

COME ON YOU BLUES - COME ON YOU BLUES

HARICA

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF SHREWSBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SPECIAL AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE
PROGRAMME of the YEAR AWARDS 2001/02



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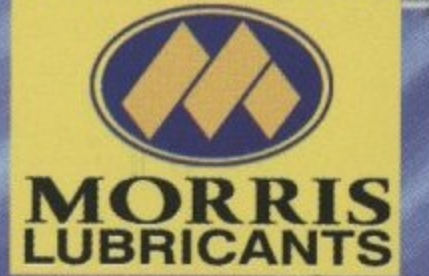


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MARK ATKINS INTERVIEW - 600 UP

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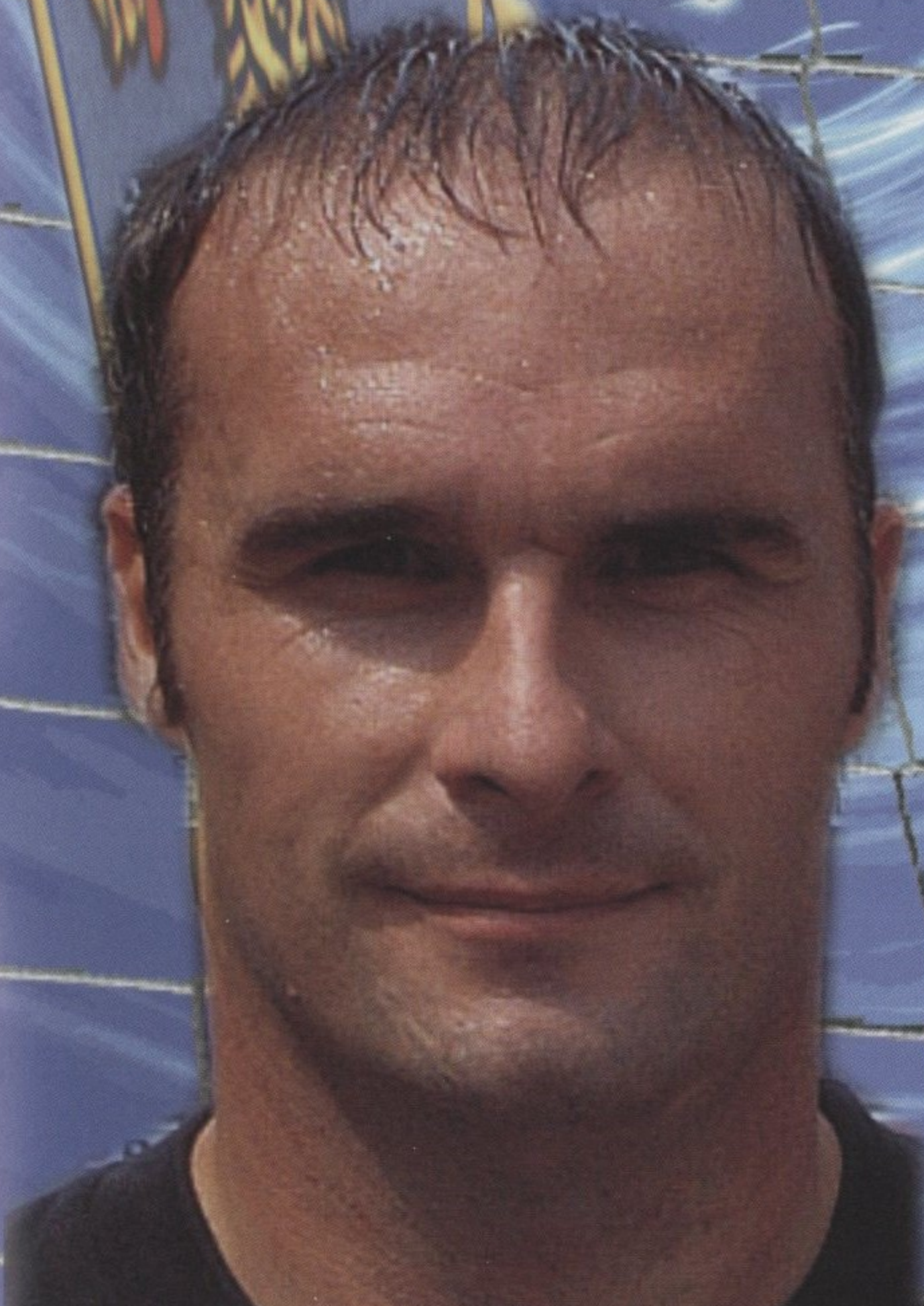


SATURDAY
20TH APRIL 2002
KICK OFF 3.00PM



LUTON TOWN

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £2.00



today AT GAY MEADOW

Welcome to Gay Meadow for today's encounter with Luton Town. Luton, have had a great season being promoted after just one in this division, however today is a very special day for Town fans as a packed house will be roaring on the team to hopefully a win to be sure of a play-off place - what an end to the season.

MATCH SPONSORS

Sponsoring the game this afternoon are GREENHOUSE VAUXHALL who are excellent supporters of Shrewsbury Town Football Club. We thank them for their support and hope that they all enjoy the afternoon with us.

MATCHBALL SPONSORS

Our Matchball Sponsor today is IAN MORRIS - PAINTER & DECORATOR, of Boretton Farm, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury. We also thank him for his support this afternoon and hope that together with his guests they will also have an enjoyable afternoon.

IN THE ARTHUR ROWLEY'S PLAYERS LOUNGE

We are pleased to welcome John Dowell from Kerry, Newtown and his guests to this afternoon's game. One of John's guests is Ray Hughes. Ray, who has been a loyal supporter of Shrewsbury Town throughout his life, is celebrating his birthday today so we also wish him very best wishes for an enjoyable day and thank them all for their support this afternoon.

ON THIS DAY

This afternoon in what is our final League game of the season we play our twentieth home game on this date since we did our first back in 1895 when we drew one-all with Oswestry United. We have only ever played eight times away from home on April 20th, indeed on the two occasions in which we have done so since 1973 - in 1987 and 1993 versus West Bromwich Albion and Scarborough respectively - we have won both by two goals to one scorelines. Hat-tricks by both Elvidge and White, together with a single strike by Cunningham gave Town their best ever result on this day back in 1925 as Darlaston were crushed by seven goals to nil here at Gay Meadow. The worst defeat suffered on this date is 3-0 first recorded by Oswestry in the Senior Cup back in 1929 here at home, followed by a similar scoreline by QPR in a Third Division game at the same venue in 1963, and lastly away to Bristol City - also in the League - in 1965. QPR are the side against whom we've played the most times on this date, losing on both

occasions, 0-3 in 1963 and 0-1 ten years earlier in 1953, this being the only time we had played away from home on April 20th in ten outings between 1901 and 1963. Norwich City - 0-2 in 1982 - and Rotherham United (2-3) in our last outing on this day back in 1999 are the only two sides to have beaten us at home since a disastrous 2-3 reversal to Telford in 1977, this in the Senior Cup.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH LUTON TOWN

It's six seasons since the paths of Town and this afternoon's visitors Luton last crossed, Hatters doing the double over us for the first and only time so far, winning 3-0 here at Gay

AFTER 90 MINUTES TODAY

Following the final whistle the players will leave the pitch for a short period of time and will return to salute the crowd by performing a lap of honour. This will only occur if the pitch is totally free of supporters. We are therefore asking for supporters to remain behind the perimeter walls after the final whistle. You are reminded that it is an offence to enter the field of play at any time.

Please do not spoil the enjoyment of your fellow supporters. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Meadow and 2-0 at Kenilworth Road. In the previous seventeen meetings in the League, Luton hold the advantage with nine wins to Town's four, with four games drawn, three of these coming away from home, one of which - the 1979/80 meeting - ending in the only ever goalless game between the two. Until last season when Town crushed Rochdale, 7-1 on the road was Shrewsbury's best ever result away, however the previous time that we hit seven on our travels was versus none

other than Luton way back in 1964/65 season, the Town marksmen on that occasion being George Boardman with four, Robin Scott with two and a single from Bobby Ross. Two seasons later Hatters were despatched to the tune of five at Gay Meadow when a Ricky Moir double was augmented by further strikes from George Andrews, Terry Harkin and Jimmy McLaughlin. Before this afternoon, Town had scored twelve and conceded the exact same amount at home to Luton. The best ever home attendance against Luton was the 8,559 who witnessed Hatters' second ever Gay Meadow win over us, 2-1 in 1979/80, the club's first ever season in the old Second Division. Luton's best ever win over us came at Kenilworth Road, 4-1 in 1981/82 season.

IN CHARGE AT KENILWORTH ROAD - JOE KINNEAR

After a remarkable spell of success as manager of Wimbledon Joe Kinnear has put a serious heart attack behind him and completely transformed Luton Town from a team slipping to relegation to one roaring back to Division Two with



the longest winning run in the whole of the Hatters' history.

Born in Dublin in 1946 Joe played for St. Albans City before joining Spurs as an apprentice in 1963. He went on to play 259 games in the Londoners' defence, scoring two goals and earning a UEFA Cup Winners' medal in 1972.

He moved to Brighton & Hove Albion in 1975, played 18 games for them and whilst with them won the last of his 25 Republic of Ireland caps. He then had spells with Woodford Town and Dunstable and then tried his luck abroad, coaching in Nepal, Sharjah and Malaysia before returning to become assistant to former Spurs' colleague Dave Mackay at Doncaster Rovers in 1987. He had a short spell as acting manager there in 1989 and then in 1990 he joined the Wimbledon coaching staff under Ray Harford at Wimbledon.

After a spell as caretaker there he took over as manager in 1992 and until suffering a heart attack in 1999 he worked wonders in keeping the 'Dons' the Premier League. Three times they finished in the top ten and many folk are of the opinion that but for Joe's unfortunate indisposition he would have kept them in the Premier League to this day.

Happily after recovering physically he took on the challenge of Luton Town in January last. He did not manage to save them from relegation from Division Two, but they are now on their way back there on the crest of a wave. It is now a matter of just how far he can take them back towards the days when they were rubbing shoulders with the country's top teams.

GOLDEN GAMBLE DRAW

The winner of the Golden Gamble Draw held at the Carlisle United game was Mr. G. Lewis. The ticket number, drawn by Andy Tretton, was 571 and the amount was £600.00.

Tickets are on sale both inside and outside the ground before the game today with the draw being made at half-time on the pitch.

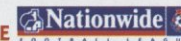
HALF-TIME PRESENTATION

NATIONWIDE SUPPORTERS OF TOMORROW SCHEME

This season Shrewsbury Town Football Club has participated in the Nationwide Supporters of Tomorrow Scheme. This is a community initiative to attract young people across the country to become "Supporters of Tomorrow" run by Nationwide and the Football League. Free tickets to Town matches have been issued to girls and boys across Shropshire who have participated in our coaching days, development centres and joined the message boards for Shropshire Schools and Colleges F.A.

Having fulfilled all the requirements set out by Nationwide the club has been awarded a £10,417 marketing grant from the Football League. Having been successful, this grant has been secured for the next two seasons.

At halftime Phil Ratcliff, manager of the Shrewsbury branch of Nationwide will present a cheque for £10,417 to Fiona Hodgson, Shrewsbury Town's Central Support Officer who has run this scheme at the club.



"KICK OUT" RACISM

We condemn racist behaviour at Shrewsbury Town, including chanting. Stewards and Police will take action against any offender. Racist behaviour will lead to banning orders whether the offender is convicted or not.

We encourage any supporter to come forward during or after a game and report anyone who makes racist remarks so that action can be taken.

Racist behaviour is an embarrassment and a scar to the Football Club and we all have a duty to "Kick It Out."

Chairman and Board of Directors

SAFETY NOTICE

SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 AND 1987

In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at Gay Meadow and must be observed at all times; glasses, bottles, drink cans, canisters, air horns, knives, darts, tools, fireworks, cameras, poles or any other article likely to cause injury or compromise public safety are not permitted to be brought into the ground.

The following are offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991 and are strictly forbidden:-

* The throwing of any object within the Ground;

* The use of foul and abusive language, obscene chanting or racial abuse towards any person;

* Unauthorized entry onto the Field of Play, except in an emergency.

The obstruction of gangways, access ways, exits and entrances, stairways and like places are strictly forbidden.

The consumption of intoxicating liquors is permitted only in the places authorized in accordance with the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985. Sitting on the perimeter wall is forbidden at all times. Any person acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to arrest.

Closed circuit television is in use and any spectator found to be acting in a disorderly manner is likely to be arrested or ejected from the ground.

In the event of an emergency, instructions will be given via the public address system. Spectators must follow the instructions given.

First Aid and Medical facilities are provided at the Station End of the ground. In the event of medical attention being required, the assistance of a steward should be sought.

Spectators are asked to comply with requests made by the stewards. Your co-operation is ensuring that these conditions are met would be appreciated.

To comply with the Safety Certificate, all doors and gates on Exit Routes will be opened before the end of the game, unless the Police or The Safety Officer directs otherwise.

Spectators wishing to leave the Stadium before the final whistle, other than from the Riverside/Wakeman Terraces who may leave by the turnstile close to Exit Gate A, should approach a steward for assistance.

The Car Park will be closed five minutes before the final whistle to allow spectators on foot to leave the stadium first. Vehicles will leave the car park when spectators on foot have dispersed.

In the event of a match being abandoned before the commencement of the second half, spectators will be admitted to the re-arranged game with 50% discount off the admission prices charged for the original fixture.

If a match is abandoned during the second half, spectators will be admitted to the re-arranged game with 25% discount off the admission prices charged for the original fixture.

M. Ashton - Operational Officer.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, you will hear a Police message over the Public Address System. This will be preceded by a loud Klaxon sound. Please remain where you are and listen carefully to the Police message. Comply immediately if it affects your area.

Stewards and Police Officers will direct you to safe areas.

Above all. REMAIN CALM and DO NOT MOVE until the announcement concerns your area of the ground.

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**Shout yourselves hoarse
we want the result**

Welcome to Gay Meadow for the last game of the League season. No matter what is the outcome of today's game we have had a great season. While it's possible that earlier in the season we had some better results I feel that we have progressed even more in the second half and there is no doubt at all that we will be disappointed if we don't make the play-offs.

The team spirit is really great, in fact walk anywhere in the Club and you will find people smiling and that in itself is great to see. When I first came to the Club it was hard. The Club wanted success but couldn't obtain it, now the atmosphere is so good throughout.

I have had superb support from the Chairman and Directors who have always met any requests I have made, it's not easy to bring experienced players to a club in the lower end of the League and money cannot flow as much as teams in the higher echelons, but I have always received the support from them such as bringing in an extra player at times, and overnight pre-match stays which have proven so valuable in recent weeks.

My immediate team have been superb also. Dave Fogg has been so inspirational as has Dave Timmins who has both at home and away games coached our goalkeepers so well, not only Ian Dunbavin and Mark Cartwright but our youngsters also. Then there is also our hard working physio - Shakey who's treatment door has now been re-named "Busyo" as most of us don't know how he has the time to give treatment and write such a long column in the programme, which seems to have gone "National" in last Saturday's newspapers and Radio 5.

Talking of Saturday I have to say I was delighted with the result at Southend and even more so with the following that we had. When you can take such a large following as we have had in recent games proves that you believe in us and your support, as I have said before, helps us so much. Praise came in fact from Southend United themselves, who have congratulated Shrewsbury supporters on their behaviour.

I must congratulate Mark Atkins who takes the field today for his 600th game in League football, I played in over 500 games, but to reach this amount is so great and he still has quite a few years left yet. Mark of course has been one of the more experienced players of our squad who have added that extra bite to our performances. We have a happy blend, while the more senior members don't train as often as our youngsters all of the squad put in hard work and I must also give praise to them all.

Now to today. Congratulations to Joe Kinnear and his Luton lads on getting promotion, but you all know the result that we want this afternoon, and I'm sure we can achieve that, and I know that you will all be behind the team for the whole 90 minutes so go home hoarse.

As always, thank you for your support, enjoy the game and best wishes.

Kevin.



SHREWSBURY TOWN

FOOTBALL CLUB

Gay Meadow, Shrewsbury SY2 6AB.

Office: 01743 360111 - Commercial: 01743 356316

E-Mail: <http://www.shrewsburytown.com>

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Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons:

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Senior Physiotherapist -

Simon Shakeshaft, BSc (Hons).

Physiotherapist - Reserve & Youth - Dean Craik.

Podiatrist - Dr. Fergus Ross, Phd.

Nutritionist - Nick Broad, Msc

OPERATIONS OFFICER - M. Ashton

STADIUM MANAGER - Brian Perry

CHAPLAIN - Rev. Tim Welch

COMMUNITY OFFICER - Brian Williams

This programme is produced on behalf of Shrewsbury Town F.C. by

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The views in this programme are not necessarily those of the Football Club or the Publisher, unless stated.

From SHAKY'S DEN



What a "Mingin" trip to Southend, but what a great result.

As we all know, Southend is in Essex (except mossy who had to get his map out!) And Essex is famous for a number of things especially it's women! So, imagine my surprise when the realms of crowd abuse reached an all time low last Saturday. An Essex girl decided to shout "Physio, your mingin", I mean she was hardly Cindy Crawford herself. Personally, there has been some abuse aimed at me this season, normally along the lines of Pic Eating, Overweight and of course doubting my parentage! But this just completely took me by surprise. The bad news is that "Rent-A-Gob" Timmo overheard this statement and proceeded to report back to all the lads. Well with all the stick I've given out this season, what was I to expect back but a lot of text messages to my mobile phone and the occasional loud cry of "Mingin" and "Minger" all the way home on the bus and this has continued throughout the week. But hey, I've got broad shoulders a bit like the shot putter who shouted who shouted it out originally. Miaaoooww!! Saucer of milk please!

But the serious stuff of injuries have filled the last couple of weeks, with our two longer term injured lads having had mixed news since you last read this column.

Nigel Jemson had his second follow up consultation on his dislocated shoulder. The surgeon Mr Kelly was very encouraged by Jemmo's progress and was happy to give the go ahead for him to resume light first team training. This was to coincide with Jemmo building up his strength around the joint with a view towards him joining in contact training next week and therefore available for a selection if we make the play-offs. Nigel has made an exceptional recovery and will resume full contact training less than three months after his surgery, which not only is remarkable but a testament to how hard he has worked. He hasn't done this without a lot of moaning but "Victor Meldrew" is a better patient than I ever imagined him to be.

The not such good news but currently our other injury is Steve Jagielka. Jag's suffered an unusual knee injury in the Swansea game in early March. Unusual in the fact that part of his previously damaged Anterior Cruciate Ligament had locked itself into the back of his knee joint, therefore not allowing him to fully straighten or bend it. This offending piece of ligament was removed under arthroscopy, (a camera looking into the joint), by Mr Dai Rees and Jags rehab went along the as expected. After returning to training and without any problems, he suffered a rotational injury to the same knee. Early fears of a significant ligament injury have been somewhat dispelled by Mr Dai Rees who is happy that his ACL is still intact. It is hoped that this is just a one off relapse and a programme of continued strengthening with gradual increase in workload through his rehab over the next month should do the trick. Jags will undergo vigorous tests to the knee after this time and barring no reaction will return to commence pre season training, fully fit in July. So, that's the serious stuff out of the way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who voted for the "Quote of the Season" on the club's website. Due to deadlines with the programme I will be unable to bring you the results today in this column, but if you are as keen as most of the players to know the results, log on to the club's website www.shrewsburytown.com today and Ian will give you the winner.

During the last two weeks, since we announced the eight candidates for the "Quote of the Season" there have been few late attempts to get in amongst the runners and riders. Dean "Cranium" Craik, the club's other physio has made many a verbal blunder this season, but whilst giving Shrek (Matty Redmile) a massage prior to the Carlisle game, he added to his own catalogue of dialogue disasters.

After finishing his legs, Shrek asked

"Can you do my back please?"

"What's wrong with that now?" replied Cranium.

"It's just a little stiff around my lower back"

"Well, you better see a Chiroprapist then" said Deano.

As we all know, a Chiroprapist looks after your feet and this from a medical person! Again, WHAT CHANCE HAVE WE GOT!!!!?

One of the young Y.T. lads has tried to join the hall of famous training mistakes, which I have to describe to you.

During their session, the youth players have to practise their shooting by passing the ball into a server who lays it off to them as they run around a cone and then shoot.

Imagine the scene, two goals, 30 meters apart, a server half way between these two goals and two goalkeepers in only one goal. This is the one the players are using to practice their shooting.

So, up steps DANNY MARCH passes his ball in, runs around the cone, receives the pass back turns and shoots at the goal.....the empty goal.....yes the one with no goalkeeper in it.....and guess what.....yes he missed the target!!

One of the other seasons highlights had been the christening of players new nicknames, Nigel "Victor Meldrew, Grumpy" Jemson, Greg "Buzz Lightyear" Rioch, Mark "Chewbacca, Silver Back, Hi Helen" Cartwright, Dean "Every Nickname in the World" Craik, Ian "Parker, out of Thunderbirds, Yoda" Dunbavin etc. But there are now two that have got the club national media attention even on out T.V. screens.

Matty Redmile was most disappointed when somebody rang G.M.T.V. the morning after the Oscars ceremony and stated that one of the Shrewsbury Town players looks like Shrek. Who ever it was has been very harsh but Matty thinks it was me, so if the culprit is reading this, the least you can do is clear my name.

And "Trigger" Ryan Lowe, who has kept us all constantly entertained with his grammar errors and little guips. Since the "Quote of the Season" vote has hit the local press, the nationals have picked it up, The Guardian newspaper, Sport Sports News & Soccer Saturday and even Radio 5 Live has given it a mention. But Ryan has taken centre stage, getting a mention as "Trigger" in all the media forms.

And just to let you know, I'm not picking on him, here's a conversation he was recently involved in with "Yoda" Dunbavin.

Bavo said "I didn't say that "Quote of the Season" to which Ryan replied " You did, I seen Ya"!!

And so, another season draws to a close. Shorter in time but nonetheless as hard on workload and effort.

Special thanks to the first team coaching staff, The Gaffer, Foggy, and Mr Angry himself, Dave "Timmo, I can't dance" Timmins for being a pleasure to work with and making my job so much easier. The Medical Staff, Dr Wilson (Club's Medical Officer), Dai Rees (Clubs Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon) Physio Mr David Evans, Mr Louw van Niekerk, Mr Cormack Kelly and Dr's Chris Tomlinson and John Morgan, who's encouragement, advice and experience has been invaluable, in making the medical team tick, Nick "The Nutritionist, Shrunken Head" Broad, Fergus "The Podiatrist" Ross and of course Deano "Massive Planet Head" Craik who has been brilliant and made a difference this season. A special cheers to Deano and well done in your exams.

Ian Whitfield and Denise for doing my programme notes correctly, all the mistakes have been made by Don (!!!). The players, who have put up with all the stupid humour of this column and been a good bunch all season.

And, finally you, the supporters, who have been behind the team all season and all we ask is that you give it one big push today.

So, COME ON YOU BLUES!

Regards

Shakey

Sorry it's in small type - Shakey goes on a bit !!! ED.

Sponsors of the Shrewsbury Town Medical Team Freephone call on
ALLSPORT MEDICAL 0800 358 9991

PLAY-OFF TICKET SELLING DETAILS

ADMISSION PRICES:

DETAILS OF THE SECOND GAME ARE ON PAGE 16 (YOUTH & RESERVE) OF TODAY'S PROGRAMME.

Centre Stand - £15.00 (£10.00 concessionary) - **Wakeman Stand** - £12.00 (£8.00 concessionary)

Family Enclosure - 1 Adult & 1 Child - £12.00. Additional Child - £3.00. Additional Adult - £15.00

(There is no Senior Citizen concessions in this part of the ground)

Ground - £10.00 (£6.00 Concessionary)

FIRST LEG SATURDAY 27TH APRIL - 3.00PM - THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

Season Ticket Holders: Must produce voucher A when purchasing their ticket - Max 2 tickets per person.

Club Shop open for Season Ticket Holders Only - Monday 22nd April 9.00am - 8.00pm

Membership Card Holders - Must produce membership card when purchasing their ticket. - Max 2 tickets per person.

Ticket Office Open for Membership Cards Only - Monday 22nd April 9.00am - 8.00pm.

General Sales - Ticket Office Open: Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th April - 9.00am - 6.30pm.

Thursday 25th April - 9.00am - midday.

WE ARE SORRY BUT, DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF TIME WE CANNOT ACCEPT POSTAL APPLICATIONS ON THIS OCCASION FOR EITHER GAME.

BRILLIANT IN THE BOX, THE BLOCK OR THE TRANSMISSION

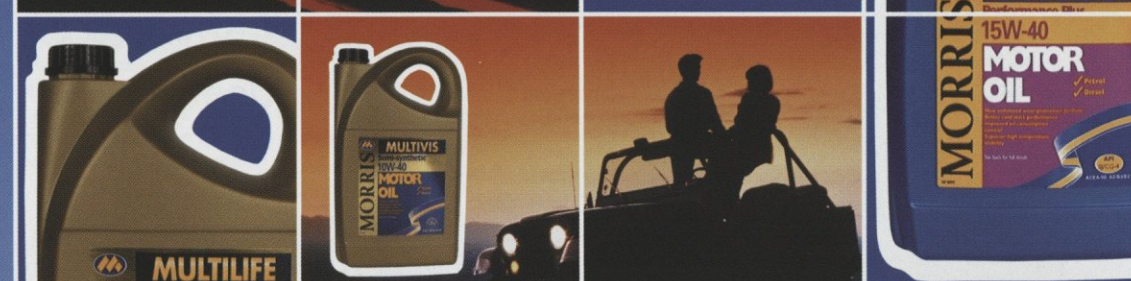
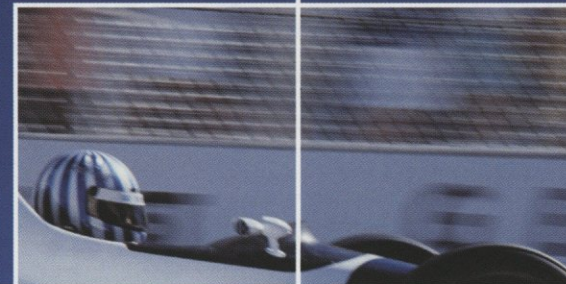


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AWAY TRAVEL

A big thank you to all the fans who have travelled to watch Town away from home this season, especially supporters visiting Division Three grounds up and down the country on coaches organised by Chris Smith. Fans behaviour has always been first class and Chris on behalf of the Football Club would like to say a very special thankyou, your support of the Club is very much appreciated.

Southend weekend saw a quiet end of season drink in local pubs and hotels. A lot of good natured fun and celebration followed a tremendous result at Roots Hall.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS NIGHT

This annual event takes place on Friday May 3rd at the Lord Hill Hotel. Tickets including a buffet are available today from the commercial office. Adults £5.00. Children/OAP's £3.00.

Alternatively talk to any member of the Junior Blues or Supporters Club committee or Chris Smith at the Travel Window after the game. Come along and meet the players.

SUPER BLUES

The next monthly draw is being held at half time today.

First prize: £100. Second prize: £50. Third Prize: 2 VIP tickets. Remember you have got to be in it to win it. Anyone over 18 years of age can join, only £1 per week.

Applications forms available from the commercial office or the clubs website www.shrewsburytown.com

NORTH SHROPSHIRE SUPPORTERS

The North Shropshire Branch of the Supporters Club are appealing for a new secretary/treasurer and new members. For those interested, they are invited along to their next meeting to be held at Wem United Services Club on Monday 20th May, 8.15pm, or contact John Berry (resigning secretary) on 01939 232580.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Welcome to what may be the last game of the season. We are all aware that at the moment we are in the last play-off place



THE CARLISLE UNITED SPONSORS MAN OF THE MATCH MATT REDMILE

with our closest rivals both two points below us. It's awful when it all comes down to the last game of the season, but I suppose it does make for a very exciting last official League game.

It has been a varied season but we should congratulate the management and the team for maintaining their position. It could prove interesting when casting votes for the Player of the Year. The result of this is never a foregone conclusion.

Remember that the Presentation Night is on Friday 3rd May at the Lord Hill Hotel. Tickets can be obtained from all the usual

sources, so make sure you get yours and come along, a good night is usually had by all.

Enjoy today's game, and a big thank you from our committee for all your support throughout the season.

Official Supporters Club Committee
COPIES OF TOWN MATCHES
 We currently have all the Home and most of the Away matches on Tape. Should anyone require match tapes they can be ordered from The Club Shop or the Club Web Site. (Please state Home or Away fixture).

COST

Three matches on one Tape: £30.00.
 Two matches on one Tape: £20.00.
 Single match: £10.00.

For postage add £2.50 per Tape.

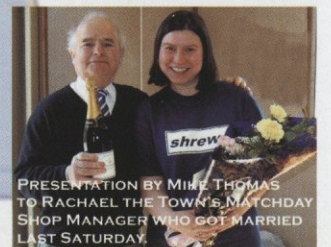
28TH INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA AND PROGRAMME FAIR

This will be held at The New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2 (2 minutes walk from Holborn Underground Station) on Saturday 1st June 2002. 11.30am- to 4.30pm.

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PRESENTATION BY MIKE THOMAS TO RACHAEL THE TOWN'S MATCHDAY SHOP MANAGER WHO GOT MARRIED LAST SATURDAY.

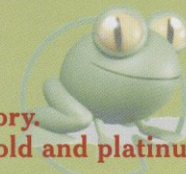
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In recent seasons Shrewsbury Town have done little to prove their doubters wrong, forever living up to their tag as perennial strugglers. However, 2001-2002 was a season when Shropshire's premier side chose to stand up and be counted and prove that even in this era of increasingly formulaic football, the unpredictable is still a possibility.

For those connected to the club Town's dramatic reversal in fortunes will have been less of a surprise following the air of optimism that swept over the Meadow during the summer. An encouraging climax to the previous campaign reinforced by the arrival of a number of astute close-season acquisitions had heightened the level of expectancy. A justifiable anticipation, that was raised further still by the continued progression of Shrewsbury's exciting crop of youngsters, one of whom would see their season disrupted within minutes of the big kick-off. A demanding and costly pre-season had already depleted Kevin Ratcliffe's squad to the bare bones, when Karl Murray's harsh dismissal at the building site that was Plymouth's Home Park, decreased the numbers further. Nonetheless, an inspired goalkeeping performance by debutant Mark Cartwright and a late Nigel Jemson strike ensured that 10-man Town returned from their longest-haul of the season with a surprise 1-0 victory.

What was in hindsight their most impressive result was soon followed by the most controversial. Referee Joe Ross, regularly at the eye of the storm as the weeks progressed, sent off Mark Atkins and Matt Redmile in Town's 3-1 home defeat to Hartlepool. However, a home loss would prove to be as rare as an unproductive day for Luke Rodgers, who opened his account for the season against the Monkey-hangers. Tranmere soon ensured that once again Town's interest in the Worthington Cup fell flat at the first hurdle but Shrewsbury were back on the road days later and back to winning ways. Nigel Jemson received a hostile reception on his return to Oxford but had the last laugh as the in-form marksman headed home the only goal on Town's first visit to the Kassam Stadium. And Jemmo would soon take his tally to five in seven games with unstoppable strikes in the thrilling Meadow victories over Cheltenham and York, which sandwiched a useful goalless draw at high-flying Bristol Rovers. However, despite Jemson's explosive start to the campaign it was his live-wire partner Luke Rodgers who was really catching the eye. Having also found the net in the back-to-back home wins, the Birmingham-born striker embarked on a sensational scoring run that would fire unfancied Shrewsbury to the top of the table. The electric pocket dynamo bagged a hat-trick as Town bounced back from a devastatingly late defeat at rain-swept Mansfield, to trounce Kidderminster 4-0. But even that performance was to be improved upon as Rodgers' mazy dribble and low drive deep into injury time at home to then leaders Rochdale sent prematurely written-off Salop to the summit of the third division. Finally Town's pre-match anthem of 'Catch us if you can' appeared to be a viable choice. Unfortunately a 3-3 draw at Swansea three days later, closely followed by a 3-1 reverse at Scunthorpe's Glanford Park ensured that Shrewsbury's stay at the top was short-lived. Kevin Ratcliffe's men would not return to such a lofty position again but the expected plummet down the division failed to materialise and as the fledgling table

took shape Town had evolved from certain strugglers into genuine contenders.

The Meadow men's surprise promotion

TIM KLEKOT TELLS THE STORY OF THE TOWN'S SEASON So far



challenge evoked excitement within the often-apathetic Shropshire public and over 5,000 saw a last-gasp Gary Alexander header deny Town a deserved triumph over visiting pre-season title-favourites Hull. The following day David Beckham produced his own late-show against Greece to book England's place at the World Cup. But Luke Rodgers was more interested in golden boots than golden balls and he reinforced his bid to top the goalscoring charts with a brace in Town's 4-2 win over Leyton Orient. The victory was marred though by an injury to influential keeper Mark Cartwright and in his absence Shrewsbury crumbled to consecutive league defeats. Meanwhile Town's LDV Vans Trophy hopes were

punctured due to a 90th minute, Chesterfield winner at Gay Meadow. Cartwright returned for the home draw with Lincoln but his comeback was cut short by a debatable red card. Subsequent suspension and further long-term injury for the popular stopper ensured that Ian Dunbavin would complete the league programme between the posts. Having comfortably dispatched Darlington, Town travelled to Bedfordshire to face fellow challengers Luton but despite outplaying their hosts for long periods Ratcliffe's battlers succumbed to a late breakaway winner. The magic of the FA Cup appeared to be nothing more than a shallow illusion as Town's luck did a disappearing act at Brighton's Withdean Stadium, Bobby Zamora scoring the only goal in a controversial encounter. That disappointment seemed only to drive Town forward though and victories over Carlisle and Southend, the former secured in the final minute cemented the Shrews play-off place. Then followed an indifferent December, which produced only one victory, that being a Mark Atkins-inspired 2-1 win at the morgue-like Shay against a Halifax side, for whom the drop already appeared unavoidable. Boxing Day saw a short trip to ever-improving Cheltenham, where Tony Naylor delivered the killer blow in a 1-0 reverse but Town fared slightly better in snow-covered York, Ryan Lowe handing the visitors a point against the cash-strapped Minstermen.

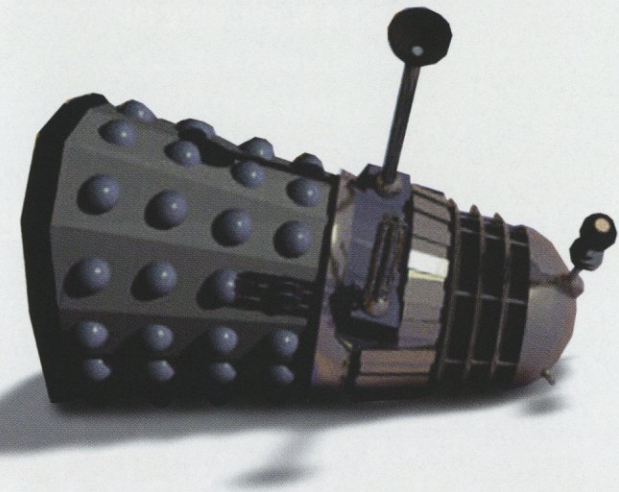
January began in contrasting fashion for Darren Moss. The flying fullback headed home the only goal of the game against Oxford but then saw red within minutes of the kick off at Hartlepool's Victoria Park. A game, which Town looked to have won against the odds, thanks to goals from Luke Rodgers and Karl Murray only for United to muster a late equaliser. An archetypal smash-and-grab defeat at home to Bristol Rovers looked to have seriously damaged Town's automatic promotion hopes but they responded with another heroic if not wholly unpredictable display at home to runaway leaders Plymouth. Down to ten men and behind within 20 minutes against a side who had previously lost just three games, a rout appeared likely but goals from Luke Rodgers, Sam Aiston and Ryan Lowe completed a sensational double



over the Pilgrims. The plaudits rained in thick and fast but almost as if to emphasise their unpredictably Town failed to win any of their next four. Defeat at Macclesfield proceeded an unrepresentative and highly controversial 3-0 reverse in Humber-side against Hull, which over 8,000 home fans celebrated like they had already assured their play-off place but the under-achieving Tigers would soon fall away.

A potentially damaging 2-2 draw with Scunthorpe at the Gay Meadow followed at the start of February. Not only did Town throw away a seemingly comfortable two-goal lead but neither Nigel Jemson or Luke Rodgers, both of whom scored, would finish the match. Jemson's fractured collarbone would keep him out for the rest of the season and Rodgers' sending off - Town's tenth of the campaign - ensured that the hot-shot would be banned for five games as the season entered its most crucial stage. However, Rodgers was available and found the net when Shrewsbury travelled to the North-East for their clash with Darlington, a match in which the lead changed hands three times before ending 3-3. New signing Ian Woan and Steve Jagielka grabbed the other goals against the Quakers and the latter followed that with another as the Shrews sneaked a 1-0 Meadow win over Leyton Orient. Tony Lormor winged in on loan from promotion rivals Hartlepool to replace the suspended Rodgers and goals in successive 3-0 wins over second place Mansfield and struggling Swansea helped to endear him to the Town faithful. Unlike Kidderminster boss Jan Molby, whose gestures during the 1-0 reverse at Aggborough, riled the 1536 travelling army. Town could have done with Luke Rodgers as they fired blanks in a disappointing late defeat at Rochdale, scene of a memorable seven-goal blast last term. But the live-wire forward was back to find the net in Salop's third consecutive 3-0 home triumph, against the now doomed Halifax and recorded his 21st strike of the season in the 2-2 draw at Exeter. With Town teetering on the brink of the play-offs, the last thing they needed was the mother, or at least the stepmother, of six-pointers, against 8th place Rushden. And in front of a sell-out travelling contingent - with hundreds more locked outside - the Diamonds pounced and ravaged Town with three first-half goals. Shrewsbury's play-off dreams were in tatters and a frustrating home defeat against Torquay left Town five points off the Promised Land of a top seven berth. So commeth the hour, commeth the local lad. With seconds remaining and the Shrews being held 1-1 in a must-win Easter Monday clash at Lincoln's ever partisan Sincil Bank, Jamie Tolley, who's season had been decimated by injury, stole in to give Town a last-gasp winner. Cue the 'Dambusters'-inspired celebrations on and off the pitch. Easter had resurrected the Meadow men's hopes of reaching Cardiff and further victories, over Carlisle in a very one-sided tussle and last weekend's sensational 2-0 triumph against Southend, has catapulted Shrewsbury back into the top seven. Salop's heroic display at Roots Hall once again against a back-drop of controversy following another Luke Rodgers red card, emphasised their ability to revel in adversity but can Town keep their head when all those around them are losing theirs? Only time - 90 minutes to be precise - of blood, sweat and eventual tears of joy or despair, will tell.

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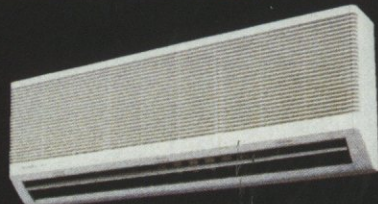
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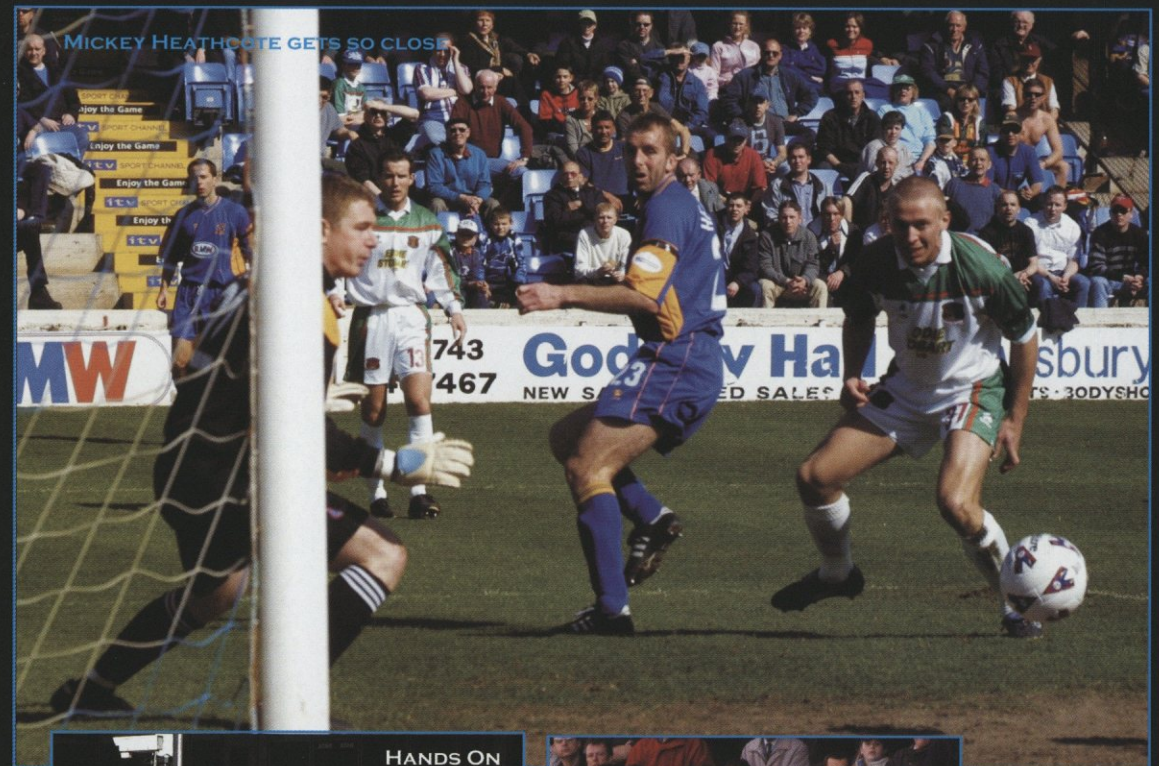
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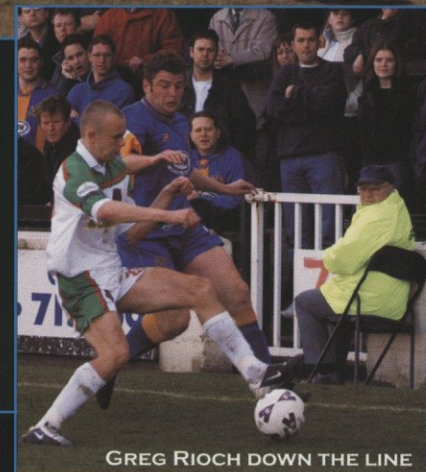
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MICKEY HEATHCOTE GETS SO CLOSE



HANDS ON



GREG RIOCH DOWN THE LINE

ACTION WITH CARLISLE



STEVE GUINAN ALSO GETS CLOSE

The 600th Mark today

Doncaster born Mark, 34 in August this year, steps out today for his 600th appearance in the top flight which includes games in the Premiership and Football Leagues as well as various domestic cup competitions. He has of course played in the Conference for Doncaster Rovers and the European Cup. These games have been for Scunthorpe United (66), Blackburn Rovers (312), Wolves (153), York City (14), Hull City (10) and of course 44 for the Town. He has also netted 55 goals, with most of those for Blackburn Rovers.

He made his debut at Wrexham, playing for Scunthorpe United in April 1985 at the tender age of 16 years 8 months, and after playing for the 66 games for the Irons, he moved to Blackburn Rovers in 1988 and played 42 games in the season they won the Premiership Championship in 1994/95. He didn't play in any of the Rovers UEFA Cup games but after playing against Spartak Moscow in the European Cup he moved to Wolves in September 1995 for £1,000,000. He moved to York City on a free transfer in August 1999 and then played for Doncaster Rovers in November that same year before moving to Hull City in March 2001 to play for them until the end of that season and then, of course, onto us.

Mark has been a quiet inspiration in the Town midfield this season and since Nigel Jemson's injury at the beginning of February against, ironically enough, Scunthorpe United, he has worn the captain's armband, leading the Town side so well showing his experience he has gained from the game over his 18 years in League football.

FIRSTLY MARK, YOU STARTED YOUR CAREER AT SCUNTHORPE UNITED, ARE YOU PLEASED TO SEE THEM CHALLENGING WITH TOWN AT THE TOP OF THE TABLE?

Oh yes, it's nice to see them doing well, in fact all my previous clubs are playing well currently and it gives you a big feeling that they are doing so well but as far as Scunthorpe are concerned I would be happy if we both got to Cardiff for the play-off final and we beat them.

YOU SIGNED FOR BLACKBURN ROVERS FOR £45,000 - THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A HUGE MOVE FOR YOU, DID YOU NOTICE THE JUMP IN THE CLASS?

It was a big move and as I went straight into the first team I had to adjust to the difference in standard right away. The Manager at that time, Don Mackay, helped me a lot and brought me on, in fact I played in every game that season.

YOU PLAYED IN 272 GAMES FOR BLACKBURN (40 AS SUBSTITUTE) IN THAT TIME YOU PLAYED ALONGSIDE SOME OF THE LEADING PLAYERS IN EUROPE AND BRITAIN. WHO WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE BEST PLAYER YOU STARRED ALONGSIDE?

Without doubt - David Batty. He was a player who took a lot of stick from fans, but he never gave the ball away he was a great player to have in the same team as yourself. Alan Shearer was another world class player of course.

DURING YOUR TIME AT EWOOD PARK, YOU PLAYED IN EUROPE IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, DID YOU ENJOY THAT EXPERIENCE?

Definitely, and while we didn't do very well it was a great experience. At that time I was playing left midfield and in fact played one game on the left wing, wearing the number eleven shirt, against Spartak Moscow. It's so good to see Blackburn back in Europe again next season.



YOU ALSO PRISED THE PREMIERSHIP TITLE FROM THE GRASP OF MANCHESTER UNITED. HOW TENSE WAS THAT FINAL DAY OF THAT UNFORGETTABLE SEASON AT ANFIELD. PRESUMABLY THAT CHAMPIONSHIP WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER?

It was indeed, although I wasn't part of the 14 at Anfield and sat out the game in the stand. We had worked so hard during the season but the last few games had let us down. I sat next to the man with the TV monitor who was watching at the same time, the game with Manchester United and we could see how they were doing and when we knew they had only made a 1-1 draw, the title was ours.

For a highlight of my career that was certainly one to remember, but also the play-off final at Wembley again was as well, and I played there three times which was a great experience.

FOLLOWING YOUR TIME AT BLACKBURN YOU MOVED TO WOLVES FOR £1 MILLION, EVEN IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF COLOSSAL TRANSFER FEES YOU MUST BE PROUD OF THAT FACT?

At the time Bolton had come in with a £2 million bid but my contract was up at the end of the season, so a move to Wolves was better for me. Proud - oh yes. In years to come to talk to people that I was a £1 million player is something.

LAST SEASON AFTER LEAVING DONCASTER ROVERS, WHERE YOU PLAYED 38 GAMES IN THE TWO SEASONS THERE, YOU JOINED HULL CITY AS THEY CHALLENGED FOR PLAY-OFFS - HOW HAS THAT COMPARED WITH THIS SEASON?

I joined Hull for the last 10 games and we went through that spell until the end of the season unbeaten. Hull then had the backing of a bit of money, where here at Shrewsbury there is not a lot, so the way the club and the team at Gay Meadow has been organised and played this season is remarkable, but we have a good set-up here and that counts for a lot.

IN NIGEL JEMSON'S ABSENCE YOU'VE BEEN CAPTAIN OF THE TOWN - DO YOU PERFORM BETTER WHEN YOU'RE SKIPPER?

Make no mistake, Nigel's a great captain, he keeps the game going and is always on the ball and I was sorry that he was injured, but I'm enjoying being skipper although all the lads pull their weight so it makes life a little easier, but if I play any better, I really couldn't say as I always try to give the game my 100%. Being skipper is nothing strange to me as I've been fortunate to have been in the same position at other clubs I've played for.

GIVEN THE FACT THAT TOWN HAVE STRUGGLED IN RECENT YEARS, ARE YOU SURPRISED BY THE PROMOTION CHALLENGE THIS SEASON?

Not really surprised as the club have a nucleus of a good side and I could see that before I came here, there are so many good young players who want to play. Together with the other senior players I have tried to help them along and I'm sure that argues well for the future. I had that help when I was a young player and I'm thankful for it.

HOW MUCH IS THE SUCCESS THIS SEASON DOWN TO KEVIN RATCLIFFE?

Massive. He's brought in the right players who play football and has helped the youngsters along, giving them first team games that have helped them to gain experience. Yes, Kevin has done so well, but also don't forget Foggy's input as well.

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YOUTH & RESERVES

Avon Insurance & Youth Leagues

The reserves finished their Avon Insurance games this week in rousing style with two good home wins. Firstly on Monday they played Doncaster Rovers who have been for some time in the top four of the Division One table. Leading 1-0 through Chris Murphy who scored after beating five defenders and then the goalkeeper in what was described as a "Premiership" goal, the Rovers equalised from the penalty spot but Glenn Tolley restored the Town's lead when he ran in and chipped the goalkeeper. The Town added a third when Sam Aiston hit a 30 yard screamer.

Then on Wednesday afternoon they produced what was the result of the season when they beat the division's champions, Walsall, 2-0. The goals coming from Sam Aiston and Karl Murray. These wins have helped the Town move well away from the relegation zone of the table.

The Youth side playing in the Merit League of the Alliance last week came back to winning way after their defeats by Oldham Athletic and Burnley conceding six goals without one in reply. Entertaining Grimsby Town Chris Murphy netted twice and Chris Courtney once to give the Town a convincing win. Yesterday they were away at York City and then next week are at home to Chester City and on May 4th travel to Bradford City for the final game.

The Youth side who play in the Midland Floodlight League have had a busy programme in the last few weeks, they beat Gresley Rovers 3-0 with goals from Butler 2 and Stevens, then travelled to Hednesford Town winning 4-1. The goals coming from Stevens (2); Butler and Murray. In their next game, at home to Sutton Coldfield drew 0-0 and this week they have travelled to play Sutton in the return fixture before travelling again to play Willenhall Town on Monday.

YOUTH ALLIANCE - MERIT LEAGUE - NORTHERN - THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	6	6	0	0	22	1	21	18
BURNLEY	6	5	0	1	16	6	10	15
CHESTER CITY	6	3	1	2	9	8	1	10
MANSFIELD TOWN	7	3	1	3	9	15	-6	10
CARLISLE UNITED	6	2	2	2	9	11	-2	8
SHREWSBURY	5	2	1	2	6	8	-2	7
BRADFORD CITY	6	2	3	1	6	10	-4	7
GRIMSBY TOWN	6	2	0	4	10	8	2	6
DARLINGTON	5	1	0	4	5	9	-4	3
YORK CITY	7	1	0	6	6	22	-16	3

PLAY - OFF TICKET SELLING DETAILS

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Sunday 28th April - 9.00am - 5.00pm.

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Monday 29th April - 9.00am - 6.30pm.

Tuesday 30th April - 9.00am - mid-day.

We are sorry but, due to the shortage of time we cannot accept postal applications for either game on this occasion.

MIDLAND YOUTH ALLIANCE

August			
Sat 18	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	2-2	Murphy 2
September			
Sat 1	CHESTERFIELD	3-0	Johnson; Morgan 2
Sat 8	WALSALL - Cup	1-4	Murphy
Sat 15	ROTHERHAM UNITED	0-1	
Sat 22	Stockport County	3-2	Silgrams;Morgan;Murphy
October			
Sat 6	Mansfield Town	0-3	
Sat 13	Port Vale - Cup	1-2	Courtney
Sat 20	PORT VALE	1-4	Segrams (penalty)
November			
Sat 3	Chester City - Cup	0-0	
Sat 10	CHESTER CITY	4-0	Murphy 3; Thompson.
Sat 17	Rotherham United	4-4	Thompson2; Murphy; Courtney
Sat 24	STOCKPORT COUNTY	2-1	Courtney; Murphy
December			
Sat 8	Lincoln City	3-1	Thompson; Courtney; Murphy.
January			
Sat 12	Port Vale	0-3	
Sat 19	Chester City	1-3	Courtney
February			
Thurs 14	MANSFIELD TOWN	0-0	
Sat 16	Chesterfield	2-1	Courtney
Mon 18	LINCOLN CITY	1-0	Morgan
Tues 19	Macclesfield Town	A	Not Played
MERIT LEAGUE			
March			
Sat 2	MANSFIELD TOWN	0-0	
Sat 9	Carlisle United	3-1	Morgan 2; McCann
Sat 16	Darlington	1-1	Abandoned
Sat 23	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	0-4	
Sat 30	BURNLEY	0-2	
April			
Sat 13	Grimsby Town	3-1	Murphy 2; Courtney
Fri 19	York City	A	
Sat 27	CHESTER CITY	H	
May			
Sat 4	Bradford City	A	

MIDLAND FLOODLIGHT YOUTH LEAGUE

August			
Tue 21	WILLENHALL TOWN	3-3	Burgess; Tolley G; Stephens.
Tue 28	Mile Oak	1-3	Tolley G.
September			
Wed 12	Bloxwich United	3-0	Packer; Edwards; Biggins.
Wed 19	Bilston	1-0	Stephens.
Wed 28	Tamworth	1-1	Stephens.
October			
Tue 9	HEDNESFORD TOWN	2-1	March; Thompson.
Wed 17	Walsall	1-4	Stephens.
Wed 31	MARCONI Cup	2-1	Thompson; Edwards.
November			
Tue 6	TAMWORTH	5-1	Murray 2; Stevens 2; Courtney.
Wed 14	Mile Oak	2-1	March; Stevens.
Tue 20	DUDLEY SPORTS	4-1	Stephens 3; Thompson.
December			
Tue 11	Dudley	3-2	Hill; Morgan; Burgess.
Tue 18	WALSALL (L.Cup)	1-2	McCann (p)
January			
Wed 9	Gresley Rovers	5-4	Thompson3; Morgan; Evans
Tue 15	HEREFORD UNITED	3-1	Harris; Stephens; Butler
Tue 29	WALSALL	0-1	
February			
Mon 18	Hereford United	1-1	Butler
25-31	BILSTON TOWN	1-1	Stevens
March			
Tues 12	BLOXWICH UNITED	9-0	Stevens 6; Courtney 2; Bregeli; Butler
19	GRESLEY ROVERS	3-0	Butler 2; Stevens
April 2	Hednesford Town	4-1	Stevens 2; Butler; Murray
8	SUTTON COLDFIELD	0-0	
18	Sutton Coldfield	A	
22	Willenhall Town	A	

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Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored

42	Shots	48
8	Headers	27
11	Volleys	15
3	Penalties	4
0	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	0

Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored

11	0-15 mins	5
5	16-30 mins	14
12	31-45 mins	20
8	46-60 mins	18
13	61-75 mins	17
15	75 - 90 mins	20

Last 6 Form Guide

3	Won	5
1	Drawn	1
2	Lost	0
7	For	18
7	Against	4
10	Points	16
0	Goal Difference	14
DLWWW	Sequence	WWWWW
WWWLW	Last 5 Home	WWWWW
LDLWW	Last 5 Away	WWWWW

Yellow & Red Cards

56	Yellow	90
11	Red	6



2001-2002 Attendances

Shrews	Aggregate	Hatters
80,384	157,618	9,585
5,010	Highest	5,066
2,576	Lowest	6,853
3,654	Average	69
46	% of Capacity	

2001-2002 Average Goals

	For	Against
1.42	2.09	2.17
1.64	Home For	2.00
1.22	Away For	1.07
1.13	Against	0.78
0.77	Home Against	1.36
1.48	Away Against	

2001-2002 Figures

26	Players Used	35
15	Clean Sheets	16
11	Failed to Score	4
6	Goals from Corners	10
5	Goals from Free Kicks	12
184	Total Corners	282
525	Total Fouls	739
150	Total Offsides	213
12	Hit Woodwork	19

10 Year Record

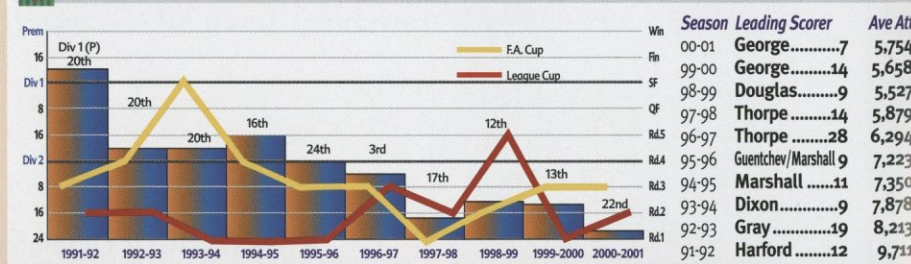
Shrews	Avg Pos	Hatters
75.5	52.4	8,213
3,380	Avg Att 1992	6,853
3,654	Avg Att 2002	-17
8	+ / - %	

Top League Scorers



22	League Goals	23
37	Games Played	41
0.59	Lge Goals/Game	0.56
16	Points Gained	9
6	Scoring Run	4
1	Hat-Tricks	1
4	Close Range	13
16	Inside Area	9
2	Long Range	1
16	Shots	10
2	Headers	11
4	Volleys	2
0	Penalties	0
0	Direct FKs	0

Luton Town's 10 Year History



Season	Leading Scorer	Ave Att
00-01	George.....7	5,754
99-00	George.....14	5,658
98-99	Douglas.....9	5,527
97-98	Thorpe.....14	5,879
96-97	Thorpe.....28	6,294
95-96	Guentchev/Marshall 9	7,223
94-95	Marshall.....11	7,350
93-94	Dixon.....9	7,878
92-93	Gray.....19	8,213
91-92	Harford.....12	9,711

LUTON TOWN

THE HATTERS
LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Today we welcome a Luton Town side who have gained promotion but have lost out on the Championship of Division Three to Plymouth Argyle after a club record 12 wins in a row. Yet just a year ago they were tumbling out of Division Two, 12 points short of safety. This is just the latest dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of a club who have known the game's highs and lows during their 117 year history.

Founded in 1885 Luton played in the FA Cup in their first season, joined the Southern League in 1894 and in 1897 became a limited company and were elected to the Second Division of the Football League. They lost their place three seasons later and returned to the Southern League until 1920 when they became founder-members of the new Division Three. In the meantime they had moved to their present Kenilworth Road ground in 1905 and it was there that they lost only one game in that first season when finishing in eighth place.

They were amongst the leading teams in what became Division Three (South) a year later and from time to time they chalked up some spectacular scorelines such as the 10-2 win over Torquay United in September 1933 and a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers in April 1936 with Joe Payne getting 10 goals.

Joe had been playing mainly in midfield in the reserves until that sensational scoring feat and in the very next season he banged home 58 League and cup goals as Luton Town won promotion to Division Two. They just missed out on promotion to Division One in 1953 when former Wolves man Jesse Pye banged home 28 goals but two years later they went up alongside Birmingham City with Gordon Taylor getting 37 League and cup goals.

They finished as high as eighth in 1957/58 and in the following season reached the FA Cup final, losing 2-1 to Nottingham Forest, but a season later they were relegated and a dramatic slide saw them landing up in Division Four in 1965.

1968 saw them promoted under Allan Brown with Bruce Rioch getting 27 goals and under Alec Stock they went up again in 1970 with Malcolm McDonald getting 28 goals. 1974 saw them back in Division One at a time when Harry Haslam was in charge but they stayed up for only one season. In 1982 however they were back in the old Division One under David Pleat with Brian Stein getting 21 goals in the promotion season and this time they established themselves. They were in the top ten in three successive seasons 1985/86/87/88 in the course of which they won the Littlewoods Cup in 1988, beating Arsenal 3-2 at Wembley, at a time when Ray Harford was in charge.

They reached the Littlewoods Cup final again in 1988/89, losing 3-1 to Nottingham Forest. They finally lost their First Division place in 1992 and landed up in a division that was just changing its label from Division Two to Division One. They were relegated to the new Division Two in 1996, just missed out on promotion a year later when going down to Crewe Alexandra in the playoffs and after three seasons around midtable were relegated at the end of last season.

LAST SEASON

Ricky Hill took over from Lennie Lawrence in the summer of 2000 and newcomers last season included midfielders Dean Brennan (from Sheffield Wednesday) and Petr Helen (from Finish club Jokerit), goalkeeper Mark Owendale from Bournemouth, and striker Peter Thomsen from NAC Breda while Brian Stein returned for a second spell at Kenilworth Road after spells with QPR, Oxford United, Stoke City, Chelsea and Bournemouth.

The season however began badly with only one win (1-0 against Bournemouth) in their first 13 games and by this stage they were next to Oxford United at the bottom of the table.

Ricky Hill was replaced at the helm first by Lil Fucillo and then by Jon Kinnear but apart from a purple patch in February with successive wins over Northampton Town, Notts County and Swansea City results continued to be disappointing. The season ended very

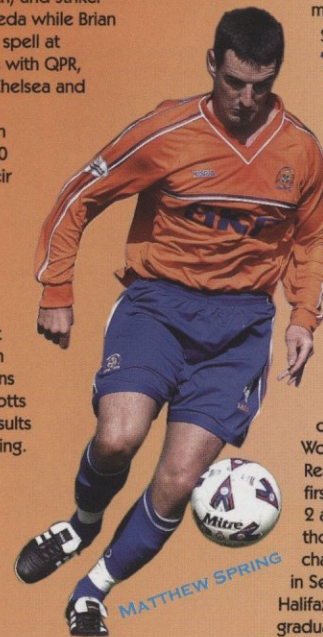
disappointingly with just six points from their last 13 games and they ended up in 22nd place, 12 points short of safety. Twelve home games were lost and in fact away form with

four wins and seven draws was pro rata better than home form and 28 of their 52 goals were scored on opponents' grounds. Homegrown Liam George topscored with nine League and cup goals. Liam played in all but three games and defenders Matthew Taylor and Emerson Boyce

missed just one and four games respectively.

THIS SEASON

Close-season signings included our former striker Carl Griffiths from Leyton Orient, striker Adrian Forbes from Norwich City and goalkeeper Carl Emberson from Walsall while midfielder Aaron Skelton returned to Kenilworth Road after four seasons with Colchester United. Though Luton Town crashed out of the Worthington Cup 4-0 at Reading only one of their first 10 games was lost (3-2 at Bristol Rovers) and though they lost at now champions Plymouth Argyle in September and at lowly Halifax Town in October they gradually gained momentum.



MATTHEW SPRING

Defeats in the LDV Vans Trophy at Dagenham and in the FA Cup at Southend United left them free to concentrate on a promotion bid. We lost at Kenilworth Road early in November, midway between The Hatters home defeats by Rochdale and Hull City but the only home defeat since then was 3-2 to Scunthorpe United in mid-February.

They lost successive away games at Darlington and Rochdale (who thus completed a double) as January moved into February but starting with a 3-0 win over Bristol Rovers on February 19th Luton Town have put together a club record 12 successive wins but after Saturday's goalless draw with Macclesfield Town at home they have just been overtaken by Plymouth Argyle at the top of the table.

Steve Howard (from Northampton Town last season) has scored 23 goals and Dean Crowe (from Northampton Town this season) has got 15. French winger Jean Louis Valois has also been on the mark recently and others to look out for include homegrown defenders Emerson Boyce and Matthew Taylor, former Sheffield Wednesday midfielder Peter Holmes and Matthew Spring, another former trainee.

THE PLAYERS

GOALKEEPERS

CARL EMBERSON

Wanting two players to compete for the first team goalkeeper's spot, Joe Kinnear moved swiftly in the summer of 2001 to persuade Emberson to choose Luton Town instead of

To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

Blackburn Rovers v Newcastle United

Tuesday 23 April, Sky Sports 1

Ipswich Town v Manchester United

Saturday 27 April, Sky Sports 1

Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool

Saturday 27 April, Sky Sports 1

Bolton Wanderers v Arsenal

Monday 29 April, Sky Sports 1



Subject to coverage, terms and conditions.

Plymouth Argyle, who were also interested, when his contract at Walsall ended. His career began at Millwall as a trainee, but he made his name in a seven-year spell at Colchester before going to the Bescot Stadium in the summer of 1999.

MARK OVENDALE

The arrival of a new board of directors at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2000 enabled Luton to break a mould that had been set over the previous three years. Then, with continuing financial problems, including a spell in receivership, Luton had been great sellers of players, and very rarely buyers. That changed when Mike Watson-Challis became the chairman, and made cash available to secure goalkeeper Ovendale from Bournemouth for £425,000. He was previously with Wisbech, Northampton Town and Barry Town.

DEFENDERS

DAVID BAYLISS

Rochdale released their longest-serving player, centre half Bayliss who was looking for a new challenge, and jumped at the chance to join the Hatters. The defender, an inch under six foot tall, had been at Spotland since he was a trainee, and made over 200 first-team appearances for Rochdale before deciding not to accept a new contract with them.

EMMERSON BOYCE

One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995, and made the breakthrough to the League squad at the age of 19 midway through the 1999/2000 season. A commanding defensive figure and was a regular last season.

CHRIS COYNE

The centre-half was playing for Perth Soccer Club when he was selected for the Australian under-17 squad for the 1994 Youth World Cup, and came to the notice of Harry Redknapp, then manager of West Ham United. An invitation to report to Upton Park for trials led to Coyne signing for the Hammers as a teenager. But Premiership chances were few and far between, and after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, Coyne accepted a transfer to Dundee, to play in the Scottish Premier League. Luton signed him for £50,000 in September 2001.

RICHARD DRYDEN

Vastly experienced, the defender has played

at all levels of professional football. Recruited on a free transfer from Southampton in February 2001. Bristol



DEAN CROWE

Rovers gave Dryden his start in football, as a trainee, but after a handful of games he was allowed to move on to Exeter for £10,000. Two years later they cashed in as he was sold to Notts County for £250,000, and further hefty fees were paid as Dryden moved on to Birmingham, Bristol City and Southampton. He also spent some time on loan at Stoke in the 1999/2000 season, during which he helped them win the Auto Windscreens Shield at Wembley.

IAN HILLIER

No-one was more surprised than the Welsh Under-21 international than himself when he made his League debut for Luton Town in the second game of this season. The day before he was training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Luton led to Joe Kinnear taking



STEVEN HOWARD

the young right back on loan, and Hillier settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him, for a bargain £30,000 fee.

MARVIN JOHNSON

This longest serving defender is in his 14th season as a first-team



regular at Luton Town, his only club, and skipper of the team he joined as a schoolboy. A serious

neck injury restricted him to only eleven games last year as Luton suffered relegation. He is the only member of the playing staff to have appeared in all four divisions for Luton – he made his debut at Goodison Park in 1988.

ALAN NEILSON

German born defender Neilson, a former Welsh international, was signed on a free transfer after being released by Grimsby as part of a cost-cutting exercise. His international career began with appearances for Wales at youth and under 21 level,

followed by five full caps, and he enjoyed a good career in the Premiership, with his first club Newcastle United and then with Southampton and Fulham.

RUSS PERRETT

Having helped Cardiff City win promotion to the Second Division in May, 2001, the big central defender was the victim of a huge recruitment drive at Ninian Park. Club owner Sam Hammam launched a spending spree which included £600,000 for Spencer Prior, and Perrett knew his first team future at Cardiff might be limited. Luton boss Joe

Kinnear had a long-standing friendship with Hammam, from the time when they were manager and owner at Wimbledon, and Hammam allowed Perrett to join Luton a few days before this season began. Perrett began with non-league Lymington before

being snapped up by neighbouring Portsmouth in 1995. He did well in the First Division, and moved to Cardiff four years later.

AARON SKELTON

It was a case of going "back home" when the defender, born a few miles from Luton, signed for the Hatters for the second time in July 2001. He had joined the club as a schoolboy, and worked his way up through the ranks to be on the fringe of the League team in 1993, when he was 19. A serious thigh muscle injury struck when he was poised for his senior debut, which was delayed for 12 months as a result.

And no sooner had he made the breakthrough than an appalling run of bad luck struck, with back and knee ligament injuries sidelining him for most of the next three years. A change of club, on a

free transfer to Colchester United in the summer of 1997, brought a much-needed change of luck and Skelton rapidly became a big favourite at Layer Road. He was their Player of the Year when his contract expired in the summer of 2001, and although Colchester wanted him to sign a new deal, the invitation to move back to his first club, on a Bosman, was too good to turn down.

MIDFIELDERS

AHMET BRKOVIC

Believing a move would be good for his career, the Croatian midfielder refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999, and he was a regular in their League squad last season.

PETER HOLMES

This season is probably a make or break campaign for a midfielder who once seemed destined for soccer stardom. He is a product of the FA's School of Excellence, in the same year as Michael Owen. Sheffield Wednesday were his first club, but relegation from the Premiership in May 2000 left them desperate to cut the pay-roll and Luton signed the two-footed midfielder for a nominal fee a few months later.

PAUL HUGHES

Hughes worked his way up at Stamford Bridge from trainee to Premiership. He learnt his trade under Hoddle's management, and gained experience on loan to Stockport County, Norwich City and Crewe Alexandra. When Hoddle became manager of Southampton he moved swiftly to recruit Hughes, but a serious groin injury put the midfielder out of football for nine months. Southampton, by then under new management, made him available for transfer, and he joined Luton Town just before this season kicked off.

ADAM LOCKE

Well-travelled in football terms, the midfielder joined Luton Town on a free transfer from Bristol City to add experience to a predominantly young squad in the summer of 1999. He began as a YTS boy with Crystal Palace, his local club, but could not get into the League team at Selhurst, and moved on to Southend United, Colchester United and Ashton Gate before joining Luton Town.

MATTHEW SPRING

A competitive midfielder, Spring has been at Luton since he was a schoolboy, and was a driving force in the side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997. After a League debut when still only 17, he soon became a regular in Luton Town's Second Division team, and as he came into this season he had never been dropped.

MATTHEW TAYLOR (pictured below)

When Luton Town were in receivership in the summer of 1999, they had to look at the young talent coming up through the ranks, and the wing-back, though still only 17, was thrust into the League team. With his pace and fierce shooting ability, he settled in immediately and has developed into a top class player.

LEE MANSSELL

An injury crisis at Kenilworth Road thrust the young midfielder into a dramatic debut in an FA Cup-tie. He had to make the transition straight from the youth squad to the first team in January 2001. Luton have looked after him since he was an 11-year-old, and signed him as a soccer scholar (previously the YTS scheme) as soon as he left school. Last summer he was rewarded with a full professional contract.

KEVIN NICHOLLS

The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton Athletic and quickly made an impact after skipping England youth teams at under-18, under-19 and under-20 levels. Charlton sold him for £250,000 to Wigan Athletic in the summer of 1999, but the move did not work out, and Luton's offer of £150,000 led to him moving to Kenilworth Road.

THE HATTERS' GOOD & BAD TIMES

THE GOODTIMES - SEASON 1986/87

It was in 1986/87 that Luton Town were excluded from the Football League Cup because of their ban on away supporters, but they more than made up for any disappointment by achieving their highest-ever Football League position with only Everton, Liverpool, Spurs, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wimbledon ahead of them in the old Division One.

They had ended up in ninth place in the previous season and David Pleat had then moved on to take charge of Spurs with John Moore taking charge at Kenilworth Road. While sceptics claimed that the plastic pitch used at Kenilworth Road gave Luton Town an advantage they did not in fact achieve appreciably better results on it than they had in more conventional conditions in previous seasons. The absence of away supporters seemed to affect the atmosphere in the early stages.

Only three of the first eleven games were won and in six of these games Luton Town failed to score. It seemed that they would end up at best in midtable but then came a spectacular 4-1 win over Liverpool in late October with Mike Newell, who had moved from Wigan Athletic in the previous season, getting a hat-trick. This set them off on a run of four successive wins that lifted them to fourth place and at this stage both Brian Stein in his tenth season and younger brother Mark Stein were finding the net regularly.

Injury to midfield dynamo David Preece around this time did not prove to be a serious setback and an FA Cup replay win over Liverpool kept up morale though it was followed by a fourth round defeat by QPR. After successive defeats by Arsenal and Watford in December not another League game was lost until the one at Liverpool in March. The return of Mick Harford in December gave extra strength up front and though Steve Foster was injured in February local lad Stacey North more than held his own at the heart of the defence for the rest of the season.

By late March Luton Town were in third spot but only three of the last eleven games were won and a final position of seventh was a little disappointing after such hopes had been raised. The points tally of 66 was exactly the same as in the previous season when Luton Town had finished two places lower.

Of the 47 League goals Mike Newell and Brian Stein got 12 each and Mark Stein got eight while Northern Ireland defender Mal Donaghy, midfielder Peter Nicholas and striker Mike Newell played in every game and goalkeeper Les Sealey missed only one.

THE BADTIMES - SEASON 1899/1900

Having been elected to Division Two in 1897, Luton Town ended up in eighth and fifteenth places respectively in their first two seasons before slipping to next to bottom in 1899/1900 after a disastrous season that had begun with a change of colours from red, white and black striped shirts to plain dark blue jerseys in the hope that it would change their luck.

With financial problems looming admission was doubled from sixpence (2 and a half pence in today's terms) to a shilling (5p) but some loyal fans were alienated by this and average gates fell from just under 3000 per home game to only just over 1500.

Results were disappointing from the start, but although only two games were won in the League up to the turn of the year these were by the impressive margins of 5-2 against Burton Swifts and 4-0 against Walsall. The FA Cup raised brief hopes with 4,500 watching a 3-2 win over Watford in November (the season's highest gate) but in the next round Luton Town went out in a replay at QPR and the old year ended with seven successive defeats and only 500 spectators present to see a 4-0 home defeat by Grimsby Town.

The pattern was similar in the New Year with occasional spectacular wins (3-0 over Barnsley in January and 4-0 over Gainsborough in March) but many disappointing results including a 7-3 defeat at Walsall in February. Not a single away win was achieved and Luton Town ended up with just 18 points from 34 games (there were just two points for a win in those days) and they finished next to bottom place Loughborough.

In the midst of a severe financial crisis (cost of transfers, heavy transport expenses and high wages were listed as the main problems) the directors decided not to apply for re-election and Blackpool came back into the Football League after a year's absence. Luton Town returned to the Southern League and did not return to the Football League until the formation of the new Division Three in 1920.

Just 41 goals had been scored during this ill-starred season with Scotsman John Brock leading scorer with 10 goals and both goalkeeper John Dow and winger John Eckford played in every game.

FORWARDS

DEAN CROWE
Crowe joined Luton Town on loan from Stoke City in late September when an injury crisis decimated the Hatters squad. The striker made an immediate impact: he scored on his debut, at Plymouth, and before his month was up had netted four goals in five appearances, and was then signed on a permanent deal. Crowe began his career as a YTS boy at Stoke, but found it difficult to hold down a regular place in their League side after a change of management and an influx of Scandinavian players. He was made available by Stoke City in the summer of 2001 after loan spells at Northampton Town and Bury.

ADRIAN FORBES
After considerable First Division experience, and with an England youth cap to his credit, Forbes was a surprise inclusion on Norwich City's list of players available for transfer in the summer of 2001, and Luton boss Joe Kinnear was delighted to pay £75,000 for a right winger to add much-needed width to his attacking formation. He had four years at Carrow Road starting as a trainee, before his move to Luton.

ANDREW FOTIADIS
A local discovery, Fotiadis chose to stay at school to gain GCSE A-levels before being a full-time soccer professional. He won England Schools caps at under-15 and under-18 level, and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry opposing defences, as an old-fashioned centre-forward, with good physique, power, and concentrated determination.

CARL GRIFFITHS
An impressive scoring record – a goal in every 2.5 starts for seven previous clubs – led to Carl Griffiths becoming a major summer target for Luton after relegation from the Second Division, and they got their man when they signed him from Leyton Orient for a fee reported to be £65,000. His earlier moves had totted up to well over £1 million, starting with a £500,000 transfer from us to Manchester City. Beginning as a trainee here at Gay Meadow, Griffiths had set his benchmark by netting 61 goals in 130 starts

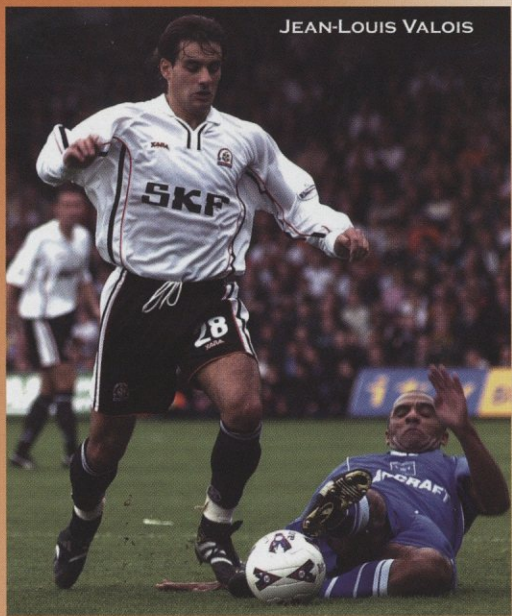
for us. He has been knocking them in ever since, for Portsmouth, Peterborough United, Leyton Orient, Wrexham, Port Vale and back to Orient for a second time. Currently out with a long term injury.

STEVE HOWARD
Joe Kinnear swooped on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the tall striker away from Northampton Town for a bargain fee of £50,000. The price was down to the Bosman effect – Howard had cost the Cobblers a then record club fee of £120,000 when they recruited him from Hartlepool, two years previously. At Sixfields his height and power as a target man, and a scoring rate



of a goal every four games, helped Northampton to win promotion to Division Two. Luton had first-hand experience of his ability – he scored when Northampton achieved their first-ever League win at Kenilworth Road, 2-0 in September 2000.

JEAN-LOUIS VALOIS
Rarely can there have been a more explosive League debut than the one made by this French midfielder in September 2001, a day after he joined Luton Town. The left-winger had turned down the chance to stay at Lille Olympique Sporting Club, despite the lure of European Champions League football, because he was desperate to play in England. Luton were one of several clubs interested in a man with a good reputation in French football, and



after a brief trial signed him on a Bosman free transfer

TOWN'S WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Following Easter Fixture's the First's had the chance to spoil Lincoln's promotion push on Sunday 7th April.

Casey Starling's superbly struck volley in the closing minutes earned a creditable 2-2 draw and still gives the Ladies a chance of a top four finish. Erin Vaughan, whose cross led to Starling's strike, had a great game.

The next big game for the First's is The Shropshire Senior Womens Challenge Cup Final versus Telford United Ladies, at The Gay Meadow on Monday 23rd April. Kick-off 7.00pm. (£1 entry for Adults)

The U12's returned to action after Easter on Thursday 4th April in the prestigious Jimmy Mullen 5-a-side at Molineux. In a close fought final versus local rivals Madeley Sports they ran out victors 2-1 to retain the trophy. Madeley took the lead, the keeper scoring from a goal kick! Centre half Lucy Webb, at fault with the goal, soon made up in sensational style, slotting the ball home after a solo run from her own half. It was left to Captain Jade Jones to grab a late winner and lift the cup.

The squad was: Olivia Morgan, Jade Jones, Lucy Webb; Natalie Coyne; Emily Little; Emily Whitfield; Lauren Oliver; Bethany Cruise.

Congratulations from all at STWFC.
On the 6th the two sides met again, this time in the Shropshire Girls League Cup semi-final. Town again winning, this time 3-0 with goals from Emily Little, Jade Jones and Olivia Morgan.

After last week's cup exploits the 12's were quickly back in action as they comfortably beat Ludlow 9-0 in the Shropshire Girl's League on Thursday 11th, with goals from Jade Jones hat-trick, Emily Little 2, Natalie Coyne, Bethany Cruise, Lucy Webb and Olivia Morgan all got one a-piece. And to cap it off another fine week they beat Dudley 5-1 in the semi finals of the Charity Cup, with team captain Jade Jones bagging all five goals.

All in all, a fabulous run of results.
The Club also bagged its second piece of silverware with the U14's wrapping up the Shropshire Girls League with a hard fought home victory on Thursday 11th April. Results the previous evening meant that a win against Ludlow Town would retain the title. The visitors played very well frustrating the 14's with a tactically perfect first half. However, STWFA laid siege to the Ludlow goal in the second half and goals from Rebecca Peach and a great header from fellow striker Jade Lee, following a Tor Parry cross, secured the title.

Congrats again from all at STWFC.
The previous Saturday saw a quarter final win in the Shropshire Girls League Charity Cup against Madeley Sports, 3-2. The defence of Sal Preston, Sophie Kimm, Sophie Bevan and Zoe Parrott all outstanding on the day. The treble of League, League Cup and Charity Cup still being on.

The U16's travel to Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday 17th (Meeting Toys R Us 5.15pm if any supporters would like to go). Manager John Jones is looking for four wins to avoid relegation, but is confident his squad can come up with the goods.

The First's sponsorship deal finishes at the end of this season...if any sponsors are willing to support STWFC, please contact John Thompson on) or phone 01743 275612.



Geoff Allman

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TOWN TEAM OF 1969/70

..... COMPILED BY FOOTBALL HISTORIAN - LEIGH EDWARDS

BOB TOOZE: Goalkeeper who contested a first-team slot with the likes of John Phillips and Ken Mulhearn while at Gay Meadow, making 73 Third Division appearances until a knee injury ended his career in May 1973. He spent 20 years as an engineer with Rolls Royce/Perkins and still lives locally.

TONY GREGORY: Long-serving right-back who helped Shrewsbury to regain Third Division status at the first attempt in 1974/75 and made 294 League appearances while at Gay Meadow prior to joining Telford United in July 1976. He subsequently played for Oswestry Town and has settled locally.

GEOFF FELLOWS: Long-serving left-back who starred as Shrewsbury reached the FA Cup fifth round in 1965/66 and narrowly missed promotion in 1967/68, netting three goals in 281 League games until a broken leg ended his playing career in May 1974. He later scouted for Gordon Lee at various clubs.

JOHN MOORE: Popular right-half who contested a first-team slot with Terry Matthias while at Gay Meadow and netted three goals in 144 Third Division games for Shrewsbury before following Harry Gregg to Swansea City in January 1973. Recurring injury problems ended his playing career soon afterwards.

ALF WOOD: Goalscoring favourite who netted 65 goals in 258 League games before moving to Millwall in June 1972, then played for Hull City, Middlesbrough, Walsall and Stafford Rangers. He was commercial manager at Birmingham City and since runs his own promotions business, now

living in Sutton Coldfield.

RICKY MOIR: Versatile favourite who was joined by his namesake Ian Moir while at Gay Meadow and netted 30 goals in 166 Third Division games for Shrewsbury prior to joining Halifax Town in July 1974. He subsequently played in the United States and is now licensee of The Red Lion pub in Preston Gubbals.

DAVE ROBERTS: Long-serving winger who netted 20 goals in 230 Third Division games prior to joining Swansea City in May 1974, then played for Worcester City until injury ended his career. He was then commercial manager at Worcester and Redditch United and is now a butcher's delivery driver in Solihull.

GERRY BRIDGWOOD: Versatile inside-forward who scored seven times in 115 Third Division outings while at Gay Meadow prior to joining Telford United in July 1973.

Subsequently with Burton Albion, he was a publican in his native Stoke and now runs the Crown Inn and restaurant in Goostrey, near Crewe.

TERRY HARKIN: Northern Ireland international who scored 30 goals in

79 Third Division outings before moving to League of Ireland side Finn Harps in July 1971, then played for Toronto Metros and Dundalk. He was subsequently a director of Derry City and has since become manager of a shoe shop in Derry.

GEORGE ANDREWS: Popular inside-forward who was leading marksman in 1970/71 and netted 49 goals in 124 League games prior to joining Walsall in January 1973, then played for Worcester City, Telford United and Dudley Town. He now works on the parks and gardens for the council in Tipton.

JIMMY McLAUGHLIN: Northern Ireland international winger who netted 77 goals in 297 League games overall during two spells at Shrewsbury and returned to Swansea City in November 1972. He has since achieved considerable managerial success with Dundalk, Shamrock Rovers and home-town Derry City.

THIS TEAM GAINED A THRILLING 5-1 THIRD DIVISION WIN AT HOME TO PROMOTION-CHASING LUTON TOWN ON 10TH JANUARY 1970.



JUNIOR BLUES NEWS



Good afternoon to everybody at the "Meadow" for our last League game of this season with our opponents being Luton Town. The players need your support today to hopefully secure a place in the playoffs, after the excellent result at Southend last Saturday, so let's hear you cheer the team on to victory this afternoon.

SATURDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES
Prior to this afternoon's game we will have entertained the Junior Hatters at the Belle Vue Community Centre. We have always had a good association with the Luton Junior Supporters and hope they enjoyed their morning with us and wish them a safe journey back this evening.

END OF SEASON PRESENTATION EVENING
We are pleased to inform you that the End of Season Presentation Evening has been arranged for Friday 3rd May at the Lord Hill Hotel in Abbey Foregate, commencing at 7.30pm. The players will be attending the event, so this will be your chance to meet your favourite players and obtain their autographs. The Junior Blues will also be presenting an award to their Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year. Admission is by ticket only, with the cost being £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child, which includes a buffet and entertainment.

Tickets can be obtained from Vince Birmingham, 6 Keystone Gardens, Steventon New Road, Ludlow, Shropshire. SY8 1LE. Please make all payments to the Juniors Blues Family Club and include a stamped self addressed envelope with all ticket applications. Applications for tickets must be received by 28th April.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Just a reminder to fill in your voting slips for Junior Blues Player and Young Player of the Year which was sent out with your April Newsletter. Please ensure that your votes are returned by 28th April.

JUNIOR BLUES A.G.M.
Please note that the Junior Blues A.G.M. will take place on Monday 13th May, commencing at 7.30p.m., with the venue being the Lord Hill Hotel.

Anyone wishing to become involved in the running of the Junior Blues next season will be made most welcome.

Finally, everybody at the Junior Blues would like to send their best wishes to Trish (our Family Stand Co-ordinator, pictured above making the Matchday Draw) and Phil on their 'Wedding Day' next Saturday the 27th. Good luck to you both for the future.

Enjoy today's game.
Russell Taylor and the Junior Blues Committee

THE FAMILY ENCLOSURE IS SPONSORED BY HAWKSTONE PARK HOTEL



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's game. As the Football League almost reached its climax, Football in the Community is prepared to continue throughout the spring and summer, our busiest time both in schools and the holidays. If you or your child have not got our annual brochure then check out one of the notice boards in the ground. Here are just some of our courses coming up.

North Shropshire
Cockshutt School - June 4th/5th.
Wern Cricket Club - June 6th.
Whitchurch Junior School - June 6th/7th.
The Grove, Market Drayton - June 7th.

South Shropshire
Highley School - June 6th.
Bishops Castle Community College - June 7th.

With the weather slowly getting warmer our course attendances will once again increase. Football in the Community now employs seven members of staff, not to mention all the casual coaching staff. We are always on the look out for new and experienced F.A. qualified coaches who would like to become involved. Just give us a ring at the office on 01743 356623.
Lee Pugh

SPORTSMATCH
Shrewsbury Town Football Club would like to pay tribute to The Institute of Sports Sponsorship "Sportsmatch" Scheme which celebrates its Tenth Anniversary this year. The Sportsmatch Scheme represents the Government's Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme and provides pound for pound "matching" funding for grass roots sports sponsorship.

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

Over the years, of course, many high profile companies such as Pizza Hut, Refuge Assurance, Railtrack and Adidas have benefited from Sportsmatch support - more recently, both the Railtrack "Play Safe" Trophy for Under 11's and the Adidas Community Cup Competition for Girls Under 13 have been particularly successful national competitions which have been greatly enhanced by Sportsmatch support.

On behalf of Football in the Community Projects everywhere, we here at Shrewsbury Town Football club would like to offer our thanks and congratulations to the Sportsmatch "team" for all their hard work and endeavours over the last 10 years and send our best wishes for the next 10 years!
Brian Williams.



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Welcome to the final League game of the season, and what a season it has been.

Going into the Lincoln game it all looked a bit bleak, Kevin Ratcliffe said we would need four wins out of four. The lads stuck to the job, and a late winner from Jamie Tolley put us back on track. This followed by the win over Carlisle and the excellent 2-0 win away to Southend United, bring us into today's game in some form.

You couldn't have written it better at the start of the season, and all the lads have to do is win to make sure we make the playoffs. Get behind the lads for the full 90 minutes and you can help them win this.

Since we launched the new website back in July 2001 the amount of you that have used it has increased substantially. Hits have increased around 300% and keep going up, so thanks to all of you who are using the site.

We always welcome feedback about the site and suggestions about how we can make it better. If you do have any suggestions please e-mail: ian@shrewsburytown.co.uk

This weeks special offer's on the website are Four Four Two magazine subscription for £26.95, Harry Potter DVD £16.99, Pre-order FIFA world cup game for a special process and all CD's at £8.99 (including delivery).

There's also a great offer for a mixed half case (6 bottles) of New World wines at £35.50 and International Retro Football Shirts at £34.99 each.

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All the best. *Ian Whitfield*



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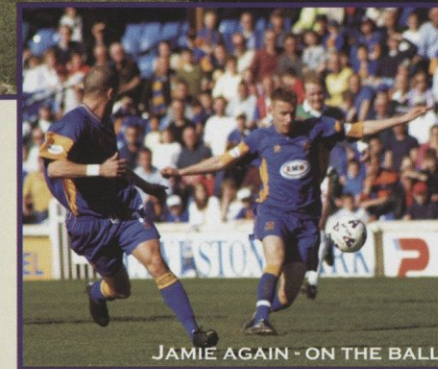
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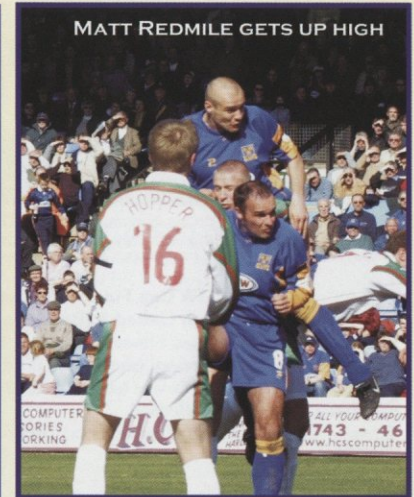
JAMIE TOLLEY JUMPS AHEAD



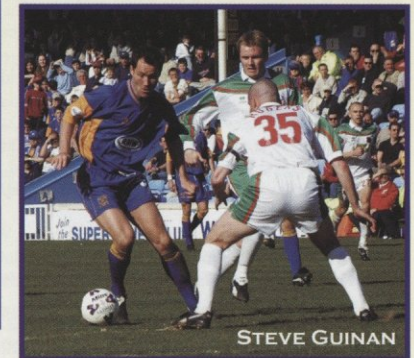
JAMIE AGAIN - ON THE BALL



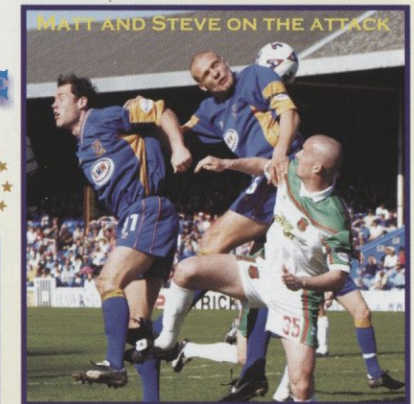
ALL EYES ON LUKE RODGERS



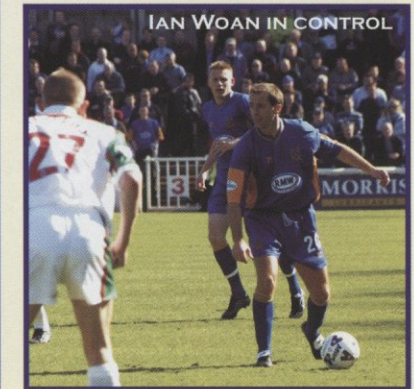
MATT REDMILE GETS UP HIGH



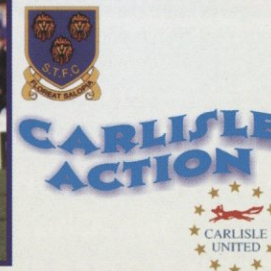
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MATT AND STEVE ON THE ATTACK



IAN WOAN IN CONTROL



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FA Cup Final 10th May 1980

West Ham United 1 (Brooking 14) Arsenal 0

West Ham United : Parkes, Stewart, Lampard ; Bonds, Martin, Devonshire ; Pike, Brooking, Cross, Pearson, Allen. Sub : Brush

Arsenal : Jennings, Rice, Devine (sub Nelson) ; Talbot, O'Leary, Young ; Price, Rix, Brady, Stapleton, Sunderland

Referee - George Courtney (Spennymoor) Attendance 100,000 Receipts £729,000

THE MATCH

For the second time in three years, Arsenal lost the FA Cup Final to an unlikely scorer. Unsung Roger Osborne scored the only goal of the 1978 Final for Ipswich, and two years later, it was not so much the scorer as the manner of his finishing which was the surprise.

Trevor Brooking, the most skilful, cultured midfield player for club and country, was not particularly renowned for his goalscoring, and certainly not with his head. The game's decisive moment came in just 14 minutes, when Alan Devonshire rampaged down the left wing and crossed, for Pat Jennings to touch it to the far post. Cross's shot was blocked, then Pearson hit the rebound wide of the goal, but Brooking stooped awkwardly to head the ball past the despairing Arsenal defenders on the goal-line.

The early goal changed both teams' game plans. West Ham withdrew into defence, asking the impressive Brooking to add defensive duties to his creative skills. Arsenal, masters of the counter-attack, were forced to dictate the pace of the game, in unfavourably sweltering conditions.

Arsenal showed only rare glimpses that they could break down the resolute Hammers defence, with Bonds and Martin outstanding in its heart. Liam Brady was well shackled for much of the game by an industrious West Ham midfield, and as Arsenal realised that it was not to be their day, West Ham finished the match well in control.

Apart from Brooking's rare headed goal, the other human interest story of the match was Paul Allen, at 17 the youngest player to appear in a Wembley final, and at the end of 90 minutes, the proud owner of a winners medal.

THE PROGRAMME

The showpiece match of the season now had a showpiece programme, which simply got bigger, better, and more expensive, with each passing season. Pretty much in full colour, the 52 page issue sold for a hefty 80p, at a time when League clubs had not yet summoned the courage to charge 50p.

Page 2 contained the Timetable and Programme of Events, opposite a colour photo of the Duke and Duchess of Kent. FA Secretary Ted Croker's message was followed by eight pages on Arsenal - a team group, page of facts and figures from Rothmans Yearbook, two pages of semi final action, two page article and two pages of pen pictures - replicated in the second half of the programme for West Ham.

In the first half, single page features were on Cup Facts and Figures (compiled by Jack Rollin), previous finals and results from the third round onwards that season. Full page colour photos of Arsenal captain Pat Rice and Alan Sunderland took the reader to the centre page team lines, and pen picture of the referee.

High scoring FA Cup Finals, and a full page West Ham action picture completed the second half, with advertisements rather disappointingly dominating the last few pages. Advertisers included The Sunday Mirror, Zettlers Pools, Skol Lager, Littlewoods Pools, Embassy cigarettes, Leeds Permanent Building Society, Power Sports shoes, Dunlop footwear (advertised by Trevor Brooking) and various football services and souvenirs. The back page advertisement was from Player's No.6 cigarettes.

Expensive though it was, this colourful, impressive production provided good value for money, and a fitting souvenir for a momentous occasion - which is what all football programmes should be.

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THE OTHER TOWN TEAM The Away Supporters

With a bit of luck these are my penultimate notes of the season, not the last!! As I type these notes we are trying to arrange a game against the lads from the Shropshire Star for our Saturday morning fix of footie. Luton and their Internet side were unable to oblige us with a game, as a number of the team were unable to obtain tickets, due to the huge demand, for the important clash of the afternoon.

We've been a busy bunch again the last few weeks with no shortage of games. Though since the 4-2 victory at Lincoln on Easter Monday, none have been against fellow Supporters teams unfortunately.

First up our friends from Carlisle and in particular organiser (if you can call him that!) Mike Hodgson let us down at the last minute for the second season running down here. A phone call from the man himself would have been nice but instead I got to hear about it third hand very late in the day. Still we always have the exiles to fall back on and they heeded the call with the addition of one or two Shrewsbury based players as an ideal turnout of 22 enjoyed an 11-a-side game. The exiles were rewarded too with their first victory for a while as a Murray James lob and penalty from brother Adam either side of Stuart Dunn's equalising volley ensured a 2-1 win.

Town Team: Ty Marshall; Chris Wynne; Lee Dunning; Craig Blakemore; Dave Webster; Dave Owen; Matt Downes; Stuart Dunn; Carl Blakemore; Andy Davies; Pete Bell.
Exiles: Tim Williams; Dan Francis; Gerry Leahy; Dom Kirby; Phil Thomas; Ant Thomas; Chris Allen; Lee Rooney; Adam James; Murray James; Dale Skitt.

Last Saturday, my new contact at Southend for a Supporters team, had insufficient players to make up a team. To the rescue Shrewsbury exile, Martin Berry who now lives in Basildon just down the road from Southend. At quite short notice he managed to get 7 including himself which when added to our 4 subs of Stewart Gwilt, Dale Skitt, Chris Allen and Pete Bell once more made for perfect numbers for an 11-a-side match.

Berry's Basildon Boys gave a very good account of themselves and could consider themselves very unlucky to trail 1-0 at the break to an Ant Thomas goal. A second half leveller gave them short lived joy as further goals from Andy Davies, Gerry Leahy, Steven Price and Dave Owen gave us a 5-1 victory as we eventually took control.

Team: Ty Marshall; Craig Blakemore; Chris Wynne; Ant Thomas; Gerry Leahy; Phil Thomas; Steven Price; Carl Blakemore; Andy Davies; Dave Owen; Matt Downes.

A date for your diaries is Friday May 3rd when our annual Supporters Team versus Meadow Staff match takes place on the Meadow with a 6.15pm kick off. This is followed by the various supporter groups presentation night at the Lord Hill Hotel. Apparently Shakey is in charge of the Staff side this year so should be interesting!!

Summer sees us keeping busy with tournaments either side of the World Cup. May 18th is the KAOS Cup organised by Orient and taking place in North London. Then on July 13th Blackpool are holding their second tournament at Stanley Park. Already the lads (and lasses) have a weekend planned!! It's good this football lark innit?!

Get behind the lads today; let's have a huge vocal effort - COME ON U BLUUEES
See you at the Millennium Stadium! Best wishes,
Chris Wynne.



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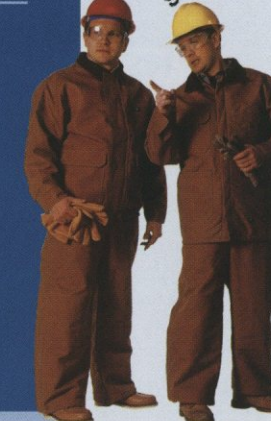
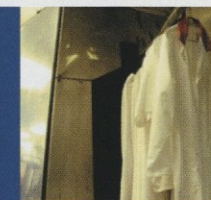
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WORLD-WIDE SOCCER

Travel around with Neil Morris

Nigerian international defender Taribo West has had his contract with German side Kaiserslautern terminated after falling out with club officials. The decision was made just five months after the 28-year-old West had joined from English Premiership side Derby County. West was under contract until June 2004, but he had irritated officials of Kaiserslautern by attending a party at the religious foundation he runs in Milan during these last few days has been unacceptable," said Kaiserslautern president Jurgen Friedrich.

Still in Germany, 36 representatives of both Bundesligas met in Frankfurt to discuss the future of their sides in the light of German media concern Kirch-Group bankruptcy, which was the main TV partner of the clubs of the first and second divisions in Germany. That partnership was adding to the German sides' budget about £20 million per year. After the summit the head of the German Football League (DFL) Werner Hackmann commented on the results of the meeting: "Kirch's new administration will fulfil all contract obligations for the current season; that means the clubs will get the remaining 100 million euros," said Hackmann "DFL doesn't rely on the state government to solve soccer problems. We have started negotiations with the country's leading TV Companies for German soccer championship broadcasting new schemes. The clubs officials were unanimous to the evaluation of the result of Kirch's bankruptcy. "We must cut down our expenses," says Bayer manager Reiner Calmund, a feeling being echoed around the Nationwide League!

Chinese football fans flooded Internet sites last week alarmed over the foot injury sustained by England captain David Beckham which could keep him out of the World Cup. "The man who injured Beckham should go to hell," said one man who signed himself a "super fan" on one of the most popular Chinese websites. The brutal two-

footed tackle from Deportivo La Coruna's Argentine defender Pedro Duscher in Wednesday's European Champions League quarter-final with Manchester United was highlighted in all the Chinese papers. "What if the World Cup has to take place without Beckham?" headlined the daily football paper on its front page, with a picture of Beckham, 26, being stretchered off in tears from the Old Trafford ground. Beckham was left with a broken bone in his left foot and could be laid up for six to eight weeks, according to United manager Sir Alex Ferguson. Ferguson said he was doubtful whether Beckham would make the World Cup Finals which starts on May 31 and is being jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan. China has for the first time won a berth in the finals—and the championships are greatly anticipated here. Beckham is hugely popular in China, especially among young women, who are also avid followers of the gossip columns detailing his private life with former Spice Girl Victoria in the tabloid papers which have mushroomed in recent years. He has been dubbed Xiao Bei or "little Bei" by the Chinese press, but is also known by the Chinese rendition of his name Beikehanmu.

Former President of Chilean club Colo Colo, Peter Dragicevic, (declared bankrupt in January) is barred from leaving the country pending resolution of tax evasion charges, court and club spokesmen have said. The charges stem from Colo Colo's failure to pay 5.2 billion pesos (£5 million) owed for the

1999-2001 period, when the team was under the management of Dragicevic, who resigned shortly after a court-appointed administrator was announced to replace him. Chile's Internal Revenue Service heads a long list of creditors – including banks and current and former players, coaches and staff – owed a total estimated at roughly 15 billion pesos (£15 million). The charges against Dragicevic and other club executives were filed to prevent the suspects from leaving the country. Indicted along with Dragicevic were Colo Colo director Luis Baquedano and Reyes, former general manager Gabriel Artigues and ex-controller Hector Martinez. "This was expected. It is a logical step," Baquedano said of the charges, while Reyes maintained he had nothing to concern about because he was not involved in any wrongdoing.

Finally, Football's world governing body, FIFA, have sent the World Cup trophy on a tour of South Korea to promote the global sports event this summer. The FIFA trophy, which was displayed to the public in Seoul to mark the 50-day countdown to the start of the World Cup finals, will tour 10 South Korean cities that will host tournament matches from April 16th to May 29th. South Korean World Cup organisers and FIFA officials, including German great Juergen Klinsmann, said they hoped the tour would spark football fever in the host country. Citizens will be allowed access to the trophy for photographs during a two-day public display in each venue city.

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AS THE SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

SO THAT WAS MARCH

March was rather a mixed month for us with 3-0 wins over Swansea City and Halifax Town making it four home wins in a row followed by a disappointing 1-0 defeat by Torquay United who have now won four and drawn one of their last five League games here (not forgetting their 6-2 Autoglass Trophy win here in 1991). It was also a disappointment to lose 1-0 at Rochdale on a ground where we won 7-1 last season. We have also found Football League newcomers Rushden and Diamonds difficult opponents with last week's 3-0 defeat there completing a double.

In fact March was a successful month for both Rochdale (three wins and three draws in seven games) and Rushden (four wins and a draw in six games) and both are now in the playoff zone as Rochdale, who are certain of a place, aim to end an unbroken run of 28 seasons in the bottom division and Rushden strive to emulate the feats of Peterborough United, Hereford United and Wycombe Wanderers all of whom won promotion in their first season as Football League clubs.

Rochdale's only defeat during March was at home to Plymouth Argyle and Rushden's only defeat at home to Luton Town and both Plymouth Argyle and Luton Town have turned on the heat during March to ensure automatic promotion.

Plymouth Argyle won four and drew one of their five games during March and extended their unbeaten run to ten games. In fact their last defeat was at Luton Town early in February and the Hatters soon afterwards embarked on a club record ten successive wins. They ended a hundred per cent March with a 3-1 win at Swansea City as Steven Howard got his 18th goal of the season and Matthew Taylor his 11th. Joe Kinnear really has turned things round at Kenilworth Road after relegation in each of the previous two seasons.

Cheltenham Town still could be joining Plymouth Argyle and Luton Town in Division Two next season after another good month in which their only defeat was, surprisingly enough, at luckless Halifax Town. They quickly put that behind them with successive 2-1 wins over playoff contenders Kidderminster Harriers and Scunthorpe United with Tony Taylor taking his season's tally to 18 on the day after his 35th birthday. They ended March by edging Mansfield Town out of third place in the table, the Stags having faltered in the second half of the month with three successive away games without scoring followed by a 4-1 home defeat by Rushden and Diamonds. Stuart Watkiss may now be

hard pressed to keep the Stags on track for promotion. In his first few months in charge.

Meanwhile Kidderminster Harriers' new caretaker boss Ian Britton saw his side end what has been a very mixed month for them with a heartening 2-0 win over Southend United which at that time kept them in with an outside chance of the playoffs despite losing both their chairman and manager during the month and being engulfed in financial problems.

What an unhappy month it was for Bristol Rovers in what is their first-ever season in Division Three. They failed to score in their last four games of the month and extended their winless spell to eleven games. They also transferred their leading scorer Nathan Ellington to Wigan Athletic just before the transfer deadline and ended the month as one of the three sides (York City and Lincoln City being the others) who were at that time, still a possibility to be overtaken by bottom place Halifax Town.

Now however it is Conference football at The Shay again next season despite beating Kidderminster Harriers and Cheltenham Town and drawing with Carlisle United in their last three home games in March. Acting manager Neil Redfean certainly did his best to lead by example, netting three of his side's eight goals during the month.

AND SO TO APRIL

The coming of April brought a welcome transformation in our playing fortunes as after two wins, one draw and three defeats in March three successive wins have been chalked up to put us right back in the playoff stakes. All now depends of course on the results here today, at Exeter City where Hartlepool do battle and at Scunthorpe United where the Irons take on York City.

Hartlepool United gave a massive boost to their goal difference with their 7-1 win over Swansea City on Saturday, this being their fourth win in a row and their biggest win since they beat Barrow 10-1 in a Division Four game on April 4th, 1959.

Scunthorpe United ran out of a little steam just when they needed it, losing their last two games in March and then picking up just two points from their first three games in April including last Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Darlington, the Quakers having now discovered the sort of form that has eluded them for most of the season, this being their third win in four games.

Today's visitors arrive with a slight dent in their tremendous record over the last two months, the

goalless draw against Macclesfield Town ending their all-time record run of twelve successive wins. Macclesfield Town's tight defence enabled them to join Hull City and Rochdale as the only clubs to prevent Luton Town from scoring at Kenilworth Road this season.

All of which means that Plymouth Argyle have now taken the Third Division championship. They won 2-0 at Carlisle United on Saturday and then on Monday travelled to Darlington to win 4-1 leaving them on the 99 point mark with one game to go as they strive to become the first team to achieve 100 Third Division points since the Division was re-labelled in 1992/93. The last 100 point team in the Division Four days were Swindon Town with 102 in 1985/86. Before that York City got 101 points in 1983/84.

Hats off to Halifax Town for battling to the end despite their relegation to the Conference. On Saturday they won 4-2 at Torquay United, despite scoring only eleven goals in their previous 22 away games this season. This was their highest away score since winning 4-3 at Northampton Town in April 2000 when, as on Saturday, Paul Stoneman and Craig Middleton were on the mark.

Tuesday of this week saw Cheltenham, who drew 0-0 at Carlisle, still not sure of the third spot, so today is going to be an interesting climax to the season for them and Mansfield as well as ourselves

Geoff Allman

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- *The Society makes a cash payment each year equivalent to 1% gross interest on the total average balance held in all Amber Blue Saver Accounts during the year. The more you save, the more money you raise for the club!

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BACK IN TIME

30 - 20 - 10 years ago

Thirty Years Ago

We ended the season with a goalless draw at Halifax Town in our last Saturday game on April 29th, 1972 and then in two midweek games beat Halifax Town 3-0 here in the return game, Alf Wood (pictured) etting a hat-trick before going to Tranmere Rovers and chalking up our biggest away win of the season, all the goals in a 4-0 win coming in the second half with Alf Wood getting another two and Jimmy McLaughlin and George Andrews the others. This left us in a final position of twelfth in Division Three. Of our 73 goals Alf Wood got 35 (only three fewer than Arthur Rowley's club record) and George Andrews 17. Alf played in every game as did Alan Groves while Jim Holton missed only two games, Ken Mulhearn missed three and Dave Roberts and George Andrews four each. Luton Town meanwhile ended the season with a goalless draw against Bristol City at Kenilworth Road and a 1-1 draw at Cardiff City to finish in thirteenth spot in Division Two with Peter Anderson getting ten of their 43 goals and Don Givens eight while John Ryan, Mike Keen and Alan Slough played in every game and Don Givens missed only one.



Derby County pipped Leeds United for the First Division title, Norwich City and Birmingham City went up from Division Two, Aston Villa and Brighton & Hove Albion were promoted from Division Three and Grimsby Town, Southend United, Brentford and Scunthorpe United from Division Four.

Twenty Years Ago

The season didn't end until well into May when we enjoyed just the boost we

needed as with a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace (with an Ian Atkins matchwinner) a 2-0 win over Grimsby Town (Steve Cross getting both goals) and a goalless draw at Leicester City we moved two points and two places clear of relegation from Division Two. This was a magnificent last-minute rally as we had lost six of our previous seven games.

Though we got only 37 League goals all season Ian Atkins got 17 of them and our next highest scorer was John Dungworth with five. Bob Wardle played in every game in goal, Paul Johnson missed only one game in defence and up front Ian Atkins and Chic Bates missed two and three games respectively.

Luton Town ended the season with a 3-2 win at Cardiff City as they romped to promotion from the old Second Division eight points clear of second place Watford and 17 points clear of third place Norwich City.

Of their 86 goals Brian Stein got 21, Steve White 18 and David Moss 15 and Kirk Stephens, Mal Donaghy, Brian Stein and Steve White all played in every game.

Liverpool tipped the old Division One, four points clear of Ipswich Town, Burnley, Carlisle United and Fulham went up from Division Three and Sheffield United, Bradford City, Wigan Athletic and Bournemouth went up from Division Four.

Ten Years Ago

We ended the season with a 1-0 defeat at Birmingham City and a 3-1 home defeat by West Bromwich Albion on May 2nd,

1992 with 7,442 here to see O'Neill Donaldson get a consolation goal after Albion had taken a 3-0 interval lead. We were then left six points short of safety in the old Division Three and so went down alongside Bury, Torquay United and Darlington.

Of our 53 League goals Carl Griffiths and Neil Lyne got eight each and Tony Henry and Kevin Summerfield seven each. Of the 29 players used during the season Kevin Summerfield and Neil Lyne missed only two games each and Tony Henry missed just six and Mark Blake seven.



Luton Town ended the season with a 2-0 win over Aston Villa and a 2-1 defeat at Notts County and they ended the season two points short of safety in the old Division One and were relegated alongside Notts County and West Ham United. Of their 38 League goals Mick Harford got 12 and Mark Pembridge five. Defender John Dreyer played in every game and fellow defender Trevor Peake and midfielder David Preece missed just four each.

Leeds United pipped Manchester United for the First Division championship by four points, Ipswich Town and Middlesbrough were promoted from Division Two and were joined by Blackburn Rovers after the playoffs. Brentford and Birmingham City went up from Division Three and were joined by Peterborough United from the playoffs. From Division Four Burnley, Rotherham United and Mansfield Town went up from Division Four and Blackpool won through from the playoffs.

Geoff Allman.

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Kick Offs - Saturday 3.00pm. Weekdays unless stated 7.45pm. Home Games in BOLD - Goal Scorers in BOLD - Substitutes in Colour as used

Table with columns: DATE, OPPONENTS, SCORE POS, ATT, V/AT. Rows include matches like Sat. Aug 11 Plymouth Argyle vs Hartlepool United, Sat. Aug 18 Hartlepool United vs Tranmere Rovers, etc.

MALCOLM STARKEY TESTIMONIAL THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2002 - KICK OFF 7.30PM TOWN V ASTON VILLA SUPPORT MALCOLM WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 40 YEARS SERVICE TO THE CLUB

Check the Town Website www.shrewsburytown.com

PRE-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT WITH MINI-BATTLE OF THE MASCOTS & THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL BAND

Division 3 League Table table with columns: Pld, W, D, L, F, A, W, D, L, F, A, G.D., Pts. Rows include Plymouth, Luton, Bristol Rovers, etc.

Division 3 Attendances table with columns: Club, Aggregate, Highest, Lowest, Average. Rows include Hull, Plymouth, Luton, Bristol Rovers, etc.

Division 3 Form Table table with columns: Club, W, D, L, For, Agt, Pts, GD, Last 6. Rows include Hartlepool, Plymouth, Rushden, etc.

Table with columns: August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March. Rows include Lincoln City, Stoke City, Scunthorpe United, etc.

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Last Word

FROM KEVIN DAVIES

I recall as a youngster being told by my elders on more than one occasion to make the most of everyday, since as one grew older time seemed to go even faster.

Whether or not I took heed of these pearls of wisdom was another matter, however age is obviously creeping up on me since there never seems to be sufficient hours in the day, or indeed days in the week to accomplish all that needs to be done.

This afternoon as we stand on the threshold of what is the end of yet another domestic football season, I ask myself where have the last nine months gone?

It seems like little or no time since we were all embarking upon the long and winding path to what we hoped would bring ultimate glory to our own particular favourites, and in the balmy sun-kissed days of early August, anything and everything seemed possible.

As is always the case however possibilities for many began to be replaced with worry.

We witnessed a season when unfashionable Bolton Wanderers led the Premiership for a short time, we saw the bookies favourites for the Premiership title – yet again – Manchester United suffer an uncharacteristic dip in fortunes, and last seasons surprise package, Ipswich Town struggle.

We've witnessed the introduction of full-time referees for the Premiership, but we've also seen decisions made by officials also cost many a manager dearly, ultimately paying the price of failure with his job, so nothing new there then!

We've seen the mercurial talents of many wasted as off-field activities have dominated ahead of footballing ones, whilst some have been put out to pasture through no fault of their own, Ginola and Gascoigne being prime examples of careers at the highest level coming to undignified ends.

Dreams have been re-ignited through performances on the field that will live long in the memory, the crushing of Germany on their own soil being the highlight along with the high octane atmosphere produced at Old Trafford as THAT goal by The Golden Lad himself ensured a trip to Japan and Korea for the World Cup finals.

Now as we enter the final, frantic few hours of the season, some have much still to play for, others nothing at all, yet they too must perform to the highest calibre, especially since for some new contracts may be in the offering, and performance of the highest level could mean the difference between having, or not as the case may be, a regular wage packet come next season.

Holidays for many, play-offs for a few, and still a prospect of a summer of World Cup football still to come for us all.

I don't expect an England triumph come July, I mean we just don't win such tournaments do we? No, that always seems to be the preserve of those players with exotic sounding names, players with long, flowing, windswept and interesting looking hair, and film star looks.

How can we compete with such things? Well, perhaps we can, but seriously, I think that once again it will be the French who return triumphant despite protestations to the contrary from the likes of Argentina and Brazil.

Whether it be tears of sadness or tears of exuberant joy that we find ourselves wiping from our faces in the coming months, remember the classic line from that great film *Gone With The Wind*, "Tomorrow is another day", and come next August we'll all be starting out again as equals, for a short time anyway. **Have a great summer.**

INCIDENTS OF DISORDER AT FOOTBALL LEAGUE GROUNDS

The Football League have drawn attention to the increase in the number of instances when objects have been thrown during games. A Club faces the prospect of their ground being closed if an incident of disorder occurs. Such anti-social behaviour, which puts match officials, players and spectators at risk will no longer be tolerated by the Football Authorities. The majority of spectators are encouraged to report any incidents that might risk ground closure, so that the culprits can be identified, arrested and banned for life.

Please help us with these problems by identifying any spectator who behaves in a disorderly manner by either contacting the nearest Steward or telephoning the Club as soon as possible after the fixture so that action can be taken. - Remember, the next person found guilty of disorderly behaviour could be responsible for the closure of Gay Meadow.

NEXT

AT THE MEADOW

ASTON VILLA



THURSDAY
2ND MAY
2002
KICK OFF 7.30PM

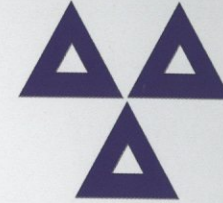
Not wishing to anticipate the outcome of today's game, our final visitors of the season will be Aston Villa who come here to play against us for Malcolm Starkey's testimonial.

Currently in mid-table Villa have undergone a certain amount of surgery in the second half of the season with a managerial change that has seen Graham Taylor coming out of retirement to take over after John Gregory left to join Derby County and now goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel leaving to join Manchester City. However this in no way reduces the sizable talent that Villa will have on display in having a side that is full of international stars from a number of countries, such as Mark Delaney, Juan Pablo Angel, Paul Merson, Gareth Barry and Steve Stone, to name just a few.

It is certain that you will have an excellent evenings entertainment in all aspects which also include the Mini-Battle of the Mascots and the Thomas Adams School Band, so remember the gates are open at 6.00pm to enable you to enjoy the evening to the full and support a Testimonial for Malcolm who has, for 40 years, been a hard working Town player and secretary.

A special programme will also be on sale just £1.50.

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The Squads The Squads THE SQUADS The Squads The Squads



OFFICIALS

Referee: M.A. COOPER
Assistant Referees:
G.W. FOULKES - Red Trim Flag.
P.N. GIBBS - Yellow Trim Flag.
Reserve Official: K.N. TOWNSEND

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OUR MASCOTS

Leading out the team this afternoon we have two mascots.



Karen Harvey from Harlescott, Shrewsbury is 12 years old and attends Sundorne School. Her favourite Shrewsbury Town players are Steve Jagielka, Ryan Lowe, Sam Aiston

and Greg Rioch. Karen's hobbies are football and swimming and she plays football for the Junior Blues. Sarah Lambert is from Monkmoor,



Shrewsbury and she attends Belvidere School. Her favourite Shrewsbury Town player is Ian Dunbavin. Sarah's hobby is football and she plays for Shrewsbury

Junior Girls Under 12's team and also supports STFC reserves. Along with their families we hope Karen and Sarah have an enjoyable afternoon here at Shrewsbury Town and bring the team luck.

ELSEWHERE IN DIVISION 3 TODAY

Exeter City v Hartlepool United
Halifax Town v Rushden & Diamonds
Hull City v Lincoln City
Kidderminster Harriers v Leyton Orient
Macclesfield Town v Southend United
Mansfield Town v Carlisle United
Oxford United v Darlington
Plymouth Argyle v Cheltenham Town
Rochdale v Bristol Rovers
Scunthorpe United v York City
Swansea City v Torquay United

TOWN

HATTERS

- 1 Ian DUNBAVIN
- 3 Greg RIOCH
- 4 Jamie TOLLEY
- 5 Matty REDMILE
- 6 Andy TRETTON
- 7 Karl MURRAY
- 8 Mark ATKINS
- 9 Luke RODGERS
- 10 Nigel JEMSON
- 11 Sam AISTON
- 12 Peter WILDING
- 14 Leon DRYSDALE
- 15 Kevin SEABURY
- 16 Steve JAGIELKA
- 17 Ryan LOWE
- 18 Josh WALKER
- 19 Andy THOMPSON
- 20 Ian WOAN
- 21 Mark CARTWRIGHT
- 22 Darren MOSS
- 23 Mick HEATHCOTE
- 24 Chris MURPHY
- 25 Tim HART
- 26 James SILGRAMS
- 27 Chris COURTNEY
- 31 Steve GUINAN

- 1 Mark OVENDALE
- 2 Aaron SKELTON
- 4 Matthew SPRING
- 5 Russell PERETT
- 6 Marvin JOHNSON
- 7 Adrian FORBES
- 8 Kevin NICHOLLS
- 10 Carl GRIFFITHS
- 12 Chris COYNE
- 14 Andrew FOTIADIS
- 15 Matthew TAYLOR
- 16 Carl EMBERSON
- 17 Emmerson BOYCE
- 18 Adam LOCKE
- 19 Steven HOWARD
- 20 Peter HOLMES
- 21 Richard DRYDEN
- 24 Scott WARD
- 27 Paul HUGHES
- 28 Jean-Louis VALOIS
- 30 David BAYLISS
- 32 Lee MANSELL
- 33 Ian HILLIER
- 34 Dean CROWE
- 35 Ahmet BRKOVIC
- 43 Alan NEILSON
- 44 Steve KABBA

MATCH STATISTICS

SHREWSBURY TOWN

GOALS
AT HT

GOALS
AT FT

SCORERS:

Attendance:
LUTON TOWN

GOALS
AT HT

GOALS
AT FT

SCORERS: