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vs Luton Town | ko 7.45pm
Worthington Cup First Round

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Murts is up for the cup!

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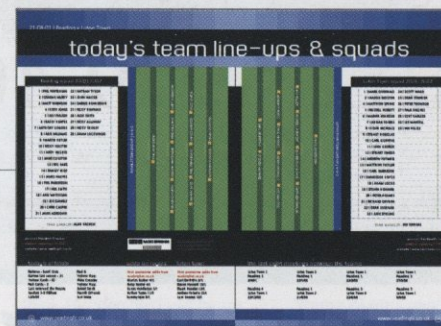
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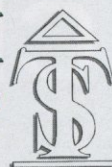
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Alan Pardew | first team manager



teamtalk



■ **May** I start by welcoming Joe Kinnear and everyone from Luton Town. They've had the same start as us - six points from two games, which makes for an interesting encounter this evening, and both teams will be very confident. Being a cup game, there's certainly bound to be excitement on the menu. The tie finishes this evening, which is different from previous years, and I for one am well pleased with that decision.

Saturday's game was a real test of character and will for us. By playing with four central midfielders, they made it extremely difficult for us to break them down, but a well-worked set play gave us what I thought was a deserved victory.

I think Huddersfield will be up there, I thought we just edged them in terms of flair through the team. With Butler and Cureton missing, and Hughes having to withdraw through injury, our other flair players had to come to the fore, and Igoe, Rougier, Forster and Smith all played very well.

Six points and two clean sheets - it doesn't get much better than that, and with unbeaten Luton tonight, and a possibly unbeaten QPR on Saturday, it's going to be an interesting week. Darius Henderson's brief appearance on Saturday should give him heart. For the first time in a first team game, he showed what he's been doing in training for a while now.

Young players need the confidence, not only of a good game, but of the crowd as well. Those who have never been lucky enough to experience playing in front of more than 10,000 people will not know the fear that can sometimes be associated with it. This year there are going to be three or four players making debuts and I would ask you to give them perhaps even more biased support than you do usually to our players. That will help them grow quickly, because believe me we have got some fantastic young players here at the moment, and they're going to be making their debuts with the pressure of being favourites for Division Two on them as well. There could well be one or two

debutants tonight, so you could give them a special cheer because all of my staff are working hard for the future of these young players, and we're finally looking to bear fruit from our efforts. The reserves trounced Norwich 4-0 in the week, with many of our youngsters playing a key role. What they need now is the confidence to perform on a bigger stage.

Enjoy the game this evening, let's hope we get another victory, and finally get some momentum in cup competitions.

Come on you Rrrrs!

Pards ■

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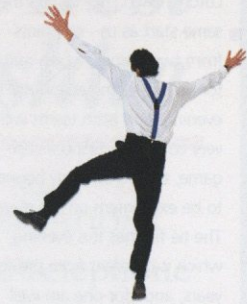
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Club captain

Phil Parkinson



It's important we maintain our good start with a victory tonight

■ I think a cup run is well overdue for us, it's been a long while since we progressed to the latter stages of one of the competitions. Let's hope tonight sees the start of a run which can see us having some great cup nights to talk about in the years to come here at Madejski Stadium.

This evening we come up against a very strong Luton team, who were unlucky to be relegated last season, and have signed some excellent players this summer. So, as we learnt from last season against Leyton Orient, we will certainly have to be at our best to progress.

One great night of cup football in recent years was when we beat Leeds 3-2 up at Elland Road under Terry Bullivant's management. We were very unfortunate to lose the subsequent quarter-final at home to Middlesbrough to a very controversial goal. I wonder how many of you can remember the free kick that was awarded, which we all thought was for us, and all the Reading lads started to walk forward, only for Neil Maddison to quickly take the free-kick which led to the winning goal.

Two years earlier, we also played Leeds at Elland Road,

and acquitted ourselves well in a 2-1 defeat. What I remember most about the game is on the morning of the match, we hadn't got a goalkeeper, as all of ours were with either injured or ineligible. We trained at Bradford City's training ground, and Quinny declared he was going to have to play in goal himself!

It got to 11.40am, (20 minutes before the deadline for loan players) when we finally signed Eric Nixon from Tranmere for a month, although we only needed him for that one game. Within 15 minutes of the final whistle, Eric had showered and

was off, and we never saw him again! Surely one of the briefest spells as a Reading player in history.

It's important we maintain our good start with a victory tonight, and it would set us up nicely for the short strip to Loftus Road on Saturday. It will be a tough game against Rangers, and I hope as many of you as possible can follow us up the M4 and turn it into a home game, as happened so often last year.

All the best

Parky ■



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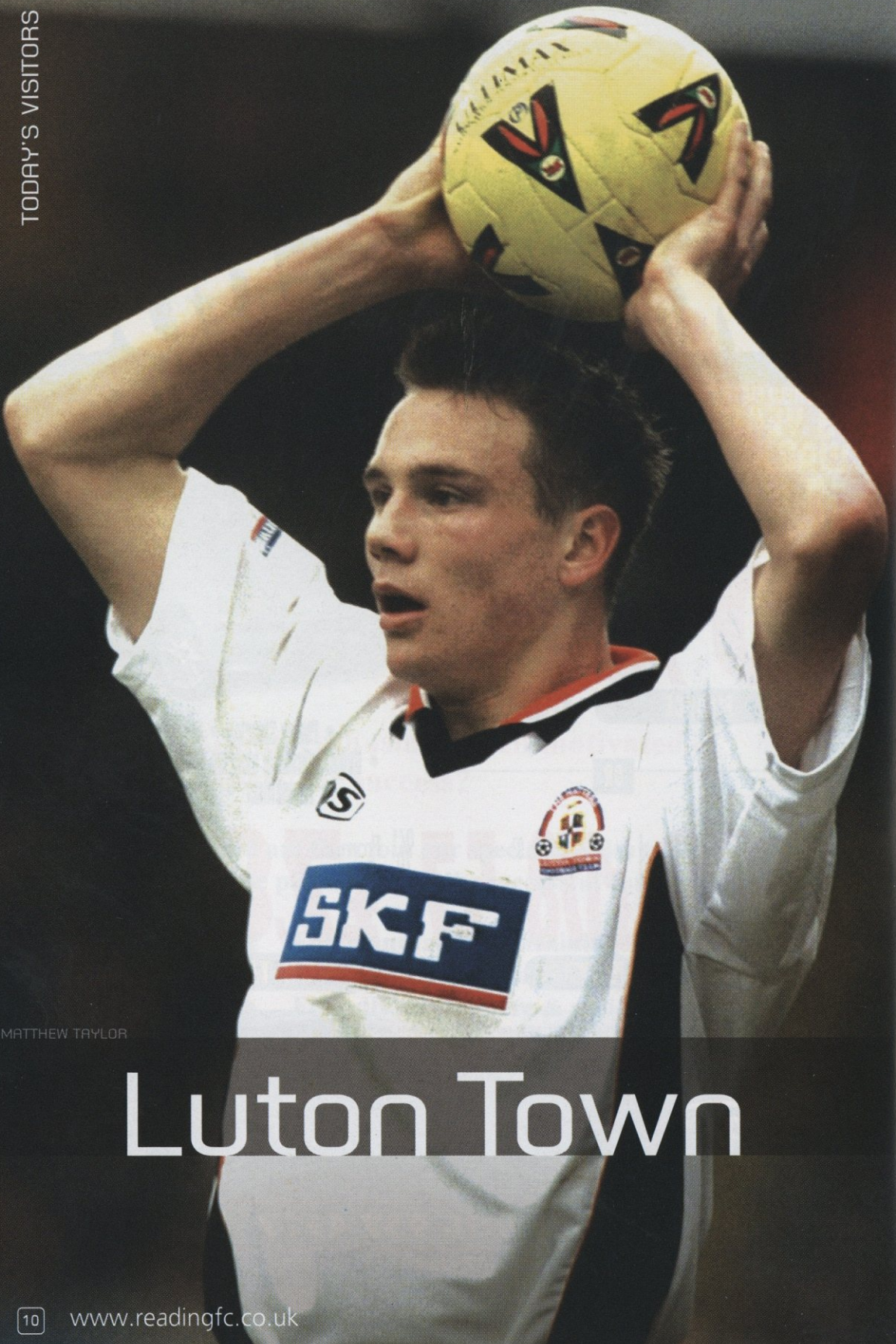
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Luton Town

MATTHEW TAYLOR

THE HATTERS ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR CHANCES OF RETURNING TO DIVISION TWO AT THE FIRST ATTEMPT

■ **Joe Kinnear's** arrival at Kenilworth Road last season was too late to save the Hatters from relegation to Division Three. The Hatters had made a poor start to the season, finding themselves deep in relegation trouble by Christmas.

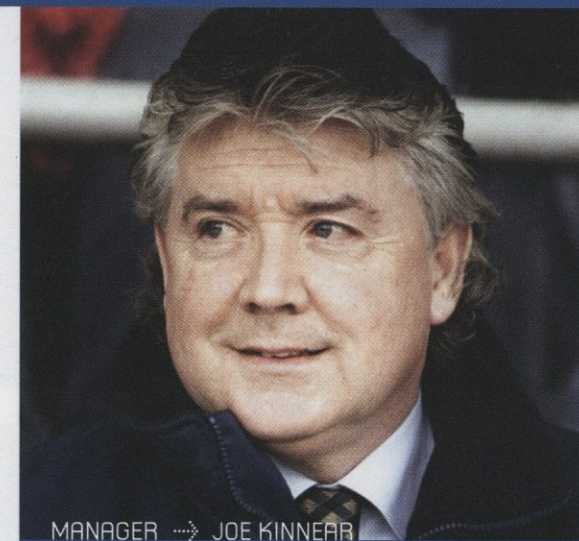
They had started the season with former player Ricky Hill in charge, but he lasted just four months before being replaced by Lil Fuccillo. Results got no better under his control, and at the beginning of February the Hatters achieved something of a coup by convincing Kinnear to take over, although Fuccillo did stay on the staff as a coach.

Kinnear's arrival sparked a dramatic turn-around in form, with consecutive victories against Northampton, Notts County and Swindon giving a huge boost to the Hatters' survival chances. Although victories over Swindon and Cambridge soon followed, Luton never seriously threatened to get themselves out of the

relegation zone and a run of 13 games without a win at the end of the season sealed their fate.

Relegation was eventually confirmed on a highly significant evening for the Royals, as Rotherham visited Kenilworth Road and came away with a 1-0 victory despite being under pressure for much of the game. As well as sending Luton down, that game also put Rotherham back into the top two at Rotherham's expense, and was a turning-point in the promotion race.

The Hatters started the new campaign in encouraging fashion, picking up three points with a 2-0 victory at Carlisle thanks to goals from Carl Griffiths and Paul Hughes. That was followed by their first home game of the season, against Cheltenham on Saturday, when the same two players got on the scoresheet as Kinnear's side made it six points out of six with a 2-1 victory. ■



MANAGER → JOE KINNEAR

Many people in the footballing world were surprised when Joe Kinnear agreed to take the managerial reins at Kenilworth Road in February. He had been in constant demand from Premiership and Division One clubs since leaving Wimbledon for health reasons two years previously, and his arrival in Bedfordshire gave Hatters supporters reason for optimism despite last season's relegation. There was more good news in the summer when former favourite Mick Harford returned as coach.

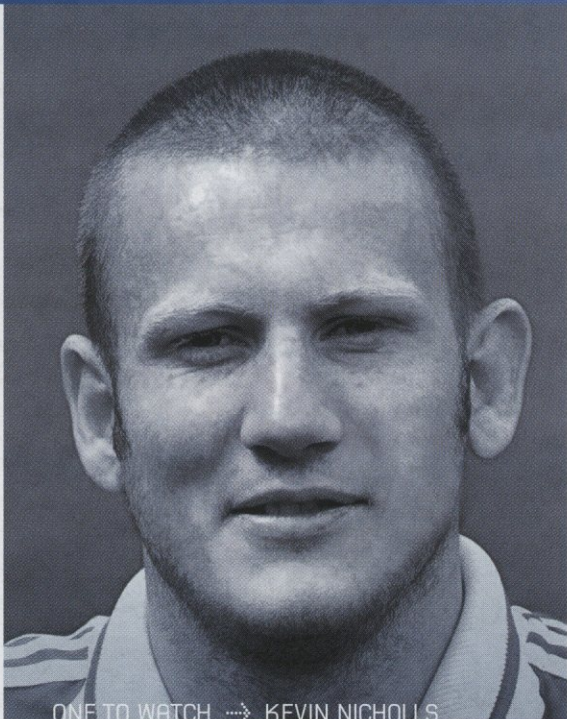
Born in Dublin but brought up in Watford, Kinnear was playing for St Albans when Tottenham spotted his

potential and signed him in 1965. He enjoyed an excellent career with both Spurs and the Republic of Ireland, and ended his playing days with Brighton.

He enjoyed six years as national team coach in the United Arab Emirates before taking over as Wimbledon manager in 1992. He enjoyed great success with the Crazy Gang, keeping the Dons in the Premiership against all the odds and taking them to the semi-finals of both cup competitions in 1997, but his management of the Dons was cruelly cut short when a health problem forced him to step aside in 1999.



Luton Town squad list



ONE TO WATCH → KEVIN NICHOLLS

Royals supporters who saw the play-off games against Wigan last season will have been surprised that dynamic midfielder Kevin Nicholls was allowed to move to Kenilworth Road for just £150,000 in the summer. Nicholls capped two excellent all-action performances in the heart of midfield with Wigan's goal in the dramatic second leg at Madejski Stadium, and his powerful style of play impressed many observers.

The former England youth team captain started his

career at Charlton Athletic, but he only made a handful of appearances for the Addicks before being allowed to join Wigan in the summer of 1999.

He never truly established himself in the Wigan side, starting just 25 games in two seasons, although he did become a regular towards the end of the season. He soon became a victim of Wigan's summer clear-out, which saw five established midfielders leave JJB Stadium, and was eagerly snapped up by Hatters boss Joe Kinnear.

CARL EMBERSON

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 2 - GOALS 0

28 year-old goalkeeper who signed for Luton in the summer on a free 'Bosman' transfer from Walsall. A former Millwall trainee, he made his senior debut after moving to Colchester and went on to make 194 League appearances for the U's before moving on to Walsall in June 1999.

SCOTT WARD

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 0 (+1) - GOALS 0

Keeper who made the most spectacular start to his career - when Mark Ovendale was sent off at Brentford near the end of last season. 19-year-old Ward came on to face Brentford's top scorer Lloyd Owusu. Owusu arrowed the penalty to Ward's left, but he dived brilliantly to tip it around the post!

EMMERSON BOYCE

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 10 - GOALS 0

A strong, calm, versatile and intelligent defender. 22 year-old Boyce could well develop into one of Luton's stars of the future. One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, he was initially signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995.

RICHARD DRYDEN

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 8 - GOALS 0

Initially joined the Hatters on a three month contract in February 2001 after being out of contract at Southampton. A 31-year-old left-footed central defender, he was brought in after the departure of Adrian Whitbread, and has also played for both Bristol sides, Man City, Exeter and Birmingham.

RUSSELL PERRETT

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 2 - GOALS 0

A tall and intelligent 28 year-old central defender. Perrett joined the Hatters from Cardiff just before the start of the season. Began his pro career at Portsmouth after being spotted with non-league Lymington, and moved to Cardiff two years ago, helping them win promotion last season.

LIAM GEORGE

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 8 (+1) - GOALS 1

Talented but unpredictable striker who has been out of favour this season after being unable to agree a new deal. A former Luton trainee who has made more than 100 appearances for the Hatters but never truly fulfilled his potential, he is currently on a week-to-week contract.

MATTHEW TAYLOR

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 10 - GOALS 0

19 year-old left-sided player who swept all before him last season, winning the Player of the Year award, and he has a very bright future. Young players were given a chance when Luton were in receivership in the summer of 1999, and Taylor made the most of his opportunity to secure a regular place.

AARON SKELTON

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 1 - GOALS 0

Became Joe Kinnear's first summer signing in July after being named Colchester's player of the year for the second consecutive season. A utility player, who can play in midfield, central defence or at right back, he was a trainee at Kenilworth Road in the mid 90's before joining Colchester.

IAN HILLIER

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 1 - GOALS 0

Wales under 21 international who joined the Hatters on loan from Tottenham in time to make his debut in Saturday's 2-1 win over Cheltenham. A right-back who has been unable to break into the Spurs first team, Kinnear has hopes of keeping him at Kenilworth Road for longer than the initial month.

ADAM LOCKE

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS (+5) - GOALS 0

A well-travelled midfielder. Locke joined Luton on a free transfer from Bristol City in the summer of 1999 to add experience to a young squad. Began as a trainee with Crystal Palace, but could not get into the first team and moved on to Southend, Colchester and Ashton Gate before joining Luton.

PAUL HUGHES

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 2 - GOALS 2

Midfielder Paul Hughes became manager Joe Kinnear's sixth signing in the summer, joining on a three-month contract from Southampton. 25 year-old Hughes was a trainee at Chelsea and made a handful of first team appearances, but his progress was delayed by a series of injuries.

LEE MANSELL

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 8 - GOALS 1

18 year-old midfielder who made a sensational debut in the FA Cup tie at QPR in January, scoring after just 37 seconds. Much is expected of this tenacious right-sided midfield player with good vision and passing range, and he has been a regular squad member since his impressive debut.

ADRIAN FORBES

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 1 - GOALS 0

Norwich winger Adrian Forbes became manager Joe Kinnear's fourth summer capture when he signed a three-year contract in July 2001 after a £60,000 transfer. A crowd pleaser who is a natural wide player, he had already played 122 games for the Canaries despite only being 22.

STUART DOUGLAS

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 4 (+3) - GOALS 0

Striker who missed the start of last season but made an explosive start when he finally came into the team, scoring twice in 30 minutes as the Hatters beat Brentford. A big favourite with the fans for his endless energy and running, and his sheer pace and power can terrorise defences.

CARL GRIFFITHS

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 2 - GOALS 2

Luton paid Leyton Orient £65,000 to sign striker Carl Griffiths during the summer. A former Wales under 21 international and winner of the Division Three Golden Boot while at Shrewsbury, he was once bought for £500,000 by Man City and also played for Portsmouth, Peterborough, Wrexham and Port Vale.

ANDREW FOTIADIS

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS (+2) - GOALS 0

A local discovery, Fotiadis won England Schools caps at under 15 and under 18 level, and is turning into an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power, and concentrated determination to score goals. If only he can stay fit, he could be a real asset against the burly Division Three defenders.

STEVEN HOWARD

LAST 10 HATTERS GAMES | APPS 10 - GOALS 1

Powerhouse 25 year-old striker who joined the Hatters for £50,000 from Northampton shortly before transfer deadline day last season, and has become an important member of the Hatters squad. Started his career with four years at Hartlepool before joining the Cobblers two years ago.

UNAVAILABLE TODAY

Joe Kinnear is currently without midfielder Matthew Spring, who will be out for another few weeks after undergoing a cartilage operation following an injury in a pre-season game at Dundee. Another important absentee is club captain and long-serving defender Marvin Johnson, who has hamstring trouble.

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today's team line-ups & squads

Reading squad 2001 | 2002

1 PHIL WHITEHEAD	22 NATHAN TYSON
2 GRAEME MURTY	23 JOHN MACKIE
3 MATT ROBINSON	24 DARIUS HENDERSON
4 KEITH JONES	25 RICKY NEWMAN
5 ADI VIVEASH	26 ALEX SMITH
6 BARRY HUNTER	27 RICKY ALLAWAY
7 ANTHONY ROUGIER	28 NICKY SHOREY
8 ADIE WILLIAMS	29 ADAM LOCKWOOD
9 MARTIN BUTLER	
10 NICKY FORSTER	
11 ANDY HUGHES	
12 JAMIE CURETON	
13 RFC FANS	
14 SAMMY IGOE	
15 JAMES HARPER	
16 PHIL PARKINSON	
17 NEIL SMITH	
18 ADIE WHITBREAD	
19 JOE GAMBLE	
20 CHRIS CASPER	
21 JAMIE ASHDOWN	

TEAM MANAGER | ALAN PARDEW

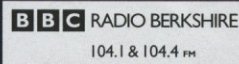
ROYALS TEAM LINE-UP | 4-4-2

1 PHIL WHITEHEAD

2 GRAEME MURTY 3 ADRIAN WHITBREAD 4 ADIE WILLIAMS 5 MATT ROBINSON

6 SAMMY IGOE 7 PHIL PARKINSON 8 JAMES HARPER 9 ALEX SMITH

10 ANTHONY ROUGIER 11 NICKY FORSTER



Commentary and Comment every Saturday 2pm - 6pm Weekday games 7pm - 10pm

today's officials

Referee - David Crick
Games last season - 31
Yellow Cards - 63
Red Cards - 3
Last refereed the Royals
 Reading 5-0 Oldham
 12/9/00

Red & Yellow Flag:
 Philip Crossley
Yellow Flag:
 Robert Smith
Fourth Official:
 Paul Melin

odds on Royals

First goalscorer odds from readingbet.co.uk
Martin Butler 4/1
 Nicky Forster 4/1
 Darius Henderson 5/1
 Nathan Tyson 11/2
 Sammy Igoe 8/1

Luton Town

First goalscorer odds from readingbet.co.uk
Carl Griffiths 8/1
 Steven Howard 10/1
 Stuart Douglas 12/1
 Andrew Fotiadis 12/1
 Liam George 12/1

Luton Town squad 2001 | 2002

1 MARK OVENDALE	24 SCOTT WARD
2 AARON SKELTON	25 DEAN STANDEN
4 MATTHEW SPRING	26 PETER THOMSON
5 RUSSELL PERRETT	27 PAUL HUGHES
6 MARVIN JOHNSON	29 KENT KARLSEN
7 ADRIAN FORBES	32 LEE MANSELL
8 KEVIN NICHOLLS	33 IAN HILLIER
9 STUART DOUGLAS	
10 CARL GRIFFITHS	
11 LIAM GEORGE	
13 STUART FRASER	
14 ANDREW FOTIADIS	
15 MATTHEW TAYLOR	
16 CARL EMBERSON	
17 EMMERSON BOYCE	
18 ADAM LOCKE	
19 STEVEN HOWARD	
20 PETER HOLMES	
21 RICHARD DRYDEN	
22 DEAN BRENNAN	
23 JUDE STIRLING	

TEAM MANAGER | JOE KINNEAR

LUTON TOWN TEAM LINE-UP | 4-4-2

1 CARL GRIFFITHS 2 STEVEN HOWARD

3 ADRIAN FORBES 4 PAUL HUGHES 5 KEVIN NICHOLLS 6 LEE MANSELL

7 IAN HILLIER 8 RUSSELL PERRETT 9 EMMERSON BOYCE 10 MATTHEW TAYLOR

11 CARL EMBERSON

the last eight meetings between the teams

Luton Town 1
Reading 1
 3/4/01

Luton Town 1
Reading 4
 23/12/00

Luton Town 3
Reading 1
 22/1/00

Luton Town 2
Reading 1
 21/8/99

Luton Town 1
Reading 1
 23/3/99

Luton Town 0
Reading 3
 22/8/98

Luton Town 1
Reading 2
 27/2/96

Luton Town 1
Reading 3
 9/9/95

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Worthington Fives

ARE BACK

After a successful inaugural season, the Worthington Fives are back by popular demand for 2001/2!!

Running alongside the Worthington Cup, the Worthington Fives gives fans the opportunity to pull on their club colours and represent the team they support in a national 5-a-side competition.

Teams from all the 92 Premier and Football League clubs will battle it out over the coming season to win a place in the Worthington Fives final, that will be played at the fantastic Millennium Stadium before the Worthington Cup Final kicks off in February. And that's not all! The eventual winners will also receive an all-expenses trip to Europe, just as the winners of the Worthington Cup gain a passport to Europe and a place in the UEFA Cup.

There is no question that the competition will be fierce and each team will be eager to win the crown from reigning champions the Bolton



**Worthington
Fives
WINNERS 2001**



Five, who beat the Wigan Five 3-0 in last season's final.

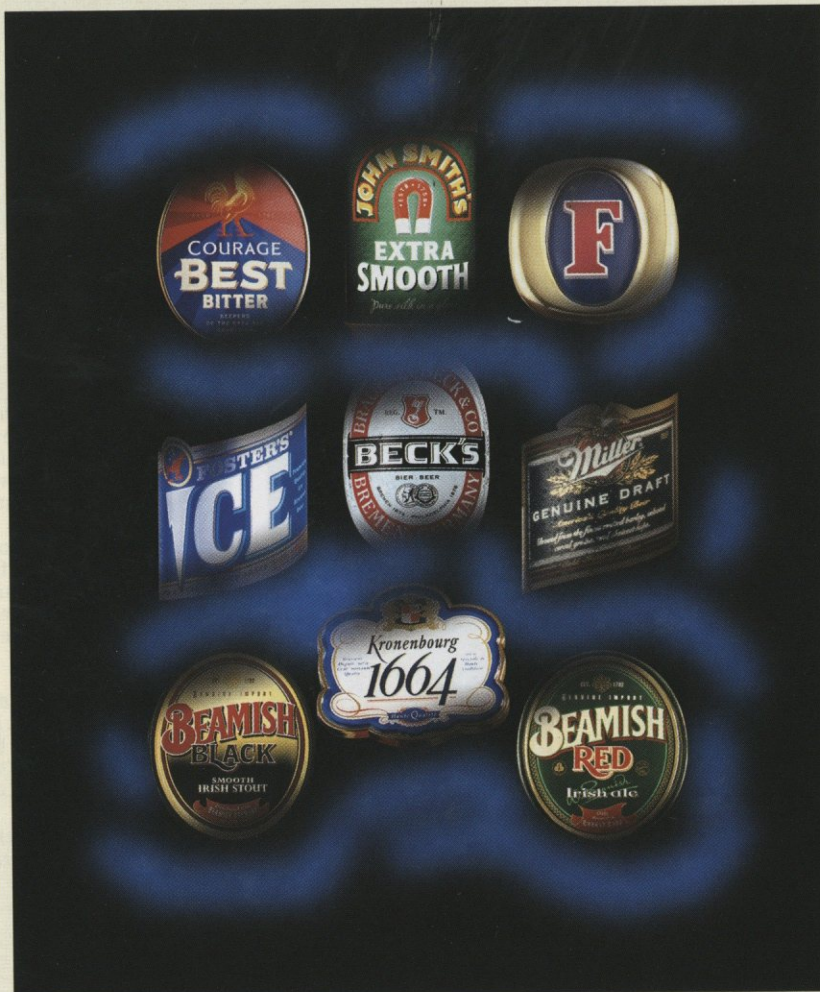
Round One kicked off on Sunday 19th August at the Powerleague Soccer Centre in Nottingham where every further round will be played until the Final itself.

To add to the feast of football, ex-pros such as Phil Neal and Nigel Clough form a team called the Worthington Masters, who play a series of friendlies throughout the day.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome –so if you want to see footballing stars of the past and the future, and also follow the team representing your club, come along to the Worthington Fives this season.

Look out for news updates in your local press or for more information about the Worthington Fives, please call 0800 731 4841 or email info@worthingtonfives.com

Top: Last year's Worthington Fives winners Bolton Wanderers. Left: Nigel Clough in action for Worthington Masters.



**SUPPLIERS OF GREAT BEERS
TO THE MADEJSKI STADIUM**

Player profile

Graeme Murty



Graeme Murty will be hoping to recapture some of the success that he's experienced in this competition

■ **One** Royals player with very fond memories of this competition is Graeme Murty, who celebrated giant-killing victories over Manchester United and Everton in successive seasons with former club York City.

The Minstermen were drawn to face mighty Manchester United in the second round of the 1995/96 competition, and the football world was stunned when the lower division side gained an astonishing 3-0 victory at Old Trafford in the first leg. Murty says, "I played in that game at Old Trafford, and it was amazing. One of the stands was being rebuilt at the

time but the rest of the ground was full, and after the game it was hard to believe what we'd done! The manager had told us before the game just to relax and enjoy ourselves, and it certainly worked for us!"

Murty's side progressed to the next stage despite a 3-1 defeat in the return leg at Bootham Crescent, and went onto enjoy more success the following season with a second round victory over Everton. The first leg was at Goodison, where York earned an excellent 1-1 draw against a full-strength Everton side. In the return leg at Bootham Crescent, the Minstermen did superbly to

hold a 2-1 lead with five minutes remaining, and then came Murty's moment of glory: "A ball was played in from the left-wing, it went over the centre-half's head, I muscled Andy Hinchcliffe off the ball and managed to poke a shot past Neville Southall. It was a fantastic moment for me!" Gary Speed pulled one back for the Merseysiders in the last minute, but York had done enough to claim a famous 3-2 victory.

Naturally, Murty would relish the opportunity of another cup run. "I'd love to progress well in this competition. It would be lovely to get one of the big teams down here at Madejski

Stadium, but we've got to win this one first. We know what to expect from Luton as we've played them recently. They like to play football and pass it around, but we're the home team so we've got to act like it and take the game to them."

If the two sides can't be separated during normal time this evening, the game will go to extra time and then penalties, so would Murty be up for taking a spot-kick if it went that far? "You'll have to ask me nearer the time! I've not taken a penalty professionally before, but I suppose I'd take one if all other possibilities were exhausted!" ■

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What's going on



RFC news

TONIGHT'S RULES

This evening's tie must be settled tonight after a rule change this season, which has seen the two-legged format scrapped and the competition revert to a single knock-out game. If the tie cannot be decided in 90 minutes, there will be 30 minutes extra time followed by a penalty shoot-out if necessary.

WREXHAM GAME MOVED

The Nationwide League Division Two game with Wrexham at Madejski Stadium, scheduled for next Tuesday evening at 7.45pm, has been postponed due to three Wales under 21 international call-ups within the Wrexham squad. No new date for the fixture has been set at this stage.

QPR TICKET DETAILS

Tickets for the next League game, away at Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday 25th August, are now on general sale. Tickets are priced at £15 for adults and £7 for concessions (OAP's/juniors/students).

LIVE AUDIO COMMENTARY ON READINGFC.CO.UK

Live audio coverage of all Royals' fixtures is now

available through the Club's official website, www.readingfc.co.uk, after an agreement between the Club and Classic Gold Radio, which you can also find on 1431/1485 AM.

ACADEMY SIDES FARE WELL IN FRIENDLIES (PICTURE 1)

The Academy under 17 and under 19 sides completed their pre-season friendly schedule at the weekend with away games at Southampton. Kevin Dillon's under 19 side registered an excellent 3-0 victory thanks to goals by Scott Williams, Adam Campion and Declan O'Hara, while the under 17s shared the spoils in an exciting 3-3 draw.

WATCH THE ROYALS FOR FREE!

The Club requires a number of lottery agents/ticket canvassers. Could you help us one night a week for two / three hours?

Commission is paid as well as bonuses up to £500, plus opportunities for complimentary matchday tickets at Madejski Stadium!

Call the Promotions Department on 0118 968 1480 or email cmoss@readingfc.co.uk for more details.

SIGNED ROYALS & SPURS BALL UP FOR AUCTION

A matchball signed by both squads from the recent Royals v Spurs friendly fixture is being auctioned off on behalf of the Lisa Warren Family Fund. The ball was donated by the Club after long-serving fan Valerie Farmer told us about the tragic death of Lisa Warren, and all funds raised will go directly to support Lisa's family.

The ball will go to the highest bidder by midday on Saturday 8th September, and bids can be made by calling Val on 0118 9581158.

PICTURE GALLERY



PICTURE 1 - DECLAN O'HARA SCORED FOR THE U19S



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Worthington Cup

SCORES AGAIN



2000/1 LAST YEAR'S WORTHINGTON CUP

Top Goalscorer

Robbie Fowler, 6 goals

Fastest Goal

John Hartson, 1 minute,
Wimbledon v Wigan Athletic

Most goals in a tie

11
Blackpool 3 Norwich City 8
(aggregate score)

As the Worthington Cup kicks off a new season everything is set for another competition to remember!

Last year, attendances were up by nearly 10%, 23 games in the tournament were watched by crowds of more than 20,000 and a record number of goals – 467 – were scored.

And who could forget the dramatic Worthington Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium, when Liverpool beat Birmingham City on penalties to lift the first trophy of their historic treble.

To celebrate the start of a new season and in anticipation of another barrel load of goals and cup action, Worthington are giving away a can for every goal scored in the 35 First Round ties to three lucky winners.



To be in with chance to win, simply answer this simple question...

Q. In which European competition will this year's winners of the Worthington Cup compete?

- A. European Cup**
- B. UEFA Cup**
- C. Inter Toto Cup**

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TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) All entrants must be over 18. (2) All competition entries must be received by 31/08/01. (3) One prize winner will be drawn at random. (4) Editor's decision is final.



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Between the teams | Reading v Luton Town | by David Downs

27th Mar 1988



Simod Cup Final
Reading (2) 4 Luton Town (1) 1

Reading: Francis, Baillie, Richardson, Beavon, Hicks, Curle, Jones (Williams 77), Taylor, Tait (Peters 84), Gilkes, Smillie

Luton Town: Sealey, Breaker, Grimes, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein (Johnson 80), Harford, M Stein (Black 59), Allinson

Referee: J.Martin (Alton)
Attendance: 61,740

The greatest day in the history of Reading FC arrived on Sunday 27th March 1988, when Ian Branfoot's team, accompanied by 40,000 fans, travelled to Wembley Stadium to take on Luton Town in the final of the Simod Cup.

It was the Royals' first appearance at the national stadium, and they had got there the hard way, beating four First Division sides, including Coventry City on a penalty shootout in the semi-final, on the way. Luton, yet another team from the

top echelon, went ahead after fifteen minutes as Mick Harford headed in a cross from Mark Stein.

Far from being demoralised, Reading hit back through Michael Gilkes, who looped a volley over Les Sealey from the left flank, then won a penalty as he was brought down by Tim Breacker. Stuart Beavon converted neatly from the spot, and Reading went in at the interval maintaining their lead. Luton had lost their shape and spirit by now, and Reading enjoyed a second

period during which they twice extended their advantage. Neil Smillie centred for Mick Tait to sweep the ball home on 55 minutes, then ten minutes later Linden Jones beat two defenders before his shot was parried by the 'keeper, but Smillie was on hand to scoop the rebound past the grounded Sealey.

Steve Francis made a couple of smart saves as Luton staged a late rally but Reading were worthy winners, and skipper Martin

Hicks led his team up the steps to the Royal Box to collect the trophy and medals as Reading fans celebrated. Because of relegation, Reading were not allowed to participate the following season, but a replica of the Simod Cup was presented to Reading FC by the Supporters' Club.

Reading Football Club would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Luton Town for the sudden recent death of their former goalkeeper Les Sealey.

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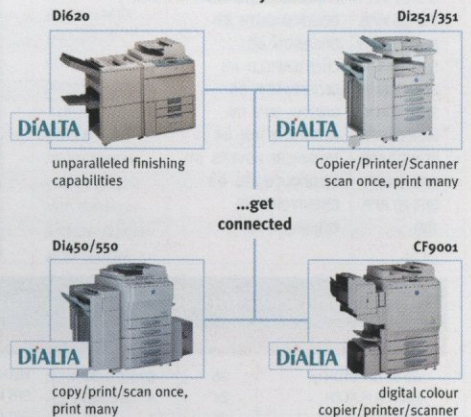
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AWF/ NUMBER OF AWAY FANS ATTENDED

royals statistics

the key

fac | axa fa cup | ldv | ldv vans trophy
wc | worthington cup

date	opponents	results att	Whitehead	Murty	Robinson	Whitebread	Williams	Parkinson	Harper	Hughes	A Smith	Forster	Butler	Gamble	Igoe	Henderson	Viveash	Ashdown
SAT 11 AUG	BLACKPOOL (A)	W 2-0 5,613 960 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEBREAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HARPER	HUGHES	A SMITH	1 FORSTER	BUTLER	GAMBLE	IGOE	HENDERSON	VIVERASH	ASHDOWN
SAT 18 AUG	HUDDERSFIELD (H)	W 1-0 11,915 1022 AWF	WHITEHEAD	MURTY	ROBINSON	WHITEBREAD	WILLIAMS	PARKINSON	HARPER	HUGHES	A SMITH	1 FORSTER	ROUGIER	IGOE	HENDERSON	VIVERASH	SHOREY	ASHDOWN
TUE 21 AUG	LUTON TOWN (H) WC1																	
SAT 25 AUG	QPR (A)																	
SAT 01 SEP	PORT VALE (A)																	
SAT 08 SEP	CARDIFF (H)																	
SAT 15 SEP	STOKE CITY (A)																	
TUE 18 SEP	CAMBRIDGE UTD (H)																	
SAT 22 SEP	WYCOMBE W. (H)																	
TUE 25 SEP	BOURNEMOUTH (A)																	
SAT 29 SEP	BURY (H)																	
SAT 06 OCT	COLCHESTER UTD (A)																	
SAT 13 OCT	SWINDON (H)																	
SAT 20 OCT	NOTTS COUNTY (A)																	
TUE 23 OCT	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (A)																	
SAT 27 OCT	BRENTFORD (H)																	
SAT 03 NOV	NORTHAMPTON (A)																	
SAT 10 NOV	BRISTOL CITY (H)																	
SAT 17 NOV	FA CUP 1ST ROUND																	
TUE 20 NOV	TRANMERE (H)																	
SAT 24 NOV	P'BOROUGH UTD (A)																	
SAT 01 DEC	CHESTERFIELD (H)																	
FRI 14 DEC	BRIGHTON (A)																	
SAT 22 DEC	WIGAN ATHLETIC (H)																	
WED 26 DEC	CARDIFF (A)																	
SAT 29 DEC	WREXHAM (A)																	
TUE 01 JAN	PORT VALE (H)																	
SAT 05 JAN	QPR (H)																	
SAT 12 JAN	HUDDERSFIELD (A)																	
SAT 19 JAN	BLACKPOOL (H)																	
TUE 22 JAN	WIGAN ATHLETIC (A)																	
SAT 26 JAN	COLCHESTER UTD (H)																	
SAT 02 FEB	BURY (A)																	
SAT 09 FEB	NOTTS COUNTY (H)																	
SAT 16 FEB	SWINDON (A)																	
SAT 23 FEB	STOKE CITY (H)																	
TUE 26 FEB	WYCOMBE W. (A)																	
SAT 02 MAR	CAMBRIDGE UTD (A)																	
TUE 05 MAR	BOURNEMOUTH (H)																	
SAT 09 MAR	BRIGHTON (H)																	
SAT 16 MAR	CHESTERFIELD (A)																	
SAT 23 MAR	OLDHAM ATH (H)																	
SAT 30 MAR	BRISTOL CITY (A)																	
MON 01 APR	NORTHAMPTON (H)																	
SUN 07 APR	TRANMERE ROVERS (A)																	
SAT 13 APR	P'BOROUGH UTD (H)																	
SAT 20 APR	BRENTFORD (A)																	
TBA	WREXHAM (H)																	

last seasons top scorers

last seasons top home gates

last three fixtures

PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL	DATE	OPPONENTS	ATTENDANCE	OPPONENTS	RESULT
JAMIE CURETON	26	4	30	WED MAY 16	WIGAN ATHLETIC	22,034	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (H)	WON 1-0
MARTIN BUTLER	24	4	28	SAT MAY 05	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	20,589	BLACKPOOL (A)	WON 2-0
DARREN CASKEY	9	1	10	SAT APR 14	BURY	16,829	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS (A)	LOST 0-1

number in red denotes number of goals scored
number in black denotes player replaced
coloured block denotes yellow and red cards

nationwide league division two

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BRISTOL CITY	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
COLCHESTER	2	2	0	0	8	4	6
READING	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
QPR	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
BRENTFORD	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
BRIGHTON	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
CARDIFF CITY	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
WYCOMBE	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
STOKE CITY	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
PORT VALE	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
BURY	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
HUDDERSFIELD	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
NOTTS COUNTY	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
BLACKPOOL	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
OLDHAM ATH	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
P'BOROUGH UTD	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
WIGAN ATHLETIC	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
CAMBRIDGE UTD	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
SWINDON TOWN	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
WREXHAM	2	0	1	1	5	8	1
CHESTERFIELD	2	0	1	1	4	7	1
TRANMERE	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
BOURNEMOUTH	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
NORTHAMPTON	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

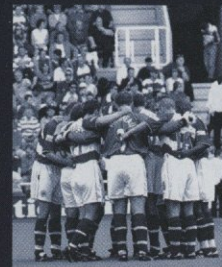
first team appearances

PLAYER NAME	2001 2002 SEASON			ROYALS CAREER TOTAL		OVERALL UK CAREER TOTAL	
	LEAGUE APP	CUP APP	TOTAL GLS	TOTAL APP	TOTAL GLS	TOTAL APP	TOTAL GLS
RICKY ALLAWAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JAMIE ASHDOWN	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-
MARTIN BUTLER	1	-	-	69(5)	32	239(50)	97
CHRIS CASPER	-	-	-	54(1)	-	83(5)	2
JAMIE CURETON	-	-	-	46(7)	30	248(42)	115
NICKY FORSTER	2	-	2	40(18)	14	265(81)	99
JOE GAMBLE	(1)	-	-	(4)	-	(4)	-
JAMES HARPER	2	-	-	12(4)	1	15(4)	1
DARIUS HENDERSON	(2)	-	-	3(11)	-	3(11)	-
ANDREW HUGHES	2	-	-	2	-	130(46)	23
BARRY HUNTER	-	-	-	90(9)	6	212(13)	14
SAMMY IGOE	(2)	-	-	27(21)	6	137(89)	17
KEITH JONES	-	-	-	23(5)	1	557(41)	50
ADAM LOCKWOOD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JOHN MACKIE	-	-	-	11(5)	-	11(5)	-
GRAEME MURTY	2	-	-	49(12)	1	180(24)	10
RICKY NEWMAN	-	-	-	46(5)	2	276(19)	11
PHIL PARKINSON	2	-	1	358(26)	21	513(39)	28
MATT ROBINSON	2	-	-	57(3)	-	133(22)	1
ANTHONY ROUGIER	1	-	-	19(20)	2	160(49)	23
NICKY SHOREY	-	-	-	-	-	13(3)	-
ALEX SMITH	2	-	-	2	-	124(23)	7
NEIL SMITH	-	-	-	36(24)	2	351(52)	19
NATHAN TYSON	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-
ADI VIVERASH	-	-	-	62	3	361(7)	22
ADRIAN WHITEHEAD	2	-	-	21	-	399	7
PHIL WHITEHEAD	2	-	-	69	-	443	-
ADIE WILLIAMS	2	-	-	262(5)	20	296(7)	21

The latest from ReadingBet.co.uk

readingbet.co.uk reckon that the most likely score this evening is 2-0 to the Royals – the odds on that result are 11/2. When the two sides last met at Madejski Stadium, the game resulted in a 4-1 victory for the Royals, and readingbet.co.uk are offering 16/1 for the same scoreline tonight. Selected other odds:

- Reading 1-0 Luton - 7/1
- Reading 2-1 Luton - 13/2
- Reading 3-0 Luton - 9/1
- Reading 0-0 Luton - 11/1
- Reading 1-1 Luton - 6/1
- Reading 0-1 Luton - 11/1
- Reading 1-2 Luton - 33/1



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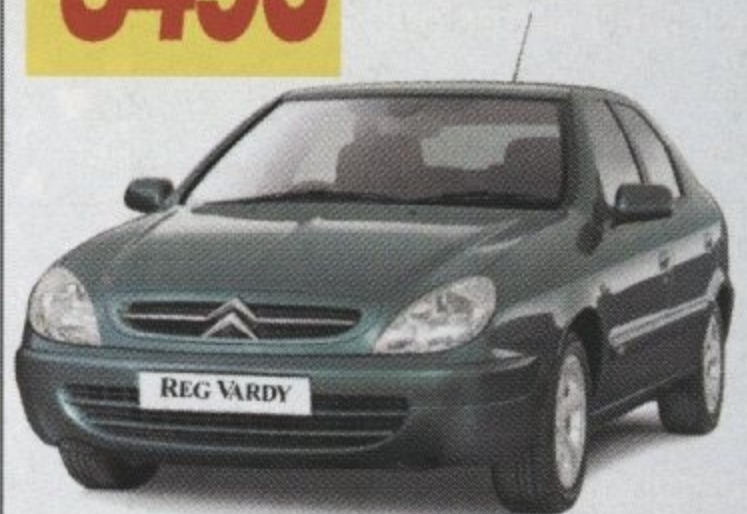
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