

Luton Town Football Club



**LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**
www.lutontown.co.uk

**Official Matchday
Magazine**

**Luton
Town
v
Carlisle
United**

**Saturday
January 19,
2002**

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3pm**

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Champions 1936-37

Division 4

Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

Photography

Gareth Owen

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

Front Cover



CONTRACT SIGNED: Ahmet Brkovic,
who has completed a new deal with
the Town, pictured in action at
Cheltenham on Saturday. See page 38
for a report and more pictures.

Inside Forward

THE fixture list is all ifs and buts for the next couple of weeks, and until Monday evening the Town do not know where they will be playing next Saturday. If Darlington win an FA Cup replay at Peterborough on Monday, their all-ticket match against the Town will be postponed while they take on Newcastle. If that happens, the Town will be at home to Exeter City, hoping to make it third time lucky after two postponements caused by frost at the turn of the year. Exeter already have a day off next Saturday - they were due to play York, but the Minstermen will be at home to Fulham in the FA Cup instead.

We have a provisional date for the visit of Bristol Rovers, after the game in early December was postponed because they too were in cup action. Next Saturday they are away to Gillingham in the fourth round, and unless that goes to a replay Rovers will come to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday February 5 (7.45pm).

New Contract Agreed

CHANGES in personnel have been made since the last home game. Financial packages have been given to Liam George and Dean Brennan to take them off the pay-roll, while Ahmet Brkovic's contract has been extended to the end of the season.

The 27-year-old Croatian was recruited on a three-month deal in early October, after rejecting new terms at Leyton Orient, and has proved to be a very useful addition to the squad.

And Joe Kinnear is still keen to bring in more competition for places. He has two vacancies for loan deals, and also has cash available to buy the right men.

He said: "The board have been tremendous in their support. I have spent £300,000 to rebuild and improve the squad, and that is about half of my transfer budget. I would like to bring in two more players. "I know we won't go from now to the end of the season without more injuries, so I need to get in players to make the squad that much stronger, and there's not a day goes by when I don't enquire about players."

The injury list is easing considerably, with the best news that Carl Griffiths is out of plaster, and hoping to step up the pace to full training before too long. Aaron Skelton, Stuart Fraser, Paul Hughes, Lee Mansell and Adam Locke are all regaining match fitness in the reserves, while Chris Coyne and Peter Holmes could return in the Avon Combination in a week or two.

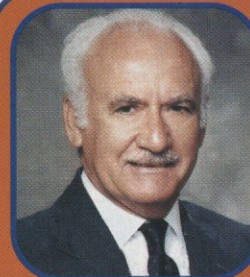
Two players have returned to the club after loan spells, striker Peter Thomson having been at Rushden and Richard Dryden with Conference club Scarborough. Rushden decided not to make an offer for the striker, who is available on a free transfer, while Dryden turned down the chance to stay at Scarborough longer.

Meanwhile Stuart Douglas has now gone to Rushden on trial, and Jude Stirling is likely to have a trial with Swindon, where the manager, for the second time, is former Town star Andy King.

Pondering Their Future

WHILE the Town are ready to go shopping for new recruits, other clubs are casting envious eyes on the talent at Kenilworth Road, and the manager admits he could be faced with some difficult decisions in the coming weeks.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE



WELCOME to Kenilworth Road for the first match of 2002. On behalf of everyone at the club, I offer our best wishes to everyone for the New Year, with the hope that we enjoy a promotion-winning campaign in the second half of the

season. I think we will!

Last year was dramatic, and at times traumatic, with relegation a huge disappointment. But I think you can see that we have taken solid steps towards our goal of re-establishing Luton Town in the higher divisions. A lot of us are working hard towards that end, and, of course, on plans for our much-needed new stadium. Kenilworth Road has enjoyed some memorable occasions, but we have to move on, and our hopes for 2002 are that Joe and the boys will keep up the good work and get us straight back into the Second Division, and that our dream of a new and bigger ground, fit for the 21st century, will come appreciably closer, to enable us as a club to prosper and continue to move up the leagues. Good foundations were laid in 2001, on and off the field, and I look forward to more progress in 2002. And please keep up your support - it has been tremendous so far this season, especially the wonderful backing the team has received for away games. Thank you all, and again, a very happy New Year to everyone.

Mike Watson-Challis

Matt Taylor and Matt Spring will be due new contracts at the end of the season, but their agents have told the boss that they think the players can earn more lucrative pay packets at a higher level. If they turn down offers made to them by the Town, they can walk away. As they are both under 24 the Town would still claim transfer fees, but they would almost certainly be subject to tribunal decisions, with Joe not terribly confident he could get a fair price.

He said: "I want both players to stay, and play at a higher level with Luton Town - in the Second Division next season, and hopefully the First 12 months later."

The hard decision that might be forced on him will be if big offers come in for either player before the end of the season. The boss rates Taylor as a £2million man, and is under no pressure to sell anyone. He wants Taylor and Spring to be part of the team celebrating promotion next April, but while he is unsure about their future plans offers from other clubs might have to be considered.

He has already turned down West Brom, who offered striker Jimmy Quinn and £500,000 for Taylor, having paid £500,000 for Quinn from Blackpool four years ago. Southampton have also enquired about Taylor.



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FOOTBALL CLUB

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Joe Kinnear

The Manager

IT'S A good feeling to be playing at home again after four consecutive away games. We were all disappointed that the weather beat two attempts to play the home match against Exeter, despite Herculean efforts by the ground staff. If gave us an enforced lay-off, and thankfully we turned that to our advantage. There is always a worry that when you are on a roll, as we were before Christmas, an interruption to the flow of games can be costly. Thankfully, we carried on into the new year just as we had finished the old one, and the players deserve great credit for the efforts they have put in.

We have not lost since November, when the defeat at Macclesfield concentrated a lot of minds. As a result of that debacle we gave up days off, took a hard look at ourselves, and settled down to work harder. Players, coaches - and the manager! - were willing to put themselves out to get back on track, and it has paid off.

Since Macclesfield we have gone seven games without defeat, and taken 17 points out of 21. That's not just promotion form - it will bring the championship if we can keep it going, and we believe we can. I want Luton Town to take the title, but in the end we will of course settle for any of the top three places for automatic promotion. Every manager knows that there are bound to be times during a season when you suffer a little blip or two, but we have built up a safety-valve in terms of league points. We are nine points clear of third place, and, more to the point, ten clear of fourth, the position behind the cut-off point for promotion.

Today's game is a reminder that in this division, as with all football, you can take nothing for granted. Carlisle have had to battle for survival for a long time, and all credit to them and their manager Roddy Collins for

succeeding. But we must beware of complacency. Last week's best result in the whole of the Football League was a reminder: Leyton Orient, having beaten First Division Portsmouth 4-1 away in the FA Cup a week previously went to Carlisle, hot favourites to get a result, and were hammered 6-1. Then Carlisle claimed another great result on Tuesday, when they ended Hull's unbeaten home record. I watched the game, and Carlisle won deservedly. Hull were lucky to get away with no more than a one-goal defeat.

We can be sure that Carlisle will relish the chance to make it three wins in a row today. Because we are doing so well, opposing teams are always likely to lift themselves when they meet us - we are a scalp worth collecting. However, if we apply ourselves as well as we have done since Macclesfield, we have nothing to fear.

We are certainly in far better shape now than we were when I joined the club nearly a year ago. Relegation last summer was one of the lowest points not only of the old year, but of my career. It had never happened to me before, as a player or manager. But it delivered a kick up the backside by reminding us that urgent action had to be taken to improve the squad.

The chairman was as determined as anyone that we should rebuild. His promise was to back me and my judgement. My pledge was to deliver promotion in return, and the board has played its part. Today, we are half-way there.

Promotion will go a long way towards wiping out the bad memories of last year. And hopefully, when we next gather at Kenilworth Road for the first game of a New Year, we will be well set for a second successive promotion.

Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

Joe Kinnear

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Marvin Johnson

Club Captain

IF IT is not too late, at our first home game of 2002, and on behalf of all the players, I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year, and to say thanks to a great bunch of supporters. One of the features of the season so far has been the marvellous backing we have had, particularly at away games. It has helped us, and in the dressing room there is a real air of confidence and optimism. We believe we are capable of winning promotion, perhaps with the league championship. I was glad to see the back of the old year: relegation last May is still a miserable memory but now we have a vastly different squad from the one that went down, and I rate it as one of the best I have seen in my time here.

For me personally, things are now brighter than they were a month or two ago. I have got over my injuries, and been involved in the last five games, starting with the Hartlepool match. I know it was a month ago, but that was a nice day for me - back in the squad, then going on as a sub, and scoring a late equaliser.

I have been on the bench for each game since then, and it is a little frustrating being so near, yet so far, when you are itching to do your bit for the team. I have also had a couple of reserve games to maintain my fitness, and I am feeling really good, and ready for anything.

I have watched the way the team has performed in the last few weeks with great pleasure, and have to admit that while I am confident in my own ability it is hard to see who I could replace at present. The whole squad has been doing very well, so I can't have any grumbles at not reclaiming a starting place. To be unbeaten in seven games, especially when five of them have been away from home, is proof that we are a strong team. We have also

shown good character - I don't think I can ever remember a run like this one, when we have fallen behind so often, but still come back to take at least one point, and at Oxford, Southend and Kidderminster fought back so well that we took all three. We could have done it at Cheltenham as well - perhaps the boss should have sent me on as a striker!

Having done well on the road, we want to build on that by making the best of home games, with several important ones coming up. Plymouth, in a fortnight, will be seen as the really big one, but every match is important.

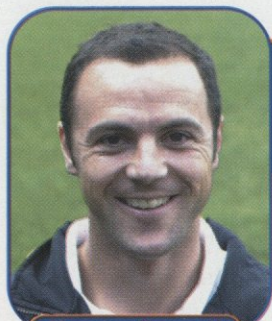
That includes today's, as we try to complete a double over Carlisle. They have just enjoyed two tremendous results, and that may have done us a favour. If there was any danger that we would be complacent, Carlisle have blown that away with their 6-1 thrashing of Leyton Orient, and then becoming the first visiting team to win at Hull this season.

Carlisle are clearly on the up, but we are also going well, and are as keen as ever to impress our supporters on our own ground. Our destiny is in our own hands, and to get back to where I started, we owe it to the supporters to continue to give them reason to cheer.

In my case, I seem to have given some a reason to laugh. I have had a bit of stick from the lads about my slightly garish winter woolly hat. I didn't choose that shade of fluorescent green. Ages ago Julian Watts was going out to buy a hat to wear in training, when the weather was bitterly cold, and I asked him to get me one at the same time. You may have noticed that its debut was when I was on the bench against Hartlepool, the start of our current run. I have worn it at every game since, and we still haven't lost, so whatever the weather this afternoon, the lucky hat will be making another appearance. I trust we won't need to be lucky, however!

Marvin Johnson

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Bruce Sewell

Treatment Room

IT'S A pleasure to report that it is all good news from the treatment room this week, with Andrew Fotiadis my only new

customer with a minor groin strain. The best news is that recovery is in sight for long-term injury men Carl Griffiths, Chris Coyne and Peter Holmes.

Griff has been out of action with a stress fracture of the leg since September, and has had to work to get over it, despite being in plaster for more than two months. The specialist has now confirmed that the fracture has completely healed, so the cast has been discarded and Griff is stepping up his work rate. He will be swimming every day and do some work in the gym, but is not running yet - he will be eased into that very carefully. But he should be able to raise a canter in a couple of weeks or so, and then extend his training to some football

activities. He will have to work to build up muscle strength, but is now much happier than he has been for a while, knowing that he has a good chance of playing again this season.

Coyne and Holmes have both been sidelined since mid-December, but are well on the way to full recovery. They have been model patients, and worked well to aid recovery. Coyne has got over his knee ligament damage, and we worked him quite hard in training for the first three days of this week, and he came through the test well. He is able to run without any problems, and is very close to being able to rejoin the squad for full training.

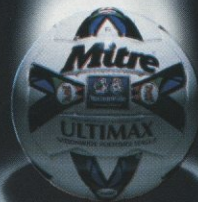
I hope that Holmes will also be able to resume normal training next week after his ankle and knee injuries, and with luck he and Coyne will both be ready for a run-out with the reserves in the fairly near future.

Bruce Sewell

Last Season
The Nationwide Football
League saw an Increase in
Attendance of 13.5%;
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Cherry Newbery

Club Secretary

WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road for a home game at last! The match with Bristol

Rovers was postponed because of their FA Cup commitments, and two attempts to play the New Year game against Exeter were beaten by the weather. That was a huge disappointment to everybody, especially Richard Bird and his staff, who worked extremely hard and long to try to overcome the frost.

At present we don't know who or where we are playing next week, as is reported on page 2 and page 10. It will be Darlington away or Exeter at home. If it is Darlington, please note that it will be an all-ticket match for our supporters, and supplies are limited. Again, see page 10 for details.

Christmas is just a memory now, but I want to put on record our appreciation of the visit by the Salvation Army band from Dunstable, who entertained us with carols on the day of the Hartlepool game. Supporters have told me how much they enjoyed it, and we intend to keep it as a traditional part of our Christmas arrangements. I must also pass on the thanks of the Salvation Army for the £160 contributed by supporters to their charity appeal.

Copies of the matchday magazine prepared for the Exeter match are available to supporters, and one of the items in my column that day has brought a swift response.

Gary Gravatt, a long-time supporter, asked us to settle a debate about the Town wearing red shirts at Sheffield Wednesday on August 27, at the start of the 1988-89 season. The question he and his pals discussed on a long trip to an away game was if it had ever happened before or since, and who was the second sub on a day when Ian Allinson was the only sub used.

Club statistician Roger Wash was one of several who came up with the answers. The red shirts were a third strip, used when the all-blue second kit caused a colour clash, as it did at Hillsborough. Its only other use in a competitive

game was at QPR later that season. In the following season the second and third strips were blue and orange diamond-patterned affairs.

"The unused sub for the Sheffield Wednesday game was Rob Johnson. The increase to two permitted subs was introduced at the start of the 1987/88 season in league games, having been brought in for the FA Cup the season before, and the Town used both their subs on the opening day of that season, in 1-0 defeat at Derby.

"The Town always used red as their favoured second strip as far back as I can remember, right up until the change from white first choice shirts to orange in 1973."

I hope that information is of use to Gary and his pals.

Simon Pitts, another keen stats fan, has been in touch with regard to our recent record. He points out that if we had won at Cheltenham, it would have equalled the record of five consecutive away victories, not beaten it. We have not won five away matches in succession in any season, but it was achieved in 1981: we won 3-0 at Bolton on the last day of the 1980/81 season, and then won the first four away matches of the following season, at QPR, Bolton, Leicester and Orient.

But there was a record set at Kidderminster, says Simon - the first time we had ever played three consecutive away games and won them all.

And he adds another item to delight all anoraks: when Dean Crowe scored at Southend, it was our 5,000th goal in the Football League.

I never cease to be amazed at our supporters' depth of knowledge about the club. My thanks to all who got in touch - I am always pleased to hear from supporters, by letter, phone call or e-mail. We are here to listen to your views, and they are very welcome, and we always reply to everybody.

Cherry Newbery

You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on:
clubsec@lutontown.co.uk

Ticket News



Nationwide League Division Three Darlington v Luton Town

Saturday January 26, 2002, kick-off 3pm
PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS



This game will go ahead only if Darlington lose their FA Cup replay against Peterborough on Monday. If Darlington win, our visit will be postponed.

If the game does go ahead, it will be ALL TICKET for Luton supporters, with none available on the day. Only 700 tickets are available, and therefore until 3pm today sales will be restricted to season ticket holders only. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale after this afternoon's match, and, subject to availability, until 6pm on Friday. If the game is postponed, tickets will be valid for the new date, or refunds will be given if they are returned to our ticket office 24 hours or more before the new date.

Prices: Seats - £10 adults, £6 senior citizens and juniors Terracing - £8 adults, £5 senior citizens and juniors
AS THIS IS AN ALL TICKET GAME, AND TO ASSIST OUR SUPPORTERS, THE TICKET OFFICE WILL BE OPEN NEXT WEEK, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, UNTIL 6PM EACH EVENING



Nationwide League Division Three Luton Town v Exeter City

Saturday January 26, 2002, kick-off 3pm
PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS



This game will go ahead only if our match at Darlington is postponed (see above).

Tickets are on sale at normal matchday prices. Tickets for the original date are still valid, but refunds are available if claimed at the ticket office on or before Friday. Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability, but please note there are NO CONCESSIONS on cash turnstiles.



Nationwide League Division Three Luton Town v Plymouth Argyle

Saturday February 2, 2002, kick-off 3pm



This match is ALL TICKET for ALL supporters, with none available on the day. Tickets are on sale, at normal match day prices, and subject to availability, until 6pm on Friday February 1. Supporters are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. AS THIS IS AN ALL TICKET GAME, AND TO ASSIST OUR SUPPORTERS, THE TICKET OFFICE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY 28th JANUARY TO FRIDAY 1st FEBRUARY UNTIL 6PM EVERY EVENING



Nationwide League Division Three Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Tuesday February 5, 2002, kick-off 7.45pm
PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS



This is a re-arranged fixture after the postponement on January 4, but if Bristol Rovers are involved in an FA Cup fourth round replay, the match will be postponed again.

Tickets already purchased for the original game will be valid. Other tickets are on sale at normal match day prices. Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability, but please note there are NO CONCESSIONS on cash turnstiles.

Nationwide League Division Three

Rochdale v Luton Town

Saturday February 9, 2002, kick-off 3pm

This match is pay on the day only for Luton supporters, with no tickets available from Kenilworth Road.
Prices: £13 adults, £7 senior and junior citizens

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10

Pre-Match Entertainment

This afternoon's pre-match and half time entertainment is managed by our PA announcers Justin Dealey and Steve Faulkner.

1.45 Gates Open - music starts

HALF TIME

2.10 Club mascot Happy Harry runs on the pitch.

3.50 Golden Gamble - Winning ticket picked by Luton Town Player.

2.15 A track from the HMV album of the week - THE STROKES - THIS IS IT

3.55 Run down of half time scores from around the country

2.20 Team line up to be announced.

4.00 Repeat of dedications

2.25 The UK's No1 track - ALLIYAH - MORE THE A WOMAN

4.05 Teams arrive back on pitch to theme song "Gimme Some Lovin".

2.30 Dedications announced.

4.55 FULL TIME

2.35 HMV single of the week - CHEMICAL BROTHERS - STAR GUITAR

Matchday music supplied by

2.40 Town Teaser - Check out page 33 for today's question



2.55 Teams run out to our new song - The Blues Brothers "Gimme Some Lovin".

Arndale Centre.

2.57 Final run down of the teams.

If you would like your dedication read out, please contact the Club prior to matchdays.

3.00 THE BIG KICK OFF

The Best in post-match reports

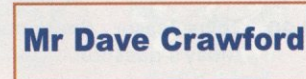
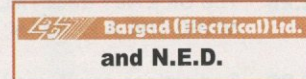
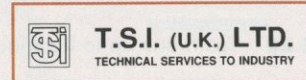
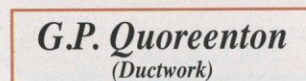
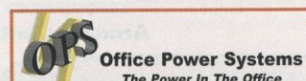
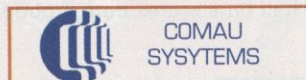
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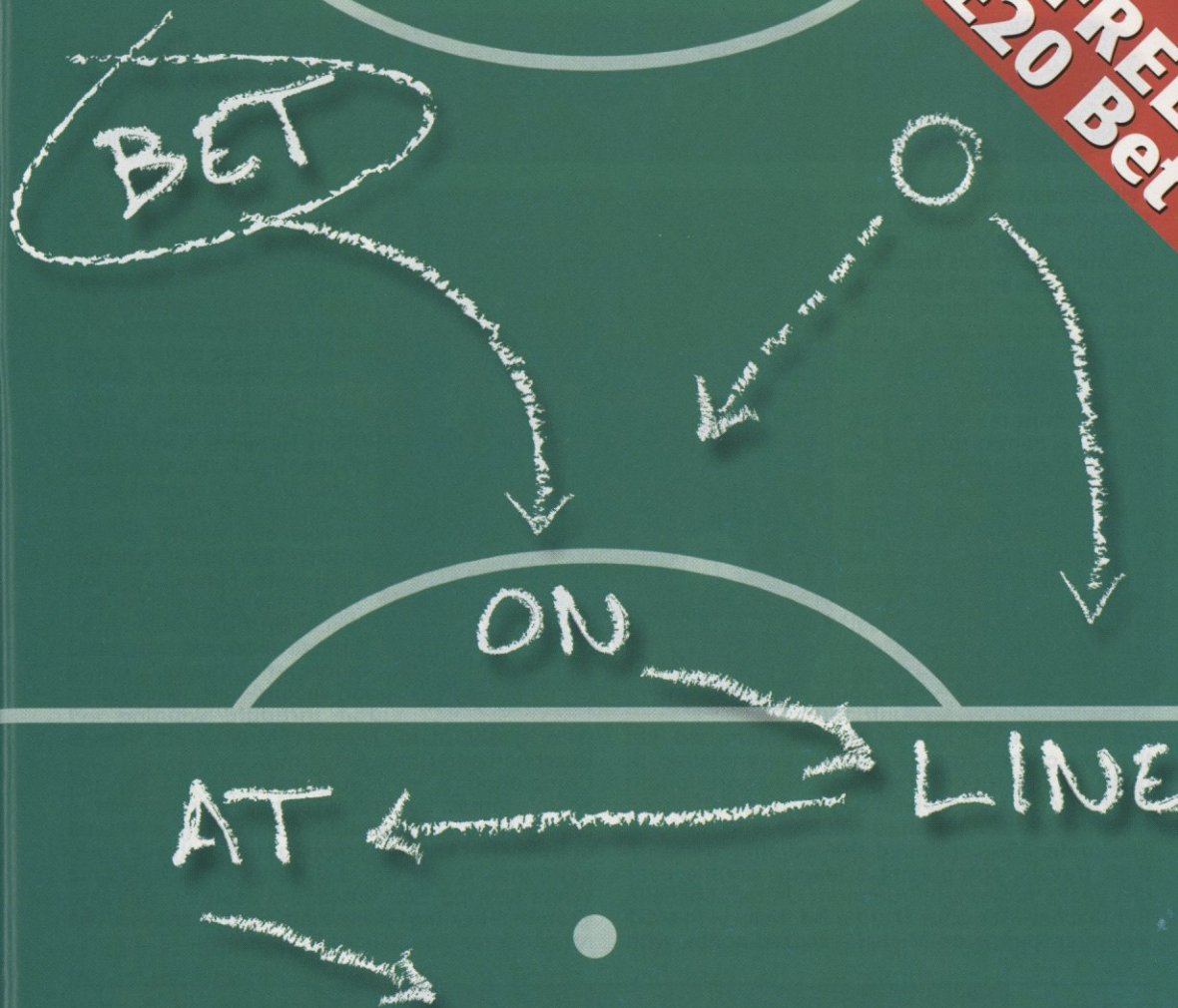
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www.lutontown.co.uk



Luton Belles

THE Belles returned to winning ways with consecutive league victories over Thame United and Newport Pagnell. It was a high-scoring affair at Thame, with Luton winning 8-4 after being 3-1 down at the end of the first half.

A remarkable six-goal blast in 25 minutes gave the Belles a comfortable lead, with Stacey Connell taking a leading role with four goals. Kim Hyde (2), Samantha Mather and Amy Gray got the other goals, all with shots from well outside the area.

Newport Pagnell were last week's visitors, and were shell-shocked by a seven-minute hat-trick by Rhiannon Morgan midway through the first half. The third was a cracker, slammed into the top corner from 20 yards. Luton failed to build on the good start, and Newport fought their way back into it with two second-half goals, but the Belles clung on to win 3-2.

The under-13s continued the winning trend on their travels, completing a league double over last year's runners-up, Belmont United. Michelle Byrne's hat-trick gave them a 3-1 victory. In a 4-1 win over Kempston Michelle scored again, with



Action from the game against Newport Pagnell - team captain Kim Hyde on the ball, about to deliver a cross.

the win wrapped up by Fay Rolls and a double from Rebecca Kane.

Returning to Luton for their first home game in two months, the Belles condemned Royston Town to their heaviest defeat of the season. Michelle Byrne and Theresa McMullen each scored twice, and strikes from Rebecca Kane, Holly Flynn, Fay Rolls and debutante Vicky Kingham completed an 8-0 rout.

It was cup action for the under-12s, in a quarter-final with Flitwick Eagles. In a closely-fought contest Alice Burbury put Luton ahead. Flitwick equalised before the interval, but a good second-half display sent Luton through, winning 4-1

with goals from Theresa McMullen, Natalie Burchnall and Chloe Fensome.

Completing a very successful period for the Town's ladies, the under-10s beat Garston for the fourth time this season, completing a league double after knocking them out of both cup competitions. It was an 11-0 romp, with Stephanie White scoring four times and Jasmine Hall and Yasmin Hickling both netting hat-tricks. The other scorer was Lauren Bruton.



Linda Layton

Commercial Corner

AS WE enjoy our first home game of the year, we would like to thank the many individuals and compa-

nies who have been gen-

erous in supporting our commercial efforts. Typical is Intasport, from Stafford, today's match sponsors. This energetic sports promotion and corporate hospitality company prides itself on giving excellent service to a rapidly expanding client base. Its high reputation within sporting circles has been earned as publishers of fixtures charts, year planners, desk pads, team sheets and brochures. Intasport are entertaining representatives of companies who have supported production of fixtures charts and desk pads. We hope it is an enjoyable afternoon for Intasport and their guests from Flexi Staff UK Ltd, Autair Freight Services Ltd, Artsbizworld Ltd, Three Counties Radio, Allied Dunbar Harper Centre, Sainsbury's and The Daily Roast.

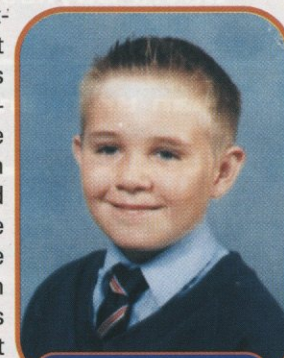
TODAY'S match ball sponsors, Camden Motors, has built its reputation as a strong retailer in high-volume car franchises, working in partnership with the likes of Toyota, Renault, Peugeot and Volkswagen. In recent years the group has undergone a rapid

expansion programme, and now has 30 dealerships from Coventry in the north to Croydon in the south, but it still retains its hub in the Beds, Bucks and Herts area.

TODAY sees a belated birthday present for a lad who was due to be commercial mascot at the Exeter game, which was postponed twice.

Graeme Flanagan, from Little Paxton, was 13 on Christmas Eve, and is a regular spectator at Kenilworth Road with his dad, but today he gets VIP treatment, meeting the players before kick-off, and joining them on the pitch for the pre-match rituals. Matt Spring and Jean-Louis Valois are his favourites.

A pupil at Etonbury Middle School, Arlesey, Graeme likes all sport, especially football, and also enjoys reading, collecting Pokemon, and learning to play drums.



Graeme Flanagan

Linda Layton

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Golden Gamble

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club funds. Mr Layton was the 12th winner of the season so far, and the pay-outs have totalled £7,170, an average of £597 each. Golden Gamble ticket sellers will be on duty in all parts of the ground today. The draw is made at half time, with the cash prize available for collection immediately.

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Goals Info:



Where

Close Range

23 Goals

Inside Area

22 Goals

Outside Area

9 Goals

How

Shots.....31
Headers.....14
Volleys.....8
Penalties...1
Free Kicks..0
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Crowe.....10
Taylor.....7
Howard.....7
Griffiths...7
Spring.....5
Nicholls...3
Forbes.....3
Valois.....3

2001-2002

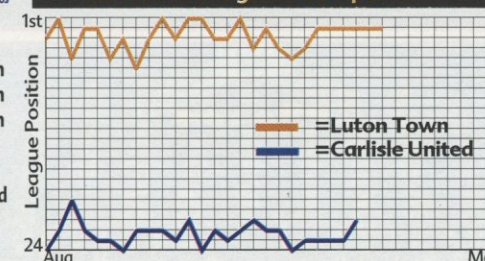
Highest Gate
7,696
vs Rochdale
Lowest Gate
5,066
vs Lincoln
Average Gate
6,729
Players Used 32
Clean Sheets 6
Failed to Score
2
Consec. Wins
3 games
Consec. Defeats
2 games

Hatters' Last 10

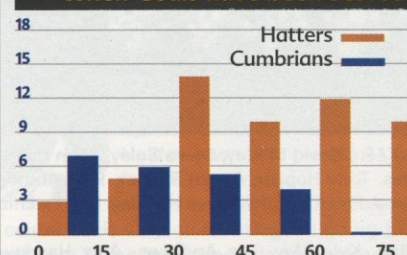
Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
D	Cheltenham	A	7th
W	Kidderminster	A	9th
W	Southend	A	12th
W	Oxford	A	17th
D	Hartlepool	H	12th
W	Rushden	H	8th
W	Hartlepool	A	9th
L	Macclesfield	A	23rd
L	Hull	H	5th
W	Shrewsbury	H	6th

check out the stats @ www.soccer-stats.com

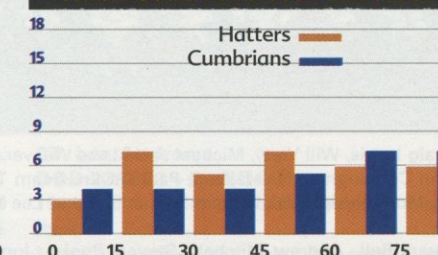
Seasonal Progress Comparison



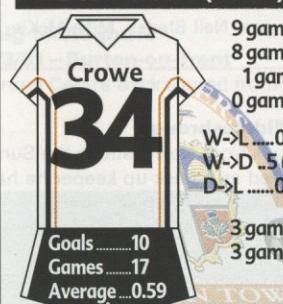
When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded



Dean Crowe (Luton)



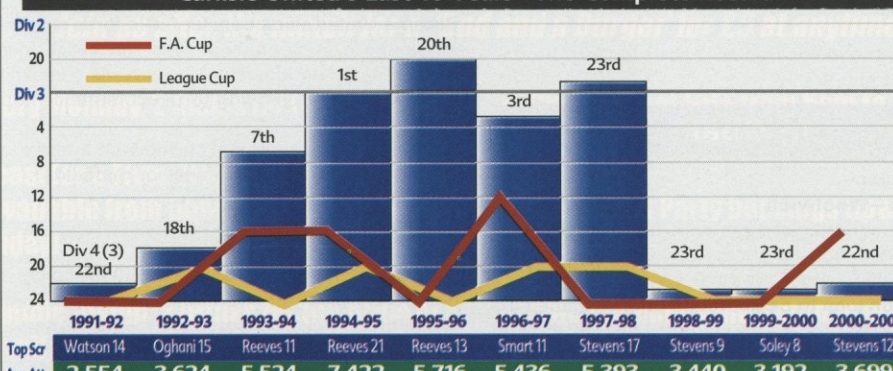
Top Scorers Comparison



Ritchie Foran (Carlisle)



Carlisle United's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



Goals Info:



Where

Close Range

9 Goals

Inside Area

14 Goals

Outside Area

3 Goals

How

Shots.....14
Headers.....2
Volleys.....6
Penalties...3
Free Kicks..1
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Foran.....8
Stevens.....5
Halliday...3
Soley.....2
Hews.....2

2001-2002

Highest Gate
4,432
vs Luton
Lowest Gate
1,849
vs Bristol Rovers
Average Gate
2,923
Players Used 34
Clean Sheets 8
Failed to Score
10
Consec. Wins
2 games
Consec. Defeats
3 games

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Wednesday 30 January, Sky Sports 1

Preston North End v Watford
Thursday 31 January, ITV Sport Channel

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Welcome to Carlisle United F.C.



Back Row: Craig Lewis, Will Varty, Michael Jack, Luke Weaver, Peter Keen, David Morley, Steve Soley, John Hore.
2nd Row: John Cunningham, Neil Dalton, Paul Devlin, Adam Thwaites, Tony Hopper, Austin Berkley, Paul Anthony, Mark Thurston, Craig McAughtrie, Mark Winstanley, Ian Stevens, Lee Maddison, Peter Murphy, Steve Halliday, Bob Latchford, Billy Barr.
3rd Row: Stuart Bell, Andrew Mitchell, Steven Rooke, Jonny Allan, Kyle May, Lee Andrews, Alex Haddow, Stuart Whitehead, Roddy Collins, Stuart Elliott, Mick Galloway, Scott Willis, Lee Hoolickin, Mark Birch, Maurice Harkin, Marc Nixon, Michael Dickinson.
Front Row: Paul Bruce, Steven Hewitt, Stuart McNeil, Tyron Taylor, Andrew Robinson, Neil Blades, Mike McKie, Michael Reed, David Lynn, Gary Brown, Mark Gardiner

The Manager



Roddy Collins

Roddy Collins took over as manager in July of last year after previously managing Bangor and Bohemians in Ireland. Roddy first gained international recognition as manager of Irish side Bohemians when he guided them to unexpected European Cup victories over Aberdeen and

Kaiserslautern.

He also guided Bohs to their first domestic League and Cup double.

A big task is ahead for Roddy if he is to turn around Uniteds recent plight.

In Goal

1. Luke Weaver

DOB 26/9/76 – Woolwich

Signed in the summer of 1999 on a free transfer from Sunderland after costing them £250,000 from Leyton Orient after only 9 games for the O's.

Spent a spell on loan to Scarborough prior to joining the Blues. Once tipped for future stardom, missed most of last season through injury. Now fully recovered, hopes to start fulfilling his full potential.

22. Peter Keen

DOB 16/11/76 – Middlesbrough

Peter joined the Blues from Newcastle in the Summer of 1999. Mainly regarded as a back-up keeper he has more than proved an able deputy when required.

An excellent shot stopper, will be pressing Luke Weaver hard this season for the No. 1 Jersey.

Scored a goal from his own penalty area last season at Blackpool!!.

In Defence

2. Mark Birch

DOB 5/1/77 – Stoke

Became United's first transfer fee in three seasons, when he signed from conference side Northwich Victoria for £10,000 last summer. Birch began his footballing with Stoke City before moving to the conference hopefuls in 1997.

Mark is very powerful and strong with a terrific attitude, can also play in central defence or midfield.

4. Stuart Whitehead

DOB 17/7/76 – Bromsgrove

Captured from First Division Bolton Wanderers, 24 year-old Stuart emerged from the non-league ranks with Bromsgrove Rovers before joining The Trotters.

Can operate either in defence or midfield. Player of the year in 1999/2000, played some of his best football last season alongside David Morley.



Today's Visitors



5. David Morley

DOB 25/9/77 – St Helens

Started his career at Manchester City and had a loan spell with Ayr Utd before joining Southend where he made 59 appearances before signing for the Blues in February 2001.

Dauids arrival helped turn Carlisle's fortunes around as he added much needed stability to the defence.



13. Peter Murphy

DOB 27/10/80 – Dublin

Signed from Blackburn Rovers where he never managed to break into the first team despite being a reserve team regular.

Spent most of last season on loan at Halifax town and played 21 games for the Shaymen.

Peter is equally comfortable at left back or centre back, very quick and good going forward and despite not being the tallest player is very good in the air.

17. Craig McAughtrie

DOB 3/3/81 – Burton-on-Trent

A big strong Centre Back signed from Sheffield United at

the start of last season. Was used on occasions last season as an emergency striker to add height to the Blues attack.

Craig will be hoping this season to make an impression on the first team, although time is on his side as he is only 19.

19. Mark Winstanley

DOB 22/1/68 – St Helens

The vastly experienced central defender made over 200 appearances for Bolton before signing for Burnley in 1994.

At the age of 33, Winstanley's class and experience is clear to see in the Third Division having spent successful spells on loan to both Shrewsbury and Scunthorpe.

27. Lee Andrews

DOB 23/4/83 – Carlisle

18-year-old Lee is in his first year as a pro at Brunton Park.

Made his senior team debut pre-season against Preston and his raw talent shone through. Lee was thrust into first team action in the first game of the season against Luton Town.

Playing at Right wing-back due to Mark Birch's suspension Lee put in a performance of real quality and maturity



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ty. Will be hoping for a sustained run in the first team and has more than showed what he is capable of.

35. Dave Rogers
DOB 25/8/75—Liverpool

The big Centre-Back started his career at Tranmere Rovers before joining Chester City in 1995, Dave made 56 appearances at the Deva Stadium scoring 2 goals. He went on to join Dundee in 1997 and enjoyed a successful period winning the first division and playing in the Premier League for his second year before moving on to Ayr United to captain the Honestmen. A very solid defender who is good in the air and equally capable with the ball at his feet.

In Midfield



6. Mick Galloway
DOB 13/10/74—Nottingham

Mick linked up with the Cumbrians initially for a month on loan from high-flying Chesterfield in November 2000, after spells at Notts Co, Gillingham and Lincoln. Superb dead ball specialist with equally good passing ability.

Added much needed penetration and guile to a lacking United midfield.

8. Steve Soley
DOB 22/4/71—Widnes

Joined from Portsmouth in August 1999 after starting his

career with Leek Town. Played 10 games on loan for Macclesfield three seasons ago. Steve has a great knack of being in the right place at right time to score some valuable goals. His work rate is second to none and will be looking again this season to weigh in with his fair share of goals for the club.

16. Tony Hopper
DOB 31/5/76—Carlisle

Another player to leave the club and to re-sign. After coming up through the ranks and breaking into the first team, The tough tackling midfielder left at the beginning of last season to join Bohemians of Ireland. After being part of their team who pulled off shock European Cup wins against Kaiserslautern and Aberdeen, he re-signed with the Blues in May.

25. Alex Haddow
DOB 8/1/82—Fleet

Alex joined us in August after being released from Reading after starting his career at Arsenal. A quick and diminutive left winger who made only a handful of appearances at the Madjeski Stadium. 18-year-old Alex has proved his worth and despite being ruled out for the rest of the season has impressed enough to be given a long term deal.

33. Brendan McGill
DOB 22/3/81—Dublin

Brendan has joined us on a months loan from Sunderland. The winger has made one appearance for the Black-Cats in last years Worthington Cup. Very quick and skilful Brendan will pose a threat to any

team he comes up against this season, although not being the most physical player at the club he can ghost past players at ease.

Up Front



11. Steve Halliday
DOB 3/6/76—Sunderland

Skilful and pacey attacker signed from Motherwell after being at Hartlepool.

A huge favourite with the fans, who initially joined on loan in May 2000 and helped keep Carlisle in the football league with some valu-

able goals.

He then went on to join Doncaster but Ian Atkins brought him back to the club in September of the same year.

14. John Hore
DOB 18/8/82—Liverpool

Another local lad, John made his senior debut on the final day of the 1999/2000 season away to Brighton. Despite the result (United lost 2-0), Hore showed some clever touches in and around the penalty area adding further testament to his abilities both on and off the ball. Made several appearances last season and hopes to figure strongly this season after impressing in pre-season



20. Jonny Allan
DOB 24/5/83—Penrith

Bright young prospect, who signed professional terms with the club shortly after his 18th Birthday.

Jonny achieved a healthy goal average while at youth level, Jonny has impressed in the hand-

ful of appearances he has made for the Blues. Possesses great power with pace when going forward, and it shouldn't be too long before the youngster is a regular at Brunton Park.



31. Richie Foran
DOB 16/6/80—Dublin

Ritchie has just become United's biggest signing for years after signing from Shelbourne in Ireland.

Destined for big things, the striker has represented Ireland at Under 21 level.

A strong physical player, Ritchie is sure to get amongst the goals for United and will no doubt soon become a favourite with the fans with his all action style. Has started off well scoring 4 goals in his first 6 games for the Blues.



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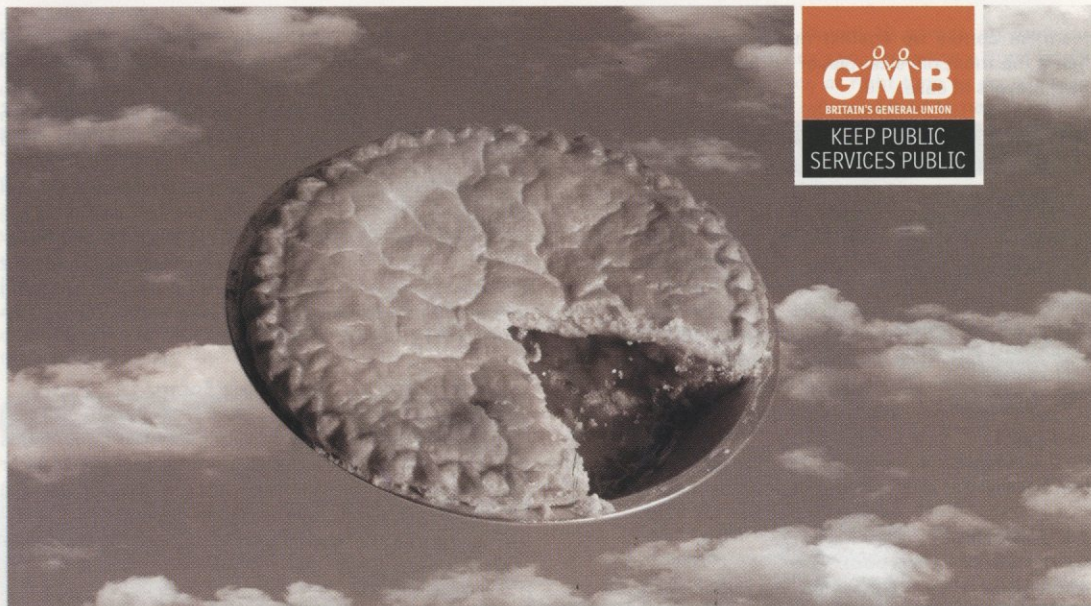
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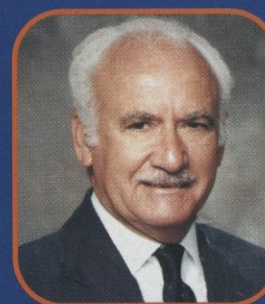
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The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Road Stadium are conducted in such a way that as far as is reasonably practical the safety of everybody at the stadium is assured.

It is the policy of the Chairman and Directors to ensure that the conditions set out in the General Safety Certificate, issued under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975, are fully complied with.

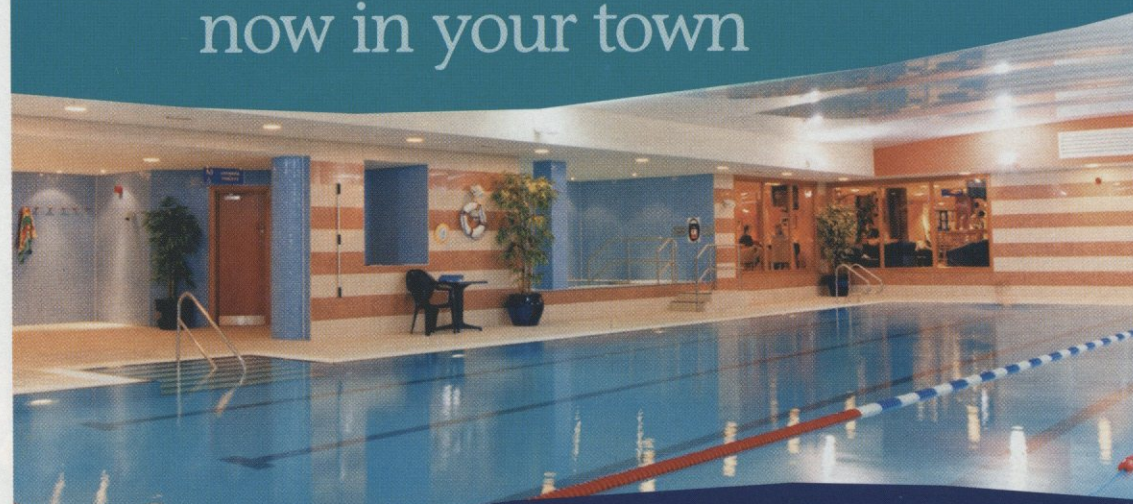
It is the Club's policy to provide at any activity sufficient and competent staff and management systems to ensure as far as humanly possible the safe admission, accommodation and exiting of spectators attending the stadium. These systems will be subject to continual monitoring, testing and updating where necessary.

Mike Watson-Challis Chairman

Reviewed August, 2001.

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Top Hatter Steve Howard



Born: Durham, 10.5.76

Joined Luton: From Northampton, March, 2001.

Were you good at school? I did OK - I got nine GCSEs, and stayed on to 17 to take my BTEch in business and finance. But my heart was set on being a footballer - my ambition was to play for Newcastle United. Actually, it still is! I had a year as a YTS boy at Sunderland, but they let me go, and I played for Tow Law Town, Chris Waddle's old club, for a few weeks before Hartlepool signed me.

Why join Luton? Northampton signed me from Hartlepool six years ago, and I made that move to go up to the Second Division. But it was one year up, the next down, and when Luton came in for me I decided they had better prospects than Northampton, and it was an easy decision to come here.

How do you relax? I like watching any sport, especially football. I watch Northampton when I can, and my mates at Hartlepool. You can learn a lot from watching, especially the Premiership. I look at Alan Shearer, and wonder at his ability - he's out of this world. I also like playing golf (handicap eight).

The greatest pleasure football has given you? There are two highlights: one was playing at Highbury, for Hartlepool in the Coca-Cola Cup. A few weeks earlier I had been turning out for Tow Law in front of a few hundred people if we were lucky, and to play against Arsenal, with 40,000 there, was an amazing experience, even though we lost. I was a midfielder then - I had to mark Paul Merson in the first half, and Ray Parlour in the second. I didn't get near them too often! My other happy memory was promotion with Northampton. It was fantastic, except that we were relegated a year later, and that was devastating. I felt even worse when I came to Luton last March and we too went down. It wrecks your whole summer, and it is as hard to stomach the second time as it was the first. I was devastated both times. Hopefully, I will be enjoying another promotion day in a few months.

What will you do when playing days are over? I have a few ideas about setting up in business. But retirement as a professional won't, I hope, stop me playing. When I was at Tow Law I played for them on Saturdays, and for a working men's club on Sundays, and I would play Sunday parks football for as long as I could. And I would definitely be a football fan. Newcastle are my team, and always have been, and I would have a season ticket at St. James's Park.

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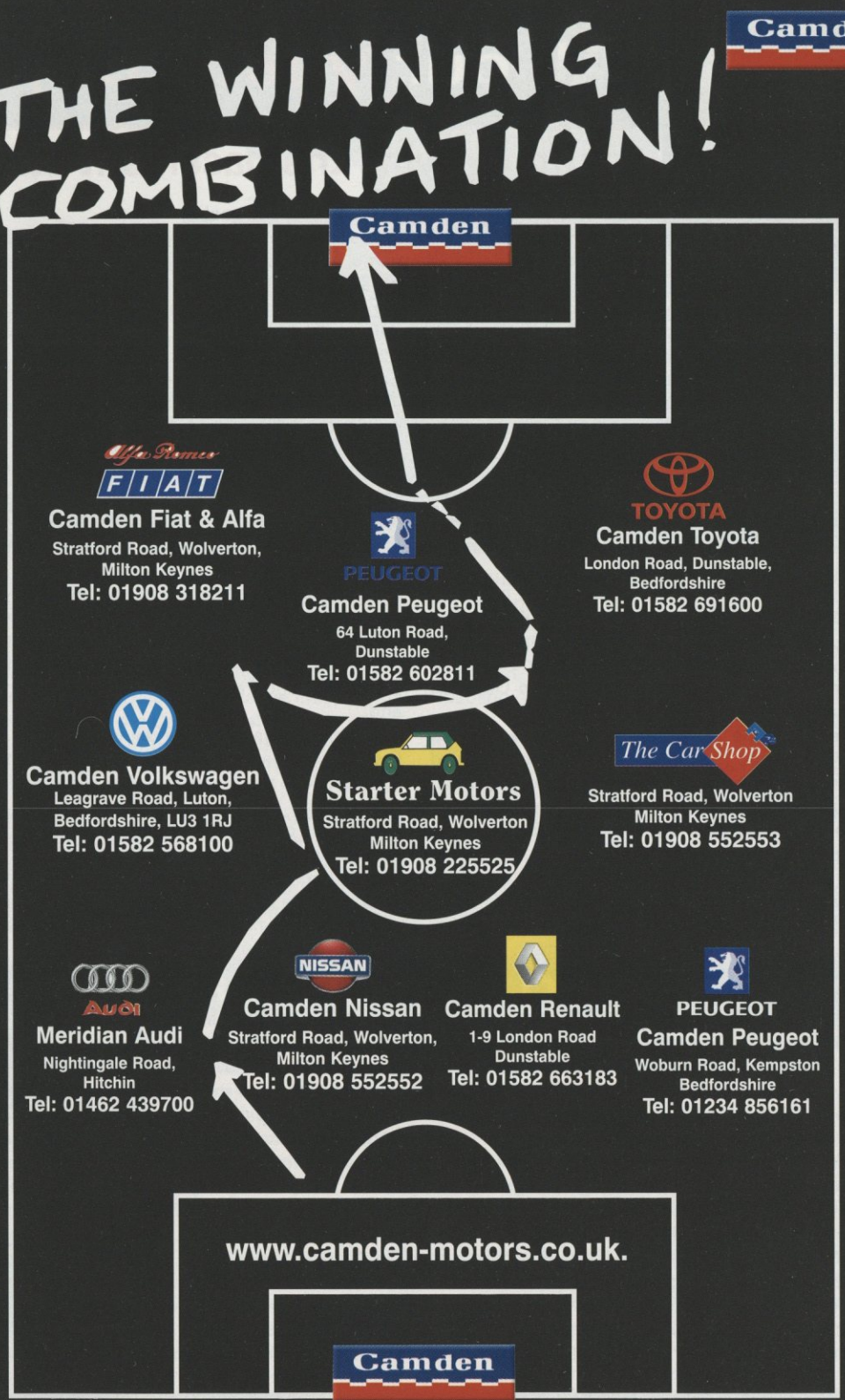


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Roger Wash

All our yesterdays

Futcher wins the basement battle

When the Hatters won promotion in 1974, to move back to the top flight that they had last graced in 1960, it was on the back of financial constraints still lingering around Kenilworth Road following the major problems of three years previously. The collapse of Vehicle and General Insurance Group, owned by chairman Tony Hunt, in 1971 would reverberate around the club for many years to come.

In truth, the club's new board would probably have preferred it if the Town had not won promotion, mindful of Division One wages and associated costs but decided to make a fist of it as the supporters demanded.

An opening day 1-2 home defeat at the hands of Liverpool was no disgrace but a haul of only five points from the next eight games meant that the Town were struggling from the start and were in danger of being left far behind. Division One was not much fun after all!

The tenth game saw the visit of Carlisle to Kenilworth Road. The Cumbrians had also struggled to promotion to Division One at the end of the previous season but they had opened the new campaign in some style and after a run of three straight wins stood proudly at the top of the table.

By the time of the visit to Luton, however, the gloss was beginning to fade as only one more win had been recorded. Even so they were still 12 places higher in the league table than the Hatters.

On the morning of the game a bombshell was dropped when it was announced that top scorer, Barry Butlin, was to be transferred to second division Nottingham Forest for £120,000. Apparently Forest manager, and ex-Hatter, Allan Brown, had money to burn following the sale of Duncan McKenzie and his bid for Butlin was too good to turn down.

Luton manager, Harry Haslam, put on a brave face and said that he needed to change things around anyway as most of the Luton forward play had been directed to the head of Butlin. Most Luton supporters felt that it was crazy to sell a proven goalscorer when the team was struggling.

Peter Anderson was pushed up front to link with Jim Husband and Australian international Adrian Alston, with the brief that all three should interchange and

pass their way to goal.

To be fair the system worked, particularly in this game, as Carlisle were swept aside after a few opening scares. Anderson opened the scoring in the 13th minute after running through a square Carlisle defence to latch on to a clever through ball from Alston and net with ease.

Carlisle equalised as half-time approached through Joe Laidlaw's clever overhead kick but the lead was regained on 54 minutes when Alston wormed his way through the Carlisle defence before blasting past ex-Hatter, Alan Ross, in the Cumbrians goal.

The killer goal came with 14 minutes left when a shot from Husband hit the unfortunate Bobby Parker on the hand which led to a penalty stroked home by the cool Jim Ryan.

Unfortunately, the Town were not able to add to that win and by Christmas sat rock bottom with only nine points to their name. Haslam then decided to go for broke and threw in the kids with Steve Buckley and twins, Ron and Paul Futcher pitched in at the deep end.

Suddenly the Hatters were rejuvenated and promptly won three games on the trot to close a bit of daylight between them and the other clubs scrapping at the bottom.

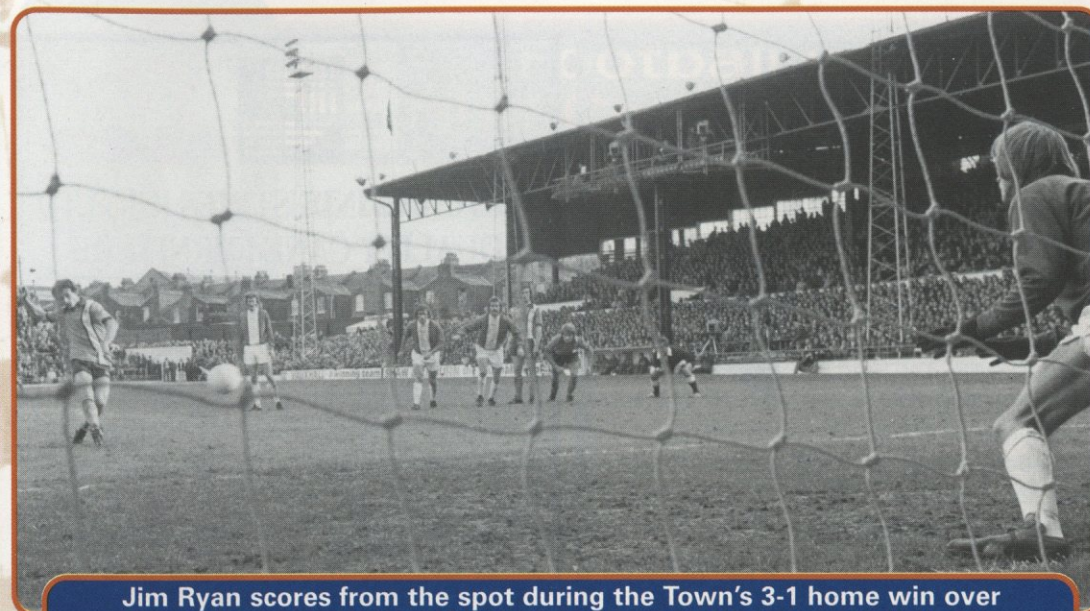
By the time of the return with Carlisle, in mid-March, we had hoisted ourselves off the bottom but a run of three straight defeats had not helped our cause.

Bottom of the pile, after a run of five defeats in a row, were Carlisle who no doubt felt that the heady days of the previous summer seemed light years ago.

Predictably, this bottom of the table tussle attracted the lowest crowd of the season to Brunton Park and in a high, swirling wind neither side looked to have the ability to escape the drop. In a dull first half Hugh McIlmoyle saw his diving header cleared off the Luton line and the same player send in a centre that smacked against the cross bar.

Carlisle eventually opened the scoring just after the interval when Laidlaw played a wall pass with Dennis Martin and headed in the return ball from close range, leaving Keith Barber in the Luton goal with no chance of saving.

The Town battled back and within five minutes scored a deserved equaliser. A free kick from Buckley was headed against a post by Ron Futcher and with Ross stranded, John Aston, quickest to react, nodded in the rebound.



Jim Ryan scores from the spot during the Town's 3-1 home win over Carlisle in September 1974.

The game seemed to be petering out for a 1-1 draw which would have been a fair result but with two minutes left the Town snatched a second goal and both points with a fluke effort. Out on the right touchline and in acres of space Ron Futcher slung over a long, high and very speculative cross in the general direction of the Carlisle goal. The ball was caught in the wind and looped over a bemused Ross to hit the far post and rebound gently into the net.

This very fortunate win seemed to kick-start the Town's season once more and five wins from the final nine games almost led to an incredible escape from relegation at the death. It was not to be, however, and the Hatters and the Cumbrians fell through

the trapdoor to meet up again the following season in Division Two.

Luton (first game): Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, John Ryan, Hindson, Jim Ryan, Husband, West, Alston.

Luton (second game): Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Jim Ryan, Husband, Ron Futcher, West, Aston (Alston).

Carlisle (first game): Ross, Carr, Gorman, O'Neill, Green, Parker, Martin, Train, McIlmoyle, Balderstone, Laidlaw.

Carlisle (second game): Ross, Carr, Gorman, O'Neill, Green, Parker, Martin, Train, Owen, Laidlaw, McIlmoyle.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



The Town's standard issue for this Division One season had all the basics you needed with only three pages of advertising amongst 16 pages of comment, photos and statistics.

Harry Haslam, in his column, was complaining that the Town had not been awarded a penalty that season with several dubious decisions going against his players. His prayers were to be answered that afternoon although the spot kick given for handball by Carlisle's Parker was highly fortunate. Elsewhere, it was reported that forgotten man, Rodney Fern, a big money signing by Haslam in 1972, had bagged five goals in a 7-1 thrashing of Swansea reserves and had a further three efforts ruled out by the referee. Youngsters, Andy King and Paul Futcher had been called up for England Youth trials while Jim Ryan admitted to breeding Staffordshire Bull Terriers, admiring their fighting qualities!

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Stuart Smith



Football in the Community

I HOPE you all had a fantastic Christmas, and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Since our last home game I have received some excellent news - the Community Department has managed to secure a sponsorship deal with Sainsbury's to enable us to open a Saturday morning soccer school, using the excellent facilities at Bramingham Primary School, in Freeman's Avenue. It is a pleasure to establish this relationship with the two parties, and I would like to express my thanks to Robin Horsler, field marketing manager at Sainsbury's, and Sharon Flowers, head teacher at Bramingham School, for their help in establishing this scheme. It is an excellent opportunity for children and parents alike.

The soccer school is running between 10 and 11.30am for nine more weeks, and all the dates will be advertised on the club's website and in your match day magazine. This course will give parents the opportunity to leave their children in the hands of excellent football coaches while they pop into the nearby Sainsbury's to do their shopping, and of course while they are there the children will be improving their football skills and gaining the benefits of being out in the fresh air.

The securing of a sponsorship deal with a national company such as this endorses the widespread feeling that Luton Town is very much a club moving forwards and upwards.

So what other news is there from the community camp this week? Well the department is in the near future going to have a new base. The old club shop on the corner of Maple Road and Oak Road is to become

our new office. The renovations have started, and I anticipate that they will be completed by late February. This move, I think, is excellent news for everybody. It will make the department and myself much more accessible to supporters, and in particular the youngsters. It will give you the facility to drop in, say hello and collect information on, or enrol for, future courses. This move is a big step forward for the department and I am hoping to generate sponsorship to help us with this part of the development and to contribute to the additional plans we have for the building.

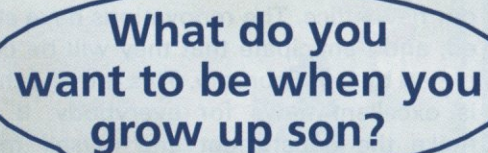
I also have some news about a couple of forthcoming tournaments. The Railtrack Play Safe Trophy is an annual six-a-side competition for schools under-11 teams. It is sponsored by Railtrack and supported by Sportmatch, the Government's Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme. The local heats of this tournament have been arranged for Saturday February 2. Any schools wishing to enter please call me at the club on Luton 411622. The entry deadline is next Friday.

I would like to invite you to take part in the fifth annual National Smoby Table Football Championship. The local heats are being organised by our Community Department and will take place at Kenilworth Stadium on Friday February 22. Entry is open to all Junior Hatters under 11 years of age on April 18. There is no entry fee and to enter all you need do is ring me. The winners of both tournaments will progress to area finals in early February and mid-March respectively.

I hope you enjoy today's game, and that the lads can continue the current unbeaten run.

Stuart Smith

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Cheltenham	Carlisle
Southend	Reading(WC)
Oxford	Bristol Rov
Lincoln	Exeter
Torquay	York
Darlington	Orient
Rochdale:	Plymouth
Swansea	Scunthorpe
Shrewsbury	Halifax
Hull	Dagenham(LDV)
Rushden	Mansfield
Hartlepool	Southend(FAC)
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Average:	Hartlepool
	Oxford
	Southend
	Kidderminster
	Cheltenham
	
	

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Happy Harry

Junior Hatters

IT SEEMS an age since we last played at Kenilworth Road, but the Junior Hatters Club is delighted to be back in business today, not least because our Saturday Club has resumed after the Christmas and New Year break.

It starts at 12 noon, and we think it offers real value for money to make it a real football day out for young Town fans. If you want to know more, ask at the club shop.

We also organise trips to away matches whenever possible, although we have found that this season, in the Third Division, fewer clubs are committed to fostering junior section reciprocal visits. Darlington are unable to offer facilities for an official Junior Hatters trip, although Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club run coaches to all away games, and all supporters are welcome to travel with them.

When we do go on trips, part of the entertainment to pass away the journey is a quiz competition, which runs throughout the season. Our current champions are Matthew O'Brian and Olivia Belanca, who call themselves OB1, and are pictured after receiving their prizes from Peter Lindau, who runs the club shop where you can find out all you need to know about the Junior Hatters.



Happy Harry



HAPPY MEMORIES: At our last home game, a month ago, two mascots were on duty at the match against Hartlepool. Eight-year-old Danny Hogwood, from Pomeroy Grove, Luton, was the Junior Hatters choice, while Niall Girling, 8, from Heacham Close, Luton, was the commercial mascot. They are pictured meeting all the important people for the toss of the coin before kick-off.

Today's Mascot

WE HOPE it will be third time lucky this afternoon for Jonathon James, of Brickhill Drive, Bedford. The luck of the draw picked him out to be the Junior Hatters mascot for the Exeter game, but two attempts to play it were ruled out by the weather.

Nine-year-old Jonathon will join the players in the dressing room before the game, which means he will be able to talk to his favourite star,



Matt Taylor, before going onto the pitch with them for the pre-match formalities. Jonathon goes to Scott Lower School, Bedford, and comes to games with his dad and granddad, and as well as watching the Town he enjoys reading as his other main hobby.

The Junior Hatters ball boys today are Donal Turner, of Wensleydale, Luton, and Patrick McPoland, from Tinsley Close, Luton.

If you would like to join the Junior Hatters,
call the Club Shop on:

01582 411622



Action Replay



Kidderminster Harriers 1 Luton Town 4 (HT 0-0)

"KEEP it going" was the New Year rallying cry of Joe Kinnear as the Town saw off 2001 on a high, and kicked off 2002 with another thumping away win. But Kidderminster boss Jan Molby was grudging in his praise of the Town's performance, having seen his goalkeeper stake strong claims to be the Town's player of the year.

Stuart Brock had a nightmare, and the Town took full advantage to destroy a team that had lost at home only one, and conceded just five goals in its 12 previous league games at the Aggborough. After taking a good look at the opposition in the first half, the Town destroyed them in the second, with Matthew Taylor terrorising them. It was a delight for another big Town following, who swelled the gate to Kidderminster's biggest of the season, but Mr Molby was not a happy man after three goals in five minutes turned the game around.

He called the result unbelievable, having seen his team hit the bar in the opening five minutes, and then take the lead five minutes after the interval. "The first shot they had on target was for their second goal. And what happened in the next five minutes you would not believe, would you? We presented them with three goals in five minutes and I don't think I have ever seen any-

thing like that before. The goalkeeper chucked all three of them in, so you couldn't describe it as good attacking. The first one was a cross; the second one I don't know what the kid was trying to do and the third one he spilled."

Kidderminster had looked useful in the first half, but a hamstring injury to Richie Appleby robbed them of their most dangerous creator.

The Town sent on Ian Hillier at the interval in place of Jean-Louis Valois, releasing Taylor to give a rampant display as a winger. Dean Crowe went wide on the other flank, and as the full-backs were kept busy near the touchlines, Matt Spring and Kevin Nicholls were able to drive forward into gaps down the middle.

"We played exceptionally well after we went a goal down," said the manager. "Taylor was magnificent again, and we were ripping their full-backs to shreds. Both their fullbacks were dizzy because of the pace we had, with Dean Crowe doing well on the other flank."

"We were a bit tentative in the first half, but knew the game was there to be won. Their goal was a bit lucky, but their keeper more than made up for it after that! We had a vast amount of possession, and supported each other very well. It was a really good victory against a decent side who were in good form."

Match Details

Luton Town: Ovendale; Boyce, Perrett, Bayliss, Taylor; Brkovic (Hughes 87 mins), Spring, Nicholls, Valois (Hillier HT); Howard (Forbes 87 mins), Crowe.

Unused subs: Emberson, Johnson.

Booked: Matt Taylor dissent.

Kidderminster: Brock; Clarkson, Ayres, Hinton, Stamps (Joy 60 mins); Appleby (Foster 37 mins), Blake, Williams; Bennett, Broughton, Henriksen.

Unused subs: Murphy, Ducros, Shilton.

Booked: Craig Hinton, foul on Matt Spring.

The Goals: 1-0 50 mins - Danny Williams 20-yard

free kick blocked, but the rebound converted with the ball going in off a post and then Mark Ovendale; 1-1 53 mins - Matt Taylor, driven cross going in off the goalkeeper's heel; 1-2 55 mins - Matt Spring, from Ian Hillier's pass into space, deliberate drive past an out of position keeper; 1-3 58 mins - Steve Howard, tap-in after the keeper spilled a shot by Kevin Nicholls; 1-4 70 mins - Spring again, converting the rebound after a shot by Taylor hit a defender.

Referee: Joe Ross, London.

Attendance: 4,147, including 1,096 happy Town fans.



KIDDERMINSTER CONFUSION:

The home defence in a tangle as Matt Taylor's cross-shot hits the net via luckless goalkeeper Stuart Brock. Kevin Nicholls looks pretty pleased about it.

SANDWICH: Jean-Louis Valois tries to do it in the air, but this time Brock, with Ian Clarkson in support, punched clear.



FINAL DELIGHT: Matt Taylor, Ian Hillier and Adrian Forbes greet the last whistle, showing how much they enjoyed the win at Aggborough.



Action Replay



Cheltenham Town 1 Luton Town 1 (HT 1-0)

YOU can find a hatful of differences between today's Luton Town side and the one we saw floundering in the Second Division a year ago, and one of the major improvements was illustrated again at Cheltenham. Going a goal down is no longer the end of the team's fight: at Whaddon Road the Town found themselves trailing for the fifth consecutive match, but once more came back to earn a deserved reward. At Oxford, Southend and Kidderminster the recoveries were so complete that they ended in victories, and on Saturday Cheltenham were lucky not to suffer the same fate.

They were on the rack in the closing stages, and it needed a good save by Steve Book to prevent Adrian Forbes netting a late winner.

By then, the Town were looking confident and in control, having seen fortunes sway both ways earlier. The home side took a 22nd-minute lead with a wonderful goal, but it was somewhat against the run of play, and completely out of the blue.

Before then the Town had hit the bar through Matt Taylor, with Ahmet Brkovic and Steve Howard unable to get in the telling follow-up shots, and Howard had seen a header cleared off the line.

Astute use of substitutes, in itself proof that the squad depth is much better now than when the manager arrived, proved important once more. Changes just after the hour mark sent Jean-Louis Valois and Adrian Forbes into the action, and the Town used four at the front, with good attacking support from mid-field. The football was quick and effective, although Cheltenham also had their moments before the Town took command in the last 15 minutes.

Howard's hard work brought him his seventh goal of the season for the 73rd-minute equaliser, and after that Cheltenham, beaten only once at home all season, were hanging on to save a point.

Steve Cotterill, their manager, once a striker with Joe Kinnear's Wimbledon, complained that his side had not taken their chances to kill off the game in the first half, and was disappointed not to win.

The Town boss smiled sweetly at hearing that. "It was a tough game but as it progressed I always felt there was going to be one winner - us," he said. "Cheltenham ran out of puff in the last 15 minutes, when we should have cashed in."

Match Details

Luton Town: Ovendale; Boyce, Perrett, Bayliss, Hillier (Valois 64 mins); Brkovic (Forbes 64 mins), Spring, Nicholls, Taylor; Howard, Crowe (Hughes 76 mins).

Unused subs: Emberson, Johnson.

Booked: David Bayliss, 43 mins, foul on Tony Naylor.

Cheltenham: Book; Griffin, Duff, Banks, Victory; Williams, Howells, Yates, Milton; Grayson, Naylor.

Subs, all unused: Brough, McAuley, Higgs,

Devaney, Howarth.

Booked: Mark Yates, 57 mins, foul on Ahmet Brkovic.

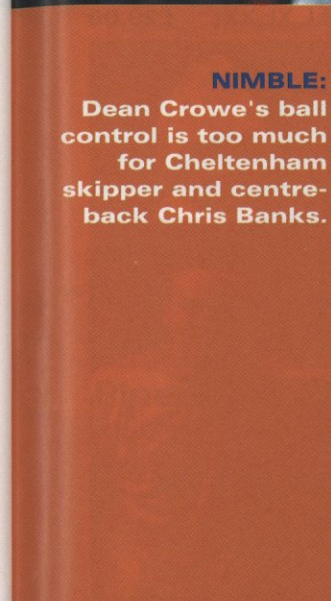
The Goals: 1-0 22 minutes - Tony Naylor, expert volleyed lob from 25/30 yards into the top corner; 1-1 73 mins - Steve Howard, well-placed shot after a low cross by Adrian Forbes reached him thanks to a mistake by Michael Duff.

Referee: Steve Baines, Derbyshire.

Attendance: 5,026, including 1,597 Town fans.



RIISING STAR: Steve Howard, who netted the equaliser, in aerial action against Michael Duff

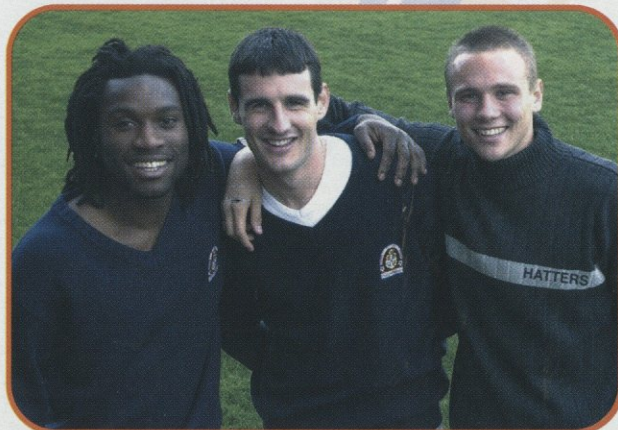


NIMBLE: Dean Crowe's ball control is too much for Cheltenham skipper and centre-back Chris Banks.



GOING FOR IT: Kevin Nicholls in close combat with Lee Howells.

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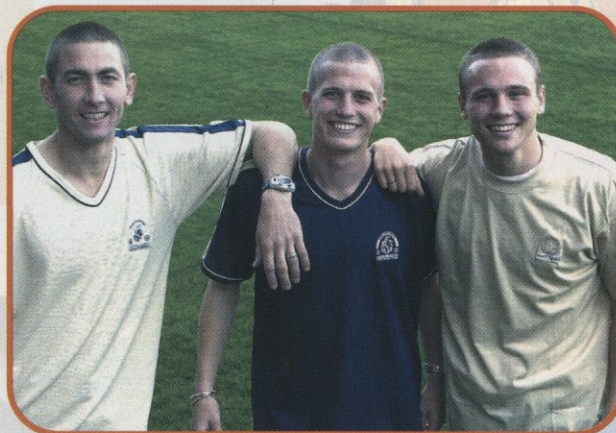


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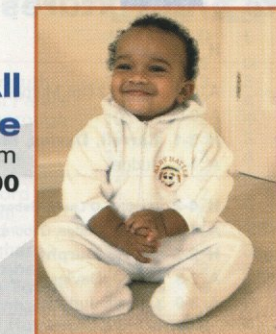
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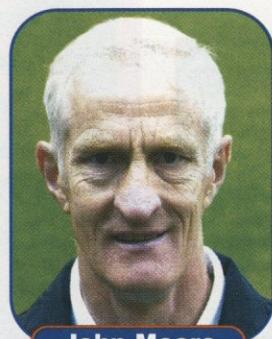
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John Moore

Youth Soccer



Luton Town 2 West Bromwich Albion 1

IN OUR first game since we were beaten 4-0 by Northampton a month ago, we were in danger of being swamped in the first 20 minutes, but after that we found our feet, and earned a very welcome result. It took us a while to pick up the pace of the game, but by the interval we were starting to look the better team, and we enjoyed a very good start to the second half, with two goals in the first eight minutes after the interval.

But then we had an attitude problem: too many players thought it was going to be easy. Concentration was not what it should have been. We were too gung-ho, getting a bit excited, and not patient enough to make the ball do the work. We gambled too much on going forward instead of controlling the game, and at 2-0 the opposition knows it has a chance if it can pull one goal back. We had taken the lead on 51 minutes, with James Osborn netting direct from a corner. He took it from the left with his right foot, everyone missed, and the ball went in at the far post. Lucky, perhaps,

but it was a goal we deserved on the run of play. Two minutes later we put together a good passing move, and Osborn laid off the ball for Chris Dillon to score with a first-time shot.

West Brom scored with 20 minutes to go following a goalmouth scramble, and the game was even after that. It was end to end stuff, with lots of action, and both teams going close to further goals. For us, the win was very welcome, and I was pleased with the effort everyone put in.

We included a trialist, 18-year-old Drew Roberts from Stanbridge. He looked lively and sharp, and we will probably have another look at him as a possible recruit.

Luton Town: Brill, Dogbe, Carroll, O'Leary, Davies, Deeney, Foley, Osborn, Dillon, Roberts, Okai (Jeffrey 86 mins).

OUR first scheduled game of this year, at Kidderminster, was postponed because of frost. Today we were due to be away to Notts County, and next Saturday we are at home to Peterborough. Kick-off at Luton RFC, Newlands Road, Farley Hill, is at 11am and spectators are welcome.

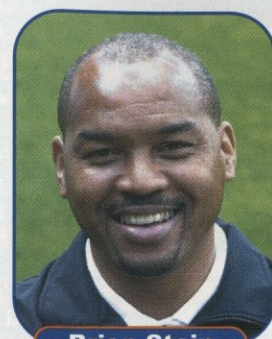
Appearances (as sub in brackets): Okai 14(2), Osborn 14(2), O'Leary 13, Foley 12(4), Carroll 12(2), Dillon 12(2), Davies 12(1), Gillman 11(1), Dogbe 10(2), Jeffrey 9(4), Judge 9(3), Brill 9, Leary 7, Murphy 7, Chatfield 6, Bruce 5(1), Howells 3(1), Deeney 3(1), Barnett 2(3), Roberts 1, R. Mansell 1, Beckwith 1, Shire 1, Garrett 1, Palmer 1, Burrell 0(1),

Goals: Judge 6, Osborn 5(1p), Murphy 4, Davies 3, Dillon 3, Carroll 2, O'Leary 2, Gillman 1, Jeffrey 1, Foley 1, Leary 1.

John Moore

FL Youth Alliance South Central Conference League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge Utd	12	7	2	3	24	12	23
West Brom	11	6	2	3	20	19	20
Rushden & D	11	5	2	4	18	18	17
Notts County	10	5	2	3	13	14	17
Northampton	12	4	2	6	18	18	14
Walsall	11	3	5	3	20	19	14
Luton Town	11	4	1	6	21	23	13
Kidderminster	10	3	2	5	13	16	11
Peterborough	10	2	2	6	13	21	8



Brian Stein

In Reserve



Brighton 1 Luton Town 0

A GAME we should have won comfortably was lost because of one silly mistake in defence and a string of missed chances at the other end. Otherwise it was

a good team display, and I could not fault the players for energy, commitment and effort. The big problem was that our finishing was very poor.

The pitch was awful, muddy and uneven, but we knocked the ball about well enough, and should have had four or five goals. Instead, we were beaten by a soft 75th-minute goal which should have been prevented.

Andrew Fotiadis could have had a hat-trick, Paul Hughes had a good header which hit the goalkeeper, and Lee Mansell had one good strike saved and another off target.

Carl Emberson had very little to do in goal beyond dealing with back passes, but he and Ian Hillier, who played in central defence, left a ball to each other and a Brighton striker was left with an empty net and accepted the gift gratefully.

Even after that we still felt we could, and should, have won the game. We did much more attacking than Brighton, who never threatened to get a second goal, but the lack of quality in finishing let us down.

The defence looked good, with Hillier and Stuart Fraser playing well, and in midfield it was good to see Mansell back in action after injury. He did OK, despite looking a little rusty at times, and Adam Locke, Aaron Skelton and Paul Hughes all

came through the 90 minutes as they also work towards match fitness.

Luton Town: Emberson; Johnson, Dryden, Hillier, Fraser; Mansell (Osborn 80 mins), Skelton, Hughes, Locke; Thomson (Douglas HT), Fotiadis.

OUR home game with Wycombe Wanderers on Wednesday was postponed because of their commitments in the FA Youth Cup and the FA Cup, and a new date has not been arranged yet. On Monday we are away to Wootton Blue Cross (7.45) in the second round of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup.

We are due to entertain Bournemouth next Wednesday, in the Avon Insurance Combination, with kick-off at Kenilworth Road 2pm.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Brennan 14, Fotiadis 13, Holmes 10, Fraser 7(2), Gillman 7(1), Ovendale 7, George 7, Stirling 6(2), Johnson 6, Foley 6, Locke 5(2), Brkovic 5(1), Mansell 5(1), Bruce 5, Thomson 4(4), Emberson 4, Dryden 4, Murphy 3(5), Osborn 3(4), Douglas 3(4), Leary 3(2), Ward 3(1), Everitt 3, Dogbe 3, Skelton 3, Hillier 2, Hughes 2, Mortara 2, Valois 2, Crowe 1(1), Forbes 1, Spring 1, Perrett 1, Boyce 1, Deeney 1, Ofori 1, Iagnostal 1, Hogg 1, Bouchuers 1, Djorkaeff 1, Maher 1, Hodges 1, Menetrier 1, Huck 1, Street 1, Bogacz 1, Martin 1, Okai 0(2), Davies 0(1), O'Leary 0(1), Jeffrey 0(1), Hall 0(1).

Goals: Fotiadis 7, Brennan 4(2 pens), Brkovic 2, Murphy 2, Thomson 2, George 2, Hodges 1, Gillman 1, Locke 1, Skelton 1, Evritt 1, Holmes 1, Bruce 1

Brian Stein

Avon Insurance Combination Results and Fixtures

AUG	Wed 15	Barnet	A	3-0 Fotiadis 2, Hodges
	Wed 29	Millwall	H	1-0 Brennan pen
SEPT	Wed 12	Leyton Orient	A	3-2 George, Brkovic 2
	Thur 20	Barton (BPC)	A	5-0 Gillman, Locke, Brennan, Thomson, Fotiadis
	Wed 26	Gillingham	H	2pm
OCT	Tue 2	Cardiff	A	1-2 Fotiadis
	Mon 8	QPR	H	3-3 Everitt, Brennan pen, Thomson
	Mon 15	Crystal Palace	A	0-1
NOV	Wed 14	Bristol City	H	1-1 Fotiadis
	Wed 21	Cambridge(LC)	H	3-1 Skelton, Fotiadis, George
	Mon 26	Leighton Tn(BPC)	A	4-2 Brennan 2, Murphy 2
	Wed 28	Norwich(LC)	A	0-0
DEC	Wed 5	Oxford	A	postponed
	Wed 12	Swindon	H	1-0 Holmes
	Wed 19	Portsmouth	A	7pm
JAN	Wed 9	Brighton	A	0-1
	Wed 16	Wycombe	H	Postponed
	Mon 21	Wooton (BPC)	A	7.45
	Wed 23	Bournemouth	H	2pm
	Wed 30	Brentford	A	7pm
FEB	Wed 6	Bristol Rov	A	7pm
	Wed 13	Norwich	H	7pm
	Wed 20	Cheltenham	A	2pm
	Wed 27	Colchester	H	7pm
MAR	Wed 13	Peterborough	H	7pm
	Wed 20	Southend	A	2pm
	Mon 25	Cambridge	A	2pm
APRIL	Wed 3	Reading	H	2pm
	Wed 10	Northampton	H	2pm

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Q.P.R.	13	8	5	0	35	12	29
Portsmouth	13	7	3	3	22	14	24
Crystal Palace	13	7	2	4	24	17	23
Peterborough	13	7	2	4	23	21	23
Cardiff	12	6	3	3	21	13	21
Norwich	13	6	3	4	23	18	21
Reading	12	6	2	4	22	12	20
Brentford	11	6	2	3	23	17	20
Millwall	13	5	5	3	22	18	20
Oxford	13	5	5	3	14	18	20
Gillingham	11	5	3	3	18	10	18
Wycombe	12	5	2	5	18	18	17
Luton Town	11	4	4	3	15	12	16
Cheltenham	14	4	4	6	12	24	16
Bristol Rovers	11	4	3	4	11	12	15
Leyton Orient	12	4	1	7	18	32	13
Southend	11	3	3	5	11	14	12
Colchester	14	3	3	8	18	25	12
Northampton	12	2	5	5	12	19	11
Brighton	9	2	4	3	9	9	10
Bristol City	9	2	4	3	10	13	10
Barnet	11	3	1	7	12	21	10
Bournemouth	11	2	4	5	10	21	10
Swindon	13	2	3	8	12	20	9
Cambridge	11	2	2	7	11	18	8

League Cup Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Norwich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Cambridge	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

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check out the stats @
www.soccer-stats.com

Records

Highest Gate
13,677
Plymouth v
Torquay
Lowest Gate
1,356
Macclesfield v
Hartlepool
Highest
Agg Score
Scunthorpe7
Darlington1
Bristol Rov5
Orient3
Biggest
Home Win
Scunthorpe7
Darlington1
Biggest
Away Win
Exeter0
Scunthorpe4
Consec. Wins
Plymouth5
Games
Unbeaten
Plymouth19
Consec. Defeats
Torquay5
Winless Run
Bristol Rov14
Total Games
311
Home Wins
14246%
Away Wins
8226%
Draws
8728%
1-1 Draws
299%
0-0 Draws
3812%



Consec. Defeats

Torquay5

Winless Run

Bristol Rov14



Total Games

311

Home Wins

14246%

Away Wins

8226%

Draws

8728%

1-1 Draws

299%

0-0 Draws

3812%

Average Attendances

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000
Bristol Rovers					7,104
Carlisle					2,923
Cheltenham					3,776
Darlington					4,047
Exeter					3,420
Halifax					2,004
Hartlepool					3,539
Hull					9,567
Kidderminster					3,081
Orient					4,787
Lincoln					3,236
Luton					6,729
Macclesfield					2,195
Mansfield					4,308
Oxford					6,477
Plymouth					6,441
Rochdale					3,342
Rushden					4,255
Scunthorpe					3,654
Shrewsbury					3,532
Southend					4,147
Swansea					3,612
Torquay					2,523
York					2,669

Goals - When Scored

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
BR	1	5	4	2	3	9
CU	7	6	5	4	0	4
CT	2	8	5	5	11	7
Da	1	5	4	2	9	6
EC	5	5	6	4	8	3
HT	2	4	4	3	1	4
HU	2	2	9	5	7	8
HC	3	6	4	9	5	10
KI	3	4	4	8	5	9
LO	4	5	4	9	7	10
LC	1	5	5	3	5	8
LT	3	5	14	10	12	10
MT	3	3	5	3	5	4
NT	5	7	6	5	5	10
OU	6	4	3	10	5	7
PA	4	7	7	7	5	7
Ro	5	5	5	6	7	7
RD	5	8	5	3	5	6
SU	9	8	8	6	7	8
ST	6	3	6	3	10	10
SW	5	3	2	8	4	8
SC	8	8	4	3	4	7
TU	4	4	3	2	4	6
YC	3	2	6	5	4	8

Form Guide: Home & Away

Home Form	most recent results to left	Away Form
DWWLL Bristol Rovers	WLLDD	WLLDD
WWLLD Carlisle	WLLDD	WLLDD
DDWWW Cheltenham	WWLLD	WWLLD
DDLWD Exeter	WWWL	WWWL
LWDLW Halifax	DLDLL	DLDLL
DWLWD Hartlepool	DWLWL	DWLWL
LDWDW Hull	LLWL	LLWL
WLWWW Kidderminster	WLWWL	WLWWL
WDWLW Orient	LLLLD	LLLLD
LWDLW Lincoln	DLDDD	DLDDD
DWLWW Luton	DWWW	DWWW
LLDWW Macclesfield	DWLLL	DWLLL
LWDWW Mansfield	LWLWW	LWLWW
WWLWW Oxford	LDLLL	LDLLL
WWDWW Plymouth	LDWDW	LDWDW
LDWDD Rochdale	WDLDL	WDLDL
WWDWW Rushden	WLLLL	WLLLL
LWVWW Scunthorpe	DLLDW	DLLDW
LWDLW Shrewsbury	DDLWW	DDLWW
WLWDL Southend	DWLLL	DWLLL
DWDLD Swansea	LDWLW	LDWLW
LLDLL Torquay	DDDLL	DDDLL
DDLLL York	LDDLL	LDDLL

Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms	Gls/Gm	Pts	Run
Shrewsbury	Luke Rodgers	15	10	1	1	26	0.58	11	4
York	Michael Proctor	8	6	1	0	24	0.33	11	2
Mansfield	Chris Greenacre	14	10	2	0	24	0.58	10	4
Hull	Gary Alexander	13	9	2	0	25	0.52	10	5
Luton	Dean Crowe	10	8	1	0	17	0.59	10	3
Bristol Rovers	Nathan Ellington	8	5	0	1	15	0.53	10	4
Carlisle	Ritchie Foran	8	8	0	0	19	0.42	9	3
Cheltenham	Julian Alsop	11	7	2	0	23	0.48	8	2
Exeter	Chris Roberts	8	4	2	0	24	0.33	8	2
Plymouth	David Frio	7	7	0	0	23	0.30	8	2
Torquay	David Graham	5	5	0	0	25	0.20	8	1
Oxford	Paul Moody	9	6	0	1	19	0.47	6	1
Rochdale	Kevin Townson	9	5	2	0	21	0.43	6	3
Macclesfield	Lee Glover	8	6	1	0	25	0.32	6	2
Darlington	Barry Conlon	6	4	1	0	20	0.30	6	1
Lincoln	Lee Thorpe	7	5	1	0	18	0.39	5	1
Swansea	Mamady Sidibe	6	4	1	0	16	0.38	5	2
Halifax	Paul Harsley	7	5	1	0	25	0.28	4	2
Southend	Testfaye Bramble	6	6	0	0	23	0.26	3	2
Hartlepool	Gordon Watson	10	7	0	1	17	0.59	2	3
Scunthorpe	Martin Carruthers	10	6	2	0	24	0.42	2	2
Kidderminster	Dean Bennett	7	7	0	0	24	0.29	2	7
Orient	Steve Watts	9	5	2	0	16	0.56	0	3
Rushden	Duane Darby	6	2	2	0	16	0.38	0	2

Key: GS=Goals Scored; Sc1=Games Scored 1 Goal; Sc2=Games Scored 2 Goals; HT=Hat-Tricks; Each club's leading league scorer and avg. goals per game (Gls/Gm). Next column shows taking off their goals, how many Points (Pts) lost. Last figure show best scoring Run in consecutive games.

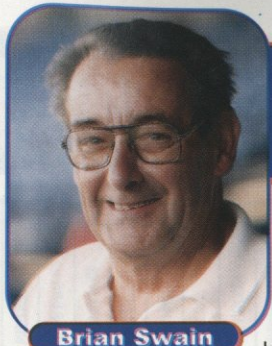
Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

Club	Win -vs.	Defeat -vs.
Bristol Rov	5-3 Orient	1-3 Ornt, Rsh
Carlisle	6-1 Orient	0-3 Plymouth
Cheltenham	4-1 Maccsfield	1-5 Hull
Darlington	4-0 Exeter	1-7 Scunthorpe
Exeter	2-0 Torquay	0-4 Scun, Darl
Halifax	2-0 Swan, Tray	1-6 Oxford
Hartlepool	4-0 Hull	0-2 Ornt, Linc
Hull	5-1 Cheltnham	0-4 Hartlpool
Kidderminster	4-1 vs 3 clubs	0-4 Shrewsbury
Orient	5-0 Lincoln	1-6 Carlisle
Lincoln	3-0 Swansea	0-5 Orient
Luton	5-1 Torquay	1-4 Man, Mac
Macclesfield	4-1 Luton	0-4 Mansfield
Mansfield	4-0 Maccsfield	0-3 Plymouth
Oxford	6-1 Halifax	0-3 Ornt, Hull
Plymouth	3-0 vs 3 clubs	1-2 Dale, Scun
Rochdale	3-1 Mansfield	1-4 Kidderminster
Rushden	4-2 Lincoln	0-3 Kidderminster
Scunthorpe	7-1 Darlington	0-3 Carlisle
Shrewsbury	4-0 Kidderminster	1-3 Hart, Scun
Southend	4-1 Halifax	0-2 vs 4 clubs
Swansea	3-0 Exeter	0-3 vs 3 clubs
Torquay	2-1 vs 5 clubs	1-5 Luton
York	3-0 Torquay	0-4 Hull

Numbers

Club	PU	CS	FS
Bristol Rov	28	8	11
Carlisle	34	8	10
Cheltenham	23	8	5
Darlington	29	7	9
Exeter	30	9	9
Halifax	24	9	12
Hartlepool	25	7	8
Hull	28	11	9
Kidderminster	27	11	9
Orient	33	8	5
Lincoln	21	8	8
Luton	32	6	2
Macclesfield	26	6	13
Mansfield	22	9	6
Oxford	26	6	10
Plymouth	22	16	6
Rochdale	29	9	4
Rushden	32	10	11
Scunthorpe	25	9	7
Shrewsbury	22	9	6
Southend	26	9	9
Swansea	29	8	11
Torquay	38	4	13
York	27	4	6

NUMBERS: PU = Players Used CS = Clean Sheets FS = Games Failed to Score



Brian Swain

Third Division Scene

WE WERE hoping that Hull would do us a favour last week, by getting their promotion bid back on track by holding league leaders Plymouth. Instead the Pilgrims edged victory at Home Park with a goal by Ian Stonebridge, to increase their lead over us to two points. But the results of the week have been chalked up by

Nationwide League Division Three

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	26	10	1	2	22	7	6	6	1	15	8	55	
Luton Town	27	7	3	2	23	10	9	2	4	31	24	53	
Mansfield	25	8	2	2	25	12	5	3	5	13	15	44	
Rochdale	25	5	5	1	18	9	7	2	5	17	18	43	
Shrewsbury	28	7	3	4	20	13	5	4	5	18	18	43	
Hull City	26	8	4	1	24	6	3	4	6	13	21	41	
Kidderminster	26	8	4	2	21	9	4	1	7	12	17	41	
Cheltenham	26	6	7	1	25	16	4	3	5	13	18	40	
Scunthorpe	26	7	3	3	28	16	3	6	4	18	17	39	
Exeter	27	5	6	4	16	21	5	2	5	15	21	38	
Rushden & D	26	6	4	2	19	12	3	5	6	13	17	36	
Southend	26	8	2	4	24	14	2	2	8	6	16	34	
Hartlepool	25	6	4	4	25	13	3	2	6	8	12	33	
Oxford	27	6	3	5	25	18	2	5	6	10	17	32	
Swansea	27	3	6	4	13	13	5	2	7	21	26	32	
Bristol Rovers	26	5	4	4	17	17	3	3	7	7	14	31	
L. Orient	26	6	2	4	24	16	2	4	8	15	31	30	
Darlington	24	7	2	2	17	5	1	3	9	10	28	29	
Lincoln	26	5	3	5	16	15	1	8	4	11	19	29	
Macclesfield	26	3	5	6	14	16	3	4	5	9	17	27	
Carlisle	25	5	3	4	16	10	1	5	7	10	21	26	
Torquay	27	5	2	7	15	22	1	5	7	8	20	25	
York	24	4	3	6	12	17	2	3	6	16	25	24	
Halifax	25	2	6	3	9	11	2	3	9	9	28	21	

today's visitors. On Tuesday they piled on the agony for Hull to follow up a remarkable home win a week ago. In 11 home games Carlisle had scored only ten goals, were bottom but one in the table, and were up against Leyton Orient. The Londoners, a week after beating First Division Portsmouth in the FA Cup, were spanked 6-1, with 35-year-old Ian Stevens grabbing a 30-minute hat-trick. If that result caused raised eyebrows, we blinked again on Tuesday. Hull, having invested well over £600,000 on their team, have long been favourites for promotion. They had not been beaten at home all season. Carlisle, without an away win this campaign, might have been seen as no-hopers by Hull's stars, but Roddy Collins's men won with an early strike by Richie Foran. Good news for us was the defeat of Mansfield, at Southend, leaving them nine points adrift of our second place. Shrewsbury closed the gap with a draw at Hartlepool, but dropped a place on Tuesday when they were beaten 1-0 at home by rejuvenated Bristol Rovers. With luck Shrewsbury will be up for it this afternoon, when they entertain Plymouth - if that's a home win, and we have one here as well, the Town will be top of the table again this evening.

Statistics and all the fixtures

[illegible]

Today's Squads

Luton Town

1	Mark Ovendale	1
2	Aaron Skelton	2
4	Matthew Spring	4
5	Russell Perrett	5
6	Marvin Johnson	6
7	Adrian Forbes	7
8	Kevin Nicholls	8
10	Carl Griffiths	10
12	Chris Coyne	12
13	Stuart Fraser	13
14	Andrew Fotiadis	14
15	Matthew Taylor	15
16	Carl Emberson	16
17	Emmerson Boyce	17
18	Adam Locke	18
19	Steve Howard	19
20	Peter Holmes	20
21	Richard Dryden	21
24	Scott Ward	24
26	Peter Thomson	26
27	Paul Hughes	27
28	Jean Louis Valois	28
30	David Bayliss	30
32	Lee Mansell	32
33	Ian Hillier	33
34	Dean Crowe	34
35	Ahmet Brkovic	35

Carlisle United

1	Luke Weaver	1
2	Mark Birch	2
4	Stuart Whitehead	4
5	David Morley	5
6	Mick Galloway	6
8	Steve Soley	8
11	Steve Halliday	11
13	Peter Murphy	13
14	John Hore	14
16	Tony Hopper	16
17	Craig McAughtrie	17
19	Mark Winstanley	19
20	Jonny Allan	20
22	Peter Keen	22
25	Alex Haddow	25
27	Lee Andrews	27
31	Richie Foran	31
33	Brendan McGill	33
35	Dave Rogers	35

tick if playing ☐ tick if substitute ☐

Today's Officials

Referee: Paul Alcock, Kent

Assistants: Nick Kinseley, Kent (red flag); John Pearce, Essex (yellow and red flag)

Fourth Official: Geoff Russell, Buckinghamshire

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