

GOALS

Deano, Howie are best since legendary duo

HATTERS deadly duo Steve Howard and Dean Crowe are the club's hottest hit-men since Kenilworth Road legends Mick Harford and Brian Stein.

A Howard brace and Crowe's effort during Easter Monday's 5-3 victory over Mansfield Town saw the little-and-large partnership take their tally to 34 league goals this season with three matches still to play, writes **DAVE FLETT**.

That is a record only Tony Thorpe (28) and David Oldfield (6) in 1996/97 can match since current Hatters coaches Harford (22) and Stein (14) rattled in 36 top-flight goals during the 1985/86 season.

Howard (20) and Crowe (14) now have 270 minutes to get the three goals that will see them pass Harford and Stein and six goals would make them the first players to enjoy a 40-goal partnership since David Moss (24) and Bob Hatton (18) in 1979-80.

Former Northampton striker Howard has already become only the fourth Hatters player to score 20 league goals in the last 20 years, joining Stein, Harford and Thorpe in the elite club.

He is also just two behind Division Three's leading marksman Luke Rodgers, of Shrewsbury.

Howard's season has been transformed by a terrific run that has seen him net 15 times in 16 matches since the turn of the year.

His Kenilworth Road career had earlier been under threat when he was substituted at York City after an on-field bust-up with teammates.

Harford and Stein's big 1985/86 haul included goals against Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Newcastle and Tottenham.

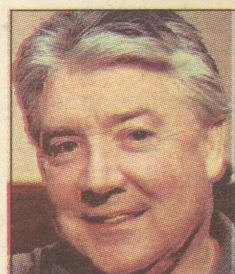


36 GOALS: Harford (left) and Stein.



UP AND AT THEM: Steve Howard and Dean Crowe during the 5-3 win over Mansfield. They took their goal tally to 34 – two behind Mick Harford and Brian Stein. **Picture: GARETH OWEN**

Manchester United record next!



JOE: Records galore.

JOE KINNEAR'S Luton Town side are just three wins away from equalling a Football League record, held by Manchester United, Bristol City and Preston North End.

The Hatters' 5-3 victory over Mansfield Town was the club's 11th straight success and the all-time league record is now firmly in the Kenilworth Road club's sights.

Victories against Hull City, Macclesfield Town and Shrewsbury Town in the Hatters last three games

will take the club's glory run to 14 successive matches and that sequence has only been matched three times in the history of the English game.

Manchester United (1904-05), Bristol City (1905-06) and Preston (1950-51) are the three clubs Kinnear's side can join in the history books.

The Hatters class of 2001-2002 have already broken four club records this season.

They are for most points won,

most successive wins, most away victories and most goals in a post-war season.

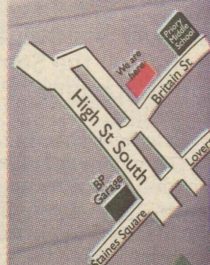
Three points at Hull on Saturday will also mark the first time the club have won five consecutive away fixtures in a season.

Hatters boss Kinnear, who was this week named Nationwide Manager of the Month for March, joked last night: "If we make any more records we'll have to bring out an LP."

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