

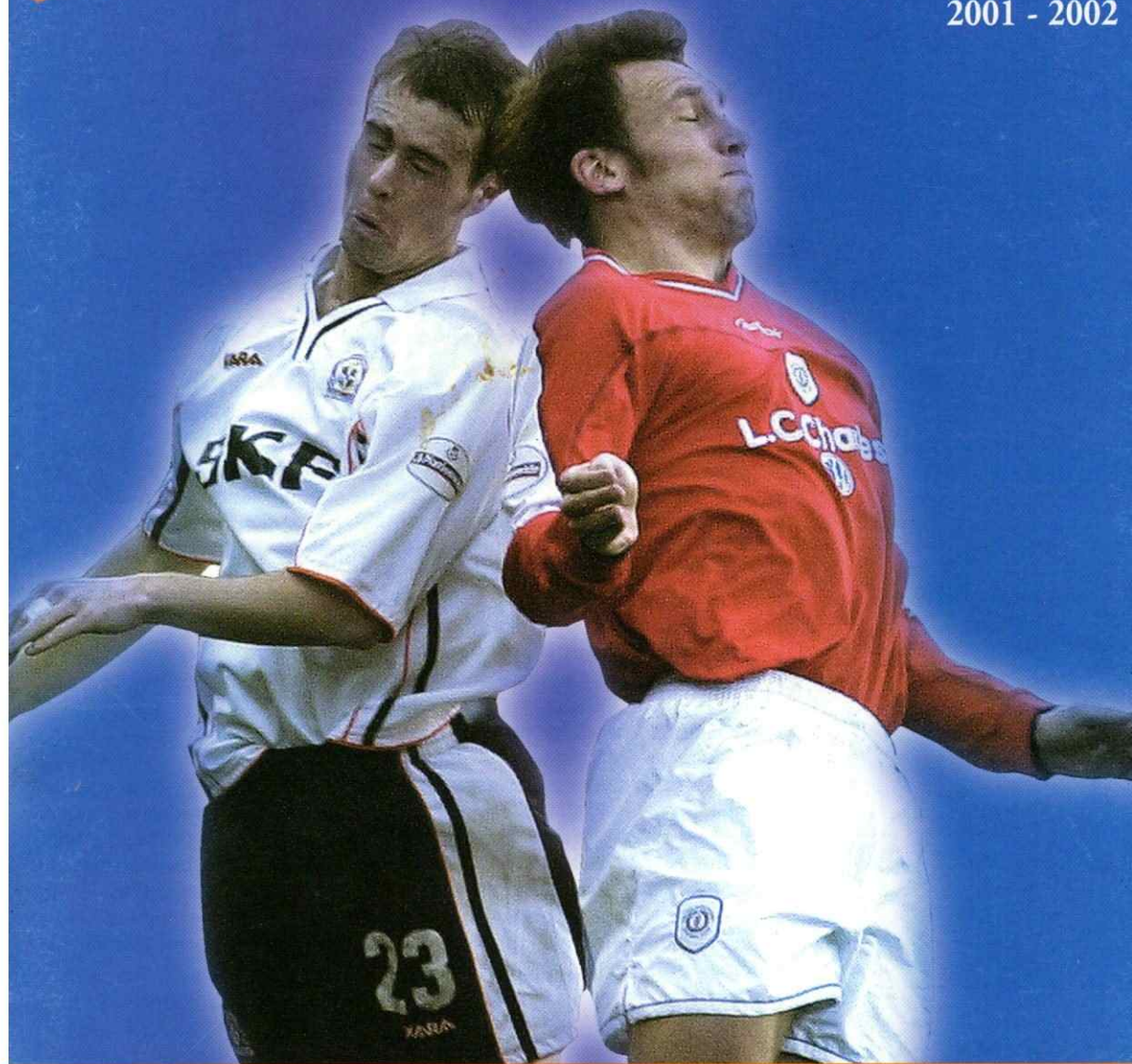
# LUTON TOWN

*The Hatters*

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2001 - 2002



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#### 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



Jumping to it - Ian Hillier in action against Dean Ashton in the match against Crewe.

# Inside Forward

THE Town's enforced day off a week ago saw them slip a little in the play-off chase, but gave more time for injured men to recover, and for the first time in months manager Joe Kinnear had a squad of 22 potential first-teamers in training this week.

Emmerson Boyce, Alan Neilson, Chris Willmott, David Bayliss and Alan Kimble all returned to action on Wednesday in a reserve side which beat Colchester at Kenilworth Road. Adrian Forbes was rested, having begun his comeback in the Second Division game against Crewe.

"It's like signing a new player," said the boss as he welcomed Forbes back to the squad. The Town have been in much need of a winger this season, but now the manager has two, having signed Sammy Igoe on loan from Reading until the end of the season.

The deal suits both parties. While Joe was desperate for more width, Igoe, 27, is out of contract at the end of the season, and wants more regular first-team football than Reading have been offering recently. So the move offers him a shop window, with the Town boss considering a contract offer in the summer.

Some Town fans may remember Igoe as part of the Reading team that whipped us 4-0 in the Worthington Cup last season. Born in Staines, Igoe began his career as a YTS boy with Portsmouth and played 160 games for them before a £100,000 move to Reading three years ago. He has played 87 matches for the Royals, and helped them win promotion to the First Division last season.

### Midfielder Moves Out

WHILE Igoe moved in, Lee Mansell has gone out on loan to Conference club Nuneaton Borough. His Town career had surprisingly gone on hold after an explosive debut a couple of years ago when he scored in an FA Cup replay at QPR.

He claimed a regular place in the first team, but found himself in the reserves as the Town began to rebuild following relegation to the Third Division two years ago. New arrivals who competed for midfield places included Kevin Nicholls, Paul Hughes, Adrian Forbes and Ahmet Brkovic. But Mansell is still only 20 - he was the coaches' choice as young player of the year in 2000/2001 - and Joe has stressed that the loan deal is purely to give him a higher level of football than he was getting in the reserves. He has not been offered to Nuneaton on a permanent basis, and is still training with the Town. He has another year left on his Kenilworth Road contract.

### INSIDE TODAY...

The manager's views - P 5; The skipper's column - P 7; Secretary's notes - P 9; Today's visitors - Pp 18-21; Crewe match report and pictures - Pp 26-29; Latest injury news - P 8; Travel deals to Cheltenham and QPR - P25; Trialists play for Reserves - P 51; New signing from Oxford - P 14; Latest from the youth teams - Pp 49-50; Blast from the Past - Pp 22 & 23; Ticket office news - Pp 10-11; Luton Belles' shooting star - P 45; Junior Hatters news - P 35; Promotion hopes need a win - P 53; All the stats: Pp 54-55.



WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD: Sammy Igoe, who has been signed on loan from Reading and is set for his Luton Town debut this afternoon.

### Striker Stays Put

CARL Griffiths, fighting his way back to match fitness after injuries, was a loan transfer target for two clubs, and the manager was willing to let him move if he chose to. Rushden and Diamonds wanted the striker to boost their promotion bid from Division Three, while Exeter City made an approach as they looked for fresh talent to lift them out of bottom place.

"I left the decision to Griff, but he decided to stay with us," said the manager. "He is out of contract in the summer, and is keeping his options open."

### Friends Reunited

WHILE we always welcome visiting teams, officials and supporters, some of our young fans are looking forward today to meeting some of their opposite numbers from Tranmere. The Harlington Boys Brigade company have had regular contact at camps in recent years with the First Bebbington Boys Brigade, who are ardent Tranmere fans. The Harlington lads are regulars at Kenilworth Road - their band has occasionally entertained us on the pitch - and they ask us to print a welcome to their pals in the away end, with the rider that "We hope it is as good a match as when we visited our friends in the Wirral in November. If it is, it will be a great day for Luton!"

*Brian Swain*



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## Manager's View



I HOPE that you, like us, have come to Kenilworth Road today with your appetite for football renewed after our week off. We have lost a little ground in the promotion chase, but the break from routine has done us good, and today we are offered an excellent opportunity to close the gap on the team immediately above us.

We cannot afford to make a mess of it the way we did so spectacularly in our last game. We had to give credit to Crewe, because their football was excellent. The judgement I had to make was how much Crewe's success was down to our performance. To a large degree the damage was self-inflicted. Just about every player was below par, and we helped to make Crewe look good. It was ironic to remember that we had beaten them fair and square at their place earlier in the season, but could not reproduce that form on our own pitch.

Our thanks are due to supporters who showed great patience as they watched us leaking four goals at home. I know how you must have felt, and I promise we will strain every muscle to prevent anything like that happening again.

We were a little fortunate that results elsewhere on the day, especially Wigan's win at Queens Park Rangers, were not as damaging to us as they might have been, but after QPR and Tranmere won last week we are now in a situation where we have to win our next three games.

After today, we use up our game in hand at Cheltenham on Tuesday, and then face a real crunch at Loftus Road in a

week's time.

Our players dug themselves into this hole with their performance against Crewe: now they have the chance to prove a point to themselves, and to you, by digging themselves out of it with a winning run. The battle for sixth place is not over yet, and although we have made it more difficult for ourselves, we are still in with a shout.

We are certainly in a much better position than half the clubs in this division, and as I have said before after the first month of the season supporters were worried about relegation, not thinking about promotion. Our players have proved that they are a capable bunch, and like everyone else in football, except perhaps for the super-stars at places like Arsenal and Manchester United, they are ambitious to play at a higher level.

They want to test themselves in the First Division, and before we get too depressed by what Crewe did to us, it is worth remembering that we have put in some excellent performances in other games. The major flaw has been lack of consistency, particularly at home, but this week there has been a greater feeling of determination running through the squad. Failure in any of our remaining seven games is not an option.

The next eight days will go a long way to sorting out our prospects. I see no reason why we should not believe in our ability to collect nine points. If we do that we could well then be level with QPR, who are away to Cardiff today before meeting us next week. Needless to say, we feel we owe Rangers one after their lucky draw here in November!

However, that match can wait.

The priority today is to wipe out the motley Crewe memories, and put three more points in the bag. It is a must-win game. I would guess that Tranmere see it as a must-not-lose game, so the stakes are high for both sides, which should make for a good contest.

The squad from which the team will be selected will include Sammy Igoe, and I would like to welcome him to the club. He has already shown us in training that he is sharp and enthusiastic. He was one of several players I was chasing to strengthen the team, and I was delighted to secure his signature on loan forms on deadline day in the face of fierce competition from elsewhere. Various other approaches failed for a variety of reasons, but mainly because agents were asking for silly money and we were not going to wreck our wages policy.

And to return to the subject of the Crewe game, what a pleasure it was to see Adrian Forbes playing his first league game of the season. He has timed his return from injury perfectly, and after his long absence it was like having a new player in the squad. I had known for a long time that we needed more width and pace in the side, and the return of Forbsey and the signing of Igoe have given us an extra impetus just when it is most needed. Hopefully it will show in results – if we end this season with a late winning run, as we did a year ago, another promotion is still within our grasp.

Keep the faith, and enjoy the game.

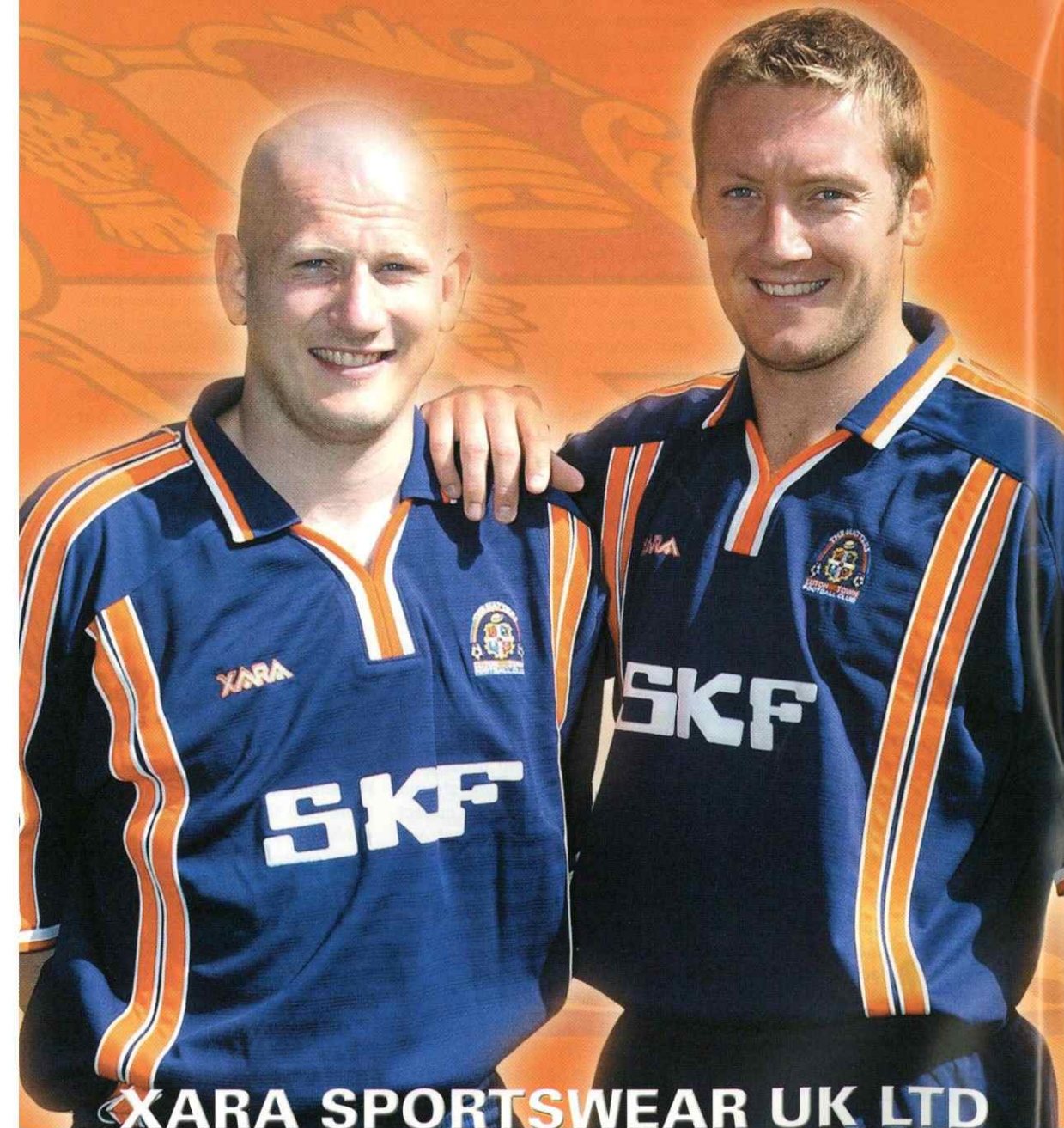
*Joe Kinnear*



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## Captain's View



IT'S GOING to be hard to do it now, but while there is a chance of winning back a top six place we have to keep going, and, of course, we really have to win this afternoon. And whatever our future holds, I want to see us finish the season on a high, and with no more home points dropped. I am sorry we didn't put on a better show for you against Crewe. We started brightly enough, and could have taken an early lead, and that has to be our aim this afternoon. But certainly we can't afford to be as poor as we were after that bright start.

Crewe were a good team but don't forget we beat them at their place, and on merit, so you have to question whether since then they have got a lot better or we have got worse. I will leave you to work that one out, but on the day we allowed the opposition to dictate too much of the play, and that is a mistake we must not make again today, because once more we are up against a side who want the points as much as we do.

We must also tighten up at the back: Crewe's first two goals were down to our defending as much as to their attacking, and if you give the opposition a two-goal start you are in trouble. We know we can do better defensively - in the three previous games, we had conceded only one goal, at Wigan, and to be successful club you must start your game plan with a determination to keep a clean sheet.

I was champing at the bit last

Saturday when we had no football, wishing we could get back in action quickly.

However, it gave me a chance to spend time with my family, and it was nice to spend Mother's Day with my mum. But on Saturday I was fretting about football, and "watching" games on teletext to see how results were going for the other teams involved in the Second Division play-off scramble. They weren't too kind and on Saturday night I went to the dogs at Walthamstow with my brother and my dad. I didn't win, so it was a bad day all round!

But the weekend with no football is a bonus in many ways for us, not least because it gave time for aches and pains to clear up. We have also had time to think about the lessons to be learned from recent games, and to get ourselves sorted out for the final month of the season.

It has been no secret that we have been crying out for a winger all season, so it was good to see Adrian Forbes back in the side for the Crewe game. We shouldn't expect too much from him, because he has played very little competitive football since his serious injury in the summer, but he has a tremendous attitude and enthusiasm, and like the rest of us wants the chance to play First Division football.

We were pleased to welcome Sammy Igoe, and from what we have seen in training he too can give us something extra for the very important games

coming up.

Today, of course, the requirement is simple: we must win this afternoon, to cut Tranmere's lead over us to three points. If they win they are nine points ahead of us, and it will be asking for a miracle for us to make up that gap in the six remaining matches. Miracles do happen in football, of course, but today we are focused on getting three points. A draw is not enough.

It's a classic case of the old cliché about taking each game as it comes, but we are well aware that we need another win at Cheltenham on Tuesday, before another vital game at Loftus Road.

Our fate depends on what happens in the next eight days. On our day we can cope with anyone in this division. So we must make it our day in all our remaining games.

Both teams will be up for it, and Tranmere, like Crewe, will be determined not to let us complete a double over them. We are equally determined, and we know that the fans want success as well. I thought that for the most part you were very patient as we threw away the Crewe game, and I have been told that a lot of supporters sat there in comparative silence because they enjoyed watching the good football Crewe played. I didn't, and we have no intention of letting any opposition do that to us again.

*Kevin Nicholls*

Log on to Luton Town's official website at  
[www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)



## Treatment Room

HARD work by a lot of people has brought its reward in the treatment room, and I am pleased to see that for the final lap of the season the manager has almost a full squad to choose from. The only first team men currently unavailable are Dean Crowe and Steve Robinson. Crowe sees the surgeon again on Monday, for a four-weekly check-up to see how his broken leg is mending. It seems to be going well so far, and we will know more after we see Monday's X-ray pictures. He is wearing an air-cast, which keeps the leg as immobile as old-fashioned plaster, but with the

advantage that it can be taken off on occasion, for instance when he goes to bed. Crowe is working as well as he can under the circumstances, and looking forward to being able to join in pre-season training. Robinson is hoping to be back before the season ends, but is going through a very frustrating time as his lower back problem responds only slowly to treatment. He is having another consultation with the specialist to ensure we do everything possible to ensure his recovery is as speedy as possible. The highlight of my week was to watch the reserves on Wednesday. Five players were returning for their first games after injuries, and they

all came through well, and with no adverse reactions. We restricted Emmerson Boyce to 30 minutes, and he was so strong it was almost unbelievable. He has been in full training for a week, going flat out, and it was very encouraging to see how he coped with Wednesday's game, his first in six weeks. Alan Neilson played half the match, and was a little stiff afterwards, but otherwise OK, and Alan Kimble, Chris Willmott and David Bayliss, all came through, and are also back in full training. Carl Griffiths has been under treatment for a calf strain, but should be back in the training routine next week.

*Lee Taylor*

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## Club Secretary

WHILE enjoying the fine weather last weekend it simply did not seem right not to be at football, and it is good to be back in the swing of a match day today. It doesn't seem possible that the season is now nearly over, and we are already looking ahead to the new one. Already in place is a first team pre-season friendly with Wimbledon, here at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday July 29, kick-off 7.45pm. The match has been arranged under the terms of Kelvin Davis's transfer to Wimbledon back in 1999, with all proceeds from the match being retained by us. We hope to give further details shortly of other pre-season matches, and a tour.

The backlog of Avon Insurance Combination matches is still outstanding, with May looking likely for the games. With all the matches involved, it has been impossible to find a mutually acceptable date with Bedford Town to play the semi-final of the Beds Senior Cup. Bedford also had rearranged matches to be fitted in after bad weather postponements. Bedfordshire Football Association have asked us to stand down from the competition this season as they have a fixed cup final date on May 6. Bearing in mind all the permutations at the present time, we have reluctantly agreed to that request on this occasion. I am pleased to report that there

will be a presentation today to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital Cancer Ward of a cheque for £8,100, which represents our grant from the FA Charity Shield Fund. I am sure supporters will agree we have chosen a very worthy charity.

Easter is just around the corner, and the club offices will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. However, the ticket office and club shop will be open on Good Friday from 10am to 2pm, and normal hours will be in operation for the match against Bristol City on Easter Saturday. The ticket office and club shop will be closed on Easter Monday. Incidentally, don't forget that our Easter Monday match at Colchester is all-ticket, with none available on the day of the game.

I was recently invited to attend the Luton Sports Council awards evening, where I received an award for long service to sport – no, not football, but, to many people's surprise, for netball and basketball. I had much enjoyment from both sports, and have been happy over the years to put back a little into the administration, and am still involved with the Beds and Herts Basketball League – not to any huge degree, but if everyone gave back a little to the sports they had enjoyed, it would be good. Emmerson Boyce was guest of honour presenting the awards, and it was a pleasure to receive my award from him.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Peter Davis our new Commercial Manager and wish him every success here at the club and also to wish Linda Layton a happy retirement.

*Cherry Newbery*



You can e-mail Cherry Newbery on  
[clubsec@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:clubsec@lutontown.co.uk)

# Ticket Office News

## Nationwide League Division Two



### Cheltenham Town v Luton Town Tuesday April 8, 2003, kick-off 7.45pm

This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game. Our allocation is 600 seats and 900 terracing, and tickets are now on general sale.



This is a change of date, but all tickets bought for the original date are still valid. Supporters who bought tickets for March 29 but cannot use them on April 8 can claim refunds by returning them to the ticket office at least 24 hours before the match.

#### 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.



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

This match is ALL TICKET for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available on the day of the game. Tickets will be on sale, subject to availability, until 6pm on Friday April 11.

Prices: Adults £16, juniors, senior citizens and students £8



### 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



# Ticket Office News

## Nationwide League Division Two



### 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.



### Swindon Town v Luton Town Saturday May 3, 2003, kick-off 3pm

We have been advised by Swindon Town that there is a possibility that this match will be ALL TICKET to Luton Town supporters. As soon as we receive confirmation we will advise supporters via the press, radio and club website.



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## Hatters Chatter

A NEW "signing" for the team off the field has just been completed, with Peter Davis moving from Oxford United to be the Town's new commercial manager, following the retirement of Linda Layton.



He comes with plenty of experience in the game and in his profession, having been general manager of corporate sales and marketing at Crystal Palace before going to the Kassam Stadium.

Mr Davis had been running the commercial operation at Oxford for nearly two years, but felt he could not resist the challenge offered by a similar job at Kenilworth Road. "The club has performed tremendously well in overcoming a series of problems on and off the pitch in recent years, and the future is looking positive and secure," he said.

"The prospect of a new stadium can only support the club's aspirations for the 21st century, and I am looking forward to ensuring that the club's commercial activities provide vital support in the realisation of those aspirations."

Aged 54, and father of five grown-up children, Mr Davis was born in south east London, which led to him being a Charlton fan at heart, but having lived at Northampton for the past 15 years, he takes Rushden and Diamonds as an example of what can be achieved once a club has the right stadium and facilities.

## Golden Gamble

PART of the enjoyment of coming to Kenilworth Road is that whatever takes place on the pitch, one supporter will go home with something to smile about – in the case of our game against Crewe 810 reasons to cheer up despite the Town's defeat.

Thanks to excellent support from fans, the Golden Gamble jackpot was one of the biggest of the season, and a two-man syndicate, Peter Layton and Brendan Sherry, of Pulloxhill, scooped £810. They were watching the game from the New Stand, and are pictured collecting their bundle of cash after Alan Neilson drew out their winning ticket.



It cost only £1, and once more today a cash prize is on offer for a similar outlay. Every ticket bought helps the club, because half of the income goes into the jackpot kitty and the other half goes to club funds.

So far this season the Golden Gamble has paid out £14,940 to 22 winners so far this season, an average of £679 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.

## Commercial Corner



First and foremost may I take the opportunity of welcoming all of our corporate sponsors, lounge members and boxholders to this afternoons match against play-off place rivals Tranmere United.

birthday, I'll be able to sponsor again, when we are in the first division". All at the club wish him a very happy birthday and hope he has a great day.

### Players Kit Sponsors – Matchday Hospitality



We further welcome this afternoon, 37 of this season's Players Kit Sponsors and their guests, to their match day hospitality event in the Joe Payne Sponsors Lounge. This afternoons event represents an integral part of this very special sponsors package, which also includes the Shirt Sponsors Presentation Dinner at the end of the season . By the time you read these notes today's guests would have enjoyed a drinks reception, a backstage tour of the ground, had a superb four course meal and now be in the process of settling down for this afternoons match. For details on how you could be part of this fabulous sponsors package for next season, contact either myself or Amelia in the commercial department.

### Matchball Sponsors – Neale Cannon

Its also a very warm welcome to Neale Cannon, his brother Clive, plus friends Peter and Becky as today's matchball sponsors. Neale who celebrates his birthday with us this afternoon, is hoping for a double celebration with a "Hatters" win to crown his perfect day. Neale say's "hopefully next year, when it's time for another

### PSS – Pipe Serve Solutions Ltd



We also welcome back after a 5 year absence Pipe Serve Solutions Ltd who are entertaining their VIP guests today in our Kenilworth Suite. PSS who are based in Birmingham specialise in industrial pipework installations on a national basis to the service and process industry. They can be contacted on 0121 616 5079

Finally may I just add that its great to be on board such a tremendous club as Luton Town with all the tradition, history and pagentry that it represents. I have had a wonderful welcome from all of management and backroom staff here at the club and look forward to getting to meet all of you over the next few weeks and discussing the commercial development plans that we have for the club.

Have a great afternoon

*Peter Davis*

Dedicated Luton Town fan, Mathew Westwood joins us today as our commercial mascot. Attending Harlington Upper School, 15 year old Mathew who enjoys playing as well as watching football, also numbers computer games amongst his other hobbies.



Regularly accompanied by his father to Kenilworth Road, Mathews favourite Town players are Tony Thorpe and Kevin Nichols. We wish him and his father a memorable day behind the scenes with the Hatters.





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WHOSH

**Kevin Foley**  
The Regular Rabble

**Carl Griffiths**  
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**Sol Davis**  
Personal Security Services

Luton Town v Tranmere Rovers

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

Navigation: For/Against, Goalscoring, Home/Away, Top Scorer, Form Guide, Discipline, Attendances, Swings/Margins, Miscellaneous

### Seasonal Progress Comparison

### Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored	9
Shots	3
Headers	3
Volleys	0
Penalties	1
Free Kicks	0
Own Goals	0

### Where Goals Scored

### Where Goals Conceded

### When Goals Scored

Time	Hatters	Rovers
0-15	0	0
16-30	0	0
31-45	0	0
46-60	0	0
61-75	0	0
76-90	0	0

### Average Goals per game

For	1.35
Home For	1.50
Away For	1.20
Against	1.35
Home Against	1.10
Away Against	1.60

### 2002-2003 Attendances

Hatters	Aggregate	Rovers
136,460	156,584	156,584
9,477	Highest 9,795	9,795
5,890	Lowest 5,980	5,980
6,823	Average 7,829	7,829
68	% of Capacity	47

### 10 Year Record

Hatters	Avg Pos.	Rovers
53.3	among 92 clubs	37.1
7,878	Avg Att 1993	8,095
6,842	Avg Att 2002	7,602
-13	+ / - %	-6

### Top League Scorers

Howard	Haworth
16	16
34	35
0.47	0.46
11	12
4	8
0	0
5	4
9	11
2	1
6	5
6	7
4	4
0	0
0	0

### 2002-2003 Figures

37	Players Used	34
13	Clean Sheets	9
8	Failed to Score	10
7	Goals scored from...	7
4	Corners	6
4	Free Kicks	6
4	Goals conceded from...	6
6	Corners	5
6	Free Kicks	5

### Form Guide - Last 6

1	Won	2
2	Drawn	4
3	Lost	0
7	For	8
10	Against	6
5	Points	10
-3	Goal Difference	2
LLWDDL	Sequence	DWDDDW

### Yellow & Red Cards

77	Yellow	52
5	Red	5

### Tranmere Rovers' 10 Year History

Season	Leading Scorer	Ave A
01/02	Barlow .....14	8.65
00/01	Koumas .....10	9.04
99/00	Allison .....16	7.27
98/99	Irons .....15	6.93
97/98	Kelly .....12	8.00
96/97	Aldridge .....18	8.12
95/96	Aldridge .....27	7.86
94/95	Aldridge .....24	8.90
93/94	Aldridge .....21	8.09
92/93	Aldridge .....21	8.07



**MORE BITE THAN A ROY KEANE TACKLE...**





# Welcome To

## MANAGER

### RAY MATHIAS

Ray Mathias holds the record for the most league and cup appearances for the club – 636. Mathias joined Tranmere as a 16-year-old from local non-league side Ellesmere Port in December 1964 but had to wait four years before he finally made his debut. He then went on to give 16 years sterling service to the club. Mathias left Tranmere in 1986 to take charge of Wigan only to return three years later. He returned to Wigan in 1998 for a second spell at the helm before returning again a year later as reserve team boss – he was sacked despite leading Wigan to the Auto Windscreens Shield and the play-offs. Mathias became joint caretaker manager with Kevin Sheedy following the resignation of John Aldridge in March 2001 and put himself forward for the position on a permanent basis only to lose out to Dave Watson. Mathias however returned to the caretaker role following the dismissal of Watson in early August of 2002.



## GOALKEEPERS

### 1. JOHN ACHTERBERG

Tall Dutch goalkeeper signed on a two-year contract in September 1998 after impressing on an initial two-week trial. Achterberg joined Rovers on a Bosman-style free transfer as a replacement for

Everton-bound Steve Simonsen and was thrown straight into the first team due to a groin injury to Danny Coyne. With a style not previously seen at Prenton Park, but more commonplace amongst foreign goalkeepers, Achterberg has turned out to be a real bargain signing. A proficient custodian who possesses good handling skills and positional know-how. The departure of Coyne to Grimsby during the summer of 1999 gave Achterberg the chance to state his claim for the 'keeper's jersey. However, the following season saw a new rival emerge for the number one shirt in the form of Eire U18 'keeper Joe Murphy. Murphy's misfortune when he sustained a broken collarbone in December 1999 allowed Achterberg an unexpected opportunity to return to the first team and he grasped it with both hands.

### 13. RUSSELL HAWORTH

The goalkeeping saga at Prenton Park finally came to an end when Rovers signed England under 21 goalkeeper Russell Haworth from York City. The talented keeper was seen as 'a steal' in a depressed transfer market and was brought in to challenge regular keeper John Achterberg for the first team jersey. Made his debut for rovers in the FA cup replay defeat at Cardiff when Achterberg was sent off. Tipped as one for the future.

### 32. ERIC NIXON

Eric Nixon originally joined



Tranmere on loan from Manchester City before John King secured his signature on a permanent basis for a £60,000 fee in July 1988 and he went on to play a major role in the club's meteoric rise from the old fourth division to the first division. Eric left for Stockport County in August 1997 before moving to Wigan Athletic a year later but was re-signed by Tranmere prior to the 1999-00 season. Now the club's goalkeeping coach, he made two brief first team comeback at home to Barnsley in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup in 2000, and in the last away game of last season away to Cambridge United.

## DEFENDERS

### 2. GRAHAM ALLEN

Bolton-born Graham Allen joined Rovers in part exchange as part of the Steve Simonsen deal having been unable to break through at Everton, where he had been since his YTS days. After making just six first team appearances at Goodison Park, the chance of a permanent move to Prenton Park and the opportunity of first team football was not one he was going to reject. Initially, signed on a one-month loan, his move became permanent in September 1998 with Everton placing a £300,000 valuation on his head. A tall, composed defender, Allen has proven his versatility by turning out in both the right-back and centre-back positions although he prefers the latter.

### 17. JAMES OLSEN

James Olsen will be hoping to emulate the success of Andy Parkinson and Gareth Roberts after making the short switch across the Mersey from Liverpool

# Tranmere Rovers



in March 2001 for an undisclosed fee. After some impressive outings in the reserve team, Olsen made his Tranmere debut as a substitute against Nottingham Forest in May 2001 and he looked set to push Gareth Roberts hard for a regular place in the starting eleven during the 2000-01 season only to sustain a serious neck injury in the pre-season build-up.

### 5. KEVIN GRAY

Kevin Gray completed his move from Huddersfield Town last summer and was immediately named Club Captain by then boss Dave Watson. The 30 year old joined on a free transfer after calling an end to his eight year spell at the McAlpine.

Gray started his career at Mansfield Town in 1988 and was made captain at the tender age of 19, playing 170 games for the stags before signing for Huddersfield in July '94. The former Terrier signed a two year deal at Prenton Park.

### 26. SEAN CONNELLY

Long term target Connelly finally signed for Rovers before the Chesterfield game on 12th October. The former Stockport County defender had been a target of Rovers when John Aldridge was in charge, but the defender chose Wolves, where Mathias finally signed him from. A cultured left back who is not afraid to run with the ball, the 32 year old will be an asset to the side this season.



### 3. GARETH ROBERTS

Wrexham-born Gareth Roberts

initially joined Tranmere on a two-month trial during the summer of 1999 from Greek club Panionios. Having been released by Liverpool, the young defender was persuaded to move to Greece by Panionios boss Ronnie Whelan who paid just £50,000 for his services. He was rewarded with the experience of playing against Italian giants Lazio in the European Cup Winners Cup quarter-final, rubbing shoulders alongside the likes of Marcelo Salas, Roberto Mancini and Ivan De La Pena. Equally comfortable as a left-back or left wing-back, Roberts' tenacity in the tackle and solid defending impressed John Aldridge sufficiently to be offered a permanent deal.

### 6. IAN SHARPS

Ian Sharps is yet another product of Tranmere's invaluable YTS scheme who has so far had to be contented with regular reserve team football. A tall centre-back who is strong in the air and difficult to shake off the ball as well as having vision and accurate distribution skills, he would undoubtedly have had further opportunities towards the end of the 1998-99 season if not for a groin injury. Sharps' potential marks him out as one for the future and he looks set to follow in a long line of talented centre-backs that have graced Prenton Park. season.

### 14. RICHARD HINDS

A graduate from Tranmere's successful youth scheme, this tall 20-year-old Yorkshireman made his league debut towards the end of the 1998-99 season at Grimsby. A surprise inclusion, his preferred position being at centre back, he started the game at right back and finished it at right-wing back! Hinds had an eleven-month wait

before his next first team chance, but he grasped the opportunity with both hands, despite being played in an unfamiliar mid-field holding role. After winning a number of man of the match awards upon his return to the starting line-up, Hinds cemented his place in the Tranmere side and was rewarded with a new three-year contract in April 2000.

### 25. SHANE NICHOLSON

Shane Nicholson joined Rovers after being released from his contract with Sheffield United, ironically following their signing of Steve Yates. Predominantly a left-sided defender, he has had spells at Stockport, Chesterfield, West Brom, Derby and Lincoln and has signed a two-year contract with Tranmere. Tranmere have been lacking quality on the left for some time and Watson acted quick to increase the number of left footers in his squad and Nicholson will provide excellent competition for Gareth Roberts.



## MIDFIELDERS

### 4. MICKEY MELLON

Mickey Mellon rejoined Tranmere for his second spell with the club in March 2000 on a free transfer from Burnley after an initially signing as a loan player. The Paisley-born midfielder had spent two years at Turf Moor, helping the Clarets into the First Division. Mellon first signed for Tranmere in October 1997 for a £300,000 fee



# Welcome To

from Blackpool. He arrived at Prenton Park with the reputation of a goalscoring midfielder but it took him five months before he found the back of the net. With Tranmere strapped for cash, Rovers were in no position to turn down the offer of £350,000 from Burnley in January 1999, and he was sold - his Prenton Park career lasting just 14 months. Frustrated by a lack of first team opportunities at Turf Moor, he was handed a free transfer and he opted to return to Prenton Park. Mellon started his career as a trainee at Bristol City before a £75,000 move took him to West Brom in February 1993 where he spent nine months.

## 12. ANDY PARKINSON

Andy Parkinson made the short trip across the Mersey when he signed on a free-transfer from Premier League neighbours Liverpool in August 1996. The

emergence of a certain Michael Owen, whom Parkinson played alongside in Liverpool's FA Youth Cup winning side of 1995, meant he was shown the door following the completion of his YTS apprenticeship. John Aldridge was convinced that with careful nurturing, Parkinson would blossom into a burgeoning talent, and he persuaded the slightly-built youngster that Tranmere was the stage upon which he would be given the chance to perform. Parkinson scored the winning goal on his home debut in January 1998 against Sunderland in a memorable FA Cup tie but could only add one more goal to his tally before the end of the season. His raw talent of the previous term matured into a more cultured style of play during the 1998-99 season, and he never contributed less than 100 percent effort in any game. With one season remaining on his contract, Parkinson voiced his desire to pursue his career

away from Prenton Park during the summer of 2001 but he eventually put his signature to a new two year deal.

## 7. JASON PRICE

The 24-year-old joined Rovers on November 8th and made his debut in the 2-1 win over QPR, following a successful three-month spell at Brentford and made an immediate impact.

He set up the winner for Stuart Barlow at Loftus Road, before scoring in the next consecutive five games, including braces against Brigg Town and Cambridge United. Tranmere were just one of several clubs to show an interest in the Welshman, but after meeting the manager, Price made the move up north.

## 10. ALAN NAVARRO

Alan Navarro finally ended a six week pursuit by Dave Watson, when he signed a three and a half

# Tranmere Rovers



year deal, for a fee rising to £225,000, depending on appearances.

It's the most the club has ever paid for a player of his age, but the club have bought potential, with Navarro still only 20.

The tough tackling midfielder is a product of Liverpool's academy. He's a great passer of the ball and can play anywhere across the middle and also featured at right back while at Anfield.

## 34. GARY JONES

This is Gary's second spell at Prenton park as new boss Ray Mathias looked to inject a touch of the old Tranmere spirit back into the side. Signed on a free from Nottingham Forest after impressing in a loan spell, Jones has been a virtual ever present since. A tough tackling midfielder who will always weigh in with his share of the goals.

## FORWARDS

## 11. STUART BARLOW

Stuart Barlow kicked off his career in Merseyside's non-league circuit with Sherwood Park before earning a dream transfer to Everton in June 1990 where he spent a total of five seasons. The wrench of leaving Everton in November 1995 was compensated by the fact that a £350,000 transfer to Oldham succeeded in re-igniting his career, illustrated by a scoring record of 31 goals from 93 appearances. Barlow's form at Boundary Park attracted the attentions of Wigan who swooped to sign him for a bargain £40,000 on transfer deadline day 1998. Wigan were celebrating 'steal of the century' as Barlow had a superb first full season, top scoring for the Latics with 26 goals and finishing second in the Division Two scoring

charts. While serving under then Wigan manager Ray Mathias, he also wrote his name into Wigan's history books as the scorer of the last ever goal at Springfield Park. A contract dispute with manager John Benson saw him fall out of favour and his form dipped before he returned in spectacular fashion to score in Wigan's thrilling 3-2 play-off final defeat to Gillingham. Wigan's failure to gain promotion didn't prevent Barlow from stepping up a Division during the summer when John Aldridge swooped to sign him on a Bosman transfer with the offer of a two-year deal and an option for a third year. Stuart's tremendous acceleration and ball control mark him out as a constant menace to defenders while his opportunist instincts have made him a hit with the Prenton Park faithful.

## 15. IAIN HUME

Iain Hume became the youngest ever player to appear in a Tranmere Rovers shirt when he made his debut as a substitute at Swindon Town in March 2000. At just 16 years and 167 days old and still registered on schoolboy forms, he beat a certain Dixie Dean's record by 192 days. A fast and energetic striker with masses of potential, Hume is already a Canadian U20 international and it will surely not be long before he makes his full first team debut.

## 9. SIMON HAWORTH

Haworth became Dave Watson's third signing, when he joined Tranmere Rovers for £125,000 from local rivals

Wigan Athletic. The 24-year-old was formerly the Latics record signing, when he joined back in 1998 for £600,000 from Coventry City. He was signed by then Manager Ray Mathias, who is obviously assistant to Rovers boss to Dave Watson. Haworth spent two successful seasons partnering Stuart Barlow, while at Wigan, a partnership that will certainly be revived at Prenton Park. The Welshman began his career with his hometown club Cardiff City, where he scored 13 goals in just 40 starts. He stayed with the Bluebirds for two seasons before moving to Premiership side Coventry City for £500,000. Chances were limited for the youngster with the Sky Blues, where he stayed for just one year before being snapped up by Wigan. Haworth's final record with the Latics stands at a total of 142 appearances, (19 as sub), and 58 goals and he remains equal third on the all time Latics League goal scorers list.

## 16. ALEX HAY

Birkenhead-born Alex Hay joined Tranmere's professional ranks in April 1999 after progressing through the youth system from the age of 12. Unable to make an impact at Prenton Park, Hay was loaned out to non-league Altrincham in October 2000 in a bid to gain first team experience and he quickly hit the goal trail with the Robins. After two months with the Moss Lane outfit, Hay returned to Prenton Park and was suffered the misfortune of being struck down by injury. During the 2001/02 season he finally broke into the first team making five appearances.



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## Blast From the Past

When Allan Brown took over as manager at Kenilworth Road on November 5th 1966 he must have wondered what he was letting himself in for. The team was struggling at the wrong end of Division Four, after being in the top flight only six years before, and crowds were down to a post-War low. His first game in charge saw the Town go down 0-1 at Port Vale and although Crewe were seen off at Kenilworth Road the following week, it was soon back to losing ways with successive defeats at Bradford City and Barrow. For some peculiar reason the Town arranged mid-week home games on Thursday evenings around this period and a F.A.Cup replay against Exeter was no exception and although the

game was won 2-0, the victory came at a high price. A crowd of 7,078 had turned up on a miserable evening to see a Hatters side that had forced a surprising 1-1 draw at St James' Park the previous Saturday and they were delighted to see the Town roar into an early 2-0 lead, through goals from Bruce Rioch and David Pleat. Unfortunately, the game turned nasty in the second half. Exeter used the slippery surface as an excuse to 'mis-time' tackles with the result that the Town finished with ten men on the pitch, of which quite a few were walking wounded. The upshot was that two days later a much weakened and bruised Luton team lined up at Sincil Bank, Lincoln for a basement battle which was

lost 1-8. When a team lying second from bottom of the table loses by such a score to the club propping up the rest then you know something needs to be done. Truly the lowest point in the club's history. Allan Brown was given permission to enter the transfer market and went to Leicester immediately to pay out £7,000 for reserve centre-half Max Dougan who starred in the tough 3-2 home win over Chesterfield the following week. He then went to Peterborough and came back with ex-England centre-forward Derek Kevan who scored on his debut in a 1-1 draw at Halifax – only the second away point of the campaign!

The two game unbeaten run was seen as a revival of epic proportions and I can remember a letter written to the weekly magazine 'Soccer Star' at that time predicting promotion after pointing out instances of teams that had swept up the table from a lowly position in previous years. Admirable optimism, blind loyalty or clutching at straws – take your pick. The test would come with home and away games

against high flying Tranmere Rovers over Christmas



The Hatters line-up at Rochdale in September 1966 during the most dismal season in their history. Back row (left to right): Thomson, Slough, Rivers, Read, Moore, Jardine, Thear. Front row (left to right): Pleat, French, Riddick, Rioch, Whittaker.



## The climb back starts

(how this pairing could be regarded as a local derby by the fixture compilers defeats me) and the Town players set off for Birkenhead on Boxing day in confident mood only to return pointless after a 0-1 defeat. Although the Hatters were under to cash in the first-half at a windy Prenton Park, the Tranmere goal did not come until the second period when ex-Hatter George Yardley took advantage of a slip by John Moore to slide the ball past a committed Tony Read in the Luton goal. The Town pressed for an equaliser with Moore, trying to make up for his earlier error, going close with a couple of long range efforts. The home side managed to hold on, however, with the 6,806 crowd baying for the final whistle. Whether the return game, to be played at Kenilworth Road the following day, would take place was in doubt right up until kick-

off as thick fog covered the whole Luton area. Considering the doubts over whether the match would actually take place, an amazing crowd of 9,123 turned up to see the 'new look' Luton side and they were not to be disappointed as the clash got off to a sensational start. In the second minute Alan Slough received an ankle injury and was replaced by David Pleat but ten minutes later the Town were two goals to the good. Ray Whittaker netted a rare header from close range after a shot from Rioch was only partially cleared, while Kevan took advantage of another shot from Rioch, to slide the ball into the net from all of six inches. Luckily, both goals were scored at the Oak Road end, enabling me to see them. As the fog partially lifted, the Town continued to force the pace and the margin in our favour could and should have been a

good deal wider. What we did not know at the time was that this was the start of four years of unprecedented success which saw us climb to the old Division Two. Perhaps the chap who wrote to 'Soccer Star' knew something all along!  
**Luton (first game):** Read, Thomson, Jardine, Slough, Dougan, Moore, French, Riddick, Kevan, Rioch, Whittaker.  
**Luton (second game):** Same team apart from Pleat coming on as substitute for Alan Slough.  
**Tranmere (first game):** Cumbes, Parnell, Martin, Storton, McFarland, A.King, Hill, Pritchard, Yardley, Westlake, Williams.  
**Tranmere (second game):** Cumbes, Robertson, Martin (Crawford), Storton, McFarland, A.King, Hill, Pritchard, Yardley, J.King, Williams.

Roger Wash

## Yesterday's pages



For the visit of Tranmere in December 1966 the Town produced their normal 12 page programme for 6d (2.5p). Tranmere, who were to be promoted that season, were in fifth spot while we were fourth from bottom still in the re-election positions. The 'Club Notes' section welcomes Derek Kevan to Kenilworth Road pointing out that he scored on his debut in the previous week's game at Halifax. As he was to score on his home debut against Tranmere I decided to check how rare an occurrence (scoring on home and away debuts) this was. As Paul Hughes, Carl Griffiths, Jean Louis Valois and Dean Crowe all achieved that particular double only last season I soon gave up! Elsewhere in the programme it was revealed that we were bottom of the London mid-week reserve League while the youth team was joint bottom of the South East Counties League. Still, Luton supporters could always cheer themselves up by seeing Billy Cotton's Band Show at Cesars Palace.

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## Hatters Away



THE TOWN have two away games in four days next week, at Cheltenham on Tuesday and QPR on Saturday, and both are all-ticket matches.

The usual reliable coach services are on offer, from the Bobbers Travel Club and from Town on Tour. For Cheltenham the Bobbers will leave Cranfield at 2.30pm and Luton an hour later, while Town on Tour departure time from Luton is 4pm.

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 Town Supporters Club, £11 for junior and senior citizen members and £15 for non-members. For Saturday's game at Loftus Road, Town on Tour will leave at 12.30, charging £10, £9 for concessionary LTSC members and £12 for others. The Bobbers will set off from Cranfield at 11am, and 12 noon from Luton. Fares are £8 for adults, £6.50 for concessions.

### DIY to Cheltenham

YOU can normally motor from Luton to Cheltenham in a little over two hours - head for Oxford and then on for another



40 miles or so on the A40. The scenic route is through Dunstable and Aylesbury to Oxford, but it is quicker to take the M1 south, then the M25 towards Heathrow, before turning left on the M40 towards west London. This becomes the A40, which is subject to heavy traffic congestion at all times of the day. Fourteen miles after leaving the M25 go off the A40 where it is signposted to Harlesden A404. At the T junction turn right, signposted to Shepherds Bush, and you will see the big BBC White City complex beside the road. Take a right after passing the BBC, into South Africa Road and the ground is ahead of you, on the left. Give yourself plenty of time to find a parking spot - it's not easy!

As you approach Oxford, turn right at the Headington roundabout, and follow the signs to Cheltenham on the A40. As you get near Cheltenham, beyond Charlton Kings, you pass a set of traffic lights where the road from Cirencester joins from the left. Go straight on at that junction and at the next lights turn right, into Hales Road. After a mile and a half watch out for Whaddon Road, which is a left turn opposite a small parade of shops, just past Oakley GCHQ. Turn into Whaddon Road, carry

straight on over a mini-roundabout, and within a few minutes you will see the ground on your right.

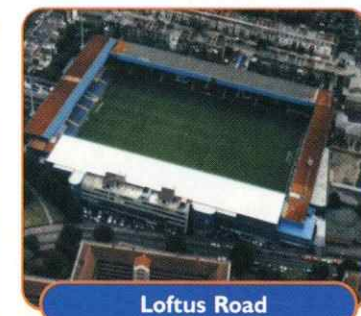
**Mileage: About 100.**

### By Car to Loftus Road

There are various routes to Loftus Road if you want to drive. The shortest in miles, through Watford and Harrow to Shepherds Bush is rarely the quickest. Our man uses the motorways - south on the M1, then the M25 west towards Heathrow, before turning left on the M40 towards west London. This becomes the A40, which is subject to heavy traffic congestion at all times of the day. Fourteen miles after leaving the M25 go off the A40 where it is signposted to Harlesden A404. At the T junction turn right, signposted to Shepherds Bush, and you will see the big BBC White City complex beside the road. Take a right after passing the BBC, into South Africa Road and the ground is ahead of you, on the left. Give yourself plenty of time to find a parking spot - it's not easy!

**Mileage from Luton: 38.**

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.



For the latest news, views and interviews call:  
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## Action Replay

**Luton Town 0  
Crewe Alex 4  
(HT 0-2)**

**T H E**  
TOWN'S first real spanking of the season could hardly have come at a worse time as promotion hopes took a knock. Crewe put on a stupendous display of quick, passing football, and were well worth the result they needed to regain second place in the table.

A major question after a drubbing like this is whether it was a case of Crewe being very, very good, or the Town being awful. Joe Kinnear's verdict was that the Town's display was unacceptable, so poor it would have made any opposition look world class.

A sobering thought for both clubs is that the Crewe side was not a lot different from their team of a year ago – and that outfit was found wanting in the First Division, and relegated.

And there is a puzzle for Town fans. At Gresty Road on a wet night in October the Town had been full value for a 1-0 victory, and time and again this season they have proved to be at least the equals of the best sides in the Second Division. But they have also been mastered by some of the worst.

On this occasion we could take some consolation from knowing that we had seen the Town humiliated by a very good team indeed. Dean Ashton, who scored twice, hit a post with a free kick, and helped create Crewe's other goals in the spring sunshine

proved to be almost unplayable. "Crewe want a million for him, and we made him look worth £8million," said Joe.

He made his players report in for Sunday duty, mainly to watch the match video and be embarrassed by what they saw.

The defence was caught all over the place when Ashton collected a long ball and carefully fired in the opening goal after only six minutes, and he found space in the box again 16 minutes later to shoot another goal after a corner was half-cleared. David Vaughan, a quick and clever left winger, had hit a post between those efforts, but the goal he deserved came at a crucial time, four minutes into the second half to complete the demolition of the Town's confidence. He then finished off a nice day out for Crewe by laying on a tap-in for Rodney Jack with 12 minutes to go.

Crewe were rarely in trouble at the back, because their midfield cut off regular service to Tony Thorpe and Steve Howard, and the Town's attacking threats were minimal. In the first half Howard had a shot blocked on the line by well-organised defenders and Matt Spring saw a volley tipped over the bar. After Crewe's third goal Howard set up Thorpe, who wriggled

clear of his markers but was denied by a spreading save. Otherwise, it was murder for the Town and their fans. The only pleasure was to enjoy the quality of the football played by the opposition – and that is not a delight we want to sample too often.

Crewe manager Dario Gradi said: "That was our best 90 minutes of the season, and it was most satisfying to do it against Luton because I know they are a good team. It is some achievement to come here and win 4-0, but I believe we were worth it."

"Luton found it hard to mark us, and deal with our runs, and I thought our football was too good for them. We had players who could do things with the ball that theirs couldn't."

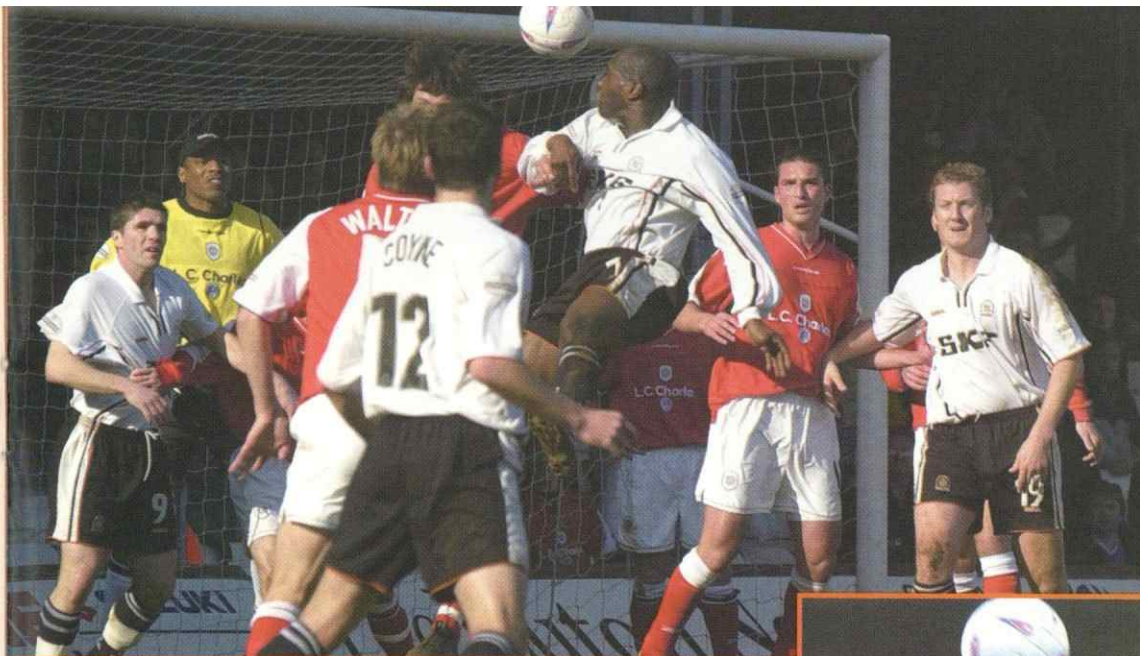
**Luton Town:** Emberson; Hillier, Perrett, Coyne, Davis (Bayliss 72 mins); Forbes (Hughes 82 mins), Nicholls, Spring, Brkovic (Holmes 56 mins); Howard, Thorpe. Unused subs: Ovendale, Jupp.

**Booked:** Sol Davis and Russell Perrett for fouls.

**Crewe Alexandra:** Ince; McCready, Walker, Walton, Tierney; Lunt, Sorvell, Brammer, Vaughan; Ashton (Oakes 84 mins), Jack (Little 88 mins). Unused subs: Bankole, Sodje, Bell.

**Referee:** Steve Baines, Derbyshire.

**Attendance:** 6,607 including 466 away supporters.



**WELCOME BACK:** Adrian Forbes, pictured going up for a header at goal, made his first league appearance of the season against Crewe and won the sponsors' man of the match award.

**RIGHT:** Chris Coyne in a heading duel with Neil Sorvel.

**BELOW:** Tony Thorpe trying to beat the odds with a run on goal.



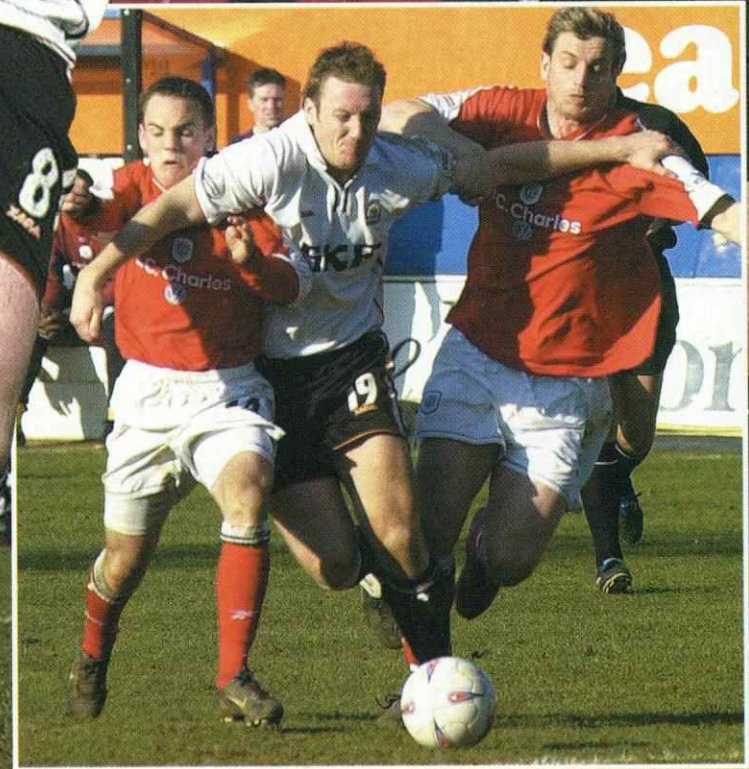
# Action Highlights

Luton Town 0  
Crewe Alexandra 4

JUMPING TO IT: Rival captains Dave Brammer and Kevin Nicholls in a midfield confrontation.

BELOW: Matt Spring tries to break clear from Neil Sorvel.

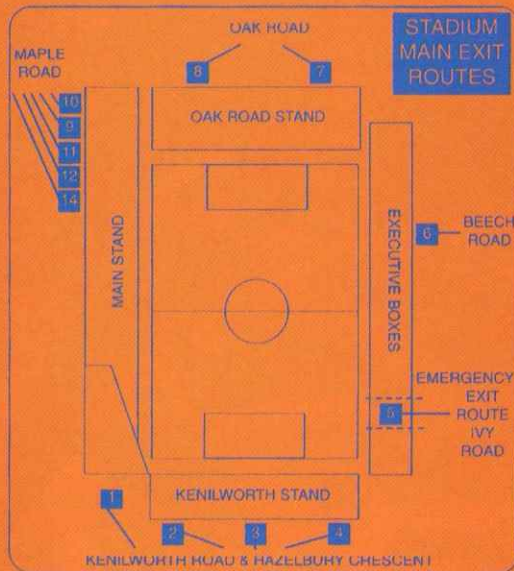
BELOW RIGHT: Steve Howard gets the sandwich treatment from David Vaughan and David Walton



# EVACUATION PROCEDURE

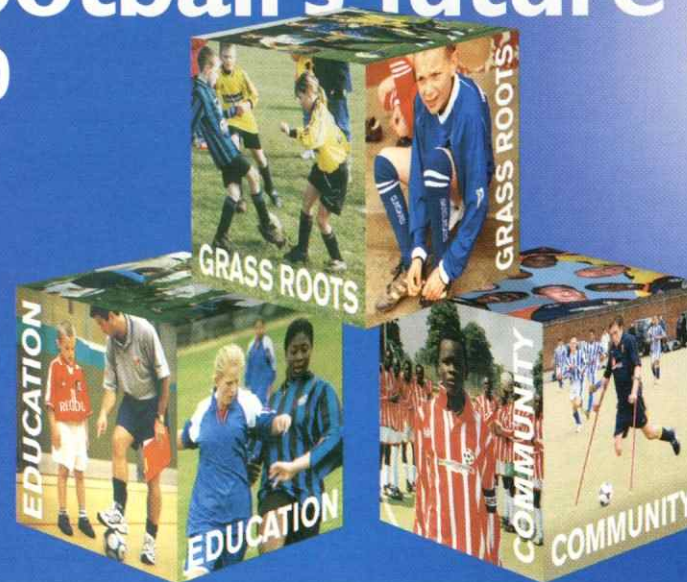
IN THE event of any emergency in the stadium, Luton Town FC and the emergency services have agreed on an evacuation procedure which is designed to ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd, and to ensure their safe dispersal from the area, to allow the emergency services to carry out their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

Working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association

I would like to use the community pages today to inform you of our Easter coaching courses and also the latest Bramingham Saturday Soccer Schools. It is now possible to buy a season ticket to cover three courses over the next year.

## BRAMINGHAM SOCCER SCHOOLS

We have instigated a new idea linked to our massively popular Saturday Soccer School at Bramingham School. This gives you the opportunity to purchase a season ticket to enrol on one, two or all three of the events planned for the next year. This, of course, will give the opportunity to enrol at reduced rates.

The planned course and price options are listed below;

The first will run for 9 weeks on the following dates:

MAY 3rd 10th 17th 31st  
JUNE 21st 28th  
JULY 5th 12th 19th

The second will run for 10 weeks on the following dates:

SEPT 13th 20th 27th  
OCT 4th 11th 18th 25th  
NOV 8th 15th 22nd

The third will run for 10 weeks on the following dates in 2004:

JAN 17th 24th 31st  
FEB 7th 14th 28th  
MAR 6th 13th 20th 27th

Payment for course 1 is £3.00 per week or £23.00 for a block booking.

Payment for courses 2 and 3 is £3.00 per week or £25.00 for a block booking.

Alternatively you can block book any two courses for £40.00 and all three for £60.00.

If you book for two or more courses you will be issued with a proof of payment pass which you should bring to each session.

### EVENING SOCCER SCHOOL

We are now able to give you the next dates for the successful evening soccer school at Warden Hill Junior School, Luton

THE COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY EVENINGS FOR 10 WEEKS.

STARTING AT 4.15 PM AND FINISHING AT 5.45 PM

DATES AS FOLLOWS

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JUNE 5TH 12TH 19TH

**COST £3.00 PER WEEK.**

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*Stuart Smith*

To book on these courses please fill in the form below Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you require confirmation of your booking.

**Or as usual to enrol on any of the initiatives, just call me on 01582 391927.**

Bramingham Course 1  Course 2  Course 3   
Bramingham Monday  Bramingham Friday  Warden Hill Eve School

Name ..... Age ..... D.O.B. .... Contact No. ....

Address ..... Postcode .....

I will be paying £23.00  £25.00  £40.00  £60.00  Cheque Enclosed Y/N.....

I acknowledge and accept that Luton Town FC, their football in the community scheme or the organisations providing the facilities and their respective agents, servants and employees, are not under liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage however caused whilst in attendance on the above course. Additionally I authorise the coaches employed by Luton Town Football in the Community to administer First Aid Treatment should it be required.

Signature of Parent / Guardian: .....



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## EASTER COURSES

Course Code	No. of Days	Venue	Start Date	Time	Cost	Course Type
LSC 1	3	Bramingham Primary School Freemans Avenue <b>LUTON</b>	Mon 14 - Wed 16 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£30	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs
TOD 1	2	Parkfield School Park Road <b>TODDINGTON</b>	Mon 14 - Tue 15 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£20	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
DSC 1	1	Queensbury School Meadway <b>DUNSTABLE</b>	Wed 16 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
DGK 1	1	Queensbury School Meadway <b>DUNSTABLE</b>	Wed 16 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	<b>Goalkeepers</b> 8-13 yrs
TOD 2	1	Parkfield School Park Road <b>TODDINGTON</b>	Tue 22 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
DSC 2	1	Queensbury School Meadway <b>DUNSTABLE</b>	Tue 22 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
DGK 2	1	Queensbury School Meadway <b>DUNSTABLE</b>	Tue 22 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	<b>Goalkeepers</b> 8-13 yrs
LSC 2	3	Barnfield College New Bedford Road <b>LUTON</b>	Wed 23 - Fri 25 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£30	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs 12-15 yrs
LSC 3	1	Barnfield College New Bedford Road <b>LUTON</b>	Wed 23 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£10	<b>Specialist Defender Course</b> 8-13 yrs
LSC 4	2	Hillsborough School Hillsborough Road <b>LUTON</b>	Thur 24 - Fri 25 April	10.00 am - 3.00pm	£20	5-7 yrs 8-11 yrs

Please reserve a place on the above course (please put course in the box on right)

Name ..... Age ..... D.O.B. ....

Address .....

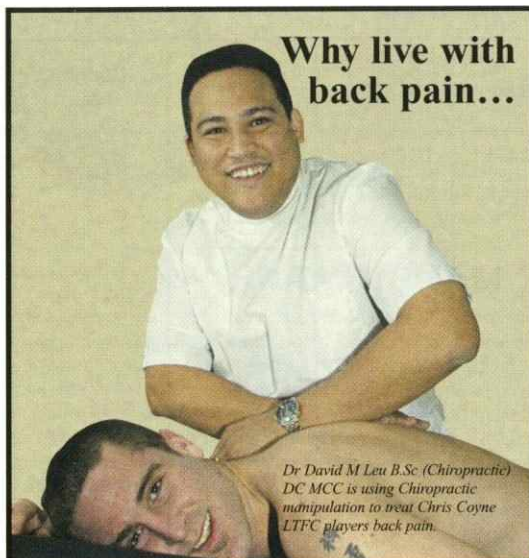
..... Postcode .....

Home Tel No. .... School .....

Any health problems  Disorders  or medication.  Please ring to confirm details

I acknowledge and accept that Luton Town FC, their football in the community scheme or the organisations providing the facilities and their respective agents, servants and employees, are not under liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage however caused whilst in attendance on the above course. I authorise the coaches employed by Luton Town Football in the Community to administer first aid treatment should it be required.

Signature of Parent / Guardian: .....



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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.

For the game against Crewe we asked who scored all the Town goals when we met the Railwaymen in the 1997 play-offs, and the answer was David Oldfield.

## TODAY'S QUESTION

What was the score, and who got the Town goals, the last time we played Tranmere?

[www.lutononline.co.uk](http://www.lutononline.co.uk)

The Luton News The Dunstable Gazette

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# Junior Hatters



## TODAY'S MASCOT

IF LUTON Town had not been a super team to watch in the old First Division, five-year-old Liam Phillips would never have got the chance to enjoy a treat this afternoon, as Junior Hatters mascot.

Despite living in Keens Park Road, Worplesdon, Guildford, he and his dad Stuart are regulars at Kenilworth Road, and at a lot of away games too.

In the early 80s, when the Town were in the old First Division, which is now the Premiership, Stuart saw Luton matches on TV, and immediately became a Hatters fan. He has stayed loyal ever since, and now brings Liam with him to watch games from the Kenilworth Road upper tier.

Liam enjoys playing football for Woking Cougars, and also likes karate, reading and playing computer games. Today he gets a look behind the scenes, including a meeting with the Town stars in the dressing room before kick-off,



and that gives him the chance to be introduced to Tony Thorpe, his favourite player.

Today's ball boys are Ross Colbert, from Hanworth Close, Luton, and Luke Odell, of Doddington Road, Wellingborough.



WE OFFER a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road this afternoon to all young football supporters, including those who have come as fans of Tranmere Rovers. We always enjoy going to away games, and are now planning our final trip of the season, to Swindon, a month from today. It's the last game of the season, and we can be sure we will be given a friendly welcome at the County Ground.

As we reported in the last matchday magazine, we had a good day out at Wigan, and our picture shows a Junior Hatter who enjoyed the day even more than most of us. Max Thomas's name was picked out of the hat on the journey to be our mascot. He is nine, and lives at Harvey Road, London Colney. As mascot he met all the Town players, and one of the best moments was when he was able to have a chat with Matt Spring, because the midfielder is his favourite player.

Being a mascot is one of the perks of Junior Hatters membership. For home games we chose a name at random out of the membership list, and on trips to away matches the choice is made by lucky dip on the coach.



VIP GATHERING: Skippers, match officials and mascots gather for the toss of the coin before our last home game, against Crewe. Mascot for the Junior Hatters was Daniel Maddox of Hayton Close, Luton, and twelve-year-old James Sherry was the commercial mascot.

Happy Harry



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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
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32,048</b>
<b>Average:</b>	<b>1,335</b>

### 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
Crewe	466

**13,226**  
**601**



## Player of the Season



### Presentation Evening

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# Hatters Abroad



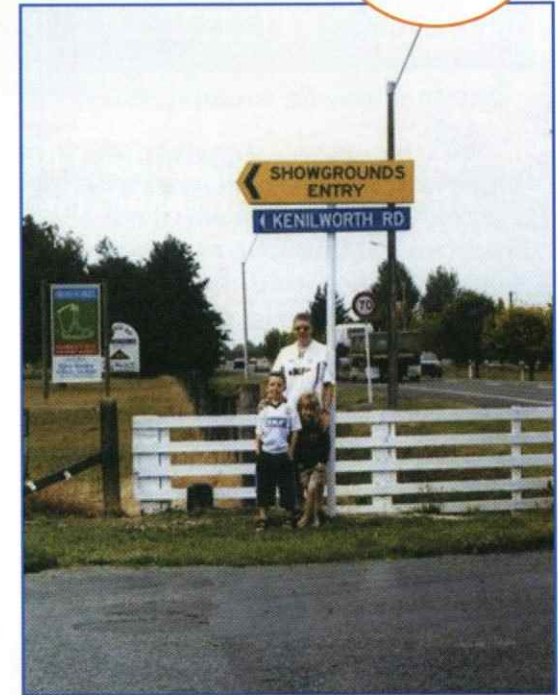
WE ARE in two different continents today as we keep track of Luton Town fans spread all over the globe. One photo is from the Antipodes, and was e-mailed to Luton by Graham Todd, of Palmerston North, Manawatu, New Zealand.

He said: "The picture was taken on our recent holiday at Hastings, in the Hawks Bay region of New Zealand. It shows Graham, Edward & Louise Todd. We, with my partner Amanda, emigrated to NZ in February 2002.

"We used to live in Houghton Regis, and I used to sit in the upper Kenilworth. The last game I saw was the home win over Plymouth Argyle last season, and we flew out to New Zealand the next day.

"For over 20 years I went to games with my great friend Steve Peacock, whose niece Mel now sits in my seat.

"We left the UK for a better lifestyle in which to bring up the children. One of the few things I miss is the football on a Saturday afternoon. However sometimes (if the missus lets me) I switch on the computer and listen to the commentary at 3 o'clock in the morning! I've started to watch the local side, Manawatu AFC, but it's not the same."



OUR other picture is from Africa. Ali and Fran McGuinness are on a tour of the world, and the wonders of e-mail enabled them to get their picture to us. It was taken in Zanzibar "after our epic seven days trekking on Kilimanjaro."

They added: "The mountain is a giant strato-volcano reaching an elevation of 19,335ft, (5,895m) and the picture is of us on the peak. We thought we would keep the flag flying for our sacred Hatters. We wish them good luck on the promotion charge. Unfortunately we cannot be there but we thought we'd give them some support."

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](mailto: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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Good luck Hatters, may your success continue this season



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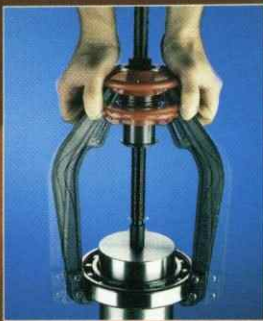
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*Paul Kenny*

Paul Kenny  
GMB London Regional Secretary

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#### EasyPull bearing puller

A new lightweight design of bearing jaw puller with a spring mechanism for faster gripping behind the component is reckoned to be one of the easiest and most efficient pullers currently available and has now been launched by SKF. As part of the design, a shear pin has been included, to ensure operator safety in the event of excessive force being applied.

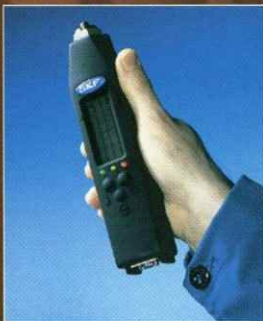
Some 16 per cent of premature bearing failures can be attributed to bad fitting. The most common fault is the use of brute force, while ignorance or laziness regarding use of the correct tools for the task is a major contributor. Available in three sizes to provide maximum withdrawal forces between three and eight tonnes (30 kN to 80 kN), the pullers have been designed in a modular fashion to allow simple replacement of worn or damaged parts.



#### SYSTEM MultiPoint automatic lubricator

SKF's SYSTEM MultiPoint is a new, automatic lubricator for multiple grease lubrication points. It can automatically lubricate each point simultaneously with the correct amount of lubricant and therefore removes human error and neglect in installations where multiple lubrication points prove to be time consuming and liable to be forgotten. With research showing that 36% of all bearings fail prematurely due to incorrect lubrication, SYSTEM MultiPoint will facilitate longer bearing life and increased uptime.

SYSTEM MultiPoint's high-pressure capability, of 40bar / 600psi, allows grease to be dispensed at the high rates required in multiple bearing applications. Feed lines can be run to five metres in length, with up to eight lines connected to the lubricator. An alarm function warns of blocked feed lines and empty cartridges, and it also stops the lubricator operating when a machine isn't running.



#### MARLIN condition detector (MCD)

The MCD from SKF enables a simple but extremely effective means of checking the health of a machine. Vibration and temperature are measured to assess the machine's state.

Providing an inexpensive, easily learned first step into condition monitoring, the MCD is ideal for users unfamiliar with machine diagnostic measuring techniques. At the same time, when coupled with an extensive range of sister units and accessories, the condition detector can be integrated into broader plant-wide condition monitoring strategies.

By measuring vibration velocity the user can identify problems such as imbalance, misalignment, mechanical looseness or wear. SKF employs a vibration monitoring technique within the MCD that involves the use of acceleration enveloping, which makes gear and bearing wear easier to detect.



#### OilCheck monitor

A new hand-held and extremely simple to use method of determining the degree of degradation and contamination of mineral and synthetic oils is now available from SKF, along with the facility to provide a full diagnostic service through detailed lubrication analysis procedures.

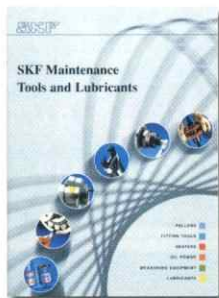
The hand-held monitoring device is a comparative instrument, which enables optimised intervals to be maintained between oil changes. It detects and measures the dielectric constant in a used oil sample, which is compared against results taken from an unused lubricant of the same type and brand.

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# PRE-MATCH AND HALF TIME ENTERTAINMENT

With Justin Dealey and Steve Faulkner

### TODAY'S MATCH:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>2.15</b> Team Line Up Announced</p> <p><b>2.20</b> HMV Single of the Week<br/><b>ATOMIC KITTEN - LOVE DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT</b></p> <p><b>2.35</b> Dedications Announced</p> <p><b>2.40</b> Town Teaser<br/>See page 34</p> <p><b>2.55</b> Teams run out to - The Blues Brothers<br/>"Gimme Some Lovin"</p> | <p><b>3.00</b> THE BIG KICK OFF<br/><b>HALF TIME</b></p> <p><b>3.50</b> Golden Gamble -<br/>Winning ticket drawn on pitch</p> <p><b>3.55</b> Run down of half time scores from around the country</p> <p><b>4.00</b> Dedications</p> <p><b>4.05</b> Teams arrive back on pitch to theme song "Gimme Some Lovin"</p> <p><b>4.55 - FULL TIME</b></p> |
|--|--|

Matchday music supplied by:



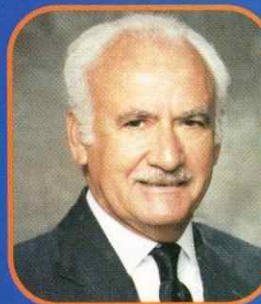
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## POLICY STATEMENT - SPECTATOR SAFETY



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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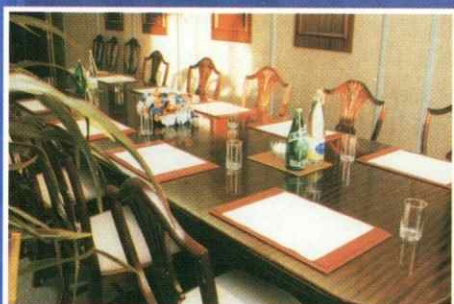
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## Luton Belles

BELLES' first league defeat of the season, going down 3-2 to Leighton Linlade, looks to have cost them dear, with only the league champions certain of promotion.

They made a great effort to save the game after going two down. Goals from Fay Howell and Vicky Moody looked to have rescued a point, but after a Kaylee Owen goal was harshly ruled out they conceded an injury-time winner. Town bounced back in style last weekend with an emphatic 7-0 win against Newport Pagnell. Kim Hide scored twice with long-range efforts, and Lyndsey McKeown and Vicky Moody gave

Luton a four-goal advantage before they unveiled their latest youngster from the bench. Asian sensation Arti Patel scored with her very first touch, and then went on to complete a hat-trick in just 20 minutes.

Town's under-14s now stand just one win from their championship, with two more victories in the past week. A double strike from leading scorer Michelle Byrne was enough to win a hard-fought match at West Ham 2-0, and they followed up last week with a 2-1 home win over Belmont United. Michelle Byrne gave Town the lead but United equalised late on, and it was left

to Rebecca Kane to fire home an injury time winner to maintain their 100% record.

The under-13s also hold on to pole position, after earning a 1-1 draw against Tottenham Hotspur courtesy of a Laura Massey goal. But second-placed QPR look favourites to lift the title, having beaten Town 4-1, but a top three finish is still a real possibility in their first season in the league, which would be a tremendous achievement.

The all-conquering under-11 Belles will be presented with their championship trophy at half time today. They have had a tremendous season, and have finished as champions in an age group which contains 22 teams throughout the Home Counties.

Their latest wins include a nail-biting League Cup success over Stevenage Borough Juniors, winning 4-3 on penalties after a goal-less tie, and a 1-0 league win against Stevenage Vixens. The winner came from hot-shot Lauren Bruton.

Belles championship squad is Sian Hall, Georgia Day, Stephanie White, Kelly Moss, Jasmine Hall, Olivia Robinson, Robyn Wilfort, Jade McEntaggart, Yasmin Hickling and Lauren Bruton.



SENSATIONAL: Super-sub Arti Patel nets with her first touch, on the way to a 20-minute hat-trick for the Belles against Newport Pagnell.

*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](mailto:lutonbelles@hotmail.com) The Belles also have a website – pay a visit to [www.lutontownbelles.com](http://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.

For the latest news, views and interviews call: CLUB CALL on 09068 121123 (calls cost 60p per minute at all times)

# Half Price Kit Sale

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T-Shirt**  
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## Youth Soccer - U19s



### Exeter 1 Luton Town 1

I WAS disappointed not to win this game, because we were ahead until two minutes from time and except for a momentary lack of concentration that cost a goal our overall performance deserved three points.

Good football was difficult on a hard bumpy pitch, and the first half was poor. We were playing down a slope and the ball ran away at pace. But we were solid at the back, and Dean Brill had only one serious save to make, doing well to deal with a free kick. Our passing improved up the slope, and we were worth the lead given to us on 63 minutes, when Parys Okai got down the left and crossed, and Keith Keane netted with an excellent header. With three schoolboys in the side, our second-half showing was pleasing, but in the 88th minute we paid dearly for

turning off at a corner, allowing a free header for the equaliser.

**Luton Town:** Brill, D. Deeney, R. Mansell, O'Leary, Davis, Barnett, Keane, Foley, Judge, Freeman, Okai.

### Gillingham 2 Luton Town 2

WE DID well to come back from two down, and over the 90 minutes the result was about right. We started both halves brightly, and were on top until the 55th minute, when a shot was fumbled and trickled over the line to give Gillingham the lead. Eight minutes later they scored again, but this time from a tremendous shot.

But we persevered and after 74 minutes Luke Maitland was brought down on a run for goal and Stephen O'Leary converted the penalty. Maitland took a knock and was subbed, and his replacement, Sean Ridgway, fired off a snap shot through a crowded penalty area for the equaliser, and in the closing minutes Keith Keane was denied the winner by a good save.

**Luton Town:** Beckwith, D. Deeney, R. Mansell, O'Leary, Davies, Barnett, Keane, Foley, Andrew (Magadah 83 mins), Maitland (Ridgway 75 mins), Okai

WE ARE at home to Bournemouth on Saturday. Kick-off at Luton RFC is at 11am and spectators are welcome.

**APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets:** Barnett 28(1), O'Leary 27, Okai 26, Davies 24(2), Foley 22, Judge 21(1), Freeman 20(2), R. Mansell 18(3), Howell 18, Maitland 16(6), Beckwith 16, J. Deeney 16, Osborn 14(1), Gillman 13(1), Keane 11(9), Brill 11(2), Ridgway 9(4), D. Deeney 4, Barrett 2, De Souza 1(2), Mountford 1(1), Andrew 1, Magadah 0(3).

**Goals:** Judge 11, Freeman 7, Osborn 4, Maitland 3, Barnett 3, Foley 3, Okai 2, Ridgway 3, O'Leary 3, Davies 2, Keane 1.

John Moore

### FL Youth Alliance Under-19

Month	Date	Home	Score	Away	Goalscorers
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	1-1	Keane
	29	Gillingham	A	2-2	O'Leary, Ridgway
April	12	Bournemouth	H		
	19	L. Orient	A		
	26	Cheltenham	H		

### FLYA UNDER-19 MERIT DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	4	6	1	0	11	1	10
Exeter	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Brighton	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Oxford	5	3	0	2	9	10	9
Cheltenham	4	2	0	2	6	10	6
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Bournemouth	4	1	0	3	5	6	3
Gillingham	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
L. Orient	4	0	0	4	3	10	0

For the latest news, views and interviews call:  
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## Youth Soccer - U17s

### Luton Town 4 Southend Utd 4

OUR final competitive game of the season was a terrific match. It included a player sent off and three penalties, to add to the two which were awarded to us in the previous fixture with Southend.

We put out a very young side, and I thought we might struggle to contain a good visiting outfit. But we did well, and should have won after being two goals up with 20 minutes to go, before being reduced to ten men.

Josh Green was penalised for the game's first spot kick, which enabled Southend to go ahead after 15 minutes, and five minutes later trialist goalkeeper Liam Bevan was injured and had to be replaced by Zak Barrett.

Our attack looked sharp, with Peter Clark's pace a problem for Southend, and he was brought down for the 30th-minute penalty which led to our equaliser. Jason Blythe's spot kick hit the post, but Stuart Richardson netted from the rebound and eight minutes later we went ahead when Luke Maitland volleyed in from 20 yards. Southend fought back to level before half-time, but after the break we looked like running away with the game,

with Clark regaining our lead with a header on the hour, and then hounding a defender into an own goal ten minutes later.

At 4-2 it looked all over, but Paul Burrows was sent off for a strong challenge, and it became a niggly game after that. We came under pressure, conceded a goal on 85 minutes, and Green was very unlucky to be penalised in the last minute, enabling Southend to save a point with their second penalty.

It was disappointing to concede four goals, but to finish fourth in our first season in the Youth Alliance at this level is a very creditable performance.

**Luton Town:** Bevan (Barrett 20 mins), Smyth, Kelly (Maitland 60 mins), De Souza, Pendleton, Green, Richardson (Sinclair 75 mins), Burrows, Clark, Maitland, Blythe.

### FL Youth Alliance Under-17 COMPLETE

**APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets:** Blythe 20, D. Deeney 18, Ridgway 17, Smyth 17(3), Mountford 16(1), Magadah 15(3), Blake 13(2), Brill 13, De Souza 13(2), P. Clark 12(3), Shea 9(3), Danaher 9(3), Reid 8, Keane 8, Pendleton 6(6), Freeman 5(1), Green 5(5), Maitland 5(2), Skelton 4(1), Barrett 4(1), R. Mansell 4, Howell 3, Hurst 3, Burrows 4, Sinclair 2(13), Richardson 2(3), McCarthy 1(2), Robinson 1(1), Barnett 1, R. Clark 1, Bevan 2, Kelly 1(2), S. Foley 0(1).

**Goals:** Magadah 10, Ridgway 5, P. Clark 5, Freeman 4, Keane 4, Blythe 3, Maitland 3, Shea 1, Barnett 1, R. Mansell 1, Blake 1, Richardson 1, OG 1.

*Mark Ridgway*

### FLYA UNDER-17 SE CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	22	15	3	4	49	23	48
Peterborough	22	13	6	3	45	20	45
L. Orient	22	13	4	5	46	19	43
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>
Wycombe	22	9	6	7	38	45	33
Cambridge	22	8	5	9	41	37	29
Colchester	22	7	5	10	37	50	26
Portsmouth	22	5	7	10	44	41	22
Brentford	22	5	5	12	33	51	20
QPR	22	3	11	8	28	41	20
Gillingham	22	5	5	12	39	57	20
Southend	22	4	7	11	34	58	19

FL Youth Alliance Under-17						
August						
17	Brighton	A	0-3			
24	Peterborough	A	6-0	Shea, Barnett, Blythe, Freeman, Keane, Maitland.		
September						
7	Southend	A	2-1	Ridgway 2 pens		
14	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Magadah</b>		
21	Gillingham	A	4-3	Ridgway 2, Clark, Mansell		
28	Cambridge	A	0-0			
October						
5	<b>Colchester</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3-0</b>	<b>Magadah, Keane, Blythe</b>		
19	<b>QPR</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>0-2</b>			
26	Wycombe	A	4-1	Magadah 4		
November						
2	L. Orient	A	1-3	Ridgway		
9	<b>Brentford</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>0-0</b>			
16	<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Maitland</b>		
23	Colchester	A	3-1	Freeman 2, Keane		
30	QPR	A	2-2	Magadah, Clark		
December						
7	<b>Wycombe</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>0-2</b>			
14	<b>L. Orient</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>0-1</b>			
January						
11	Brentford	A	1-1	Freeman		
25	<b>Peterborough</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Blythe</b>		
February						
8	<b>Southend</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>postponed</b>			
15	Portsmouth	A	2-6	Clark 2		
22	<b>Gillingham</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3-1</b>	<b>Magadah 2, Blake,</b>		
March						
8	<b>Brighton</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>Keane, Magadah</b>		
22	<b>Southend</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>4-4</b>	<b>Richardson, Maitland, Clark, OG</b>		



## In Reserve



### Brentford 0 Luton Town 0

THIS WAS not the best of games, although we were the better team and really should have won. We failed to do so because we didn't get it right in the last third of the field. On the other hand we could have lost, because we made a couple of mistakes at the back which could have been punished.

We fielded a trialist, Juanjo, who is available on a free transfer from Bradford City, but he seemed to find it difficult to get into the game. He showed some nice skill, but failed to convert one or two half chances. We tried to play the right way against a big, awkward and robust side, and our effort and commitment was OK.

**Luton Town:** Ovendale, Jupp, Skelton, Davies, Barnett, Foley (Judge 81 mins), Leary, Hughes (Okai 53 mins), Holmes, Juanjo, Mansell.

### Luton Town 1 Colchester 0

ON THE run of play we barely deserved this result, but the players worked hard for it and the bonus was that Emmerson Boyce returned after injury and did well before being subbed after half an hour, and Alan Neilson got through half a game. Chris Willmott, David Bayliss and Alan Kimble returned to complete 90 minutes.

Peter Holmes, a midfielder, and Leon Barnett, a youth team defender, were our emergency strikers, and they combined for the 68th-minute goal, with Holmes getting in the cross and Barnett doing well to lose a defender and slot it in. Trialist defender Peter Douala,

ex Monaco, had a reasonable game after replacing Boyce.

**Luton Town:** Ovendale, Boyce (Douala 30 mins), Willmott, Bayliss, Kimble, Jupp, Skelton (Osborn 85 mins), Neilson (Foley HT), Hughes, Holmes, Barnett

OUR next scheduled Avon Insurance Combination fixture is at home to Bristol City on Wednesday. Kick-off at Kenilworth Road is at 2pm. We are still awaiting new dates for four matches which were postponed earlier in the season.

**APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets:** L. Mansell 16(1), Leary 14(2), Holmes 13, Foley 12(2), Skelton 12, Hillier 9, Barnett 8(2), J. Deeney 8(1), Fotiadis 8, Ovendale 7, Griffiths 7, Gillman 6(3), Kimble 6, Bayliss 6, Hughes 6, Osborn 5(9), Okai 5(7), Brill 5(1), Neilson 5, Jupp 4, O'Leary 3(5), Barnett 3(2), Brkovic 3, Emberson 3, Perrett 3, Judge 2(5), Davies 2(5), Eberendo 2(2), Howell 2(1), Beckwith 2, Thorpe 2, Michael Johnson 2, Crowe 2, Forbes 1, Davis 1, Kovacevic 1, De Souza 1, Berthelin 1, Nicholls 1, Maitland 1, Viander 1, Pandong 1, McAllister 1, Foyewa 1, Juanjo 1, Boyce 1, Willmott 1, Marvin Johnson 0(1), R. Mansell 0(1), Douala 0(1).

**Goals:** Griffiths 5, Judge 4, Fotiadis 3, Brkovic 3, Crowe 2, Howell 2, Thorpe 2, Barnett 2, Skelton 1, Eberendo 1, Holmes 1, Gillman 1, Maitland 1, Mansell 1, Leary 1.

*Brian Stein*

### AVON COMBINATION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	21	15	5	1	55	15	50
Norwich	21	11	8	2	34	13	41
Portsmouth	20	11	5	4	37	18	38
Colchester	22	11	5	6	34	18	38
Plymouth	20	12	2	6	35	29	38
Bristol City	20	10	4	6	38	33	34
Reading	19	9	4	6	36	24	31
Brighton	19	9	4	6	32	21	31
Millwall	20	9	4	7	25	24	31
Brentford	21	9	4	8	35	36	31
L. Orient	22	7	8	7	40	38	29
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>
Southend	19	8	4	7	26	27	28
QPR	20	7	6	7	29	28	27
Oxford	21	8	3	10	29	30	27
Swindon	18	8	2	8	23	37	26
Cheltenham	19	7	3	9	38	33	24
Cardiff	19	6	6	7	19	21	24
Cambridge	19	6	4	9	29	33	22
Bristol Rov	23	5	7	11	27	40	22
Peterborough	19	6	3	10	30	37	21
Bournemouth	21	5	6	10	35	43	21
Gillingham	20	4	7	9	22	33	19
Wycombe	22	5	4	13	20	46	19
Northampton	19	4	3	12	26	46	15
Barnet	21	2	2	17	18	62	8

August						
Wed 14	Bristol City(LC)	A	0-3			
Wed 21	Reading	A	1-2	Skelton		
Wed 28	<b>Bristol Rov</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>Griffiths</b>		
September						
Wed 4	<b>Millwall</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2-1</b>	<b>Griffiths 2(1p)</b>		
Wed 18	Swindon	A	4-0	Fotiadis 2, Eberendo, Howell		
Wed 25	<b>Peterborough</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>4-1</b>	<b>Thorpe 2, Fotiadis, Holmes</b>		
October						
Wed 9	Plymouth	A	4-0	Brkovic 2, Gillman, Judge		
Wed 16	<b>Wycombe</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3-1</b>	<b>Judge 2, Howell</b>		
Wed 30	Cambridge	A	1-0	Barnett		
November						
Wed 13	<b>QPR</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>postponed</b>			
Wed 20	Wootton (BSC)	A	0-0	Won 4-3 on pens		
Wed 27	Northampton	A	1-3	Judge		
December						
Wed 11	<b>Barnet</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>Maitland</b>		
January						
Wed 8	Brighton	A	Postponed			
Wed 22	<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>4-4</b>	<b>Crowe 2, Brkovic, Mansell</b>		
Wed 29	Leyton Orient	A	1-1	Leary		
February						
Wed 12	Southend	A	0-0			
Wed 19	Cardiff	A	0-0			
Wed 26	<b>Cheltenham</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Postponed</b>			
March						
Wed 5	<b>C. Palace</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Postponed</b>			
Wed 12	<b>Norwich</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>Griffiths 2</b>		
Wed 25	Brentford	A	0-0			
April						
Wed 2	<b>Colchester</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Barnett</b>		
Wed 9	<b>Bristol City</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2pm</b>			
Wed 23	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2pm</b>			
Mon 28	Oxford	A	2pm			

# SP DIVISION 2 STATS SP

## WINNING MARGINS

Gms won by:	1gl	2gls	3gls	4gls	5+
Wigan	11	13	1	0	0
Crewe	8	10	2	2	1
Cardiff	13	4	1	3	0
Bristol City	8	8	4	1	0
Oldham	11	5	0	2	1
QPR	6	8	3	2	0
Tranmere	13	2	2	1	0
Luton	11	2	3	0	0
Plymouth	8	4	2	0	1
Blackpool	7	5	3	0	0
Wycombe	5	4	2	1	1
Brentford	9	2	1	0	1
Swindon	6	4	2	0	1
Chesterfield	10	1	0	2	0
Colchester	8	3	1	1	0
Mansfield	7	2	0	1	1
Stockport	6	3	1	1	0
Barnsley	9	2	0	0	0
Notts County	6	2	3	0	0
Port Vale	9	1	1	0	0
Peterborough	5	2	1	2	0
Northampton	5	2	3	0	0
Cheltenham	4	4	1	0	0
Huddersfield	6	2	1	0	0

## FULL GROUNDS - ATTENDANCES

Club	Aggregate	% Capacity
Blackpool	138,989	68
Luton	136,460	68
QPR	257,452	67
Northampton	103,091	67
Crewe	131,661	65
Cardiff	257,581	64
Cheltenham	88,911	63
Wycombe	114,177	60
Chesterfield	82,028	59
Bristol City	233,426	54
Mansfield	99,073	50
Oldham	134,134	49
Tranmere	156,584	47
Stockport	106,361	46

## CLEAN SHEETS

Gms without conceding	Lge Pos
Wigan	20
Oldham	18
Crewe	15
Cardiff	15
QPR	15
Chesterfield	15
Bristol City	14
Brentford	14
Luton	13
Peterborough	12
Huddersfield	12
Plymouth	11
Blackpool	11
Colchester	10
Wycombe	10
Northampton	10
Tranmere	9
Port Vale	9
Cheltenham	9
Notts County	8
Stockport	6
Swindon	5
Mansfield	5
Barnsley	4

## FAILED TO SCORE

Gms without scoring	Lge Pos
Huddersfield	19
Northampton	19
Mansfield	16
Peterborough	15
Chesterfield	15
Brentford	13
Swindon	13
Wycombe	12
Barnsley	11
Blackpool	11
Cheltenham	10
Port Vale	10
Notts County	10
Plymouth	10
Tranmere	10
Oldham	10
Bristol City	10
Stockport	9
Colchester	9
Luton	8
Crewe	8
Cardiff	6
Wigan	6

## SEQUENCES: DIV 2

CONSECUTIVE WINS:	UNDEFEATED RUN:	LOSING STREAK:	NO WINS:
Wigan	21	Swindon	10
Bristol City	14	Chesterfield	10
Oldham	11	Colchester	10
Luton	11	Mansfield	9
Port Vale	10	Peterborough	9
QPR	9	Blackpool	9
Crewe	8	Luton	8
Plymouth	8	Swindon	8
Brentford	8	Chesterfield	8
Luton	7	Colchester	8
Oldham	7	Mansfield	8
Bristol City	7	Peterborough	8
Stockport	7	Blackpool	8
Colchester	7	Luton	8
Luton	6	Northampton	8
Swindon	6	Port Vale	8
Chesterfield	6	Wycombe	8
Cheltenham	6		
Cardiff	6		
Wigan	6		

## HEADERS SCORED

Oldham	17
Wigan	15
Wycombe	14
Stockport	13
Tranmere	13
Barnsley	12
Blackpool	12
Cardiff	12
Peterborough	12
Plymouth	12
Cheltenham	11
Crewe	11
Colchester	10
Luton	10
Port Vale	10

## HEADERS CONCEDED

Mansfield	20
Brentford	19
Chesterfield	16
Notts County	16
Port Vale	16
Swindon	13
Barnsley	12
Cheltenham	11
Colchester	11
Stockport	11
Blackpool	10
Luton	10
QPR	10

## GOALS FROM OUTSIDE 18 YARD BOX

SCORED	Gls	Total	%	CONCEDED	Gls	Total	%
Mansfield	12	58	21	Blackpool	13	52	25
Northampton	7	35	20	Colchester	9	49	18
Plymouth	11	56	20	Peterborough	9	50	18
Huddersfield	6	31	19	Northampton	11	63	17
QPR	11	60	18	Luton	9	53	17
Barnsley	8	46	17	Stockport	10	63	16
Tranmere	9	54	17	Oldham	5	32	16
Bristol City	11	67	16	Plymouth	7	46	15
Crewe	11	71	15	Cardiff	5	33	15
Chesterfield	6	40	15	Cheltenham	9	60	15
Colchester	7	48	15	Tranmere	8	54	15
				Wycombe	8	54	15
				Bristol City	6	41	15

ordered as % of all goals scored

## GOALS PER GAME - THE MOST CONSISTENT STRIKERS

Player	Goals	Appearances	Goals/Game
Robert Earnshaw	30	42	0.72
Rob Hulse	21	29	0.72
Luke Beckett	26	41	0.62
Sam Parkin	23	37	0.57
Mark Stallard	23	41	0.57
Ilysedn Christie	18	36	0.50
Tony Thorpe	12	24	0.48
Steven Howard	16	36	0.46
Clyde Wijnhard	8	18	0.46
Scott Murray	14	30	0.46
John Murphy	15	33	0.45
Simon Haworth	16	36	0.45

# Second Division Scene



KENILWORTH Road stages a massive game this afternoon between the only two teams who have any real hope of moving up to nick the sixth play-off place. Tranmere, trying to extend a run of nine games without defeat will cling on to seventh place even if the Town win, but could be deprived of it if the Town make it six points out of six at Cheltenham on Tuesday.

The defeat against Crewe a fortnight ago was a major blow to Town hopes, but the good news was that Wigan had produced the goods by winning at Loftus Road. Queens Park Rangers, however, went nine points ahead of the Town on Saturday by winning 3-1 at Blackpool, ending the Seaside's play-off hopes.

Today we need Lennie Lawrence to do us a favour, in another six-pointer, with QPR the visitors to Ninian Park. If Cardiff win, three Town victories in eight days, starting this afternoon, could put us level with Rangers on points, although the Londoners have a better goal difference. Tranmere, of course, have other ideas, and are also in with a chance of overhauling Rangers.

On paper, QPR and the Town have similar prospects in the final month of the season. After next week's game, Rangers have only one promotion-chasing

side to meet, Crewe at Loftus Road, while the Town's only top six opposition will be Danny Wilson's Bristol City, at Kenilworth Road in a fortnight.

Tranmere, however, have what looks like an easier run-in: after today's match their final five fixtures are all against teams currently in the bottom half of the table.

The remaining fixtures which affect the Town's play-off chances:

**Luton Town:** Tranmere H, Cheltenham A, QPR A, Bristol City H, Colchester A, Stockport H, Swindon A

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

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

Today's visitors are on a bit of a roll: they haven't lost for two months, when they suffered consecutive defeats, at Cheltenham and at home to Swindon. Since then they have bagged 19 points out of 27. Ian Anderson, a deadline day loan signing from Preston, marked his Prenton Park debut with the goal that set them on their way to a 2-1 victory over Chesterfield a week ago. Their previous five results: Brentford A 2-1, Wigan A 0-0, Crewe H 2-1, Cardiff H 3-3, Barnsley A 1-1 and Peterborough A 0-0.

Their seven away victories this season were at Port Vale, Wycombe, Northampton, Huddersfield, QPR, Plymouth and Brentford. Draws on the road were at Swindon, Colchester, Wigan, Barnsley, and Peterborough. Eight away defeats came at Oldham, Bristol City, Blackpool, Crewe, Mansfield, Chesterfield, Cardiff and Cheltenham.

Brian Swain

	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A			
*Wigan	40	11	7	2	31	15	14	4	2	29	9	36	86
Crewe	40	11	3	6	27	16	12	5	3	44	20	35	77
Cardiff	38	12	5	3	32	15	9	5	4	27	18	26	73
Bristol City	40	12	5	3	34	13	9	4	7	33	28	26	72
Oldham	40	8	6	6	29	17	11	8	1	26	15	23	71
QPR	40	12	3	5	34	19	7	7	6	26	24	17	67

Team	P	W	D	L	F A	GD	Pts
Tranmere	40	11	5	4	30	22	64
Luton Town	39	8	5	7	29	25	58
Plymouth	40	9	5	6	35	24	57
Blackpool	40	10	6	4	31	20	56
Colchester	40	8	6	6	23	17	52
Swindon	40	8	5	7	30	25	50
Wycombe	39	8	5	6	37	29	49
Brentford	40	8	6	6	24	16	49
Notts County	40	8	7	5	33	30	48
Barnsley	40	6	8	6	24	27	46
Chesterfield	40	10	4	6	27	23	46
Peterborough	39	5	6	8	20	19	43
Port Vale	40	7	4	9	25	27	43
Stockport	40	6	8	6	33	33	42

Cheltenham 39 5 6 8 19 27 4 7 9 24 33 -17 40  
 Mansfield 40 8 2 10 36 42 3 5 12 22 41 -25 40  
 \*Northampton 40 7 3 10 21 24 3 5 12 14 39 -28 38  
 Huddersfield 40 6 7 7 22 23 3 3 14 9 30 -22 37

\*Not including last night's match, Northampton v Wigan

### Tonight's Other Second Division Games

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

Bristol City play Carlisle in the final of the LDV Vans Trophy at Cardiff tomorrow.

**SP MORE BITE THAN A ROY KEANE TACKLE... PEOPLE**



# 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"/>
26	Sammy IGOE	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Alan KIMBLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Chris WILLMOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>

## TRANMERE ROVERS

Manager: Ray Mathias

1	John ACHTERBERG	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Graham ALLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Gareth ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Mickey MELLON	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Kevin GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Ian SHARPS	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Jason PRICE	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Simon HAWORTH	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Alan NAVARRO	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Stuart BARLOW	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Andy PARKINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Russell HOWARTH	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Richard HINDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Iain HUME	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Alex HAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	James OLSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Danny HARRISON	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Ryan TAYLOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Jamie MCGUIRE	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Paul ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Paul LINWOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Karl DUNBAR	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Shane NICHOLSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Sean CONNELLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Tyrone LORAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Andy ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Eric NIXON	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Gary JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Iain ANDERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>

tick if playing ■ tick if substitute ●

### Today's Officials

Referee: Andy D'Urso, Essex

Assistants: Ralph Bone, Kent, (yellow flag); Bernard Baker, Hampshire (red and yellow flag)

Fourth Official: Mark Warren, West Midlands.



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