

Luton Town Football Club



LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB
www.lutontown.co.uk

Official Matchday
Magazine

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to Everyone

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v
Mansfield
Town

Monday
April 1,
2002

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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

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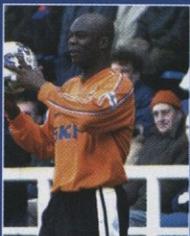
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Gareth Owen

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Front Cover



HAPPY SKIPPER: Club captain Marvin Johnson is just one of the many who are set to enjoy the Easter holiday more than usual, thanks to the promotion campaign. His exclusive column is on page 7.

Inside Forward

IN THE last hours before the transfer deadline was reached on Thursday, the only possibility of the Town being involved in deals was dependent on other clubs. Joe Kinnear spent a lot of time checking on players he thought might be useful additions to his squad, but all the signs were that no-one would be coming in.

Three trialists, two from France and the other Portuguese, spent some time at Kenilworth Road last week, having been offered by agents. Two were forwards and the other was a midfielder, but after a good look at them the manager decided not to make offers to them.

"I want to bring in more players, but with the team doing so well, there is no urgency to beat the deadline," he said. "I want to strengthen the squad for Second Division football next season, and I intend to have a team capable of another promotion in a year's time. Therefore it is quality, not quantity, I am looking for.

"There are plenty of players available, and many will be on free transfers at the end of the season. I will certainly not be paying silly prices, and the transfer market will be more stable when the season ends."

The key to possible Kenilworth Road activity on deadline day was the unknown factor: how many clubs who have been keeping tabs on Matt Taylor and Matt Spring might be keen enough to make decent offers to head off their competitors?

From the Town's point of view, if they have to accept the loss of the players, a bidding war would be very handy. The manager wants £2million for Taylor and at least £500,000 plus add-ons for Spring.

But he has been in more talks with Spring and his agent, and has not given up hope that the midfielder will change his mind about leaving. When Millwall's £250,000 offer was turned down, the boss said he felt it would not be a good career move anyway for a 22-year-old who could be playing in the First Division with Luton in little over a year's time – and in a better team! Burnley have also been knocked back

"I hope he might yet come round to our way of thinking," said Joe. "I have made him a decent offer, and I hope he changes his mind and stays with us." The boss thought a bid for Taylor might be more likely. At the Halifax game, the list of scouts read like a Premiership who's who, with representatives of Manchester United, Liverpool, West Ham, Arsenal, Spurs, Leeds, Chelsea and Sunderland all watching, plus several from First Division clubs.

"If someone offered £2million for Taylor before the deadline I would have to consider it," said Joe. "If it goes to a tribunal in the summer I would look for the same amount. If all these clubs want him, the tribunal would have to be sensible enough to realise how valuable he is. If they all throw their hats in the ring it might be quite interesting.

"But I would dearly love them both to stay. If they go it would be too early for both. We are very ambitious here. We want to win the league next season, and I would like them to help us do it. If they leave they might find themselves on the bench somewhere else, when they could be enjoying their football if they stay with us."

INSIDE TODAY: Joe Kinnear's column - P 5; Club captain - P 7; Treatment room latest - P 8; From the Secretary's Office - P 9; Mickey Mouse goals beat reserves - P 51; Youth team - P 50; Schools of Excellence news - P 39; Top Hatter Mick Harford profile and picture - P 28/9; Isle of Man trip details - P 49; Junior Hatters - P 41; Football in the Community - P 31; Ticket news - P 11; Blast from the Past - P 22/23; Halifax hammered - P 44; Town Teaser - P 40; Promotion sums add up - P 53.



PLAYER OF THE MONTH: Steve Howard, pictured in a winning contest against Halifax last Saturday, will today collect the Third Division's player of the month award for February. The prize scheme is backed by the PFA and sponsored by givemefootball.com and the Microsoft Network.

Come On You Hatters!

OUR FINAL home game of the season is on Saturday week, when David Moss brings Macclesfield to Kenilworth Road, and we invite supporters to make it a party day. We are assured that there will not be an ex-Manchester United midfielder in the Macclesfield side determined to score an improbable goal to spoil the occasion!

If you've got a hat, wear it to the game, please, and a prize or two will be on offer for the best on view. And if you haven't, the club shop will be offering a 20 per cent discount on hat sales that day, so there's no excuse for turning up bare-headed.

Even Marvin Johnson will be joining in. If you have seen that daft fluorescent job he has been sporting on the bench, fear not for his dubious taste. It's his lucky hat, with gloves to match, bought for him last year by Julian Watts. Marv wore it in the depths of winter, and soon cottoned on that every time he did, he was in a squad that did not lose. Thus he feels he dare not discard the winter woolly, which has now become an all-weather titfer.

New Deals On The Table

THE Town have offered new contracts to five players who have joined since the start of the season, and expect to reach agreements quickly with David Bayliss, Ahmet Brkovic, Paul Hughes and Alan Neilson. They have all given indications that they will stay.

But as we went to press the future plans of Jean-Louis Valois looked unlikely to include Luton. He has been offered a new deal, but his agent has told the manager that the French winger is looking to go back to France. "He has received two or three offers over there," said the boss, "So we will have to wait and see."

Sweet Taste of Success

EASTER eggs will be given to young supporters today, and we wish all Luton Town fans a very happy holiday. With promotion back to the Second Division, it will be. Our thanks to Thornton's, who have contributed towards the day's chocolate treats, with the club matching their donation.



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Joe Kinnear

WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road, and I hope you are all enjoying a good Easter. I am sure we will be if we get the right holiday

results!

By the time you read this, I hope we will have wrapped up promotion, which was always our first objective for this season. Because of holiday printing arrangements, I have had to write this column before our trip to Swansea, and while it might be tempting providence to say so, I can promise we went to The Vetch in very determined mood, and believing in ourselves and in our ability to get three more points.

That self-belief has been one of the hallmarks, of our recent performances, and the players deserve all credit for their efforts in the push towards promotion, and in particular their response to the odd setback along the way. Whether we have already clinched promotion or not, I have no doubt that this squad deserves success, and we are still keen on going one better than a top three finish by bringing the championship to Kenilworth Road as well. We go into every game believing we can win it.

As you know, we went to Swansea on a run of nine consecutive victories, trying to get one more to set a new club record. Whatever the result on Saturday, it has been a tremendous achievement, and I was delighted with the style in which the old record of nine straight wins was equalled, at the expense of Halifax.

I know they are bottom of the league, but they came to Luton in upbeat mood, on the back of two consecutive victories, including a 4-1 hammering of Cheltenham. As I said in my programme notes, we could not afford to put on anything but our best against a side fighting for survival, and Neil Redfearn, who is in charge of Halifax while their manager recovers from an operation, could hardly believe what happened to his men.

Our attacking football was superb, and could have brought more than the five goals we scored. But, just as importantly, we had to work hard to earn the right to play so well, and I could

not have asked for more on that score. The hard work ethic has probably been the greatest factor in our march back towards the Second Division. You have to put in a lot of effort on the training ground all week to get success on the park on Saturdays, and it is pleasing to see the club reaping the rewards for that hard work.

I imagine supporters of Mansfield, and one or two other clubs, have looked at our results over the past couple of months with sinking hearts. We closed the gap on Plymouth, and at the same time pulled away from Mansfield, our visitors today. When we lost at their place, in November, we dropped out of the top three. We were nine points behind Plymouth, and five points adrift of second-placed Mansfield. By mid-February we were 13 points behind Plymouth, and we have worked hard to reduce that deficit. The transformation in the league table top places since then is ample proof of the way we have buckled down to put things right. But Plymouth, to their great credit, have kept going, and we must do the same to keep up our hopes of pipping them at the post for the championship.

The defeat at Mansfield was undoubtedly one of the low spots of the season, a sharp reminder that if we did not get our act together our ambitions would come to nothing. Mansfield deserved their win that day, but I felt that our inept performance was probably the biggest influence on that result.

You learn from setbacks, and we have, thankfully, become a much better side since then, and today I am looking forward to seeing the team prove it again.

I also remember the tremendous following we had at Field Mill, and how disappointed we were to let you down on that occasion. The backing has remained solid ever since, and we are all grateful for that.

Please keep it up this afternoon, and together we can make the last few weeks of the season something really special.

Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

Joe Kinnear

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Marvin Johnson

Club Captain

I HOPE, and expect that by the time this column appears in print we will have won promotion. And because of holiday print deadlines, I put that on the record before we went to Swansea for Saturday's game! If I am wrong, there will be one big consolation: while all of us in the club wanted to win promotion as quickly as possible, it would certainly be a nice touch if we achieved it at Kenilworth Road, in front of our own fans, who have given us such marvellous support throughout the season. Much as supporters want to see Luton Town go up, I can promise that the hunger is even greater in our dressing room. That is especially true in the case of those of us who were here a year ago, because relegation gave us the most miserable experience of our footballing lives. Promotion will set the record straight, to some extent, and hopefully will be the springboard for another one in a year's time.

The fact that we could set a new club record if we won at Swansea was another incentive, and throughout the winning run we have gone into every game in a very positive frame of mind. Quite simply, we have gone out expecting to win. We are prepared mentally as well as physically, and a lot of credit for that goes to Mick Harford and the gaffer. We know that if we do the right things, we are going to win matches. You may be surprised to know that as the run has built up, we have not felt under any sort of pressure. If that was going to happen, I think it would have been after perhaps three or four wins. But there was no tension in the squad then, or since, and we have now started to look at the remaining fixtures, and come to the conclusion that we are capable of winning every one.

Some of us looked a bit old-fashioned at the boss after we were beaten at home by Scunthorpe and he announced that his requirement after that was that we needed to win the remaining 13 games of the season. It seems that once more, he knew what he was talking

about! Nine up and four to go was the count after our last home game, which opened up the possibility of setting the record at Swansea. There is obviously a danger that you start to get complacent, but that has not been allowed to happen. I was thinking about that danger after recalling another occasion when a very good football team took the field at Kenilworth Road looking well set for a record. I was watching from the stand when Manchester United came to Luton in October 1985. It was their 11th game of the season, and they had won the first ten. All they had to do to equal the all-time record, held by Spurs, was to add "little Luton" to their list of conquests. It didn't happen. We held them 1-1, and they were lucky to go home with a point, because Paul Elliott missed a sitter late in the game. I felt at the time United had been a bit too cocksure, and I can promise that does not happen with us.

I think Halifax will vouch for that. They came here after thrashing Cheltenham, who had been unbeaten in 16 games until then. Supporters might think that Halifax looked a poor side as we overwhelmed them. But we made them look poor. We did a very good professional job, and didn't take our foot off the gas after making the breakthrough.

The league table suggests that today we will have to be very professional again. Mansfield have an awful lot to play for - this is a massive game for them, because if we win, as I expect us to, it puts us all but out of reach of them, leaving them effectively with only one promotion place to fight for.

By contrast we will be certain of going up, and can relax and think about snatching the title away from Plymouth.

We want to end the season with a bit of a flourish, and of course we have not forgotten that we owe Mansfield. Our performance and result when we lost on their ground was one of the season's few big disappointments. So here's to a very happy Easter for Luton Town and all their fans, with promotion sweeter than any chocolate egg could ever be!

Marvin Johnson

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phone **01582 411622** and ask for the Club Shop



Bruce Sewell

Treatment Room

AT A TIME when Kenilworth Road is in happy and jubilant mood, spare a thought today for Carl Griffiths, who did so much to get our season off to a good start, but is still out of action following a stress fracture.

It has kept him on the sidelines since last September, after he had scored seven goals in the first 11 games.

He has coped well with the inevitable frustration, and worked as hard as possible to ensure he makes a complete recovery.

He has been monitored closely throughout, and he has just been examined by a consultant and reconstructive surgeon to check if he is suffering from adhesions – tissue stuck together during the repair stage.

If that has happened, the surgeon can cure it, and Griff might have an operation to do so. If it is needed, it will be a straight-forward job, and will be carried out in the next week or two, which means he is still on course for a return for pre-season training in July.

We came through the Halifax game without further injuries, although I am unable to report on the Swansea match because of holiday print

deadlines.

Ahmet Brkovic has had a scan to help us treat swelling on the side of a bone in his ankle. The good news was that it confirmed there was no problem with the bone. He is able to run, but is not always pain-free, so for him it is a mixture of rest, exercise and treatment, with a careful progressive increase in full weight-bearing activity. He will not figure in the Easter games, but could well be back in contention for Saturday's match at Hull.

Alan Neilson missed the Halifax game because of a calf muscle problem, but as it is nothing worse than strained muscle fibres, he will not need too long in the treatment room, and by the time you read this there is every chance he will be fully fit again. His recovery went very smoothly.

My only new "customer" this week was Adam Locke, who was kicked on the ankle and calf while playing for the reserves at Cambridge last Tuesday. He was subbed, as a precaution, but it turned out to be fairly minor, and he will be back in full training by today.

Otherwise, it has been good news all round for players getting over injuries and illnesses, with Marvin Johnson, Aaron Skelton, Stuart Douglas and Lee Mansell all fully restored to fitness.

Bruce Sewell



KNEES UP LATER: Russ Perrett needed treatment during the Halifax game after being kicked on the knee, but was able to play on after treatment and was in full training this week. Like everyone else in the squad, he is keen to keep his place in the team, ready for the promotion celebrations.



Cherry Newbery

Club Secretary

A HAPPY Easter to everyone.

We are all naturally very excited about our league position, and because of holiday print deadlines I

had to write this column before Saturday's game at Swansea. So it may be – and I hope it is – that as you read these notes we have already been promoted.

In any event, we will all want to celebrate it, but I must remind you that it is an offence, even in celebration, to enter the pitch area.

There will be lots of opportunities for supporters to acknowledge the players, including at the last home game of the season, against Macclesfield. We hope everyone will join in the fun then, to make it a real Happy Hatters party day, preferably with everyone in the ground wearing a hat. Please see page 27 of this programme for more information.

Supporters will have more chances to meet players and management at our open day, which will be here at Kenilworth Road on Sunday April 28, from noon until 4pm. There will be something for everyone, especially younger supporters, and I will give you more information about it in my column for the Macclesfield programme.

The event will be run jointly by the football club and Luton Town Supporters Club, who also join forces

with us in organising the annual player of the season presentation evening. Part of the entertainment that night is a grand draw, and today committee members of the Supporters Club are in the ground selling tickets for it. There are some excellent prizes, including a one-hour flying lesson.

Also taking pace in the ground today is a bucket collection for "Hospice at Home," an organisation which does an awful lot of hard work for those who are terminally ill at home.

We now have a new date for our Avon Insurance Cup semi-final match at Gillingham, which was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch a fortnight ago. It will now be played at the Priestfield Stadium on Monday April 8, kick-off 2pm. I am still waiting for a new date for our outstanding Avon Insurance Combination League game with Peterborough.

Finally, a word of warning to supporters planning to go to Hull on Saturday: a rail strike is planned for the Doncaster and Hull areas over the weekend. So you might be well advised to go by road, and I can recommend both coach services on offer, through Town on Tour or the Bobbers Travel Club. See page 48 for details. My thanks to the supporters who rang in with that information. Our checks in midweek confirmed that the strike was due to take place, although of course things might change before Saturday.

Cherry Newbery

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Organised jointly by LTFC and LT Official Supporters Club

Hatters Away

THE TOWN go to Hull next Saturday, and as usual there are good coach services on offer to supporters. Town on Tour, part of Luton Town Supporters Club, offers its best deals to LTSC members, and its coaches will leave Maple Road at 10am, picking up at Milton Keynes Coachway 20 minutes later. Fares are £13 for adult LTSC members, £11 for concessionary members and £15 for others.

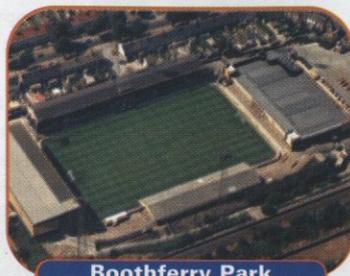
The Bobbers Travel Club provides a service to outlying villages as well as Luton, and its Hull coaches set off from Cranfield at 9am, and leave the Town ground an hour later. Fares are £14 for adults, £11.50 for pensioners and children under 16.

DIY Travellers

THE drive to Hull is a simple one, with most of it on motorways, and on a good day you will be able to get there from Luton in not much over two hours. Take the M1 north from Luton and stay on it to junction 32, near Sheffield. There, join the M18, and follow that motorway until it ends at the M62. Head east on M62 and follow the signs to Hull. The M62

becomes the A63, which you stay on for ten miles before taking the A15 briefly, signposted towards the Humber Bridge. After half a mile take the second exit at a roundabout, still on the A15, and go straight on at the next roundabout, signposted towards Hessle on the A105, and you are on the Boothferry Road, a dual carriageway. After about a mile go straight on at a roundabout, to follow the A1105 towards Hull, and after another mile and a half take the second exit at the next roundabout, still on Boothferry Road, and within a couple of minutes the ground is on your right. Street parking was plentiful last time we went there.

Mileage from Luton: 140



Boothferry Park

THE Bobbers Travel Club and Luton Town Supporters Club both have kiosks in Kenilworth Road which are manned on match days, where seats can be booked to travel to away games. At other times Town on Tour seats are sold at the club shop, or via their mobile phone on 07960 567465. Bobbers Travel Club bookings can be made on the phone to Paul Deason on 01234 750996.

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Ticket News

Nationwide League Division Three

Hull City v Luton Town

Saturday April 6, 2002, kick-off 3pm



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Either call at the ticket office personally, with your terrace tickets, and pay the difference, or apply by post, enclosing the standing tickets and the extra cost, and a stamped addressed envelope. Please note that to upgrade to a seat you MUST hand back the terrace ticket (subject to availability).

Ticket prices: Seats: £16 adults, £8 senior citizens and juniors

Standing: £12 adults, £6 senior citizens and juniors

Nationwide League Division Three

Luton Town v Macclesfield Town

Saturday April 13, 2002, kick-off 3pm



Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices

Supporters are urged to buy early, due to the strong demand for tickets.

Nationwide League Division Three

Shrewsbury Town v Luton Town

Saturday April 20, 2002, kick-off 3pm

THIS IS AN ALL-TICKET MATCH AND ALL TICKETS HAVE BEEN SOLD



Ticket Office Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

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10am to 6pm.

SATURDAY

9am to 5.15pm on match days; 10am until the away coaches depart on days when there is no game at Kenilworth Road.

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By using our telephone hotline system you can order match tickets up to 48 hours prior to any game by ringing

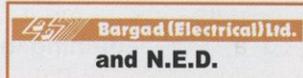
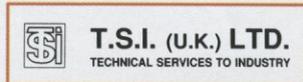
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Luton Belles

A DOUBLE-header against Rover Oxford saw Luton Belles suffer a disappointment as they tried to emulate the Town's winning run in the Third Division. But after the shock of losing, they came back quickly to get back to winning ways.

The teams had to meet twice in one weekend at the beginning of a hectic Easter schedule, with the Belles trying to get into a position where they can climb into the top three in the forthcoming weeks.

But after six consecutive victories Belles fell at the seventh hurdle, going down 2-0 to an Oxford side who took their chances while Luton squandered theirs. This was perhaps their worst performance of the season when nothing ran in their favour.

In a match very much dominated by defences, Oxford grabbed goals either side of half time to take a 2-0 lead. But despite not firing on all cylinders, Belles still carved out some fine opportunities, and could have grabbed a point at the very least, but Louise Evans, Amy Gray and Vicky Moody were all denied.

The return fixture could not have been more different. Luton totally dominated the entire match, keeping Oxford pinned in their own half for long periods. Oxford defended high up the pitch and Luton sprang their offside trap twice in as many minutes.

First, Stacey Connell netted, but the goal was ruled out by an offside flag, and then Kim Hide seized on a pinpoint pass from Louise Evans to fire in past the advancing keeper to make it 1-0, a lead that was well deserved and overdue.



STRIKING REVENGE: Kim Hide scores to put the Luton Belles ahead, and on their way to victory, in the weekend's second game against Rover Oxford, who had won the first.

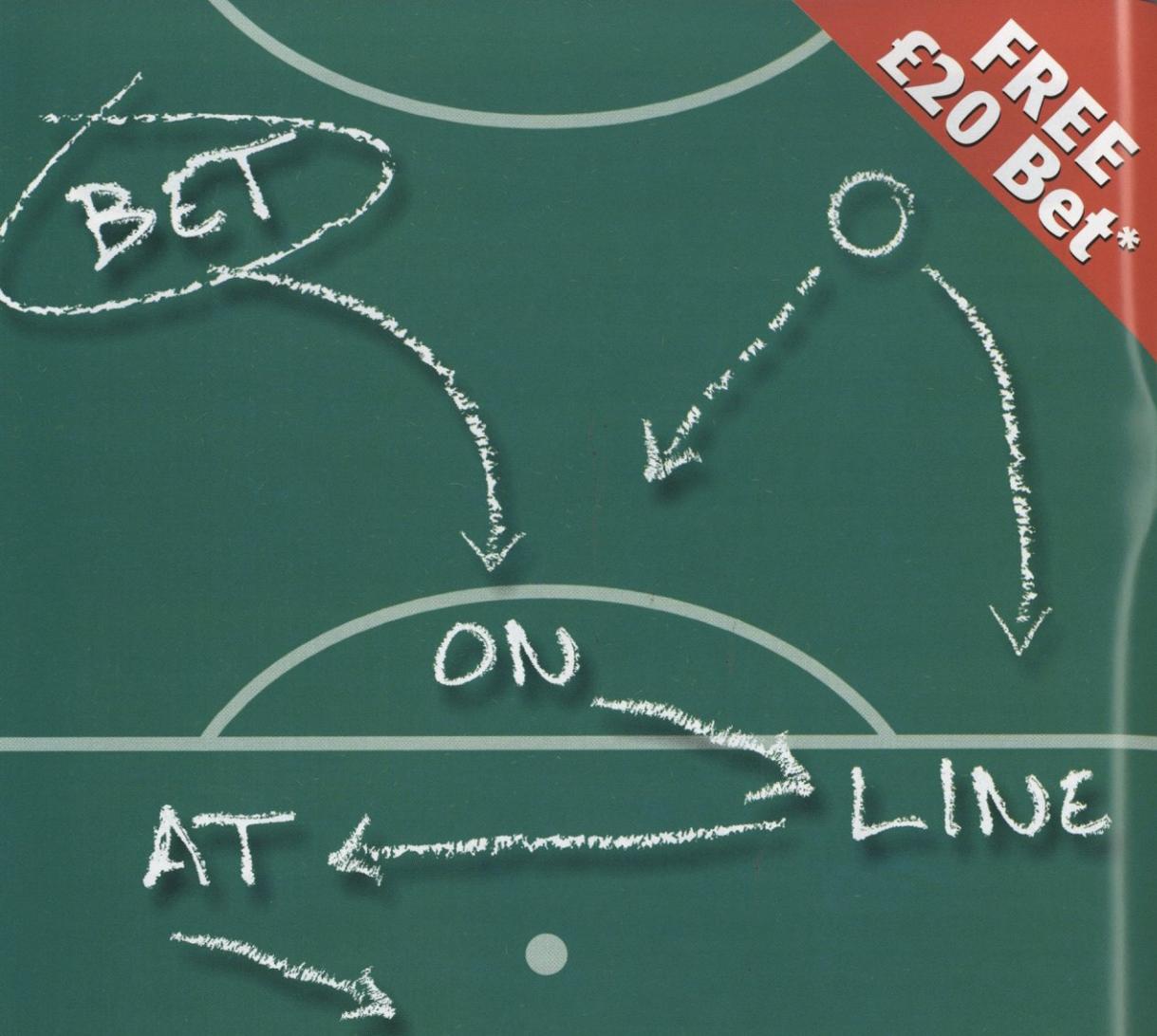
Belles made a number of positional changes after the break, and they paid dividends when Vicky Moody extended the lead with a looping shot into the far corner of the net. Amy Gray added a third with an unstoppable rocket into the top corner from the edge of the area to seal a fine win.

The Under 10 Belles appear to have lost their goal touch recently, but the point they earned from a 0-0 draw against Bushey Rangers was enough to secure the runners-up spot to Arsenal, who they will meet in the League Cup final.

Dave Baker

THE Luton Belles provide competitive football and training for girls from the age of seven upwards, with matches played on Saturdays and Sundays. If you would like more information, contact Dave Baker on Luton 896140, or e-mail lutonbelles@hotmail.com

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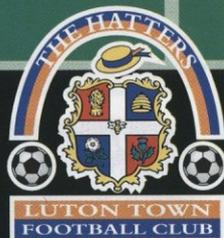
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*Conditions apply. See website for details

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Linda Layton

TODAY'S match sponsors are the GMB, Britain's General Union. It is one of the biggest trade unions in the country, with many thousands of members in the Luton area. GMB represents over 750,000 working people, from professional footballers in Scotland to nursing staff at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, as well as people working in information technology, hotels, restaurants, gas and water industries, construction and private hire drivers. Membership of the GMB also provides family legal accident protection and cover. You can become a GMB member for as little as 99p per week - to find out more, phone the Luton GMB office on 01582 494492.

HALLMARK Executive Travel Services are today's match ball sponsors, and most supporters will recognise the name. The company, based in Chase Street, Luton, runs a fleet of 100 chauffeured limousines for corporate clients, and a fleet of luxury executive coaches, which are highly popular in football. They have just about cornered the market in carrying the country's best football teams to and from matches. Naturally the Town are among their clients, and other Hallmark football contracts are with Arsenal, Tottenham, Chelsea, West Ham, Leicester, Leeds, Fulham, and a host of other clubs including, says their managing director Ian Garrett one in Hertfordshire. Mr Garrett, you might guess,

Commercial Corner

is a staunch long-time Luton Town fan, as is his financial director, Mike Loughton, who is also with the Hallmark party today.



Jamie Deards

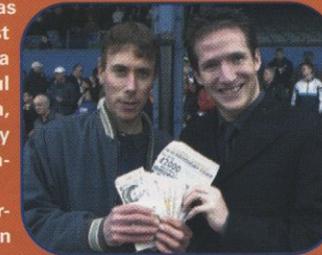
TEN-year-old Jamie Deards completes a highly enjoyable family double this afternoon - he is our commercial mascot, as was his older brother Paul a couple of weeks ago. Their dad brings the boys to games regularly, and after watching his brother do the honours for the Kidderminster game Jamie knows that he is in for a real treat today.

He will see behind the scenes, and meet the players before the game in the dressing room, and then run out onto the pitch with them, which is always a memorable experience. He will also have a close look at one of the day's rituals, when the match officials and skippers gather in the centre circle for the toss of the coin before kick-off. For Jamie, the biggest treat will probably be meeting Adrian Forbes, because the winger is his favourite player. Jamie lives at High View, Deanshanger, Milton Keynes, and goes to Deanshanger Junior School, and when he is not cheering the Town on to promotion his main hobbies are playing pool and basketball.

Linda Layton

Golden Gamble

BIGGER and better - that has been the story of our Golden Gamble this season, as the jackpot prizes continue to grow. Another record was set at the last home game, against Halifax, when the pay-out was a magnificent £875. No wonder Paul Sturgess, from Pepper Drive, Quorn, Leicestershire, looks pretty happy after Alan Neilson pulled out his winning ticket. It cost Paul only £1. We might just see our first-ever four-figure jackpot before the season ends, thanks to the wonderful support we have had from fans in the quid a go lottery. The



prize depends on sales, with half of each pound going to the jackpot and the other half to club funds, so your marvellous support is much appreciated even if only one fan can win. So far this season the jackpots have added up to £13,700, an average of £652 for each of the 21 winners. Golden Gamble sellers are on duty in all areas of the ground this afternoon, and once more one ticket costing £1 will scoop the jackpot. The draw is made on the pitch during the half time interval, and the cash is available for collection immediately.

To advertise in the matchday magazine phone Luton 411622 or e-mail us at:

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16

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Goals Info:



Where



32 Goals



39 Goals



11 Goals

How

Shots.....41
Headers.....24
Volleys.....14
Penalties...3
Free Kicks...0
O.G.s.....0

Top Scorers

Howard.....17
Crowe.....13
Taylor.....10
Griffiths...7
Spring.....6
Nicholls...5
Valois.....5
Forbes.....4

2001-2002

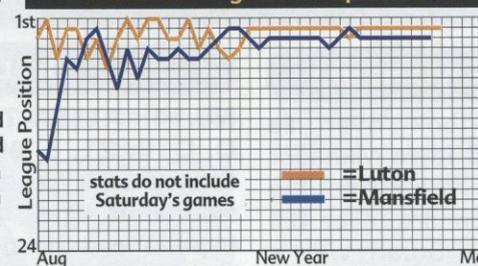
Highest Gate
9,585
vs Plymouth
Lowest Gate
5,066
vs Lincoln
Average Gate
6,739
Players Used 34
Clean Sheets 14
Failed to Score
3
Consec. Wins
9 games
Consec. Defeats
2 games

Hatters' Last 10

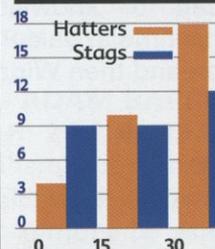
Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
W	Halifax	H	24th
W	Kidderminster	H	10th
W	Exeter	H	14th
W	Rushden	A	9th
W	Orient	H	22nd
W	Torquay	A	22nd
W	Lincoln	A	20th
W	York	H	20th
W	Bristol Rovers	H	17th
L	Scunthorpe	H	6th

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

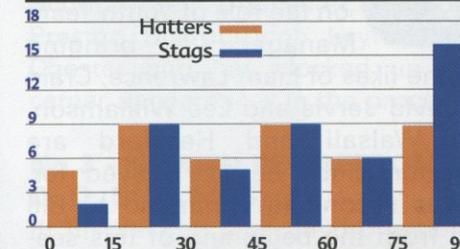
Seasonal Progress Comparison



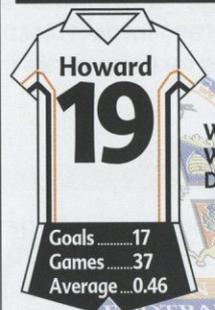
When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded



Steve Howard (Luton)

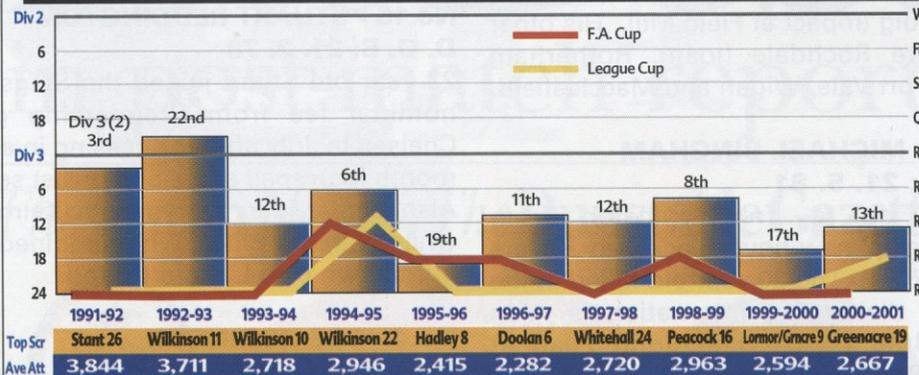


Top Scorers Comparison Chris Greenacre (Mansfield)



Category	Steve Howard (Luton)	Chris Greenacre (Mansfield)
Games	15	16
Games Scored 1 Goal	13	13
Games Scored 2 Goals	2	3
Hat-tricks	0	0
Season's Results (loss of points) without the two goalscorers goals	W->L.....1 (3pts) W->D.....1 (2pts) D->L.....2 (2pts)	W->L.....0 (0pts) W->D...6 (12pts) D->L.....2 (2pts)
Maximum scoring run	3 games	4 games
Maximum Dry Spell	7 games	6 games
Shot	7	13
Header	1	1
Volleyed Shot	1	5
Penalty	0	0
Direct free Kick	0	0
Mansfield Goals	82	61
Mansfield Games	41	40
Mansfield's Goal Ave	2.00	1.53

Mansfield Town's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

Bayer Leverkusen vs Liverpool
Tuesday 9 April, ITV Sport Channel
Real Madrid vs Bayern Munich
Wednesday 10 April, ITV Sport Channel

Manchester United vs Arsenal
Saturday 13 April, Sky Sports 1
Sunderland v Liverpool
Saturday 13 April, ITV Sport Select

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Welcome to Mansfield Town F.C.

Stuart Watkiss - Manager



Watkiss took over as Mansfield Town Manager in January 2002, after the sudden departure of Bill Dearden. Stuart was a former player, and took on the role of Youth Team Manager, bringing through the likes of Liam Lawrence, Craig Disley, David Jervis and Lee Williamson. Wolves, Walsall and Hereford are amongst the clubs he has played for. Stuart was second in command to Bill Dearden from the beginning of this season.

In Goal



No.1 - KEVIN PILKINGTON D. O. B: 8. 3. 74

A former Manchester United goalkeeper, Pilkington joined the Stags after a short trial spell at the beginning of last season. He became the clubs number one goalkeeper after the departure of Bobby Mimms in the summer and is expected to make a big impact at Field Mill. His other clubs are Rochdale (loan), Rotherham (loan), Port Vale, Wigan and Macclesfield.

No.13 - MICHAEL BINGHAM D. O. B: 21. 5. 81

Joined on a free transfer from Premiership new-boys Blackburn Rovers in July 2001. The 20 year old failed in the task of dislodging internationals Alan Kelly, Brad Friedel and John Filan at Ewood Park.

In Defence

No.14 - ALLEN TANKARD D. O. B: 21. 5. 69

Signed on a free transfer in the summer from Port Vale. Is expected to be the experienced head that the Stags were missing and with 500+ appearances to his name, brings a wealth of knowledge to Field Mill. Before his time at Vale Park he was at Southampton and then Wigan.

No.2 - ALISTAIR ASHER D. O. B: 14. 10. 80

Cultured right back Asher is in his third year as a professional. The former 'Youth Team Player of the Year' was the first team 'Player of the Season' in his debut season but made less of an impact last term, before regaining his form towards the end of the campaign.

No.23 - DAVID JERVIS D. O. B: 18. 1. 82

A product of the Stags youth development scheme. Worksop born Jervis made his breakthrough into the first team last season and despite still being new to the first team scene he proved to be a capable left-back.

No.15 - STUART REDDINGTON D. O. B: 21. 2. 78

23 year old Stuart joined the Stags for a nominal fee from Premiership giants Chelsea in July after impressing in a three month loan spell at the end of last season. Also had a loan period with Kalmar FF while with the Blues, who he joined from hometown club Lincoln United.

No.4 - LES ROBINSON D. O. B: 1. 3. 67



Today's Visitors



Club Captain Les swept the board at the club's end of season awards ceremony in May. Born in Shirebrook, Robinson returned to his hometown club last summer after a 10-year spell with Oxford United. Les had previously been with Stockport and Doncaster.

No.6 - ADAM BARRETT D. O. B: 29. 11. 79

Dagenham born Adam joined the Stags from Plymouth Argyle last December and was looking to be a valuable acquisition until he picked up an ankle injury that ruled him out for a long period. Stag fans look forward to seeing him paired with Stuart Reddington at the back.

No.5 - STUART HICKS D. O. B: 30. 5. 67

A typical no nonsense central defender, Hicks is currently fighting back from a cruciate knee ligament problem and is making remarkable progress through sheer determination and hard work. He has a plethora of clubs, these are Colchester, Scunthorpe, Doncaster, Huddersfield, Preston, Scarborough, Leyton Orient and Chester and has clocked up over 500 career appearances in the process.

No.3 - MARTIN PEMBERTON D. O. B: 1. 2. 76

In his second spell in professional football, Pemberton started his career with Oldham Athletic before spells with Doncaster, Scunthorpe and Hartlepool. At that stage Pemberton left the pro game and played in the Unibond League with

The Best in post-match reports

The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette



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Bradford Park Avenue. Bradford born Pemberton was offered a trial with the Stags last summer and after impressing in three games in Scotland was offered a one year deal and sufficiently impressed to gain another year at Field Mill this season. Is comfortable in both defence and midfield.

No.12 - BOBBY HASSEL

D. O. B: 4. 6. 80

Derby born Bobby, is one of the most promising players to come out of the Stags youth set up for many years, this versatile defender of midfielder has been watched by several higher division clubs. He made his first team debut at just 16 but his appearances last season were restricted by injuries.

In Midfield

No.24 - LEE WILLIAMSON

D.O.B: 7. 6. 82

Displaced his near namesake Lee Williams

on the right flank at the end of last season with a string of impressive displays and is expected to continue in the same vein this coming season. Derby born Williamson is in his second year as a professional and is a former youth team player of the season.

No.11 - WAYNE CORDEN

D. O. B: 1. 11. 75

Old fashioned left-winger, Corden joined the Stags at the beginning of last season from Port Vale and scored some spectacular goals despite never finding top gear. A lot is expected from the 25-year old this season if he is played in his natural role.



No.25 - LIAM LAWRENCE

D. O. B: 14. 12. 81

Another promising youngster, who scored four goals in eight first team appearances last season. An enigmatic midfielder from Retford, Lawrence is another product of

the Stags successful youth development scheme.

No.20 - CRAIG DISLEY

D. O. B: 24. 8. 81

A typical box-to-box player, Disley is yet another product of the youth team at Field Mill. Won a local radio station's Young Player of the Year award last season and was attracting the gaze of Premiership scouts.

No.16 - MICHAEL SISSON

D. O. B: 24. 11. 78

Born in Sutton in Ashfield, Michael has played 31 career league games in total for Town.

Up Front



No.10 - CHRIS GREENACRE

D. O. B: 23. 12. 77

Last season's top scorer, Greenacre bagged 21 goals (19 in the league) in his first full season with the Stags after a free transfer move from Manchester City. Greenacre has also represented Cardiff, Blackpool and Scarborough all on loan. Has attracted the interest of a number of clubs with Nottingham Forest known admirers of the frontman.

No.9 - SHAYNE BRADLEY

D. O. B: 8. 12. 79

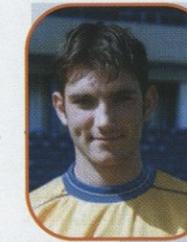
Joint club record signing, Bradley joined the Stags for £150,000 from Southampton in August last year and despite ankle problems throughout his debut season he managed to grab eight goals. Has also played for Swindon on loan.

No.17 - DANNY BACON

D. O. B: 20. 9. 80

A product of the local youth leagues, Bacon's goalscoring exploits in the youth

team and reserves in recent years are expected to propel him into the firm team reckoning on a more permanent basis this season.



No.22 - ANDY WHITE

D. O. B: 6. 11. 81

Standing at 6 feet 4 inches tall, White is expected to be a handful for defenders up and down the country this season. Made an impact in the reserves last season in his first year of full-time football. Signed a professional contract last year after completing his A-levels and agreed a two-year extension in May.

No.8 - DAVID KELLY

D. O. B: 25.11.65

Mansfield Town is Kelly's 11th club in his long and successful career in which he has earned 26 caps and scored 9 goals for the Republic of Ireland. His career took off when he was signed by Walsall from non-league Alvechurch as a teenager and scored on his full debut for Walsall in 1983, he then went on to score 63 goals in 5 seasons before moving on to West Ham United for a fee of £600,000 in August 1988. He went on to play for West Ham and Leicester City before helping Newcastle United to the First Division championship in 1993. He then made a £750,000 move back to the West Midlands to play for Wolves where he spent 3 years before going on to play for Sunderland, Tranmere, Sheffield United and Motherwell before eventually signing for the Stags at the end of January 2002.



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FIXTURES

Group A			
Burnley v Wrexham	Sun - July 21	2.00pm	The Bowl
Wrexham v Luton	Mon - July 22	7.15pm	NSC
Luton v Burnley	Tue - July 23	2.00pm	NSC
Group B			
IOM v Darlington	Sun - July 21	7.15pm	Ramsey
Darlington v Rochdale	Tue - July 23	7.15pm	The Bowl
IOM v Rochdale	Wed - July 24	7.15pm	Ramsey
Play Off Group A	Fri - July 26	2.00pm	The Bowl
Play Off Group B	Fri - July 26	7.15pm	Ramsey
FINAL	Sat - July 27	2.00pm	The Bowl



Roger Wash

All our *yesterdays*

Hatters and Stags lock horns

When Mansfield were finally elected to the Football League in 1931, after several years of trying,

a place could not be found for them in League Division Three (North) and so they had to spend a year in the Southern Section alongside the Hatters. Both meetings that season took place over Easter 1932 with a crowd of 7,621 turning up at Kenilworth Road on Good Friday to see the new boys in action. On a hard ground in windy conditions ball control was difficult, but the Town eased their way into a 3-0 lead through Andy Rennie, Harry Loasby and Robert Bryce before allowing the Stags back into the game for a late consolation from Harry Johnson. For the return, three days later, the Town put out the same side against a team struggling near the bottom of the table and paid for apparent over confidence when they were blitzed in the first half going in 0-3 down at the interval. In the days before substitutes, Mansfield's George Blackburn had to be rushed to hospital with concussion after tangling with Town skipper Fred Kean and two quick goals were pulled back through Bryce and Loasby. The ten man Stags rallied, however, and scored twice more to pull off an unlikely victory. Words were obviously spoken in the dressing room afterwards as the Hatters beat Norwich at home 7-1 the next day and Torquay 6-1 on the following Saturday!

Mansfield were moved to the Northern Section for the following campaign and it was not until 1963/64 that we met up again after the Town's relegation from the old Division Two.

The Hatters travelled to Mansfield in September 1963 with only one win to show from their first seven games and were soon on the rack with the Stags missing a hatfull of chances in the first half until just before the interval Alan Tyrer, on his debut, fired the home side into a deserved lead.

The second period started as the first had ended but the Town were handed an unlikely lifeline when John Gill deflected a Gordon Turner centre into his own net. This seemed to knock the stuffing out of the Stags and they rarely threatened again leaving the pitch at the final whistle to the slow handclap.

The return fixture was played in early February and Gill had his revenge when he marshalled his defence to such good effect that the Town hardly had a shot on target. At the other end goals from Ken Wagstaff and Brian Hall condemned the Hatters to their eighth

home defeat of the season in a ridiculously one sided contest. Suffice to say that heads rolled after the game and the 'new look' side responded with a 6-2 victory at Brentford the following week.

The sides were paired together twice in a nine day period in October 1964 with the first game taking place at Field Mill where the Town were once again on the rack and lucky to go in at half time only one goal down. A spirited second half display was, however, undone when Wagstaff, with more than a suspicion of handball, bundled in the second with 16 minutes to go.

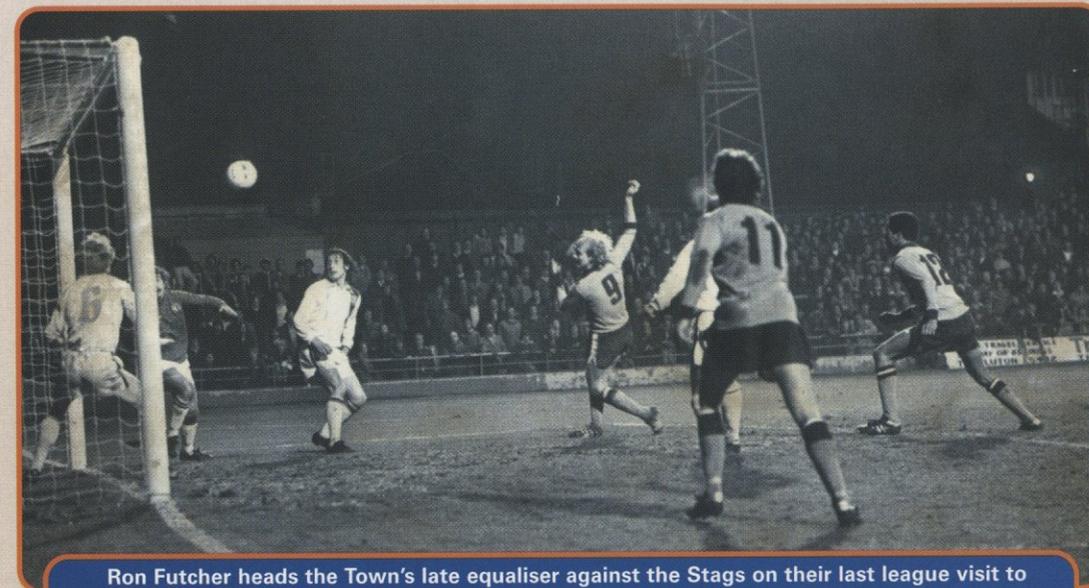
Such was the plight of the Town at the time that only 2,874, the lowest home crowd for over 30 years, were present for the return to see if a run of eleven games without a win could be halted. They were surprisingly treated to an all action first half display by the Hatters who did everything but score against a side going for promotion.

When David Pleat headed the Town into a fully deserved lead on 50 minutes everyone expected the floodgates to open but the players seemed to think they had done enough, sat back, and allowed Geoff Anderson to sneak in and level the score. The Hatters were, not surprisingly, relegated at the end of that season but when they returned three years later they were a much different and stronger outfit.

After an unbeaten run at the start of the 1968/69 campaign the visit of Mansfield to Kenilworth Road on the evening of September 18th drew a crowd of 19,315, the biggest in the league since 1964. They were treated to an amazing game, often written about in this column before, with the Town reduced to ten men early on following the dismissal of Bruce Rioch and eventually winning a thriller 4-2 capped by that goal from Graham French, the best I have ever seen.

The Town were neck and neck with Swindon and Watford at the top of the table throughout that season and as so often has happened in the past a poor Easter scuppered the hopes of promotion. A Good Friday 1-1 draw at Torquay was followed by an Easter Monday trip to Field Mill where 3,500 Luton supporters boosted the crowd to 8,681.

Amazingly the instructions were to hold out for another draw and when the Stags scored from the spot through Nick Sharkey in the second half the Town's efforts to come out of their shell and get something from the game came too little too late. A



Ron Futcher heads the Town's late equaliser against the Stags on their last league visit to Kenilworth Road.

home draw with Southport the following evening made it a wretched Easter and effectively put paid to hopes of promotion for another year.

Promotion was won the following season but the Town made hard work of it including a 2-2 home draw with the Stags when two points were there for the taking. With two games to go the Hatters needed a point at Field Mill to go up and in a miserable, defensive performance went one better than in the previous season and secured a 0-0 draw. We did not mind though!

The final pair of fixtures came in 1977/78 when the Stags had a brief one season stay in the old Division Two. The Town travelled to Field Mill on a cold, windy November day and through defensive errors gifted the Stags with three goals in a poor display. The only bright spot on a thoroughly depressing day

was the first league appearance of Brian Stein who came on as substitute for Gary Heale.

The return was played a month later and the Town fans welcomed back an old favourite, John Aston, who had joined the Stags earlier in the campaign. It was truly like he had never been gone as Mansfield were ordered to wear the Town's second strip by the referee due to a colour clash.

This time it was Mansfield's turn to try to hang on for a point and after Dave Syrett gave them an interval lead, catching the Town on the break, it was all back behind the ball as the Hatters huffed and puffed. The Town did deserve an equaliser but the supporters had to wait until the 85th minute before it came, courtesy of the head of Ron Futcher.

Roger Wash

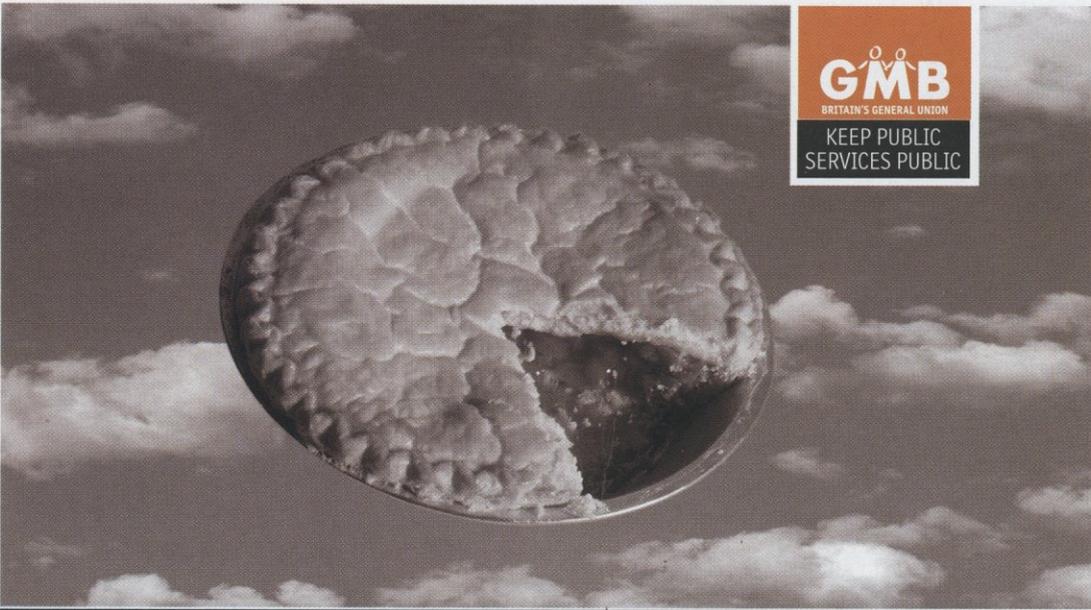
Yesterday's pages



For the first ever visit of Mansfield to Kenilworth Road in 1932 the Town produced their normal 'Match Card' printed on poor quality green paper.

The 'Comments' page was a tad unsporting towards our visitors pointing out that their record was not very bright and that they were lucky to have been voted into the League the previous summer, especially to the Southern Section. Mansfield were then patronised by the comment that they 'would probably do better next season.'

The Hatters had re-arranged a previously postponed home fixture against Norwich for the Tuesday after Easter which meant that the team were playing Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Monday and then 24 hours later with no complaints!



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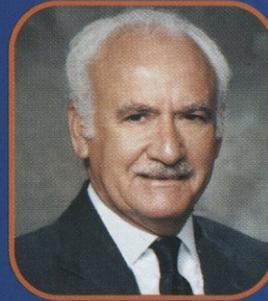
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POLICY STATEMENT - SPECTATOR SAFETY



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.

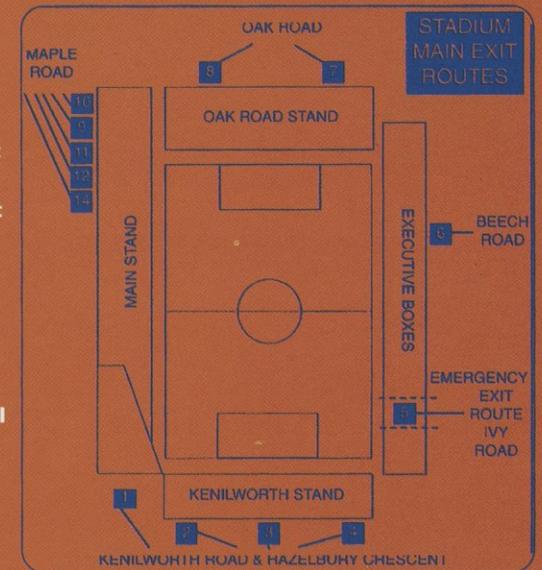
Mike Watson-Challis Chairman

Reviewed August, 2001.

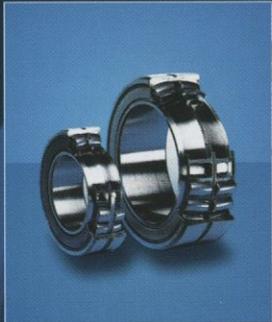
EVACUATION PROCEDURE

IN THE event of any emergency in the stadium, Luton Town FC and the emergency services have agreed on an evacuation procedure which is designed to ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd, and to ensure their safe dispersal from the area, to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks.

In the event of evacuation from all or part of the stadium, you will receive instructions over the public address system on how you should leave. In an evacuation of the main stand you will be instructed to use the pitch. Stewards will direct you to the nearest exit. It may be that your normal exit route will not be available. On leaving the stadium, you will find some roads closed to pedestrians, to enable swift and unobstructed access for the emergency services. Please leave the area of the ground as quickly as possible, by the route directed. Your co-operation will be most appreciated.



Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.

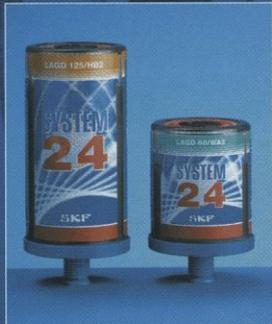


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Sealed Explorer bearings are supplied in normal and high temperature versions. The normal version uses a nitrile rubber double lip seal and a standard grease. The high temperature version, which is primarily suited to low speed operation, has a fluoro rubber seal and a high-temperature grease, and can withstand high axial and radial loads and tolerate up to 0.5° misalignment.

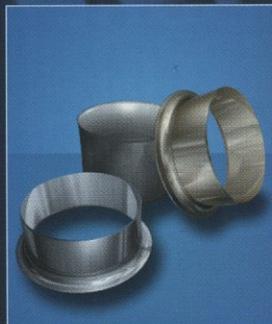


SYSTEM 24 automatic lubricators

SKF SYSTEM 24 is a practical, cost-effective solution to overcome the fact that 36 per cent of all premature bearing failures are caused by poor or inadequate lubrication. It's 'fit and forget' concept between extended scheduled changes reduces demands on maintenance staff bringing new levels of confidence and lowers overhead charges.

SYSTEM 24 is ideal for applications such as pumps, fans, compressors, chain drives, cranes and especially machinery running around the clock as part of a continual process.

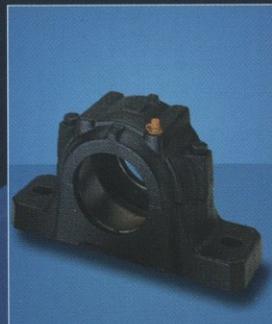
Each SYSTEM 24 cartridge is hermetically sealed to prevent ingress of dirt and foreign matter. Grease flow rate is set via a simple Allen key adjustment. A transparent container shows visually the dispense rate, and lubricant cartridges are available pre-filled with a variety of greases or oils.



SPEEDI-SLEEVE sealing solution

An oil seal's job is to 'seal in' oil or grease, keeping bearings lubricated and contaminants out. However, in most industrial environments, dirt or other abrasive particles collect and become lodged under the lip of the seal, where they eventually cut a groove in the surface of the shaft. These grooves cause oil to leak out past the seal, ultimately leading to bearing damage.

To combat this problem, SKF has introduced SPEEDI-SLEEVE for fast and effective refinishing of seal-worn shafts. SPEEDI-SLEEVE is quicker and more efficient than remetalizing or regrinding and, in contrast to these methods, provides a perfect seal, even in the harshest environments. SPEEDI-SLEEVE bridges the gap between a standard sleeve and an expensive custom shaft treatment such as diamond coating, and the super hardened surface provides protection against corrosion and abrasion.



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Split plummer block bearing housings are primarily used to simplify self-aligning bearing installation. SKF's SNL bearing housing range is a premier quality product that has increased stiffness and improved lubrication to provide an economical solution to demanding applications. Available for shafts from 20 to 160mm diameter; together with the new Large SNL range for shafts from 150 to 500mm diameter.

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For further information please complete the relevant areas and return to:
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A portrait of Mick Harford, a man with dark hair and a slight smile, wearing a dark jacket over a blue collared shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Top Hatter Mick Harford

Born: Sunderland 12.2.59

Joined Luton: As a player, December 1984 until January 1990; re-joined for a year, September 1991. Returned as first team coach, July 2001.

Were you good at school? I was quite intelligent, but I wasn't really interested in lessons. Football was all I was interested in.

Your boyhood ambition? To play for Sunderland. I was the biggest Sunderland fan ever put on this earth, and they are still my other team after Luton. Every time Sunderland went to Wembley, for cup finals or play-offs, I was in the crowd. I was 14 when they beat Leeds in 1973 and I was at Roker Park when they beat Luton in the quarter-finals that year.

What other career might you have had? Sunderland turned me down after trials, and I became a qualified plumber before I finally got my chance, at Lincoln. Graham Taylor signed me, and left the next day to join Watford!

You have joined Luton three times – why? The first time was when David Pleat made an offer to Birmingham, when he was looking to strengthen the Luton side. His enthusiasm and desire impressed me. Luton were signing decent players, like Steve Foster, and David Pleat said they were going places.

The second time was when I left Derby, who were struggling for money when Robert Maxwell was the chairman. Arthur Cox told me of Luton's interest, and I pleaded with him to let me go back. I knew it was the right club for me.

The then chairman of Luton sold me on to Chelsea, and eventually, after Sunderland and Coventry, Joe Kinnear signed me for Wimbledon when I was 35. I enjoyed three and a half years playing in the Premiership before an injury forced me to pack in. Joe offered me the job of reserve coach, and I jumped at the chance, and after 18 months he promoted me to first team coach. It was a horrible time when he had his heart attack, and I think that was the start of Wimbledon's downward spiral. When the gaffer came to Luton and offered me the chance to work with him again, I jumped at it. I still lived in Luton, and it was "my club."

Your happiest football memories? Playing for Luton in my first spell – that was a very good team. My two biggest days were playing at Wembley, for Luton in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final, and for England – and scoring – against Denmark a few months later. My other happy memories are being collected right now: working with this season's squad. They are hungry players, young, ambitious and willing to have a go. They're a credit to themselves and the club.

Your worst time? Missing the chance to play for Luton in Europe when we qualified in 1988, and English clubs were banned. That team would have done well in Europe – the style of play was ideal, and it was a tragedy for a lot of players that we never got the chance to prove it.

Your future plans? I don't spend too much time thinking about what will happen when I am 60. All I am thinking about at present is helping Luton get promotion, and win the title. I have been coaching for six years, and have enjoyed every minute of it. I wake up and can't wait to go to work.

Will you always be a football fan, if and when you do retire? Always! I love the game, and I'll watch any football, anywhere. I love watching Manchester United, but I will always be a Luton fan.



Stuart Smith



Football in the Community

OUR department works hard on its contribution to the well-being of the local community, especially in regard to providing top class football coaching for boys and girls, and we are

very fortunate that we have good support from a number of organisations.

One of them is the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, who have been pioneers in this field, and I would like to pay tribute to its work, and in particularly its Sportmatch scheme which is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

The scheme represents the Government's Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme, which provides pound for pound matching funding for grass roots sponsorship.

Since its launch in 1992, Sportmatch has been a regular and consistent supporter of many different Football in the Community initiatives, and with its encouragement business investment at grass roots level has increased year on year.

Many well-known companies have benefited from Sportmatch support, including Pizza Hut, Refuge Assurance, Railtrack and Adidas.

As we have reported recently, the Railtrack Play Safe Trophy for under-11s and the Adidas Community Cup, for girls under 13, have been particularly successful national competitions which have been enhanced by Sportmatch support.

We are certainly grateful for their endeavours in our area, and we thank the Sportmatch team for their hard work over the past ten years, and look forward to more



success in the next ten.

And perhaps today is an appropriate occasion to remind all our readers, particularly children and parents, of one of the main reasons for the Railtrack sponsorship.

It has involved a lot of boys and girls in a wide variety of activities, where fun and enjoyment are the key to their participation.

A serious side of that programme is to drive home the importance to youngsters of staying away from railway lines.

As the lighter evenings are here again, the dangers of children playing on or near railways cannot be overstressed. It is not just a matter of trying to cut down trespass and vandalism, but to save young lives. Like Railtrack, we hope that children can be stimulated to play football, especially in the evenings and during school holidays, as an alternative to playing anywhere near railway tracks.

Our department intends to play its part in that work, and we are offering plenty of coaching courses locally, as you can see on these pages. For another further information, give me a ring at the club, on Luton 411622.

Stuart Smith

EVENING AND WEEKEND COURSES

VENUE	AGE GROUP	START DATE	DAY & TIME	TOTAL WEEKS	WEEKS REMAINING	COST
Bramingham Primary Boys & girls	7 - 11	12/1/02	Sat 10.00 - 11.30am	10	2	£2.50pw
Luton Regional Sports Centre Boys & Girls	5 - 6	25/2/02	Mon 4 - 5pm	10	5	£2.50pw
Luton Regional Sports Centre Boys/Girls	7 - 11	28/2/02	Thurs 4 - 5.30pm	10	5	£2.50pw

EASTER HOLIDAY COURSES.

All courses available are set out on the facing page along with a form for you to return if you wish to enrol.

This Easter course take place at venues in Luton and Dunstable between 28/3/02 and 4/4/02. The courses cater for children from the ages of 5 to 15 yrs and include a specialist 2 day goalkeeping course and an Elite one day session (for the more advanced player). This course will be delivered by a top UEFA 'A' Licence Coach.

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COURSE CODE	NO OF DAYS	VENUE	DATE	TIME	COST	COURSE TYPE
LSC 2	3	Bushmead Primary School Luton	Tue 2 - Thur 4 Apr	10.00am - 3.00pm	£30.00	7 - 11 yrs
LSC 3	1	Bushmead Primary School Luton	Thur 4 Apr	10.00am - 3.00pm	£10.00	5 - 6 yrs
DGK 1	2	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Thur 4 - Fri 5 Apr	10.00am - 3.00pm	£20.00	8 - 13 yrs
DSC 2	3	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Wed 3 - Fri 5 Apr	10.00am - 3.00pm	£30.00	7 - 11 yrs
DSC 3	2	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Wed 3 - Thur 4 Apr	10.00am - 3.00pm	£20.00	12 - 15 yrs
DSC 4 ELITE	1	Queensbury School Meadway Dunstable	Fri 5 Apr	9.00am - 3.00pm	£12.50	14 - 17 yrs

TO RESERVE A PLACE ON A COURSE

1. Please return completed application form. One form per child must be signed by a parent or guardian. Extra forms can be obtained from Stuart Smith at the Football Club on 01582 411622.
2. Please make cheques payable to: Luton Town Football in the Community.
3. Please enclose stamped, self addressed envelope for confirmation of your booking.
4. Send application forms together with your cheque, to reach club before 5pm 27/3/02, To: Stuart Smith

Football and Community Development Officer
Luton Town FC
Kenilworth Stadium
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Beds



PLEASE NOTE TO SECURE A PLACE ON ANY COURSE CHILDREN MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE COMMUNITY OFFICE AND ALL PAYMENTS MADE BY 27/2/02. NO REGISTRATION OR PAYMENT ACCEPTED ON THE DAY UNLESS BY PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH STUART SMITH AT LUTON TOWN FC.

Please reserve a place on the above course (pls put course code in the box on right).

Name: Age:.....

Address:.....

..... Postcode:

Home Tel No: School:

Any Health Problem Disorders or Medication? Please ring to give details.

I acknowledge and accept that Luton Town FC, their football in the community scheme, or the organisation providing facilities and their respective agents, servants and employees, are not under any liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage however caused whilst in attendance on the above course.

Signature of Parent / Guardian:

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Code: 030290 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £19.99
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- D Jersey Tee**
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Code: 030270 Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL £19.99

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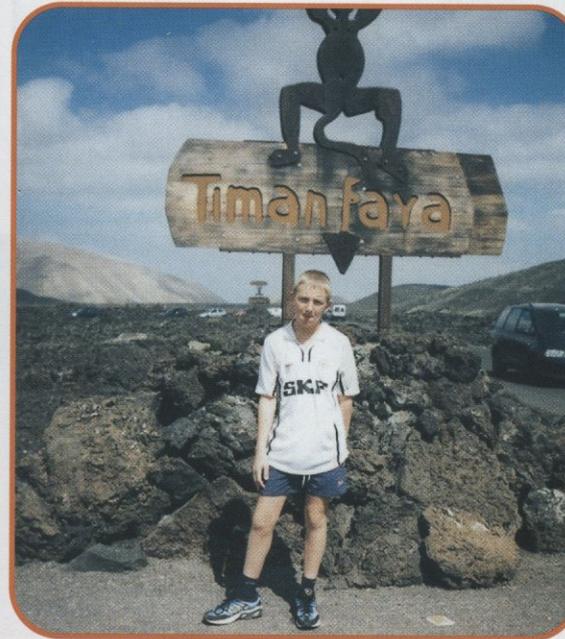
Hatters Abroad

WE HAVE one long-time Luton Town supporter and one youngster in our Hatters Abroad selection today.

The scenic view in the background of the picture of Mr F. W. Allen might give a clue as to its location. The photo was taken during a trans-Atlantic holiday, and that's the Niagara Falls behind Mr Allen, marking the boundary between the USA and Canada.



Mr Allen, from Heron Heights, Goldington, Bedford, may well be the oldest supporter we have featured in this series – he is 79, and has been following the Town since 1946.



Our other Town traveller is Mark Brockway, from Sharpenhoe Road, Barton, a season ticket holder in the Kenilworth.

His snap was taken while he was on holiday in the Canary Islands, on Lanzarote, "This is Fire Mountain," he says, "Where all the live volcanoes are on the island. It was very hot!"

FOR THIS occasional series we are pleased to receive pictures of Town colours anywhere in the world. If you have an interesting snap of Hatters gear in far-off places, please send it, with a few details, to the editor at Luton Town FC. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back, but please remember that with the best will in the world they sometimes go astray.

We are also pleased to hear about very young Town supporters - our "Mini-Hatters" feature will appear occasionally, and any photo of youngsters in the appropriate Hatters kit will be welcome. If you prefer, you can e-mail your items, including pictures, direct to the editor, at brian.swain@btinternet.com

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Dean Rastrick

TODAY'S column was written in Scotland, where our under-10 and under-11 squads are taking part in a tournament, which will give them valuable experience. We are based at Largs, on the Ayrshire coast, and the boys are bound to benefit from the trip.

For many of them it is the first time they have been away from their families, but we are a happy crowd, and of course the quality of football opponents should help the boys' development. Teams from the two big Glasgow clubs, Rangers and Celtic, are taking part, along with boys from Kilmarnock and QPR. We have come here to try to win, of course, but the main reason for trips like this is to help boys become better players.

And I can promise you that the staff and players were all looking forward to the challenge immensely, starting with a game against Rangers at their Murray Park training complex. In my last column I focused on the technical programme for our schoolboy players aged between eight and 11. Today I thought you might like an insight into the training scheme for older lads, the under-12s to under-14s.

We give boys their first taste of 11-a-side football when they move up into the under-12s, and it can be interesting, and sometimes difficult, working with boys of that age. Usually they are entering puberty, and subject to many physical and psychological changes, and our training programmes have to take those factors into consideration. We are particularly concerned about the possibility of burn-out.

During their two training sessions each week the players have two 15-minute periods of physical training, which is to develop such things as co-ordination, agility, running techniques, and the

start of aerobic training routines. We put on a technique session, and one where team shape, systems of play and tactics are introduced. We vary the formations used, to get players to understand the different requirements of, for instance, 4-4-2 as compared to 4-3-3, 3-5-2 or 5-3-1-1. The idea is to educate players in the roles and responsibilities they must take on for the good of the team.

We do work on individual skills, or course, but the most important aspect of all our training and games is to underline the value of teamwork. Let the ball do the work is the general philosophy. Our boys play in the Football League Excellence programme, with matches usually on Sunday mornings at St. Christopher's School,

Letchworth. Results are of secondary importance – we play to win, but the continuation of football education is the major reason for matching our lads against the best boys other clubs have, and results of matches are never published. Nor are there any official league tables.

Going away on football trips is all part of the learning process, and within the next few months our under-12s and

under-14s will be heading for France to play against their counterparts from French clubs. We will also take part in the Watford and London International Festival of Football at the start of next season.

We are also already looking ahead to the season that will start in August. For instance, we are currently working with our under-eight development squads who, for the first time, will be playing in the Football League Centre of Excellence programme, starting out on the road they hope will lead them into a full-time career as professional footballers.

OUR youth development department offers expert coaching for young players from the ages of 8 to 16, all under the guidance of qualified FA coaches. The youngsters involved are associated with Luton Town, and at 16 are eligible, if they reach a high enough standard, for places on the club's scholarship list, which is the first step towards becoming a professional footballer. If you would like more information, please contact Dean Rastrick at Luton Town FC, telephone Luton 411622.

Dean Rastrick

Ever thought about being a match ball sponsor?
Call the Commercial Department on:
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TOWN TEASER

WE ARE offering another little prize in our fun quiz today, and if you know your Town trivia you will not find the answer too difficult, although we have had suggestions from fans that we should pose slightly more difficult questions. So, for a change, we are not promising that the answer to today's teaser is in the programme. But it might be! Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. At the Halifax game we asked who scored twice for us in the 4-2 victory at The Shay, and the answer was Dean Crowe.

TODAY'S QUESTION

What is the connection between Luton Town and the Chairman of Mansfield Town?

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Happy Harry

Junior Hatters

OUR trip to the last game of the season, at Shrewsbury on April 20, has proved to be very popular, and is now sold out. So we have to say sorry to those young supporters who did not get their bookings in early enough – we don't like turning anyone away, and we would have put on another coach if it were possible, but no more match tickets were available.

However, we are looking forward to a real party day the week before, April 13, when we play Macclesfield in our final home game of the season. If you haven't got your tickets yet, it might be a good idea to buy them as soon as possible, because it looks like being a sell-out match. Not only will it be another promotion celebration, but also the tradition of making it a "Hatters Day" will continue.

Have a look at the announcement on page 27 for more details. I hope all Junior Hatters will join in the fun, and if you haven't got a Luton Town hat, don't worry –there will be plenty in the club shop, and they will be on offer at 20 per cent off that day.

The shop is also the place to visit for any information about the Junior Hatters, including membership enquiries. We welcome all Luton Town fans aged from 0 to 16, and there are plenty of benefits from being in the Junior Hatters, including the Saturday Club, away game trips, and the chance to be a mascot at a Town game.

Happy Harry



OFFICIAL PARTY: Three mascots were involved at our last home game, against Halifax, and they are pictured with the referee and skipper at the toss of the coin before kick-off. The extra guest was eight-year-old Charlotte Dawson, while the Junior Hatters mascot was Leon Denton, from Corbridge Drive, Wigmore, and Adam Norman was the commercial mascot.

Today's Mascot

THE Groom family, from Queen Street, Pitstone, Taylor and Matt Spring, are all keen Luton Town supporters, and mum, dad, and brothers Oliver and Alex are regulars in the Kenilworth. But today eight-year-old Alex will enjoy the game even more than usual, because he is this afternoon's Junior Hatters mascot.



His name was picked out of the computerised drum to have a very special day out at Kenilworth Road, starting with an early arrival so that he could meet the team in the dressing room. Naturally, he thinks every

As mascot, Alex will go out onto the pitch with the team for the pre-match rituals, including the warm-up and kick-about, and meeting the opposing skipper and the match officials for the toss of the coin.

Alex goes to Brookmead Primary School, Pitstone, and he plays football for Pitstone and Ivinghoe under-9s. He also likes cricket.

Today's ball boys are Peter Musumeci, of Harcourt Street, Luton, and Jack Town player is brilliant, but his favourites are Matt Smith, from Greenhill, Leighton Buzzard.

If you would like to join the Junior Hatters, call the Club Shop on: **01582 411622**

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TOP STORY

26.03.02 **Video Highlights: Five hammer Halifax**
Luton put on a five-star show as they secured their best win of the season as the club record of nine successive victories by beating Halifax 5-0 at Kenilworth Road on Saturday. **Coyne, Howard, Crowe** and Valois were the damage. Enjoy it all again!

25.03.02 **Isle of Man tour - Luton on Tour: Sunday July 2**
Saturday July 27 2002

MATCH REPORTS

EVERY MATCH: Couldn't get to the game? Visit here for a full match report and it will like you didn't miss a thing.

23/03/2002 Venue: Kenilworth Road Attendance: 6830

Luton Town 5
Spring 20
Coyne 32
Howard 49
Crowe 75
Valois 87

Halifax Town 0

JUNCTION 10

25.03.02 **Race to design our new stadium**
Fans questions answered at Forum Five architects are involved in a competition to design the new stadium for Luton and the directors will decide in two weeks which scheme they will go with.

17.12.01 **Eric Hood welcomes**
Luton's Deputy Chairman Eric Hood welcomed the announcement from Luton Borough Council of a £21 million package which will be used to fund a dual carriageway spur off Junction 10 for other local road improvements.

22.06.01 **Fans come first, says**
Paul Fletcher, the man appointed to oversee development of Luton's new stadium, says the two most important things about the new ground will be the inside and the feeling you get for a match.

JOE KINNEAR

We won with a swagger and style, says Joe

Joe Kinnear

SMS text messages now available on all networks.
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Action Replay



Luton Town 5 Halifax Town 0 (HT 2-0)

THE DIFFERENCE between top and bottom of the Third Division was ruthlessly illustrated by the Town as they strolled to their record-equalling ninth consecutive victory. And while Halifax, all but doomed to return to the Conference, were a poor side, the Town's refusal to take it easy ensured the goal difference figure was given another boost.

In fact the attacking was so good that Joe Kinnear, with a huge smile, said that if he were being picky he would be bothered that only five goals had been scored.

Halifax care-taker boss Neil Redfearn, a doughty opponent without being the weighty midfield influence he was when younger, admitted: "Luton's finishing was different class, but we made a lot of elementary errors. We just weren't at the races.

"I played three up front because in our position we need to win games, but that means we leave ourselves open a bit, and Luton were ruthless, a very good side. We scrapped in midfield, but were sterile up front. Joe Kinnear has done a fantastic job here. Our effort was first class, but if it's done with no thought, you get picked off, and that happened to us." The Town's seventh double of the season was on the cards from the opening minutes, when Halifax goalkeeper Barry Richardson made excellent saves to keep out shots by Matt Spring and Jean Louis Valois.

With Alan Neilson injured, the Town brought back Valois to play on the left wing, with Matt Taylor at left back, and that flank was always a source of worry to Halifax, whose return to the Conference will be caused

mainly by their awful away record – not a single win on the road since last September.

The only danger for the Town was that they might take their foot off the pedal when they realised how much better they were than the visitors, but that never happened and every member of the side was able to enjoy turning on the style.

"We had to work for that," said the Town boss. "But then we played with a bit of a swagger. There were some marvellous attacking moves, and we probably should have had more goals."

Matt Spring was given a free role to support front runners Dean Crowe and Steve Howard, and used it to put the Town on their way with the opening goal. Taylor enjoyed the space to go marauding up and down the left flank as only he can, and with Kevin Nicholls dominating midfield and the Town back four coping easily with Halifax's lightweight front three, the result was never in doubt.

Frustration for the visitors boiled over after 83 minutes when Gary Jones, who had been on the field for only a quarter of an hour, was sent off for violent conduct, attacking Chris Coyne with an elbow. By then the Town were four up and giving the fans a treat, and few would doubt that the fifth goal, by Valois, was more than likely however many men Halifax had on the park. While the Town thundered in more than 20 goal attempts, Halifax managed only two on target, with Carl Emberson not seriously troubled in making the saves.

Match Details

Luton Town: Emberson; Bayliss, Perrett, Coyne, Taylor; Hughes, Nicholls, Spring, Valois; Howard, Crowe (Forbes 82 mins).

Unused subs: Ovendale, Fotiadis, Boyce, Johnson.

Booked: Kevin Nicholls for a last-minute foul on Paul Harsley.

Halifax Town: Richardson; Jules, Mitchell, Woodward, Clarke (Swales 79 mins); Harsley, Redfearn, Bushell; Midgley (Middleton 55 mins), Farrell (Jones 68 mins), Fitzpatrick.

Unused subs: Crookes, Winder.

Booked: Craig Middleton and Ian Fitzpatrick for fouls on Kevin Nicholls; Steve Swales for a foul on Jean-Louis Valois.

Sent off: Gary Jones, 83 minutes, for violent con-

duct aimed at Chris Coyne.

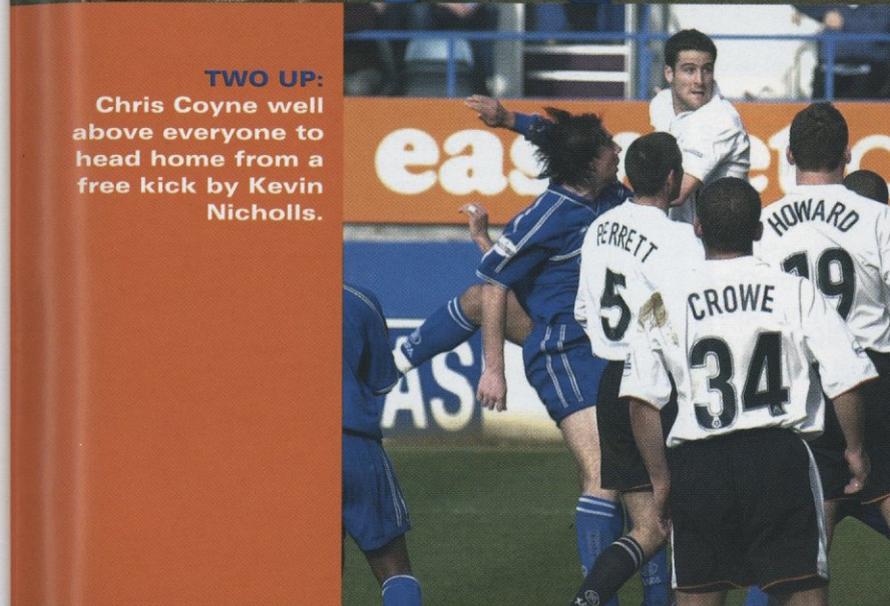
The Goals: 1-0 21 mins – Matt Spring, side-foot volley from left wing free kick by Jean-Louis Valois; 2-0 32 mins – Chris Coyne, far post header from right wing free kick by Kevin Nicholls; 3-0 49 mins – Steve Howard, determined run down the inside-left channel and firm angled shot after being sent clear by Spring's through-ball; 4-0 75 mins – Dean Crowe, close-range shot from the rebound after the keeper blocked a header by Howard from a right wing cross by David Bayliss; 5-0 87 mins – Valois, shot after a low cross by Paul Hughes was back-heeled across the face of goal by Howard.

Referee: Phil Prosser, Gloucestershire

Attendance: 6,830, including 154 visiting fans.



ONE UP: Matt Spring jumps to it, with three defenders ball-watching, left flat-footed as the midfielder nipped in to meet a free kick by Jean-Louis Valois.

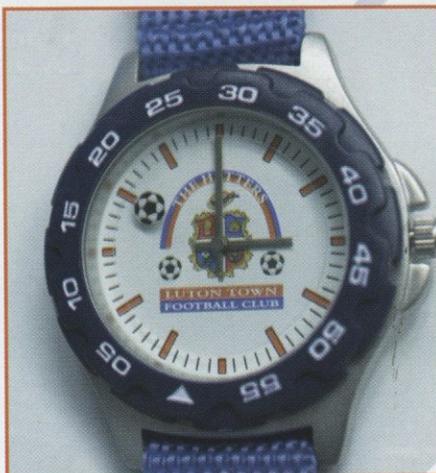


TWO UP: Chris Coyne well above everyone to head home from a free kick by Kevin Nicholls.



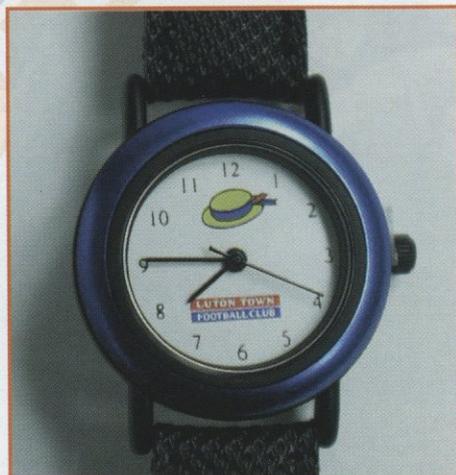
THREE UP: Steve Howard gallops past the last defender before knocking in his 17th goal of the season following a through-ball by Matt Spring

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Childs Watch

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Managers Special

From Monday 1st April 20% OFF all hats in the Club Shop.
Take advantage of this offer for Hatters Day for our last home game on Saturday 13th April

Jewellery

Rings

9ct Gold LTFC Ladies	£69.00
9ct Gold LTFC Gents	£83.00
9ct Gold Crest Ring	£39.00
Silver LTFC Ladies	£13.00
Silver LTFC Gents	£15.00
Silver Crest Ring	£11.00



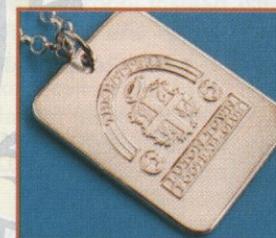
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9ct Gold Hoop Single	£18.00
Silver Stud Single	£5.95
Silver Stud Pair	£9.95
Silver Drop Pair	£9.95
Silver Hoop Single	£6.95



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9ct Gold Solid Pendant Only	£49.00
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Silver Solid With Chain	£12.50
Silver Cut Out With Chain	£12.00



Silver Dog Tag

Includes Chain £27.00



LTFC Pendant

9ct Gold Small Pendant Only	£9.95
9ct Gold Large Pendant Only	£16.95
Silver Small With Chain	£10.00
Silver Large With Chain	£11.00

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www.lutontown.co.uk

Fans on the road

Visitors to Luton

Cheltenham	.467
Southend	.912
Oxford	.869
Lincoln	.217
Torquay	.326
Darlington	.302
Rochdale:	.679
Swansea	.395
Shrewsbury	.351
Hull	.887
Rushden	.1,134
Hartlepool	.220
Carlisle	.356
Plymouth	.1,900
Scunthorpe	.359
Bristol Rovers	.197
York City	.280
Leyton Orient	.580
Exeter	.154
Kidderminster	.208
Halifax	.154

Total:10,793
Average: 540

Hatters Away

Carlisle	.1,097
Reading(WC)	.889
Bristol Rov	.761
Exeter	.712
York	.849
Orient	.2,089
Plymouth	.461
Scunthorpe	.961
Halifax	.774
Dagenham(LDV)	.330
Mansfield	.2,166
Southend(FAC)	.1,560
Macclesfield	.741
Hartlepool	.346
Oxford	.2,646
Southend	.1,710
Kidderminster	.1,096
Cheltenham	.1,597
Darlington	.464
Rochdale	.1,163
Lincoln	.889
Torquay	.1,100
Rushden	.1,395
	.25,796
	.1,122

Pre-Match Entertainment

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

11.00 Gates Open - music starts		HALF TIME
11.40 Club mascot Happy Harry enters the pitch.	1.20 Golden Gamble - Winning ticket picked by Luton Town Player.	
11.45 The UK's No1 track - GARETH GATES - UNCHAINED MELODY	1.25 Repeat of dedications	
11.55 HMV Single of the week	1.30 Track from the HMV Album of the Week - NOW THATS WHAT I CALL MUSIC 51	
12.00 First run down of the teams	1.35 Teams arrive back on pitch to theme song "Gimme Some Lovin".	
12.10 Dedications announced	2.20 FULL TIME	
12.25 Teams enter the pitch to our theme tune - The Blues Brothers "Gimme Some Lovin".	Matchday music supplied by	
12.27 Final run down of the teams.		Arndale Centre.
12.30 THE BIG KICK OFF		

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



Fans Scene



TOWN on Tour, the travel offshoot of Luton Town Supporters Club, has received enough backing from fans to ensure that its trip to the Isle of Man in July will now go ahead. The Town will be taking part along with Burnley, Wrexham, Darlington, Rochdale and the Isle of Man national side.

A coach will leave Maple Road at 1pm on Sunday July 21, picking up at Luton Parkway Station to meet train travellers and then Milton Keynes Coachway before heading for Liverpool to catch the 6.30pm ferry to Douglas. Transport will be provided at the Douglas ferry terminal to take passengers to their hotels. The return trip will leave Douglas on the evening of Saturday July 27, with arrival back at Luton around 3am on Sunday.

Prices will include travel, bed and breakfast and match tickets for the two group games involving the Town. Tickets for the play-off or final will have to be bought on the day, unless a £22 season ticket for all the games is bought in advance. Luton's group games, on the Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon, are against Wrexham and Burnley respectively. The play-offs are on the Friday, followed by the final on Saturday July 27, with a 2pm kick-off.

A variety of hotels is on offer, with prices, all for bed and breakfast, starting at £210 for a one-crown guesthouse to £330 for one of the poshest hotels on the island. Supporters can have a £20 discount if they join the trip at Liverpool instead of Luton. Single room supplements and reductions for children are applicable.

Bookings are now being taken: call at the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road today for more information, or contact Mark Chapman, by fax on 01296 714073, or e-mail markchapman65@hotmail.com

A Ton Of Marathon Support

LUTON Town Supporters Club is backing Dave Suttle, the club's entrant in the Flora London Marathon, with a £100 donation to the Keech Cottage hospice, one of the two charities he is running for.



After getting over a knee injury his training is going well, and he has stepped it up to 18 miles at a time. "I am feeling a lot better than I did a month or so ago," he said. "The knee trouble has cleared up completely, which makes me a lot happier, and I am much more confident about putting in a decent performance."

Players and other staff are sponsoring Dave, and we hope supporters will do the same. He is raising money for Keech Cottage, and for the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, and every pledge will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to support either or both of the good causes, please complete the coupon below and send it, with your cheque payable to the charity of your choice - the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust or Keech Cottage Hospice (or two cheques, one for each) - to Marathon Appeal, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton LU4 8AW.

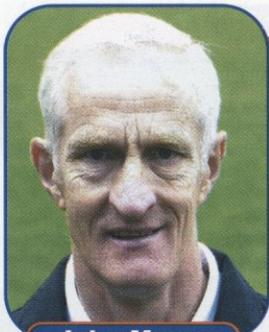
Please post-date your cheque: it will not be banked until after the marathon has been completed. Supporters whose sponsorship is conditional on Mr Suttle completing the course can be assured that their cheques will be destroyed if that happens. He is determined it will not.

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

I would like to sponsor Dave Suttle, the Luton Town runner, in the Football Challenge, and my post-dated cheque, payable to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust or to the Keech Cottage Hospice, is enclosed.

Name..... *Please destroy my cheque if Mr Suttle completes less than 26.2miles.
 Address..... Telephone..... *I wish to make the donation in any event
 Amount pledged..... *Please delete as appropriate.

Up and Running!
 Luton Town's very own official website.
www.lutontown.co.uk



John Moore

Youth Soccer



Rushden & Diamonds 3 Luton Town 0

WE WERE considerably under strength for this game, with five of our 15-strong squad unavailable through injuries, and in the end it showed as Rushden scored three in the last half-hour. I was quite pleased with the way it was going when we reached half time at 0-0, particularly as we had another injury after only ten minutes. Leon Barnett received a cut lip and was suffering from blurred vision following a clash of heads at a corner, which meant I had to use a sub I would have rather kept on the bench for much longer. We had two schoolboys at centre-back, and they did well.

We started both halves playing some decent football, but needed a goal to give us something to hang on to. We had a few scoring chances, but we never looked really convincing

A fullback fell over to give Rushden the chance to take the lead after an hour, and 15 minutes later we failed to deal with a corner and we were two down. Their third goal, on 78 minutes, was a very good one, a tremendous shot following a sharp passing move.

The lesson our lads need to learn is that you have to resist harder and stand up and be counted when you are

put under pressure. On this occasion too many players failed on those scores.

Luton Town: Brill, Mortara (Keane 80 mins), Carroll, Dogbe, Davies, Barnett (Howells 10 mins), Jeffrey, Foley, Judge (Dillon 71 mins), Osborn, Okai.

WE ARE awaiting a new date for our away game against Cardiff, which was postponed a couple of weeks ago because of a waterlogged pitch. In the meantime our next scheduled fixture is at Bristol Rovers on April 13, and we then complete our season with two matches at Kenilworth Road in three days, against Wycombe on April 22 and Leyton Orient on April 24. They will kick off at 2pm.

Appearances (as sub in brackets): Okai 21(2), Osborn 21(2), Foley 19(4), Davies 19(1), Carroll 17(3), O'Leary 17, Dogbe 15(4), Brill 15, Jeffrey 14(5), Dillon 13(3), Judge 12(4), Gillman 11(1), Barnett 7(4), Leary 7, Murphy 7, Chatfield 6, Bruce 5(1), Deeney 5(1), Howells 4(4), Mortara 3(3), R. Mansell 3, Gardner 3, Roberts 2, Beckwith 2, L. Mansell 1, Ray 1, Shire 1, Garrett 1, Palmer 1, De Souza 0(1), Burrell 0(1), Wright 0(1), Keane 0(1).

Goals: Osborn 9(2p), Judge 8, Murphy 4, Davies 4, Dillon 4, Jeffrey 3, Foley 3, Carroll 2, O'Leary 2, Gillman 1, Leary 1, Dogbe 1, Roberts 1, L. Mansell 1

John Moore

Football League Youth Alliance Results and Fixtures

AUG	25	Rushden & D	H	1-2	Leary
SEP	1	Walsall	A	4-4	Osborn 2 (1p), Murphy, Davies
	8	L. Orient (Cup)	A	0-0	
	15	Kidderminster	H	3-1	Carroll, Davies, Murphy
	22	Cambridge	A	1-2	Judge
OCT	6	Northampton	H	4-2	Murphy, O'Leary, Osborn, Dillon
	11	Cheltenham(FAYC)	A	4-3	Gillman, Judge, Osborn, Jeffrey
	13	Colchester (Cup)	H	2-3	Foley, Murphy
	20	West Brom	A	2-3	Judge, Davies
	27	Peterborough	A	3-0	Carroll, Judge 2
NOV	3	Southend (Cup)	H	2-0	Dillon, Judge
	6	Brentford (FAYC2)	H	0-2	
	10	Notts County	H	1-2	O'Leary
	24	Cambridge	H	0-2	
DEC	15	Northampton	A	0-4	
JAN	5	Kidderminster	A	postponed	
	12	West Brom	H	2-1	Osborn, Dillon
	19	Notts County	A	4-1	Jeffrey, Osborn, Dillon, Davies
FEB	9	Rushden & D	A	1-2	Foley
	16	Walsall	H	5-4	Judge 2, Jeffrey, Osborn, Foley
	23	Peterborough	H	2-1	Osborn 2(1p)

MERIT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO Results and Fixtures

MAR	2	Northampton	A	2-0	Dogbe, Roberts
	9	Portsmouth	H	1-0	Mansell
	16	Cardiff	A	Postponed	
	23	Rushden	A	0-3	
	30	Plymouth	H		
APRIL	13	Bristol Rov	A		
	*22	Wycombe	H		
	*24	L. Orient	H		

*Kenilworth Road k.o. 2pm

FL Youth Alliance South Central Conference League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
Bristol Rov	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Luton Town	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Wycombe Wdrs	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Leyton Orient	3	1	1	1	8	6	4
Plymouth	4	1	1	2	3	9	4
Northampton	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Cardiff	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Portsmouth	4	1	0	3	5	7	3



Brian Stein

In Reserve



Cambridge Utd 4 Luton Town 3

NOT many excuses can be made for this defeat. We had an experienced defence, but schoolboy howlers made it self-inflicted damage, and some very sharp words were said at the interval, when we were 4-2 down. The second half was better, as it had to be, but it took us too long to get another goal to have a chance of getting something out of the game.

Players failed to come to terms with a changed formation. The manager wanted to have a look at three strikers, two of them trialists, so we started with a 4-3-3 shape. Perhaps it was asking a lot after using 4-4-2 all season, but professional footballers ought to be able to cope with it.

Having to use three trialists hardly helped, and although one of them scored they are unlikely to figure in any of our sides again.

We gave away two bad goals in the first six minutes, with the defence and goalkeeper all looking very jittery. But we picked up a little after that, and every time Emmerson Boyce went over the half-way line we caused them trouble.

A trialist, Mark Hills, reduced the deficit on 35 minutes with a crisp finish, and I thought that we might then go on to win. But within a minute more mistakes at the back presented Cambridge with their third goal, and five minutes before the interval we gave them their fourth when five players left it to each other to enable a striker to net with a free header. I couldn't quite believe it - all four were Mickey Mouse goals.

But we pulled it back to 4-2 a couple of minutes later, with Aaron Skelton slamming the ball into the net following a good run and cross by Boyce.

For the second half we made two substitutions and reverted to our usual 4-4-2, and I asked players to show a bit of courage and defend properly. They responded, and we looked more compact, and created a few chances. But the early goal we needed would not come, and although the second half saw a much better performance, we had to wait until the 87th minute for another goal. Lee Mansell, our third sub, crossed for Skelton to head his second goal. I was pleased to see the team trying to get back into the game, but the damage had been done earlier.

Luton Town: Ward; Boyce, Dryden, Hillier, Johnson; Skelton, Moss (Leary HT), Holmes; Fotiadis (Locke HT, injured and replaced by Mansell 73 mins), Brice, Hills.

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	0-0	
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 12	Swindon	H	1-0	Holmes
	Wed 19	Portsmouth	A	7pm	
JAN	Wed 9	Brighton	A	0-1	
	Mon 21	Wooton (BPC)	A	1-2	Thomson
	Wed 23	Bournemouth	H	2-1	Leary, Fotiadis
	Wed 30	Brentford	A	0-2	
FEB	Wed 6	Bristol Rov	A	1-2	Skelton
	Wed 13	Norwich	H	5-1	McSwegan 2, Ofodile 2, Holmes
	Wed 20	Cheltenham	A	3-2	Mansell, Jeffrey, Fotiadis
	Wed 27	Colchester	H	1-0	Fotiadis
MAR	Wed 6	Oxford	A	3-1	Leary, Mansell, Dillon
	Wed 13	Peterborough	H	Postponed	
	Wed 20	Southend	A	2-2	Fotiadis 2
	Tue 26	Cambridge	A	3-4	Skelton 2, Hills
APRIL	Wed 3	Reading	H	2pm	
	Mon 8	Gillingham(LC)	A	2pm	
	Wed 10	Northampton	H	2pm	
	Tue 16	Wycombe	H	2pm	

WE ARE at home to Reading on Wednesday, with the Kenilworth Road kick-off at 2pm, and we go to Gillingham next Monday for the semi-final of the Avon Insurance Combination League Cup. We are still awaiting a new date for our postponed league fixture with Peterborough.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	19	12	4	3	35	17	40
Crystal Palace	18	10	3	4	42	20	36
QPR	20	10	6	4	42	22	36
Norwich	21	9	6	6	39	35	33
Luton Town	20	9	5	6	35	27	32
Brentford	18	9	4	5	37	28	31
Barnet	20	9	1	10	27	29	28
Leyton Orient	20	9	2	9	34	47	28
Reading	18	8	3	7	28	19	27
Southend	19	7	6	6	25	21	27
Gillingham	17	7	5	5	23	15	26
Cardiff	18	7	5	6	27	23	26
Millwall	18	7	5	6	27	30	26
Cheltenham	20	7	5	8	22	33	26
Oxford	20	6	7	7	22	32	25
Bristol Rovers	18	7	3	8	22	22	24
Peterborough	18	7	2	9	29	33	23
Colchester	22	6	5	11	30	36	23
Cambridge	19	6	4	9	26	29	22
Brighton	16	4	9	3	21	17	21
Wycombe	20	6	3	11	25	35	21
Bristol City	16	4	5	7	19	25	17
Northampton	20	3	8	9	20	35	17
Bournemouth	17	4	4	9	16	34	16
Swindon	17	3	4	10	14	25	130

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

- Records**
- Average Gate 4,267
 - Highest Gate 16,369
 - Plymouth v Exeter
 - Lowest Gate 1,227
 - Halifax v Kidderminster
 - Highest Agg Score
 - Rochdale5
 - York4
 - Biggest Home Win
 - Scunthorpe7
 - Darlington1
 - Biggest Away Win
 - Exeter0
 - Scunthorpe4
 - Consec. Wins
 - Luton9
 - Games Unbeaten
 - Plymouth19

Average Attendances

	2000	4000	6000	8000	10000
Bristol Rovers					6,616
Carlisle					3,241
Cheltenham					3,864
Darlington					3,816
Exeter					3,321
Halifax					2,068
Hartlepool					3,537
Hull					9,436
Kidderminster					3,006
Orient					4,517
Lincoln					3,119
Luton					6,739
Macclesfield					2,116
Mansfield					4,530
Oxford					6,362
Plymouth					7,893
Rochdale					3,351
Rushden					4,340
Scunthorpe					3,608
Shrewsbury					3,595
Southend					3,951
Swansea					3,678
Torquay					2,530
York					3,041

Goals - When Scored

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
BR	2	6	9	4	5	10
CU	8	13	6	7	2	8
CT	5	10	11	6	17	11
Da	2	7	8	6	13	11
EC	5	6	7	10	13	4
HT	4	8	5	5	2	7
HU	7	7	10	5	17	14
HC	6	11	6	10	8	11
KI	6	8	6	9	7	14
LO	5	8	6	10	10	13
LC	1	8	7	6	6	11
LT	4	10	18	16	17	17
MT	3	4	8	6	7	8
MT	9	9	12	8	7	16
OU	6	7	8	11	7	11
PA	7	10	13	9	10	13
Ro	8	6	8	10	8	13
RD	6	8	16	5	8	13
SU	11	16	13	8	8	14
ST	10	4	11	8	12	14
SU	7	6	5	10	6	14
SC	10	10	7	4	6	12
TU	4	5	5	3	8	13
YC	7	4	8	9	6	11

Form Guide: Home & Away

Home Form	most recent results to left	Away Form
DLDDL	Bristol Rovers	DLDDL
WLWDW	Carlisle	LDLDD
WDWDW	Cheltenham	LWVWW
DLDDL	Darlington	LLDLW
WDWLL	Exeter	DLLLL
WLLLL	Halifax	LLLLL
LDLWD	Hartlepool	WLLLD
LWLWD	Hull	DLLDW
WWWLD	Kidderminster	LWLLD
DWWWW	Orient	LLLLD
LLLWL	Lincoln	LLDWL
WWWWW	Luton	WWVWL
LDLWL	Macclesfield	WLWWW
WWWVW	Mansfield	DLLLL
WDLWD	Oxford	LLDWL
WWWVW	Plymouth	WVWDW
LDWWW	Rochdale	DDWLD
WLWWD	Rushden	WDDLL
WWWVW	Scunthorpe	LWLWD
WWWVW	Shrewsbury	LDLLD
WDDWL	Southend	WLDLD
WWWVW	Swansea	DLLWD
DWLDD	Torquay	WLWLL
WLWWW	York	LLLLW



Brian Swain

Third Division Scene

IT WAS with much frustration that this column was prepared: written when promotion for the Town looked to be near certain, but before Saturday's match at Swansea. We travelled in great hope, and confidence to match, knowing that three points at The Vetch would end all the ifs and buts, and make it mathematically certain that the Town would go back up to the Second Division, along with Plymouth.

The Pilgrims became the first club in the country to win promotion when they went to play-off hopefuls Rochdale on Tuesday and won 3-1. It was their tenth away win of the season, and promotion is their reward for remarkable consistency. They have been top of the table since last November, and few teams would have survived the sort of challenge the Town mounted with the stirring sequence of consecutive victories.

While we were going for our tenth straight win at Swansea, Plymouth were not far behind. Since losing 2-0 at Kenilworth Road they chalked up nine wins, one draw and no defeats, and kept seven clean sheets in the process.

Their success has probably made a lot of punters in the West Country very happy. At the start of the season

Plymouth were 16-1 shots for the title. Hull City were 4-1 favourites, and the Town and Bristol Rovers, relegated alongside us 12 months ago, were joint second favourites at 11-2.

The belting form of the top two teams has been bad news for today's visitors. Mansfield enjoyed several spells in second place during the season and in mid-February when we took over the runners-up slot it was on goal difference only.

But Mansfield's record has tailed off alarmingly since then, and while the Town and Plymouth have been forging head Mansfield hit a patch in which they managed only three wins in eight games. That amounted to a 100 per cent home record in that run, but in the five away matches they took only one point, in a 0-0 draw at Torquay, having lost consecutive away games at Shrewsbury, Hull, Swansea and Leyton Orient. They were at home to Rushden & Diamonds on Saturday. All of which left them looking over their shoulders at Cheltenham, who were going like a Gold Cup winner in the run-up to Easter.

At one time Steve Cotterill's men were giving us a little cause for concern as they turned games in hand into points. Cheltenham's season has been turned round dramatically. They were 20th in the table in mid-September, without a win in their first six games. But at the start of the Easter programme, away to Scunthorpe on Saturday, they were up to fourth place, with only one defeat in their last 19 league games, and looking to break into the top three if they could make maximum use of their game in hand.

The good news for the Town as Easter approached was that one more victory would be enough to make promotion certain with 87 points. Only two teams could overhaul that total: Cheltenham could reach 89 by winning all their remaining games, and Mansfield could reach 88. But they couldn't both do it, because they meet at Field Mill next Tuesday in a game that could decide who takes the one remaining automatic promotion place.

Brian Swain

Nationwide League Division Three
Before the Easter games

	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F			A
Plymouth	40	17	1	2	38	11	10	7	3	24	15	36	89
Luton Town	41	14	4	3	45	15	12	2	6	37	29	38	84
Mansfield	40	14	3	2	42	19	7	4	10	19	28	14	70
Cheltenham	39	9	11	1	37	19	9	3	6	23	23	17	68
Scunthorpe	41	13	4	3	40	19	5	8	8	30	32	19	66
Rochdale	40	9	8	2	30	18	8	6	7	23	26	9	65
Rushden & D	41	13	5	3	36	18	4	7	9	20	29	9	63
Shrewsbury	41	12	4	4	35	16	5	6	10	24	33	10	61
Hull City	40	12	5	3	36	11	4	6	10	16	28	13	59
Kidderminster	41	12	5	3	32	15	5	3	13	18	28	7	59
Hartlepool	41	10	6	5	45	22	5	5	10	15	24	14	56
Southend	41	11	5	5	33	19	3	6	11	15	30	-1	53
Exeter	41	7	7	6	24	29	7	3	11	21	37	-21	52
Swansea	41	7	7	6	23	20	6	4	11	26	40	-11	50
Macclesfield	41	5	6	9	20	24	8	5	8	16	24	-12	50
Carlisle	39	10	4	6	28	17	1	9	9	16	30	-3	46
Oxford	41	8	6	6	31	23	3	7	11	19	31	-4	46
L. Orient	41	10	5	6	36	24	2	5	13	16	42	-14	46
Darlington	40	9	6	5	29	20	2	5	13	18	41	-14	44
York	39	8	4	7	19	19	4	4	12	26	44	-18	44
Torquay	41	7	6	8	22	27	3	7	10	16	30	-19	43
Lincoln	41	8	3	10	23	24	2	9	9	16	32	-17	42
Bristol Rovers	40	7	6	8	25	26	3	5	11	11	24	-14	41
Halifax	41	5	8	7	20	20	2	3	16	11	49	-38	32

Today's Other Third Division Fixtures

- Bristol Rovers v Kidderminster
- Carlisle v Macclesfield
- Cheltenham v Hull
- Darlington v Halifax
- Hartlepool v Plymouth
- Leyton Orient v Scunthorpe
- Lincoln v Shrewsbury
- Rushden v Swansea
- Southend v Exeter
- Torquay v Rochdale
- York v Oxford

- Consec. Defeats
- Bristol Rovers, Halifax6
- Winless Run
- Bristol Rovers 14
- Total Games 486
- Home Wins 23749%
- Away Wins 12025%
- Draws 12926%
- 1-1 Draws 5111%
- 0-0 Draws 5010%
- not including Saturday's games

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	21	16	1	1	33	0.64	14 6
Mansfield	Chris Greenacre	19	13	3	0	38	0.50	14 4
Cheltenham	Julian Alsop	19	13	3	0	36	0.53	13 5
Hull	Gary Alexander	16	12	2	0	37	0.43	13 5
Bristol Rovers	Nathan Ellington	15	9	0	2	27	0.56	13 4
York	Michael Proctor	12	10	1	0	36	0.33	13 2
Carlisle	Ritchie Foran	12	12	0	0	31	0.39	12 3
Exeter	Chris Roberts	11	5	3	0	37	0.30	12 2
Macclesfield	Rickie Lambert	8	3	1	1	30	0.27	11 2
Scunthorpe	Steve Torpey	12	6	3	0	35	0.34	10 1
Rochdale	Kevin Townson	12	6	3	0	36	0.33	10 3
Torquay	David Graham	7	5	1	0	31	0.23	10 1
Oxford	Paul Moody	12	9	0	1	31	0.39	8 3
Luton	Steve Howard	17	13	2	0	37	0.46	7 3
Southend	Tesfaye Bramble	9	7	1	0	34	0.26	7 2
Darlington	Barry Conlon	7	5	1	0	32	0.22	7 1
Plymouth	Graham Coughlan	10	10	0	0	40	0.25	6 2
Swansea	Steve Watkin	8	6	1	0	28	0.29	6 2
Hartlepool	Gordon Watson	15	10	1	1	27	0.56	5 3
Rushden	Onandi Lowe	11	9	1	0	20	0.55	5 3
Lincoln	Lee Thorpe	11	9	1	0	33	0.33	5 2
Halifax	Paul Harsley	9	5	2	0	40	0.23	4 2
Kidderminster	Dean Bennett	8	8	0	0	37	0.22	4 7
Orient	Steve Watts	9	5	2	0	29	0.31	0 3

Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

Club	Win - vs.	Defeat - vs.
Bristol Rov	4-1 Swansea	0-3 Lutn, Rush
Carlisle	6-1 Orient	0-3 Plymouth
Cheltenham	4-0 York	1-5 Hull
Darlington	4-0 Exeter	1-7 Scunthorpe
Exeter	4-2 Darlington	0-4 Scun, Darl
Halifax	4-1 Cheltenham	1-6 Oxford
Hartlepool	5-1 Rush, S'end	0-3 Man, Chel
Hull	5-1 Cheltenham	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	5-0 Halifax	1-4 Man, Mac
Macclesfield	4-1 Luton	0-4 Mansfield
Mansfield	4-0 Maccsfield	1-4 Hull
Oxford	6-1 Halifax	0-3 Ornt, Hull
Plymouth	3-0 vs 5 clubs	1-3 Shrewsbury
Rochdale	3-1 Mansfield	1-4 Kidderminster
Rushden	3-0 vs 3 clubs	1-5 Hartlpool
Scunthorpe	7-1 Darlington	0-3 Carlisle
Shrewsbury	4-0 Kidderminster	0-3 Hull, Rush
Southend	4-1 Halifax	1-5 Hartlpool
Swansea	3-0 Exeter	1-4 Bristol Rv
Torquay	3-1 Darlington	1-5 Luton
York	3-0 Torquay	0-4 Hull, Chelt

Numbers

PU	CS	FS
31	12	17
35	13	13
26	15	6
34	10	15
31	10	16
28	11	20
27	10	12
33	15	15
28	14	13
38	12	13
25	10	15
34	14	3
30	10	18
25	12	11
29	9	12
24	23	7
31	15	7
38	15	12
30	14	8
25	13	10
29	14	12
29	12	16
40	7	17
31	9	11

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.

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

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Tuesday 9 April, ITV Sport Channel

Real Madrid vs Bayern Munich
Wednesday 10 April, ITV Sport Channel

Manchester United v Arsenal
Saturday 13 April, Sky Sports 1

Sunderland v Liverpool
Saturday 13 April, ITV Sport Select



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Today's Squads

Luton Town

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Ovendale	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Skelton	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew Spring	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Russell Perrett	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marvin Johnson	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adrian Forbes	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Nicholls	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carl Griffiths	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Coyne	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Fotiadis	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew Taylor	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carl Emberson	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emmerson Boyce	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adam Locke	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Howard	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Holmes	20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Ward	24
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Hughes	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Louis Valois	28
<input type="checkbox"/>	David Bayliss	30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee Mansell	32
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ian Hillier	33
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean Crowe	34
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahmet Brkovic	35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alan Neilson	43

Mansfield Town

1	Kevin Pilkington	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Alistair Asher	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Martin Pemberton	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Les Robinson	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Stuart Hicks	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Adam Barrett	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	David Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Shayne Bradley	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Chris Greenacre	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Wayne Corden	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Bobby Hassell	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Michael Bingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Alan Tankard	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Stuart Reddington	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Michael Sisson	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Danny Bacon	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Craig Disley	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Andy White	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	David Jervis	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Lee Williamson	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Liam Lawrence	<input type="checkbox"/>

tick if playing tick if substitute

Today's Officials

Referee: John Brandwood, Staffordshire

Assistants: Chris Francis, Cambridgeshire (yellow flag); Ray Lee, Essex (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Gary Young, Bedfordshire

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