

# THE LATIC

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF  
WIGAN ATHLETIC



**Nationwide League Division Two**  
**vs LUTON TOWN**  
SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2003  
KICK OFF - 3.00pm  
£2.00

**INSIDE TODAY**  
**ONE TO ONE**  
with Matt Jackson

**LUTON TOWN**

A close look at today's visitors to the JJB

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 Third Division Champions: 1996-97  
 Autowindscreen Shield Winners: 1998-99  
 Freight Rover Trophy Winners: 1984-85  
 Promoted To Third Division: 1981-82  
 Elected To Football League: 1978  
 Football League Best Season 4th Division Two:  
 1985-86, 1986-87, 1999-2000  
 Football League Cup Best Season 5th Round  
 Quarter Final: 2002-03  
 FA Cup Best Season 6th Round: 1986-87  
 Record Football League Appearances:  
 Kevin Langley 317 1981-86 and 1990-94  
 Record Football League Goalscorer:  
 David Lowe 66 1982-87 and 1995-99  
 Record Football League Scorer in a season:  
 Graeme Jones 31 1996-97  
 Most Capped Player: Roy Carroll 9 Northern Ireland  
 Record Transfer Fee Paid: £1,200,000 to Bristol Rovers for  
 Nathan Ellington.  
 Record Attendance: Springfield Park 27, 526  
 v Hereford United FA Cup 12 December 1953  
 JJB Stadium: 16,922 versus  
 Blackburn Rovers, Worthington Cup Quarter Final .  
 December 18th 2002.

*inside* **today**

**WIGAN ATHLETIC V LUTON TOWN**



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**WIGAN ATHLETIC MATCHDAY MAGAZINE**



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WIGAN ATHLETIC MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



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## Wigan Athletic CHIEF EXECUTIVE



## Brenda Spencer

Our visitors this afternoon Luton Town are making their second trip to Wigan this season after of course already having been here for the FA Cup second round just before Christmas. We enjoyed a 3-0 victory that day, but had a late Jason De Vos goal to thank for a point in the reverse league fixture at Kenilworth Road in October.

Just as in our last home game with Tranmere Rovers, Luton are a side who are very much trying to get into the play offs and will be therefore coming here to try to get a positive result. We of course need the points for a different reason, so we should be in for a good game today.

It was enjoyable to be able to watch the highlights of our match against Tranmere on the television when I got home from the game last week. It is good for the Club that we can attract the television cameras to the JJB and despite the game being a goal less draw there were plenty of chances and quality action for the studio pundits to discuss.

On Tuesday evening we of course travel to Edgeley Park to take on Stockport County. Uncovered seating Tickets remain on sale for this game, but there will be a pay turnstile on the night also. Next Saturday we make the trip to the capital to face QPR. Latics supporters do need to get a ticket in advance for this fixture, please do not leave it until the last minute to buy. The ticket office will be open after the game today and normal office hours throughout next week.

On Wednesday evening of last week our youth team progressed to the Final of the Lancashire FA Youth Cup with a victory on penalties at Bury. The game finished goal less after extra time but the lads held their nerve from twelve yards and will now play either Tranmere or Preston in the final later in the season.

The Wigan Athletic Annual General meeting has now been arranged. It will take place here at the Stadium on Tuesday 8th April. All shareholders should shortly be receiving a copy of the latest Annual report and will need to produce that to gain admittance on the evening.

Finally important news regarding this seasons Player of the year awards, this will take place in the South Stand bar after the final game of the season against Barnsley. Numbers are restricted and in order to give everyone a fair chance to obtain a ticket we have decided that they will go on sale from the ticket office on a first come first served basis on Saturday morning at 10am prior to our next home game with Plymouth. Tickets are priced at £5 each and will be available at a maximum two per person.

*Brenda Spencer*



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## FROM THE MANAGER



# Paul Jewell

**Good afternoon and welcome to the JJB Stadium.**

Today Luton Town are our visitors for the second time this season, having previously been here back in December in the Second Round of the FA Cup. We know from that match, and the 1-1 draw we earned at Kenilworth Road back in October, that we are in for a tough contest this afternoon as we look to consolidate our position at the top of the table. Joe Kinnear's squad have had a decent season in Division Two and, had it not been for a difficult start, they would probably now be occupying one of the play-off places. Therefore, we all know that we'll have to be right on our game today to get ourselves a positive result.

The two matches we have played since my last set of programme notes have been rather frustrating affairs in which we've been held to two draws. I thought the home game against Tranmere Rovers was a good one and felt that on the night we were the side that deserved to take all three points. We had numerous chances to break the deadlock in the second half and were just lacking the cutting edge or the bit of fortune required to make the most of one of the several goalmouth scrambles we created.

Having said that, we were indebted to John Filan's fine save from Jason Price midway through the second period, but as far as I can recall that was the only save he was called upon to make all night. Though we were disappointed not to win the match, we looked upon it as a point gained and another point towards where we want to be at the end of the season.

The away game at Peterborough was a little different though as, apart from for the opening 25 minutes, I thought we were below par for long periods and though a point was the least we deserved, we were a little fortunate in the way our equalising goal came about. In all honesty the game should probably have been over in the opening quarter as we created numerous good chances but failed to capitalise on them.



**... "The players showed great character in fighting back to claim a deserved point and this once again demonstrated the spirit here that has served us so well so far this year."**

Their keeper made a couple of good saves and we were also denied by the woodwork on two occasions and in the end we were almost made to rue these missed chances.

At the other end John was once again rarely troubled as we defended fairly well throughout but then, when they took advantage of a loose ball in the box to take the lead it did seem that it may not be our day. However, the players showed great character in fighting back to claim a deserved point and this once again demonstrated the spirit here that has served us so well so far this year. We'll need to keep this attitude spot on until the very end of the season and hopefully we'll then be rewarded come the beginning of May.

Finally, please can I ask you all to get right behind the team once again this afternoon. You have had a real influence so far this campaign so let's have more of the same for the rest of the season – starting with today's match against Luton Town.

All the best,

Paul.

Wigan Athletic v Luton Town

Location <http://www.soccer-stats.com/headtohead>



Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored	
26	34
14	9
7	8
6	3
2	1
2	0
Own Goals	

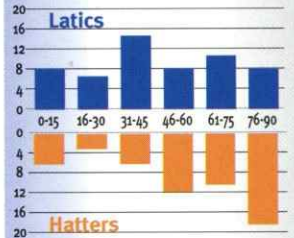
Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored



Form Guide - Last 6

3	Won	3
3	Drawn	0
0	Lost	3
8	For	10
3	Against	8
12	Points	9
5	Goal Difference	2
DWWDD Sequence WLWLLW		
Yellow & Red Cards		
51	Yellow	70
3	Red	5



2002-2003 Attendances

Latics	Aggregate	Hatters
120,834	123,711	62.2
10,546	9,477	1,897
5,358	5,890	6,378
6,713	6,873	236
27	69	+ / - %

Average Goals per game

1.58	For	1.53
1.67	Home For	1.61
1.50	Away For	1.44
0.58	Against	1.33
0.72	Home Against	1.17
0.44	Away Against	1.50

2002-2003 Figures

23	Players Used	36
19	Clean Sheets	12
5	Failed to Score	6
Goals scored from...		
7	Corners	7
6	Free Kicks	4
Goals conceded from...		
0	Corners	3
3	Free Kicks	5

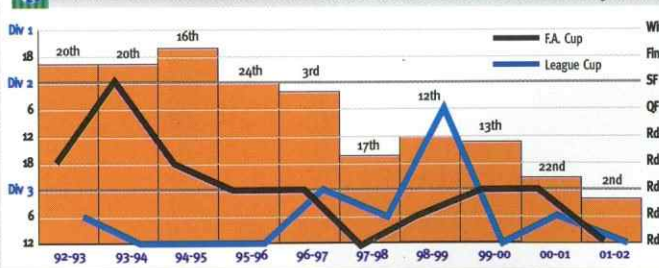
10 Year Record

Latics	Avg Pos.	Hatters
62.2	among 92 clubs	53.3
1,897	Avg Att 1993	7,878
6,378	Avg Att 2002	6,842
236	+ / - %	-13

Top League Scorers

Liddell	Howard	
15	League Goals	15
30	Games Played	31
0.50	Lge Goals/Game	0.48
9	Points Gained	10
2	Scoring Run	4
0	Hat-Tricks	0
2	Close Range	5
8	Inside Area	8
5	Long Range	2
8	Shots	6
0	Headers	5
1	Volleys	4
5	Penalties	0
1	Direct FKs	0

Luton Town's 10 Year History



Swings

WA	Games Won from:	LT
0	3 Goals Down	0
0	2 Goals Down	0
2	1 Goal Down	6
Lost from:		
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
0	1 Goal Up	3
Drawn from:		
0	3 Goals Down	0
0	2 Goals Down	1
3	1 Goal Down	0
0	3 Goals Up	0
1	2 Goals Up	0
3	1 Goal Up	3

Margins

10	Won by 1 Gl	11
13	Won by 2 Gls	2
1	Won by 3 Gls	3
0	Won by 4 Gls	0
0	Won by 5+ Gls	0
Games		
3	Lost by 1 Gl	9
0	Lost by 2 Gls	1
0	Lost by 3 Gls	2
0	Lost by 4 Gls	0
0	Lost by 5+ Gls	0

Misc stats

1	Highest Pos.	6
6	Lowest Pos.	24
11	Winning Run	5
21	Unbeaten Run	7
2	Losing Run	4
2	No Win Run	5



This afternoon we welcome Luton Town to the JJB. They are pushing hard to get themselves into the playoff race, so we'll need to be at our best if we are to pick up another victory today. We've played Luton twice this season, drawing away in the League and winning at home in the FA Cup. Both games were difficult for us, and we know that they will push us even harder today as they will be desperate to stay in touch with the other playoff contenders. Last weeks games against

Tranmere and Peterborough were frustrating affairs. We did everything but score against Tranmere, and I felt we deserved to pick up the points on the day. Against Peterborough, we played well at the start and then never really found our rhythm. The conditions were poor, but they are the same for both sides, and we can't use that as an excuse. It shows how far we've come as a team, as we all felt as though we'd lost the game, even though our promotion rivals all managed to lose their matches.

With ten matches to go, there is still a great deal of work to be done. We'll be doing our best in the days and weeks ahead to try and ensure that there will be some celebrations at the JJB at the end of the season. Let's hope we are also celebrating another three points this afternoon!

Enjoy the game!  
Jason



MORE BITE THAN A ROY KEANE TACKLE...



## Matt Jackson

people dream about and I was very fortunate to be part of the Everton team that defeated Manchester United in 1995

### Favourite goal scored

I scored in the semi-final victory over Tottenham Hotspur but the one I scored earlier in that run at Bristol City was my favourite. We won 1-0 and it got us out of a real hole. We were battered on the day and managed to win the game.

### Favourite game played in

I have played in some great games over the years, winning at Anfield with Everton. Obviously the day that stands out forever is the F A Cup final.

### Favourite other team

I was actually a Aston Villa supporter as a kid, although born in Leeds I was not in Leeds very long. My mum's family are all from Birmingham so my formative years were spent on the Holte end at Villa Park.

### Future goals/Career after football

I have just started promoting a company called the one-club with Tony Dorigo, which is into lifestyle management for players. They supply various items such as cars for players. That is the project at the moment, and I will see where that leads me. I will make sure I have all my coaching badges as well and will just take it on from there.

### Favourite ground

Goodison Park will always hold happy memories for me, Wembley is another. Just to play at Wembley is something you can always look back at

say I played there. Having watched from the Holte end at Aston Villa as a kid, it was fantastic to go back and play there.

### Best game I have ever seen

I remember watching Liverpool defeating Nottingham Forest 5-0 on the way to winning the championship. Forest were going well at the time but Liverpool just tore them apart that night. It was an incredible game of football. It was one time I realised how special footballers could be and how far they were ahead of everybody. It was a night when everything went right for Liverpool and they were outstanding. I was at the game and for a live performance that would be the one.

### Most memorable goal

Ian Wright scored one for Arsenal at Highbury when I was supposed to be marking him. He must have flicked it over my head at least eight times before lobbing it over Neville Southall into the back of the net. I think he rated that in his top ten of goals scored. It was memorable for all the wrong reasons unfortunately.



### Football League Debut

It was while I was on loan to Preston North End. I came on as a substitute just after they had scored the fifth goal in the 89th minute. The management probably thought it was safe enough for me to come on. I went on loan to Deepdale as they at the same time were like Luton Town, both playing home matches on plastic pitches. It was good and I have fond memories.

### First Football League Goal

My first goal was for Everton against my home city club Leeds United. The match was on television and that was a nice memory. A one-yard header which is just about my limit. There has not been too many since.

### Biggest Influences

I think David Pleat in my early days at Luton Town as he brought me up to play football in a certain way. Jimmy Ryan now youth team coach at Manchester United was our coach at Kenilworth Road and with the plastic pitch we had to pass a certain way. Later in my career Mike Walker did very well for me taking to Norwich City and Bruce Rioch really taught me about the responsibilities players have in the game and I would say Bruce has influenced more career most late on.

### Latics Debut

It was not a good day as we lost at home to Wrexham. That result came on the back of a 5-1 reversal away at Wrexham. I improved it a little bit but not enough to win. From there we went on to have a pretty good season and have build upon that and have enjoyed a good season to date. The move to Wigan came about because I was not in the team at Norwich City. They wanted me to go to Birmingham City and I turned down the move and it put them in an awkward position and they wanted me to leave.

### Toughest Opponent

I think when he was at his peak Ian Wright in the Premiership. The fellow who has given me the most runaround was Andy Sinton surprisingly. However for someone who played well against me all the time, it has to be Ian Wright.

### Highlight of my career

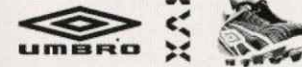
(Top picture) It has to be winning an F A Cup final. As a player you want to be successful, that has been the one thing I have won so far. It is something that a lot of



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# J.J.S



## Hi Guys



**Now we have retained our cushion at the top of the division, we don't need to panic about dropping a couple of points in the last two matches.**

I don't think Paul Jewell will be allowing any of his players to be taking their foot off the pedal at any point between now and the end of the season.

He is sure to be asking everything of his players and won't take anything but 100%. We need to show that we are winners right up until the very last kick of the ball - proving that we are more than worthy of our position.

The prospects of Wigan Athletics are looking rosy for next year, but Paul Jewell will be considering his future as his current contract runs out in the summer. That must have been in the back of his mind as he pushed the team for promotion this time around. Mr Whelan did well, when he kept faith in the former Latics player, when others were demanding for his departure and his faith is now well and truly paying off. But we will just have wait and see to what the future holds.

In terms of action on the pitch, in the last match at home, we had the drama of the Tranmere game, which unexpectedly ended in 0-0 stalemate. But we did see a hat full of chances but not a single goal. Simon Howarth, as

expected, was the subject of the home attention from the boo boys on his return to the JJB. Tranmere dominated the opening possession and chances but Wigan held strong and handled the pressure and came out stronger as the game went on. As the early Tranmere pressure faded Wigan came storming back into the game and created some half decent chances.

The game gradually became very physical as the urgency to score the opening goal increased. Players were limping off left right and centre as crunching tackles were constantly flying in. Wigan got in some great positions and created some good chances, but we just lacked that killer final ball and quality touch in front of goal.

The second half began much more exciting with much more free flowing and open football, compared the 1st that was very close and tense. We desperately wanted a goal, but failed to convert any of the opportunities. We were the better team on the night and we more than deserved all the points. But it wasn't to be as we shared the spoils. The major concern that has shown through in the last few games is not being capable of turning these chances into goals and making them count.

However, with the talent we have up front it is surely only a matter of time. Today hopefully provides us with a perfect opportunity to prove exactly that. Luton are our visitors today and they come here full of confidence after a great 3-0 win over Huddersfield and therefore are back on the promotion chase. Luton, just like Tranmere, are just outside the play-offs and will therefore want to pick up the pace and get back on track so we can't take anything for granted against them.

Yours

# Miranda



With a special welcome to our friends from Reality who join us for todays game.

www.wiganathletic.tv

# Junior Latics



**Welcome to the JJB for tonight's thriller of a game.**

This afternoon sees our friends from Luton, Junior Hatters as our special guests. This morning we played football over at the Robin Park complex and this afternoon they will join us in the Marquee for the normal fun and games. Dave Lewis who helps to run the Junior Hatters is a good friend of Junior Latics and always looks after us well when we go and visit them in Bedfordshire..

Our collection of Easter Eggs is looking good, but we do need some more Remember we collect the eggs for the children in Wigan Hospital for the Rainbow and the Upper Johnson Wards. We will go to visit the Hospital just before Easter with some members of Junior Latics, so if you would like to come along then let one of the J.L gang know soon as you can. You can leave your eggs in the Marquee at any home match or at our Player of the Season night on the 14th April. 'So get cracking with it'!!!!

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MARQUEE ON MATCHDAYS.**

On Tuesday we will be travelling to Stockport were we will leave from the soccer dome at 6.15pm. And then our travels will take us to Q.P.R on the Saturday. The coach this trip will leave from the soccer dome at 830am and we will stop at a service station for about 45 minutes. More info on J.L. [www.juniorlatics.co.uk](http://www.juniorlatics.co.uk).

Enjoy the game,  
Martyn

# Mascot

**Tom Doran**



Age :

10

School :

St Andrews

Hobbies:

Playing football, Swimming and Running.

Favourite Food and Drink:

Shandy!!!

Favourite TV Programme :

Saturday Show

Favourite Film:

Bend it like Beckham

Favourite Players:

Nathan Ellington!

# We Know Your Game!

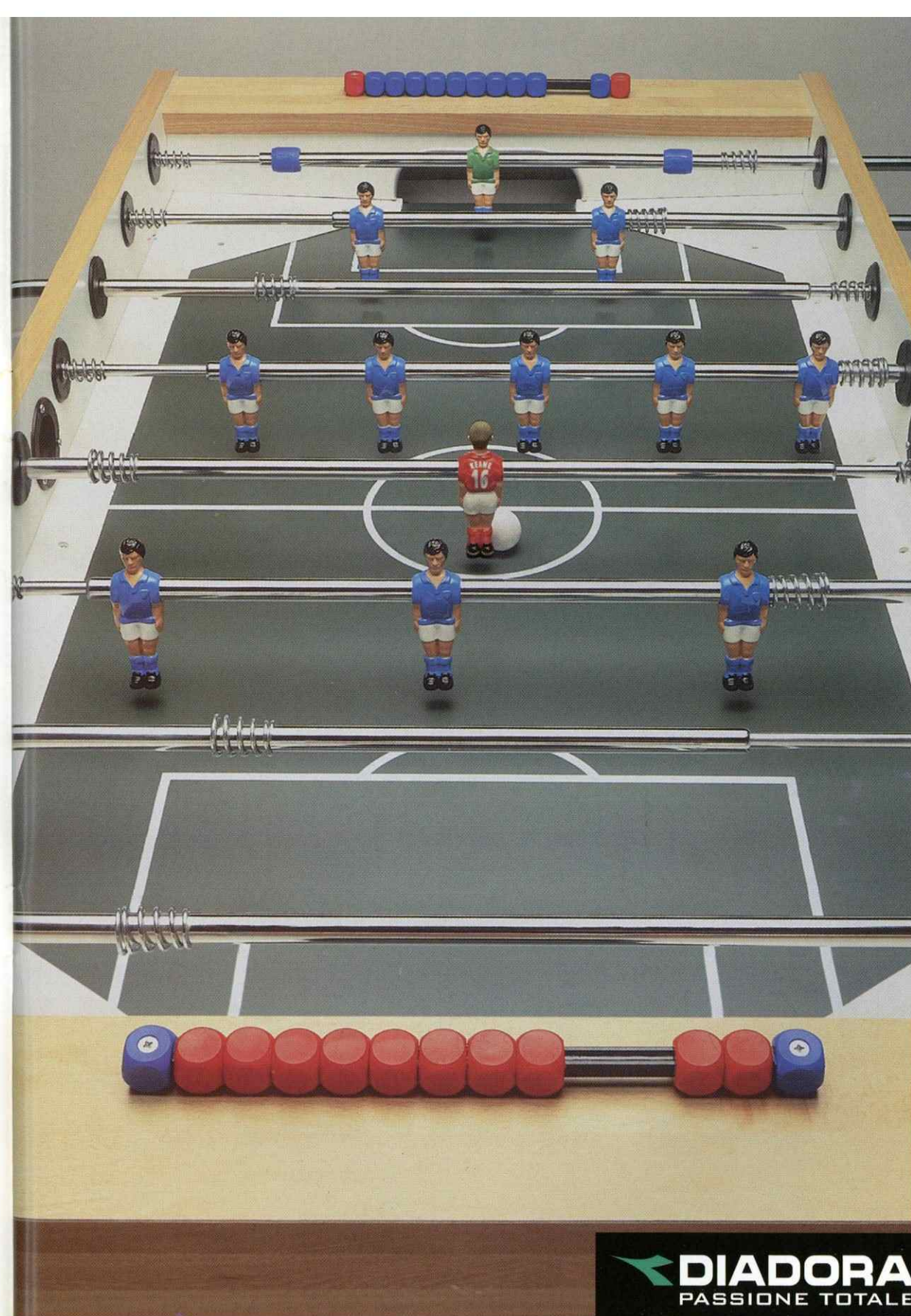
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# ACTION REPLAY

PETERBOROUGH UNITED 1-1 LATICS

Saturday 8th March 2003



**Latics claimed a well deserved point from an awkward trip to Peterborough thanks to an own goal by Mark Arber 8 minutes from time.**

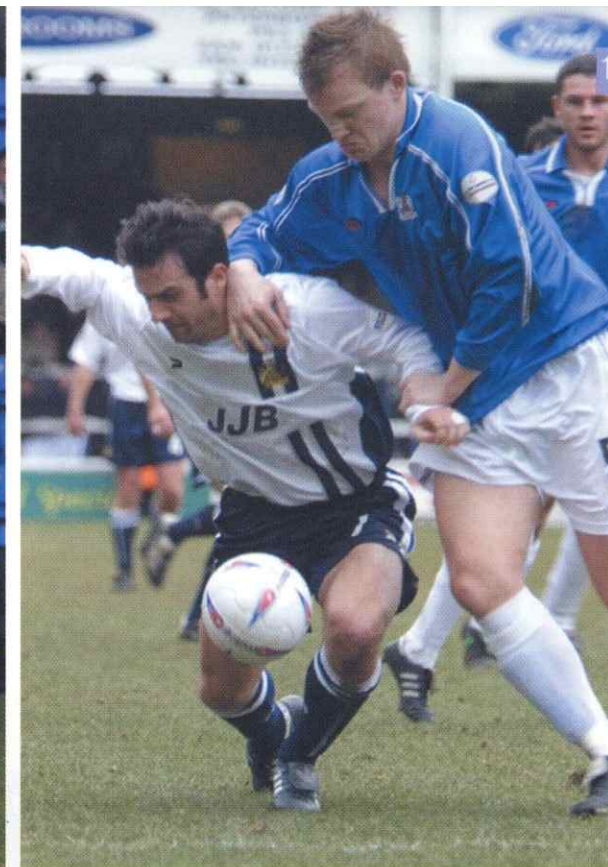
In truth Paul Jewell's side should have had the game wrapped up within the opening 20 minutes but fine goalkeeping by Mark Tyler kept the game goal-less. Lee McCulloch and Jimmy Bullard were brilliantly denied by the home keeper while Neil Roberts and Bullard again were denied by the cross bar as Latics opened in dominant fashion.

Although Latics had been the better side in the opening half it was Posh who started with more purpose after the break and when Leon McKenzie put his side in front with 20 minutes remaining it appeared it wouldn't be Latics day. However, a fabulously sliced, (and hugely unlucky), clearance by Arber from a

Nicky Eaden cross earned Latics the point their first half performance at least deserved, as their lead at the top of the Second Division was extended to fourteen points.

**Latics:** Filan, Eaden, McMillan, De Vos (C), Jackson, Teale, Dinning, Bullard, McCulloch, Liddell, Roberts (Ellington)

**Subs not used:** Yeomans, Kennedy, Breckin, Mitchell



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# Hot off the PRESS

News and views fafter Saturday's draw away to Peterborough United.

### WIGAN EVENING POST

A slice of luck spared Wigan's blushes and salvaged a point from this hard-fought encounter with Peterborough. Posh defender Mark Arber's own goal inched Wigan ever closer to Division One after their three nearest rivals slipped up.

Crewe, Cardiff, and Bristol City succumbed to defeat on Saturday, meaning that this draw at London Road can be looked on as a point earned rather than two dropped.

### Manchester Evening News

Wigan dropped two points and saw their two main promotion rivals lose - and still Paul Jewell refuses to believe his side are up! The Latics boss, having seen his side rescue a point with a fortunate own goal, remains sceptical despite opening a 14-point lead at the top of Division Two with just ten games remaining.

### PLAYERS VIEW

#### Jason De Vos

I suppose it was a point gained particularly when you look at the other results at the top. It was not a particular good performance. We started of well and if we had scored early on they would have found it hard going.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

#### BARRY FRY

We paid Wigan too much respect in the first-half, there was an absolutely wicked deflection for their equaliser. Wigan are a very talented, strong capable side but we equipped ourselves very well.

### WIGAN Observe

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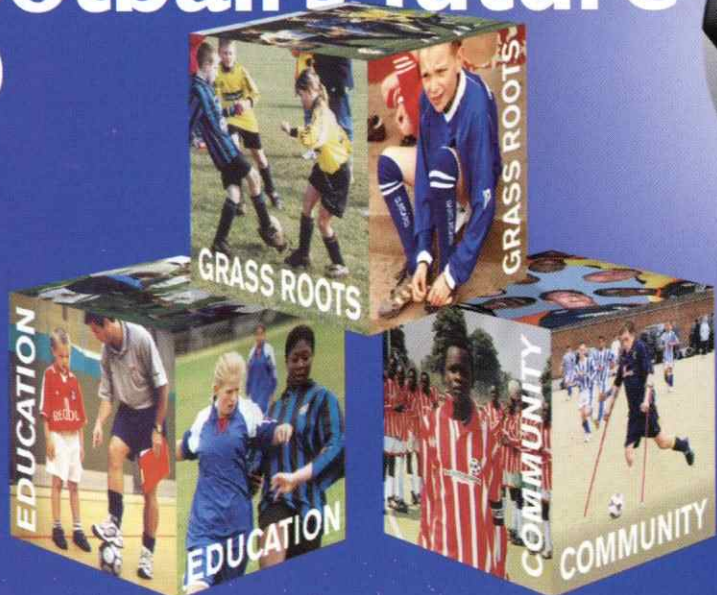
The red carpet has been rolled out for Latics to stroll into Division One. Do Crewe and Cardiff actually want to apply any pressure on the league leaders? Apparently not.. Latics haven't played at their best in the last couple of outings, but such is their quality and strength they haven't needed to.

### PAUL JEWELL

"I thought for 20 minutes of the first half we played well. After that it was scrappy game and I was disappointed with the way we played. I don't know why we should be sloppy. We should be full of confidence. We had some good chances and should have been a couple of goals up. We had lots of corners and the ball was flashing across the box but we didn't have anybody to stick it in the back of the net. Yet the ball drops to McKenna in the box and he tucks it away. Anything you get away from home is a bonus. But we are disappointed because we didn't play well. We are just concerned about the next game and aren't speaking about promotion... we're not there yet."

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# Luton Town

The Hatters play-off push took a welcome positive turn last Saturday as they collected a comfortable three points against Huddersfield Town to get the play-off handwagon back on track.

Goals from Tony Thorpe, Peter Holmes and Steve Howard lifted them above Blackpool into 8th spot just four points behind Queens Park Rangers in sixth spot in a match that they totally dominated.

Having seen his side lose their previous two games both on their travels at Notts County and Mansfield Town, manager Joe Kinnear admitted it was important that his side got back to winning ways.

"It was important that we picked up maximum points. From now until the end of the season we have ten matches left, 30 points to play for and I still think we need to win about six of them."

With home games to follow against both Oldham Athletic and Crewe Alexandra, the remaining fixtures will see them face five of the top six sides, with the manager keen to reach the 77 points target he set for a play-off place.

"There are exciting times ahead of us and I'm glad we have got to play nearly all the teams ahead of us and around us because we can inflict some damage on them with victories."

Having missed the win over Huddersfield Town last weekend, the manager is hopeful that keeper Lars Hirschfeld will have recovered after missing that game because of gastro-enteritis. The on-loan keeper who has been called up by Canada to face Estonia in a friendly later this month becoming the latest in a large injury list.

"That's our luck at the moment" commented Kinnear on the situation. "Since Christmas we have had only twelve fit players. We have had so many losses but we have to get on with it."

With striker Dean Crowe recently ruled out for the rest of the season following a broken leg, leading scorer Steve Howard played through the pain barrier seven days ago and was rewarded with 15th league strike of the season.

Attempts to bring in new faces have seen a bid for Arsenal striker Jermaine Pennant fail, while the ex Wimbledon boss was hoping to bring in a new face ahead of this afternoon's clash with Birmingham City's Tommy Mooney linked with a loan move.

One player more than most hoping to play this afternoon is club captain Kevin Nicholls. After missing both previous encounters this season, the midfielder was awaiting the results from an F A hearing on Thursday following an ill-tempered match against Queens Park Rangers earlier in the season. It is that game, which could see him, miss out three and half months later after he was reported by the referee for incidents following his dismissal.

## Goalkeepers

Missing out last Saturday for the first time since his loan move from Tottenham Hotspur was Canadian international LARS HIRSCHFELD. Third choice keeper at White Hart Lane, a bout of gastro-enteritis saw the former keeper with German side Energie Cottbus miss out on the 3-0 win over Huddersfield Town. His illness saw a return to first-team action for CARL EMBERSON. Recruited by Joe Kinnear from Walsall in the summer of 2001, the reliable stopper made over 200 league starts for Colchester United.

## Defenders

Returning for the first time in nearly five months last weekend following an operation on a groin problem, RUSSELL PERRETT (left) was only called into the side at the 11th hour following a crippling injury crisis. An ever-present in the opening two months, netting twice in the home games against Chesterfield and Notts County, the reliable central-defender joined the Hatters at the start of last season from Cardiff City.

His central defensive partner last Saturday, CHRIS COYNE formed an effective partnership alongside Perrett in last year's promotion winning season. A dominant centre-back the Australian arrived on a three-year contract in September 2001 from Dundee. A former West Ham United junior, he has been a virtual ever-present this season netting his only goal to date in the home win over Cheltenham Town.

One of two players substituted during the half-time break against Huddersfield Town, DUNCAN JUPP is currently on a month's loan from Wimbledon, having played under manager Joe Kinnear during his time with the Dons. An attack-minded right full-back, the former Fulham trainee was on loan with Notts County earlier in the season and played in County's 3-1 defeat here at the JJB stadium at the start of the new year. Recruited following defeats in their opening two league matches on their return to Division Two, left full-back SOL DAVIS cost the



club #60,000 following a tribunal fixed transfer in October. A tough tacking player, who likes to push forward, the former Swindon Town player was sent-off against Bristol City in December.

An unused substitute last Saturday, central-defender DAVID BAYLISS has not enjoyed the best of time with injuries since joining from Rochdale in December 2001.

Restricted to just a handful of starts this season, last weekend game saw him return to the first team following shoulder and calf muscle injuries.

Capped by Wales at under 21 level right full-back IAN

HILLIER arrived at Kenilworth Road at the start of last season. A former Tottenham Hotspur trainee recruited on a free-transfer, he has been in and out of the side this season.



## Midfield

A virtual ever-present this season which has seen him net six league goals including strikes in away wins at Barnsley, Stockport County and Tranmere Rovers, MATTHEW SPRING (right) is a product of the youth system at Kenilworth Road, having signed a new two year contract at the start of the season. A creative and competitive player with an eye for goal, he has now completed over a double century of league starts for his only club. Awaiting his first game against his former club, KEVIN NICHOLLS was up in front of the F A on Thursday to answer charges relating to incidents following his sending-off in a

tempestuous clash with QPR at Kenilworth Road on November 23. Club captain and driving force, Joe Kinnear has called him "as the life and soul of the club". Tough in the tackle, he has formed an effective partnership in the holding role in midfield alongside Matthew Spring. Netted four times this season, the last coming last month in the 3-2 home win over Northampton Town.

An attacking player with plenty of creativity, PAUL HUGHES

has played top-flight football with both Chelsea and Southampton. On target with two goals in a 3-2 win over Northampton Town last month, he was rewarded with a two-year contract in the summer after a serious of injuries had restricted his progress. A product of the F A School of Excellence, PETER HOLMES netted his first goal of the season with the second in last Saturday's win. A two footed player he was recruited by former manager Ricky Hill from Sheffield Wednesday in the summer of 2000 on a free transfer.

A scorer from the penalty spot in the win over Swindon Town, STEVE ROBINSON is a Northern Ireland international who became the manager's second signing of the close season from Preston North End. A #375,000 signing by the Deepdale club from Bournemouth, he spent a loan spell with Bristol City last season.



KEVIN NICHOLLS

The scorer of the quickest hat-trick in the clubs record following his strikes in a LDV Vans Trophy win over Stevenage this season, AHMAD BRKOVIC is now in his second season with the club. Another to sign a two-year contract in the summer, the Croatian born holding player arrived at the club from Leyton Orient. A right-sided player, he has found the net five times in the league this season.

## Forwards

The scorer of four goals in the last four matches, TONY THORPE is the subject of this afternoon's watch out for. A natural finisher with a real poacher's instinct, he is now in his fourth spell with the club.

Top scorer with 15 league goals, STEVE HOWARD is a tall and powerful striker who can be a real asset in both penalty areas. Last season's player of the season following his 24 goals in the promotion winning season, his tally of 11 goals before Christmas saw him rewarded with an extension to his contract until June 2005. On target last Saturday, his tally has included late goals away at both Cardiff City and Crewe Alexandra.



STEVE HOWARD

Watch out for...

# Tony Thorpe

**Born** – Leicester  
**Date of Birth** – 10th April 1974  
**Height** – 5'10"  
**Weight** – 11.00

Having netted his 12th league goal in the 3-0 win over Huddersfield Town, his strike in the game earned praise from his manager in the manner in which it was scored.

"He still had to beat the keeper which he did nonchalantly just like he waltzed round the keeper twice in the previous match against Mansfield in similar fashion. If there is anybody with the ball at his feet and the goalkeeper to beat, you want to have him."

A proven goalscorer back at the club he considers his spiritual home, last Weekend's goal was his fourth in as many matches and followed on from a brace of goals scored in the last away match at Mansfield Town.

A former golden boot winner, he was given the number nine shirt on his return in the summer following his move from Bristol City. Already a legend in his first spell at Kenilworth Road, this is actually his fourth spell with the Hatters following two loan spells.

A natural goalscorer, his first spell saw him net 50 league goals in less than a century of league starts which persuaded Fulham to pay #800,000 for his signature in February 1998.

Recruited by Danny Wilson for Bristol City in a million pound deal, he netted a further 50 league goals for the Robins before returning after being out of contract in the close season.

A nippy striker, the natural finisher with a real poacher's instinct for goals inside the six-yard area has formed an effective partnership alongside Steve Howard. Having missed three months out through injury, he was rewarded with the captain's armband in the absence of Kevin Nicholls, netting eight times since the turn of the year.



## Meet the Manager

Joe Kinnear



Joe Kinnear took over the managerial reins from Lil Fuccillo at Kenilworth Road on February 8 2001 after just a week as Luton Town's Director of Football.

The ex-Wimbledon manager returned to the game after a 20-month break having spent seven-and-a-half years as the 'Crazy Gang' boss.

His achievements at Wimbledon are well renowned in English football, having kept his unfashionable side in the top division throughout his time at Selhurst Park, despite having to sell several of the club's best players to balance the books. Taking over from Peter Withe as Dons manager in 1992, he helped them reach an unlikely sixth place in the Premiership in 1993-94, their highest ever finish in the top flight. He turned down the opportunity to succeed Jack Charlton as Republic of Ireland manager in 1996 and led his team to the semi-finals of the FA and League Cups and to eighth in the League.

After a spell out of football because of ill health, his return to football with The Hatters came as something of a surprise, with the club languishing at the bottom end of Division Two.

His immediate aim was to save them from relegation to Division Three before attempting to transform their fortunes and lift them back to the top division in English football. However, after initial success, Kinnear could not prevent Luton from slipping into the bottom tier of the football league and his sights were set on a quick return to Division Two.

That was exactly what he got last season as the team finished as runners-up in Division Three and he hoping to achieve Division One status by the play-offs this May.

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# LATICS

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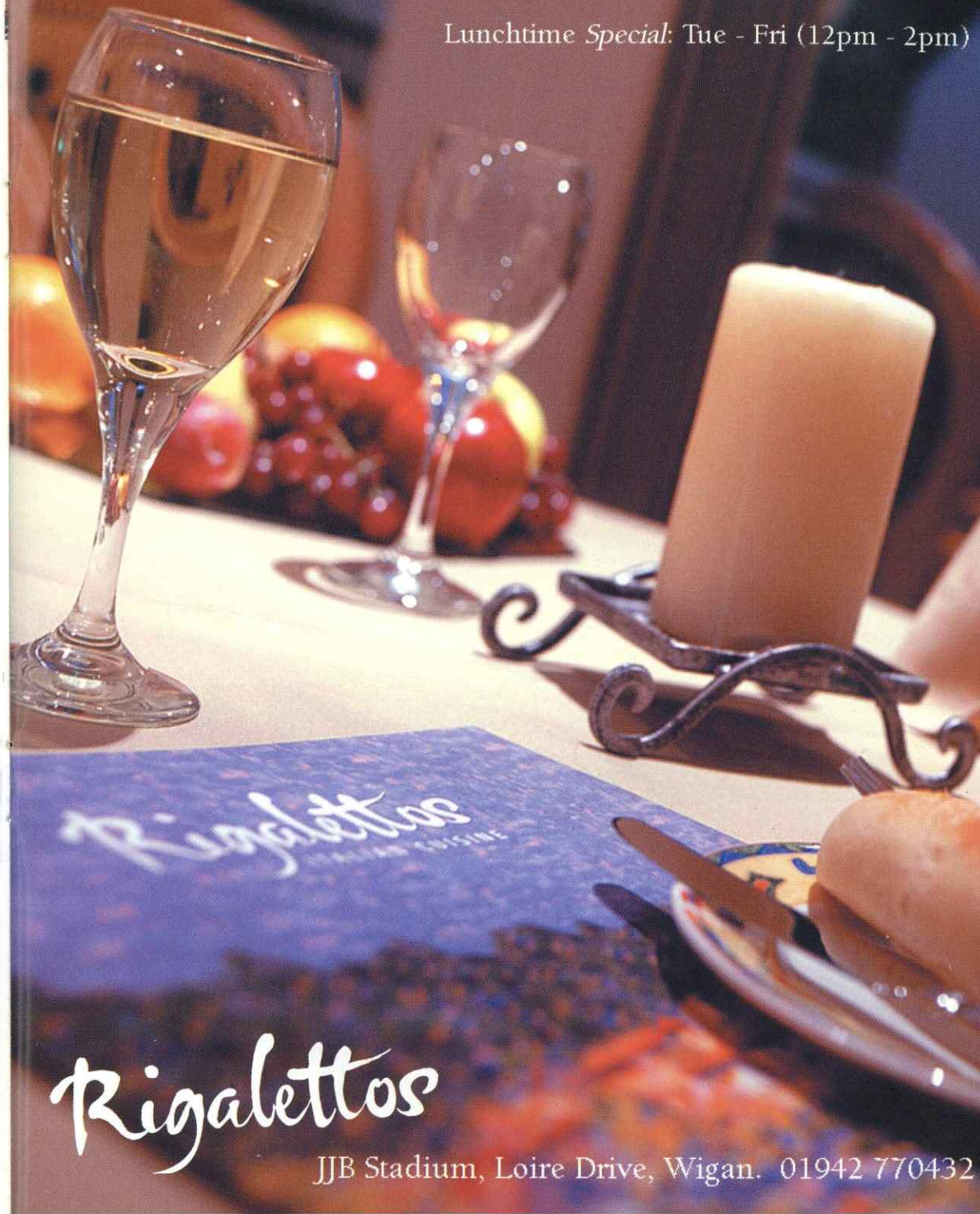


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# Steve McMillan





# Inside JJB

All the news from behind the scenes at the JJB

## Exhibition of Wigan Athletic

To celebrate the fact that Wigan Athletic has been a Football League Club for 25 years, and has been in existence for over 70 years, the history shop in Library Street Wigan will be running a Wigan Athletic exhibition at the end of the current season. Philip Butler of the Wigan Heritage Service will be in charge of the exhibition, and would be grateful for the loan of any items of Wigan Athletic memorabilia that fans may wish to share with others. The Club itself will be supplying a large number of items of interest, but to make the exhibition as successful as possible the more things Philip can display the better.

All items will be displayed behind glass and will be returned to the owners.

Should you wish to speak to Philip he is available on 01942 827594, or alternatively call into the shop in Library Street.

The exhibition has the full support of Wigan Athletic and should be something that the people of Wigan will flock to see.

## Century Maker

Congratulations to captain Jason DeVos whose appearance last Saturday at Peterborough United was his 100th in

the Football League.

Gary Teale's appearance in the win over Chesterfield was his 50th appearance in the Football League.



GARY TEALE: 50 Appearances for Latics.

## DORBCREST HOMES ANNOUNCE NEW ARRIVAL!

Congratulations to Dympna and Anthony Mansfield, and Grandma & Grandad Boylan and family on the arrival of a new baby brother for Ciara. Connor arrived last Monday weighing in at 9lb 14oz. Best wishes from everyone at Wigan Athletic and we look forward to seeing Connor at the JJB Stadium for his first 'Latics' match!

## Player of the year awards

This seasons Player of the year awards, this will take place in the South Stand bar after the final

game of the season against Barnsley.

Numbers are restricted and in order to give everyone a fair chance to obtain a ticket we have decided that they will go on sale from the ticket office on a first come first served basis on Saturday morning at 10am prior to our next home game with Plymouth. Tickets are priced at £5 each and will be available at a maximum two per person.

## Happy 15th Birthday Steve Tinsley

Love & Best Wishes from Mum, Dad & everyone at Wigan Athletic

## Get Well Soon Neil Sherratt

Hope you will soon be feeling better - you'd better make it soon, we need you back at Latics - the season is getting exciting. Best Wishes from everyone at Latics!

## Happy 40th Birthday

Mark Baron  
No 1 Wigan Athletic supporter  
All our love Jayne and Daniel

## Happy Birthday & Best Wishes

to Roy on his 40th Birthday  
Love from Debbie & Daniel

## Happy Birthday to Karen Smith

from Luton - Have a great day - love from all your friends



## JUNIOR LATICS COME UP TRUMPS!



Once again Congratulations to Junior Latics U12's Team who recently won the Lancashire Cup. Special thanks to the Coaching Staff and boys who came along to our match against Chesterfield when they were our Coca Cola Team of the Match.

You will see the boys here on the pitch before the match and photographed receiving their Team of the Match award from Chairman Dave Whelan - Well done boys!



## WIGAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES WANTED

Home or away in the non-league days before 1977.

Do you have any from the 1940's or 1950's?

The older the better! Full Collections or single items. I'm a keen Latics collector and will collect and pay a good price. Also wanted Wigan Rovers.

Ring Chris after 6 on

01257 473338 or 07970 269409 daytime.

## Harry Robinson

Harry Robinson, a lifelong Wigan Athletic fan, died suddenly while on holiday on 5th February 2003.

Harry had supported the club from being a boy, and despite moving to the wrong side of the Pennines (Sheffield), still remained a loyal fan.

He would regularly travel to home matches and would follow the team to the away matches when he could.

The family will be having his ashes scattered at the JJB stadium on Sunday 16th March, as it would have been his 61st birthday the day before. Sadly, Harry won't be able to share his teams success and probable promotion, but hopefully his ashes at the stadium will act as a 12th man on the pitch!! He will be sadly missed by his family and friends, and everyone at Wigan Athletic would like to pass on their condolences at this most difficult of times.



## POLICE NOTICE

In the interest of positive public relations with the residents of the Springfield and surrounding areas, it would be appreciated if all spectators visiting the stadium using private transport make use of the free car parking facilities provided on a matchday.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

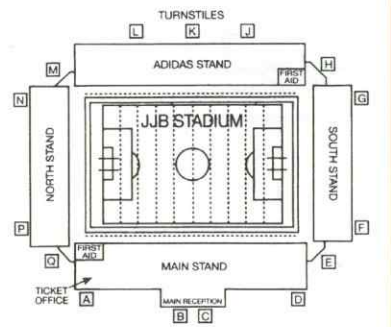
In the event of an emergency at the JJB Stadium requiring evacuation of the ground in part or whole, spectators are requested to remain where they are and listen carefully to announcements over the public address system.

The announcements may direct spectators in a specified area of the ground and require evacuation through exit gates to the outside of the ground or through perimeter exit gates onto the pitch.

Club Stewards and Police Officers will assist in directing spectators to the safest locations.

If requested to evacuate a specified area of the ground, spectators should do so as calmly and quickly as they can to assist in a safe and speedy evacuation.

**ALL EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE PRECEDED WITH A CHIME.**



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WIGAN ATHLETIC PAST PLAYERS ASSOCIATION



# Latics & Hatters

Having opened the 2000/01 season with a draw away at Swansea City, the opening home league match of the season at the JJB Stadium saw new manager Bruce Rioch collect his first win in charge with this victory over his former club.

Labelled again as the bookmaker's favourites for promotion, it took a magical set piece to unlock resolute Hatters defence to register our first win of the campaign.

In a hard fought first-half, we enjoyed the majority of the chances taking just eight minutes to open the scoring after Simon Haworth had broken free to force a corner.

From the resulting flag-kick, Darren Sheridan's deep cross to the far post was headed home virtually unmarked by Pat McGibbon.

With Northern Ireland manager Sammy McIlroy watching from the stands, the defender did his international chances no harm ahead of the forthcoming World Cup qualifier against Malta. We then took the game by the horns and on 16 minutes striker Simon Haworth intercepted a bad pass from the Luton defence and broke free down the middle of the park. He slotted a perfect ball to Liddell who was racing down the pitch to his right only for his fellow striker to completely fluff his effort and Luton easily cleared the danger.

Luton's best chance of the first half by far came on the stroke of half time when Liam George intercepted a bad pass out of defence by Scott Green. The striker weaved forward into the area and drove a low shot, which Roy Carroll did exceptionally well, diving to his right to palm behind for a corner.

Having lost their opening match of the season at home to Notts County, new boss Ricky Hill saw his side start the second half with a bit more determination and their efforts were rewarded on 51 minutes when Julian Watts nodded in at the far post from a corner.

Manager Bruce Rioch replaced the tiring Kevin Nicholls a couple of minutes later and brought on Roberto Martinez in a bid to put some fresh legs into the flagging midfield.

The visitor's Peter Holmes skyed a volley over the bar on 55 minutes before, at the other end of the park, Neil Redfearn did exactly the same following a goalmouth scramble.

Just before the hour mark Liam George stole down the left and passed a lovely through ball to Mark Stein whose effort was well stopped by the diving Carroll. Latics immediately went on the attack and skipper Carl Bradshaw chipped a perfect cross from the left into the middle of Luton's penalty area only for Liddell to nod over the bar.

Martinez drove over the bar on 63 minutes from 30 yards out before getting himself into the referee's notepad a minute later for a trip on Matthew Taylor.

The points were sealed twelve minutes from time when

Haworth was brought down ten yards outside the penalty box.

Sheridan lined up the free kick with Redfearn placed in anticipation square to his left.

Sheridan pushed the ball to Redfearn and everyone expected a pile driver. But no, the midfielder placed a perfect ball, splitting the Luton defence in half, to Liddell racing into the penalty area, placed the ball with pin point accuracy past the advancing Mark Ovendale in the Luton goal.



**FEATURE MATCH FACTS**  
 Nationwide League Division Two  
 Saturday 19th August 2000  
 Wigan Athletic (1) 2 McGibbon 8, Liddell 78  
 Luton Town (0) 1 Watts 51

**Wigan Athletic**  
 Carroll, Bradshaw, McGibbon, De Zeeuw, Griffiths, Green (Ashcroft 78), Sheridan, Redfearn, Nicholls (Martinez 53), Liddell, Haworth  
 Subs not used - Stillie, Kilford, Roberts

**Luton Town**  
 Overdale, Watts, Stein, Holmes (Brennan 83), Taylor, McLaren, Locke (Scarlett 73), George, Frazer, Johnson, Holmes  
 Subs not used - Abbey, Sterling  
 Referee - J Winter (Stockton-on-Tees)  
 Attendance - 6,518

Pat McGibbon

## Our Complete League Record against the Hatters is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	4	2	1	1	5	5
Away	5	2	3	0	9	3

First met in league

1997/98

Doubles achieved

One

Doubles conceded

None

**BIGGEST WINS**

Home

2 - 1 2001/02

Away

4 - 0 1998/99

**HEAVIEST DEFEATS**

Home

1 - 3 1998/99

Away

Never lost away

Last home win

2000/01

Last away win

2000/01

Last home draw

1999/00

Last away draw

2002/03

Last home defeat

1998/99

Last away defeat

Never lost away

### LAST HOME LEAGUE MEETING

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 18 October 1999

Wigan Athletic (0) 1 - Jones 72pen

Luton Town (0) 1 - Oldfield 68

### Wigan Athletic

Butler, Bradshaw, Sharp, Greenall, Bishop, Martinez, Lee (Johnson, 62), O'Connell, Jones, Smeets (McGibbon 85), Lowe (Warne 62)

### Luton Town

Davis, James, Small, Spring (Davies 80), Davis, White, Gray (Marshall 76), McLaren, Oldfield, Thorpe, Alexander Subs not used Doherty  
 Referee - M D Messias (York)  
 Attendance - 4,466

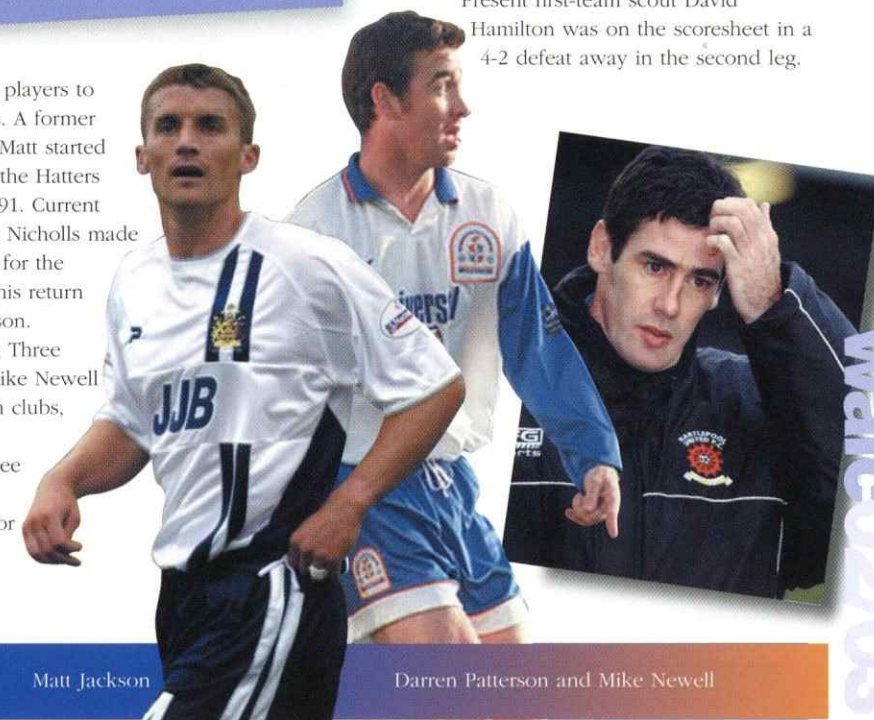
### Foot in both camps

Matt Jackson is one of eight players to have represented both clubs. A former trainee at Kenilworth Road, Matt started his professional career with the Hatters before joining Everton in 1991. Current skipper of the Hatters Kevin Nicholls made only 28 league appearances for the club in two seasons before his return south at the start of last season.

Current manager of Division Three leaders Hartlepool United Mike Newell was the first to play for both clubs, while Wayne Biggins was a member of our Division Three Championship side in 1997.

The others to have played for both clubs are Paul Gray, Mike Kennedy, Darren Patterson and Steve Taylor.

Matt Jackson



Darren Patterson and Mike Newell

### Latics Debut

Former captain Carl Bradshaw (right) is the only player to make his Latics debut against Luton Town. His first game was in the 1-1 home draw at Springfield Park in October 1997.

### First goal for the club

On target in the away win at Kenilworth Road in the 2000/01 season was Danish midfielder Stefan Bidstrup (right). Signed by Bruce Rioch, Stefan was on target in the 2-0 win in December 2000.

### Duke at the double

This is our second meeting at the JJB Stadium this season. A second round F A Cup tie back in December saw us win 3-0 with Nathan Ellington netting a brace of goals including a spectacular second. Also on the scoresheet that day was Mike Flynn.

### League Cup defeats

Our paths have crossed in the League Cup on three occasions with the Hatters winning on all three occasions. Our first season in the Football League saw us go out in the second round in a 2-0 defeat. Nine years later again in the second round then played over two legs, we went out 5-2 on aggregate, losing both legs.

Present first-team scout David Hamilton was on the scoresheet in a 4-2 defeat away in the second leg.



# Team of the Week

## GOLBOURNE ST. THOMAS' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Thomas' School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School for boys and girls aged 4 to 11 years. The school buildings are a mixture of old and new. The original classrooms were built in 1870 and now house the Key Stage 1 (Infants) and the offices. The School Hall was built in 1959 and a two-storey extension of four classrooms was built in 1973, which now houses Key Stage 2 (Juniors). The most recent extension was built in 2001 and now houses an ICT (Information Communication Technology) suite, consisting of 16 computers attached to the Internet and an interactive whiteboard.

St. Thomas' is a small one form entry school with 90 pupils on roll. Attached to the main school building is independent Nursery called St. Thomas' Playgroup where children from the age of 2 and half that are toilet trained can attend. Children enjoy the whole range of National Curriculum subjects in addition to the normal curriculum subjects, children at St. Thomas enjoy a wide variety of extra curricular activities. Children play soccer in a league



comprising of local schools (with only 1 defeat all season!!!), attend regular netball tournaments and compete in local athletic and Cricket competitions.

In addition to sporting activities Children at St. Thomas' have the opportunity to take part in Ecumenical Carol concerts and a joint Music Festival with both High Schools and many primary schools in the Lowton and Golbourne area. Children also have the opportunity to attend the Authorities residential outdoor education centre (Low Bank Ground) in Coniston

where they canoe, hill walk, orienteer, kiyak, bike ride and many other outdoor activities. At St. Thomas' we believe that all children should have their best work valued. Once a week a "Special Effort" assembly is held where the children will have the opportunity to show their work to the whole school. In addition to this, once a year a "Presentation Evening" is held where children are awarded prizes for sustained effort, most improved reader and various sporting achievements.

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I have just broken one of the golden rules given to me by my dad as a young child watching Leicester City. That being 'NEVER go on holiday during the football season.' Some of you might be aware I've been missing for the past 2 weeks or so, because I've been away. (The other golden rules are NEVER get married during the football season and NEVER go shopping on a Saturday afternoon during the football season). Without wishing to offer excuses I did go to watch Cricket in South Africa. As a big cricket fan the only way you can follow England 'on tour' is to go during the British winter and that means missing football so it's a nightmare conundrum for the followers of both great games. While I was away I've missed 5 games (Wycombe, Crewe, Chesterfield, Tranmere and Peterborough) and missed Latics picking up an impressive 11 points from those games and remain unbeaten in the process. I can tell you it's very difficult to be detached from the game for that long.

Without wishing to become a Judith

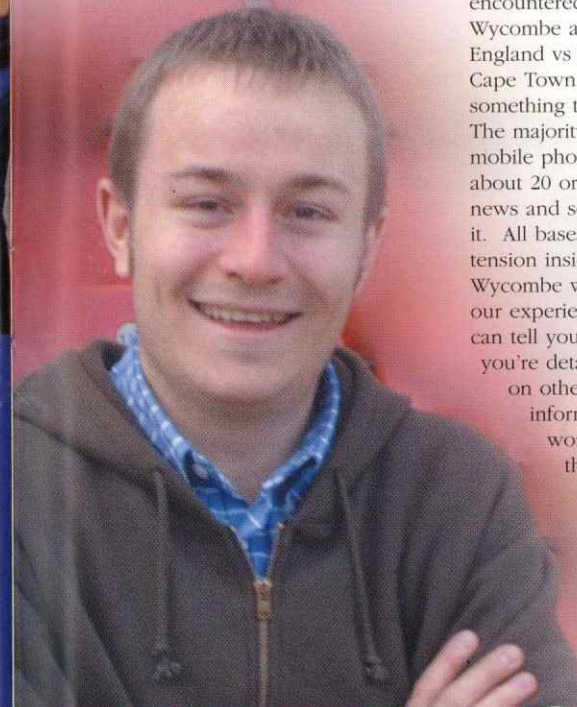
Chalmers' figure I thought I'd share a few experiences from my trip with you. The first thing that struck me was the perception of British football from the South African public. When they realise you are English they invariably ask "are you a football fan then?" The answer is YES. The next question "Do you support Manchester United or Liverpool?" An answer of "NEITHER" usually leaves them baffled. They have very little knowledge of other Premiership teams (Arsenal and Chelsea excluded) so trying to explain the virtues of Wigan Athletic and Leicester City was very much lost on them. The fact that professional football exists outside the Premiership is a difficult concept for them to grasp but rest assured more South African's have heard of Nathan Ellington, Jason de Vos and co after our visit.

I made the trip as part of a group of 10, all born and bred Wiganers except for me, and nearly all passionate Latics fans. So the atmosphere in the group on a day when Latics had a game back home was bizarre. The first time we encountered the problem was Wycombe away. It coincided with England vs Pakistan at Newlands in Cape Town, so at least we had something to take our minds off it. The majority of the group took their mobile phones and had instructed about 20 or so people text team news and scores as soon as they had it. All bases were covered. The tension inside Adams Park at Wycombe was probably tangible to our experience in Cape Town and I can tell you it's even worse when you're detached from it and relying on other people to keep us informed. As you know, Latics won the game, England won their game and we managed to get 30 South African's to sing "You Are My Sunshine" and "Let's Hang On" to celebrate.

The most difficult evening, in terms of

Latics, was the night of the Crewe game. We were in Durban for the England v India game and had just been kicked out of a curry house on the beach front for wearing shorts. We moved into an 'all you can eat' restaurant where the dress code was slightly more relaxed and waited for news. I've never seen such a nervous group of people in my life. Just as I was finishing off my second plate of spare ribs one of our phones beeped! A text message! Crewe had a player sent off. A massive cheer sounded and we got a number of angry looks from the locals. Not long after it beeped again! '1-0 ELLINGTON' it read! Mass hysteria and bread rolls flying everywhere. Our South African hosts enquired why we were making such a racket and were not convinced by our response of "It's Latics v Crewe of course!!!" They left us alone but notably tables near us were starting to clear and we had created our own exclusion zone. After 3 helpings of cheesecake we were into the last few minutes at Crewe and the tension was so bad we ignored the economic ramifications and rang a friend who was at the game. The mighty Fiona Birkett was sat with the 1600 Wigan fans and started to commentate to me, so I could rely the action to the rest of the "Durban 10" as we'd nicknamed ourselves after being outrageously kicked out of the curry house. Then came the moment we had been craving for 90 minutes. Over an explosion of noise I could just make out Fiona screaming "YES, YES, YES, WE'VE DONE IT, YES". It was like Meg Ryan in 'When Harry Met Sally'. What followed in Durban were 10 rather drunken individuals dancing down the beach front in a conga style. We decided then, no matter what happened in the other games we would relax and enjoy the holiday.

And, yes, as many of my friends said to me before I went, we stayed out there longer than the England cricket team itself. But watching English cricket just wouldn't be the same without crushing disappointment!



**Matt McCann**



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## Second **GLANCE**

All the news from around the second division with Geoff Lea

### Cardiff's "last wake-up call"

Cardiff City manager Lennie Lawrence said last Saturday's 2-0 home defeat to Notts County was his side's "last big wake-up call". The Bluebirds have now only managed one win in their last five home matches ahead of the visit to Prenton Park last night. Lawrence is desperate to claim the second automatic spot and avoid the nail-biting lottery of the play-offs. The away form is promotion

material, but Lawrence knows his side cannot afford any more slip-ups at home. "It's not terminal, but it's a massive wake-up call. Just because we've done well away from home in the last week, it doesn't mean things follow automatically at home.

"I've got the away form and system sorted, but at home I have to come up with something to see if we can get back on a winning trail because that's five home games without a win now." Meanwhile midfielder Fan Zhiyi looks likely

to miss the rest of the season after rupturing ankle ligaments playing for the Bluebirds reserves. The China international has not featured for Lennie Lawrence's first team since January and the manager confirmed he looks likely to be sidelined for some time.

### Curle appeal fails

Mansfield Town have lost their appeal against player-manager Keith Curle's red card against Oldham. Curle was dismissed for a foul on

Wayne Andrews and an FA panel decided that referee Paul Taylor's decision was correct. The verdict left him angry at both the decision and the appeal system. "I think it is a bit of a mockery, to be honest, the problem is that football clubs do not get the opportunity to sit face-to-face with the referee and put our point of view to him.

He gets the opportunity to argue his case but we don't and I don't think that is fair." Curle will now miss the vital games against Swindon, Huddersfield and Cardiff as the Stags battle to beat the drop.

### Bankole gets number one chance

Ademola Bankole has been told that he will start in goal for Crewe this afternoon when they entertain local rivals Port Vale. The Nigerian came off the bench to replace the injured Clayton Ince at Tranmere last Saturday, and with manager Dario Gradi unhappy with Ince's form in recent weeks he is set to keep his place. The Railwaymen have offered new one-year contracts to Rodney Jack, Dave Walton and Neil Sorvel as boss Dario Gradi prepares for next season.

All three are out of contract in the summer but are now considering the extended deals. Cardiff City have been linked with Jack while Oxford United, Bristol City and Stoke have been monitoring Walton's progress. Ben Rix, David Vaughan and Lee Bell have all been offered three-year deals with the club recently

### Robins hit by Robins dilemma

Bristol City's plan to extend Mark Robins (left) loan spell at Ashton Gate has run into problems over his availability for a potential play-off final appearance. The veteran striker has proved to be a hit during his first month at the club scoring three times in six games. Manager Danny Wilson is keen to

extend the deal to the maximum three months, but that would see him returning to Millmoor days before the Division Two play-off final.

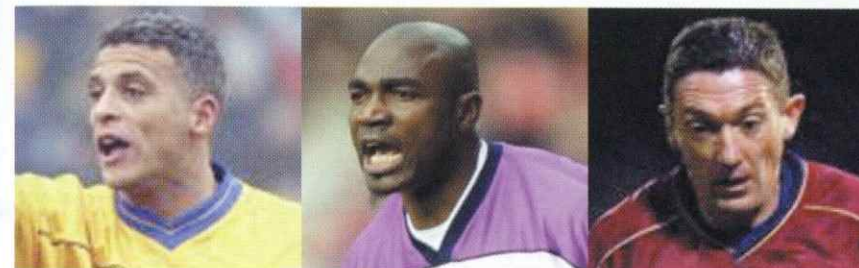
### Eyres' red card stands

Oldham have failed in their bid to have David Eyres' dismissal during the match at Mansfield Town earlier this month overturned. The Latics veteran had the support of the Stags' Craig Disley and Paul Holland who described the incident as "a

tangle of legs" but the referee is standing by his original decision. He has described Eyres' tackle as a deliberate foul with the intent to kick another player. Eyres will miss three games, starting with this afternoon's crucial clash against play-off hopefuls QPR

### Horton points to survival target

Port Vale boss Brian Horton has set his side a target of 50 points to make sure they do not go down. Vale are still in big danger of the drop, being just two places above the relegation zone on 38 points. But Horton believes that if the Valiants can produce another four results like last Saturday's 1-0 defeat of play-off hopefuls Blackpool then they will be safe. "We will need another 12 points to stay in this division," he said. "And I



**KEITH CURLE**  
MANSFIELD TOWN

**ADEMOLA BANKOLE**  
CREWE ALEXANDRA

**DAVID EYRES**  
OLDHAM ATHLETIC

honestly don't care how we get them, just as long as we do."

### Cobblers have embargo lifted

Northampton Town have been handed good news at last with the lifting of the transfer embargo that had been placed on them. The embargo was placed on the Cobblers because of cash they owe to the Professional Footballers' Association. But the club report that has been lifted after David Cardoza, the managing director, repaid the loan

### Holloway relishing run-in

Ian Holloway has admitted he cannot wait to get stuck into QPR's play-off rivals in the next few weeks as the race for promotion heats up. Rangers face forthcoming matches against five teams in the hunt for a top-six finish knowing results against them will ultimately decide who reaches the play-offs.

But Holloway refuses to worry about clashes with Oldham, Wigan, Blackpool, Cardiff and Luton, and is urging his side to consolidate their position by putting them to the sword. He said: "It's par for the course and I would rather be playing the big teams. If we can beat them they can't get three points and that gives us a great opportunity."

QPR closed the gap on Bristol City with a 1-0 win over the Robins last Saturday which kept them two points clear of the chasing pack in sixth spot.



Ian Holloway

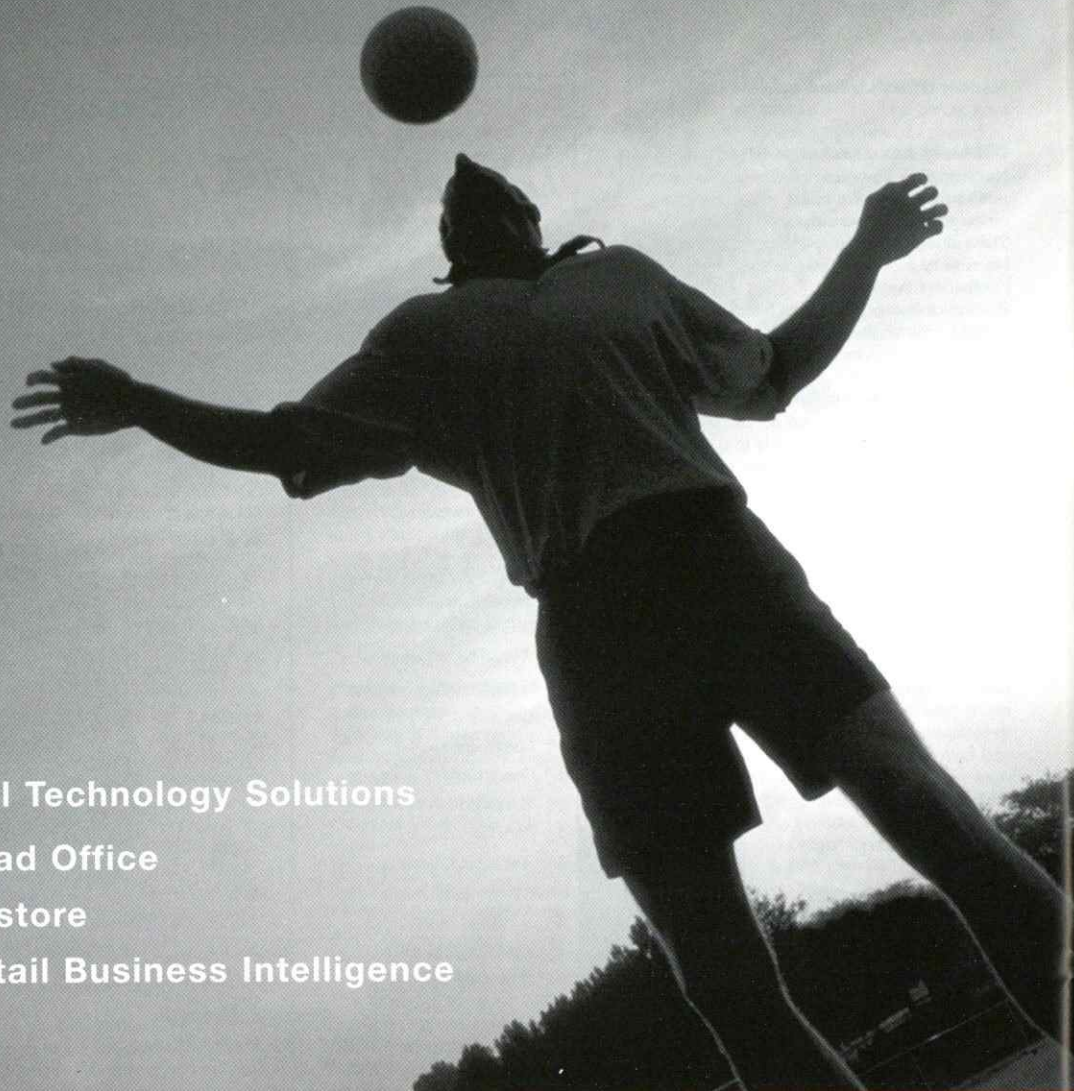
## Nationwide League Division 2

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.	GD
1 Wigan Athletic	36	24	9	3	57	21	81	36
2 Crewe Alexandra	36	20	7	9	62	35	67	27
3 Cardiff City	35	19	9	7	53	29	66	24
4 Oldham Athletic	36	18	11	7	52	31	65	21
5 Bristol City	36	18	8	10	61	39	62	22
6 Queen's Park Rangers	36	17	9	10	53	40	60	13
7 Tranmere Rovers	36	17	7	12	48	49	58	-1
8 Luton Town	36	16	8	12	55	48	56	7
9 Blackpool	36	15	9	12	46	44	54	2
10 Plymouth Argyle	36	13	11	12	50	42	50	8
11 Swindon Town	35	12	10	13	46	49	46	-3
12 Brentford	36	12	10	14	37	42	46	-5
13 Wycombe Wanderers	36	12	9	15	52	47	45	5
14 Notts County	36	10	14	12	53	54	44	-1
15 Barnsley	36	11	10	15	42	51	43	-9
16 Colchester United	36	10	12	14	41	48	42	-7
17 Chesterfield	36	12	6	18	34	52	42	-18
18 Peterborough United	35	9	12	14	36	46	39	-10
19 Port Vale	36	10	8	18	40	57	38	-17
20 Stockport County	36	10	7	19	46	58	37	-12
21 Huddersfield Town	36	9	9	18	27	45	36	-18
22 Mansfield Town	36	10	6	20	54	75	36	-21
23 Northampton Town	36	9	7	20	32	57	34	-25
24 Cheltenham Town	35	7	12	16	36	54	33	-18

### Today's Fixtures

Blackpool v Plymouth Argyle  
Brentford v Stockport County  
Bristol City v Peterborough United  
Cheltenham Town v Northampton Town  
Colchester United v Huddersfield Town  
Crewe Alexandra v Port Vale  
Mansfield Town v Swindon Town  
Notts County v Chesterfield  
Oldham Athletic v Queens Park Rangers  
Wycombe Wanderers v Barnsley  
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Tranmere Rovers v Cardiff City

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# FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

Good afternoon one and all and welcome once again to the JJB Stadium.

**We can rest assured that today's game against Luton Town will be another tough one but as long as the lads continue to put in the hard work and commitment that they have so far this season I'm sure that we'll continue to progress from now until the end of the season and will hopefully gain the promotion that the club's efforts deserve.**

Moving on to our own business and as usual we have been very busy over the past couple of weeks and at the present time our main aim is to encourage and establish more and more girls football classes in the Wigan Borough. The High Schools that we are working with at the present time are Abram Guest, Bedford High and Rose Bridge in Ince. We are pushing girls football in all of these Schools and so far have had a very positive response.

In the lower age ranges we are also working with Primary Schools such as Ince Church of England, St Williams, Mabs Cross, St Peters, Downall

Green, Marus Bridge, Shevington Vale and Montrose. Our attempts to encourage more girls into football are proving a big hit and we will continue our efforts while the results are so rewarding and while the participants still seem to be enjoying themselves.

Meanwhile, we continue to put on our After School Club and the Schools we are visting over the next month are the Holy Family and St John the Baptiste. As the two Schools are near nieghbours we will be running the Club jointly with the two Schools as part of a Community programme to bring the two sets of pupils together.

Well that's about it from me - if you'd like to find out more about Latics Football In The Community Programme why not contact me in the office on 01942 824 599.

All the best,  
Bill.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOUR SCHOOL OR CLUB CAN GET INVOLVED WITH LATICS FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME, PLEASE CONTACT COMMUNITY OFFICER BILL COLLIER ON 01942 824 599.

# Coming through the ranks.

## Reserves see off Potters



After a couple of weeks of inactivity, David Lowe took his reserve team to Stoke on Monday afternoon and recorded an excellent 2-0 victory to continue their fine form in the Avon Insurance League.

### STOKE CITY 0 - 2 LATICHS

- Monday 10th March 2003 - Avon Insurance League Division One West  
Second half goals from Mike Flynn and youngster David Moore helped Latics earn an excellent 2-0 win over Stoke in the Avon Insurance League at Newcastle Town FC.  
Goal-less after the first half, David Lowe's side upped the tempo after the interval and were rewarded with two goals in two minutes midway through the second period. Flynn's first ever reserve team strike put his side in front before Moore's third goal of the

season secured the excellent victory.  
Latics had taken control of the match in the closing stages of the first half and then continued their good work and it was no surprise when Flynn gave his side the lead. A fine run and cross from Jonathan Thompson ended with Flynn having a header saved by Jarni Viander in the home goal. However, the close season signing from Barry Town was first to react and tapped the ball home to confirm Latics superiority.  
And within a couple of minutes the visitors lead was doubled - youth team striker Moore leaving Viander helpless as he finished clinically having been played in just inside the area. And that was easily enough for Latics as another fine display by Lowe's men saw them bounce back from their first away defeat of the the season at Doncaster. An excellent win then, over a Stoke City side that included first teamers Chris Iwelumo, Marc Goodfellow and Bjarni Gudjonsson.

#### Latics:

Yeomans, Owens (Jones), Baines (Roberts J), Breckin, Charnock, Mitchell (Santus), Jarrett, Thompson, Pendlebury, Moore, Flynn

**Subs not used:** Lynch, Traynor

### RESERVE TEAM APPEARANCES 2002-2003 AVON INSURANCE LEAGUE

	A	S	G
<b>PROFESSIONALS</b>			
Ashcroft Lee	3	0	4
Beasant Dave	2	0	0
Brannan Ged	4	0	0
Breckin Ian	5	0	2
Charnock Kieran	11	0	0
Flynn Mike	5	0	1
Green Scott	3	0	0
Jarrett Jason	6	0	0
McMillan Steve	3	0	0
Mitchell Paul	5	0	0
Pendlebury Ian	5	2	0
Roberts Neil	5	0	2
Santus Paul	3	1	1
Teale Gary	4	0	3

### YTS PLAYERS

Baines Leighton	7	0	0
Dixon Phil	1	2	0
Edwards Phil	1	0	0
Foulkes Michael	2	1	0
Jones Chris	4	0	0
Lee Kevin	2	0	0
Lynch Chris	5	1	0
Moore David	7	0	2
Owens Lee	3	2	0
Roberts Joseph	4	5	3
Thompson Jonathan	6	4	2
Traynor Greg	2	3	0
Yeomans Ryan	7	0	0

### OTHERS

Parry Matthew	2	0	0
Porter Chris	3	0	1
Edghill Richard	1	0	0



# Reserve & Youth

## Penalty win for Youth Team



### Bury 0 - 0 Latics (Latics Win 5-3 On Pens) - Lancashire FA Youth Cup Semi Final

A fabulous performance saw a nine man Latics Youth Team beat Bury in a thrilling penalty shoot-out to reach the Final of the Lancashire FA Youth Cup on Wednesday night.  
David Lee took his side to Gigg Lane hoping to earn Latics a place in the Final of this competition for the first time in their history. However, when Leighton Baines and Kevin Lee were sent off for receiving two yellows cards in the 20th and 50th minutes respectively, odds were long on Latics achieving their aim.  
Despite their lack of numbers Latics went on to create the

better chances as the game completed 90 minutes and moved into extra time, though 'keeper Ryan Yeomans was called upon to make a couple of excellent saves to preserve his side's clean sheet.  
And when extra time was completed the match moved on to be decided by a thrilling penalty shoot-out. With Latics first four penalty takers Greg Traynor, David Moore, Joey Roberts and Michael Foulkes all burying their penalties while the Shakers missed their third, it was all left to substitute Chris Jones to step up to take the crucial spot-kick.

And he did not disappoint, as he fired clinically home to complete a memorable win for Latics and clinch a Cup Final place alongside the winners of the other Semi Final between Preston North End and Tranmere Rovers.

Speaking after the game, Youth Team Supremo was rightly proud of his lads efforts on a difficult night at Gigg Lane.  
"I thought the lads were fantastic in trying circumstances having been reduced to nine men. They kept their shape brilliantly and forced Bury to play in front of them by not allowing them to get in behind and exploit the space. The defence were magnificent while the midfield and Moore's up front worked tirelessly to keep Bury at bay.

To be fair, even with our reduced numbers we probably created the better chances though Ryan did make a couple of great saves.  
"When it came to penalties it could have become a lottery but for our lads to score all five shows how well they kept their nerve. We took five excellent spot-kicks and deserved our win and I'm really proud of the lads efforts on what was certainly an eventful night."

#### Latics:

Yeomans, Owens (Jones), Foulkes, Edwards, Lee, Lynch, Roberts, Traynor, Thompson, Moore, Baines

#### Subs not used:

Dixon, Middleton, Joyce

### YOUTH TEAM APPEARANCES 2002-2003

	STATUS	A	S	G
Baines Leighton	Trainee	13	0	3
Barratt Paul	Triallist	0	4	0
Charnock Kieran	Pro	18	0	0
Dickinson Tom	Triallist	6	0	0
Dixon Phil	Trainee	3	8	0
Edwards Philip	Trainee	19	1	1
Foulkes Michael	Trainee	4	4	0
Francis Carl	Triallist	1	1	0
Jones Chris	Trainee	13	0	1
Joyce Luke	Schoolboy	0	1	0
Kay Rob	Trainee	0	0	0
Lee Kevin	Trainee	9	1	2
Lynch Chris	Trainee	17	1	4
Moore David	Trainee	18	3	7
Murray Matthew	Triallist	0	2	0
Owens Lee	Trainee	12	4	0
Pickup Lee	Triallist	4	0	0
Pendlebury Ian	Pro	13	0	4
Perry-Acton Ben	Schoolboy	0	2	0
Porter Chris	Triallist	9	0	5
Roberts Joseph	Trainee	18	3	2
Santus Paul	Pro	7	2	1
Thompson Jonathan	Trainee	13	4	3
Traynor Greg	Trainee	18	0	1
Viera Magno Silva	Triallist	15	4	5
Wilson Joseph	Triallist	0	1	0
Wills Andrew	Triallist	2	0	0
Yeomans Ryan	Trainee	5	0	0

# Wigan Athletic

supporters association news

It's getting to that stage in the season now where it is all becoming exciting. Only ten games to go and we are still sitting pretty at the top of the league, with a healthy points gap between our nearest rivals and ourselves. With drawing our last couple of games, we might have thought that teams would have gained on us, but that is not the case with the teams lower down doing us many favours and getting fantastic results against Crewe and Cardiff. Out of the teams in the play off pack, who would you like to see promoted alongside the Latics? For locality reasons, and the fact that they play a decent passing game, many people would say Crewe, but who will put the run in and be there on the 3rd May? Fingers crossed, whoever it is, will be the runners up to the Latics!

## ANNUAL DINNER

This season's annual dinner will be a Jubilee Celebration of Wigan Athletic's election into the Football League. This event will take place on Thursday 5th June in the John Smith's Supporters Lounge, where we will have a 3-course dinner and entertainment provided by a comedian.

It will be an extra special WASTC night, with invites going out to the players who played in our first league game, the manager at the time and the referee from the first game.

Watch this space for more details of this special WASTC event.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

At the next game, we hope to start the voting for this season's Player of the Year. It looks like it may be a close run thing this season, with exceptional performances from a number of players. Your vote could make a difference! Watch this space for information on the event.

## WEBSITE

Visit our website at [www.wastc.co.uk](http://www.wastc.co.uk) to catch up with all the latest WASTC news. See our new Travel Guide, which gives details on match tickets, directions to grounds, information on trains, as well as the usual WASTC coach information. At the moment we have details on the site for the forthcoming trips to Stockport and QPR.

## MARCH AWAY FIXTURES

Today we are taking bookings for the next couple of away fixtures. To avoid disappointment, please book as much in advance as possible for the coaches for these games.

## WASTC Contact Details

Address: W.A.S.T.C., P O Box 160, Wigan D.O., WN6 7FN  
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**Q.P.R. - Saturday  
22nd March 2003**

**Adult** £17.00  
**Concession:** £14.00  
**Parent/Child:** £25.00  
**Departure Time from Soccer  
Dome: 8.30am**

**BOOKINGS BEING  
TAKEN IN THE  
SUPPORTERS BAR  
RECEPTION  
(SOUTH STAND)  
or VIA MAYFAIR TRAVEL  
ON WIGAN LANE  
(01942 829988)**

**PLEASE BOOK FOR ANY  
GAMES AS EARLY AS  
POSSIBLE TO AVOID  
DISAPPOINTMENT.**

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## Blues on the road



## Stockport County

**Tuesday 18th Match 2003  
Nationwide League Division Two Kick-off 7.45pm**

Stockport County boss Carlton Palmer has vowed to fight on at Edgeley Park, despite criticism from the club's fans. Some supporters called for Palmer's dismissal following last Saturday's defeat at Barnsley, which has left County just a place and a point out of the drop-zone. But Palmer, who also tasted relegation last season after taking over three months into the campaign when the side was bottom of Division One, is determined to see the job through. He said: "I've been in the game a long time and know football supporters are fickle.

"I'll carry on doing the job the best I know how. There's still all to play for and we know what we need to do to stay up. "We're out of the bottom four and so it's up to other teams to get us to drop in there and up to us to keep out ourselves out of it."

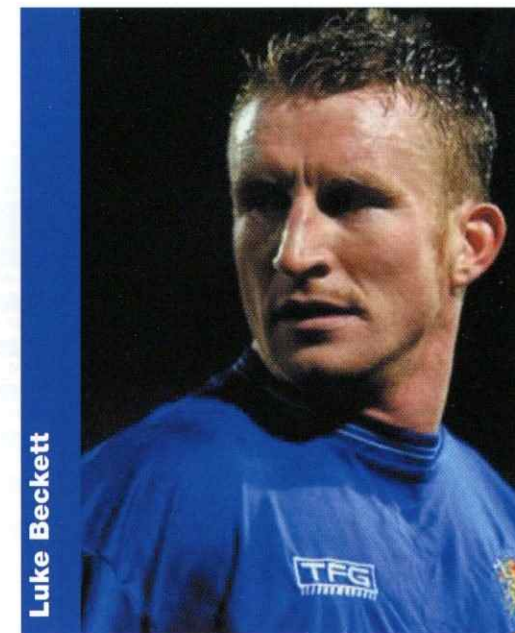
With just two wins in their last fourteen matches, Palmer has admitted he is lucky to still be in a job after the recent run of poor results which has seen him take a 50% pay cut "If I'd have been at any other club I think I would have been out of work, but Brendan Elwood is an honourable man," "He is Stockport County and he is the only man who is responsible for the club being here at the moment. The man is a saviour and loves the club."

With ten matches to go, the former England international has targeted four wins in the remaining games to preserve their Division Two status.

In striker Luke Beckett, the Hatters have one of the top strikers in the division, his tally of 23 league goals including the opener in the corresponding fixture here at the JJB Stadium. Anxious to keep hold of him for as long as possible, County County are hoping to keep the scoring sensation at Edgeley Park for at least another season on top of his current contract. His striking partner in recent weeks has been John Daly whose tally of 5 league goals included the winner in their last victory at home

against Chesterfield.

In defence club captain Dave Challinor has been a virtual ever-present this season however his central-partner Jim Goodwin will miss out on the match. His yellow card in the win over Chesterfield was his tenth of the campaign and a automatic two-match ban.



Luke Beckett

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