).

**Blackpool:** Colchester United (A), Scunthorpe United (H), Bury (A), Bristol Rovers (H), Oldham Athletic (A) Chesterfield (H).

**Chesterfield:** Wycombe Wanderers (H), Bury (A) Oldham Athletic (A), Wrexham (H), Bournemouth (A), Notts County (H), Blackpool (A).

## TODAY'S MASCOT IS:

### RACHEL REYNOLDS

Rachel, who is our Mascot this afternoon, will be 9 years old on Tuesday. Happy Birthday for then Rachel! Rachel attends St Augustine Webster school and her hobbies are football, swimming and playing on her Gameboy. Her favourite United players are Guy Ipoua and Lee Hodges.



### Division Two Fixtures:

- Bournemouth - Oldham
- Bristol C - Wrexham
- Burnley - Notts C.
- Cambridge - Bristol R.
- Colchester - Blackpool
- Chesterfield - Wycombe
- Millwall - Bury
- Preston - Cardiff
- Reading - Gillingham
- Stoke - Brentford
- Wigan - Oxford

# FOOTBALL in the COMMUNITY

## A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYBODY FOR TODAY'S GAME AGAINST THE HATTERS.

Congratulations to Thomas Sumpter's under 13's girls for winning the Adidas Predator Community Cup competition down here at Glanford Park. They were contested in the final against Brumby Comprehensive, who played really well but couldn't find the equaliser, the match finished 2-1 to Thomas Sumpter. They now go forward to the area finals in Rotherham and we all hope that they call go further and win the competition, good luck girls.

Last week, Ross Reed of Leys Fann School, contested in the finals of the Smoby Table football competition which were held at Sheffield Wednesday, and Ross did really well and came second in the group, he managed to beat the Rotherham and Sheffield Wednesday competitors and also drew with the overall winner from Grimsby Town. Thank you to Ross for representing Scunthorpe United in the competition.



There is a charity match taking place down here at Glanford Park on Sunday May 7th in aid of the Kids2K appeal. A collection of ex players and local businessman will be raising funds for the kids? it appeal.

At the moment we are looking for people who are interested in becoming a coach through the Nesx Deal scheme. If you are interested or curious about becoming a coach, contact Lee Turnbull on 01724 280716, or come down to the community office here at Glanford Park.

Here is a photo of Ross Reed competing in the Smoby Table Football championships at Sheffield Wednesday.

Good luck to Brian, Russ and the boys and lets get three points.



Up the Iron  
Yours in Sport  
Lee Turnbull



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## RONNIE BARNES 1923 - 2000



It is with regret that I have to report the passing away of Ron Barnes, who died on Tuesday 4th April.

Ron started with the club in October 1980 and held the position as Head Groundsman until his retirement in October 1988. He continued in a part time capacity until ill health forced him to finally retire in 1998.

During his time with United Ronnie took his duties very seriously, working in a quiet and efficient manner, but always making the time to share a joke with those he worked with. Ronnie made many, many friends and will be sadly missed by all.



## THE LIFE OF BRIAN



Welcome to Luton Town, Lenny Lawrence, his team, the Supporters and the Directors.

Luton have had a very good season in terms of their stature in the division, although they may just miss out on making the Play-offs, but to me I think they have had a good season and I would obviously love to swap positions with them.

The last time we met was a very tight game and barring a crazy ten minute spell the score line could have been so different.

Coming into this game this time round the situations are totally different in terms of what it means. I have been trying to build this game up all week with the supporters and there is no point in harping on about our last games. Yes we have had three bad results in a week but there is no point in talking about the past we have got to look forward now and to the future. Hopefully we will have created an atmosphere today similar to the one against Swansea, where we desperately need to win, and we are treating today's as the last game of the season where a win is a must.

We know it will be difficult today. Luton are not a team of pushovers as they have shown on many occasions away from home. We know we have to work extra hard and I have said to the Players that everyone of them has to play to above their

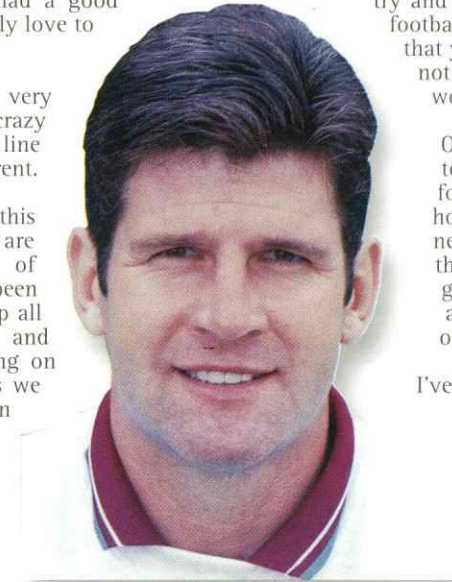
capabilities to get that result today. Make no mistake we have built up this week to try and achieve that.

The Players have been very tense and have been like sprung coils waiting to pop at any stage and it has been up to Russ and myself to try and relax them, and to try and play football. Brian Clough once said to me that you can't play football if you are not relaxed, and never has a truer word been spoken.

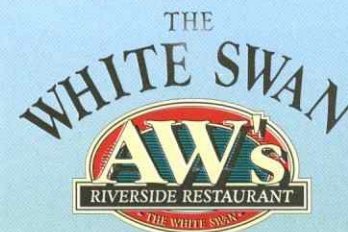
Our position this week has been to relax the Players but also to focus them on the game and hopefully get the football that we need to create chances and to win the game. Hopefully after this game we will have achieved it and it will set us on the road to our survival.

I've been told already that it's escape to victory - never a truer saying - and I'm hoping by tonight we will have started the first course of digging that tunnel and hopefully by our last game we will have got out.

Thank you for your support so far and for, hopefully, your winning support today.



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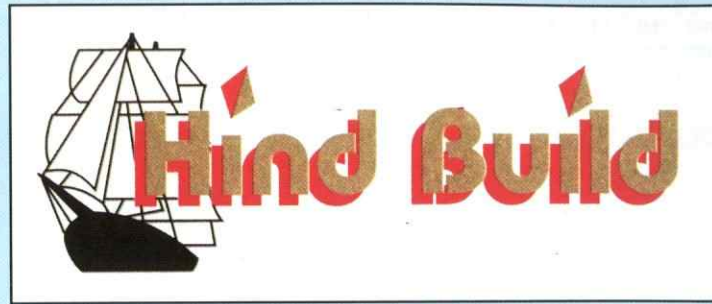
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**Nationwide**

**Justin Walker v Matthew Spring**

## FOOTIE FACTS

Since his arrival from Nottingham Forest, Justin Walker has become an integral part of the Scunthorpe midfield. After initially joining on loan, his move to Glanford Park was made permanent in May 1997, and the former England youth international has gone on to make 115 league appearances in a Scunthorpe shirt.

Facing him in what on paper looks like an intriguing midfield battle is Luton's Matthew Spring. Spring is another to come through the clubs successful youth ranks, and is one of the hottest prospects in Division Two. Scunthorpe fans may remember him after he scored twice against the Iron at Kenilworth Road earlier in the season.

Opta Index, the official statisticians of the Nationwide

Football League, have analysed the performances of both players during the course of the campaign, and many of their attributes are of a similar nature. Spring has played the more football this season, and as a result has made more passes. However, his 67 per cent accuracy is just one per cent less than that of Walker. Their tackling statistics are also similar, but this time it's Spring who has the better percentage, and again it is by just the one per cent.

Walker does, however, have an exceptional crossing statistic in that 49 per cent of his 73 crosses have found a colleague. Despite this impressive rate, he has only one assist to his name which would suggest the Scunthorpe forwards aren't taking advantage of his crossing ability. Spring has a crossing completion of 30

per cent but has assisted in five of the Hatters goals this season.

With games beginning to run out, the need for three points is crucial in the Iron's bid to avoid an immediate return back to Division Three. Their home form has been disappointing to say the least taking just 18 points from their 20 home games. Luton are safe from relegation and in no position to challenge for a play-off spot. They are also undefeated in their last three games scoring eight goals in the process. With the amount of promising youngsters within the squad, next season could see the Hatters making a serious bid for a play-off spot at the least.

By Stuart James

	Walker	Spring
Minutes On Pitch	"2,851"	"3,379"
Goal Attempts		
Goals	0	6
Shots On Target (inc goals)	5	23
Shots Off Target	13	34
Blocked Shots	5	16
Passing		
Goal Assists	1	5
Total Passes	1173	1557
Pass Completion %	68%	67%
Crossing		
Total Crosses	73	177
Cross Completion %	49%	30%
Dribbling		
Dribbles & Runs	75	83
Dribble Completion %	73%	80%
Defending		
Tackles Made	58	93
Tackles Won %	55%	56%
Blocks	26	36
Clearances	73	81
Interceptions	17	13
Discipline		
Fouls	34	54
Offside	0	2
Yellow Cards	1	4
Red Cards	0	0

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Nationwide League  
Division Two

with Andy Britcliffe

Second Division leaders Preston had to settle for a point in this hard fought noon derby at Blackpool.

Both sides remain in the same position as they started which leaves the Seasiders deep in relegation trouble.

In a game of few chances the home side shaded the first half and after Andy Cousens blazed over 35 minutes, Wayne Gill followed with a screaming volley two minutes later but shaved the outside of the post.

After the break the visitors dominated and after Jon Macken had spurned a couple of close range half chances Rob Edwards brought a stunning save out of Phill Barnes with a rasping 25-yard effort.

The Seasiders almost stole the points at the death but James Thomas chose to turn inside rather than shoot when clean through.

Brentford's poor form continued with this 2-0 home defeat against high-flying Wigan Athletic at Griffin Park.

The Bees have now failed to score in open play since February 26th.

The Latics took a controversial lead after 19 minutes, Andy Scott appeared to have won the ball cleanly in the box from Michael Clegg but to the Bee's amazement, referee Mark Warren pointed to the spot.

Nell Redfearn stepped up to slot the resulting spot kick home.

The Latics second goal came deep into the first half injury time when a Jeff Peron cross from the left was chested into his own net by Darren Powell at the near post.

Two minutes into the second half the Latics almost scored a third goal, Andy Liddell's strike from 15 yards hit the underside of the bar and rebounded to safety.

The Bees could not make any headway against a strong Wigan defence and the visitors ran out easy winners.

A Peter Thorne hat-trick earned Stoke a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Bristol Rovers at the Memorial Ground, but crowd trouble in injury time ruined a tremendous Second Division promotion battle.

Stoke goalkeeper Gavin Ward was attacked by two Rovers' fans, having been the target of missiles, and the game was up stopped for 10 minutes while mounted police restored order.

Rovers goals came through Robbie Pethick (20), James Cureton (32 pen) and Mark Walters with a 30-yard free kick on 69 minutes.

The match bristled with attacking football and included some superb goals. Walters was the pick, but Thorne's second, a brilliantly directed header from Clive Clarke's cross was also spectacular.

Pethick's first equaliser was a right foot rocket, but all the action that went before paled into insignificance thanks to the yobbish behaviour of a few louts.

Rovers are sure to face a FA enquiry and have taken just one point from three games. Their auto-matic promotion hopes suffered another blow, while Stoke still face a battle to make the play-offs. Cardiff City slipped to a 2-1 defeat against promotion-chasing Burnley even though the visitors went down to ten men.

Glen Little was given his marching orders in the 73rd minute after kicking Jason Bowen of the ball.

Goals from Steve Davis after 21 minutes and Andy Payton on the hour gave Burnley a healthy lead but the Bluebirds pulled one back when Ian Cox diverted a Kurt Nogan header into his own net.

City were second best in the first half with the Burnley midfield led by Paul Cook well on top.

Skipper Davis opened the scoring at the far post when Jon Hallworth failed to cut out a cross.

They slipped further behind on 61 minutes when a Jeff Eckhardt back header fell short of Hallworth and Payton nipped in to beat the City keeper from close range.

League Table - Div 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Preston	40	24	10	6	66	33	33	82
2. Wigan	40	22	9	9	63	29	34	75
3. Bristol Rovers	39	20	15	4	64	31	33	75
4. Millwall	40	20	12	8	62	40	22	72
5. Burnley	39	19	13	7	54	36	18	70
6. Gillingham	38	20	8	10	62	41	21	68
7. Stoke	40	18	13	9	59	40	19	67
8. Notts. County	40	18	10	12	56	45	12	64
9. Bristol City	40	12	18	6	47	47	0	54
10. Luton	40	15	8	17	55	58	-3	53
11. Oldham	39	14	10	15	43	45	-2	52
12. Bournemouth	40	15	7	19	51	55	-4	51
13. Reading	40	13	12	15	49	57	-8	51
14. Brentford	40	13	11	16	43	51	-8	50
15. Wycombe	40	12	13	13	46	48	-2	49
16. Bury	39	11	13	13	52	52	0	48
17. Rexham	40	12	11	17	45	56	-11	47
18. Colchester	40	13	8	19	52	72	-20	47
19. Cambridge	40	10	11	19	55	57	-2	41
20. Oxford	40	11	7	22	36	65	-29	40
21. Cardiff	39	7	16	16	40	52	-12	37
22. Scunthorpe	40	8	12	20	36	65	-29	36
23. Blackpool	40	7	14	19	41	67	-26	35
24. Chesterfield	39	5	12	19	25	52	-27	27

The 67th-minute Cox own goal brought City some hope and when Little was dismissed six minutes later the Bluebirds saw possibilities of rescuing a point but Burnley held out to improve their promotion chances while keeping Cardiff deep in the relegation fight.

Gillingham's 38-year old player-coach Steve Butler marked his first start of the season with the only goal against Chesterfield which puts the Gills play-off push back on track.

Butler took advantage after Spireltes skipper Ian Breckin misjudged Nicky Southall's cross to steer the ball past keeper Mark Gayle.

Chesterfield, who are facing a very tough task to stay in the Third Division, put up a brave face against Gillingham's onslaught, whilst rarely threatening the home side's goal themselves.

The nearest that the visitors came was when Jonathan Howard fired straight at Gillingham keeper Vince Bartram in the 72nd minute.

New signing Jonathan Bass was taken off at half-time in his home debut after breaking his nose in a collision with Breckin's boot.

Luton came back from 2-1 down to snatch a dramatic 3-2 win over Colchester at Kenilworth Road.

Matthew Taylor hit the winner in the 82nd minutes after Gary Doherty had equalised after 75 minutes.

Luton took a ninth lead through Julian Watts header, but Colchester hit back early in the second half through Steve McGavin (52) and Ton Lock (59).

Jason Dozzell hit the post for Colchester as early as the fourth minute, but Watts also saw a volley turned onto a post by U's goalkeeper Simon Brown early in the second half.

Luton wing back Emmerson Boyce was also out of luck when his flying header hit the same post after 56 minutes.

Luton had the best of the chances in the game and Brown did well to same twice from Doherty. Duane Darby's first goal for six months kept Notts County's play-off hopes alive and dented Millwall's bid for automatic promotion.

Darby, the unlucky striker who recently returned after a hernia operation having missed the whole of last season through injury, couldn't contain his delight when he equalised after 61 minutes.

Millwall went in front after 13 minutes when Nell Harris grabbed his 18th.

goal of the season with a flying header and he would have increased his tally on either side of the half time but for fine saves by Darren Ward.

Darby's effort gave County fresh momentum and Millwall were fortunate to hold out in the closing stages especially when Kevin Rapley and Richard Liburd went close.

Oldham made it six games unbeaten with a 1-0 win at Boundary Park to plunge struggling Cambridge back into relegation trouble.

The game was evenly poised until the home side broke deadlock in the 75th minute.

A cross from John Sheridan picked out Andrew Holt and he slid the ball home from eighth yards out for only his third goal of the season.

After that it was all Oldham and the visitors keeper Lionel Perez twice denied teenage striker Ryan Sugden in the dying minutes.

Cambridge, who had been unbeaten in their previous five away games, played with three strikers but they could only manage one shot on target throughout the 90 minutes.

Oxford United eased their relegation worries with a hard-earned 1-0 win over Bournemouth at the Manor Ground.

The all-important goal came after 32 minutes was credited to Derek Lilley who cut in from the right and hit a fierce shot which took a deflection off Eddie Howe.

Jame Cook was unlucky on the stroke of half time when he drove a shot against a post but Oxford were fortunate six minutes into the second half.

They conceded a free-kick on the edge of the area which was driven in by Chris Warren but it was taken before the referee was ready and he disallowed it.

Oxford, who survived a nervous 20-minute spell in the second half, finished on top and Lilley went close to increasing the lead nine minutes from the end.

An early goal from Martin Butler was enough to secure three points for Reading at Wrexham, a result which eases their relegation worries. The Robins had no answer to a well-organised Reading side and had it not for a number of superb saves by Wrexham goalkeeper Kevin Dearden, they

could have lost by many more.

Wrexham's midfield failed to produce chances for the forwards and Reading thoroughly deserved their win.

Enterprising Bristol City snatched the points at Wycombe thanks to goals from leading scorer Tony Thorpe and Damien Spencer, whose goal cancelled out Sean Devine's equaliser for the Chairboys.

After early promise the visitors took the lead with Thorpe shooting his 13th of the season.

The Wycombe defenders had failed to clear the visitors second corner in the 18th minute, the ball falling at the feet of former Fulham striker Thorpe, who controlled thumping his shot off Wycombe defender Paul McCarthy and past bemused home keeper Martin Taylor.

Taylor needed to produce a magnificent flying one-handed save on 52 minutes to deny visiting 21-year-old defender Andrew Jordon, whose powerfully struck free-kick appeared to be creeping in just under the crossbar.

Wycombe dramatically levelled on 63 minutes, Devine heading in at the near post from Michael Simpson's free-kick after City defender Keith Millen folded home striker Andrew Baird.

But that lead only lasted three minutes, visiting midfielder Paul Holland easing the Thorpe, his shot only being parried by enabling Spencer to follow up.

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## CAPTAIN'S LOG



Things are now getting down to the wire and I know that there are a lot of disgruntled people about. I can understand in a way how people feel but the Players are giving 100% on the pitch and this is something which we have gone over before. I'm sure that the fans know that we can only try our best and give our all.

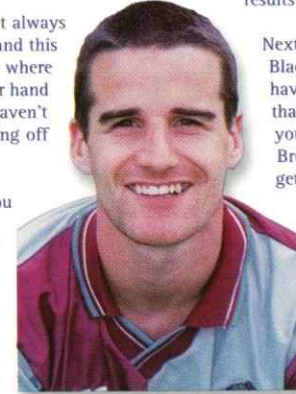
Luck plays a part and in recent games we haven't always got the rub of the green when it comes to luck, and this shows, particularly in the last three matches, where penalties have gone against us. Then on the other hand penalties that we might have been awarded, we haven't been. That just sums up how things aren't coming off for us at the moment.

It's swings and roundabouts though, and you never know, today just might be the day that fortune swings our way and we get the rub of the green for a change.

It's down to the last six games now and we have got to start picking up points. After losing 4-1 at Luton I'm sure the lads will be looking to avenge the defeat of our first game of the Millennium.

Looking back over our last three games, which have all been defeats, I don't think that we have played particularly badly, but we are having problems in scoring goals particularly at home where against Oldham we dominated for periods of the game, similarly in our matches at Wrexham and Bury, but we just can't find the back of the net. Unfortunately our opponents have been.

Another thing that I keep mentioning week in and week out is the terrific support we keep getting away from home. I know that over the season you have travelled thousands of miles, and you deserve a special mention for the way you keep going particularly when you applaud us off after defeats such as Wrexham and Bury. You keep going for us and we have got to keep going to try to get the results for you that we so badly need.



Next Saturday is another big away game for us, at Blackpool, but then the following day the Youth Team have an important appointment at Wembley, and I'm sure that whilst not many of you are being allowed to be there, you will be there in spirit and willing them to beat West Bromwich Albion and bring the Trophy home. You don't get many chances in your career to play at Wembley and I'm sure that they will enjoy it and of course all the of the Lads wish them all the best and hope that they can bring some added cheer to Glanford Park come Monday next.

Enjoy the game.

HOPEY



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# Welcome to Luton Town

with Paul Fletcher

SUPPORTERS of Luton Town have every reason to enjoy their football this season, whatever the results. Until 15 hours before the season kicked off, there was a danger that the Hatters would be thrown out of the Football League.

The summer has been traumatic at a club which came into this decade as one of the best in the country - they had ten glorious years in the old First Division, now the Premiership, and won the Littlewoods Cup, now the Worthington Cup, by beating Arsenal in the 1988 final.

Alas, tradition and past glory counts for little in today's big-money football world. Missing the first season of the Premiership was bad enough, through relegation a few months before it was set up. Further relegation, to Division Two, was another blow to the club and its fans.

But even those disappointments started to look insignificant towards the end of last season, when boardroom politics became public knowledge. A dispute escalated until just before deadline day last March director and major creditor Cliff Bassett called in receivers, who were still running the club until the day before the league season kicked off. The club was put up for sale.

Manager Lennie Lawrence, who had guided the Hatters to 12th place in the Second Division last season, was left hamstrung by the impasse. The receiver's job was to draw in money, not spend it, and although Lawrence was allowed to do some deals, the greater pressure was to raise cash in the transfer market.

One of the most experienced bosses in the business, with a CV including running Charlton on a shoestring at the top level, Lawrence had raised £1.4million under receivership by the time goalkeeper Kelvin Davis went to Wimbledon for £600,000 down, with a further £200,000 to come on appearances, and possibly more if Davis is sold on by the Dons. Remarkably, having endured the toughest period of management in a career stretching back two decades, the manager agreed to stay in the job, where the term hot seat really was relevant.

"I like this little club, and we have got some super people on the staff," he explained. The Football League became involved as Luton staggered towards the new season still in receivership, and threatened to throw them out if they did not sort out a deal by midnight on the night of August 6, 15 hours before the new season kicked off. The threat did the trick: after five months under the cloud of receivership, the club's majority shareholding passed to director and long-time supporter Cliff Bassett.

One of the oldest football clubs in England - they were the first in the south to turn professional - Luton Town have seen just about everything in football in more than a century of ups and downs.

The club was formed in 1885 when Luton Wanderers and Luton Excelsior decided to merge, at a time when Luton was on the threshold of a boom thanks to the growth of the hat making trade which was to give the club its nickname.

As the town became bigger and more prosperous so did the Football Club, and it started paying its players in 1891. Three years later Luton were founder-members of the Southern League, and in 1897 joined the Football League's Second Division. But patchy results and rising costs led to the club resigning to return to the Southern League. And there Luton stayed until 1920, when the Southern League became Division Three of the Football League.

The Hatters have been in the Football League ever since.

The town narrowly missed promotion from Division Three South in 1936, when centreforward Joe Payne terrorized opposing defenses. A wing-half, his first appearance as leader of the attack was near-unbelievable: he scored ten goals in a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth Road. It is a record which is likely to stand forever.

The following year Luton did win promotion, with Payne netting 55 league goals. Luton were comfortable in the Second Division and in 1955 won promotion to the top division what is now the Premiership. It ended in tears after six years. Luton reached the FA Cup final in 1959, but lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest. It was a team getting too old together, and a slump set in. Within 12 months Luton were relegated, and by the sixth anniversary of their only FA Cup final appearance Luton had tumbled all the way down to the old Fourth Division. In 1967 they were perilously close to having to ask for re-election to stay in the League.

That indignity was narrowly avoided, and a new board injected new life and money into the club. The Division Four championship was won in 1968 and two years later another promotion was clinched, to the Second Division, with Malcolm Macdonald's goals a major factor. In 1974 Luton made history again: they won promotion back to the First Division to become the first club ever to drop from top to bottom of the League and then complete the revival in the opposite direction. That joy ended with relegation after only one season, but in 1982, led by David Pleat, Luton were back among the big boys again, despite operating on a shoestring in an antiquated ground.

Miraculously Luton survived for ten seasons, with the first providing one of the game's classic showdowns. On the last day of the 1982/83 campaign Luton travelled to Maine Road needing a win to stay up and to condemn Manchester City to relegation. City had only to draw, and got to within four minutes of success. But then Raddy Antic, a Serb who had gone as a

substitute, struck the winner, and David Pleat was forever famous after that for his televised victory jig of delight across the pitch.

Luton lost in the 1985 FA Cup semi-final to Everton, but in 1988 a major trophy was landed at last, when Arsenal were beaten 3-2 in the final of the Littlewoods Cup. Twelve months later Luton were at Wembley again to defend the trophy, but they lost to Nottingham Forest, to revive memories for older supporters of the 1959 disappointment. Three years later, with Pleat back at the club for a second spell in charge, Luton were relegated, missing the chance of being founder-members of the Premiership.

Pleat resigned for a second time in 1995 to go to Sheffield Wednesday, and youth coach Terry Westley was given his job at Kenilworth Road. By mid-season Luton were in desperate trouble, and although new boss Lennie Lawrence produced a mini-revival, the Hatters went down again. They almost bounced straight back, but lost in the 1997 playoffs. They are hoping to go one better this time.

## THE PLAYERS

### Nathan Abbey

The goalkeeper and his manager agreed at the end of last season that Tanny needed a move to further his career. For two years he had been waiting in the wings, as understudy to England under-21 keeper Kelvin Davis, and for all his potential Abbey had few first-team chances. So he left Luton to join a club in Antwerp, but the deal went wrong. By the time he came back to England Luton had sold Davis to Wimbledon - the receivers thought £600,000 plus £200,000 more on appearances was too good to turn down - so Abbey returned to Kenilworth Road in the hope of becoming No. 1. Five years after joining The Hatters as a YTS boy, Luton record to the start of this season: 8 appearances.

### James Ayres

One of the many promising young players Luton have had to rely on after financial difficulties last summer forced the club to cut its senior squad and reduce the wages bill. A commanding centre-half, Ayres joined his home town club as a YTS boy in 1996, and two years later skipped their youth team to the championship of the South East Counties League. He made his debut at Oxford in December 1999 in the Auto Windscreens Shield, and did well enough to merit occasional places on the bench for the league side after that. In February he joined neighbours Stevenage Borough on loan, with Luton making it clear it was to continue his football education in the Nationwide Conference, and not a case of putting him in the shop window.

### Emmerson Boyce

One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995, and graduated to the first team squad after a debut in the Auto Windscreens Shield in January 1999. By the end of the season he was a regular in the squad, but made only one start in the league, and came into this campaign looking for better than a regular place on the subs' bench. Luton record to the start of this season: 2 appearances.

### Gary Doherty

Big and brave, Doherty is a centre-half who can also operate as a centre-forward. He played in central defence for the Luton team which won the South East Counties League championship last season. He became a temporary striker to help an injury crisis, and did well enough to make the switch permanent. And he is making an impact on a bigger stage too: after being capped at youth level he has already been on the subs' bench for the Republic of Ireland. Luton record to the start of the season: 35 appearances, 6 goals.

### Stuart Douglas

A real hotshot in youth and reserve team football, Douglas was a 17-year-old trainee when he made his league debut for Luton against Oldham in 1995, but had to battle to overcome injuries before winning a regular place in Luton's league side last season in which he played 50 games. Luton record to the start of this season: 75 appearances, 14 goals.

### Andrew Fotiadis

Another local discovery, Fotiadis chose to stay at school to gain GCSE A-levels before being a full-time soccer professional. He won England Schools caps at under-15 and under-18 level, and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry opposing defenses, as an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power, and concentrated determination to score goals. Luton record to the start of this season: 61 appearances, 7 goals.

### Stuart Fraser

Stylish defender and skipper of the Luton youth team which ran away with the South East Counties League championship last season. Reckoned by the Luton coaching staff to be an outstanding prospect, he was given his league debut against Carlisle, in a 3-2 win, on the final day of the 1997/98 season and within a year he was competing hard with the redoubtable Mitchell Thomas for the left back spot. Luton record to the start of this season: 10 appearances.

### Liam George

Full of pace and nimble footwork, striker George was well set a year ago to clinch a league place after impressing as a constant scorer in Luton's youth and reserve teams. A regular member of the Republic of Ireland squad that progressed to the European youth championships final in the summer of 1998, George had made his league debut against Bristol City in September 1997, and started last season as an established first choice. But he broke a leg at Wigan a year ago and the season was nearly over by the time he had recovered. Luton record to the start of this season: 18 appearances, no goals.



### Phil Gray

Signed by Luton for the second time in September 1997, the Northern Ireland striker hopes to get in a full season after being hit by a succession of injuries. He was in Spurs reserves when David Pleat, emboss at White Hart Lane, and then in his second spell as Luton manager, splashed out £275,000 for him in August 1991. Two years later he moved on to Premiership football with Sunderland, for £800,000 and after three years at Roker went to Nancy in France, and then Fortuna Sittard in Holland. He needed little encouragement to return to Kenilworth Road in exchange for £400,000, and having rediscovered his goal touch was recalled to the Northern Ireland squad in November. Luton record to the start of this season: 62 appearances, 15 goals.

### Marvin Johnson

Longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, Johnson is a versatile defender, normally a centre-half but capable of filling in on the flanks or in midfield. Johnson is starting his 12th season as a first-team regular at Luton, his only club. Injuries have been a problem, but he has always bounced back and is now a fixture and skipper of the team he joined as a schoolboy. Luton record to the start of this season: 356 appearances, 9 goals.

### Adam Locke

Croydon Well-travelled in football terms, and very welcome for the experience he brought into a predominantly young squad, midfielder Locke joined Luton on a free transfer from Bristol City last summer. With the club in receivership, he was offered only a month to start with, but by the time the administrators moved out Locke had done enough to earn a deal to see him through to the end of the season. He began as a YTS boy with Crystal Palace, his local club, but could not get into the league team at Selhurst, and moved on to Southend, Colchester and Bristol City, and is now an established member of Luton's league squad.

### Gavin McGowan

A right back fighting for a Premiership place against very stiff competition at Arsenal, McGowan signed for Luton for the third time in June 1998. The first two were loan deals, one in March 1997 ending prematurely through injury. He rejoined Luton on loan again for three months, at the start of the 1997/8 season. Lennie Lawrence rated him, but could not afford to make an offer, and was delighted to conclude a quick deal a year later when Arsenal offered the defender a free transfer. Luton record to the start of this season: 50 appearances, no goals.

### Michael McIndoe

Made his debut for Luton's senior side last season when injuries hit three players above him in the pecking order for the wide left midfield slot. He joined Luton as a YTS boy after leaving school, and was part of their youth team which won the South East Counties League championship and the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup in the



1997/98 season. He made his first team debut in the Worthington Cup first round victory over Oxford United a year ago. Luton record to the start of this season: 28 appearances, no goals.

### Paul McLaren

The midfielder was still a schoolboy when Luton realized that he had enough talent and strength to play regularly in their youth team. A YTS offer was a formality, and he was offered pro terms while still only 17. Forceful and always ready to back up attacks, he soon became a regular after a 1994 debut. Luton record to the start of this season: 123 appearances, 2 goals.

### Ben Roberts

Luton boss Lennie Lawrence went back to one of his old clubs in February to recruit goalkeeper Roberts after 21-year-old Nathan Abbey suffered a loss of form and was subjected to harsh treatment by supporters. Roberts was third choice keeper at Middlesbrough, and grabbed the chance of regular first team football with Luton, signing initially on a month's loan. He had some Premiership experience with Middlesbrough, and is a former England under-21 international. He was in the Middlesbrough team beaten 2-0 by Chelsea in the 1997 FA Cup final, and was back at Wembley in 1999, playing on loan to Millwall as they lost 1-0 against Wigan in the final of the Auto Windscreens Shield. He had other loan spells at Hartlepool, Wycombe and Bradford.

### Andre Scarlett

It was a Roy of the Rovers story when the 18-year-old made his league debut for Luton last October. Because of injuries the winger was on the subs' bench against Oldham, and got his chance with 20 minutes to go, with the score at 0-0. His trickery tempted an Oldham player into a rash tackle which earned a red card, and Luton went on to win 2-0, with Scarlett netting the clincher in a 2-0 win. Luton record to the start of this season: 8 appearances, 1 goal.

### Efetobore Sodje

It was second time lucky for the defender and Luton Town when he signed at the start of this season, after declining to accept a new contract at Macclesfield, who had just been relegated back to Division Three. British, but qualifying for Nigeria, where he spent much of his boyhood, "Effy" came back to England in 1994 to try his luck in the Football League. Luton were interested, but then manager David Pleat advised the young hopeful to join neighbouring Stevenage Borough, and then came back 12 months later. But Sodje did so well in the Conference that Stevenage declined to let him go. He helped Stevenage to the Conference championship, and then moved to Macclesfield for £30,000, playing a major role as they came up from the Conference and won Third Division promotion in their first season. He signed a year's contract with Luton in August, but started with a three-match suspension, which will keep him out of the squad at Reading.

continued over

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## SKF SKF Bearings SKF

Back Row: Left to Right: John Moore (Coach), Ray McKinnon, Landry Zahana-Oni, Adam Locke, Efetobore Sodje, Alan White, Tresor Kandol, Gary Doherty, Emmerson Boyce, Matthew Taylor, Clive Goodyear (Physiotherapist).  
Middle Row: Left to Right: Trevor Hartley (Coach), Andre Scarlett, Michael McIndoe, Gavin McGowan, Nathan Abbey, Daniel Tate, Paul McLaren, Matthew Spring, Stuart Fraser, Mandy Malins (Fitness Trainer)  
Front Row: Left to Right: Phil Gray, Andrew Fotiadis, Chris Green (Director), Cliff Bassett (Director), Marvin Johnson (Club Captain), Lennie Lawrence (Team Manager), Nigel Terry (Director), Liam George, Stuart Douglas.

### Matthew Spring

A competitive midfielder, Spring was a driving force in the Luton side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997, and it was no surprise when he was called up for a league debut, when still only 17, as a sub against Bristol City in September 1997. Last season was his best yet - he topped the Hatters' appearance list with 54 games, and scouts from the big clubs gathered in droves to watch him. Luton record to the start of this season: 67 appearances, 3 goals.

### Matthew Taylor

When Luton were in receivership throughout the summer, players had to be sold or given away to save money, while severe restrictions were imposed on new recruits. So once more Luton had to look at the young talent coming up through the ranks, and midfielder Taylor, though still only 17, was given his chance. Impressive performance in pre-season friendlies saw him leap from youth team to league squad, and after helping Luton win the South East Counties championship last season he started this with a league debut on opening day, at Notts County.

### Julian Watts

Signed on the month's loan from Bristol City at the start of the season, and keen to get his career moving again after falling out of favour at Ashton Gate. Rotherham gave the defender his first taste of league football, and it was ambition achieved when he signed for the home town club he supported, Sheffield Wednesday. Changes in managers have not helped his progress: Trevor Francis bought him for Wednesday, but new manager David Pleat sold him off to Leicester for £200,000 in 1996. Two years later he left Filbert Street as a Bosman, and John Ward signed him for Bristol City. Three months later, Ward was out, and soon afterwards so was Watts, with neither of the two City managers since Ward wanting to keep him, and Watts jumped at the chance of first-team football with Luton.

### Alan White

Lennie Lawrence went back to Middlesbrough, one of his old clubs, when an injury crisis robbed him of three of his back four in September 1997. Centre-half White was a prospect Lawrence knew well: Lennie had signed him as a 17-year-old at Ayresome Park. White was unable to force his way into Middlesbrough's Premiership squad after the advent of Bryan Robson and big-money signings, and grabbed the chance to rejoin Lawrence in a £40,000 transfer. Luton record to the start of this season: 71 appearances, 2 goals.

### Landry Zahana-Oni

Signed by Lennie Lawrence in January 1999, from Bromley, of the Ryman Premier League, Zahana-Oni had attracted the interest of several other league clubs with his abilities as an old-fashioned left winged A French national, he had six years with Le Havre before crossing the Channel to try to make the grade in British football. He spent eight months at Stirling Albion before joining Bromley, and Luton paid £25,000, with more to follow depending on the player's progress. Luton record to the start of this season: 8 appearances, no goals.

### THE MANAGER - LENNIE LAWRENCE

WITH FORMER youth coach Terry Westley struggling in his first experience as a manager, he and Luton Town reluctantly decided to part company as the Hatters slid to the bottom of Division One. Four months in the autumn of 1995 had seen £2million spent, but only four matches won out of 22. Luton decided they needed an experienced hand on the tiller, and Lawrence fitted the bill perfectly. Perhaps more importantly, he knew about running clubs on shoestring budgets, having made his name by taking impoverished Charlton into what is now the Premiership, and keeping them there for four years, when they did not even have a home of their own. Lawrence was a non-league player, with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton United. His managerial career started as assistant at Plymouth and then Lincoln. He went to Charlton as reserve team coach before landing the hot seat. He had been boss for nine years when he left Charlton in 1991 and took over at Middlesbrough. He led them to promotion to the Premiership a year later, but they were relegated after only one season and was replaced by Bryan Robson. Bradford City offered the next opportunity, but he left after 18 months to return south. A few weeks later he became Luton's 21st manager. The survival task proved too

much, with the December leeway too big a gap to close, but relegation was followed by a thrilling recovery. In their first season back in Division Two, Luton were rarely out of the promotion frame, but it ended in disappointment, with play-off semi-final defeat against Crewe. A season of struggle followed, but Luton were 12th last season, despite their traditional chronic shortage of money, and it has been a difficult summer for the boss - the club went into receivership in the closing weeks of last season, and that left him helpless when he wanted to trade in the early summer transfer market. The manager's record at Luton, to the start of this season: Played 194, won 70, drawn 52, lost 72, goals for 250, goals against 235

### COACH - JOHN MOORE

A Scotsman who is Luton Town through and through sounds like a contradiction, but John Moore has proved it over four decades. He has never lost his Scottish accent, despite spending much more of his life in Luton than in the land of his birth. He first went to Kenilworth Road as a young player, signed from Motherwell in the summer of 1965. A nonsense centre-half, he was in the team which saw Luton make a tremendous recovery after years of failure. In the old First Division for seven years until 1960, Luton had slumped all the way down to the Fourth when Moore arrived. By the time he left, in 1974, to see out his playing career with Northampton, Luton had become the first club ever to sink from top to bottom of the Football League, and then climb all the way back up again. Moore settled for part-time management with local teams in the Luton area before David Pleat took him into Luton Town for the second time, as coach to the reserve and youth teams. Pleat left Luton to go to Spurs in 1986, and Moore was promoted to succeed him. And Moore made history: he guided Luton to seventh place in the First Division, now the Premiership, their best-ever finishing place. But Moore found it all less than satisfying: a natural coach, and very much at home on the training ground and in the dug-out, he found other parts of the manager's job difficult. A diffident man, he disliked the upfront demands put on managers by, for instance, radio, TV and the newspapers. So after one year of success, he walked away. Ray Harford, his assistant, became manager, and Moore declined offers to stay on as a coach, saying it would be unfair on Harford. But Moore was back in the coaches' room at Luton in January 1990, recruited by new manager Jim Ryan, who had been a playing colleague at Kenilworth Road in the seventies. And Moore has been at Luton ever since, specialising in coaching the younger players, but helping out with the first team as well.

### COACHED - TREVOR HARTLEY

The wheel turned full circle when Hartley was appointed to the coaching staff at Kenilworth Road at the start of this season - it took him back to the club he first joined as a youth coach in 1980. A player with West Ham and Bournemouth, Hartley was manager at Dean Court for a spell, and later coached in Singapore. David Pleat was the Luton manager who recruited Hartley to be youth coach, and within four years Hartley was Pleat's right-hand man. They went to Spurs, as manager and assistant, in the summer of 1986, and luckless Hartley was thrown out of work through no fault of his own after Pleat was sacked to allow Terry Venables to become Spurs boss, with his own coaching staff. But with a good reputation secured, Hartley was in international demand and coached in the Far East, USA and Canada, and then for four years was part of the England set-up under Graham Taylor, before returning to league football at Sunderland. He rejoined Luton in the summer of 1998.

### PHYSIO - CLIVE GOODYEAR

Further proof of the pull Luton Town can exert on former players, Goodyear started his career as a teenager at Kenilworth Road, and established himself as a dependable centre-half in the side built by David Pleat which won promotion to the old First Division in 1982. Then, as now always looking to raise cash by player sales, Luton accepted a £40,000 offer from Plymouth for Goodyear in 1984, and the price was £50,000 when he moved on to Wimbledon three years later. Goodyear is the only man at Kenilworth Road with an FA Cup winner's medal, having been in the Wimbledon side which pulled off a shock Wembley win against Liverpool in 1988. A move to Brentford followed before a knee injury forced his retirement. He became a qualified physio and "signed on" for Luton in that capacity in 1993.

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1999/2000



DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	GOAL SCORERS (in green)	GOAL KEEPER (in red)	NUMBER IN BRACKETS AFTER SUBSTITUTE = PLAYER REPLACED	'INDICATES OWN GOAL IN UNITED'S FAVOUR
<b>AUGUST</b>							
Sat 7	Wigan Athletic	A	0-3	7481 24			
Tue 10	Huddersfield (W.Cup)	H	0-2	3398 24			
Sat 14	Wycombe Wanderers	H	0-1	4092 24			
Sat 21	Notts County	A	0-3	5606 24			
Tue 24	Huddersfield (W.Cup)	A	0-0	4345 24			
Tue 28	Bournemouth	H	3-1	3376 22			
Mon 30	Cardiff City	A	1-1	8006 19			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>							
Sat 4	Bristol Rovers	H	0-2	4496 22			
Sat 11	Colchester United	A	1-0	3300 17			
Sat 18	Bristol City	H	1-2	4542 19			
Sat 25	Chersterfield	H	0-0	4231 19			
<b>OCTOBER</b>							
Sat 2	Stoke City	A	0-1	13,068 20			
Sun 10	Bury	A	2-1	10,752 18			
Sat 16	Preston North End	H	1-1	5,336 17			
Tue 19	Oxford United	H	1-0	3829 14			
Sat 23	Chersterfield	A	1-1	3464 14			
Fri 29	Rushden/Diamonds/FA	A	0-2	4112			
<b>NOVEMBER</b>							
Tue 2	Cambridge United	A	3-1	3285 14			
Sat 6	Millwall	H	1-4	4550 14			
Fri 12	Brentford	H	4-3	4657 14			
Tue 23	Gillingham	A	1-4	3444 17			
Sat 27	Reading	A	1-1	6142 16			
<b>DECEMBER</b>							
Sat 4	Wigan Athletic	H	1-2	3463 17			
Sat 11	Wrexham (FA Cup 3)						
Wed 15	Worthington (Cup 5)						
Sat 18	Bury	H	0-2	3137 19			
Sun 26	Oldham Athletic	A	1-1	5998 19			
Tue 28	Blackpool	H	1-0	4476 17			
<b>JANUARY</b>							
Mon 3	Luton Town	A	1-4	5574 17			
Sat 15	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-2	4856 20			
Sat 22	Notts County	H	1-0	4035 17			
Tue 25	Chersterfield (AVIS)	H	2-1	2632 18			
Sat 29	Bournemouth (FA Cup 5)	A	1-1	4802 18			
<b>FEBRUARY</b>							
Tue 1	Wrexham	H	0-2	2851 18			
Sat 5	Cardiff City	H	0-0	3614 18			
Sat 12	Bristol Rovers	A	1-1	8236 19			
Sat 19	Reading (FA Cup 6)	H	2-2	4082 18			
Sat 26	Bristol City	A	2-1	9897 19			
<b>MARCH</b>							
Sat 4	Colchester United	H	0-0	4253 19			
Tue 7	Millwall	A	2-1	8772 19			
Sat 11	Cambridge United	H	0-3	3964 19			
Tue 14	Gillingham	A	1-3	6822 20			
Tue 21	Brentford	H	0-0	2616 20			
Sat 25	Oldham Athletic	H	0-0	3807 20			
Tue 28	Wrexham	A					
<b>APRIL</b>							
Sat 1	Bury	A	0-3	3546 22			
Sat 8	Luton Town (FA Cup semi-final)	H					
Sat 15	Blackpool	A					
Sat 22	Preston North End	H					
Mon 24	Stoke City	A					
Sat 29	Oxford United	H					
<b>MAY</b>							
Sat 6	Burnley	H					
Sat 20	FA Cup Final						

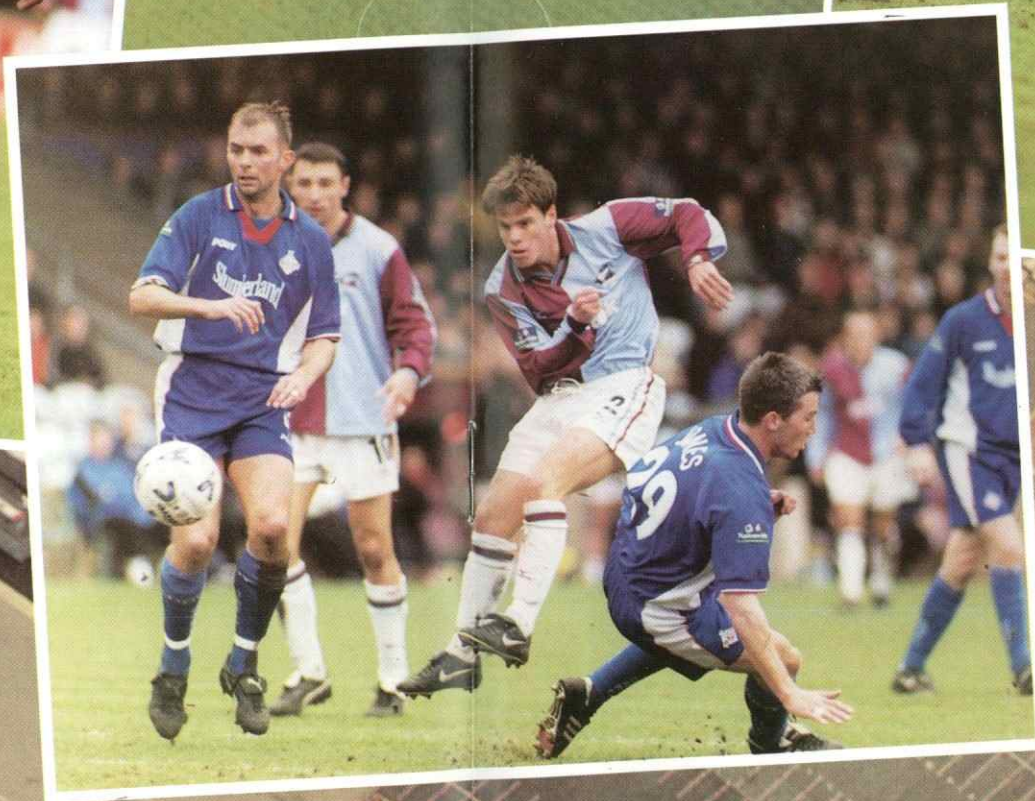
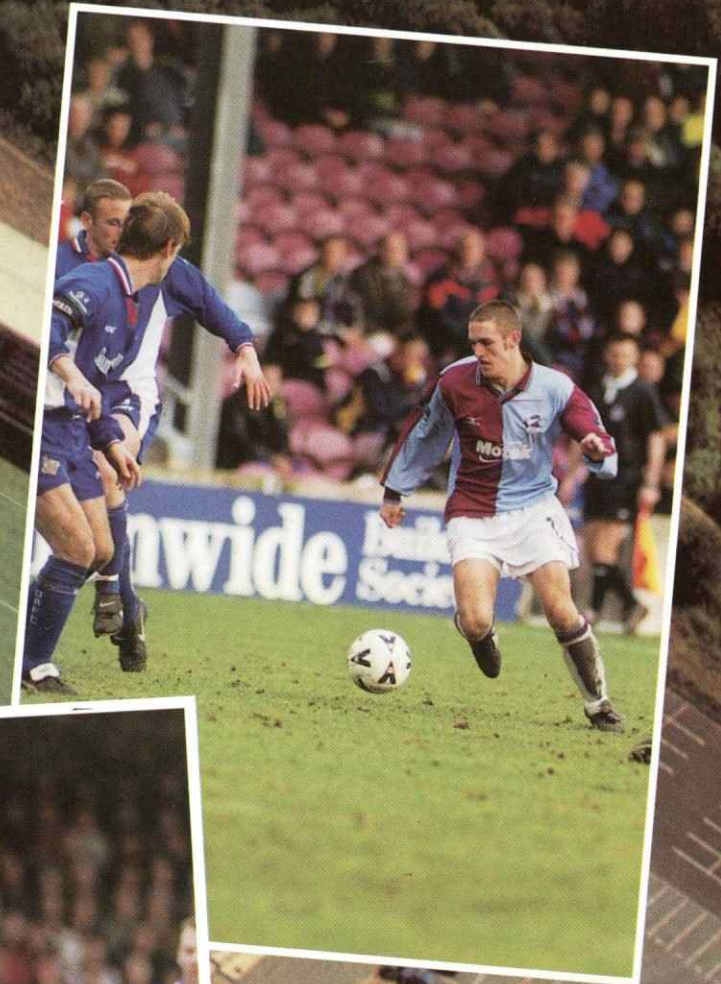
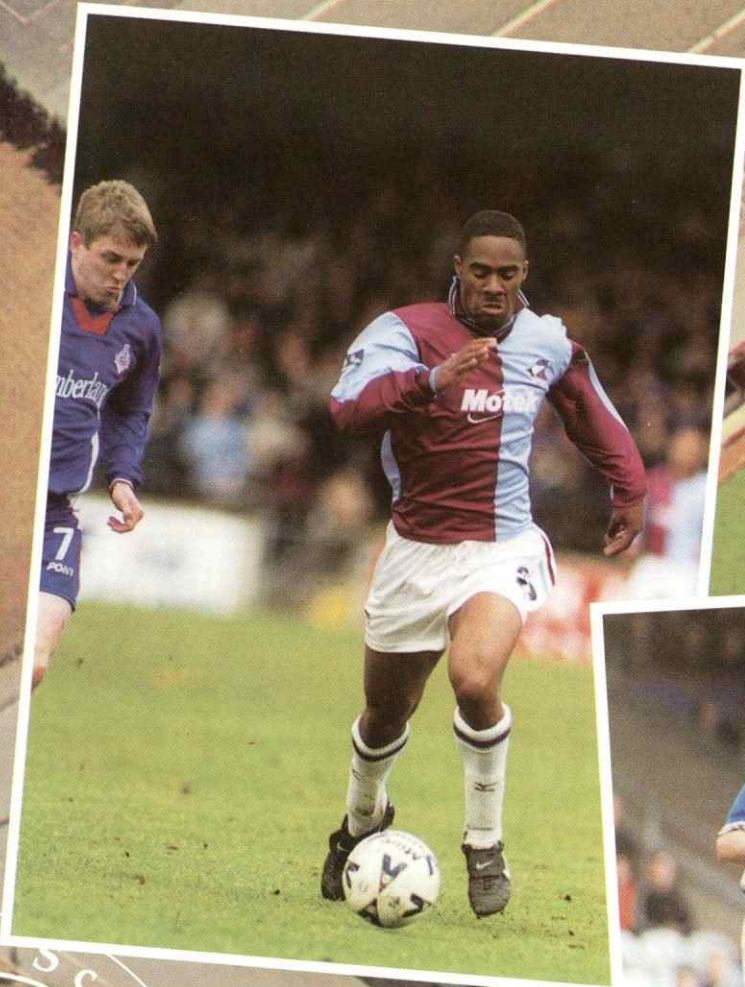


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McCauley	Goalkeeper	McCauley
Fickling	Goalkeeper	Fickling
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Marcelle	Goalkeeper	



PICTURE

# Parade



Pictures by  
I. A. Hewitt Photography



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# A trip down Memory Lane

with John Staff



## WN GOAL

There is no greater gift in football than an own goal, particularly if it comes from a former player. The most recent event of this type was when Alan Knill scored in a 4-3 victory for the Iron whilst wearing a Rotherham United shirt in the 1998-99 season. The most number of own goals credited to Scunthorpe in one campaign is four. This happened twice in both the Second Division years of 1958-59 and 1962-63. United never lost one of what were eight matches in which own goals featured on the goalscoring list. Only two of the games would not have seen the points division altered had not the gifts from the opposition been given. These were each won 2-0. When it comes to the FA Cup it is probable that an unfortunate own goal by Hartlepool Defender Bawes, in the First Round, Second Replay at Roker Park in 1972 was one of Scunthorpe's most gratefully received presents. Hartlepool were leading 1-0 as time ran out on them. Then came the own goal as the ball was sliced into the net and a North East Cup victory turned into extra time during which Steve Deere gave the Iron a winner. One of the most spectacular own goals scored at Glanford Park was netted by Steve Lister against Tranmere. This proved to be the only goal of a Fourth Division match on New Years Eve 1988. Steve had no one around him when he flicked the ball back gently to Paul Musselwhite. Unfortunately he lofted the ball too high and well out of the reach of the unsuspecting goalkeeper. Whoops!

## FIRE

During the working life of the Old Showground there were two notable fires which destroyed the superstructure of the stands. In 1924 the west side of the ground was extensively damaged, along the length of Henderson Avenue, with the loss of the kit, dressing rooms and seating. Another catastrophe happened in 1958 when the old wooden stand was lost on the west side of the pitch. This was replaced by the Cantilever Stand. However, when the Old Showground was finished in 1988 and the contractors had moved in, vandals set fire to the Henderson Avenue Stand, probably in the early hours of the morning.

The end of the Old Showground was a time for groundsman Ronnie Barnes to secure as much of the club property as possible. His first job immediately after the last match against Torquay United in the play-offs finished was to dismantle all of the goal posts ready for transportation to Glanford Park. He also had to be in early the next day to stop the contractors taking off with all of United's grass cutting equipment.

## UNCOMMON SCORE

The most common score in football is said to be 2-1, but in the late 1950's it was a winning score that Scunthorpe could just not manage. They actually won 2-1 at Hartlepool in their 1957-58 Championship season during their penultimate game on the 28th April. It was not until the 16th January 1960 on a cold and snow covered Old Showground pitch that the team beat Rotherham United by that result. Even FA Cup games failed to break the sequence: it meant the whole of the 1958-59 season, unusually, failed to throw up a 2-1 score. However, it must be noted that during this sequence that five matches did see United lose 1-2.

## PLAY-OFF STATISTICS

It is a fact that to date Scunthorpe United have been involved in twelve play-off games over a period of time from 1988 until 1999. This has seen the club enter the play-off lottery on five occasions and they have, of course, only been successful once. Of all the players to appear for the Iron, two players appeared on as many as nine times. These were Paul Longden and Tony Daws. The interval between each of our Wembley visits means that no player could bridge the gap to make all twelve appearances, although Paul comes closest. There again it could be argued that it is not prudent

to choose the steward out of the bar to prop up the defence for a visit to the Twin Towers! As regards to goalscoring only two men have registered as many as two goals in play-off matches. During the 1991-92 campaign Ian Helliwell was on target with both goals at Gresty Road against Crewe Alexandra in the first leg of the semi-final. Ian was the Iron's most costly player at £80,000 when he signed for York City in 1991. Later he went to his hometown club of Rotherham United. The second player to score twice in the play-offs was Gareth Sheldon, whose pair of goals is fresher in the mind when he notched the brace against

Swansea City and saw United through to Wembley. For Gareth the question must be, what was the most exciting moment... Those two strikes or winning at Wembley in the final itself. Gareth earned his place in Scunthorpe United folklore in those pulsating first fifteen minutes of extra time, after coming on as a substitute. Finally each of the Wembley visits brought out the Scunthorpe supporters in numbers far in excess of what might be expected in view of average gate figures. At the Blackpool match nine thousand local supporters made up the 22,741 attendance, while the Leyton Orient encounter had between twelve and fifteen thousand supporters on the figure of 36,985.

## A SETTLED SIDE

They say a settled team leads to success and that certainly was the case with the 1957-58 Championship side. During that season as many as six players made over forty of the forty-six appearances. Of these Ken Flardwick, Barry Horstead, Frank Marshall and Jack Brownword were ever present. Another four men were seen to play over thirty games. Obviously in this case the familiarity of the team paid off. Twelve months later United were rubbing shoulders with some of footballs elite, and although the school of 1958-59 had Q far tougher time in Division Two, the promotion side more or less kept together. Brownword was the only ever present, but again nine players ran out of the Old Showground tunnel on thirty or more times for the forty or so match maximum. It is also interesting to note that United's team that year survived on thirty-three points, five ahead of the drop zone. Against teams higher up the League they had little joy at all and only managed four points - all from draws - when in opposition to each of the top seven clubs.

## EX PLAYERS IN CHARGE

At the start of the last season quite a number of our former players were managirs Football League clubs and throughout the campaign their fortunes varied. At Fulham Kevin Keegan had the Midas touch, and not only did he guide the Craven Cottage club to Second Division Championship but he seems to have aspired to the pinnacle of the job taking on England. Everyone wishes him every success.

Cardiff City had the firm hand of Frank Burrows to see the Welsh club to automatic promotion from Division Three. Frank had been the key to United's defence in the mid 1960's. Scarborough started off the season with Mick Wadsworth in the hot seat, but that became too warm when results did not go his way during the early part of the year. Unfortunately he was dismissed. Mick had been a winger at the Old Showground Halfway through the 1970's. Bury began the 1998-99 season in Division One with Neil Warnock as their boss. Despite playing beyond their resources they could not avoid relegation, even though they put up a gallant effort. Neil Warnock joined the Iron during the old Third Division season of 1972-73. Over in Derbyshire John Duncan, a former player manager at the Old Showground from 1981, continued his love of Chesterfield. Always a strong competitor, Duncan once again saw the Sprites through to at least a comfortable mid-table position, if not better. Duncan's great achievement at Saltergate was, of course, an FA Cup semi-final place a couple of years ago.

**Brian Lawes**  
1. Kevin Roy  
2. Kevin Roy  
3. Kevin Roy  
4. Kevin Roy

**Lee Marshall**  
1. Chris Pettitt & Andy Skeels  
2. Singapore Iron  
3. Gareth Denovan  
4.

**Alex Calvo-Garcia**  
1. Barry Fenton Insurance Brokers  
2. Barry Fenton Insurance Brokers  
3. Barry Fenton Insurance Brokers  
4. I. A. Hewitt Photography

**Lee Hodges**  
1. Club Printwear  
2. Laura Reimond  
3. Kevin Campbell  
4. T. L. Shipley

**Paul Harsley**  
1. Moore Facilities Management  
2. Moore Facilities Management  
3. Moore Facilities Management  
4. J. B. S. Decorators

**Steven Housham**  
1. Kevin Housham  
2. T.J. Fabrications  
3. Kayleigh Hall & Matthew Housham  
4.

**Chris Hope**  
1. Moore Facilities Management  
2. Moore Facilities Management  
3. Moore Facilities Management  
4.

**Nathan Stanton**  
1. Scunthorpe Conservative Club  
2. John & Viola Rowbottom  
3. Trent Valley Electrical Services  
4. E. K. H & R. Johnson

**Sean McAuley**  
1. Irish Iron  
2. Irish Iron  
3. Irish Iron  
4.

**Russell Wilcox**  
1. Helen & Mark Smith  
2. Edward Harris  
3. Edward Harris  
4.

**Andy Dawson**  
1. I.A.Hewitt Photography  
2. Danielle & Aneliese Spindley  
3. Alan & Susan Wright  
4. J. G. Ashton Decorating

**Rachel Barnard**  
1. Tommy Evans  
2. Michael Barlow  
3. An Exiled Supporter  
4. Aneliese & Danielle Spindley

**Darryn Stamp**  
1. In Memory of John Birkett  
2. Football in the Community  
3. Owen Denovan  
4.

**Tim Clarke**  
1. Balmer Group  
2. Balmer Group  
3. Balmer Group  
4.

**Gareth Sheldon**  
1. Irish Iron  
2. Irish Iron  
3. Irish Iron  
4.

**John Gayle**  
1. Trent Valley Electrical Services  
2. Jamie & Michael Hickson  
3. Trent Valley Electrical Services  
4.

**Ashley Fickling**  
1. The Campbell Brothers  
2. Jake Shipley  
3. Neal Campbell  
4.

**Gary Bull**  
1. Rob. Jos. Jacob & Sam Brown, York  
P. Clare & Craig Ruxton, Cardiff  
3. Football in the Community  
4.

**Richard Logan**  
1. Mr & Mrs C. Bratton  
2. Moore Facilities Management  
3. Paul Wright  
4.

**Wayne Graves**  
1. Lee Collinson  
2. Crescent Joinery  
3. Philip Key & Curtis Wood  
4.

**Justin Walker**  
1. Balmer Group  
2. Balmer Group  
3. Balmer Group  
4.

**Guy Ipoua**  
1. Grove Wharf  
2. Grove Wharf  
3. Grove Wharf  
4.

**Gary Bull**  
1. Rob. Jos. Jacob & Sam Brown, York  
P. Clare & Craig Ruxton, Cardiff  
3. Football in the Community  
4.

**Richard Logan**  
1. Mr & Mrs C. Bratton  
2. Moore Facilities Management  
3. Paul Wright  
4.

**Wayne Graves**  
1. Lee Collinson  
2. Crescent Joinery  
3. Philip Key & Curtis Wood  
4.

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## IN RESERVE

**PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE  
SCUNTHORPE UNITED v WREXHAM  
29.3.00 SCORE: 2-3**

**Team:** Turner, Clarke, L. Ridley, Jackson, Wilcox, Masson, Marshall, Sheldon, Ipoua, Stamp, Sparrow. **Subs:** Bull, Herrick, McCombe, Marsh, Mulchinock.

First defeat of the millennium but the performance was very pleasing. We started the game very well scoring on 10 minutes. A great run and cross from Gareth Sheldon resulted in Gary Bull scoring with a header. It was his first touch of the ball, after replacing Guy Ipoua who limped off with an ankle injury.

We then missed a couple of good chances before Wrexham equalised on 39 minutes. A free kick was charged down but we didn't mark very well after the regain, it was 1-1 at half time. We started the second half very well, creating a lot of chances, especially from set pieces. We regained the lead on 60 minutes, Lee Marshall picked the ball up 45 yards from goal, beating two defenders before scoring from 20 yards with a left foot strike.

Again we could not kill off Wrexham. To be fair to them they never gave up, they equalised on 83 minutes, a good far post header a corner. The game looked like finishing at 2-2 but we conceded a goal 3 minutes into injury time. We deserved something from the game, but it was not to be.

Best Wishes  
RUSS WILCOX

## YOUTH SCENE

S.U.F.C 3-0 Port Vale Sat 1/4/00  
Scorers: March 2 Sparrow 1

A comfortable win manufactured by the fact that we scored after just 16 seconds. A back pass to the keeper that he completely missed left an open goal for Craig Marsh to tap into. We started very sharp and within 10 mins we were two up courtesy of a Matthew Sparrow short from 18yds, after some good work by Mark Anderson and Craig Marsh. Port Vale only had one chance in the whole game which was a shot that crashed against the bar. We had further chances with Jamie McCombe heading just over and the keeper making a good save from Marsh. He was not to be denied though with some good interplay between Danny Mulchinock and Lee Ridley setting up Craig for his second of the game scoring from a header. Three nil at half time. The second half we took our foot off the pedal and the keeper pulled off another good save to stop Marsh scoring his hat-trick. The game then fizzled out with the boys settling for the three nil win. This week we're away at Sheffield United and hopefully will have a clean bill of health for the trip to Wembley.

All the best  
Willo  
(Youth Development Officer)

## PHOTO FILE



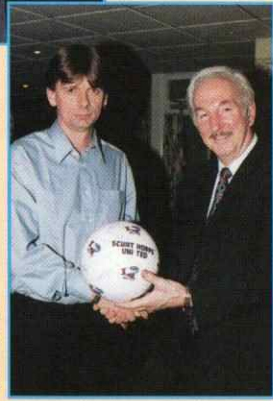
Above: Wayne Graves receives his Iron Bar 'Man of the Match' award after the Brentford game.



Above: Guests of the GMB Union, Match Sponsors of our game versus Brentford.

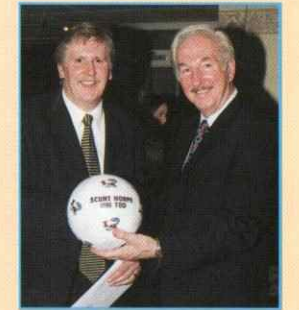


Above: Representatives from the GMB Union present Nathan Stanton with his 'Man of the Match' award versus Brentford.



Right: A representative from North Lincs Structures, also Matchball Sponsor versus Brentford is also presented with his matchball by our Chairman Keith Wagstaff

Below: AM Vale, Boardroom Sponsors at our match versus Brentford, seen here with chairman Keith Wagstaff and Director Brian Borrill.



Above: Mr Richardson from the White Heather, Matchball Sponsor for our Brentford game is presented with his matchball by our chairman Keith Wagstaff

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# Names & Games

## Football Historian Leigh Edwards focuses on links with our visitors

Two goals by Matthew Spring plus others from Stuart Douglas and Phil Gray gave Luton Town a 4-1 Second Division win at home to Scunthorpe United three months ago. Scunthorpe stormed to a record 8-1 victory on Luton's last League visit on 24th April 1965 with five goals by Barrie Thomas plus others from Andy Wilson, Barry Mahy and Stuart Bramley. The Hatters have yet to win a League match at Scunthorpe.

### PROMOTION PLAY-OFFS

Former Luton Town winger Graham Alexander featured prominently as Scunthorpe United qualified for the Fourth Division play-offs in 1991/92. Signing professional for Scunthorpe in March 1990, he made his Fourth Division debut as substitute at home to Chesterfield in April 1991 and scored 18 times in 159 League games before being sold to Luton for £100,000 in July 1995. He starred as the Hatters reached the Second Division play-offs in 1996-97 and netted 15 goals in 150 League outings prior to joining Preston NE for £50,000 in March 1999.

### TWO SPELLS

Ex-Luton Town central defender Richard Money had two spells with Scunthorpe United. Initially joining Scunthorpe from Lowestoft Town in July 1973, he scored four times in 173 Fourth Division games before being sold to Fulham for £50,000 in December 1977. He joined Luton from Liverpool for £100,000 in March 1982 and netted once in 44 League outings for today's visitors prior to joining Portsmouth in August 1983. Returning to Scunthorpe in October 1985, he made a further 106 League appearances and was manager from January 1993 until March 1994.

### TITLE TRIUMPH

Former Oldham Athletic centre-forward Eric Davis featured prominently in Scunthorpe United's 1957/58 Third Division (North) title campaign, also scoring twice in that season's FA Cup fourth round win at Newcastle United. Moving to Scunthorpe from Plymouth Argyle in July 1957, he netted 29 goals in 63 League games prior to joining Chester in February 1959. He joined Latics in September 1960 and his solitary goal in two consecutive Fourth Division outings came in the 2-1 defeat at Crewe Alexandra a month later, moving to Falmouth Town as a player-manager.

### PROMOTION WINNER

Former Scunthorpe United defender Jack Bannister was an influential figure in Luton Town's 1968/70 promotion success. Moving to Scunthorpe from West Brom in June 1964, he made nine consecutive Third Division appearances at the start of that campaign prior to reuniting with Dick Graham at Crystal Palace in July

1965. He joined Luton in October 1968 and partnered the likes of Max Dougan and John Ryan in their defence, playing 83 League games for today's opponents before moving to Cambridge United in May 1971.

### RECORD VICTORY

Five goals by ace marksman Barrie Thomas plus others from Andy Wilson, Barry Mahy and Stuart Bramley gave the following Scunthorpe United team a thrilling 8-1 Third Division win over Luton Town in front of 2,755 at the Old Showground on 24th April 1965: Geoff Sidebottom, Barry Horstead, Derek Hemstead, Bobby Smith, Peter Neale, Barry Lindsey, Stuart Bramley, Dick Scott, Barrie Thomas, Barry Mahy, Andy Wilson. It remains Scunthorpe's record League victory and Luton were relegated that season.

### IRISH INTERNATIONAL

Scunthorpe United's former loanee midfielder Danny Wilson was capped 15 times by Northern Ireland while at Luton Town. Moving to Scunthorpe on loan from Nottingham Forest in October 1983, he netted three goals in six consecutive Third Division games while at the Old Showground. He joined Luton from Brighton for £150,000 in July 1987 and scored in their 1988

Littlewoods Cup final triumph at Wembley, netting 24 goals in 110 First Division outings for today's visitors prior to joining Sheffield Wednesday for £200,000 in August 1990.

### CUP HERO

Former Luton Town inside-forward Sid Ottewell was an experienced figure as Scunthorpe United took First Division high-fliers Sunderland to an FA Cup third round replay in 1952/53. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Birmingham City in December 1947, he scored four times in 15 Second Division games for Luton prior to joining Nottingham Forest in July 1948. He joined Scunthorpe from Mansfield Town in March 1952 and netted 12 goals in 30 League outings for the Iron before moving to Whitstable Town in July 1953.

### MUCH-TRAVELLED

Much-travelled striker Imre Varadi played for both Luton Town and Scunthorpe United during his career. Moving to Luton on loan from Leeds United in March 1992, he scored once in six consecutive First Division games while at Kenilworth Road. He joined Scunthorpe from Boston United on a non-contract basis in September 1995 and made two substitute appearances in the Third Division. Former Luton striker Marc North netted twice in five League outings for Scunthorpe while on loan from the Hatters in January 1987.

LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST OLDHAM ATHLETIC		P	W	D	L	F	A
Home		4	4	0	0	13	1
Away		5	1	2	2	4	7
Total		9	5	2	2	17	8

# IRON MASTERS

## Graham Alexander

Versatile winger Graham Alexander featured prominently as Scunthorpe United qualified for the Fourth Division play-offs in 1991/92.

Signing professional for Scunthorpe in March 1990, he made his Fourth Division debut as substitute in the 3-0 win at home to Chesterfield in April 1991. He created numerous goalscoring opportunities for the likes of Jason White and Ian Helliwell, netting 18 goals in 159 League games for the Iron before being sold to Luton Town for £100,000 in July 1995.

Starring as the Hatters reached the Second Division play-offs in

1996/97 and Worthington Cup fifth round in 1998/99, he scored 15 goals in 150 League outings for today's opponents prior to joining Preston NE for £50,000 in March 1999. He remains an influential member of David Moyes' squad seeking to clinch promotion to the First Division this season.

	League	FAcup	LeagCup	Total
<b>SCUNTHORPE</b>				
1990/91	1			1
1991/92	36 (5)	2	4 (1)	42 (6)
1992/93	41 (5)	2	4 (1)	47 (6)
1993/94	41 (4)	4	2	47 (4)
1994/95	40 (4)	4 (1)	2	46 (5)
Total	159 (18)	12 (1)	12 (2)	183 (21)
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>				
1995/96	37 (1)	1	2	40 (1)
1996/97	45 (2)	4	6	55 (2)
1997/98	39 (8)	1	2	42 (8)
1998/99	28 (4)	2	7 (2)	37 (6)
Total	150 (15)	8	17 (2)	175 (17)

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## chosen for National Supporter Survey

Along with the giants of English football, such as Manchester United and Liverpool, Scunthorpe United will soon know much more about its own supporters.

The club has been chosen as part of a group of Nationwide League clubs whose fans will be surveyed by football experts. Fans at Scunthorpe will receive questionnaires through the post and at the next home match.

The survey covers a range of questions concerning the relationship between Scunthorpe United supporters and their club. The results of the

survey will enable the club to know a lot more about local fans. It will also enable simple comparisons to be made between fans of Scunthorpe United and those at large and small clubs around the country.

Dr Sean Perkins of the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research at Leicester University said, "We are delighted to have Scunthorpe United as part of this national project. It is a great opportunity to look in detail at fans of Football League clubs, the very heart of the national football community."

Sean Perkins can be contacted for further comments on 0116 252 2751

### F.A. UMBRO SUNDAY CUP FINAL

ALBION SPORTS  
(Bradford)  
v  
PRESTIGE BRIGHAMS  
(Hull)  
at  
NOTTINGHAM FOREST FC  
on  
SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2000  
KICK OFF 3.00PM

Adm: Adults £3.00  
(under 16's & senior citizens free)

### F.A. COUNTY YOUTH CUP FINAL

BIRMINGHAM  
v  
SURREY

on  
SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2000  
KICK OFF 3.00PM

Adm: Adults £3.00  
(under 16's & senior citizens free)

**ERNIE STOREY MEMORIAL TROPHY PLAYER OF THE YEAR 1999/00**

My nomination for Scunthorpe United Player of the season is :-

Name .....

.....

.....

.....

Please hand in this form to the Club Shop. If you do not wish to cut your programme photocopies will be acceptable. Photocopies are available in the club shop

Closing date for entries is 4th May 2000

Here's your chance to win two tickets to any Home league game of Scunthorpe United's 1999/2000 league campaign by answering these football related questions.

1. Manchester United have twice contested European Cup semi-finals with Real Madrid. How many goals have these encounters yielded?
2. With which Premiership club did the unfortunate Dean Holdsworth begin his professional career?
3. Which was the FA Cup semi-final, before Bolton v Aston Villa on Sunday, to be decided on a penalty shoot-out?
4. Who lost League Cup Finals at Wembley with Aston Villa in 1971 and Bolton in 1995?
5. Which current Premiership manager is a former Fulham boss?
6. Who was the last player to score for Scotland against France?
7. What was Bill Shankly's job between 1951 and 1953?
8. Which former Busby Babe managed Galatasaray, leading them to three league titles and cup win in the early Seventies?
9. How many times have this season's European Cup quarter-finalists won the trophy between them?
10. On only one occasion have the winners of the FA Cup had to play top division opponents in every round. Name the season and the club?

Please send your answers plus your name, address and the match you would like your tickets for to: -  
Matchday Programme Editor  
C/o Scunthorpe United, Glanford Park, Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe

## Quizzical Times with John Britcliffe

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## Iron Roll Call

name	D.O.B.	previous club	APPEARANCES		GOALS	
			united	career	united	career
G. BULL	12/06/66	York City	28	251	0	61
A. CALVO-GARCIA	01/01/72	Eibar	113	113	16	16
T. CLARKE	16/05/65	York City	80	198	0	0
A. DAWSON	20/10/78	Notts Forest	57	57	2	2
T. EVANS	31/12/76	Crystal Palace	44	44	0	0
A. FICKLING	25/11/76	Grimsby	53	115	1	1
J. GAYLE	30/07/64	Northampton	47	214	3	33
W. GRAVES	18/09/80	-	18	18	0	0
P. HARSLEY	29/05/78	Grimsby	79	79	4	4
L. HODGES	02/03/78	West Ham	23	46	6	6
C. HOPE	14/11/73	Notts. Forest	278	278	18	18
S. HOUSHAM	24/02/76	-	116	116	4	4
R. LOGAN	24/05/69	Plymouth	68	208	6	19
S. McAULEY	23/06/72	Hartlepool	69	216	1	3
L. MARSHALL	01/08/75	Eastwood Town	45	45	2	2
G. SHELDON	31/01/80	-	28	28	4	4
D. STAMP	21/09/78	-	40	40	5	5
N. STANTON	06/05/81	-	28	28	0	0
J. WALKER	06/09/75	Notts. Forest	118	118	2	2
R. WILCOX	25/03/64	Preston NE	71	456	3	26
G. IPOUA	14/01/76	Bristol Rovers	27	27	6	9
M. SPARROW	-	-	11	11	0	0
M. JACKSON	-	Leeds United	3	27	0	0
B. QAILEY	-	West Brom	9	28	3	5

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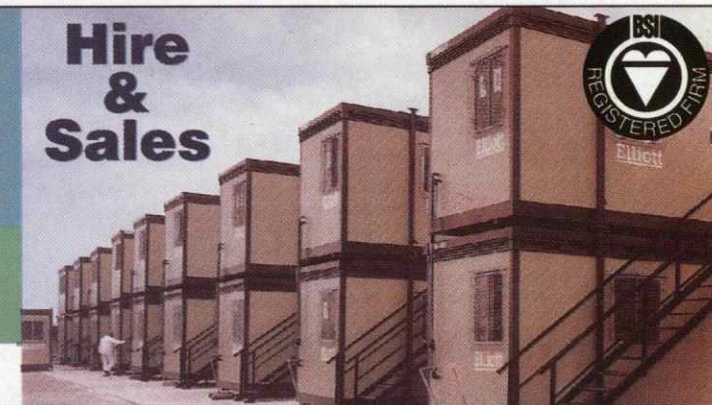
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## ONE TO ONE WITH...

# NATHAN STANTON

1. What do you feel is your best position in the team?

I prefer to play as a sweeper, so I can use my pace to cover and read the game well.

2. How important is today's game?

I feel it is a must win game and if we don't get that result it is going to be very difficult to stay up.

3. Next Year your contract is up so do you plan to move to another club?

As every young player I have ambitions to play at the highest level but I do feel I still have alot to learn here at Scunthorpe, so come the end of next season, watch this space.

4. You have played for England at U16 level is there a chance for you to pull on the 3 lions shirt again?

All I know is that the England U18 manager has been to watch me here at Glanford Park and of course I still hope that one day I will represent my country again.

5. What do you feel as gone wrong for us this season?

I think we have made too many silly mistakes in defence that have gone on to cost us a lot of goals. Then at the other end we just haven't scored enough but have been desperately unlucky on so many occassions and never seen to get the verdict from the ref on a 50/50 decision.

6. Presuming that we manage to stay up, what do you feel is a realistic ambition for the club?

I still believe we will stay up and I think that next season we will look to mid-table security to start with, which will give us a firm base to progress on the following season. This season has been a learning process for everyone involved at the club so that next season we will know what to expect.

7. What do you think is the best system for the club to play?

I like playing with a back three so I can sweep with two marker's picking up the strikers rather than going man for man.

8. Which is the best team you have seen in this division?

When Bristol Rovers came here to Glanford Park I thought they were quality although Wigan at the start of the season were the side to beat, but if I had to choose one team.....Bristol Rovers would get my vote.

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Next at Glanford Park by Andy Britcliffe

# UNITED vs. STOKE CITY

WE WELCOME STOKE CITY TO GLANFORD PARK FOR OUR NEXT HOME FIXTURE.

Stoke City Football Club is the second oldest league club in existence, formed in 1863 by former pupils of the Charterhouse School.

In the early days Stoke played a number of friendly games against local sides, and it was in one of these matches they recorded a 26-0 victory over local side Mow Cop.

Prior to 1875 Stoke played on Sweetings Field, a strip of land owned by Alderman Sweeting (the Lord Mayor of Stoke). In March, 1878, they merged with Stoke Victoria Athletic Club, and matches from then on were played on the Athletic club's ground, part of which was used as a running track.

The ground was oval shaped, with uncovered banking at either end, with one small wooden stand on the East Side (Boothens Stand).

Stoke's first games at the Victoria's Ground was a friendly against Talke Rangers on March 28, 1878, which Stoke won 1-0 in front of a crowd of approx 2,500.

Stokes first official game after the name the Victoria Ground was adopted was against Great Lever Club from Manchester on September 24th, 1883.

Stoke turned professional in 1885 and three years later in 1888 they were invited to be one of the 12 clubs that were to form the Inaugural 'Football League'.

On May 4th, 1997, after 119 years at the Victoria Ground, Stoke played their final match, before moving in the summer to the new purpose-built Britannia Stadium, so beginning a new era in their long history.

However, performances on the field did not match the impressive new surroundings and for the 1998/99 season the club found itself in Division Two. Optimism returned with the appointment of a new manager, Brian Little,

formerly of Aston Villa, and the team made a tremendous start to the season, winning the first six league games, a club record.

But it all went horribly wrong in the second half of the season when Stoke's atrocious form saw them sink down to eighth by the end of the season.

Rumours were rife that Little would quit but it wasn't until he returned from holiday - five weeks into the close season - that he announced his decision to walk.

Stoke took a month to finally unearth his replacement, unveiling former Stockport, Blackpool and Norwich manager Gary Megson. More intriguingly, however former Vale manager John Rudge joined soon afterwards and was given the title of Football Executive to oversee all aspects of the club.

Megson was the boss, though, and it wasn't long before he was trying to wheel and deal to revamp the side which had collapsed so dramatically the season before.

Events took a new turn in November 1999 when a consortium of Icelandic businessmen paid £5.5 million for a 66 per cent stake in the club. Megson became one of the first casualties, being replaced by Gudjon Thordarson, the former Icelandic national team manager. Rudge and first team coach Nigel Pearson remained at the club under the new regime.

City have had a good run of late and they have a Wembley appearance to look forward to as they are in the final of the Autowindcreens Shield. They are also an outside bet for claiming a play-off spot so it is going to be an extremely difficult game but, if we are going to stay up we must take 3 points and nothing else!!!!!!

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## SCUNTHORPE UTD.

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2	PAUL HARSLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	ANDREW DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	RICHARD LOGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	RUSS WILCOX	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	CHRIS HOPE	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	JUSTIN WALKER	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	LEE HODGES	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	GARETH SHELDON	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	STEPHEN TORPEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	ALEX CALVO-GARCIA	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	GARY BULL	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	STEVE HOUSHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	ASHLEY FICKLING	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	MARK JACKSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	WAYNE GRAVES	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	NATHAN STANTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	DARRYN STAMP	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	LEE MARSHALL	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	BRIAN LAWS	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	LEE HERRICK	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	MATTHEW SPARROW	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	MARK ANDERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	GUY IPOUA	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	STEPHANE POUNEWATCHY	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	BRIAN QAILEY	<input type="checkbox"/>

## LUTON TOWN

1	NATHAN ABBEY (GK)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	GAVIN MCGOWAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	EFETOBRE SODJE	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	MATTHEW SPRING	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	ALAN WHITE	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	MARVIN JOHNSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	PHIL GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	PAUL MCLAREN	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	STUART DOUGLAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	MICHAEL MCINDOE	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	LIAM GEORGE	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	GARY DOHERTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	STUART FRASER	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	ANDREW FOTIADIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	MATTHEW TAYLOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
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17	EMMERSON BOYCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
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24	SCOTT WARD (GK)	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	ADAM LOCKE	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	BEN ROBERTS (GK) (LOAN)	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	JULIAN WATTS	<input type="checkbox"/>

## REFEREE

Today's referee is  
P. J. Joslin

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