

LUTON TOWN

The Hatters

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Programme of the Year

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Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

Photography

Gareth Owen

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club.

Cover Story



Chris Coyne in action against Oldham

Inside Forward

A BID to recruit veteran striker Tommy Mooney on loan failed this week when he accepted a deal with First Division Derby County. His agent had been negotiating at Pride Park and Kenilworth Road, but Joe Kinnear knew he was battling against the odds because of money.

Birmingham City were willing to pay some of Mooney's wages, but not enough to bring him into line with the Town's wages structure. The boss also tried to recruit Lloyd Owusu on loan from Sheffield Wednesday. He is barely a year into a three-year deal, but has been told he can leave Hillsborough if a cash bid comes in, or if he will accept a contract pay-off.

The former Brentford man is keen to return south, but hopes to find a club willing to offer him a permanent deal, and is looking for a far higher salary than he would be offered at Luton.

As we went to press Joe was in talks with another First Division club about an attacking midfielder capable of playing on either flank. The player is keen on a loan that would give him regular first team football.

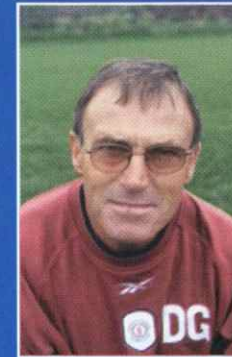
Day Off A Blessing?

SUPPORTERS in danger of being dragged off to the shops might not like it, but next Saturday's day off for the Town when they should have been playing at Cheltenham could be a boost for the promotion drive. The game has been switched to Tuesday April 8 (7.45) because Cheltenham will be without three players next weekend, Michael Duff, Grant McCann and Shane Duff, who have been included in Northern Ireland international parties to play in Armenia. Michael Duff and McCann are in the full squad, while Duff's younger brother is in the under-21s, and three absences from one club gives the club the right to have a league game postponed. For the Town it offers more time to deal with a lengthy injury list, and the manager and skipper Kevin Nicholls think the unexpected rest will work to our advantage, as they explain in their columns today.

The Town would have been without Lars Hirschfeld if the Whaddon Road game had been played. The on-loan goalkeeper was named in the Canadian squad to play Estonia in Tallin. However, a hamstring

INSIDE TODAY...

The manager's views - P 5; The skipper's column - P 7; Wigan help fans - P 9; Today's visitors - Pp 18-21; Wigan and Oldham match reports and pictures - Pp 26-29; Latest injury news - P 8; Blast from the Past - Pp 22 & 23; Colchester tickets in short supply - Pp 10-11; Luton Belles collect more silverware - P 45; Junior Hatters news - P 35; The final lap for top teams - P 53; All the stats: Pp 54-55.



FRIENDS REUNITED: Today's game pits two old pals against each other, and whatever the result Joe Kinnear will offer an extra-warm handshake and a drink to Crewe boss Dario Gradi. Both are former managers of Wimbledon, and Joe said: "We have stayed good friends for many years."

injury sustained at Wigan a week ago may cost him the chance of his ninth international cap. His loan at Kenilworth Road runs out next Saturday.

Man With A Mission

THE MANAGER is wearing an unusual badge today. It says Goal, signifying his support for the FA's campaign of that name to ensure child protection in football. He said: "Members of the League Managers Association are taking time to speak about putting children first. There are plenty of times, as you get older, when winning football matches seems to matter more than trying. But for a ten-year-old in a Sunday morning game, or a teenager in a school match, that shouldn't be the case.

"Goal is about doing things the right way, and about allowing children to enjoy the game without abuse of any kind. That includes bullying, physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect. Child protection is high on the agenda at Luton Town and we already have someone responsible for child protection issues. The goal is to have someone like that at every club in the country, aware of child protection and best practice, whether it's a Premiership Academy or a Sunday morning park side.

"I'm lucky to be paid for managing a football team. But like those who turn out to help run kids' sides every weekend, I care about the future of football, and that means putting children first."

More information is available at www.TheFA.com/Goal

Brian Swain



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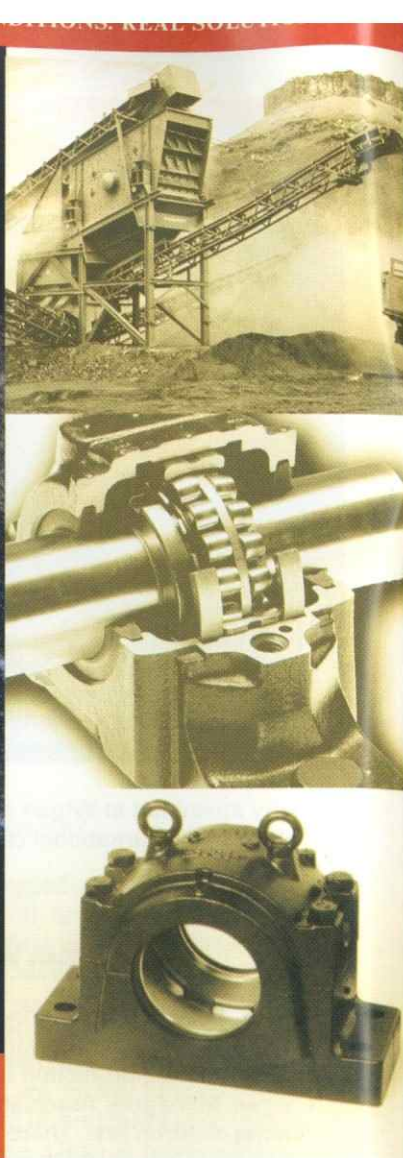
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Manager's View



I FORECAST in my column for Tuesday's game that we were facing a tough test in every match from now until the end of the season, and Oldham Athletic certainly proved it as they came to Kenilworth Road to frustrate us and go home with a point. They are looking good for a play-off place, and we have taken four points off them this season, but it was still a disappointing night. We played some reasonable football and we had done enough to deserve the victory we wanted. But Oldham came with a determined game plan and were much happier with the result than we were. It was obvious from their reactions after the game that they were delighted to get away from Luton - without being beaten.

They rarely looked like hurting us, while their goal survived several scares, and they had all the luck that was going. Having said that, we really must be more ruthless in front of goal - we had chances, and while their keeper made a decent save or two, he was let off the hook too often for my liking.

I am sure it was as frustrating for you in the crowd as it was for us, and we appreciated your patience and understanding. When you are chasing honours every game at this time of the season is bound to have a bit of tension about it, and the mental strength to deal with it and still play your football is important. One goal was always going to be enough, and it was a shame

we couldn't get it, because I felt we deserved it. Oldham made things difficult for

us, with five at the back playing deep. They couldn't pass their way through us, and their only real attacking threat was the long ball for quick attackers to chase.

There were plus points from the game, with the main one being a very welcome clean sheet, even though we had to use two goalkeepers. We have had a terrible time with injuries this season, especially to defenders. We have used 11 different players in the back four so far this season, not to mention five different goalkeepers, so we have done well to be reasonably consistent at the back.

It looks as though Lars Hirschfeld's Luton Town career may be over after he tore a hamstring in making a save. He has gone back to Spurs for treatment, and we wait to hear how long it may take him to regain fitness. Once we know that, I will consider making another offer to him to resume his loan, but in the meantime I put on record my thanks to him for his efforts on our behalf. I think we have done him some good as well.

We have welcomed back Chris Willmott, who is getting over injury, and as I wrote this column I was working to try to bring in another player or two for the run-in.

Out of all the teams chasing play-off places, we must have the hardest last lap of the lot. But that can be an advantage: our players have shown several times this season that they respond to tough tests, and they are sure to motivate themselves for the remaining games. The postponement of the Cheltenham match might also

work to our advantage, giving us time to get more players fit, but it also means that today's game is the third of six on the trot in which we are up against play-off hopefuls.

We still have the proud record of not being beaten by any of the teams above us, and as we prepare to take on another well-placed team today I hope we put in the same effort and commitment we showed against Oldham, but with more sharpness in and around the box. Our final ball in the last third also needs to be a bit better - too many went straight into the goalkeeper's arms on Tuesday.

Otherwise, there was not a lot wrong with the way we tackled the job against Oldham, and if we keep playing like that we will win more than we lose.

The top six is now a little further away, but it is certainly not beyond our reach. We have got to do it the hard way - taking on the best teams in the division and going for three points in every match.

Today will be another test of our ability and character. Crewe are one of the best teams in the Division, and on course for a quick return to Division One. I would like to welcome everyone from Gresty Road, especially their manager Dario Gradi, a friend I have known for many years. He and his men will be keen to even the score after we won at their place. They won't be any keener than me to win! Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

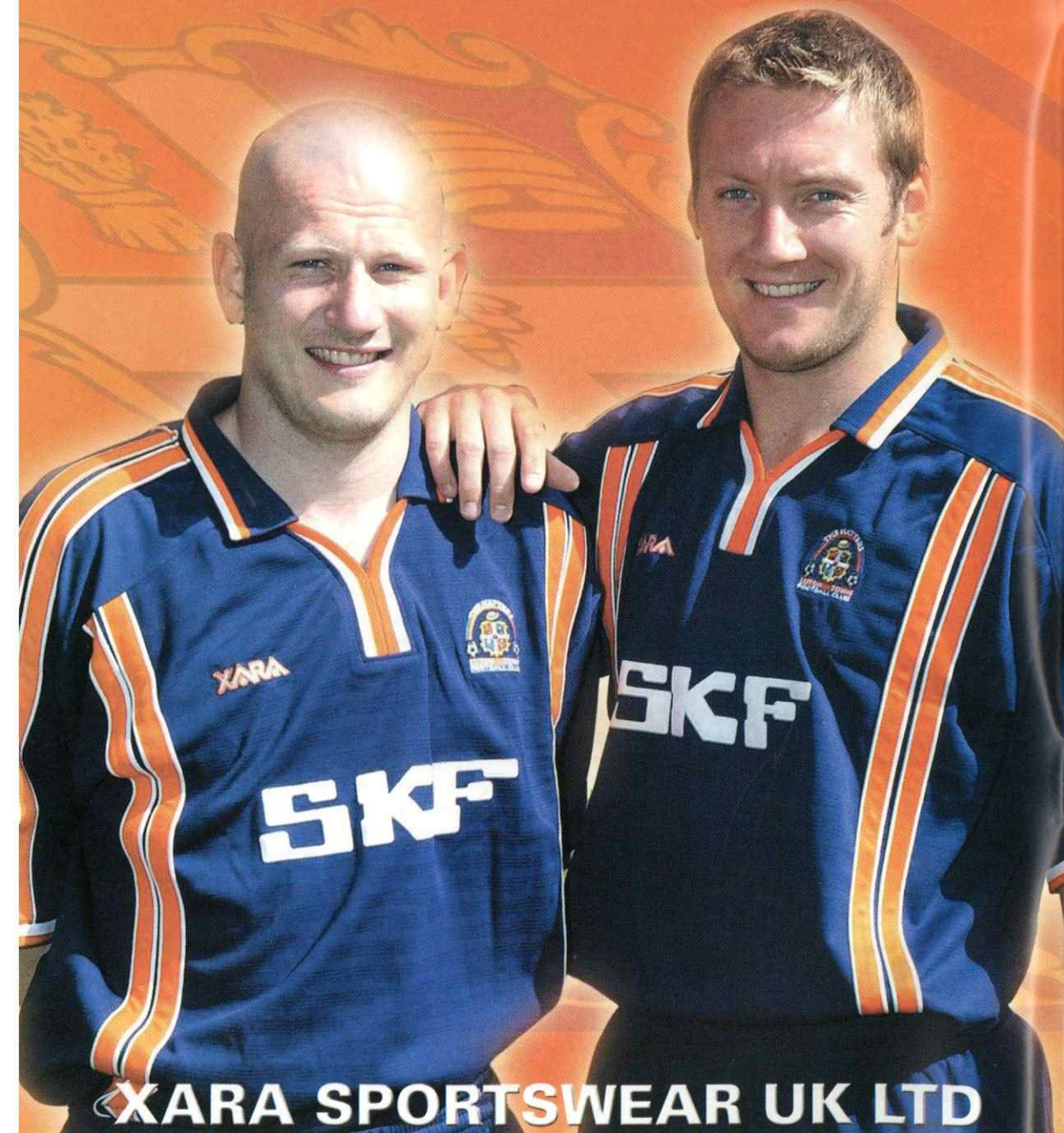
Joe Kinnear



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Captain's View



IT WAS disappointing to drop a couple of home points to Oldham on Tuesday, and it was more bad news when we heard that Queens Park Rangers had hammered Cheltenham to leave us six points short of the play-off places.

But it is certainly not doom and gloom, with enough points still to play for to keep us in with a chance of the play-offs, particularly when you think how many of our remaining eight games are six-pointers. I doubt if any other team has a harder run-in to the end of the season, but that doesn't worry me. Each game, including today's, is so important that we cannot help but be up for it.

A gap has opened up between the top nine teams and the rest of the division, and of those nine Blackpool, three points below us, need a miraculous run if they are to make it into the play-offs. My reading of the table is that we are competing with Tranmere and QPR for sixth place. Obviously we must overhaul Tranmere, which means beating them when they come to Luton in a fortnight's time.

But first we have to take care of Crewe, who have had a tremendous season to lead the pack chasing Wigan. Like us, they cannot afford to slip up today, with Cardiff breathing down their necks, so this afternoon's game is vital to both teams.

We played Crewe off the park when we won at Gresty Road in October, but both clubs have improved their league

positions since then, and Crewe's performances make it clear they are a side to be respected.

I would think that for supporters the game was more entertaining than the average 0-0 draw, but it was frustrating that we couldn't find a goal to change things. If Matt Spring or Steve Howard had got the early breakthrough that seemed to be on offer, it would have been a different game. But give credit to Oldham: they are fourth in the table for a reason, and their performance showed why they have lost only one away game all season. They defended in numbers and were very well organised, and they stuck to their game plan. You could tell from their reaction at the final whistle that they were much happier with the draw than we were. But without being disrespectful to a good professional side, they were lucky to go home with a point. We had more scoring chances, and the game was there for the taking.

Fortunately our defence was excellent again, and we are going to need a few more clean sheets in the next month or so.

It was disappointing not to win, but don't underestimate the value of not being beaten. That's three games without defeat, and that is something to build on. What we must do, of course, is turn draws into wins, and today I will expect to see us get into our stride quickly, and hopefully take the first goal.

We then have a week off because of the postponement of the Cheltenham game, and while that might give other teams the chance to pull away from us, it could have the opposite effect. If we win today and next Saturday's results go our way, we could be in a very strong position with a game in hand, and that against a team who seem to be heading straight back into the Third Division. The break will give us a chance to recharge our batteries, and it could be a Godsend to those who are injured, or who have been carrying injuries.

And on that subject, it was great to see Adrian Forbes back in the squad. I felt quite emotional when I shook hands with him to say welcome back. He has had a tough time since being injured in pre-season, but he has always kept smiling, and the smile was even broader this week. I know what he has gone through: I was out for a year with a serious injury to my right knee when I was 18. Later, I had 16 months out with a left knee injury. They were the worst times of my football life, and I know how good I felt when I finally made it back into league action.

I will feel even better this evening if we have put three more points in the bin, especially if Wigan can do us a favour by winning at Loftus Road!

Kevin Nicholls

Log on to Luton Town's official website at
www.lutontown.co.uk



Treatment Room

K E V I N Nicholls took a whack on his knee during the game against Oldham, and as you may have seen needed treatment on the field before being able to carry on. But the injury turned out not to be as bad as it might have been, and despite a bit of swelling and bruising, the skipper got over it quickly.

He was able to complete the game, and since then treatment has enabled him to make a full recovery.

That was the only knock we received on Tuesday, and I am glad to report that all my other "customers" are continuing to do well.

Aaron Skelton has got over the minor setback he suffered

after making his comeback with the reserves. It was a slight hamstring problem, and nothing to do with his previous injury, and it has responded to treatment and he is now back in training.

Alan Kimble has also recovered from his hamstring injury, and will be able to join in next week's training work, and the same is true of Carl Griffiths. He was unlucky to pick up a calf injury in training last Sunday, but has just about got over it. He, like the rest of our professionals, knows the value of looking after himself, and that has helped him through some difficult times.

Chris Willmott is on his way back after a hamstring

problem. He suffered some slight discomfort when he resumed running this week, but I am confident that will soon clear up.

Alan Neilson is coming along well after injuries to calf muscles on both legs, one after the other. Fortunately the latest is only a slight injury, and I expect to see him back in training shortly.

Finally, Emmerson Boyce, who has been out of action for five weeks with a groin injury, is making good progress after the consultant decided he did not require surgery. He is still under treatment, but getting better all the time, and was able to resume running this week.

Lee Taylor



Club Secretary

THE FIXTURE changes continue, with our game at Cheltenham being the latest casualty. We were due to play them next Saturday, but Cheltenham have had three players called up for international duty next weekend, and under Football League regulations the match is postponed.

The new date is Tuesday April 8, kick-off 7.45pm. Supporters will be aware that it is an ALL TICKET match, and it remains so for the new date. If you have already purchased a ticket it is still valid for the game. In the unfortunate event that you have bought a ticket but cannot use it, a full refund can be obtained by returning the ticket at least 24 hours before the day of the game.

Our apologies to supporters for the inconvenience caused by this change, but you will appreciate that it was a case of circumstances beyond our control. The change has a knock-on effect for our reserve team, because it means that we will have to find a new date for our match at Bedford Town in the Bedfordshire Senior Cup. It was scheduled for April 8, and at the time of writing I have no new date for the game, but will keep supporters informed through the usual channels, via the club website, ClubCall and local press and radio.

So far we have had no success in trying to arrange our outstanding Avon Insurance Combination matches - I can see the reserves fixture list continuing well into May at this rate.

Some good news this week was that we have been successful in an application for funds from the FA Community Shield proceeds, and as a result the Luton and Dunstable Hospital Cancer Ward will receive a cheque for £8,100. The money comes from receipts of the Charity Shield match, so once again supporters are helping the community. On that subject, the Marie Curie Cancer Appeal collection in the ground at the Huddersfield match raised £291.88, and I have been asked by Elizabeth Sullivan, the appeal's regional administration manager, to pass on their grateful thanks to all our supporters.

We received information from Colchester this week about ticket arrangements for our game at Layer Road on Easter Monday, and I am afraid it means that some supporters who want to go might be disappointed. Safety work on the ground decrees that we have only 1,100 tickets, which is below our average away following. To make distribution of our allocation as fair as possible, they will go on sale to season ticket holders first - please see the ticket news pages overleaf for full details.

Talking of away support, well done to the travelling army that made the trek to Wigan - over 1,700 was another magnificent turn-out, and it was a shame that the day was spoiled for some of them when a mindless idiot smashed a window in one of our supporters coaches.

But I would like to put on record our thanks to the Wigan

Chairman, David Whelan and his staff, who took rapid action to do what he could to help. Facilities, including food and drink, were provided so that our supporters could stay in the warm until a replacement coach arrived. I would also like to thank our car park staff, who waited until the small hours to ensure the safety of the supporters' cars until they returned. On the subject of travel to games, I wonder if anyone can help a supporter living in Devon. He is looking for another Luton Town fan from the south west who might be able to help him get to matches. He is happy to pay his share of expenses, and if you would like to help him, please contact me at the club.

Finally today, can I ask you to support the fund-raising effort being made in the ground by members of Luton Town Supporters Club. They are selling tickets for a draw to be made at the annual presentation evening on May 4, a very popular function run jointly by the Football Club and the Supporters Club. Thanks to the generosity of many people, there is a long list of prizes, including a colour TV and DVD player. Apart from the chance of winning something, you will also be helping your club if you buy a ticket or two, because all profits made by the Luton Town Supporters Club are dedicated to Luton Town FC.

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Ticket Office News

Nationwide League Division Two



Cheltenham Town v Luton Town
This match, due to be played on Saturday, March 29, has been postponed and will now be played on Tuesday April 8, 2003, kick-off 7.45pm

ALL TICKETS PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED WILL BE VALID FOR THE NEW DATE



This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game. We had an allocation of 600 seats and 900 terracing. Tickets are on sale to members only until close of business next Wednesday, March 26.

If any tickets are still available after then, they will go on general sale at 10am on Thursday, March 27.

Supporters who bought tickets for the original date, but are now unable to use them, can claim refunds by returning them to the ticket office at least 24 hours before the new date.

Prices:

TERRACING: Adults £13, senior citizens and 15 & 16-year-olds £9, 14 and under £5

SEATING: Adults £15, senior citizens and 15 & 16-year-olds £12, 14 and under £7

Cheltenham Town advise that if you are travelling with young children, you are recommended to buy seating tickets, as youngsters would struggle to get a sufficient view of the game on the terracing.



Luton Town v Tranmere Rovers
Saturday, April 5, 2003, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability, but please remember there are NO CONCESSIONS available on cash turnstiles.



Queens Park Rangers v Luton Town
Saturday April 12, 2003, kick-off 3pm

We have been advised by QPR that this match is now ALL TICKET with no tickets available on the day of the match. Tickets will be on sale until 6.00pm on Friday 11th April (subject to availability).

We would apologise to supporters for this late change of ticket arrangement which was only advised to us by QPR on Friday 21st March 2003
Prices: Adults £16; Juniors, senior citizens and students £8.



Ticket Office News

Luton Town v Bristol City
Saturday, April 19, 2003, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability, but please remember there are NO CONCESSIONS available on cash turnstiles



Colchester Utd v Luton Town
Monday April 21, 2003, kick-off 3pm

This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game. In the interests of safety we have been allocated 375 seats and 650 terracing tickets, and sales arrangements are:

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders only, one per season ticket, on production of cup match voucher F, until close of business on Friday April 11.

No telephone bookings will be accepted, but season ticket holders can make postal applications.

MEMBERS

If any tickets remain, they will go on sale to members, one per membership card, at 10am on Saturday April 12

Prices:

TERRACING: Adults £12, senior and junior citizens £6

SEATING: Adults £14, senior and junior citizens £8



Luton Town v Stockport County
Saturday April 26, 2003, kick-off 3pm

This match is ALL TICKET for ALL SUPPORTERS, with no tickets available on the day of the game.

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices and supporters are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. There will be no cash turnstiles available



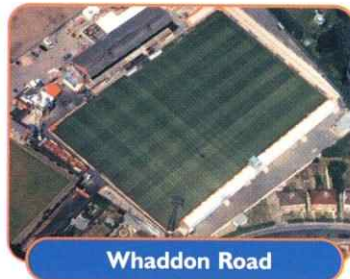
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You can order tickets via email on
ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk



Hatters Away

N E X T
Saturday's scheduled game at Cheltenham has been called off because three of their players will be on duty for Northern Ireland in Armenia. The Town will now go to Whaddon Road on Tuesday April 8 with a 7.45pm kick-off. The Bobbers Travel Club and Town on Tour both intend to run trips to the match, but departure times were not available as we went to press. Fares on the Bobbers coach will be £10 for adults and £8 for senior citizens and under-16s, while Town on Tour will charge £13 for adult members of Luton



Whaddon Road

Town Supporters Club, £11 for junior and senior citizen members and £15 for non-members. Please note that it is an all-ticket match, so you must buy a match ticket from the Luton Town ticket office before travelling. Details of how to drive to

Cheltenham were given in Tuesday's programme, and, space permitting, we will try to include them again in the match day magazine to be published in a fortnight's time, the Saturday before the Cheltenham match. Meanwhile can we remind supporters planning to go to the QPR match on April 12 that although the road journey to Loftus Road is usually quick and easy, parking in that part of London is a real headache, and our advice is to take advantage of the excellent services provided by the Bobbers or Town on Tour.

AWAY games travel can be booked at the LTSC or Bobbers kiosks in Kenilworth Road, before or after home games. Paul Deason on 01234 750996 will take phone bookings for the Bobbers, whose service includes pick-ups at Cranfield, Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and opposite the Travelodge Motel in Dunstable Road, Luton. Town on Tour seats can be booked by phoning 07960 567465. Maple Road car park, which is stewarded, costs £4 per car.

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Commercial Corner



A LIFE-LONG Luton Town supporter, Pete Layton, is giving the club tangible and much-appreciated backing today. His company, Ladyswood Ltd, is not

only a joint match sponsor, but is also sponsoring the match ball.

The local company has flourished as a business that distributes magazines throughout the country, and while running it Pete has always found time to be a staunch supporter of the Town. He said: "I was born in Luton, and began following the club when I was a boy. I have had huge enjoyment as a Hatters fan, and am delighted to be able to repay the club to some degree with my support through sponsorship."

He finds it easier to get to games nowadays, having moved back into the area after living in London for 15 years, and today he will be joined by family and friends. We hope they all enjoy their time with us, and we know it will be perfection for Pete if the team beats Crewe.

Our other match sponsors are also old friends returning – the Regular Rabble, a bunch of very committed Town fans. They follow the club everywhere, going to away games with the Bobbers Travel Club, and naturally their group name is only 50 per cent accurate – regular supporters they are, a rabble they are certainly not. We hope Sue and Les Miller and their friends enjoy their afternoon with us, and we thank them for their continued support.

We need every penny we can earn, and fans who buy sponsorship packages are doing us a favour, as well as themselves.

Linda Layton

TWELVE-year-old James Sherry loves to watch Luton Town, and today he is in for an extra Kenilworth Road treat, because he is our commercial mascot.



It means he gets an insight into the behind the scenes activities as we prepare for the game, and we know he will particularly enjoy going into the dressing room before kick-off to meet the players.

Tony Thorpe is his favourite, and James will be able to run out of the tunnel with Tony and the rest of the team as they go out onto the pitch for the warm-up before kick-off.

James lives at High Street, Pulloxhill, and goes to Cardinal Newman School. He comes to games with his dad, Brendon, and is very much into sport. As well as supporting the Town, his hobbies are playing football, boxing, tennis and his computer.

Golden Gamble

GOOD results come on and off the pitch alike at Kenilworth Road. And whatever fate befalls the team, one Town supporter goes home pretty happy – the winner of our Golden Gamble. On Tuesday, for instance, Derrick Dunham, who sits in the main stand, ventured £1 on a ticket that turned out to be worth £715, and the cash was in his pocket before he went home to Cotswold Close, Putnoe.

Chris Willmott picked out the winning ticket in a lottery which grows ever more popular. At £1 a go we think it is a decent flutter, and even if you don't win, every ticket bought helps the club, because half of the income goes into the jackpot kitty and the other half goes to club funds.

The Golden Gamble has paid out £14,130 to 21 winners so far this season, an average of £673 each, and another wedge of cash is on offer this afternoon. Ticket sellers are on duty all around the ground, and the draw is made during the half time interval, with the prize available immediately.





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Clubs Comparison

34	Goals Scored	39
10	Shots	11
8	Headers	10
3	Volleys	3
1	Penalties	2
0	Free Kicks	1
0	Own Goals	1

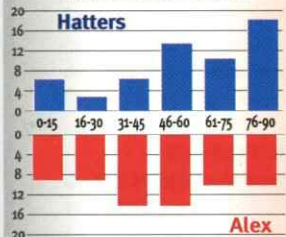
Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored



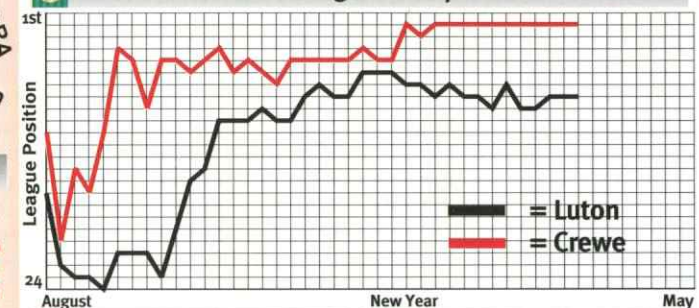
Form Guide - Last 6

2	Won	2
2	Drawn	1
2	Lost	3
8	For	9
6	Against	8
2	Points	7
2	Goal Difference	1
WLLWDD	Sequence	LLWLWD

Yellow & Red Cards

75	Yellow	26
5	Red	3

Seasonal Progress Comparison



2002-2003 Attendances

129,853	Hatters	Aggregate	124,325	Alex
9,477	Highest		9,006	
5,890	Lowest		5,138	
6,834	Average		6,543	
69	% of Capacity		64	

10 Year Record

53.3	Hatters	Avg Pos.	45.4	Alex
7,878	Avg Att 1993		3,833	
6,842	Avg Att 2002		6,475	
-13	+ / - %		69	

Average Goals per game

1.47	For	1.74
1.53	Home For	1.37
1.42	Away For	2.11
1.29	Against	0.95
1.11	Home Against	0.84
1.47	Away Against	1.05

2002-2003 Figures

36	Players Used	29
13	Clean Sheets	13
7	Failed to Score	8
7	Goals scored from...	
7	Corners	4
4	Free Kicks	13
3	Goals conceded from...	
3	Corners	5
6	Free Kicks	2

Top League Scorers

16	Howard	League Goals	21	Hulse
33	Games Played		31	
0.48	Lge Goals/Game		0.68	
11	Points Gained		14	
4	Scoring Run		4	
0	Hat-Tricks		0	
5	Close Range		7	
9	Inside Area		11	
2	Long Range		3	
6	Shots		12	
6	Headers		4	
4	Volleys		5	
0	Penalties		0	
0	Direct FKs		0	

Crewe Alexandra's 10 Year History



Season	Leading Scorer	Ave
01/02	Hulse.....12	7.1
00/01	Hulse.....11	6.6
99/00	Rivers.....7	6.2
98/99	Little.....10	5.2
97/98	Little.....13	5.2
96/97	Adebola.....16	3.9
95/96	Edwards.....15	3.5
94/95	Collins.....11	4.2
93/94	Rowbotham.....15	3.8
92/93	Naylor.....16	3.4





Welcome To

GOALKEEPERS

13. CLAYTON INCE

The club finally secured the services of the Trinidad and Tobago goalkeeper in September 1999. The £50,000 signing from Defence Force had to wait for the departure of Jason Kearton before he got a sniff of the first-team action. He made 23 appearances last season as he battled for the number one spot alongside his close friend Bankole. Excellent at crosses, the Trinidad and Tobago International has already helped the club reach a record of number of clean sheets in a season.



1. ADEMOLE BANKOLE

Now in his second spell at club, the Nigerian goalkeeper was on stand-by for the Super Eagles during the World Cup and was in the Far East for the duration of the competition. 'Big George' as he is affectionally known by the Alex faithful made 31 appearances last season but has lost his place to Clayton Ince this season. Crewe welcomed back 'George' in the summer of 2000, three years after letting him leave for Queens Park Rangers. The popular goalkeeper played seven times for the Alex in the 1997/98 season before making just one appearance at Loftus Road.

DEFENDERS

2. DAVID WRIGHT

David Wright has emerged into a competent right back, but during his time at the club has also been used as a left-back, sweeper, wing-back and centre-half. His assured and versatile displays have attracted a host of scouts to the Alexandra Stadium. He made his full league debut in the televised match at Sheffield United in August 1998 and has scored twice for the club including most recently at Chesterfield. David loves to get forward and should begin to score more goals if he continues to get into threatening positions. His passing and all round game has improved this season and it is strange to think that he is still just 22-years-of-age.

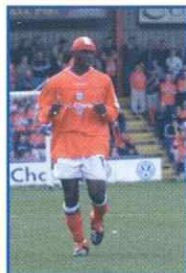
5. DAVID WALTON

Walton became Crewe's record signing when he arrived at Gresty Road in a deal which will eventually see Shrewsbury Town net £700,000. The former Sheffield United and Shrewsbury defender would be a first choice in the Crewe defence, but he now faces extra competition from Efe Sodje and the emerging Stephen Foster, Chris McCready and Richard Walker. He made 35 appearances last season, scoring his first goal at the Alexandra Stadium in a League Cup tie against Rushden and Diamonds and then again away at Norwich City. His only previous goal came way back in February 1999 against Crystal Palace. He has been on target again this season against Mansfield Town in a 2-0 home

win.

16. EFE SODJE

Efe became Crewe's first signing of the 1999/2000 season, when he signed a one-year deal. The Greenwich-born, Bandanna wearing centre-back helped Macclesfield Town reach the Football League before securing moves to Luton Town and Colchester United. The tough-tackling defender, who possesses a quick turn of pace was originally signed as cover, but injuries gave him a chance and he took it. His form was so outstanding that he was called up for the Nigerian World Cup squad last summer, where he played twice Argentina and England in the Far East. Has been used as a right-back and centre-back this season and scored his first goal of the campaign against Blackpool and then against Bournemouth in the FA Cup.



6. STEPHEN FOSTER

Young Stephen is another player to emerge from the Club's Academy. His rapid progress saw him make his first-team debut against Bury in 1998 and he made a further appearance as an emergency striker against Bristol City in the Worthington Cup. The Warrington-born defender is now a first-team regular and he made 37 appearances in various defensive positions last season. He scored his first goal for the club against Bury in the Worthington Cup and performed

Crewe Alexandra



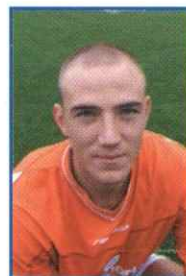
exceptionally well against a host of First Division strikers. After overcoming a cruciate ligament injury and a year out of the game, everyone was delighted to see 'Foz' hold down a regular place in the first-team squad. He scored six times last season, including some crucial goals against Bradford, Burnley, Norwich and Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup. He opened his account for the new campaign in the 5-0 win at Mansfield. Has recently undergone a slight knee operation after sustaining the injury in the club's LDV Vans Trophy defeat at Shrewsbury.

29. PAUL TIERNEY

Paul is currently on loan from Manchester United, where he has already broken into Alex Ferguson's first-team squad this season. Earlier in the season he was named as a substitute for United's trip to Chelsea and in the Champions League. His performances at left-back have already made the Eire Under-21 a popular player with the Crewe faithful and he scored in a 3-0 win over Blackpool.

3. RICHARD WALKER

The young centre-back earned rave reviews whilst on loan at Northwich Victoria and finally made the breakthrough at Crewe two seasons ago. He made his Crewe Alexandra debut at Preston and coped well with Dutch International Erik Meijer. What



may have been even more daunting for the youngster was the fact that the game was broadcast live on SKY Television. Walker's only other start was against Wimbledon at the tail end of that season. Made his first appearance of the season as a second-half substitute against Colchester United and scored his first senior goal in the 5-0 hammering of Mansfield Town. The only negative was his red card in the defeat at Wigan earlier this season but he has regained his place following Foster's injury.

MIDFIELDERS

4. KENNY LUNT

Dario Gradi describes Kenny Lunt as 'a young man with an old head on his shoulders' and that sums him up perfectly. Making 51 appearances last season, Kenny was again outstanding in the middle of the park and continues to pull the strings for Crewe in terms of creativity. As a former graduate of the FA National School at Lilleshall, Lunt played with the likes of Michael Owen and Michael Ball. He made his League debut on the opening day of the 1997-98 season and went on to start 29 matches in his debut season. Lunt possesses a natural footballing ability, is a fine passer of the ball and has his vision for someone so young is exceptional. Kenny has added strength to his frame and a lot of his hard work goes unnoticed. He is also capable of grabbing a goal or two and he has scored six times already this season.

8. DAVE BRAMMER

After weeks of speculation Crewe

finally got their man for £500,000. Dave Brammer, Port Vale's Player-of-the-Season agreed a 3-year-deal, making his debut as a second-half substitute against Grimsby on the opening day of the season. Brammer joined the Vale for a club record fee of £500,000 on deadline day 1999 from Wrexham and became a fundamental part of Brian Horton's Second Division side. He has made a huge difference to the Crewe midfield area. His combative style and ability to pass the ball both short and long have made Crewe a more solid outfit this season and he is hotly tipped to be Crewe's Player-of-the-Year. His only set-back last season was a groin injury he suffered in the club's FA Cup replay with Everton. He made his comeback on the club's summer tour of Malta and started the season as the club's new captain and penalty taker. Recently out injured with a groin strain, he recently returned against Tranmere Rovers.

12. NEIL SORVEL

Neil may not have got forward as much previous seasons, but his defensive cover and unselfish work rate has seen the Alex tighten up at the back. Sorvel returned to Gresty Road after an impressive seven-year spell at neighbours Macclesfield Town in 1999. After making just nine appearances for the Alex in his original spell, he joined the Silkmen in August 1992 and became a fundamental member of their Conference winning sides of 1995 and 1997. He was also a member of the



Welcome To

Macclesfield side when they won the FA trophy in 1996. Scored the clubs opening goal of the season in the 1-1 draw with Northampton Town and was named captain in Brammer's absence.

19. BEN RIX

An impressive midfield playmaker, Ben has been given a squad number in Dario's first-team squad for the past two seasons and last year saw him break through into the first-team, where he scored his first senior goal against Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup. An outstanding prospect in the 'Kenny Lunt' mould. Ben was rewarded with a professional contract on 31st January 2001 and signed improved terms recently. Has been in and out of the team this season and scored in our 3-0 FA Cup tie against Mansfield Town. Currently out injured after sustaining a nasty ankle injury at Brentford.

14. DAVID VAUGHAN

David is an exciting prospect, who loves to run at defenders from his fullback or wing position. Has been converted from a winger into a reliable and hard working defender. Made a surprise first-team start against Blackburn Rovers two years ago before being withdrawn at half-time. His debut may have come a little too early, but the young Welshman has improved considerably over the last year and so and he is now regarded as a first-team regular. He scored his first goal in an FA Cup tie at Rotherham and made 13 league appearances. David signed professional forms

on 31st January 2001 and extended his contract this summer. His early season form recently saw the 19-year-old called up to the full Welsh squad for their friendly encounter in Croatia, although he was not used by boss Mark Hughes. Comfortable in possession, Vaughan has been on target three times this season against Doncaster in a 8-0 win. He has also added two league goals against Cheltenham and Northampton Town.

20. LEE BELL

Lee is the latest youngster to come off the Academy conveyor belt. The Alsager-based midfielder made an instant impression when he rifled in his first senior goal on just his third appearance against Colchester United. He had only made his debut at Northampton Town the previous week. Bell is a confident midfielder, who loves to get forward and provide support in and around the box. He has also played wide during his progression through the youth ranks. He has been at Crewe Alexandra since the age of 12 and made his full debut in a LDV Vans encounter with Blackpool. Also started the recent league games against Wigan and Wycombe, when he was pick of the bunch on the field.

31. STEFAN OAKES

Stefan is currently on a month's loan from Leicester City. The 24-year-old midfielder made his Crewe debut at Plymouth and impressed in a 3-1 victory. After overcoming an horrific broken leg, Stefan battled back to fitness

and made nearly 60 appearances for the Foxes in the Premier League scoring twice against Tottenham and Sunderland. Has found his chances under Micky Adams and has arrived at Crewe for some first-team action. Stefan rarely surrenders possession and is comfortable on the ball on the left-hand side of the Alex mid-field.

FORWARDS

10. DEAN ASHTON

Dean is one of the most talked about young footballers in the country. A host of clubs have been linked with him, but Dario Gradi is adamant that he is to develop his talent at Crewe. He began the 2000/2001 season in the Under-17s but finished with 8 league goals in just 13 First Division starts! Dean is a strong and athletic forward, who has the ability to make a real name for himself in the game. He possesses a powerful shot, is good in the air and can play using both feet. Deano has already been involved with the England at youth level and was recently involved with the Under-19's in Norway, where he found himself on the score sheet in each of their 3 games. Dean forced his way into the first team two seasons ago - making his debut aged just 16 (the third youngest in Crewe history) against Gillingham. Went on to score some important goals against the likes of West Brom, Bolton, Burnley and Watford.



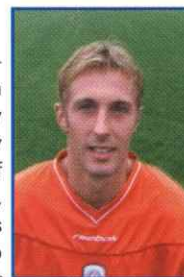
Crewe Alexandra



Saved his best strike for the Alexandra Stadium where his winner against Gillingham was the club's Goal-of-the-Season.

9. ROB HULSE

After overcoming a spinal injury brought on by a spurt of growth, young Rob is now back to his potent best. The local lad scored his first senior goal on the final day of the 1999/2000 season and went on to finish as last season's top scorer on 13 goals. Hulse has improved his strength and touch and is a real presence upfront. He holds the ball up well and is a threat in the air, as his superb header against Notts Forest last season demonstrated. With Ashton alongside him, Crewe have one of the youngest and most exciting pairings in the Second Division. Hulse has had a fantastic season so far. He opened his outstanding goalscoring account for in the 2-0 win over Colchester United and has extended by a staggering amount of goals, including a hat-trick against Mansfield and further braces against the likes of Brentford, Port Vale, Wycombe, Tranmere Rovers and Stockport County. Only a slight groin injury hampered his progress over the festive period but he is back into the scoring groove at the moment.



11. RODNEY JACK

Rodney Jack burst onto the scene in 1998 after work permit problems had delayed his move

from Torquay United. He scored twice on his home debut against Oldham Athletic in the Worthington Cup and the expectation level was raised again. The St.Vincent International joined the Alex after three seasons at The Gulls for £650,000, and he has been in the form of his life this season. He is exceptionally quick and direct. His control is superb; he possesses a powerful shot and for his size is surprising good in the air. He is a firm favourite with the Alex supporters and has scored some quite memorable goals in his Crewe career - most notably against Bolton, Barnsley, Manchester City, Portsmouth and Watford. Jack made over 40 appearances last season - but he will be disappointed with his goal return of 7. Saying that he provides the Alex side with an element of unpredictability and makes things happen with his forceful runs and pace. Started the new season on the sidelines after aggravating a groin in pre-season but burst onto the scene with a couple of goals against Cheltenham and Mansfield and has been consistently scoring goals since. So much so that he has hit 13 goals up to his goal at Chesterfield.

17. STEVE JONES

Steve became Crewe's first signing of last summer when he agreed to join the club from non-league side Leigh RMI. The pacey winger scored 23 goals for the Conference side in his final season at that level and he has provided extra competition within the Alex squad. Steve agreed a three-year deal with the club, signing late on Tuesday 3rd July

2001 before embarking on a family holiday. The lean forward can play on either wing or up front and is surprisingly good in the air. The £75,000 signing (rising to £150,000 on appearances) has provided the necessary competition for the places, and he has already broken into side and scored some important league goals against QPR, Stockport, Colchester United and Northampton. His season has been rocked by a recent cheekbone injury sustained in the 4-2 win over Wycombe.

25. JOHN MILES

Former Liverpool forward John Miles signed a one-year deal in the summer after doing enough in the pre-season games. Miles scored three times in our friendly games and signed on a short-term agreement on Friday 16th August, beating the deadline by minutes so he could make his debut against Colchester United on the Saturday. He replaced Hulse in the 87th minute and looked lively in the few minutes he got on before making his first start against Port Vale in the Worthington Cup. Has been on the bench a few times this campaign and scored his first goal for the club coming on a sub against Mansfield Town on New Years Day. Miles was a regular in Liverpool's reserve side, but he spent a brief time on loan at Stoke City last season. He made one appearance for the Potters in their final game at Bristol City.

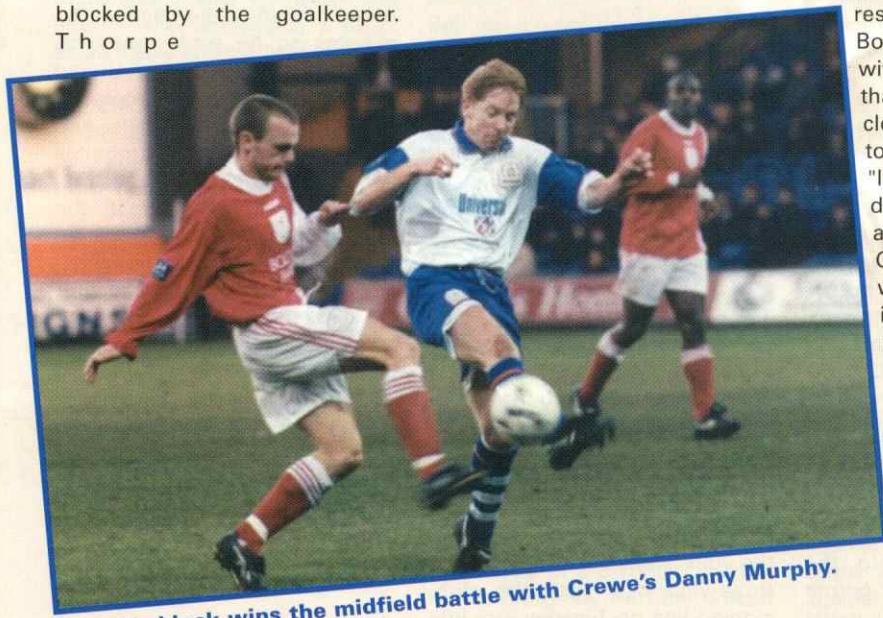


Blast From the Past

When the Town were relegated to Division Two in 1996, for the first time in 26 years, most Luton supporters were confident of a quick return but received a rude awakening when the first three games of the new campaign were lost. Gradually, though, the Hatters found their feet at this new level and by the time of the visit of Crewe to Kenilworth Road in mid-December 1996 they had forced their way up to fourth place with the goals of Tony Thorpe proving vital. Crewe were in mid-table and had lost three of their previous four games but having reached the play-offs in four of the previous five seasons they were expected to be there or thereabouts at the final shake up. The Town were one up in only two minutes when Graham Alexander was quickest to react to a Thorpe shot which was blocked by the goalkeeper. Thorpe

then volleyed home Alexander's right wing cross on 20 minutes before Dwight Marshall was brought down in the box by Shaun Smith nine minutes later. Smith was sent off for the professional foul and after Thorpe netted the resultant penalty the game was as good as over as a contest. For once the Town, not noted for their ability to turn the screw against ten men, played a sensible game spreading the play against their beleaguered opponents and it was no surprise when Thorpe netted his hat-trick goal on the hour deflecting in an Alexander shot with his knee. Alexander set up another goal, this time for Paul Showler, four minutes later before Crewe's Ashley Westwood was sent off for a second bookable offence with a quarter of an hour to go. David Oldfield made it 6-0 for the Town in the final minute to seal the best home win since

Southampton were thrashed 7-0 in 1985. The victory pushed the Hatters up to third spot and all looked set fair for a swift return to Division One. "Luton were too good for us," said Crewe manager Dario Gradi. "They were better than any side we have played this season. With ten men we were struggling but with nine we had no chance. Having said that, the result might not have been much different if there had been no dismissals." By the time of the return game, the following March, neither side had pulled up any trees in a division that was full of inconsistent teams with no outfit standing out and forging ahead at the top. The Town had not won in five games but were still second while Crewe had moved up to fourth solely on the back of a reasonable home record. In a tight game neither side deserved to lose and the final 0-0 scoreline was seen as a fair result by both managers. Both teams tried to win, with David Oldfield's shot that bounced off the bar the closest effort in the attempt to break the deadlock. "I don't mind a goalless draw if it is a proper one, and that was," said Dario Gradi afterwards. "They were two good teams and it was a proper football match. Both found it hard to find a way through good defences, and it was difficult to find space in the middle of the park." By the end of that campaign the Town had, disappointingly, slipped down to third spot due in the main to a string of



Gary Waddock wins the midfield battle with Crewe's Danny Murphy.



Play-off agony

home draws as the season drew to an end. Crewe had managed to squeeze into sixth place even though they had lost 17 games over the course of the campaign highlighting the tightness of the division. The Hatters and the Railwaymen were therefore destined to meet in the semi-finals of the play-offs with the first leg to be played at Gresty Road on Sunday May 11th 1997. Crewe, as mentioned before, were by now used to the pressures of the play-offs but for the Town this was their first attempt. Even so, Oldfield eased the nerves when he netted from close range after only three minutes to silence the capacity crowd of 5,467. That was the high spot, as from then on things started to go wrong. Already without the injured Ceri Hughes and Marvin Johnson the Town were further depleted when the influential Gary Waddock had to limp off

after eight minutes with a gashed leg. From that point on Crewe took the initiative and it was no surprise when Mark Rivers levelled after 52 minutes. Julian James, who had given the ball away for the goal, ended his afternoon of frustration by getting sent off five minutes later for a second bookable offence leaving a disjointed Town to go further behind when Colin Little tapped the ball into an empty net. In truth the Hatters were fortunate to get away with only a 1-2 defeat as Dele Adebola hit a post when it seemed easier to score with ten minutes to go. Luton manager Lennie Lawrence felt that the Town had got out of jail and that they could not play any worse in the second leg, to take place three days later, and his words seemed to strike true when Oldfield put the Hatters two up in 30 minutes to send the crowd of 8,168 into raptures. Unfortunately, Crewe hit back

immediately and Little pounced on the ball after Ian Feuer parried a strong shot from Adebola into his path. With the game poised at 3-3 on aggregate it was the away side that seemed to step up a gear and play the more cultured football and few Luton supporters could have many complaints when Crewe levelled on the night through Shaun Smith shortly after the hour mark. Crewe managed to hold on to their narrow overall lead until the end but the Town players admitted afterwards that they had been beaten by the better side over the two legs. This was confirmed when the Railwaymen beat Brentford in the final at Wembley to win promotion to Division One for the first time in their history.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



The Town's programme for the visit of Crewe in the play-off semi-final second leg follows the normal format for that season with 56 pages for £1.50. The programme was regarded as one of the better items on offer in Division Two. Manager Lennie Lawrence, in his column, confirms the thoughts of most Luton supporters who travelled to Crewe for the first leg that the 1-2 defeat could have been a lot worse. Injuries had caught up with the Hatters and there was probably a feeling of anti-climax after narrowly missing out on an automatic promotion spot. Crewe had virtually a full squad to choose from and had the advantages of slipping into the play-offs in sixth spot and also knowing all about two-legged pressure games. That is to take nothing away from them as they proved the better side over the two games. Elsewhere, it was reported that Matthew Upson, with one substitute appearance to his name, had gone to Arsenal for £1 million plus 'add-ons'. Upson was part of a highly successful Luton youth team squad that had taken the South East Counties League title as well as reaching the semi-finals of the Youth Cup where they were beaten by a strong Leeds side which included Harry Kewell and Jonathan Woodgate.



Action Replay

WEALTHY

Wigan are probably on their way to the Second Division championship, so there was considerable pride in the Town camp after the second 1-1 draw with them in the league this season. It was earned by hard work and commitment rather than pretty football, but the big Town following thoroughly enjoyed watching a team that was very determined not to be beaten.

For the second time this season Wigan were forced to battle back to save a point after conceding the first goal. The only complaint Joe Kinnear had was that the home side's equaliser came from a move that had been discussed in the pre-match planning.

Skipper Jason De Vos saved Wigan at Kenilworth Road in October with a late equaliser headed in from a free kick to the far post, and his intervention did it again at the JJB, aided by a crafty spot of gamesmanship.

The Town's performance was a long way ahead of what we saw on our previous visit, when Wigan were able to cruise to an FA Cup win. You could tell from the body language of the players that Saturday's game was far more important.

Wigan boss Paul Jewell was happy with the draw, knowing that Wigan could easily have suffered their fourth league defeat of the season. "We had plenty of possession, but we struggled to create chances," he said. "That was a point gained rather than two lost because we could easily have been beaten 1-0."

Defensive strength was the key, and it was all the more welcome in view of further changes to a back four that has never been a settled unit following a succes-

Wigan Ath 1 Luton Town 1 (HT 0-0)

sion of injuries. Sol Davis was the latest to go out, following an injury in training. Fortunately, Russ Perrett is back, and was magnificent as Wigan's potentially lethal attack was kept at bay through good covering, well-timed tackling, and splendid organisation.

David Bayliss returned as a centre-half pressed into service at right back, with Ian Hillier switching to the left to replace Davis. Lars Hirschfeld returned in goal after getting over a virus infection, and Steve Robinson came back in midfield, replacing Paul Hughes, and playing on the right, with Ahmet Brkovic on the left. Hillier gave blood for the cause, sustaining a cut in a clash of heads with Nathan Ellington. He needed three stitches, and missed the second half as he nursed a headache.

Duncan Jupp replaced him, and it was the only change the Town had to make in a team that kept its shape

The first half was mainly spent drawing Wigan's sting – the corner count at the interval was 9-1 in the home side's favour. Their biggest threat came down their right, through the pace of Gary Teale, but only once did he look like unlocking the Town defence, in a move which ended with Andy Liddell flicking a volley onto the top of the bar.

At the other end the Town, with less possession, looked menacing, with Matt Spring putting an early header wide and Kevin Nicholls and Steve Howard firing cross-shots beyond the far post. Home fans became more and

more frustrated in the second half as they saw their team matched by the visitors, and then fall behind when Howard outjumped his marker to head his 17th goal of the season in the 57th minute. Howls of rage erupted three minutes later when Jewell took off Teale, who had looked the quickest and fittest Wigan man on the field. Jewell had the last laugh, with his sub, Neil Roberts, pinching a lucky equaliser. It was harsh punishment for Brkovic. He was booked for a foul on Ellington halfway inside the Town half. Nicky Eaden knocked over a high diagonal free kick towards De Vos beyond the far post. Howard was back-tracking to mark the centre-half, but Matt Jackson impeded him, and got away with it. De Vos headed the ball back across the face of goal, and one moment's lack of concentration was punished as Roberts ducked to head the equaliser. "We should have got the second ball," said the Town boss. "I was very disappointed by that, but otherwise it was an excellent performance."

Luton Town: Hirschfeld; Bayliss, Perrett, Coyne, Hillier (Jupp HT); Robinson, Nicholls, Spring, Brkovic; Howard, Thorpe. Unused subs: Emberson, Griffiths, Holmes, Hughes.

Booked: Chris Coyne and Ahmet Brkovic for fouls.

Wigan: Filan; Eaden, De Vos, Jackson, McMillan; Teale (Roberts 60 mins), Bullard, Mitchell (Jarrett 55 mins), McCulloch; Ellington, Liddell. Unused subs: Yeomans, Breckin, Baines.

Referee: Scott Mathieson, Cheshire.

Attendance: 7,087, including another huge Town following, 1,718.



ON TOP: Chris Coyne has the beating of Wigan's star striker Nathan Ellington, who was never given a chance to add to the 20 goals he has already scored this season.



RIGHT: Russ Perrett proves he can also come out on top, in competition with Andy Liddell.



BELOW: Steve Robinson, back after injury, gets the better of Jason Jarrett.



Action Replay

Luton Town 0 Oldham Ath 0

FOR THOSE of us who remember Iain Dowie as a young goal-hungry striker when he began his pro career at Kenilworth Road, it was ironic to see his return as a manager dedicated to excellence in defence as the first requirement for a promotion push.

Determined that the Town should not do the double over his side, he had studied the Town's form and playing style, and decided that his first priority had to be to shackle the 32-goal partnership of Steve Howard and Tony Thorpe.

And Oldham are good at defending – their draw on Tuesday came courtesy of their 17th clean sheet of the season, a club record. Nine have been chalked up at home, the other eight away, and Oldham have been beaten on the road only once in 19 away matches in the league.

Their five at the back formation made it a night of frustration for Town players and fans alike. Will Haining tried to do a man-marking job on Steve Howard with reasonable success. David Beharall stuck even closer to Tony Thorpe – if he had got any nearer to the striker he was in danger of being prosecuted for indecency.

As Joe Kinnear said later, the Town always looked more likely to score, but had no luck in front of goal in a game where one goal would be enough.

With so much riding on the result for both sides, they did well to play as much football as they did, but safety-first dictated that we saw a lot of long ball. The Town tried to use Howard's

height and power, while Oldham settled for playing it into the path of the speedy Wayne Andrews. Howard looked the better bet for a decisive strike, and was denied in the 13th minute when a superb volley was matched by an equally expert save. That chance had been created by Howard setting Thorpe free for a left wing run and cross.

The other clear chance that could have changed things had come in the fourth minute, when Thorpe and Howard combined to set up Matt Spring. An inviting space gaped to the keeper's left, but the shot was driven wide.

The Town's own clean sheet was achieved with two goalkeepers. Lars Hirschfeld pulled a hamstring stretching to make a crucial clearance after Sol Davis played a back pass short and almost set up Andrews. Carl Emberson took over the gloves, and had a pretty easy ride as the Town had much the better of things without finding the final ball or penalty area sharpness that might have upset Oldham's defensive rhythm.

Dowie said: "Luton are a good side, and I knew that in Steve Howard and Tony Thorpe they had quality attackers. Their record speaks for itself, but Will Haining was outstanding against Howard, and David Beharall did an excellent job on Thorpe. But it was a team effort – an excellent performance all

round. I suppose we might have won it, but for me that was an excellent away point against a good team. And I think Luton will be in the shake-out at the end of the season."

At times the game developed a cup-tie atmosphere, with the Town full of eager determination. Just once things threatened to boil over, when a melee ensued following a last-minute foul by Davis on Chris Armstrong. For a moment every player bar the goalkeepers and Spring seemed to want to be involved, but it all calmed down. At least it gave confirmation of the passionate desire for success that runs through the team. They knew also that while a point against the fourth-placed team would sound all right at other times, this was one of those occasions when it was two points lost as the gap between the Town and sixth place widened because of QPR's victory over Cheltenham.

Luton Town: Hirschfeld (Emberson 24 mins); Hillier, Perrett, Coyne, Davis; Hughes (Holmes 75 mins), Nicholls, Spring, Brkovic; Howard, Thorpe. Unused subs: Bayliss, Jupp, Forbes.

Booked: Thorpe and Howard for dissent, Davis for a foul.

Oldham Athletic: Pogliacomini; Murray, Haining, Duxbury, Beharall, Armstrong; Eyre, Sheridan, Carss; Wijnhard, Andrews. Subs, all unused: Miskelly, Corazzin, Burgess, Low, Holden.

Referee: Rob Styles, Hampshire.

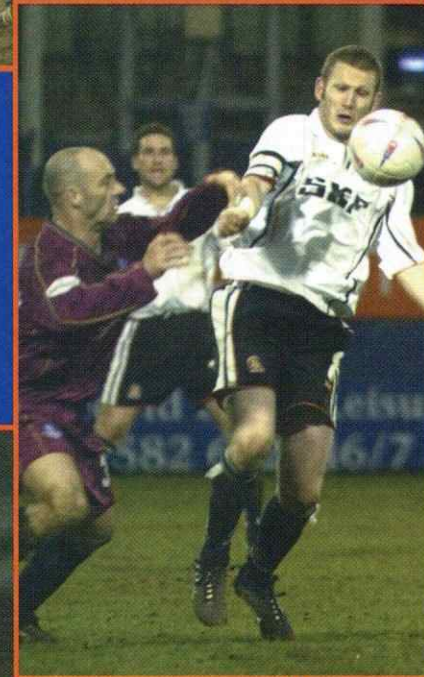
Attendance: 6,142 including 302 from Oldham.



PUTTING ON THE PRESSURE: Tony Thorpe kept Oldham's defence busy for most of the game, but the Town had no luck in front of goal, with this header taking a deflection for a corner.

RIGHT: Kevin Nicholls driving on the Town, with Darren Sheridan doing what Oldham did best, sticking close.

BELOW: Oldham's Sheridan and David Beharall ensuring that Steve Howard is outnumbered.



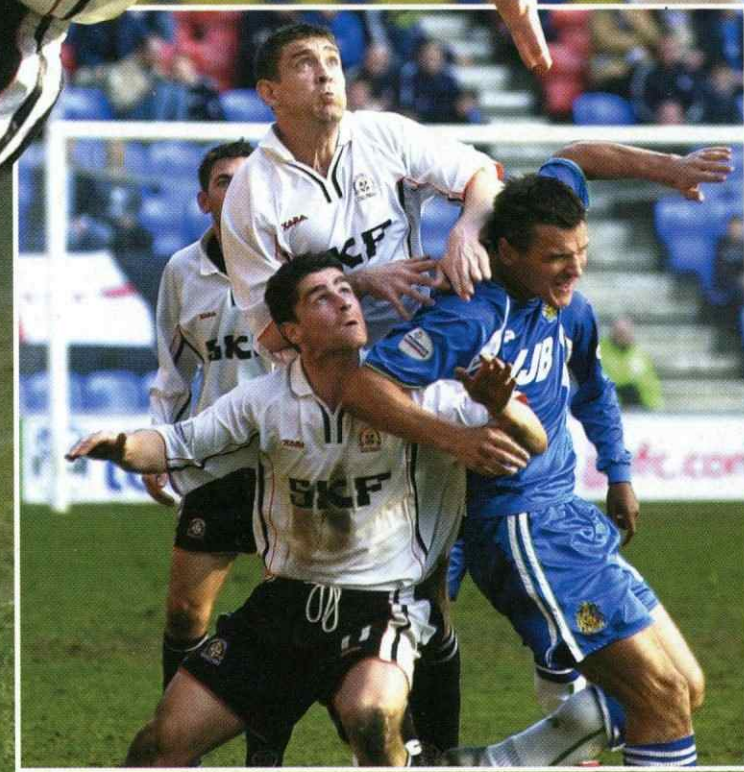
Action Highlights

Wigan Athletic | Luton Town |

MIDFIELD BATTLER: Matt Spring in action at the JJB Stadium, where the Town were more than a match for the best team in the Second Division.

BELOW: Steve Howard enjoys the moment after giving the Town the lead with a header.

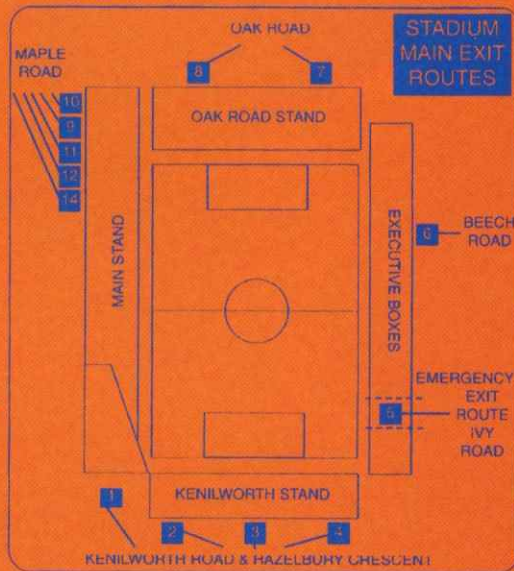
BELOW RIGHT: Back in action, and in the thick of it, are David Bayliss and Steve Robinson, making sure Nicky Eaden fails to get into the danger area.



EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

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



Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.

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Our next guest night, another "Any questions?" evening with three players, will be on Monday, March 31, at the Eric Morecambe Suite, 7.30pm.

Ticket prices are £2 for members of the Supporters Club, and £5 for others, but non-members can enjoy the discount if they join LTSC at the time they buy their tickets.

Tickets will be on sale after this evening's game in the LTSC kiosk in Kenilworth Road, and if any are still left they will be available again at the kiosk before and after Saturday's match.

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LTFC in the Community

Working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association

I AM pleased to be able to update you today on two new areas of community development in Bedfordshire.

We now have representatives in both Bedford and Sandy. The Bedford operation is headed by Colin Jenkinson, who is based at Westfield Middle School in Queen's Park. This central location allows our team of coaches to cover the town of Bedford, and areas to the north and south of it.

The Sandy operation is headed by Gayle Vowels. Gayle has already worked with a large number of schools in this area, and her base at Sandy Upper School is central to this scheme. This now ensures that Luton Town Football Club has county-wide coverage, and is the professional club to work with in Bedfordshire.

We have a strong commitment to local clubs as well as the schools, and realise their importance within the community. We already work with Potton Colts on a regular basis, and look forward to developing our links with Sandy

Colts and other teams in that area. In the Bedford area we have strong links with Wootton Rangers, Oakley Rangers and Bromham Youth.

There is a thriving girls' section – the contact is Gayle Vowels – in schools and clubs which we hope to enhance even further with the introduction of the Active Sports Programme, which I will update you on nearer to its inception.

If it's coaching qualifications your managers require, then contact Simon McQueen or Steve Savva at the Bedfordshire Football Association, for whom Colin is a tutor qualified to deliver the Level One programme. Colin and Gayle both have proven experience of football development work in the Bedford and Sandy areas.

The current activity programme is:

Bedford

Tuesday Night Football Skills at Bedford Hockey Centre, Queens Park, 6pm-7pm, Ages 5-14, Cost £2

Sandy

Football Fun for 5-9 year olds, Saturdays 1.00-2.30pm, Cost £3 at Sandy Upper School

Both areas

After school football clubs
Lunchtime football clubs
Curriculum time coaching
Tournaments
Club Coaching
Holiday courses at Bedford Hockey Centre and Sandy Upper School

For further details please contact Colin Jenkinson on 07968136045 or at Westfield School on 01234 267353, or Gayle Vowels at Sandy Upper School on 01767 680598.

Stuart Smith



Children enjoying the activities available on a Community Coaching Session

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LTFC in the Community

I am also delighted to announce two new sponsors for the Community Department, FLAG and Vauxhall Motors After-sales Department. They have offered to help us with funding to enable us to expand our curriculum time coaching activities in local schools.

I would like to thank Gary Seely, Personnel Manager for Warehouse Operations at Vauxhall, for the generosity he and his department have shown. The money donated will enable us to deliver approximately 70 sessions in schools over the next year.

I would also like to thank FLAG for their generosity in supporting our work. Flag director Yvonne Fletcher said: "We are delighted to support the club's community work once again, with a £1,500 contribution towards curriculum time coaching. In addition to the great work being undertaken in the local schools, this donation will enable Stuart Smith's team to take on more than 100 additional sessions with pupils in the Luton area.

"Curriculum time coaching gives pupils first-rate coaching sessions, and also takes the club's name into schools throughout the area. With FLAG'S aim of promoting football in the community, this, as with the donation to the sports facilities at Farley Hill, perfectly fulfils that goal.

"Encouraging young people to participate in sport is good for both their development and the community as a whole, and by spreading Luton Town's name in this way, the club will also be recruiting supporters for the future.

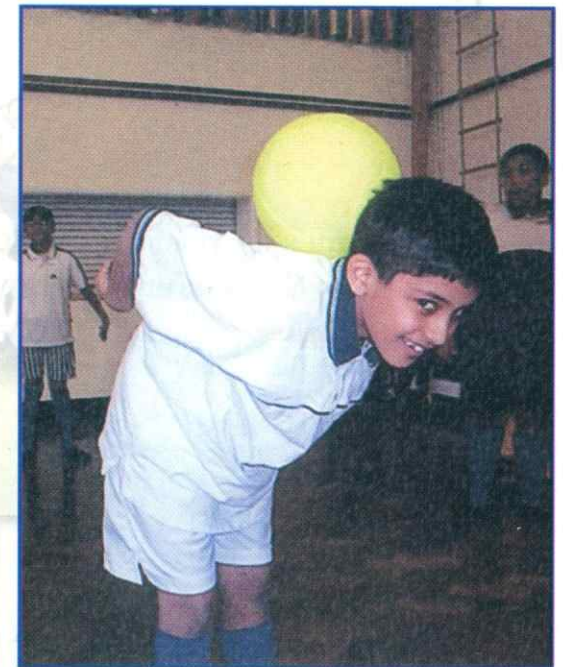
"FLAG will continue to support the club's community work whenever possible and is pleased that the generous donations made by so many Luton town supporters are being put to such good use, helping to promote the club to its future fans."

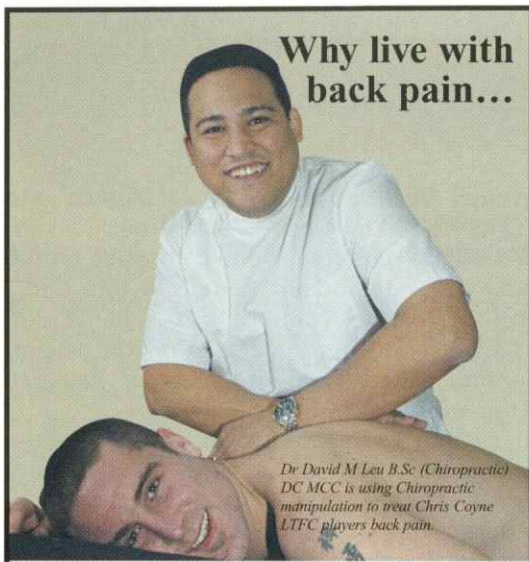
From me, thank you again to both parties. As you can see, the fact that we are now able to spread our wings into the Bedford area shows that this department is going from strength to strength, and with the support of

groups such as Vauxhall After-sales and FLAG we can only continue to grow.

We will be receiving the two cheques on the pitch prior to today's game. To this end I would like to welcome to today's game, Jeff Thomas and his son Jack, who will be presenting the cheque on behalf of Vauxhall After-sales.

In closing, I would like to let you know of the latest development within our disability work. Monday, March 24, will see the first of ten sessions at the Regional Sports Centre tailored for these children. Many more will follow, catering for children with differing needs. I would like to thank Stopsley High School and in particular John Willets, who has donated a large portion of his allocated development time at the sports centre to this project. This will enable us to keep costs to an absolute minimum. Our picture shows one of the children demonstrating the skills learned at one of our sessions.





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TOWN TEASER

IF YOU know your Town Trivia, you could win a pair of match tickets in our Town Teaser competition. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. On Tuesday we asked about Iain Dowie's playing career after he left Kenilworth Road. West Ham was the club who paid £480,000 to recruit him and he later went to Crystal Palace, back to West Ham, then to Queens Park Rangers, which was where he began his management career.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Who scored all three Luton goals against Crewe in the 1997 play-off semi-finals?

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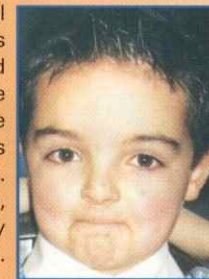
WE ENJOYED a cracking day out at Wigan on Saturday. The Lancashire club are one of the friendliest in the country, and it was great to renew friendships with the Junior Latics. They were extremely good hosts, and we enjoyed everything about the day, including our two football matches with the Wigan youngsters - in the under-10s game we won 9-1, and we won the under-16s match 4-3. Wigan invited us to send out a mascot, and the luck of the draw on the coach going to the game gave the honour to nine-year-old Max Thomas, from Harvey Road, London Colney. Unfortunately, it looks as though we will have only one more Junior Hatters outing this season, for the final game, at Swindon on May 3. Full details will be published in the programme nearer the date.

Meanwhile, our Saturday Club is still giving a lot of pleasure at home games, and all Junior Hatters are welcome to join us. It turns a Town match into an extra-special day out, kicking off at 12 noon at Dallow School. Check with the Community Department, or call them at Luton 391927, for more information. The price, including a sausage and chips meal, is £5 if you have a season ticket, or £11 for a package including a match ticket. Junior Hatters membership is open to any boy or girl aged from 0 to 16 who supports Luton Town, and if you want to know more please contact the Community Department. There are lots of advantages, including the chance to be picked as mascot at home matches - the choice is made at random from the membership list.

Happy Harry

TODAY'S MASCOT

TOWN fan Daniel Maddox will enjoy his trip to Kenilworth Road this afternoon even more than usual, because he has been chosen as Junior Hatters mascot. He lives at Hayton Close, Luton, and is nearly eight. He goes to St. Joseph's Junior School, Luton.



His treat today includes a meeting with the players in the dressing room before the game, and he will be especially keen to have a word with Steve Howard, because the striker is Daniel's favourite footballer.

Daniel lists his hobbies as football, TV, computer games and his Game Boy, and is a regular at Town matches, sitting in the main stand with his mum and Uncle Paul.

Today's ball girl is Kirstyn Mackie, from Arundel Road, Luton, and the ball boy is James Usher, of Scarborough Avenue, Stevenage.



CENTRE OF ATTRACTION: Mascots' duties include meeting the skippers and match officials for the toss of the coin before kick-off, and our picture shows two young Town fans doing the honours at Tuesday's game against Oldham, Farran Batchelor, of Stratford Road, Luton, representing the Junior Hatters, and Jade Chelsea Mansfield, of Milton Way, Houghton Regis, who was commercial mascot.

JUNIOR Hatters membership is open to any boy or girl aged from 0 to 16 who supports Luton Town, and if you want to know more please contact the Community Department in Oak Road, or phone Luton 391927. There are lots of advantages, including bargain-price trips to away games, and the chance to be mascot at home matches - the choice is made at random from the membership list.



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Fans on the road

Hatters Away

Blackpool	781
Plymouth	773
Cardiff	314
Brentford	1,493
Watford(WC)	4,404
Huddersfield	700
Aston Villa (WC)	4,588
Stockport	680
Oldham	610
Woking (LDV)	262
Crewe	585
Northampton	1,250
Stevenage (LDV)	1,199
Tranmere	839
Wigan (FAC 2)	769
Bristol City	709
Wycombe	2,039
Chesterfield	1,076
Barnsley	858
Peterborough	2,928
Port Vale	884
Notts County	1,867
Mansfield	722
Wigan	1,718
Total:	32,048
Average:	1,335

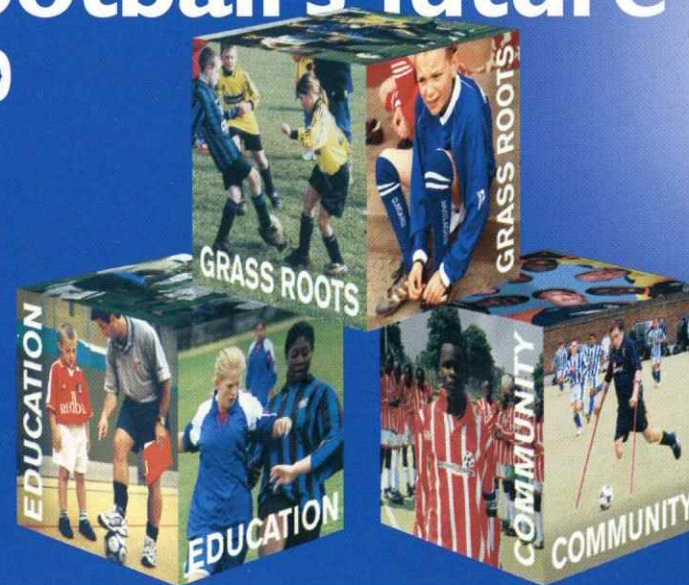
Visitors to Luton

Peterborough	990
Barnsley	504
Chesterfield	366
Notts County	341
Mansfield	160
Swindon	404
Cheltenham	328
Wigan	425
Port Vale	247
Guiseley (FAC1)	467
QPR	1,851
Cambridge(LDV)	571
Colchester	527
Cardiff	1,090
Wycombe	702
Blackpool	491
Northampton	905
Brentford	533
Plymouth	1,102
Huddersfield	454
Oldham	302

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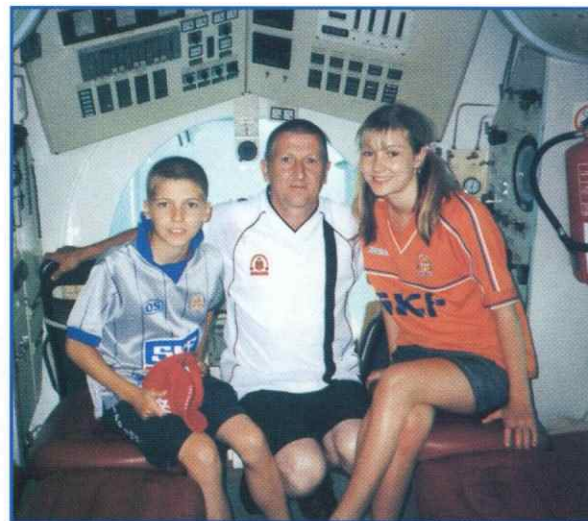
SPRING might be on the way, but our picture from New York is of a Town fan needed a lot more than his Hatters shirt to keep warm.

"The photo was taken at Thanksgiving a couple of months back, in the middle of Times Square," explained Tony Allbones, from Kempston.

"It was so cold I was wearing five layers of clothing, with obvious attention being paid on the last layer, my Luton Town FC top."

A MUCH warmer memory is the one sent in by the Taylor family, from Pelham Court, Welwyn Garden City.

"We are all lifelong Luton Town supporters," said John, who is the man in the middle, flanked by Robert and Faye. "We were on holiday at Puerto Calero, Lanzarote, and the picture was taken when we went on a submarine safari. We hope this is the last time Luton colours go down!"



WE ARE always pleased to receive photographs of Hatters supporters in their club colours anywhere in the world. If you have an interesting snap you would like to see published please send it, with a few details, to the editor, by post to Luton Town FC, or by e-mail to brian.swain@btinternet.com If you use e-mail, please include your home address and a day-time phone number. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photographs back, but don't offer us anything which is irreplaceable, because with the best will in the world items sometimes go astray.

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



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TODAY'S MATCH:

2.15 Team Line Up Announced

2.20 HMV Single of the Week
BLUE - YOU MAKE ME WANNA...

2.35 Dedications Announced

2.40 Town Teaser
See page 34

2.55 Teams run out to - The Blues Brothers
"Gimme Some Lovin"

3.00 THE BIG KICK OFF

HALF TIME

3.50 Golden Gamble -
Winning ticket drawn on pitch

3.55 Run down of half time scores from
around the country

4.00 Dedications

4.05 Teams arrive back on pitch to theme
song "Gimme Some Lovin"

4.55 - FULL TIME

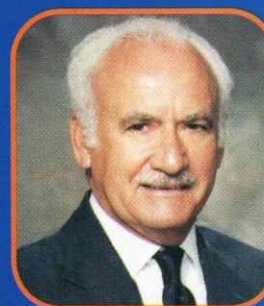
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If you would like your dedication read
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POLICY STATEMENT - SPECTATOR SAFETY



The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Road Stadium are conducted in such a way that as far as is reasonably practical the safety of everybody at the stadium is assured.

It is the policy of the Chairman and Directors to ensure that the conditions set out in the General Safety Certificate, issued under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975, are fully complied with.

It is the Club's policy to provide at any activity sufficient and competent staff and management systems to ensure as far as humanly possible the safe admission, accommodation and exiting of spectators attending the stadium. These systems will be subject to continual monitoring, testing and updating where necessary.

Mike Watson-Challis Chairman

Reviewed August, 2002.



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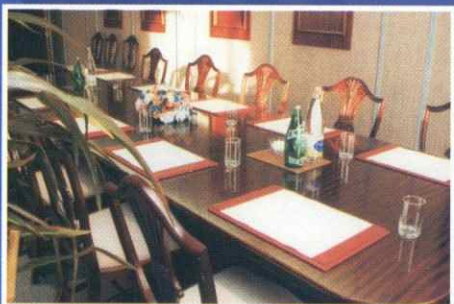
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www.lutontown.co.uk



Luton Belles

MORE silverware has gone into the Belles trophy cabinet, after the under-12s won their League Cup in a pulsating 5-3 victory over Sundon Park Reds last weekend.

It was the Reds who started the brighter, and they opened the scoring, but this stung Town into action and they stormed into a 4-1 half time apiece from Natalie Burchnell and Brittany Murtagh. They then relaxed a little too much, allowing Sundon to pull the score back to 4-3 in an even second half before Micky Osman sealed victory with the fifth goal direct from a corner.

The senior team were also in cup action, in a local derby semi-final against Leighton Linlade. Belles totally commanded the first half and were unlucky to only have a two-goal lead at the break. Kaylee Owen opened the scoring with a cracking volley and Louise Evans added the second when her cross caused confusion in the home defence. Kim Hide burst into the penalty area to make it 3-0 mid way through the second half but the home side grabbed a late consolation from a free kick following an off the ball incident. The under-14s hosted



Stevenage Borough, who have been champions for the past four years. Borough took an early lead and had the better of the first half, but Luton fought hard and equalised just before half time through Michelle Byrne who benefited from a deflected clearance.

In a thrilling second half Holly Flynn shot Town into the lead from 20 yards and Luton looked comfortable until a defensive mix-up from a corner allowed Stevenage the equaliser. Both sides then went in search of the winner and five minutes from time Luton grabbed the points from another Fay Rolls wonder goal when she swung a screaming volley into the far top corner of the net. Luton now hold a seven-point lead at the top, with a game in hand over Borough.

Saturday morning also brought our other under-14 squad a 4-2 win over Crawley Green to maintain their interest in a top three finish. Goals were scored by Natalie Forbes (2), Emma Wells and Anne Folan.

Dave Baker

LUTON Belles organises football for girls of all ages, from ten upwards. If you want to know more, or fancy being involved, e-mail Dave Baker at lutonbelles@hotmail.com The Belles also have a website – pay a visit to www.lutontownbelles.com The club is already planning for next season, and with a big demand from girls who want to play football the provision of playing kit is a bit of a problem. They would love to hear from anyone able to offer help by way of kit sponsorship.

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Youth Soccer - U19s



Luton Town 0 Brighton & Hove Alb 0

OUR record so far in the Merit Division tells you much about how we are playing: we haven't scored in three matches, but have conceded only one goal. Having released our three third-year scholars, we included five schoolboys in this game, hoping to see them show why they might be scholars of the future. We played well defensively, but did not have enough threat in attack. Brighton had more scoring chances than us, but they didn't over-run us, although Robert Beckwith had to make a couple of good saves. They had a useful right winger who put in a lot of crosses, but our centre-backs, Curtis Davies and Leon Barnett, stood firm.

We might have snatched the points in the closing stages when Mutsa Magadah zipped through the

middle, but a defender got back at him, and pressurised him into shooting wide.

Our performance should have been better. We were disjointed, with not enough passing movements, and the lack of experience showed as young players failed to make the right decisions. They need to learn to think more during games, because it's all right running around and being athletic, but you need to use your brain as well. You can be destroyed if you let the other team force you into chasing the ball, when what is required is to use your brain and force your opponent to put the ball where you have a chance of getting it.

The second-year boys, in particular, have to give thought to this part of their game: they now have only another 12 months to show what they can do, to try to win contracts.

Luton Town: Beckwith, D. Deeney, R. Mansell, O'Leary, Davies, Barnett, Keane, Ridgway, Freeman, Maitland (Magadah 65 mins), Okai.

FL Youth Alliance Under-19

Month	Date	Home	Score	Away
August	17	Walsall	H 0-0	
	31	Kidderminster	A 1-0	Freeman
September	7	Brentford (LC)	A 2-0	Freeman, Okai
	14	Oxford (LC)	H 4-1	Osborn 2, Okai, Freeman
	21	Wycombe (LC)	H 2-2	Judge, Barnett
	28	Northampton	H 0-1	
October	12	Peterborough	A 1-3	O'Leary
	19	West Brom	A 0-1	
	23	Brentford(FAYC1)	A 3-0	Judge, Freeman 2
	26	Rushden	H 3-1	Judge, Freeman, Osborn
November	2	Oxford Utd	H 5-1	Judge 3, Freeman, Osborn
	7	Tooting(FAYC2)	A 3-1	Judge 2, Davies
	16	Brighton (LC1)	A 2-1	Barnett, O'Leary
	30	West Brom	H 2-1	Judge, Maitland
December	4	Stoke(FAYC3)	H 1-0	Judge
	7	Rushden & D	A 2-1	Maitland 2
	14	Oxford Utd	A 0-1	
	21	Cambridge	A 0-0	
January	11	Cambridge	H postponed	
	15	Bradford (FAYC4)	H 1-0	Foley
	18	Walsall	A postponed	
	25	Kidderminster	H 3-0	Ridgway 2, Barnett
February	1	Northampton	A 0-3	
	8	Peterborough	H 2-1	Davies, Judge
	15	Cardiff (LC2)	A 1-3	Foley
	22	Oxford (MD2)	H 0-1	
	27	M'boro (FAYC5)	H 1-1	Foley. Lost on pens
Merit Div Two South				
March	1	Cambridge	A 0-0	
	15	Brighton	H 0-0	
	22	Exeter	A	
	29	Gillingham	A	
April	12	Bournemouth	H	
	19	L. Orient	A	
	26	Cheltenham	H	

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Barnett 26(1), O'Leary 25, Okai 24, Davies 22(2), Judge 20(1), Foley 20, Freeman 19(2), Howell 18, R. Mansell 16(3), J. Deeney 16, Maitland 15(6), Beckwith 15, Osborn 14(1), Gillman 13(1), Brill 10(2), Keane 9(9), Ridgway 9(3), D. Deeney 2, Barrett 2, De Souza 1(2), Mountford 1(1), Magadah 0(2).

Goals: Judge 11, Freeman 7, Osborn 4, Maitland 3, Barnett 3, Foley 3, Okai 2, Ridgway 2, O'Leary 2, Davies 2.

John Moore

 THE reserves, like the under-17 Youth Alliance squad, have had no match this week. Our next Avon Combination fixture is at Brentford on Tuesday, and Brian Stein's squad are at home to Colchester eight days later, with the Kenilworth Road kick-off at 2pm.

FLYA UNDER-19 MERIT DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	4	6	1	0	11	1	10
Brighton	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Exeter	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Cheltenham	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Oxford	4	2	0	2	5	10	6
Bournemouth	4	1	0	3	5	6	3
Luton Town	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
L. Orient	3	0	0	3	3	6	0
Gillingham	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

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Most Scoring chances per game

	On Target	Off T		On Target	Off T
Wigan	6.61	6.97	Blackpool	5.37	5.05
Plymouth	6.13	7.37	Oldham	4.61	5.61
Cardiff	6.08	6.24	Swindon	5.43	4.78
Crewe	6.76	5.29	Huddersfield	4.97	4.89
Barnsley	5.63	6.21	Cheltenham	5.34	4.50
QPR	5.79	5.95	Stockport	4.92	4.55
Mansfield	6.11	5.34	Port Vale	4.45	4.79
Bristol City	5.41	5.38	Notts County	5.05	4.03
Tranmere	5.50	5.26	Northampton	4.55	4.29
Wycombe	5.47	5.08	Colchester	4.53	3.87
Luton	5.11	5.37	Chesterfield	4.32	4.03
Peterborough	5.68	4.76	Brentford	3.45	4.05

Goals in last 15 Mins of match

FOR				AGAINST			
	76-90	Tot	%		76-90	Tot	%
Peterborough	14	37	38	Cardiff	11	33	33
Notts County	18	54	33	Mansfield	24	77	31
Luton	18	56	32	Tranmere	15	53	28
Bristol City	19	62	31	Chesterfield	16	57	28
Wycombe	16	56	29	Northampton	16	58	28
Oldham	14	52	27	Huddersfield	13	48	27
Tranmere	14	52	27	Brentford	12	45	27
Cardiff	15	58	26	Oldham	8	31	26
Blackpool	12	48	25	Stockport	15	60	25
Huddersfield	7	28	25	Crewe	9	36	25
QPR	13	57	23	Peterborough	12	49	24
Colchester	10	46	22	Wycombe	12	50	24

ordered by late goals as % of all goals

TOP GOALSCORERS

from outside 18 yard box			headers inside 6 yard box		
Player	Club	Tot	Player	Club	Tot
Brown	Sheff Utd	9	Taylor	Burnley	9
Zola	Chelsea	7	Fallon	Barnsley	6
Tudor	Cambridge	6	Larsson	Celtic	6
Corden	Mansfield	5	Bent D	Ipswich	5
Wotton	Plymouth	5	Helguson	Watford	5
Liddell	Wigan	5	Murphy	Blackpool	5
Humphreys	Hartlepool	5	Keith	Plymouth	5
Henry	Arsenal	4	Beckett	Stockport	5
Shearer	Newcastle	4	Faulconbridge	Wycombe	5
Beattie	Southampton	4	Deane	Leicester	4
Mulryne	Norwich	4	Mackay	Norwich	4
Dyer	Barnsley	4	Johnson	Forest	4
Langley	QPR	4	Thorne	Cardiff	4
Henriksen	Kidderminster	4	Foster	Crewe	4
Gain	Lincoln	4	Christie	Mansfield	4
Simpson	Rochdale	4	Shittu	QPR	4
Lowe	Rushden	4	Kitson	Cambridge	4
Rodgers	Shrewsbury	4	Morrell	Wrexham	4
Burns	Partick	4			

Average Shots On and Off target per game

Goals from Set Pieces for and against

SCORED		CONCEDED			
Co	FK	Co	FK		
Plymouth	14	8	Mansfield	10	11
Crewe	4	13	Cheltenham	10	7
Oldham	8	7	Blackpool	8	8
Wigan	8	7	Northampton	3	13
Brentford	7	7	Huddersfield	7	8
Bristol City	5	8	Port Vale	12	3
Swindon	8	5	Stockport	12	3
Tranmere	7	6	Barnsley	5	8
Wycombe	8	5	Peterborough	9	4
Blackpool	10	2	Swindon	4	9
Cardiff	9	3	Cardiff	3	8
QPR	7	5	Notts County	7	4
Luton	7	4	Chesterfield	5	5
Mansfield	2	9	Tranmere	6	4

Co = Corners FK = Free Kick Routines

COMEBACKS

	Won from	-3	-2	-1	Tot
Luton	0	0	0	6	6
Blackpool	0	0	0	4	4
Mansfield	0	0	0	4	4
QPR	0	0	0	4	4
Swindon	0	0	0	4	4
Tranmere	0	0	0	4	4
Bristol City	0	1	2	3	3
Barnsley	0	0	3	3	3
Crewe	0	0	3	3	3
Port Vale	0	0	3	3	3
Stockport	0	0	3	3	3

THROWAWAYS

	Lost from	+3	+2	+1	Tot
Cheltenham	0	0	0	7	7
Barnsley	0	0	0	5	5
Chesterfield	0	0	0	5	5
Stockport	0	1	3	4	4
Notts County	0	0	4	4	4
Mansfield	0	1	2	3	3
Luton	0	0	3	3	3
Northampton	0	0	3	3	3
Plymouth	0	0	3	3	3
QPR	0	0	3	3	3

number of games when clubs have come behind to win or been ahead and lost

Scorers' Points Gained & Scoring Run

Club	Gls	Cl/gm	Pts	Run	1stG
Robert Earnshaw	29	0.78	21	3	8
Luke Beckett	25	0.66	17	4	10
Sam Parkin	19	0.56	17	6	5
Rob Hulse	21	0.68	14	4	7
Mark Stallard	21	0.57	14	3	6
Bruce Dyer	15	0.43	14	3	5
John Murphy	14	0.42	13	2	6
Simon Haworth	16	0.48	12	8	5
Martin Smith	13	0.43	12	1	5
Steven Howard	16	0.48	11	4	8
Ilyseden Christie	18	0.56	10	5	2

eg if player scores the goal in a 1-0 win, the goal is worth 2 pts as score would have been 0-0, or if 2 goals in 2-1 win, goals worth 3 pts. Also shown is goals per game figure and number of games player scored 1st goal

Fouls and Offsides per game

	avg. fouls per game	avg. offsides per game
Luton	14.68	5.42
Tranmere	14.24	Barnsley 4.42
Notts County	14.00	Tranmere 4.08
Oldham	13.82	Peterborough 4.05
QPR	13.68	Wycombe 3.82
Wycombe	13.61	Oldham 3.68
Brentford	13.37	Cheltenham 3.66
Barnsley	13.21	Crewe 3.66
Swindon	13.14	Stockport 3.53
Mansfield	12.95	Brentford 3.37
Bristol City	12.70	Swindon 3.30
Chesterfield	12.63	Blackpool 3.21

Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1gl	2gl	3gl	4gl	5+gl
Wigan	10	13	1	0	0
Crewe	7	10	2	1	1
Cardiff	12	4	1	3	0
Bristol City	7	7	4	1	1
Oldham	11	4	0	2	0
QPR	6	7	3	2	0
Tranmere	12	2	2	1	0
Luton	11	2	3	0	0
Blackpool	7	5	3	0	1
Wycombe	5	4	2	1	1
Plymouth	7	4	1	0	1
Brentford	9	2	0	0	1
Chesterfield	10	1	0	1	0
Colchester	7	3	1	1	0
Swindon	6	4	2	0	1
Mansfield	7	2	0	1	1
Stockport	6	3	1	1	0
Barnsley	9	2	0	0	0
Port Vale	9	1	1	0	0
Northampton	5	2	3	0	0
Notts County	5	2	1	1	0
Peterborough	5	2	1	0	0
Huddersfield	6	2	1	0	0
Cheltenham	3	4	1	0	0

Second Division Scene



AS THE Town play another promotion crunch match this afternoon, results from other games become equally important as we weigh up the prospects of breaking back into the play-off places.

On Tuesday, for instance, while the Town were being denied two home points by Oldham, QPR cashed in by thumping Cheltenham 4-1 at Loftus Road. It widened the gap between the Town and the top six to half a dozen points. Today we need Wigan to give us a helping hand, because they are away to Rangers.

Better news was that Tranmere had managed only a draw at Barnsley to stay two points ahead of the Town, with a visit to Kenilworth Road still on their itinerary. That looks like being a "must win" game. Lennie Lawrence did us a favour by guiding Cardiff to a 2-1 home win over Blackpool, which effectively ended Bloomfield Road's hopes of a play-off place. They cannot do it unless the Town, Tranmere and QPR all slip up badly in the run-in.

Eight teams are in a mini-league fighting for the top six places, and while the Town's run-in is difficult, it can work to their advantage with so many six-pointers still to play. But other clubs have a few tricky encounters as the last eight games of the season start today.

The top team's remaining fixtures:

Wigan: QPR A, Plymouth H, Northampton A, Brentford H, Huddersfield A, Oldham H, Cardiff A, Barnsley H.

Crewe: Luton A, Stockport H, Bristol City H, Blackpool A, Swindon H, Barnsley A, QPR A, Cardiff H.

Cardiff: Mansfield H (last night), Wycombe A, QPR H, Chesterfield A, Colchester H, Peterborough A, Bristol City A, Wigan H, Crewe A.

Oldham: Northampton A, Port Vale H, Barnsley H, Cheltenham A, Chesterfield H, Wigan A, Swindon H, Huddersfield A.

Bristol City: Huddersfield A, Barnsley H, Crewe A, Mansfield H, Luton A, Cardiff H, Chesterfield A, Port Vale H.

QPR: Wigan H, Blackpool A, Cardiff A, Luton H, Brentford A, Notts County H, Crewe H, Colchester A.

Tranmere: Peterborough A, Chesterfield H, Luton A, Wycombe H, Notts County A, Northampton H, Mansfield H, Stockport A.

Crewe come to Kenilworth Road today seeking revenge for the victory the Town earned through Steve Howard's goal at Gresty Road in October. Their 3-1 win at Plymouth on Tuesday, which ended the Pilgrims' lingering hopes of a play-off place, was their 11th away success of the season a total beaten only by Wigan. They have lost only three away games in the league so far, 1-2 at Cardiff in September, 0-2 at Wigan in November and 1-2 at Tranmere a fortnight ago. Crewe's last six results: Wigan H 0-1, Peterborough H 0-1, Wycombe H 4-2, Tranmere A 1-2, Port Vale H 1-1, Plymouth A 3-1.

Brian Swain

Nationwide League Division Two

	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A			
Wigan	38	11	7	1	31	14	4	2	28	9	36	83
Crewe	38	10	3	6	26	11	5	3	40	20	30	71

*Cardiff	37	11	5	3	31	15	9	5	4	27	18	25	70
Oldham	38	8	5	6	28	16	10	8	1	24	15	21	67
Bristol City	38	11	5	3	32	13	8	4	7	31	27	23	66
QPR	38	12	3	4	34	18	6	7	6	23	23	16	64
Tranmere	38	10	5	4	28	21	7	4	8	24	32	-1	60
Luton Town	38	8	5	6	29	21	8	5	6	27	28	7	58
Blackpool	38	10	6	3	30	17	5	4	10	18	30	-1	55
Plymouth	38	8	5	6	22	24	5	7	7	20	22	6	51
Wycombe	38	8	5	6	37	29	5	5	9	19	21	6	49
Colchester	38	7	6	6	22	17	5	6	8	24	31	-2	48
Swindon	38	7	5	7	25	25	5	6	8	23	30	-7	47
Brentford	38	7	6	6	21	16	5	4	10	17	29	-7	46
Notts County	38	7	7	5	30	28	3	8	8	24	29	-3	45
Barnsley	38	6	7	6	23	26	5	5	9	22	28	-9	45
Chesterfield	38	9	4	6	23	23	3	3	13	12	34	-22	43
Port Vale	38	7	4	8	24	25	4	5	10	18	33	-16	42
Stockport	38	6	7	6	31	31	5	1	13	18	29	-11	41
*Mansfield	38	8	2	9	35	37	3	5	11	22	40	-20	40

Peterborough	37	5	5	8	20	19	4	7	8	17	30	-12	39
Northampton	38	7	3	9	21	22	3	5	11	14	36	-23	38
Cheltenham	38	5	6	8	19	27	3	7	9	22	32	-18	37
Huddersfield	38	6	7	6	21	21	3	3	13	7	27	-20	37

* Not including last night's match, Cardiff v Mansfield

Tonight's Other Second Division Games

- Barnsley v Colchester
- Chesterfield v Wycombe
- Huddersfield v Bristol City
- Northampton v Oldham
- Peterborough v Tranmere
- Plymouth v Brentford
- Port Vale v Cheltenham
- QPR v Wigan
- Stockport v Blackpool
- Swindon v Notts County
- Last night
- Cardiff v Mansfield

SQUAD CHECK

LUTON TOWN

Manager: Joe Kinnear

1	Mark OVENDALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Aaron SKELTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Alan NEILSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Matthew SPRING	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Russell PERRETT	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Marvin JOHNSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian FORBES	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin NICHOLLS	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Tony THORPE	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Carl GRIFFITHS	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Steve ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Chris COYNE	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Dean CROWE	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Carl EMBERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Emmerson BOYCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Ahmet BRKOVIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Steve HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Peter HOLMES	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul HUGHES	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	David BAYLISS	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ian HILLIER	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Sol DAVIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Duncan JUPP	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Lars HIRSCHFELD	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Alan KIMBLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Chris WILLMOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>

CREWE ALEXANDRA

Manager: Dario Gradi

1	Ademole BANKOLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	David WRIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Richard WALKER	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Kenny LUNT	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	David WALTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Stephen FOSTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Colin LITTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Dave BRAMMER	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Rob HULSE	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Dean ASHTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Rodney JACK	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Neil SORVEL	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Clayton INCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	David VAUGHAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Wayne COLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Efe SODJE	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Steve JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Chris McCREADY	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Ben RIX	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Lee BELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul EDWARDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Stuart TOMLINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Alex MORRIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	James ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	John MILES	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Michael HIGDON	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Adam YATES	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Paul TIERNEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Stefan OAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>

tick if playing ■ tick if substitute ●

Today's Officials

Referee: Steve Baines, Derbyshire

Assistants: Martin Darlow, Bedfordshire (yellow flag); Martin Harris, Lincolnshire (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Norman Appleby, Hertfordshire



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