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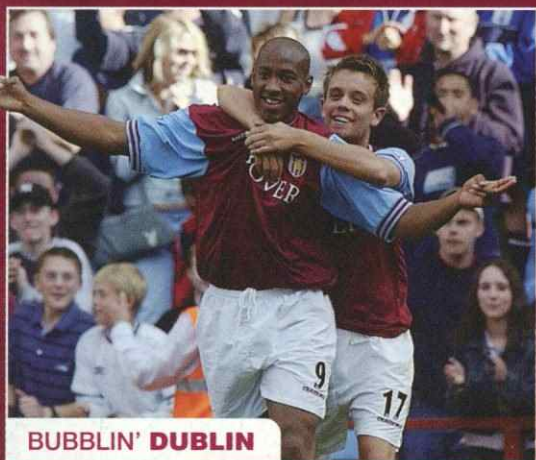
It's a long time since English glory

## FIRST ROUND SHOCKS

All the details from the start of the Worthington Cup trail

## PETER PUTS IT STRAIGHT

Peter Enckelman believes he can benefit from singing the blues



BUBBLIN' DUBLIN

## DELIGHT FOR DION

Experienced striker bounces back with a vengeance to tame the Toffeemen

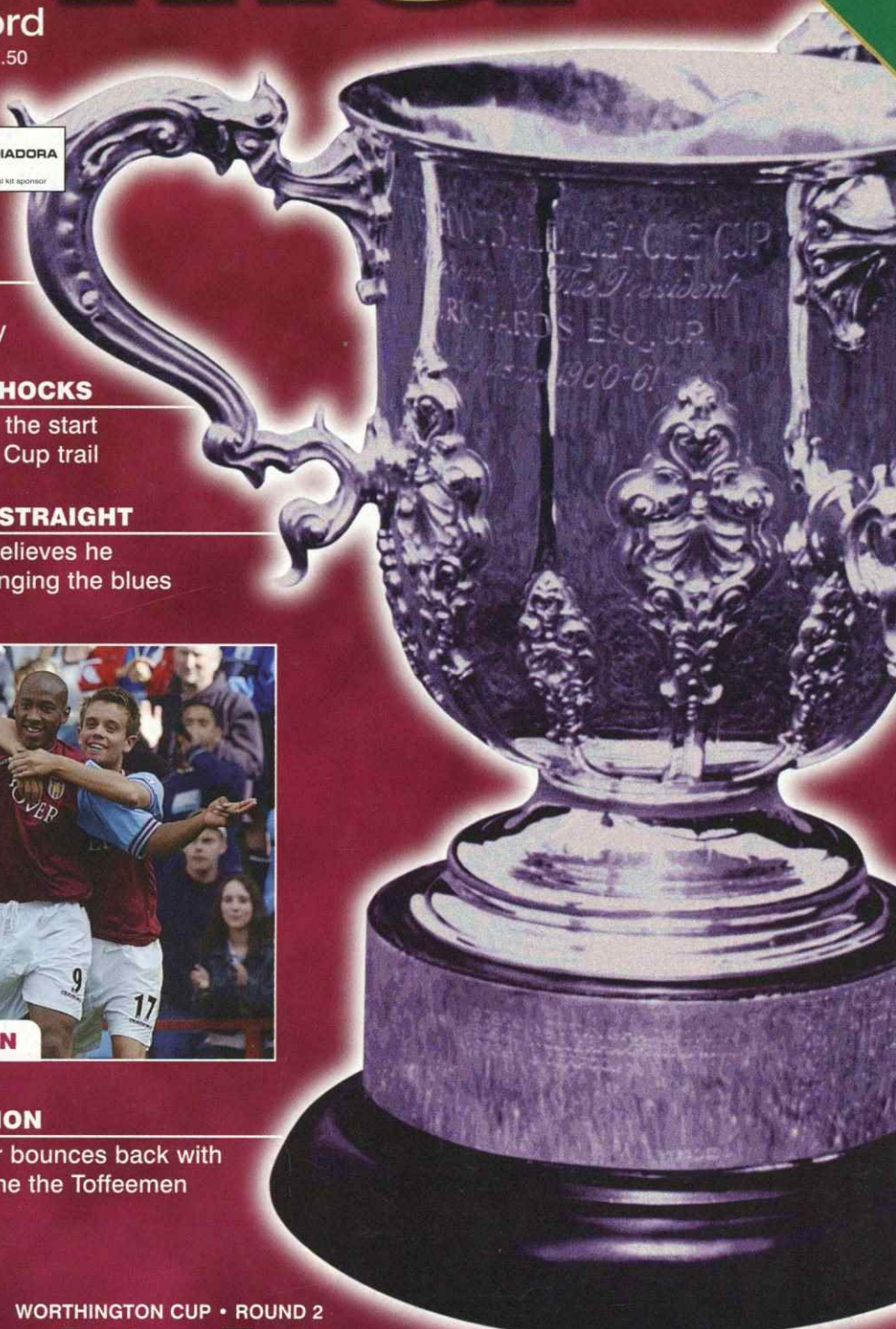
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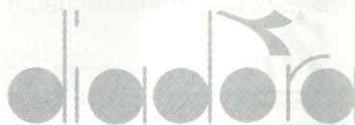
Worthington Cup



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## A decade apart...

It's more than a decade since we last faced Luton Town, and the Hatters have experienced some lean times since our paths crossed in the old First Division in 1992.

But we will treat our Second Division opponents with every respect as they arrive at Villa Park tonight in search of a Worthington Cup upset.

We are only too well aware, after being pushed all the way by Reading in the third round last season and then beaten by Sheffield Wednesday in the fourth, that nothing can be taken for granted in this competition.

The slightest hint of complacency from a Premiership team will inevitably be seized upon by opponents from lower divisions who are only too eager to claim a top flight scalp.

As manager Graham Taylor explains in his column on page five, we have no intention of falling into that trap, and the team will be under orders to approach their task in a professional manner.

Under the guidance of their vastly experienced manager Joe Kinnear, Luton bounced back to Division Two at the first attempt last season.

Although they have understandably found the going tougher this time, their first round Worthington Cup success at Watford was a fair indication of their determination to make a big impression along the road to Cardiff.



DARIUS VASSELL AND STEVE STAUNTON KEEP AHEAD OF THE TOFFEES

### WEEKEND ACTION

Villa's last home match was a real thriller, two goals from Lee Hendrie and a third from Dion Dublin clinching a 3-2 victory over Everton. Unfortunately, the team were unable to build on that result on Saturday, going down 1-0 at Sunderland.

Luton, meanwhile, moved up the Second Division table with a 3-0 home win over Swindon Town, courtesy of goals from Steven Howard, Andrew Fotiadis and Steve Robinson.

The clubs have previously met twice in the League Cup, Villa edging to a 1-0 at Kenilworth Road in 1964 and Luton springing a surprise with a 2-0 victory here in 1978.

### THE MAIN MEN

Not many of Luton's players will be familiar to Villa supporters, although striker Carl Griffiths made quite an impact a few years back when his scoring exploits landed him a move to Manchester City.

Griffiths has played for a number of clubs since then, and Luton are now feeling the benefit of his predatory instincts. Steven Howard, scorer of the Hatters late winner at Huddersfield last

week, is also a potential threat, he and Matthew Spring having scored the goals which sunk Watford in round one.

Goalkeeper Carl Emberson, meanwhile, is enjoying the extended run which was always denied him during his time at Walsall. The former Colchester keeper is standing in for Mark Ovendale, who is ruled out by injury until Christmas.

### THE LAST TIME...

Our last meeting against Luton was on 25th April 1992, in the old First Division. Town won 2-0 that day, with Brian Stein and Mark Pembridge on target, but the result did not prevent them from being relegated.

The corresponding match at Villa Park resulted in a 4-0 home win, thanks to goals from Kevin Richardson, Dwight Yorke, Cyrille Regis and Paul Mortimer.

In a total of 16 league meetings between the clubs at Villa Park, Villa have won 10 and Luton five, with one draw.

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# No-win situation for worthy cause

We set out on the Worthington Cup trail tonight knowing full well that even if we come through our second round tie against Luton Town, we will receive little credit.

As a Premiership club on home soil, it will be almost taken for granted that we will beat Second Division opposition.

But that most certainly isn't the attitude myself and the Villa players will be adopting. We will go into this match with a positive approach because victory will see us take the first step along a trail which leads to a prestigious final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium and qualification for the UEFA Cup.

Throughout my managerial career, at whatever level, I would like to think I have always been able to pass on a positive message to my players, and right now I'm trying to get everyone connected with Villa in a similar frame of mind. It's quite a challenge, to be honest, because a

cloud of negativity frequently seems to hang over Villa Park. That was evident even when we beat Everton 3-2 in our last home match, with some people unwilling to acknowledge what a good result it was.

The reaction was perplexing, to say the least. After all, the players responded superbly to their setback at Birmingham a few nights earlier, and we deserved to win.

The one thing we hadn't previously been doing right was putting the ball in the net, but 75 per cent of our shots against the Merseysiders were on target and we scored three goals - the last of them after surrendering a 2-0 lead.

That's why we edged the game. Although Everton were on top after we had scored our second, that was the only period they dominated, and overall we were the better team.

I was particularly pleased with Lee Hendrie's two goals because I'd spoken to him about what I felt he needed to do.

Lee responded to that, and full credit to him. I believe he should shoot more often and that he's capable of scoring more goals. Even before Dion Dublin's late winner, Darius Vassell and Stefan Moore also had good chances, and the basic facts on the game are this: Both sides had 12 shots, but we had nine on target and scored three times while Everton scored two from six on target. Yet because Everton were so much in charge for 25



minutes of the second half, some people presumed we were lucky.

Sorry, but I don't go along with that. You play a game over 90 minutes, not 25, and I could only congratulate our players for bouncing back after their lead had been eroded.

Hopefully we won't have to worry about such drama tonight, although we won't be underestimating a Luton team who will come here with nothing to lose.

In Joe Kinnear, they have a very experienced manager who knows how to get the best out of players.

He proved that during his days in charge of Wimbledon, and again last season when guiding the Hatters to promotion from the Third Division at the first attempt.

It would be a big mistake for us to take Joe's team lightly - and it's one we don't intend to make.



**“ Victory will see us take the first step along a trail which leads to a prestigious final and UEFA Cup qualification ”**



## Peter: Slip can make me better

Peter Enckelman accepts he will be a target for opposition supporters in the wake of his much publicised error in the Second City derby. But he insists that any sort of ridicule from behind the net will only make him a better keeper.

The 24-year-old Finn will probably be haunted by his St Andrews blunder for the rest of his career, but he is convinced he can turn it to his advantage.

Villa's last home match has already given him a taste of things to come, with Everton supporters doing their best to put him off and prompt a recurrence of his embarrassing mis-kick from Olof Mellberg's throw-in – an incident which has brought him nationwide attention. Enckelman, though, took it all in his stride, and made a succession of kicked clearances as well as a couple of crucial saves.

"It didn't bother me at all when the Everton fans started having a go," he said. "In fact it was a good thing really because it made me concentrate on getting the ball over the half-way line.

"If anything, my kicking wasn't so good in the first half, when I had the Holte End behind me.

"But it was good to have such wonderful support from the Villa fans, and I won't forget it for a long time. It's the first time I've been in a situation like that, and maybe it will happen again – hopefully in 10 years' time!"

Villa's supporters certainly left the 'keeper in no doubt that they were not about to criticise him for his error, encouraging him with chants of "Finland's number one."

"It was obviously a difficult time for me, but I had a lot of letters of support and I just kept my head down and tried to get on with things," he said.

"Most of the people who wrote to me told me not to worry because it was only a mistake. I've also had people come up to me in the street and joke about it, which has helped me to get over it.

"Then I had a good reception at the Everton match – even when I went out for the warm-up – and it felt good that the fans were behind me. I didn't feel my kicking was at its best, but they cheered every time I cleared the ball."

**I had a lot of letters of support and I just kept my head down and tried to get on with things**

PETER ENCKELMAN



## Dion: How did I do that?

Honest Dion Dublin had a confession to make after storming back to first team action with his late winner against Everton. The former Coventry City striker admits he still can't quite believe how he got the ball in the net as he fell in the six yard box. And he reckons goalkeeper Richard Wright would have saved his shot if he had hit it properly!

But let the man himself talk you through it: "Olof got a header at the far post, which was fantastic. The ball seemed to bounce in front of me, and it was an awkward one to take.

"It bounced off my shin and went up in the air and I thought: 'Well, I'll have this.' I flung myself at it, got a foot on it and it seemed to just bounce into the net in front of the 'keeper.

"If I'd caught it right, he might have saved it, but it was a great feeling to get the winner in front of the Holte."

Dion's late goal, after he had gone on as a substitute for Peter Crouch,

underlined that his predatory instincts are still very much alive at the age of 33, despite his limited senior appearances in recent times.

He also hit the target when going on as sub in the 3-1 victory at Chelsea on the final day of last season, and is hopeful he will have the opportunity to display his value on a more regular basis.

After not even making the bench in Villa's opening five Premiership matches, he went on as a second half substitute against Birmingham City before his stunning introduction against Everton.

"When you're out of the side, you obviously start to worry whether you have a part to play," he said. "But I know I can do a job and it was nice to get on the scoresheet after a frustrating few weeks out of the side.

"It was good to be in the 16 against Birmingham and I was surprised when

the gaffer sent me on at half-time. It meant I got 45 minutes of football in a derby. Okay, it will go down as a bad memory, but it was half a game for me and it got me back in the squad.

"Now I can only keep working hard in training, and hope that my efforts pay off."



DION DUBLIN AND LEE HENDRIE CELEBRATE

# Worthington Cup

Five Live's Mark Clemmit (right) with Worthington's Unsung Hero Jim Thompson

## Worthington's Finds Unlikely

# Round One Hero

The Worthington Cup's First Round saw Burnley stalwart Jim Thompson named Worthington's 'Unsung Hero' as part of a new initiative which sees the cup sponsor get to the heart of our national game.

Life-long Burnley fan, Jim (pictured above left) has been working at the club for over 50 years now. He currently works in the Ticket Office, where he has done since 1988. Before that, he was in charge of operating all the turnstiles at Turf Moor on matchdays. He is a popular face around the club and still attends all the first team and reserve team fixtures at Turf Moor.

'I think it's a great idea'

"I couldn't believe it when I found out I'd been chosen but, needless to say, I think it's a great idea. I've really enjoyed my 50 years at Burnley and if they make it to this year's Worthington Cup Final it would be fantastic!" said Mr Thompson.



The hunt for Worthington's Unsung Football Heroes is being led by BBC Radio Five Live's Mark Clemmit. During each round he's on the lookout for an Unsung Hero or Heroine at the club he's visiting. It could be a groundsman who's looked after the pitch for 30 years, or the lady who cleans all the kit. The nominated heroes will then feature live on Sport On Five and in every match programme for the following round. They'll also receive tickets to the Worthington Cup Final in March '03.

'I'm on a mission to visit all 92 clubs'

You can find out where Mark Clemmit's going next and how he's faring in his bid to visit all 92 Premiership and Football League clubs. Listen to Sport on Five at 7pm every Monday on BBC Radio Five Live 909 and 693AM or visit [www.bbc.co.uk/fivelive](http://www.bbc.co.uk/fivelive)



THE HEART OF THE GAME



## MILESTONES

# English patience is running out...

Sunday 24th March 1996 is a date which will remain long in the memories of Villa supporters, the day a wonderful Wembley performance earned a 3-0 League Cup victory over Leeds United.

It was a complete display in every sense of the phrase, Villa producing some superb, flowing football to take the trophy with goals from Savo Milosevic, Ian Taylor and Dwight Yorke.

But that Wembley glory, the club's second in the space of three seasons, was also significant in a much wider sense – it was the last time an English manager won a major domestic honour.

Seventies Holte End hero Brian Little was the man in charge of that super Sunday show, but little could we have imagined that six years would elapse without another English boss enjoying similar success.

By the end of the 1995-96 season, Sir Alex Ferguson had led Manchester United to a Premiership and FA Cup double, and every subsequent honour has gone to either a Scot, an Irishman, a Frenchman, an Italian or a Dutchman.

Ferguson, of course, has dominated the proceedings, leading United to a further four titles and two FA Cup triumphs in the past six campaigns, although his dominance has been strongly challenged by Arsene Wenger.

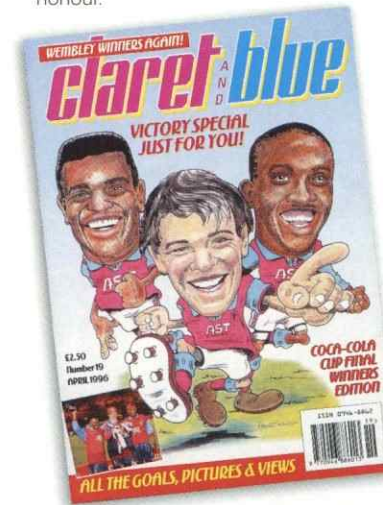
Under the guidance of their astute French boss, Arsenal delivered a double in 1997-98 and again last season to leave themselves and United holding almost exclusive rights to this country's two most prestigious titles.

The only breaks in the chain have been made by Chelsea and Liverpool. The Londoners won the Cup under Dutch master Ruud Gullit in 1997 and under Italian Gianluca Vialli when they beat Villa in the 2000 final, while Gerard Houllier masterminded Liverpool's

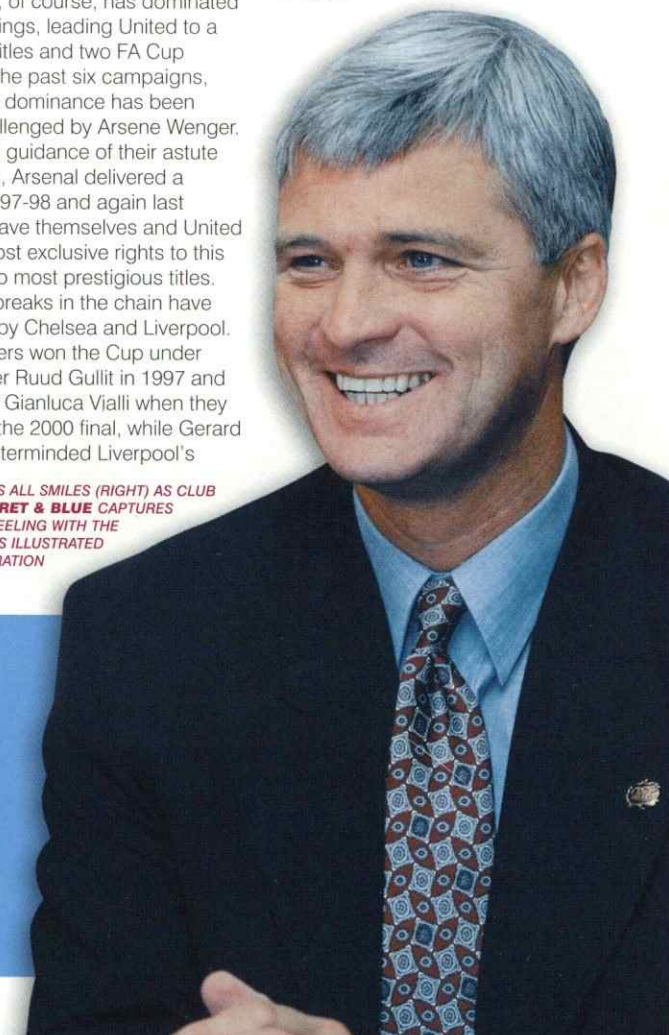
triumph last year, when the Merseysiders made it a cup double by also taking the Worthington trophy.

There was another Italian job when Vialli inspired Chelsea to victory in the 1997 League Cup, while Leicester City have twice lifted the trophy under Irishman Martin O'Neill. Then there was the Scottish influence, through George Graham at Tottenham Hotspur in 1999 and Graeme Souness at Blackburn Rovers earlier this year.

Since Villa's glorious victory, 20 Premiership, FA Cups and League Cups have been shared by eight managers – and there hasn't been an Englishman in sight. Without wishing to tempt fate, wouldn't it be nice if Graham Taylor could break the 'foreign' monopoly in 2003?



BRIAN LITTLE IS ALL SMILES (RIGHT) AS CLUB MAGAZINE CLARET & BLUE CAPTURES THE WINNING FEELING WITH THE THREE SCORERS ILLUSTRATED ON THE CELEBRATION ISSUE COVER



## The Honours list

Season	Premiership	FA Cup	League Cup
1995-96	Man Utd	Man Utd	VILLA
1996-97	Man Utd	Chelsea	Leicester
1997-98	Arsenal	Arsenal	Chelsea
1998-99	Man Utd	Man Utd	Tottenham
1999-00	Man Utd	Chelsea	Leicester
2000-01	Man Utd	Liverpool	Liverpool
2001-02	Arsenal	Arsenal	Blackburn

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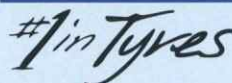
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ASTON VILLA v LUTON TOWN



## OPPOSITION

KEVIN NICHOLLS



### LOW-DOWN ON LUTON

In different circumstances, Luton Town might have arrived at Villa Park tonight as a Premiership team, rather than one striving to re-establish themselves in the Second Division.

Only a decade ago, we were trading blows with the Hatters at English football's highest level. The last time we met, in fact, Luton were 2-0 winners at Kenilworth Road, where they were beaten only four times in that 1991-92 campaign.

Even that impressive home form was not enough to avert relegation, however, and while Villa became founder members of the Premier League the following season, Luton began a downward trend which they have only recently started to arrest.

After three seasons of struggle in the new Division One, they finished rock bottom in 1996 and went down again.

There was worse to come, too, and after four campaigns in the Second Division, they slipped through the trap door to Division Three in 2000-01, and their future looked bleak indeed.

By February, 2001, however, they had made a managerial appointment which was to spark their revival. Joe Kinnear was unable to stave off relegation during his first few months in charge, but his sweeping changes certainly made a difference last season.

Continued overleaf...

## Joe's back on familiar turf

The sight of Joe Kinnear in the visitors' dug-out will be nothing new to Villa supporters. As manager of Wimbledon, he was a frequent visitor to this ground for Premiership matches over a seven-year period and, with the exception of a couple of heavy defeats, enjoyed a fair sprinkling of success.

Born in Dublin in December, 1946, Kinnear signed for Tottenham as a 19-year-old, making 196 League appearances and breaking into the Republic of Ireland team. He moved to Brighton in August, 1975 and the following year won the last of his 26 Irish caps in a match against Turkey.

Kinnear stepped into management in 1992, taking over from former Villa favourite Peter Withe as boss of Wimbledon, and two years later led the one-time non-Leaguers to sixth place in the Premiership - their highest-ever finish.

Under his guidance, the unfashionable Dons frequently defied their critics by achieving respectable positions, and such was the manager's reputation that in 1996 he was offered the chance to take over from Jack Charlton as Ireland manager.

It was an offer he rejected, and the following year he led the south London club to the semi-finals of both the FA Cup and League Cup.

He parted company with the Crazy Gang in 1999, but in January last year he took over as Luton boss following Lil Fuccillo's departure.

JOE KINNEAR



# Luton Town

ASTON VILLA v LUTON TOWN



Continued from previous page...

Of the squad the former Wimbledon boss inherited, only Matthew Spring, Emmerston Boyce and Matthew Taylor continued to be regulars, but the revamped team took Division Three by storm. In most campaigns, their haul of 97 points would have been good enough to secure the championship, and it was only because Plymouth Argyle topped the 100 mark that the Hatters had to be content with runners-up spot.

Not that it was any great problem for Luton, who were simply delighted to be promoted at the first time of asking.

Now they are back in the Second Division, they are understandably finding the going somewhat tougher, but the important thing is that they are upwardly mobile again.

## Meet the Hatters

### 2 AARON SKELTON

**B. Welwyn Garden City 22/11/74**

■ A useful utility player, Skelton was Joe Kinnear's first summer signing of 2001 as he attempted to take the Hatters back to Division Two at the first attempt – only for his return from Colchester United to be marred by an injury-plagued season.

### 3 ALAN NEILSON

**B. Wegburg, Germany 20/9/72**

■ Although he was born in Germany, Neilson has played for Wales at full and under-21 level. He made 50 appearances for Newcastle under Kevin Keegan between 1991 and 1995 before joining Southampton for £750,000 and then rejoining Keegan at Fulham. After a spell with Grimsby, the right-back or central defender signed for Luton in February this year.

### 4 MATTHEW SPRING

**B. Harlow 17/11/79**

■ Midfielder Spring came close to leaving the Hatters when his contract expired at the end of last season, but



EMMERSTON BOYCE

after rejecting an offer from West Bromwich Albion, manager Joe Kinnear persuaded him to sign a new two-year contract. He missed the first month of Luton's promotion campaign after undergoing a cartilage operation, but then started every match. A tough tackler, he has clocked up more than 200 appearances for the club.

### 5 RUSSELL PERRETT

**B. Barton-on-Sea 18/6/73**

■ Described by his manager as "an old fashioned centre-half" 6ft 3in Perrett is an intelligent player who is strong in the air and has pace. He began his professional career with Portsmouth before helping Cardiff City to promotion

### 19 STEVE HOWARD

**B. Durham 10/5/76**

■ Howard, a tall, powerful striker, joined the Hatters from Northampton in March last year and immediately stepped into a relegation battle. Although he was unable to prevent Luton from dropping into the Third Division, he was an ever-present as they bounced straight back to the higher grade. His own scoring ratio was modest, but he carved out countless chances for the likes of Griffiths and Crowe.

to Division Two in 1999. After joining Luton on a free transfer in August last year, he played 39 games as they won promotion.

### 8 KEVIN NICHOLLS

**B. Newham 2/1/79**

■ Luton's captain was described by Kinnear as "the life and soul of the club" as he grew in stature after signing from Wigan Athletic just before the start of last season. An aggressive player whose tough tackling sometimes lands him in trouble with referees, he likes to get forward from his central midfield position.

### 9 TONY THORPE

**B. Leicester 10/4/74**

■ A free-scoring striker, Thorpe is in his second spell at Kenilworth Road. He was the first Luton player to score more than 30 goals in a season since 1966 when he achieved the feat in 1996-97, his exploits earning him a £800,000 move to Fulham. He has, however, returned on loan on two occasions.

### 10 CARL GRIFFITHS

**B. Oswestry 15/7/71**

■ A Welsh U21 international, the much-travelled Griffiths made his name with Shrewsbury Town before joining Manchester City for £500,000 in 1993. He then had spells with Portsmouth, Peterborough, Orient (twice), Wrexham and Port Vale. A veteran of over 300 games and more than 100 goals, he joined Luton from Orient in July last year, only for his first season to be curtailed by a shin fracture at the end of September.

### 11 STEVE ROBINSON

**B. Lisburn 10/12/74**

■ Capped three times by Northern Ireland, the attacking midfielder cost Luton £50,000 from Preston when he agreed a two-year deal in June this year, having moved to Deepdale from Bournemouth two years earlier. Originally with Tottenham, Robinson has been recruited for his experience and for his knack of scoring important goals.



### 24 SOL DAVIS B. Cheltenham 4/9/79

■ Left-back Davis was signed from Swindon Town in August after Luton had lost their first two matches back in Division Two, conceding eight goals in the process. His arrival, after 114 games for Swindon, has helped to tighten things up at the back.

### 12 CHRIS COYNE

**B. Brisbane 28/12/78**

■ Australian defender Coyne has been capped by his country eight times at under-23 level. He started his career in this country with West Ham before moving north of the border to Dundee two years ago after loan spells with Brentford and Southend. Strong in the air and on the ground, he joined Luton from Dundee just over a year ago.

### 14 ANDREW FOTIADIS

**B. Hitchin 6/9/77**

■ Bese by injuries throughout his career, the striker has managed only just over 100 appearances in six years with the Hatters, more than half of them as a substitute. He has been described by Joe Kinnear as the unluckiest footballer ever.

### 16 CARL EMBERSON

**B. Epsom 13/7/73**

■ Emberson arrived on a Bosman from Walsall in July last year after failing to command a regular place at Bescot, where he was kept on the bench by James Walker. But if the former Colchester goalkeeper failed to make his mark in the Midlands, he has more than made amends at Kenilworth Road, holding his place for most of last season.

### 17 EMMERSON BOYCE

**B. Aylesbury 24/9/79**

■ Despite the arrival of a string of defenders and an injury which sidelined him for six games, Boyce made 38 appearances last season and was rewarded with a two-year contract this summer. A strong and intelligent defender, he operates mainly at right-back but can also play in a central role. He loves to get forward down the right flank.

### 15 DEAN CROWE

**B. Stockport 6/6/79**

■ Signed as a replacement when Griffiths was injured, Crowe had originally been at Luton on a month's loan from Stoke City. He immediately won over the crowd by scoring 10 goals in 16 matches, finishing the season with a total of 15 after overcoming a lean spell. He cost the Hatters nothing, although Stoke will receive 50 per cent of any future transfer fee.

### 18 AHMET BRKOVIC

**B. Dubrovnik 23/9/74**

■ A Croatian midfielder, Brkovic was rejected by the Hatters when Lennie Lawrence was in charge, joining Orient instead and making 82 appearances for them, but he was given a three-month trial by Kinnear last October, and subsequently signed a two-year contract in July.

### 19 STEVE HOWARD

**B. Durham 10/5/76**

■ Howard, a tall, powerful striker, joined the Hatters from Northampton in March last year and immediately stepped into a relegation battle. Although he was unable to prevent Luton from dropping into the Third Division, he was an ever-present as they bounced straight back to the higher grade. His own scoring ratio was modest, but he carved out countless chances for the likes of Griffiths and Crowe.



CARL EMBERSON

### 20 PETER HOLMES

**B. Bishop Auckland 18/11/80**

■ Spotted by former manager Ricky Hill, the 21-year-old midfielder is a product of the FA School of Excellence, from the same year as Michael Owen. His appearances were restricted last season, although he scored the goal which secured their promotion at Swansea.

### 21 PAUL HUGHES

**B. Hammersmith 19/4/76**

■ Hughes was a trainee at Chelsea from 1994 until 2000, but with so many superstars at Stamford Bridge he made only 26 senior appearances during that period. He had loan spells with Stockport, Norwich and Crewe before joining Southampton, arriving at Luton at the start of last season.

### 22 DAVID BAYLISS

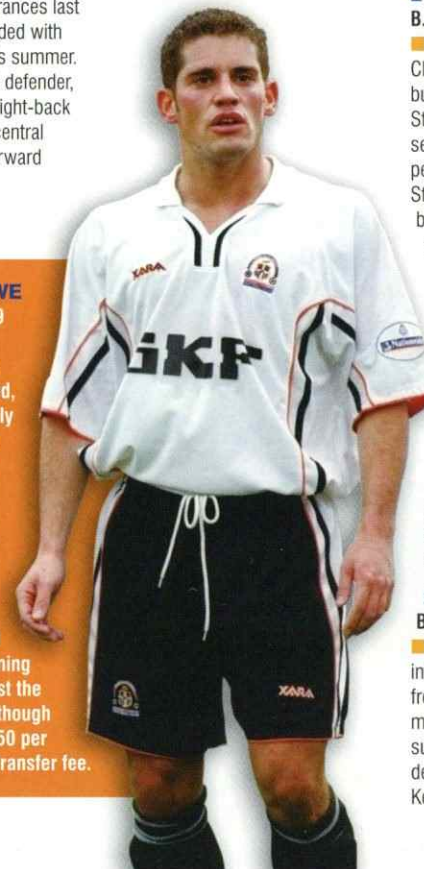
**B. Liverpool 8/6/76**

■ Having forged his early career with Rochdale, the defender joined Luton last December. After establishing himself in central defence, he paid the price of a four-match ban, having to make do with substitute and full-back appearances on his return.

### 23 IAN HILLIER

**B. Neath, 26/12/79**

■ The Welsh under-21 international defender switched from Tottenham to Luton on a month's loan in July last year, subsequently signing a contract designed to keep him at Kenilworth Road until 2004.



## THE LAST TIME



## Mad as Hatters!

It's been nearly a quarter of a century since Villa faced Luton Town in a cup-tie, and we certainly don't want a repeat of the last time. It was a result which left us as mad as Hatters.

Luton were in the old Second Division in 1978-79, while Ron Saunders was moulding Villa into a side who would become League Champions within two-and-a-half years.

On that November night, though, the formbook counted for absolutely nothing. Luton arrived here for a fourth round tie as apparent no-hopers, but headed back down the M1 in jubilant mood after causing a major upset.

Under the guidance of David Pleat, then one of the youngest managers in the country, the visitors displayed absolutely no respect for Villa's reputation. They stuck to their game plan and clinched a place in the fifth round with an unexpected 2-0 victory.

Goals from former Birmingham City striker Bob Hatton and Brian Stein were enough to sink a Villa side which was packed with talent but lacked consistency.

That much was evident from the fact that three days later, the boys in claret

and blue made the short trip to Molineux and thrashed Wolves 4-0 with goals from Ken McNaught, Dennis Mortimer, Gary Shelton and John Deehan.

They had come through the earlier League Cup rounds by edging home 1-0 against Sheffield Wednesday before beating Crystal Palace 3-2 in a second replay at Highfield Road.

But on that November night against the Hatters, a line-up which also

included Jimmy Rimmer, John Gidman, Allan Evans and Brian Little could make no impression on their supposedly inferior opponents.

David Pleat, now Tottenham's Director of Football, has vivid recollections of the Villa Park match.

"I will always have fond memories of that night," he said. "I was in my early days in management and we were facing a very good Villa side with an experienced manager in Ron Saunders, so it was quite a task.

"We knew John Gidman was going to be a danger to us getting forward from right-back, but we decided to turn that to our advantage by using the space behind him, and it worked perfectly.

"I saw John when I was on holiday in Spain not long ago, but I didn't mention that match!"

Luton made their exit at the hands of Leeds United at Elland Road in the fifth round, but the satisfaction of their Villa Park victory remains with Pleat – who was also involved as a player in the only other League Cup clash between the clubs.

That was in the early years of the competition, in September, 1964, when a goal from Bobby Park gave Villa a 1-0 second round verdict at Kenilworth Road on the night Dave Roberts made his debut.

Subsequent victories over Leeds, Reading and Bradford City carried us to the semi-finals where we lost 4-3 on aggregate to Chelsea despite three goals from Tony Hateley.



JIMMY RIMMER

## We've met before...

### OUR PREVIOUS LEAGUE CUP ENCOUNTERS

23rd September 1964 • Round 2  
**LUTON TOWN 0 VILLA 1**  
Scorer: Park • Att: 9,011

Luton: Baynham, Bramwell, McBain, Knights, Finchman, Pacey, Pleat, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.  
Villa: Sidebottom, Wight, Aitken, Roberts, Sleuwenhoek, Lee, Baker, Stobart, Hateley, Woosnam, MacLeod.

8th November 1978 • Round 4  
**VILLA 0 LUTON TOWN 2**  
Scorers: Hatton, Stein • Att: 32,727

Villa: Rimmer, Gidman, Williams, A Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Craig, Little, Gray, Deehan, Gregory. Sub: Cowans (for Gray).  
Luton: Aleksic, Price, Aizlewood, Hill, Turner, Donaghy, West, Fuccillo, Stein, Hatton, Moss. Sub: Stephens.



BOB HATTON FIRES HOME DURING OUR 1978 ENCOUNTER

ASTON VILLA v LUTON TOWN ●●●●

# STATS



**NAME**  
Worthington's Creamflow

**BIRTH PLACE**  
Burton-on-Trent,  
the home of great bitter

**POSITION**  
Versatility is this player's strength. Can be found at your local and all leading supermarkets

**ADAPTABILITY**  
Comfortable at home, at the bar or at the match

**ATTITUDE**  
A well balanced bitter with a truly distinguished taste

**STRENGTH**  
3.6% ABV



**NAME**  
Worthington's Classic

**BIRTH PLACE**  
Burton-on-Trent,  
the home of great bitter

**POSITION**  
After a promising debut, will be found playing everywhere this season

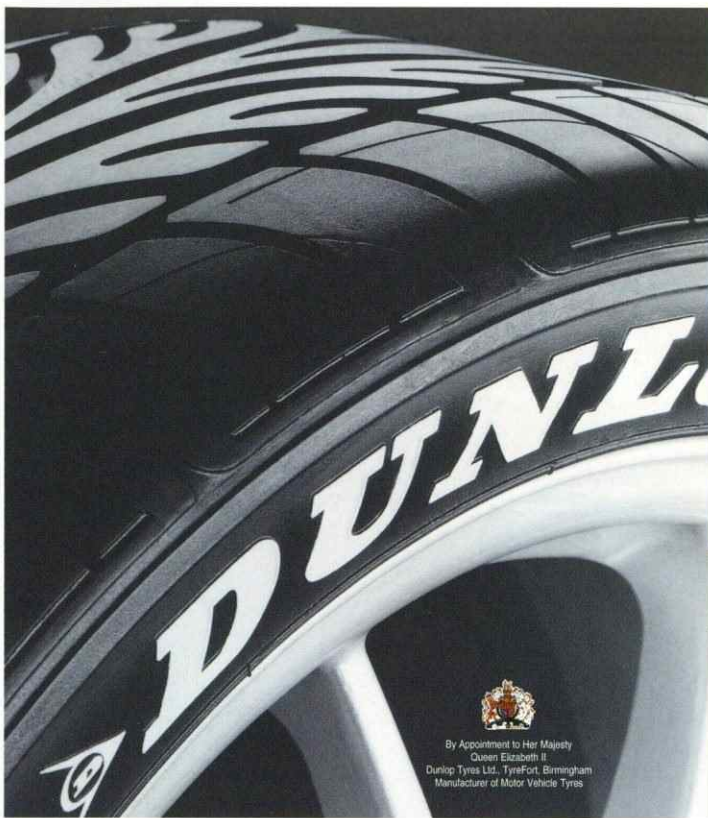
**ADAPTABILITY**  
Likes to play at home, but has proved to be a match winner away

**ATTITUDE**  
A traditional bitter full of sparkle, vigour and flavour

**STRENGTH**  
3.8% ABV

*Worthington's*





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ASTON VILLA v LUTON TOWN



## The League Cup dozen

REG THACKER'S COLLECTORS' CORNER



I'm sure all Villa supporters will be aware that we were the inaugural winners of the League Cup in 1960-61, but I wonder how many people realise the rarity of the programmes which accompanied that triumph?

No doubt many fans have a number of issues from the 12 games Villa played to win the trophy, but anyone in possession of the whole set has quite a collection on his hands.

The issues for the home and away legs against Rotherham United are particularly valuable, mainly because the matches were held over until the start of the following season in the wake of fixture congestion.

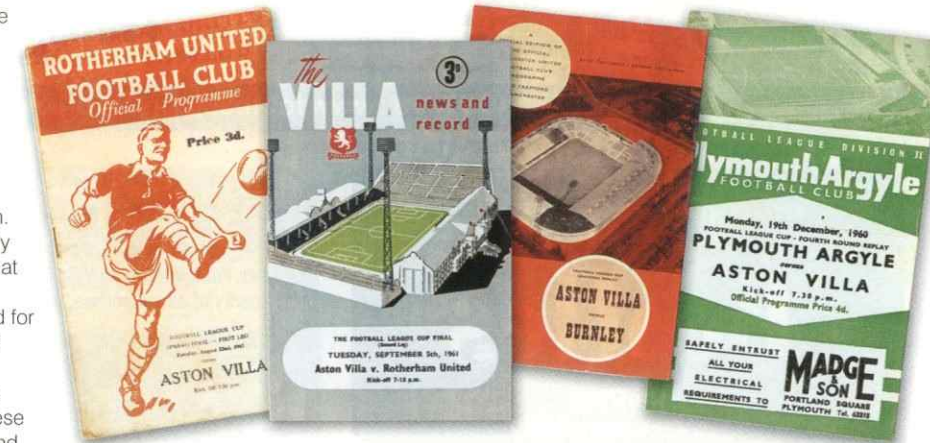
But they are not the only sought-after items from that cup run.

The single-sheet issued for the third round tie against Preston North End at Deepdale, for instance, is really hard to come by these days, while the fourth round

replay at Plymouth on 19th December is special because the game was abandoned.

Extra-time was due to be played after a goalless 90 minutes, but the Home Park pitch had become waterlogged.

The game was eventually re-staged in February, but that programme doesn't quite have the same rarity value of the original replay.



In the semi-final, too, you don't come across many copies of the publication for the second replay against Burnley, which was played at Old Trafford.

Then there was the final itself. In those days, all League Cup-ties, including the final, were played over two legs. It wasn't until 1967, in fact, that the final was staged at Wembley, and I remember going to the first one to be played under the Twin Towers with a friend of mine who was a keen Albion supporter.

The programme for that first Wembley final would fetch around £10, but anyone with a full Villa set from 1960-61 would be looking at a four-figure sum.

## Villans' Diary

A LOOK AT DAY-TO-DAY EVENTS AT VILLA PARK

**SEPTEMBER 5:** England train at Bodmoor Heath ahead of their Villa Park friendly against Portugal, but local boy Darius Vassell is confined to the treatment room, having suffered a hamstring injury at Bolton.

**SEPTEMBER 6:** Gareth Barry is captain of England under-21s in the 2-1 victory over Yugoslavia at the Reebok Stadium.

**SEPTEMBER 7:** England host a full England international for the second time in 20 months as Sven Goran

Eriksson's side draw 1-1 with Portugal in a friendly.

**SEPTEMBER 9:** Reports from Turkey suggest Alpay may be ready to withdraw his transfer request, although manager Graham Taylor insists he has heard nothing from the defender.

**SEPTEMBER 11:** Eighteen-year-old Stefan Moore marks his Premiership debut with a skilfully taken goal after going on as substitute in the 2-0 home win over Charlton Athletic.

Ulises de la Cruz is also on target for the first time as a Villa player.

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Rather than basking in the glory of his debut goal, Moore is back at his studies, keeping a low profile on the orders of his manager.

**SEPTEMBER 14:** The second round Worthington Cup draw lands a home pairing with second division Luton Town, 2-1 first round winners over Watford.

**SEPTEMBER 16:** The first Second City league derby for 15 years turns into a nightmare as Villa go down 3-0 at Blues. It's a distressing night for Peter Enckelman, whose error results in the second goal.

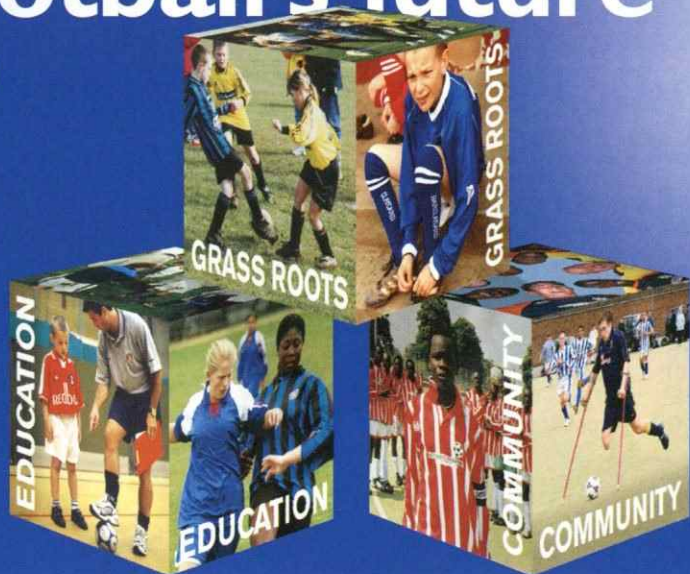


STEFAN MOORE

ASTON VILLA v LUTON TOWN

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### SAFETY & SECURITY

Aston Villa FC welcomes the supporters of Luton Town Football Club to Villa Park today. For the safety and security of all supporters, please:

1. Keep gangways clear;
2. Be aware of the nearest exit point.

You are also reminded that it is a criminal offence to enter the playing area, throw missiles or chant obscene or racial remarks.

### SMOKING REGULATIONS

Please note that all seated areas of Villa Park are non-smoking. Smoking is allowed in the concourse areas, with the exception of the family area concourse. Customers are required to put out cigarettes if requested to do so by a representative of the club and failure to do so will result in your being asked to leave the ground.

### EMERGENCY WARNING

In the event of emergency, you will hear three warning chimes, followed by announcements over the public address system. Please follow the instructions of stewards and police officers.

### KEEP YOUR SEAT

Please remain seated at both home and away matches. Failure to do so could result in our away allocation being reduced next season.



ERIC MORECAMBE (SECOND FROM RIGHT) AND A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

## How about that!

All these years after his death, Eric Morecambe is still sadly missed, and not just by television audiences. Apart from being one of the best loved comedians this country has ever known, Eric was also a football fanatic – with a great affection for Luton Town.

He once even tried his hand at commentating, informing radio listeners that "it's still 0-0... to Luton!"

Fittingly, one of the lounges at Kenilworth Road is called the Eric Morecambe Suite and he was also a regular visitor to Villa Park during the 1970s, both as a Hatters director and as a celebrity guest.

Our picture shows Eric in the boardroom, along with Villa directors Bob Mackay, Harry Parkes and Jim Hartley.

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### TICKET AND TRAVEL NEWS

Barclaycard Premiership  
**MANCHESTER UTD V ASTON VILLA**  
Old Trafford, Saturday 26 October 2002, 3.00pm

This match is all ticket. Tickets are priced at £29 and £25 Adults, £14.50 and £12.50 Juniors under 16/ Over 65s will be sold as follows... **Monday 30 September** to Season Ticket holders who attended FIVE or more away games last season (computer booking history will be used to verify ALL applications). **Saturday 05 October** to Season Ticket holders who attended ONE or more away games last season. **Wednesday 09 October** to Season Ticket holders. **Friday 11 October** any remaining tickets will be placed on general sale. **OFFICIAL TRAVEL CLUB DETAILS...** Coach departing 10.15am (free car parking at Villa Park). Price £15.00. Call 0121 326 1543 for further details.



### ALDRIDGE IN TOWN

Few people have had such a long and distinguished football career as John Aldridge – and the former Liverpool star is ready to share his experiences with Villa supporters.

Aldridge, who appeared in two World Cup finals for the Republic of Ireland and later managed Tranmere Rovers, will be the guest speaker at our next sports dinner, to be held in the Holte Suite on Tuesday 19th November.

Aldridge will have plenty to talk about. Apart from his scoring exploits, he also has the unwanted tag of being the first player to miss a penalty in an FA Cup final – and was in charge when Tranmere staged one of the greatest ever Cup come-backs by beating Southampton after going three-down.

Tickets for the dinner, which also features comedian Willie Miller, cost £45 plus VAT, while tables of 10 or 12 are available at £400 and £480 plus VAT respectively.

For further details, contact Anne-Marie, Sarah or Matt in the Commercial Department on 0121 327 5399, or you can confirm your reservation by fax on 0121 328 2099.

### SOCCER SCHOOL

A half-term Soccer School is being staged by Villa's Football in the Community Department at the Blue Coat School in Harborne later this month.

The school, which gets under way on Monday 28th October, will comprise a five-day programme of coaching, small-sided games and competitions in a supervised and organised environment.

It is open to boys and girls aged seven to 13, and we would stress that it is not about excellence but enjoyment.

The course costs £45, and further information can be obtained from the Community Department on 0121 326 1552.

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### YOUTH SUCCESS

Villa's youngsters were the toast of the club when they lifted the AXA FA Youth Cup in May, and they now have a miniature replica of the trophy as a permanent memento.

The presentation was officially made before last week's home match against Everton, when Maurice Armstrong of the Football Association handed over the replica to central defender Liam Ridgwell, one of the stars of the Youth Cup triumph.

Ridgwell, of course, has since graduated to Villa's first team squad, along with former youth team skipper, striker Stefan Moore. Stefan, in fact, should have been involved in the award ceremony – but was busy getting ready to take his place on the bench against the Merseysiders.



CUP ROUND UP



FIRST ROUND RESULTS

- Boston United 1 Cardiff City 5
- Bournemouth 3 Brentford 3  
(Brentford won 4-2 on pens)
- Brighton 2 Exeter 1 (AET)
- Bristol City 0 Oxford United 1
- Burnley 3 Blackpool 0
- Bury 1 Stoke City 0
- Cambridge United 3 Reading 1
- Coventry C. 3 Colchester Utd 0
- Crystal P. 2 Plymouth 1 (AET)
- Grimsby 0 Chesterfield 1 (AET)
- Hartlepool 1 Tranmere 2
- Huddersfield 2 Darlington 0
- Hull C. 2 Leicester C. 4 (AET)
- Leyton Orient 3 QPR 2
- Lincoln City 1 Stockport 3
- Macclesfield 4 Barnsley 1
- Mansfield 1 Derby 3
- Northampton 0 Wigan 1
- Norwich City 0 Cheltenham 3
- Nottm Forest 4 Kidderminster 0
- Oldham 3 Notts County 2
- Port Vale 0 Crewe 2
- Portsmouth 2 Peterborough 0
- Preston 2 Scunthorpe 1 (AET)
- Rotherham 3 Carlisle 1
- Rushden 0 Millwall 0 (AET)  
(Rushden win 5-3 won pens)
- Sheff. Utd 1 York City 0
- Sheff Wed 1 Rochdale 0
- Southend 1 Wimbledon 4
- Swansea 2 Wolves 3
- Swindon 1 Wycombe 2 (AET)
- Torquay 0 Gillingham 1
- Walsall 1 Shrewsbury 0
- Watford 1 Luton 2
- Wrexham 2 Bradford 1

Shocks galore in first round

This may be Villa's first involvement in this season's Worthington Cup, but a total of 71 teams have already seen action in the competition – and more than six weeks have elapsed since the tournament got under way.

Ipswich Town's involvement in the UEFA Cup left an odd number of teams, which necessitated a preliminary round tie between Bristol Rovers and Boston United, way back on Tuesday 20th August.

The Football League newcomers Boston United emerged 2-0 winners on their League Cup debut in the West Country, but any dreams of an extended run were soon extinguished.

Although Boston landed a home draw in the first round three weeks later, it certainly wasn't a night to remember as they slumped 5-1 to Cardiff City.

The new boys, though, were not the only ones to go out barely before the competition had started.

One or two First Division sides also made a hasty exit, with manager Steve Cotterill totally stunned by Stoke City's 1-0 defeat to a Jamie Stuart goal away to Third Division Bury. Cotterill admitted there were no positives to be taken from the game at Gigg Lane, describing it as "a major disappointment", and to make matters worse, his former club Cheltenham Town claimed another Division One scalp.

Cheltenham were very much the underdogs in their tie against high-flying Norwich City, yet came away from Carrow Road with an emphatic 3-0 victory over the Canaries.

Grimsby Town's poor league form, meanwhile, was transformed on to the cup stage in a 1-0 home reversal at the hands of Chesterfield, while Millwall – last season's Division One play-off semi-finalists – went out of the competition 5-3 on penalties



RICARDO SCIMECA (RIGHT)

following a goalless encounter away to Rushden & Diamonds.

Then, of course, there was Watford's 2-1 home defeat by Luton, which earned the Hatters tonight's trip to Villa Park, while Reading went out 3-1 at Cambridge United.

It was far from easy, too, for our neighbours Wolverhampton Wanderers, who trailed twice at Swansea City before edging through 3-2 with goals from Nathan Blake, Ludovic Pollet and Alex Rae.

Leicester City also found the going tough, needing extra-time before goals from Paul Dickov and Jamie Scowcroft secured a 4-2 success at Hull City, although the First Division's other Midland representatives had rather more comfortable passages to the second round.

Derby County recovered from an early setback to win 3-1 at Mansfield, player-manager Gary McAllister was among Coventry City's scorers in a 3-0 home win over Colchester United, and former Villa utility man Riccardo Scimeca was on target for Nottingham Forest in a 4-0 romp against Kidderminster Harriers at the City Ground.



GARY McALLISTER

ASTON VILLA v LUTON TOWN ●●●●



**FOULING**



# SQUAD CHECK

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### ASTON VILLA **V** LUTON TOWN

Played	Sub	Cards	Goals			Played	Sub	Cards	Goals				
				Peter ENCKELMAN GK	1	1				Mark OVENDALE GK			
				Mark DELANEY	2	2				Aaron SKELTON			
				Alan WRIGHT	3	3				Alan NEILSON			
				Olof MELLBERG	4	4				Matthew SPRING			
				ALPAY Ozalan	5	5				Russell PERRETT			
				Gareth BARRY	6	6				Marvin JOHNSON			
				Ian TAYLOR	7	7				Adrian FORBES			
				Juan Pablo ANGEL	8	8				Kevin NICHOLLS			
				Dion DUBLIN	9	9				Tony THORPE			
				Darius VASSELL	10	10				Carl GRIFFITHS			
				Steve STAUNTON	11	11				Steve ROBINSON			
				Thomas HITZLSPERGER	12	12				Chris COYNE			
				Stefan POSTMA GK	13	14				Andrew FOTIADIS			
				Marcus ALLBACK	14	15				Dean CROWE			
				Ulises DE LA CRUZ	15	16				Carl EMBERSON GK			
				Peter CROUCH	16	17				Emmerson BOYCE			
				Lee HENDRIE	17	18				Ahmet BRKOVIC			
				Steve STONE	18	19				Steve HOWARD			
				Bosko BALABAN	19	20				Peter HOLMES			
				Moustapha HADJI	20	21				Paul HUGHES			
				Jlloyd SAMUEL	21	22				David BAYLISS			
				Hassan KACHLOUL	22	23				Ian HILLIER			
				Michael BOULDING	23	24				Sol DAVIS			
				Liam RIDGEWELL	24	31				Alan KIMBLE			
				Stefan MOORE	25	32				Lee MANSELL			
				Mark KINSELLA	26	36				Robert GILLMAN			
				Ronny JOHNSEN	27	38				Michael LEARY			
				Oyvind LEONHARDSEN	28	39				Stephen O'LEARY			
						40				James OSBORN			
						41				Kevin FOLEY			



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