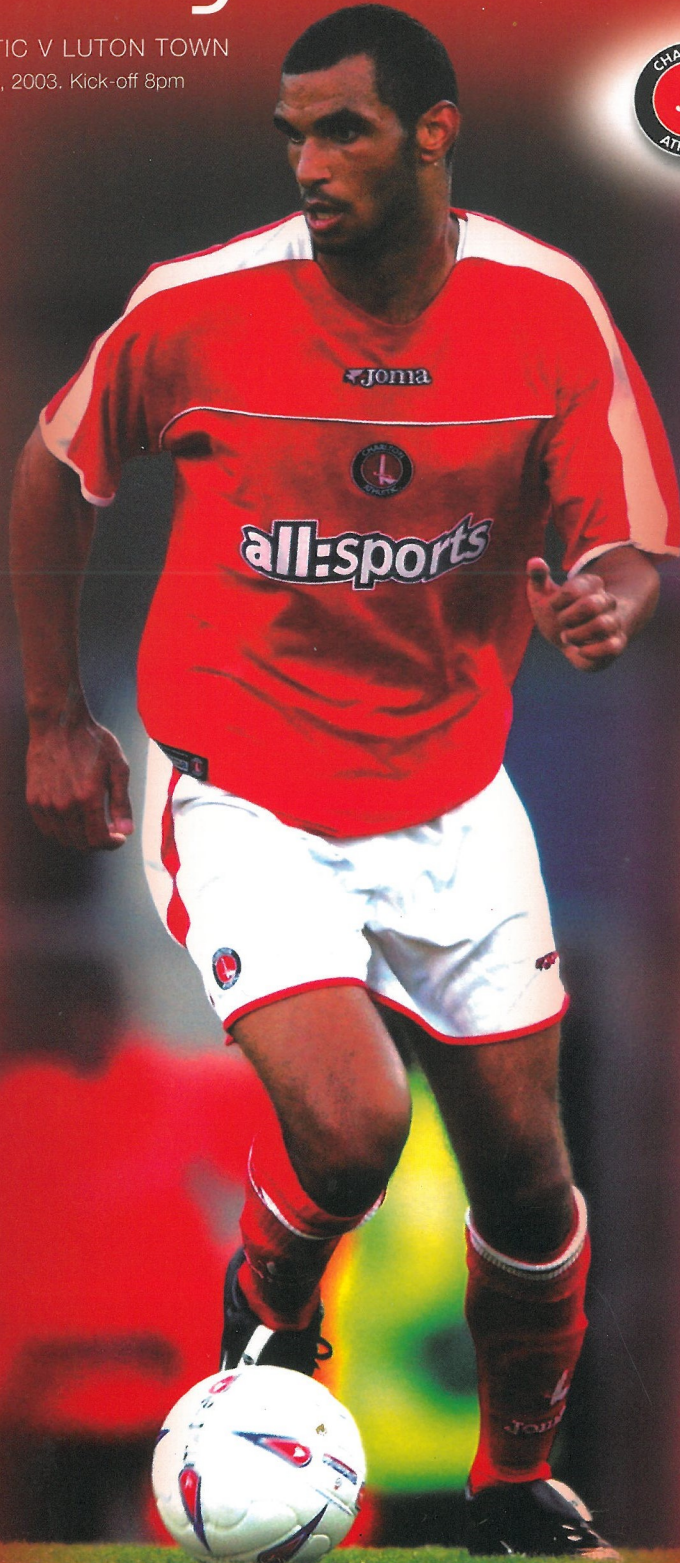


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# Valley Review

CHARLTON ATHLETIC V LUTON TOWN

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2003. Kick-off 8pm



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## Just appealing for improvement

It's not only Charlton's two chiefs that are united in wanting higher refereeing standards – the cause probably unites every club in the land. MATT WRIGHT reports

Charlton chief executive Peter Varney has joined Addicks boss Alan Curbishley in calling for a greater rapport between managers and referees.

Match officials have increasingly come under fire after a series of controversial decisions in the opening five weeks of the Premiership season.

The Addicks themselves have received three red cards in the last six games, although the suspension for Scott Parker's dismissal against Wolves was later rescinded.

And with the referee again at the centre of attention during Saturday's match against Aston Villa, Varney has appealed for the situation to be addressed.

"Managers and players will always criticise referees for as long as the game is played, sometimes justifiably and sometimes not," he said.

"However, this season has seen an unprecedented level of criticism and it is something that needs to be addressed.

"Referees have a very difficult job, and I certainly wouldn't like to do it. They have to make split-second decisions, and of course they do not have the benefit of the action replays that we are shown on the television.

"But it is not good for the game or its image that this deterioration in relationships is allowed to continue, and now that the referees are professional, there must be greater dialogue between managers and referees if we are to see an improvement in the future."

On Saturday, Charlton had a 'goal' ruled out when two Villa players collided, with referee Chris Foy mistakenly believing an Addicks player was involved in the collision.

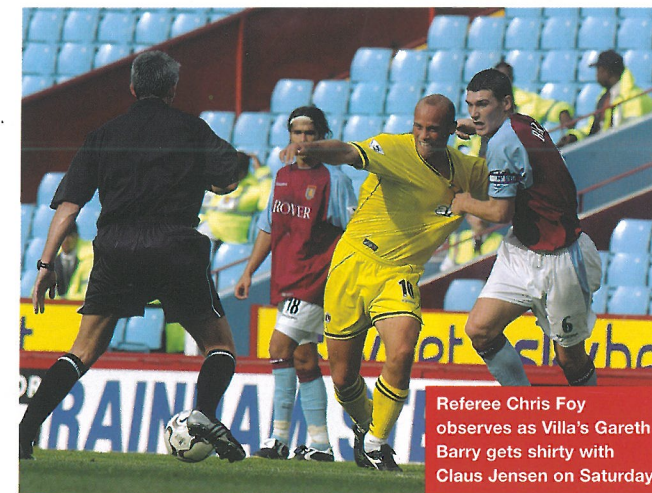
And as the battling away side tried to recover from a 2-0 deficit, Charlton could also consider themselves unfortunate not to be awarded a penalty when Mark Delaney felled Shaun Bartlett inside the penalty area.

Said Varney: "I felt we were on the wrong end of some of the decisions at Villa Park and this was later substantiated by the television coverage.

"Bearing in mind Villa were in claret and blue and we played in yellow, mistakes like this simply shouldn't happen.

"It does seem that every time we enter a new football season, refereeing decisions become the main topic of conversation and not the action out on the pitch."

Peter added: "It generally seems to follow a pattern that particular points of law are rigidly enforced.



Referee Chris Foy observes as Villa's Gareth Barry gets shirty with Claus Jensen on Saturday

This season, it seems to be the movement of goalkeepers and encroachment by players at penalty kicks.

"This would be fine if the decisions made were consistent but there have already been many examples in recent weeks where a referee has ordered a kick to be retaken and yet in another match, with the same circumstances applying, another referee has not ordered a retake.

"I felt our game on Saturday was riddled with decision-making errors – affecting both sides – and I believe on occasions referees could help themselves by consulting their assistant referees more, who in turn should perhaps more often fulfil the role their title suggests."

Curbishley added: "I could complain and compile a tape and send it off to whoever and ask them to look at things, but we don't get any feedback.

"Everyone wants to see an improvement. There seems to be a lot of assessing going on but the major factor is the lack of communication between managers and referees." ■■■

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ALAN CURBISHLEY

## Finishing in the right way

### Tonight we welcome Mike Newell and his Luton Town side to The Valley for the second round of the Carling Cup.

I'd also like to welcome Mick Harford, who works alongside Mike, as well, as he is someone I have known for a long time since our days together at Birmingham City. I hope they both enjoy their night, but not as much as I do.

Tonight we face a different test in Luton, who have had a good start to the season and are a side I am sure will come here and give it their all

to get a result against a Premiership club.

I've discussed the tournament with the players ahead of this game. My belief is that, although there are plenty of teams in the competition, the eventual winner will be a Premiership club. We are among the top 20 teams in the country, so why can't it be us?

Our record in both cup competitions since I have been at Charlton has been appalling, but I can assure the fans it has not been for the want of trying.

We have approached this game as we have approached previous cup games, which is no different to any other match.

We have had Luton watched on four occasions, we've done our homework and we are fully prepared to get

a result tonight. But to do that we need to score some goals and that was my big complaint at the weekend.

We squandered three great chances in the first 26 minutes at Villa Park on Saturday, which would have put us comfortably in the lead – or at least given us the opportunity to defend an advantage.

We didn't take any of those chances and ended up paying the price. And once again we came away from Villa Park very disappointed not to have picked up any points in a game that was there for us to win.

I thought we played reasonably well in patches but where it really mattered, in the boxes, we didn't do enough.

On top of missing some glorious

chances, we conceded two soft goals. And although Jloyd Samuel's effort was a great strike, there is no way he should have got anywhere near our box to hit a shot like that.

We are now six games into the season and, apart from the Manchester City game, I think we have given every bit as good as we have received. There was a deserved win up at Wolves, we were unlucky to just get a point against Everton, and we had a battling draw up at Bolton.

We also gave everything we had against Manchester United last week, but on the day we were undone by a piece of sloppy defending, and then going down to ten men finished the game off.

We had all sort of defensive problems ahead of the United match, and that is why

make getting a result more difficult, especially when you have to play for long periods with just ten men.

Our start to the season has been quite disappointing as I feel we should have more points, but we haven't got the results.

It is a very similar start to last year in terms of the opposition as well, and now we have been given a similar League Cup draw to last season. This time, we must give everything to get the result we want tonight.

Unfortunately, we are still afflicted by a number of injuries. Gary Rowett saw a specialist this week to see how far he has progressed with his knee injury and, while Hermann Hreidarsson is back out on the training field, he hasn't enjoyed any contact yet.

“ I thought we played reasonably well in patches at Villa, but where it really mattered, in the boxes, we didn't do enough

I am ever so pleased to have been able to bring Chris Perry to the club.

He had a fine match against the champions and really didn't deserve to come out of the side on Saturday. I know he is a player who can put competition into those central defensive areas.

We had five defenders missing for the United match and were always going to be hard pushed, but the players gave everything and United only really created significant chances when we were a man short.

There seems to be a lot of red and yellow cards in the Premiership at the moment, and it is imperative that we keep our composure and professionalism. Players that get booked early on have got to realise they cannot make any rash challenges after that.

The referees seem card happy and I don't think anything is going to change that, so it is down to the players. We have had three players sent off in our last four home games, which is always going to

Carlton Cole is also due to see a specialist this week to determine just how long he might be out while Paul Rachubka is still some time away from full training following his glandular fever.

One bright note is the fact that Richard Rufus is back in contention tonight, so let's hope his progress is not halted in any way.

I know The Valley won't be full tonight, but as always we need your support, and we need to start getting some results at home.

So let's hope we can start with a winning result tonight and progress into the next round.

>> HEAR ALAN CURBISHLEY'S POST-MATCH PRESS CONFERENCE AT [www.cafc.co.uk](http://www.cafc.co.uk)

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## Curbishley plays down Euell claims

Charlton manager Alan Curbishley yesterday confirmed that striker Jason Euell did not travel to Saturday's Premiership clash match with Aston Villa due to disciplinary reasons.

But the Addicks boss also distanced himself from national press stories suggesting the club's record signing could be on his way out of The Valley.

Curbishley said: "Jason was informed of my decision on the Wednesday before the match against Villa, and was made fully aware that he would not be playing at Villa Park. As for any other speculation surrounding Jason, it is just that: speculation."

Euell, the club's record signing and leading goalscorer, was sent off in Charlton's last home match against Manchester United after collecting two yellow cards, and will now miss Charlton's pay-per-view televised fixture against Liverpool on Sunday.

He was booked inside the first minute for a foul on United's American goalkeeper Tim Howard and was given his marching orders in the 64th minute for a foul on Gary Neville.

The £4.75m capture from Wimbledon in July 2001 became Charlton's third player to be red-carded in five matches this season, and fourth in six fixtures including the final game of 2002/03.

Two players who did return against Villa were Luke Young and Mark Fish, from illness and suspension respectively, and the 2-1 defeat at Villa Park included a first goal of the season for Kevin Lisbie as Charlton made a losing debut in the club's new yellow kit.

### Cup-tied Chris

He may have made his Charlton debut in the one match that every player wants to play in, but on-loan Tottenham Hotspur defender Chris Perry will have to sit out tonight's match under the terms of his temporary contract.



Villa's Turkish defender Alpay Ozalan somehow finds a way through a crowd of Charlton defenders to break the deadlock in the first half at Villa Park on Saturday

The defender made his first appearance for the Addicks in the 2-0 defeat against the Red Devils on September 13th, but – like Paul Konchesky at Spurs – isn't eligible to play in Carling Cup fixtures under the swap agreement reached between Charlton and the White Hart Lane club.

Tonight's Carling Cup second-round tie will be decided on the night, with extra time and penalties used if required. The winner of the game will learn at around 5.30pm on Saturday, during Sky television's Gillette Soccer Saturday coverage, the identity of their opponents in the third round.

Meanwhile, tomorrow night sees Charlton's reserve side defending this season's unbeaten record when they travel to Dagenham & Redbridge to take on West Ham United (7pm).

### Matt scores with Rams

One player attracting plenty of headlines while out on loan is Mathias Svensson, with the Swedish international scoring three times in his six appearances for Derby County so far.

Indeed, the Rams are so pleased with the Swedish striker that, with Charlton's agreement, they last week extended the loan deal of the 28-year-old for a further month.

Svensson grabbed his third goal for the Rams as Derby beat Watford 3-2 at Pride Park six days ago, and he will now stay in the East Midlands until October 20th. He also featured as Derby drew 1-1 with Sunderland on Saturday.

Another Charlton player in action with his loan club at the weekend was midfielder Chris Bart-Williams, who helped Ipswich Town to a 4-1 win against Wimbledon. Bart-Williams was also in action last midweek when he helped the Tractor Boys beat Walsall 2-1.

Elsewhere, England left-back Paul Konchesky made his debut ten days ago as Tottenham Hotspur were beaten 4-2 by Chelsea, but he wasn't involved in the final 16 as Glenn Hoddle's managerial career at Spurs came to an end with a 3-1 home defeat to Southampton three days ago.

### Captain Stacy hits home

Charlton midfielder Stacy Long was named as captain of his country and found the net as England's U19 European Championship hopes got off to an ideal start with a 2-0 win against Liechtenstein in Russia on Saturday.

Although Long was initially denied from the penalty spot in the 68th minute, the ball rebounded to the Addicks star's feet and he made no mistake at the second time of asking.

England faced a second fixture in the four-team qualifying tournament yesterday against Andorra, and will play hosts Russia tomorrow.

The group winner will progress to the second qualifying round early next year before the finals in July.

### Unlucky Mark

The Football League debut of young striker Mark DeBolla ended in disappointment ten days ago when he was carried from the pitch with torn ankle ligaments during a match for Chesterfield, whom he had joined on loan just two days previously.

The 20-year-old was stretchered

off in the 79th minute of the Spireites' home match against Notts County at the Recreation Ground, with the injury putting paid to his one-month spell in the Midlands.

"I'm obviously very disappointed at the moment," said Mark, who faces an estimated six-week lay-off.

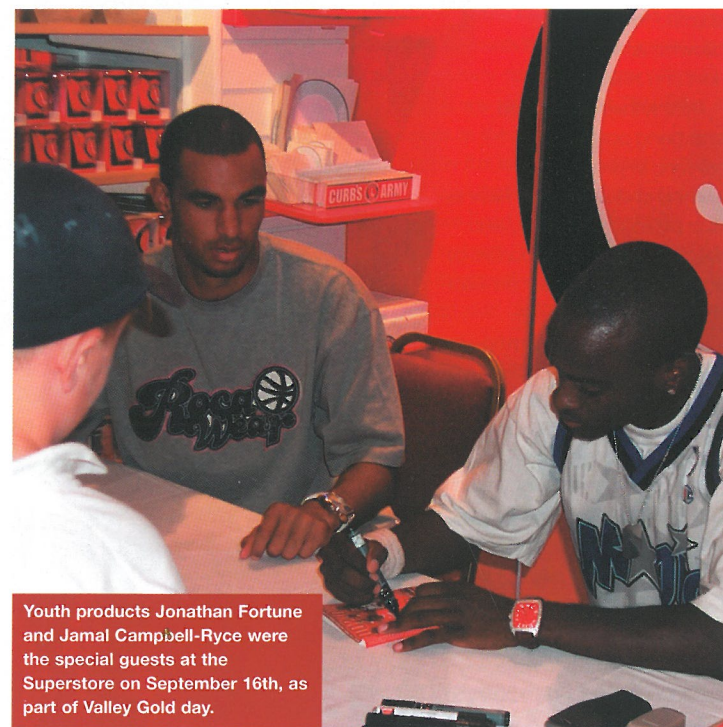
"I was just starting to feel sharp again after recovering from my injury problems last season. However, Chesterfield have said that they want to go ahead with the deal when I get my fitness back so hopefully I'll have that to look forward to."

### Stephen scoops prize

First prize in the Valley Gold draw at the recent Manchester United match went to Stephen Northcott.

The Welling resident scooped £750 with number 2143. In second place, picking up £350 was Michael Brooks, of Charlton (1591), while Ian Hagger, of Allington, Maidstone, collected the £150 third prize (1608).

As yet, the £2,000 Instant Jackpot first prize has still to be claimed, so a sizeable cash windfall awaits whoever had ticket number 4000. Call Lisa Squires on 020-8244 7771 for more details. The £100 second prize was won by Margaret Cues, of Welling (5075).



Youth products Jonathan Fortune and Jamal Campbell-Ryce were the special guests at the Superstore on September 16th, as part of Valley Gold day.



# Powell still leading the way

**He may have just turned 34 but the last two games have proved that the ex-England left-back remains an integral part of Alan Curbishley's Premiership squad, reports TERRY CORDWELL**

For most defenders playing their first game of the new season, a personal duel with one of the Premiership's most frightening young wingers would not be too high up on the agenda.

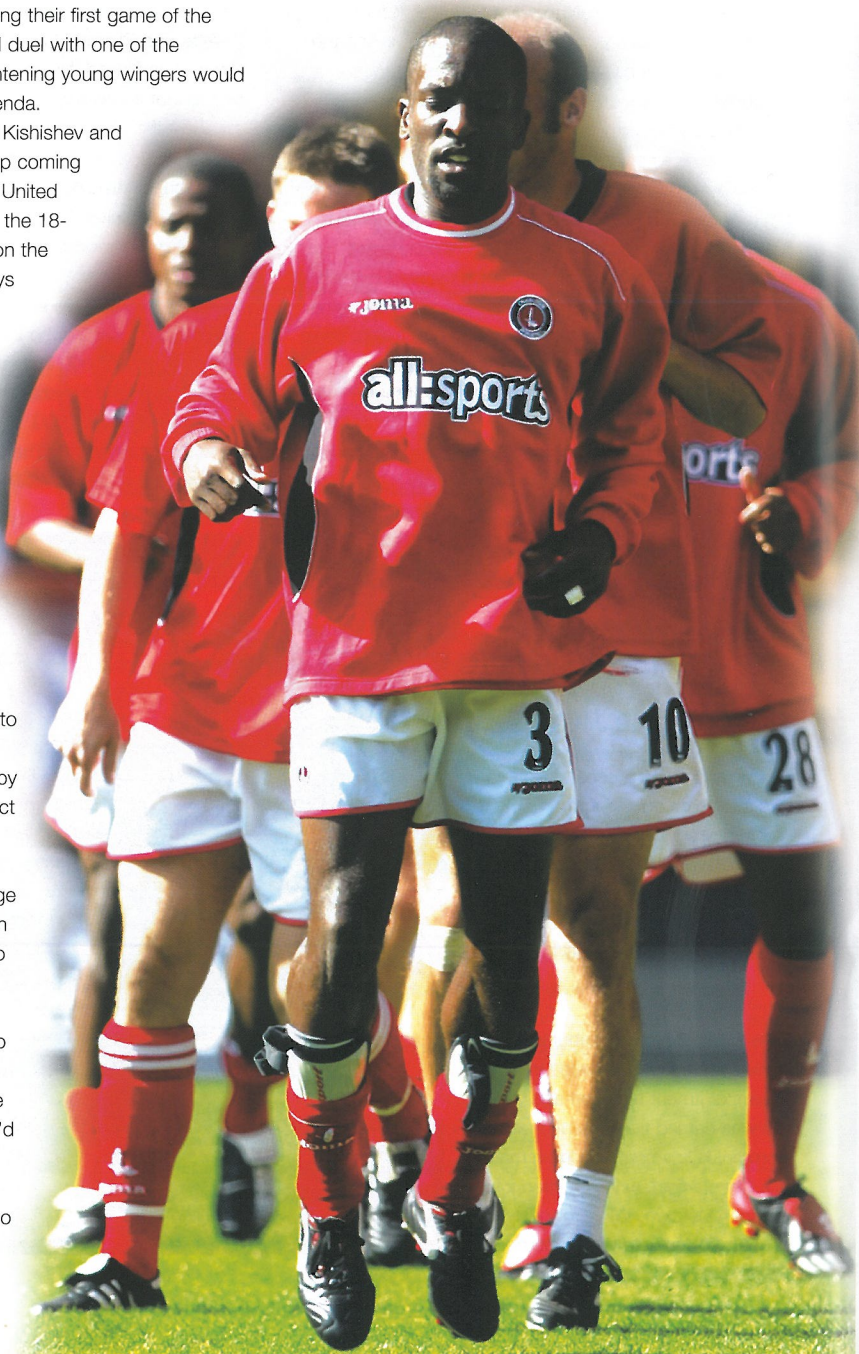
It may have been Radostin Kishishev and not Chris Powell that ended up coming face-to-face with Manchester United starlet Cristiano Ronaldo after the 18-year-old bag of tricks played on the left instead of the right ten days ago.

But the 34-year-old left-back insists that he would have relished the challenge had it come his way, and it is that kind of attitude that epitomises the former England defender who has returned to the side following an injury to Hermann Hreidarsson.

"I think the moment you stop being positive and believing in yourself and relishing challenges, you have to stop playing," said Chris, who delighted Addicks supporters by signing a new one-year contract in the summer.

"The desire is still burning inside me and even at this stage of my career, my aim is to be in the side every week, not just to accept that I'll be playing a bit-part.

"Coming up against Ronaldo would have been quite a welcome back for me, but if he had been playing on the right I'd have said 'bring him on' because you have to have confidence in your own ability to defend."



Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town



Chris continued: "I'm used to players who can do eight or nine step-overs in half a second because of young Jamal Campbell-Ryce who likes to do the same kind of thing in training."

Powell has been included in Alan Curbishley's starting line-up for the Addicks' last two games against Manchester United and Aston Villa after Icelander Hreidarsson picked up a knee injury in training. And the former Derby County, Southend United and Crystal Palace man admits he is delighted to still be a Charlton player after weeks of uncertainty regarding his future during the close season.

"Charlton was always my first choice," said Chris, who played 37 times – Charlton's second highest appearance maker – last season. "I prefer to be here where I'm close to the players, the manager and the fans, and I feel settled at this club.

"I spoke to a few other clubs but I felt that it wasn't worth uprooting my family and myself because one or two of them were outside of London. I've been at that stage before where you're at a new club and you have to let the fans and the players get to know you and at this stage of my career, I didn't think it was a wise choice.

"In the past, it's always taken me about a year to really get settled into my new surroundings and I think because Charlton know me and know what I'm about and what I can do, it was easily the best option for me.

"I knew that with Hermann coming on board and Paul Konchesky still in the picture it was going to be tough in terms of competition, but it's something I'm prepared for and now that I'm in the side I want to stay there for the rest of the season."

Having turned 34 earlier this month, Powell is the oldest player in the Charlton squad bar newcomer Paolo Di Canio, but with his fitness levels virtually identical to what they were when he came to club from the Rams in June 1998, the left-back believes that age is no barrier.

"I firmly believe I've got another few seasons in me," said Chris. "Even at my age, there are still people you can try to emulate and I look to people like Nigel Winterburn and Stuart Pearce, who went on playing in the top flight until their late 30s.

"I feel great physically and my pre-season running

tests were more or less the same as they were when I came to the club and that says to me that I can still do the things I was doing three or four years ago.

"If you have a bad game, people are quick to put it down to age but I'm confident in how I'm holding up physically and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

Although Charlton have lost both games in which Powell has played this season, the cultured defender insists that a transformation in results is imminent.

And if that does materialise, it will be a similar story to last term when Alan Curbishley's team pieced together a run of one defeat in 15 games after an indifferent opening to the campaign.

"I know we are capable of reproducing that and we are close to cracking it," revealed Chris. "Our results haven't been great but the important thing is that we have been creating chances and now we just need to start making them count.

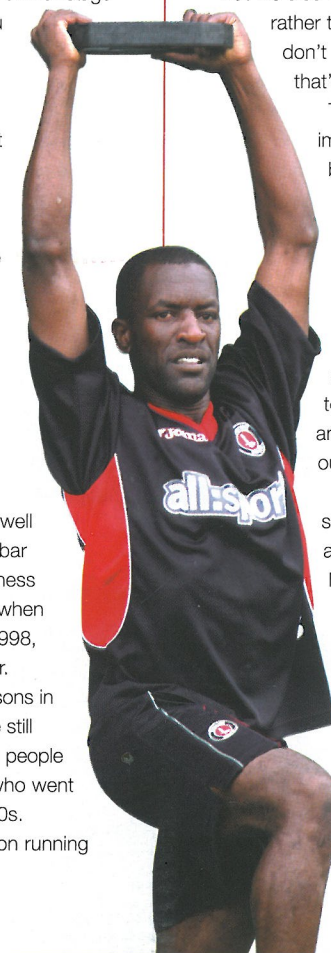
"But we also know that we need to sort it out sooner rather than later because, in this league, if you don't take your chances you get punished and that's what's been happening."

Tonight's game may be of secondary importance to the Premiership, but Powell believes that with three home games having already come and gone without success, any kind of win at The Valley is priceless at the moment.

"I know the league is the main focus for us but I think we're at the stage where we need to get our home form going," he said. "Hopefully, if we win tonight, things will snowball from there and we can start getting some wins under our belt.

"We managed to put together a run last season without too much difficulty. It's amazing what you can achieve in any league once you get momentum on your side and I think we just need a few things to come together, plus maybe a bit of luck, and everything will fall into place.

"We set ourselves a target of a top-ten finish this season and I think it's still a possibility, but we have to get things moving in the right direction." ■■■



Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town

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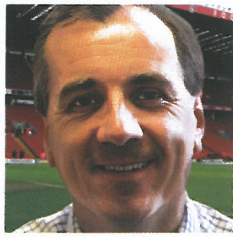
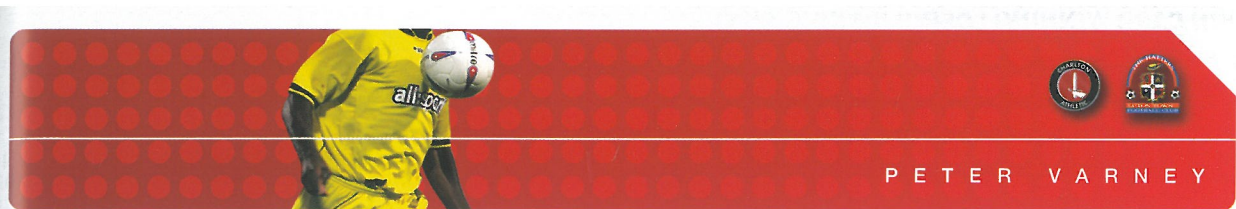
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## All change for Europe

The chief executive reveals what could lie in store for the Addicks as the Carling Cup receives a higher priority than at most clubs

Tonight's match offers us a break from the pressures of Premiership football and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Luton Town directors, players and officials to The Valley.

One of my lasting memories in relation to Luton, apart from the late Eric Morecambe, was a 7-1 defeat in the Second Division on September 3rd, 1977.

That result was all the more painful because my late father didn't attend many away matches but, as he was celebrating his 62nd birthday, we made a day of it and had lunch before the match – I never suggested a similar present after that!

The Carling Cup is an important competition because it provides both an opportunity for success and a UEFA Cup place, so there is a lot at stake.

For the lower division clubs, the competition also provides a vital source of income that has become even more essential following the collapse of the ITV Digital deal.

I know that a lot of the bigger clubs, and particularly those that participate in the Champions' League, will probably rank this competition below the league championship and the FA Cup in their list of priorities.

Of course, this presents an opportunity for clubs like our own, and we are long overdue an extended run in one of the cup competitions.

Having mentioned the UEFA Cup, fans may be interested in a number of changes to the competition that will come into effect in 2004/05, with the format as follows:

- First round – 64 teams plus 16 teams that exited in the qualifying round of the Champions' League competition, making a total of 80 teams.
- Second round – 40 teams participating in eight groups of five teams, with the top three teams in each group advancing to the next round
- Third round – the 24 teams from the second round are joined by eight teams eliminated from the first stage of the Champions' League
- This leaves 16 teams for the fourth-round stage,

and then the quarter, semi-finals and final will follow as a straight knock-out as usual.

While the new package may be attractive to broadcasters, there are a number of issues relating to it which I believe go against the spirit of competition.

If a team is knocked out of the Champions' League then, in my opinion, that should be the end of their involvement in European competition.

Entry into a tournament via the backdoor is unfair on those clubs who qualified for the UEFA Cup and expected to play teams who finished in a similar position in the various leagues across Europe.

In addition to this, the group structure will in itself increase the number of matches, and if it transpires that these take place on a Thursday, this opens up the real threat of more Premiership matches being played on a Sunday.

I have been assured that this will not be the case, but the sheer logistics would suggest otherwise.

For me, professional football is about 3pm kick-offs on a Saturday, and while I accept that if we are to take the benefits that come with the broadcasting deals then we must deliver what the broadcaster wants, we must also be aware of the paying customers' wishes.

I believe that while most supporters accept some changes, they do not want to see the majority of home games moved to take place on Sundays and during midweek. I hope that UEFA take these concerns on board and act appropriately.

Finally, The Valley this evening is likely to be less full than for a usual Premiership match, and in these circumstances it is more important than ever that you get behind the team from the first minute.

Enjoy the game. ■ ■ ■

“ This is an important cup, it provides the opportunity for success and a UEFA Cup place, so a lot is at stake

Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town



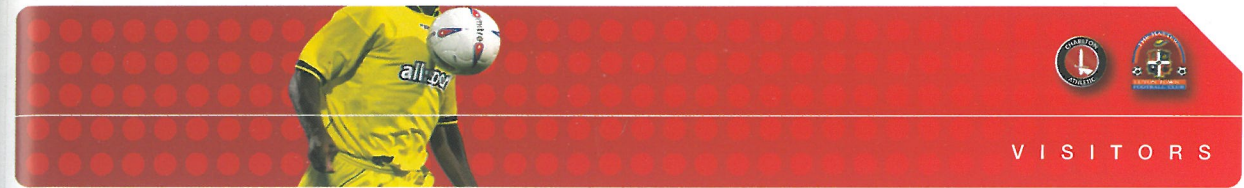
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## Hatters stand their ground

Second Division Luton Town know all about winning against the odds – but the Addicks will be hoping that things go according to the bookies, reports **BEN SHARRATT**

Throughout the 1980s and early-90s, if Luton Town supporters could guarantee one thing it was that their team was capable of scaring the life out of top clubs in the cups. Recently however, it seems as if the only guarantee around Kenilworth Road is of off-field controversy, whether it be mysterious takeovers, managerial sackings, the threat of merger/ground-sharing or, strangest of all, a phone ballot to decide who should become the club's manager.

Even the club's most famous follower Eric Morecambe would have struggled to come up with a skit bizarre enough to encapsulate the last six months in Luton's history.

Of course, the Hatters, who have made a comfortable start to another season in the Second Division, are far from alone in being a Football League club with an unsure future, but the Carling Cup adds a certain poignancy to their troubles given how the club experienced so many good times in this competition (in a previous guise as the Milk and Littlewoods Cups) not so very long ago.

In 1988, the late former Charlton player Ray Harford steered Luton to a sensational Wembley victory over George Graham's Arsenal. And they were back in the final the following year, only to be narrowly defeated by Nottingham Forest.

Just prior to those cup runs, the Hatters achieved their highest-ever finish of seventh in the top flight in 1986/87. But while the likes of Ricky Hill and Brian Stein were household names back then, so much has changed that boss Mike Newell will tonight rely on virtual unknowns to claim a Premiership scalp.

Newell will take comfort from the fact that Third Division Oxford United (a club with a similar League Cup pedigree) ran out winners at The Valley at this stage of the competition last season.

Oxford relied on spot-kicks to get them through, but if Luton are going to score from open play then **Steve Howard**, 27, looks the man most likely. A bargain £50,000 purchase from Northampton Town, the hotshot Wearsider has netted a goal every other game in around 100 appearances for the Hatters. Tall and physical, >>>



Steve Howard

Charlton Athletic  
Luton Town  
versus



he's a handful for any defender.

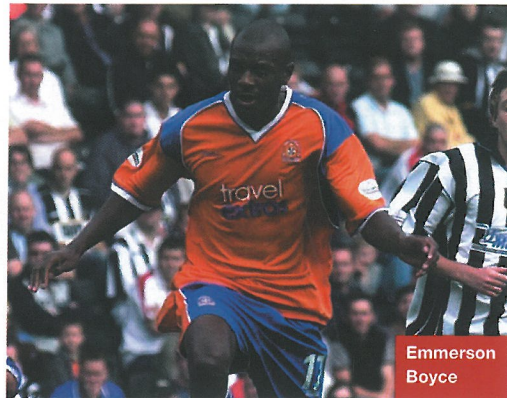
A hat-trick in this competition for **Gary McSheffrey**, 21, was arguably the highlight of his Coventry City career. The speedy striker notched those goals in an 8-0 victory over Rushden & Diamonds last season, but he struggled to find any consistency at his troubled hometown club and the England Youth player is presently on loan with Luton.

In 2001, McSheffrey spent a short time on loan at Stockport, birthplace of another Hatters forward **Dean Crowe**, 24. This diminutive poacher started with Stoke City, who loaned him out no less than four times before Luton snapped him up on a free transfer.

He suffered a broken leg last season, but will be looking to cement his place higher up in the striker pecking order despite the promise being shown by Barking-born starlet **Matthew Judge**, 18.

Where once David Moss raced down the wing to brilliant effect at Kenilworth Road during the 'golden age', today the creative thrust emanates from the likes of midfielders **Paul Hughes**, 27, **Steve Robinson**, 28, and **Ahmet Brkovic**, 29 today.

A trainee with Chelsea, Hammersmith-born Hughes broke into the Blues' first-team squad in 1994 during Glenn Hoddle's reign as manager. He stuck around for



Emmerson Boyce

five years, managing two goals in just 12 league appearances.

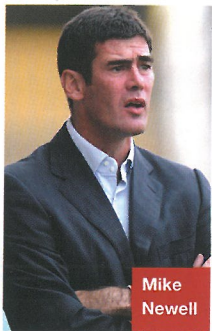
Hughes eventually signed for Southampton, but things didn't work out there either and Luton took him on a year later. If his awareness and skill is finally realised on a regular basis in Bedfordshire and if Hughes can avoid the kind of injuries which marred last season, he could still have a future higher up in the game.

Northern Ireland international Robinson also started out with a big London club; well Tottenham, anyway.

He appeared just twice for Spurs but became a >>>

### Meet the boss

**M**ike Newell, 38, played first-team football for no less than 13 clubs during his travels as a marksman, and his record since hanging up his boots has been no less frenetic. Coach at Doncaster Rovers, reserve boss at Tranmere, manager at Hartlepool then, last June, appointed manager of Luton amid bizarre circumstances.



Mike Newell

Following the sacking of Joe Kinnear and his assistant Mick Harford, the club's new owners controversially conducted a presidential-style phone ballot of fans, shareholders, board members and staff to decide who should get the job. Newell narrowly beat Kinnear in the poll, but shortly afterwards Harford was brought back as director of football and

coach as well. Mad Hatters indeed.

Both Newell and Harford are popular ex-Town forwards, though the former's most successful years were with Blackburn Rovers, with whom he won a championship medal in 1995. And Newell can also count a ten-minute Champions League hat-trick against Rosenborg the following season among his achievements.

The Scouser, on the Anfield books as a youngster, came within a whisker of a full England cap during his time at Ewood Park, but had to settle for 'B' honours to add to his U21 appearances. ■ ■ ■

**Playing days:** Crewe, Wigan, Luton, Leicester, Everton, Blackburn, Birmingham, Aberdeen, West Ham, Bradford, Doncaster, Blackpool

**Management years:** Hartlepool, Luton

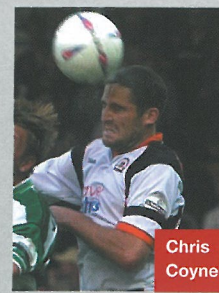
**Familiar side-kick:** Daley Thompson – one of Great Britain's all-time greatest Olympians acts as fitness coach.



### Fan's eye view

London-based Hatter Jim Rochester, from Merton, gives us the Luton angle.

**Favourite current player:** Chris Coyne – the proverbial 'man mountain' at the back. Why he's not playing for a bigger



Chris Coyne

club I don't know.

**Favourite all-time player:** Toss up between Les Sealey and Steve Foster. Both fantastic characters who played their hearts out.

**One of ours, past or present:** Claus Jensen seems a very creative

player to me, a bit of an unsung star in the Premiership.

**Best Town v Charlton memory:** None in particular. I used to see the two teams as very similar in many ways, but sadly that's not the case these days.

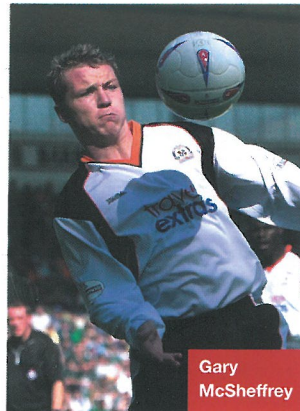
**Prediction:** Luton to sensationally sneak it 1-0, Steve Howard the scorer.

big favourite at Bournemouth during six seasons at Dean Court. His excellent tally of 51 league goals from midfield for the Cherries earned him a £375,000 move to Preston in 2000, but things didn't quite work out in Lancashire and Luton took him back down south for £50,000 last year.

Meanwhile, livewire Croatian Brkovic is another with an eye for goal, having scored a double-quick hat-trick in the LDV Vans Trophy last year, as well as two in Luton's first-round FA Cup tie against Guiseley.

Town's skipper is former England Youth international and Charlton prospect **Kevin Nicholls**, 24, who made 16 league and cup appearances for the Addicks (scoring once) before being sold to Wigan for £275,000 in June 1999.

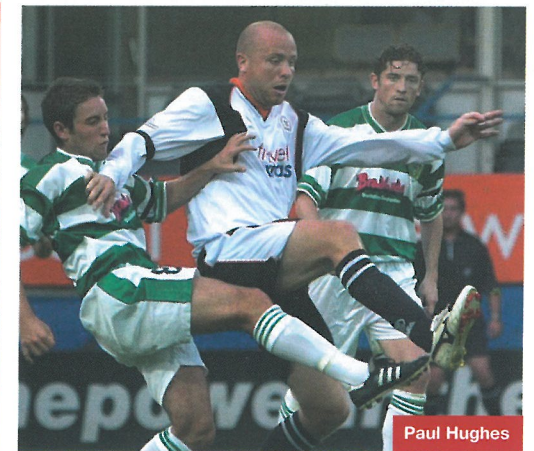
A Newham lad, Nicholls has really come of age at Luton, where his never-say-die attitude has made him a firm favourite with the supporters. He has built up a nice understanding in the middle of the park with **Matthew Spring**, 23, a homegrown product who wrote his name into the Luton annals with a spectacular effort against bitter rivals Watford in the first round of this competition last season.



Gary McSheffrey

Nippy ex-Norwich winger **Adrian Forbes**, 24, and another former Spurs trainee, former Welsh U21 international **Ian Hillier**, 23, augment the midfield mix, while at the back **Alan Neilson**, 30, has five full Welsh caps.

Once of Newcastle, Fulham



Paul Hughes

and Southampton, Neilson arrived at Luton last year, not long after strapping central defender **Chris Coyne**, 24, came from Dundee for £50,000.

Coyne scored the first goal of his professional career in the 1-1 draw against Notts County the other week and the Australian, brought to this country by West Ham United in 1995/96, had a cracking second season for the Hatters, culminating in his naming as the club's player of the season.

The Hatters' youth equivalent – for the second year running – was **Kevin Foley**, 18, an exciting, London-born full-back of whom expectations are considerable.

**Sol Davis**, 24, and **Emmerson Boyce**, 24 tomorrow, provide accomplished competition in defence, while the tall, experienced **Russell Perrett**, 30, and Liverpoolian **David Bayliss**, 27, vie to partner Coyne in the centre.



Finally, in goal is six-foot-two Londoner **Robert Beckwith**, just 19, who did well to keep his place in the first team after a surprise elevation from the reserves last season. ■ ■ ■





PAST MEETINGS

Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town

Most recent meetings		Previous cup meetings																																																	
<p><b>October 29th, 1995 at Kenilworth Road (6,270) – First Division</b> LUTON TOWN 0 (0): Feuer, Peake, Johnson, Davis, Hughes (Riseth 46), Waddock (Guentchev 79), Alexander (Linton 79), Oakes, Oldfield, Marshall, Harvey.</p>	<p><b>April 5th, 1996 at The Valley (14,515) – First Division</b> CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1 (0) (Allen 69 (pen)): Petterson, Brown, Stuart (Linger 50), Jones, Rufus, C Whyte, Robson, Leaburn, Robinson, Allen, Bowyer (D Whyte 72). Sub (not used): Balmer.</p>	<p>12.1.52 (Kenilworth Road – 25,554) – FA Cup third round LUTON TOWN 1 (1) (Turner 8) CHARLTON ATHLETIC 0 (0)</p> <p>23.8.67 (Kenilworth Road – 9,001) – League Cup first round LUTON TOWN 1 (0) (Allen 70) CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1 (0) (Campbell 47)</p> <p>30.8.67 (The Valley – 7,656) – League Cup first-round replay CHARLTON ATHLETIC *1 (1) (Tees 1) LUTON TOWN *2 (1) (Rioch 37, 107) *After extra time (1-1 at full-time)</p> <p>5.10.82 (Kenilworth Road – 7,030) – Milk Cup second-round first leg LUTON TOWN 3 (2) (Stein 23 (pen), Fuccillo 44, 85) CHARLTON ATHLETIC 0 (0)</p> <p>26.10.82 (The Valley – 5,973) – Milk Cup second-round second leg CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2 (1) (Hales 3, 47 (pen)) LUTON TOWN 0 (0) (Luton won 3-2 on aggregate)</p>																																																	
<p>CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1 (1) (Nelson 16): Salmon, Humphrey, Stuart, Walsh, Chapple, Rufus, Newton, Nelson (Grant 79), Robinson, Leaburn, Bowyer. Subs (not used): Robson, Chandler. Referee: John Kirkby.</p>	<p>LUTON TOWN 1 (1) (Rufus 22 og): Feuer, Alexander, Thomas, Waddock, Davis, Patterson, Guentchev, Harvey (Johnson 72), Wilkinson, Grant (Oakes 75), Thorpe (Tomlinson 80). Referee: Bill Burns.</p>	<p><b>League results versus Luton Town</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>P</th> <th>W</th> <th>D</th> <th>L</th> <th>F</th> <th>A</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HOME</td> <td>31</td> <td>16</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>51</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AWAY</td> <td>31</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>22</td> <td>27</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>62</td> <td>22</td> <td>11</td> <td>29</td> <td>78</td> <td>96</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Cup results versus Luton Town</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>P</th> <th>W</th> <th>D</th> <th>L</th> <th>F</th> <th>A</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FA CUP</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LGE CUP</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		P	W	D	L	F	A	HOME	31	16	8	7	51	35	AWAY	31	6	3	22	27	61	TOTAL	62	22	11	29	78	96		P	W	D	L	F	A	FA CUP	1	0	0	1	0	1	LGE CUP	4	1	1	2	4	6
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LGE CUP	4	1	1	2	4	6																																													
 <p><b>Garry Nelson</b> against Luton in 1995</p>	 <p><b>Bradley Allen</b> celebrates his penalty in 1996</p>																																																		

Six steps to...

4. Charlton to Luton Town

The longest-serving manager in Charlton's history is Jimmy Seed (1), who was in charge of the Addicks from 1933-56.

Among Seed's early signings was arguably his best, with Sam Bartram (2) arriving at The Valley in 1934. The legendary goalkeeper would go on to play in the Addicks' only FA Cup victory in 1946/47, but in his first season Third Division (South) Charlton were knocked out by Exeter City (3) in the first round.

Among the players to have represented both Charlton and Exeter is Ray Harford (4), who sadly passed away recently.

And Harford is also one of several former Charlton favourites who have managed Luton Town (5). He was in charge from 1987-89, with Bartram taking the reigns from 1960-62 and Lennie Lawrence (6) from 1995-2000.

Prior to his time with the Hatters, Lawrence was boss at Charlton from 1982-91, at that time the second longest-serving manager in the Addicks' history. Current boss Alan Curbishley has since pushed the man dubbed 'Houdini' down into third place. ■■■ Alex Palmer

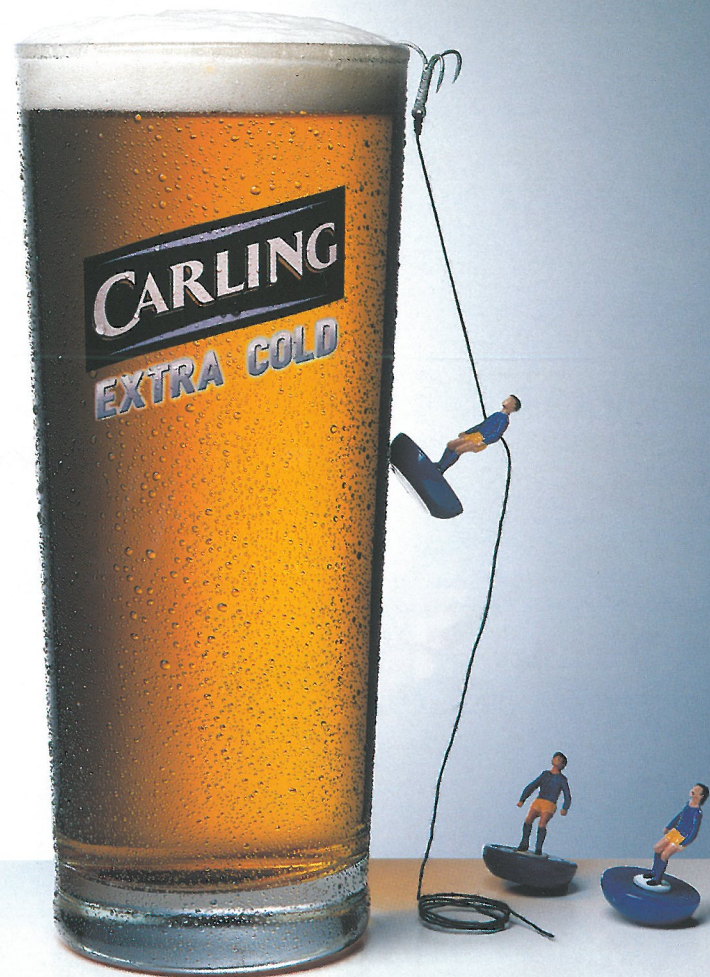
Connections

The comprehensive list of Charlton first-teamers connected with Luton Town in one capacity or another comprises: Mark Aizlewood, Bill Barron, Sam Bartram (manager), Bob Bolder, Jimmy Chipperfield, George Dodd, Paul Elliott, Joe Filliston, Kim Grant, Rodney Green, Derek Hales, Vic Halom, Ray Harford (manager), Harold Hobbs, Scott Houghton, Matt Jackson, George Kidd, Alan Kimble, Eddie Marsh, Kevin Nichols, Andy Petterson, Charlie Preeedy, Bert Richards, Gordon Riddick, Frank Rist, Ben Roberts, Bill Robinson, Mike Small, Maurice Tadman, Matt Tees, Jimmy Thompson, Reg Tricker, Paul Walsh, Danny Warden, Steve White, Brian Whitehouse, Harry Wright and Jimmy Yardley.



Maurice Tadman

All statistics: Colin Cameron

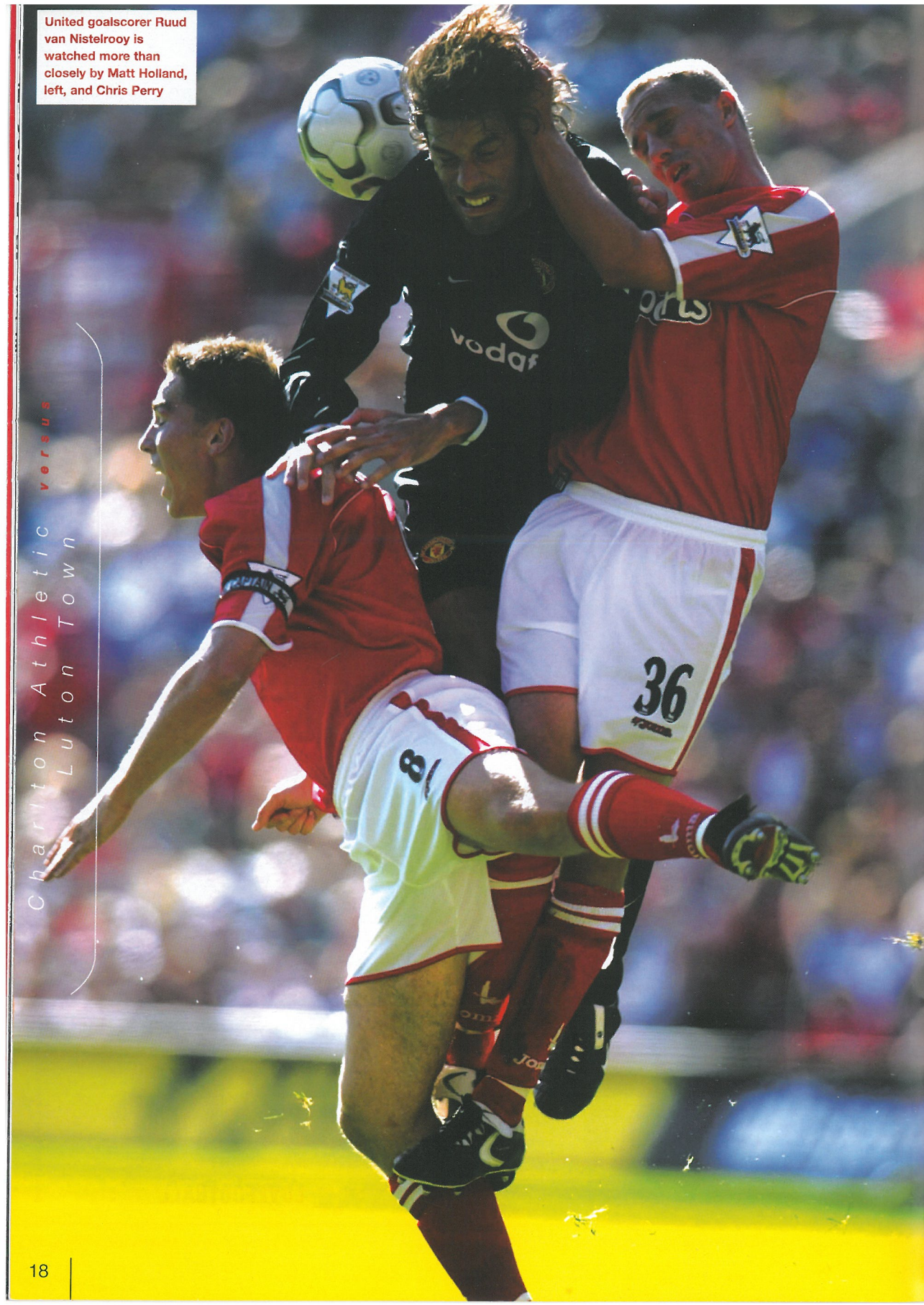


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United goalscorer Ruud van Nistelrooy is watched more than closely by Matt Holland, left, and Chris Perry

Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town



The lunging Scott Parker brings an end to a van Nistelrooy run

Saturday, September 13th, 2003

Charlton Athletic 0  
Manchester United 2  
(van Nistelrooy 62, 81)

**Charlton:** Kiely, Kishishev, Powell, Fortune, Perry, Stuart, Parker (Lisbie 89), Holland (Bartlett 78), Jensen, Euell, Di Canio (Johansson 83).

**Subs (not used):** Royce, Sankofa.

**Bookings:** Euell 1 (foul on Howard), Kishishev 76 (foul on Ronaldo).

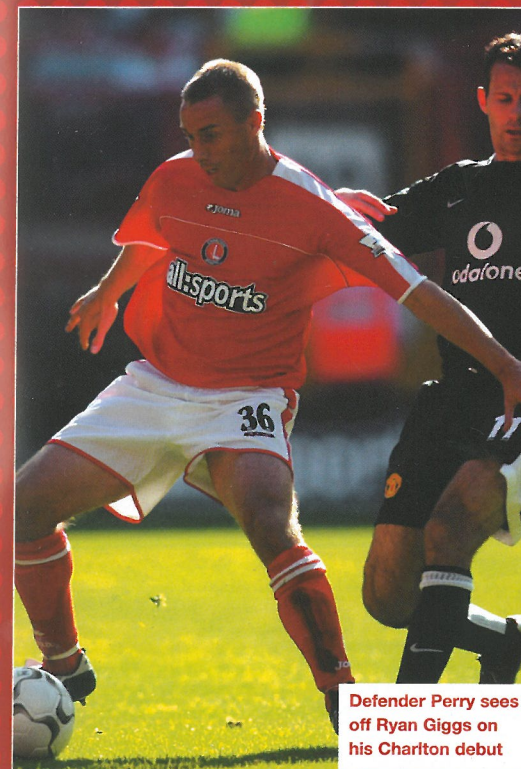
**Sending off:** Euell 65 (second yellow card for foul on G Neville).

**United:** Howard, G Neville, P Neville, Ferdinand, O'Shea, Fortune (Silvestre 83), Keane (Solskjaer 59), Giggs, Ronaldo, Butt, van Nistelrooy.

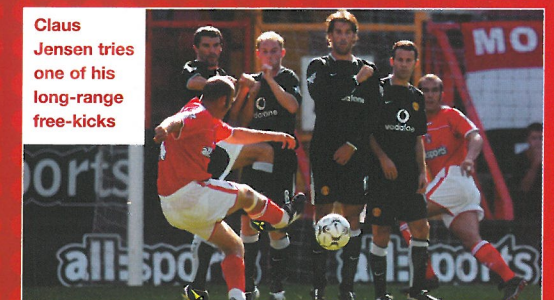
**Subs (not used):** Barthez, Djemba-Djemba, Forlan.

**Bookings:** Butt 75 (foul on Parker), P Neville 83 (foul on Parker).

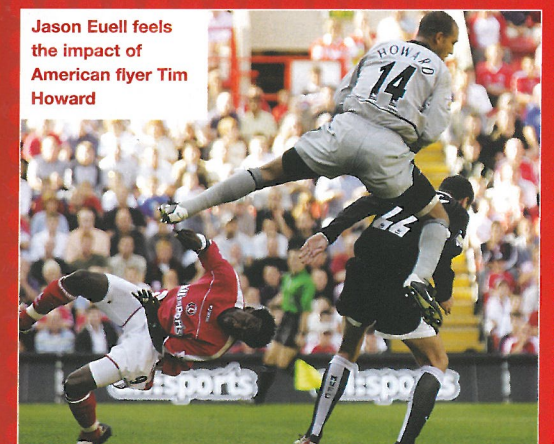
**Ref:** M Riley.  
**Att:** 26,046.



Defender Perry sees off Ryan Giggs on his Charlton debut



Claus Jensen tries one of his long-range free-kicks



Jason Euell feels the impact of American flyer Tim Howard

Pictures: Tom Morris; Adam Davy; Jed Leicester (Empics)

Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town



## Cup success long overdue

Club historian COLIN CAMERON examines Charlton's history in cup competitions and decides it's about time for a change in fortune

If Charlton score at least one goal this evening, it will be the club's 500th in cup competition – including the FA Cup, League Cup, Members' Cup, Anglo-Italian Cup and the Third Division (South) Cup, which was competed for before the Second World War.

I have to concede, however, that this is a landmark that is long overdue. In fact, it should have been reached years ago!

The truth is that for a club of Charlton's size and stature, we have, with notable exceptions, under-achieved in knock-out competitions since we won the FA Cup back in 1947 – and that represents a long, long, time ago now.

But while we have at least reached the last eight in the FA Cup on one occasion since 1947, before going out to Manchester United at Old Trafford in March 1994, as far as the League Cup is concerned we have simply never made any significant impact in the 43-year history of the competition.

Indeed, looking at the record of this season's Premiership clubs, Charlton have the dubious distinction of having the worst record of all of the 20 top-flight clubs.

Seventeen of the Premier League clubs have appeared in the final of the League Cup on at least one occasion; the three underachievers being Charlton (best, fourth round), Fulham and Portsmouth (both fifth round). Charlton's record in the League Cup reads:

P	W	D	L	F	A
117	44	23	*50	179	182
* two matches lost on penalties					

### In better times

Like most clubs, we have had our moments in knock-out competitions – more than most in fact – because otherwise we wouldn't have appeared in six Wembley finals.

In our first season in the FA Cup in 1922/23, after being elected to the Football League, the Addicks turned in a famous giant-killing performance by

beating three First Division clubs before going out at the quarter-final stage to Wembley's first cup winners, Bolton Wanderers.

Then two War Cup final appearances were followed by Charlton reaching Wembley in the 1946 and 1947 finals; beating Burnley 1-0 in the latter match to win the club's one and only major domestic trophy.

I also wonder how many clubs could equal, let alone better, Charlton's extraordinary home record between 1933 and 1954.

After being beaten 5-1 in the FA Cup at The Valley by Bolton Wanderers on January 13th, 1933, Charlton remained unbeaten at home in the competition until they lost 3-2 (aet) to Portsmouth on January 14th, 1954, in controversial circumstances.

The Addicks would have won that match if referee W Ling had not disallowed a first Stuart Leary 'goal' – a decision that Pompey centre-half Reg Flewin, the player alleged to have been fouled, found quite baffling.

Prior to that defeat, our 21-year FA Cup record at The Valley read:

P	W	D	L	F	A
19	14	5	0	52	19

Certainly the importance of a good cup run cannot be overemphasised. During that great run, Charlton housed their highest official crowd at The Valley – 75,031 against Aston Villa on February 12th, 1938.

And our second highest gate, 71,767, for the visit of Arsenal on February 18th, 1956 was also in the FA Cup – both matches being at the fifth-round stage of the competition.

“ For a club of Charlton's size and stature, we have, with notable exceptions, underachieved in knock-out competitions



### The Luton connection

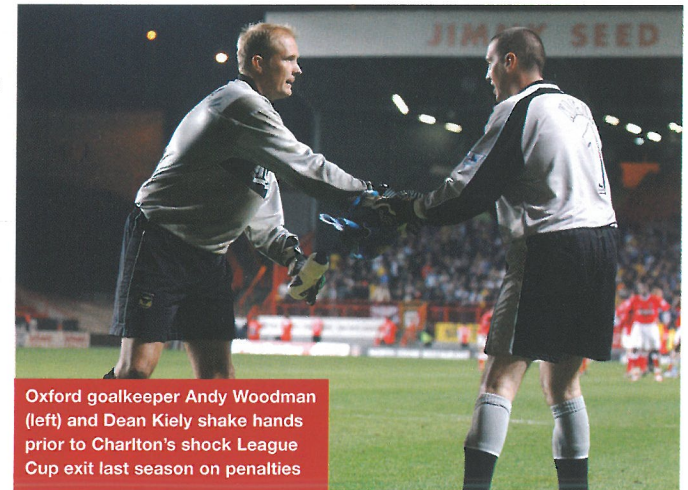
In terms of clubs that Charlton have met the most in League and cup football, Luton Town are ninth in the list, and they are also one of 16 clubs who have netted a century of goals against us.

One meeting that had special significance to Luton Town was at The Valley on August 20th, 1955, because it was on that day that the Hatters played their first match in top-flight football – the old First Division.

In front of a 28,460 crowd – the highest for a visit from Luton – the score finished all-square (2-2) with Stuart Leary and Jimmy Gauld netting for Charlton and Luton's all-time record scorer Gordon Turner and Peter MacEwan replying.

Seven years later, both Leary and Turner were again on the scoresheet but in very different circumstances. Both clubs were in the Second Division when they met at Kenilworth Road on February 10th, 1962, but Turner's opening goal proved only the prelude to a powerhouse display from the Addicks.

Charlton won 6-1 on that day, 41 years ago, to set a club record away win that still stands; the goals arriving from David Pacey (og), Dennis Edwards (3), Leary and Brian Kinsey.



Oxford goalkeeper Andy Woodman (left) and Dean Kiely shake hands prior to Charlton's shock League Cup exit last season on penalties

### Red mist

The sending off of Jason Euell – our first ever against Manchester United – brought our total to three this season, and means we have already equalled the final total for each of the last two campaigns.

One of our reds this year, of course, was wrongly awarded against Scott Parker and was subsequently recognised as such by the authorities who still decided, in their "wisdom", to saddle the club – and the player – with the red card, but not, thank goodness, the suspension. As they say: "It's a funny old game."

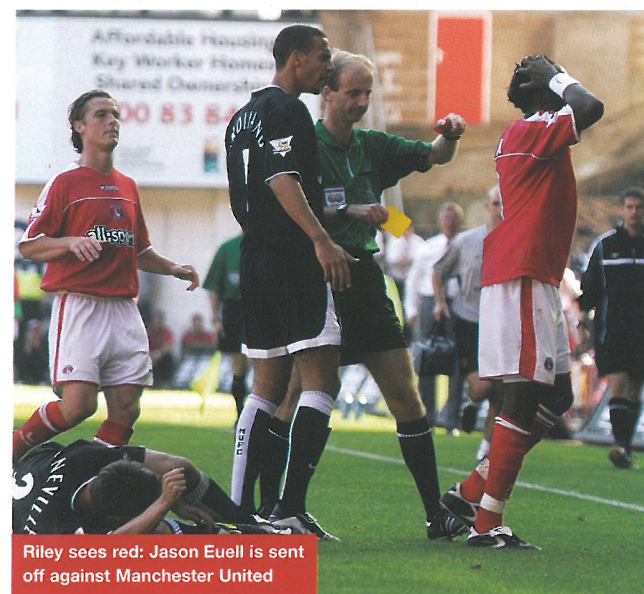
Our worst seasons for dismissals were 1982/83, 1995/96 and 1996/97, when we suffered five sendings off on each occasion.

Mind you, when it comes to comparing bookings and sending offs with the distant past, it becomes a completely meaningless exercise.

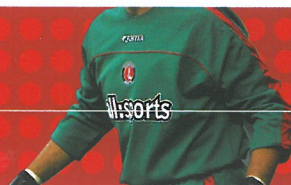
For example, as long as football has been played, there has always been the "professional" foul, but in days long gone by, it rarely involved a booking, let alone a red card.

Also you don't have to be that ancient to remember those days when defenders acted as emergency goalkeepers to dive full length to fist a goal-bound shot to safety.

All that happened when that occurred was congratulations from the player's teammates and a penalty awarded against him – and probably a pat on the back from the referee if he was close enough. ■■■



Riley sees red: Jason Euell is sent off against Manchester United



## No sting in the tale of the Hornets

**ANDREW FRENCH** witnessed a frustrating evening for the second string as they dropped their first points of the season – kept at bay by a 40-year-old goalkeeping coach

### Charlton 0 Watford 0

Another clean sheet, another match unbeaten but it was ultimately a frustrating evening for Charlton reserves when their 100 per cent start to the season ended in a goalless draw with defending champions Watford at The Valley eight days ago.

The Hornets were indebted to their goalkeeping coach Kevin Hitchcock – filling in between the posts because of injuries – for the save of the night which denied Osei Sankofa early in the second half, and it was generally the veteran Watford keeper who was the busier.

Said coach Glynn Snodin: "I was pleased with another clean sheet and with how hard we worked, but I was a little disappointed with the way we didn't stick to our passing game.

"We have picked up good results so far this season by playing as a team but against Watford I think we tried to be a bit too individual in the second half especially.

"When things are going wrong for the best teams, you don't see them changing tactics; they just stick to what they do best and that's what we should have done."

On both flanks the skills and pace of Jamal Campbell-Ryce and Lloyd Sam were always a handful for the visiting back-four, while Richard Rufus looked strong and composed in the Addicks rearguard as he came through a first competitive 90-minute work-out.

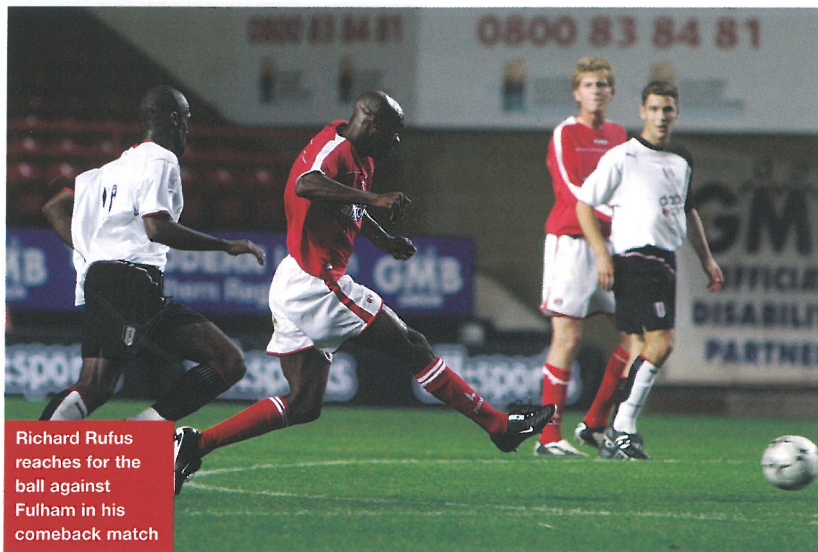
The home side carved the first chance of the night when Campbell-Ryce exchanged passes with Jonatan Johansson on the edge of the area but he had just one touch too much and was dispossessed.

Stephen Hughes – lining up against his former club – provided steady and consistent prompting from the

centre of the park, and in the eighth minute the former Arsenal and Everton man slid in to hook a shot that was smothered by Hitchcock.

Three minutes later the overlapping Adam Gross sent over a firm, deep cross which Wayne Brown did well to head wide of his own goal under pressure.

A magnificent, raking 50-yard pass from Neil McCafferty then released Johansson on the left flank and when the striker moved into the area, his cut-back just



Richard Rufus reaches for the ball against Fulham in his comeback match

eluded the incoming Kevin Lisbie.

Both goalkeepers were also called into action. Sergio Leite was not extended by a 16-yard effort from Paolo Vernazza and, at the other end, Hitchcock showed safe hands in dealing with a volley from Sam.

Canadian U20 international Elliott Godfrey subsequently went close with a chipped effort before McCafferty twice warned Hitchcock's hands with firmly-struck efforts from the edge of the box.

Tricky winger Anthony McNamee should have done better than fire wide when he latched on to a headed clearance from Rufus, but Vernazza was guilty of a poorer finish when presented with a clear chance inside the box which Leite moved smartly to block.



In the 40th minute, Lisbie turned and ran at the Watford defence and, as they backed off, the Jamaican international fired a rising drive over the top.

Early in the second period Lisbie was again able to break into the Watford area but decided to cut inside a challenge rather than shoot. That gave the striker more time to either shoot or pass, but he attempted to swerve around another defender and this time was dispossessed.

"We had a couple of good chances to win it," said Glynn. "But Watford worked hard and did well to stop us playing.

"I've told the players that now we're top of the league teams are going to be trying that bit harder to beat us and it's going to be interesting to see how we handle it."

Five minutes into the half, Hitchcock excelled twice in close succession. First he made a half-block when Johansson fired goalwards before stretching up to gather the loose ball. Then, in the next attack, came the save of the night.

The Hornets struggled to deal with a corner and when Lisbie stood a cross up, Sankofa responded with a strong header that the fully extended Hitchcock tipped on to the bar.

There was a scare at the other end when Rufus stretched to beat Scott Fitzgerald to a low cross and turned the ball just past his own upright.

Campbell-Ryce threatened in the 70th minute with a typical burst of pace on the flank. He raced past Jack Smith and unleashed a low shot which the diving Hitchcock was relieved to see whizz past the post.

Eleven minutes from time Leite parried a firm 25-yard effort from Smith – brother of Tommy, who had a spell training with the Addicks in the summer – and the ball broke loose.

Substitute Gauthier Diafutua was offside, but the Charlton keeper didn't know that as he sprung to his feet and made a fine reaction block to deny the Watford striker.

The game ended with Charlton on top, but the final sign that this was to be an evening of frustration came five minutes from time.

Not for the first time Campbell-Ryce managed to gain half a yard on Smith as he charged into the



Jamal Campbell-Ryce wards off a Fulham challenge on September 9th

box, but this time he fell as he brushed past the Watford full-back. The referee had a good view, but his hands stayed firmly behind his back despite loud – and justified – penalty appeals.

"I'm pleased with how we've started," said Glynn. "The squad has been pretty similar so far and we've been able to get some consistency, and I'm looking forward to seeing how we cope when we have to field a side made up entirely of young pros.

"We've had a balance up to now but I'm very pleased with the progress our younger players are making."

**CHARLTON:** Leite, Sankofa, Gross, McCafferty, Rufus, Turner, Campbell-Ryce, Hughes, Lisbie, Johansson, Sam (Fuller 79). Subs (not used): Ricketts, Elliot, Varney, Jackson.

### 2003/04 Barclaycard Reserve League South (as at Sept 21st)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Charlton Athletic	5	4	1	0	10	1	9	13
Chelsea	5	4	1	0	13	5	8	13
Southampton	6	4	1	1	10	6	4	13
Derby County	5	2	2	1	11	6	5	8
Fulham	5	2	2	1	8	10	-2	8
Arsenal	4	2	0	2	10	6	4	6
Watford	5	1	3	1	5	5	0	6
Tottenham Hotspur	6	1	2	3	4	10	-6	5
Portsmouth	4	0	4	0	5	5	0	4
Nottingham Forest	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	4
Ipswich Town	4	1	1	2	4	9	-5	4
Leicester City	4	0	3	1	2	3	-1	3
Coventry City	4	0	3	1	4	6	-2	3
West Ham United	5	0	2	3	5	8	-3	2
Wimbledon	6	0	2	4	7	17	-10	2

Karl Howman	Larbonde
Roger Tinklin	Tinklin Springall
Mr & Mrs Wisdom	Whitecode
Stephen King	PHSC
Alan Stewart	Silenzio Acoustics Ltd
Graham Sadler	Sadler Davies
Roger Alwen	Alwen Hough Johnson Ltd
John Morfill	The Bull Inn
Richard J Sandler	
Gary Sargeant	Gary Sargeant & Co
Raymond Benn	Raymond Benn & co
Oonagh Atterano	
Georgina Atterano	Apple Appointments
Neil Thomas	BDO Stoy Hayward
Roland Jones	Graphic Assignment Co
Peter Horton	Fort Knight Group
Jerry Jackson	A1 Prestige
John Bishop	
John Jerome	Caffin Road Transport
Paul Davis	Stocker & Roberts
Ray Tilbrook	

Graham Clark	GDC
Bernard Wickham	
Len Coad	Extreme Lift Services
Jacqueline Allan	Gap Group
John Window	Mount Mascal
David Ulph	Thompson Heath & Bond
Ron Thompson	Blundell Thompson Hargreaves
Terry Fletcher	TDF
Stanley Lowe	Senior Wright
Pam Mills	PAC Feeds
Clive Richardson	
Julian Harley	
David Tye	Faber Financial
Marion Weatherhead	Gardiner & Theobald
John Nelson	Chitty Ltd
Les Manning	Printflow
John Jerome	Caffin Road Transport
Keith Hodgson	SX Consultancy
John Copus	John Copus Sports
Graham Webb	Graham Webb International
Keir Donald	Anchor Bay Construction Products Ltd



## For the good of the Cup

Normally a staunch supporter of the Addicks, this evening's match finds BEN HAYES glued firmly to his armchair

I do like an evening game. The atmosphere always seems better when the floodlights are on and the games seem more intense. Already this season we've had a cracking battle against Everton and you only have to think back to West Ham United at home last year to see that evenings are best – but I'm not here tonight.

There are evening league games and there are evening League Cup games and, while I'll always make the effort to get home from work and back out again for a league match, I've now given up on the League Cup.

It isn't the money. The prices are reduced anyway, and I'm lucky enough to have enough disposable income to indulge myself if I wanted to.

When the FA Cup comes around, I'm there. I don't care who we're playing, be it Exeter City or even Dagenham & Redbridge, the FA Cup still gets me excited. But the League Cup has knocked me back too many times. Or to be brutally honest, it isn't the competition that has let me down but the competitors.

Here's a quick quiz. What do the following clubs have in common: Crewe Alexandra, Port Vale, Scunthorpe United, Torquay United and Southend United?

These are the only five clubs (discounting those that have only joined the league in the past few seasons) who actually have a worse League Cup record than Charlton.

Just about everyone else has managed to outshine our less than magnificent achievement of reaching the fourth round of the cup – and we haven't even done that since 1979.

Twice before, in 1963 and 1966, we managed it as a member of the old Second Division but – despite our years in the top flight, the fine players and winning teams, the advantage of often missing out on the first round of matches, of being seeded against lower division sides and, more often than not in recent years, playing at home – we still manage to get ourselves knocked out.

There have been some great goals to watch, but mainly from the opposition. After the 4-3 home win against Stoke City in September 2000, when they scored from about 35 yards and went on to beat us on away

goals despite only having ten men in that second leg, I said: "Enough is enough – I'm not coming back until we reach the semi-final."

This meant I didn't see last season's match against Oxford United. "You'll regret it when we win 8-0," my brother told me. We couldn't even put all our penalties away.

And it is not just a thing about the League Cup itself. I know that in its last sponsored manifestation, some dismissed the competition as the 'Worthless Cup'.

I guess that now they will have to think up a word beginning with "C" to insult the Carling Cup, but I certainly can't think of any myself.

I'm not one of those people who thinks we're above such a small-time trophy and that it's not worth the effort. I would love to see us win it. Days out in Cardiff, Europe, the cash and the kudos all make it worthwhile reaching and winning the final.

But I'm not here with you tonight. I'm not knocking your commitment, or even your sanity. I'm not even claiming that I have something better to do.

I'll be turning on Ceefax at 10pm and moaning anxiously that ours is always the last result to come through. I'll be happy if we win and despondent if we lose. I really do care but I've just had enough.

Now that I'm going public I hope I'm tempting fate. I hope that someone sees this and thinks 'we'll show him'. I hope that you will see me at the semi-final and shout 'part-timer' and 'where we you against Luton?'.

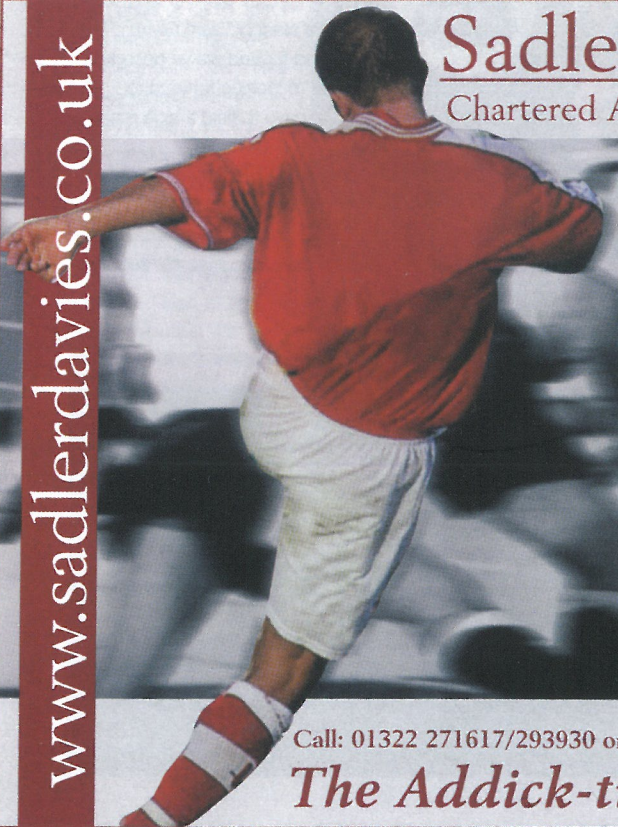
All these indignities I would gladly suffer to see us having a good cup run. But I will also claim that this column was the cause of our change in fortune.

When we win the League Cup, it will be down to me. Remember you read it here first.

"I'm not here with you tonight. I'm not knocking your commitment, or your sanity. I've not even got something better to do"

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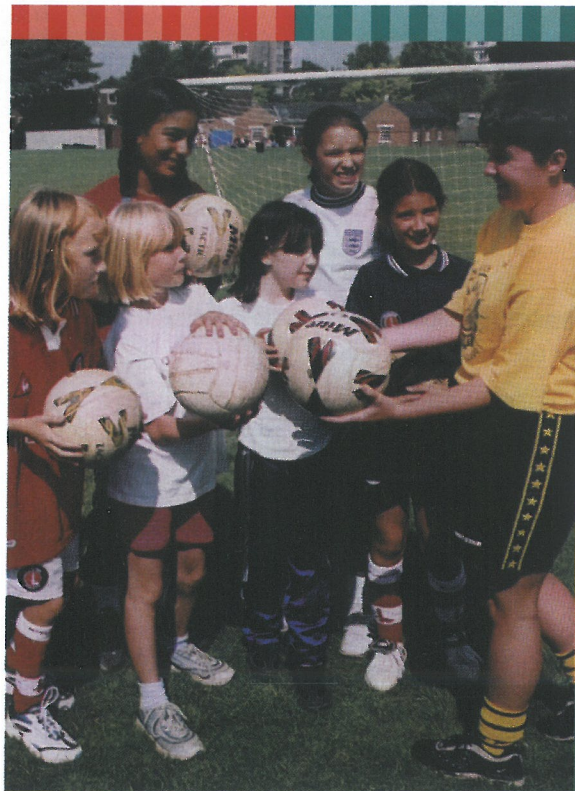
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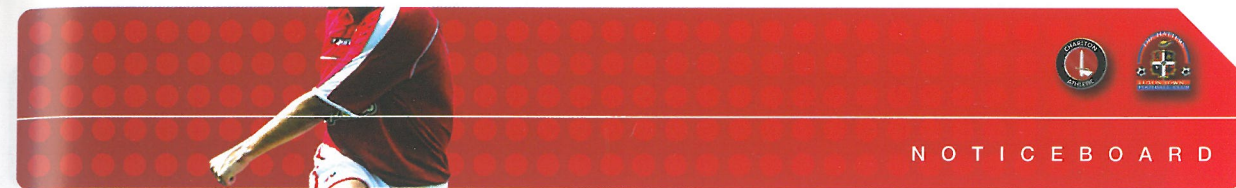
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## Kit deals help keep club on top

The Charlton women's team can not only boast a 100 per cent record this season, the Addicks are also finding important support within the local business community

Top of the Premier League and through to the second round of the Premier League Cup, the Charlton women's team's start to the season has been nothing short of a success story.

And now the Addicks are scoring in the business community as well, with firms flocking to support the team through the new kit sponsorship deals that have been available since the summer.

Nearly all of the players' home kits now have deals and to celebrate the success of the scheme, three kit sponsors gathered with their respective players last week to officially 'hand over' their sponsored kit (pictured right).

Martyn Willis, publisher of The News Shopper, Franco Borriello, owner of the Pizza Botte restaurant, and Kevin Burroughs, healthcare consultant for BUPA, are with their respective players, from left, Jo Broadhurst, Emma Coss and Jessica Smith.

The Addicks went three points clear at the summit of the National Division following their 3-0 home win against Tranmere Rovers on Sunday. On target were England strike duo Amanda Barr (2) and Carmaine Walker, with Barr's brace giving her 11 goals in just five league games.

Meanwhile, Charlton have been handed a home tie against Welsh outfit Bangor City in the second round of the Premier League Cup. The tie will be played at Hayes Lane, Bromley on Sunday, October 12th.



To find out more about kit sponsorship of the women's team, call Deb Browne on 020-8298 2734.

### Win double

Both of Charlton's academy sides recorded victories at the end of last week, with the U19s first in action on Friday and emerging 2-1 winners against Fulham at Sparrows Lane. Alex Varney gave the Addicks the lead, and Lloyd Sam was responsible for the winning strike.

The following morning saw injury-time goals from Sheku Kamara and substitute Onome Sodje give Charlton's U17s their first home victory of the season. Danny Phillips was also on target in the 3-1 triumph against Coventry City.

Full reports of both games, plus the women's team clash with Tranmere, will be in Sunday's *Valley Review*.

### Supporters' club - how to contact us

#### MAIN BRANCH

Chair Peter Leaver  
Vice chair John Monk  
Acting secretary Jean Morrish  
Acting treasurer Graham Tucker  
Acting social secretary Brenda Parsons  
Co-ordinator Gerry McTernan  
Branches Graham Tucker  
Enquiries to CASC, The Valley, Floyd Road, London SE7 8BL. The office in Harvey Gardens is open on a matchday and normally from 9.30-3.30pm weekdays.  
E-mail [info@casc.org.uk](mailto:info@casc.org.uk)  
Tel 020-8265 5283 Fax 020-8265 5282

#### DISABLED SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

Contact David on 01634 401857

#### SATELLITE BRANCHES

Basingstoke/N Hants Peter 01256 413551  
Brighton/W Sussex Vernon 01903 812878  
Bromley Jean 020-8464 4692  
Chilterns Dave 01923 260739  
East Kent Trevor 01227 728374  
Essex Tony 01375 858323  
Hastings/Bexhill George 01424 439075  
Lewisham Paul 020-8291 7942  
Maidstone Sue 01732 521691  
Medway Julie 01634 373521  
NW Kent Darren 01322 380554  
West Country Rob 07812 347461  
West Kent Laurence 01732 833291  
Charlton Bobbies Dave 020-8284 5042

#### VALLEY GOLD

Contact Lisa Squires on 020-8244 7771 or e-mail [valley.gold@casc.org.uk](mailto:valley.gold@casc.org.uk).

#### REMINISCENCE GROUP

This independent group of senior supporters, which meets at The Valley on Thursdays, welcomes new members.  
Contact Arthur on 020-8302 6509.

#### PROGRAMME SALES

Paul Ellis operates an old programme service, including current season issues. He is presently based in the Superstore from around two hours before kick-off and again after the final whistle.



# TICKETS



Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town

## Forthcoming matches

### Liverpool (home)

There are only limited single and restricted-view tickets remaining for Charlton's match against Liverpool at The Valley on Sunday, September 28th (2pm). The match is also being broadcast on pay-per-view television, and tickets are on sale to season-ticket holders, Valley Gold members and CAPS members with two credits, priced £25 adults, £20 seniors/U18s and £15 U16s.

### Portsmouth (away)

More than half of Charlton's allocation of 1,800 tickets for the trip to Fratton Park on Saturday, October 4th (3pm) have already been sold. Tickets, priced £25 adults, £17 seniors and £14 juniors, are now on sale to all season-ticket holders, using Voucher C. A detailed look ahead to the Portsmouth match will be in Sunday's *Valley Review*.

### Blackburn (away)

Ticket details for our trip to Ewood Park on Monday, October 20th (8pm) have yet to be finalised between the two clubs. A detailed look ahead to the Blackburn match will be in Sunday's *Valley Review*.

### Arsenal (home)

Tickets for Charlton's London derby against Arsenal on Sunday, October 26th (2pm) go on sale from 10am on Sunday to season-ticket holders, Valley Gold members and CAPS members with two credits. However, only personal visitors to the ticket office will be able to buy tickets due to Sunday's match against Liverpool, with telephone bookings resuming the following day at 8am.

The seats are priced £35 adults, £25 seniors/U18s and £20 U16s. The match kicks off at 2pm because the clash with last season's Premiership runners-up is being broadcast live on pay-per-view television.

### Carling Cup third round

Depending on the result of tonight's game, any Carling Cup fixture involving Charlton would be played on either Tuesday, October 28th or Wednesday, October 29th, with kick-off at 8pm should the Addicks be drawn at home.

Ticket details would be announced via the usual channels as soon as possible following Saturday's third-round draw.

### Opening hours

The main ticket office at the rear of the west stand is normally open 8am-6pm weekdays, from 10am until a short period after the final whistle on matchdays and 10am-12pm on non-match Saturdays.

### Booking and information

Ticket enquiries and home match bookings can be made on 020-8333 4010. Up-to-date ticket information is posted on the club website [www.ca.fc.co.uk](http://www.ca.fc.co.uk), issued in the daily e-mail Bulletin and published in the local press. Season tickets are still available for the current campaign - call 0800 5871100.


### Season-ticket prices 2003/04

ADULT	
WEST	£528
EAST	£495
NORTH	£903
FAMILY	SOLD OUT
SENIORS/U18S	
WEST	£363
EAST	£330
NORTH	£204
FAMILY	SOLD OUT
U16S	
WEST	£182
EAST	£165
NORTH	£165
FAMILY	SOLD OUT






### CASC coach travel 2003/04

	Portsmouth
*Ashford	9.00am
*Canterbury	9.40am
*Medway	10.15am
Maidstone	10.15am
Bromley	11.15am
*Gravesend	10.30am
Charlton	10.30am
Well Hall	10.45am
Bexleyheath	11.00am
Dartford	11.15am


Portsmouth (£13 adults, £11 juniors)  
Book at the CASC office or call 020-8265 5283 for further information. \* A £2 surcharge will apply from these pick-ups.




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STATISTICS

**Barclaycard Premiership table 2003/04**

	HOME					AWAY					GD	PTS	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F			A
ARSENAL	6	2	1	0	5	2	2	1	0	6	1	8	14
CHELSEA	5	2	1	0	8	5	2	0	0	7	1	9	13
MANCHESTER UNITED	6	2	1	0	5	0	2	0	1	4	2	7	13
SOUTHAMPTON	6	2	1	0	3	0	1	2	0	5	3	5	12
MANCHESTER CITY	6	1	1	1	6	4	2	1	0	8	4	6	11
LIVERPOOL	6	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	0	6	1	5	11
BIRMINGHAM CITY	5	1	1	0	3	2	2	1	0	3	0	4	11
PORTSMOUTH	6	2	0	1	7	3	0	3	0	2	2	4	9
BLACKBURN ROVERS	6	1	0	2	8	7	1	2	0	6	5	2	8
FULHAM	5	1	1	0	5	4	1	1	1	6	5	2	8
ASTON VILLA	6	2	1	0	5	2	0	0	3	2	8	-3	7
BOLTON WANDERERS	6	1	2	0	4	2	0	1	2	0	8	-6	6
LEICESTER CITY	6	1	2	0	6	2	0	0	3	3	7	0	5
<b>CHARLTON ATHLETIC</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>5</b>
EVERTON	6	1	1	1	5	6	0	1	2	3	5	-3	5
LEEDS UNITED	6	0	2	1	2	4	1	0	2	4	8	-6	5
MIDDLESBROUGH	6	1	0	2	3	7	0	1	2	2	5	-7	4
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	6	1	0	2	3	7	0	1	2	2	5	-7	4
NEWCASTLE UNITED	5	0	1	2	1	3	0	2	0	4	4	-2	3
WOLVERHAMPTON W	6	0	1	2	0	9	0	0	3	1	8	-16	1

**First-team player records 2003/04**

	LGE APPS	LGE GLS	CUP APPS	CUP GLS	CAFC APPS	CAFC GLS
SHAUN BARTLETT	5(1)	2	0	0	63(14)	14
CHRIS BART-WILLIAMS	0	0	0	0	20(13)	2
JAMAL CAMPBELL-RYCE	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
CARLTON COLE	0(2)	0	0	0	0(2)	0
PAOLO DI CANIO	2(1)	0	0	0	2(1)	0
JASON EUELL	5	3	0	0	78(6)	27
MARK FISH	5	0	0	0	83	2
JONATHAN FORTUNE	5	0	0	0	47(10)	2
MATT HOLLAND	6	0	0	0	6	0
HERMANN HREIDARSSON	4	0	0	0	4	0
CLAUS JENSEN	5(1)	1	0	0	98(7)	13
JONATAN JOHANSSON	0(3)	0	0	0	66(38)	24
DEAN KIELY	5	0	0	0	168	0
RADOSTIN KISHISHEV	6	0	0	0	64(13)	2
PAUL KONCHESKY	1	0	0	0	71(46)	5
KEVIN LISBIE	1(3)	1	0	0	49(85)	14
SCOTT PARKER	6	0	0	0	100(29)	7
CHRIS PERRY	1	0	0	0	1	0
CHRIS POWELL	2	0	0	0	196(6)	2
GARY ROWETT	1	0	0	0	13	1
SIMON ROYCE	1	0	0	0	9	0
RICHARD RUFUS	0	0	0	0	319(4)	13
OSEI SANKOFA	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
GRAHAM STUART	1(3)	0	0	0	121(10)	20
MATHIAS SVENSSON	0	0	0	0	43(31)	8
LUKE YOUNG	4(1)	0	0	0	73(4)	0

**Disciplinary record**

	Y	R
SHAUN BARTLETT	0	0
CHRIS BART-WILLIAMS	0	0
JAMAL CAMPBELL-RYCE	0	0
CARLTON COLE	0	0
PAOLO DI CANIO	0	0
JASON EUELL	2	1
MARK FISH	0	1
JONATHAN FORTUNE	2	0
MATT HOLLAND	0	0
HERMANN HREIDARSSON	1	0
CLAUS JENSEN	1	0
JONATAN JOHANSSON	0	0
DEAN KIELY	0	0
RADOSTIN KISHISHEV	0	0
PAUL KONCHESKY	1	0
KEVIN LISBIE	0	0
SCOTT PARKER	2	1
CHRIS PERRY	0	0
CHRIS POWELL	0	0
GARY ROWETT	0	0
SIMON ROYCE	0	0
RICHARD RUFUS	0	0
OSEI SANKOFA	0	0
GRAHAM STUART	0	0
MATHIAS SVENSSON	0	0
LUKE YOUNG	2	0

**Fixtures**

- Tonight**  
(7.45pm unless stated)
- Blackpool v Birmingham City
  - Bristol City v Watford
  - Cardiff City v West Ham United
  - Crystal Palace v Doncaster Rovers (8pm)
  - Hartlepool United v West Bromwich Albion
  - Leicester City v Crewe Alexandra
  - Notts County v Ipswich Town
  - Portsmouth v Northampton Town
  - Rotherham United v Colchester United
  - Scunthorpe United v Burnley (7.30pm)
  - Sheffield United v Queens Park Rangers
  - Stoke City v Gillingham
  - Sunderland v Huddersfield Town (8pm)
  - Tranmere Rovers v Nottingham Forest
  - Wigan Athletic v Fulham (8pm)
  - Wolverhampton Wanderers v Darlington
  - Wymcombe Wanderers v Aston Villa



Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town





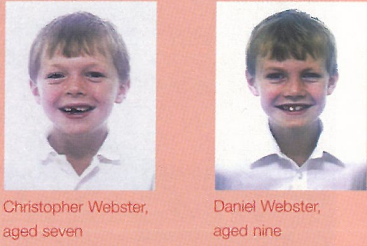
STATISTICS



Fixtures

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Score, Attendance, Position, Referee, and Player list (ROYCE, KISHISHEV, KONGCHESKY, FISH, ROWETT, etc.).

Mascots



Fixtures

Tomorrow (7.45pm unless stated)
Bolton Wanderers v Walsall (8pm)
Coventry City v Tottenham Hotspur
Everton v Stockport County (8pm)
Leeds United v Swindon Town
Middlesbrough v Brighton & Hove Albion (8pm)
Oxford United v Reading



FA Cup

Sat Jan 3 Third round

Carling Cup

Tue Sept 23 Luton Town (8pm)

Home/away \* live on Sky \*\* live on pay-per-view

Charlton Athletic

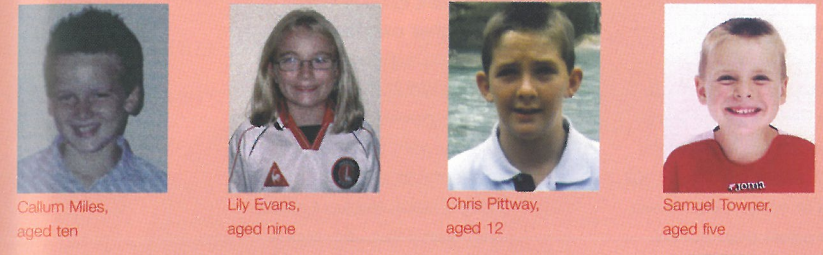
- 1 DEAN KIELY, 2 RADOSTIN KISHISHEV, 3 CHRIS POWELL, 4 GRAHAM STUART, 5 RICHARD RUFUS, 6 MARK FISH, 7 SCOTT PARKER, 8 MATT HOLLAND, 9 JASON EUELL, 10 CLAUS JENSEN, 11 PAOLO DI CANIO, 12 HERMANN HREIDARSSON, 13 PAUL RACHUBKA, 14 CHRIS BART-WILLIAMS, 15 GARY ROWETT, 16 KEVIN LISBIE, 17 SHAUN BARTLETT, 18 PAUL KONCHESKY, 19 LUKE YOUNG, 20 MATHIAS SVENSSON, 21 JONATAN JOHANSSON, 22 JAMAL CAMPBELL-RYCE, 23 MICHAEL TURNER, 24 JONATHAN FORTUNE, 25 SIMON ROYCE, 26 ADRIAN DEANE, 27 MARK DEBOLLA, 28 OSEI SANKOFA, 29 NEIL MCCAFFERTY, 30 STACY LONG, 31 LLOYD SAM, 32 STEPHEN TUCKER, 33 STEPHEN HUGHES, 34 SERGIO LEITE, 35 CARLTON COLE, 36 CHRIS PERRY



STATISTICS



Table with columns: Player names and jersey icons for Luton Town (HREIDARSSON, PARKER, HOLLAND, EUELL, BARTLETT, LISBIE, LEITE, YOUNG, FORTUNE, JENSEN, JOHANSSON, COLE).



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All records played at The Valley are supplied by TW Records, of Plumstead and Erith. A ten per cent discount is offered to all Charlton fans.

1 Scorers, 1st substitution, 2nd substitution, 3rd substitution, Booked, Sent off

Luton Town

- 3 ALAN NEILSON, 4 MATTHEW SPRING, 5 RUSSELL PERRETT, 7 ADRIAN FORBES, 8 KEVIN NICHOLLS, 11 STEVE ROBINSON, 12 CHRIS COYNE, 16 ENOCH SHOWUNMI, 17 EMMERSON BOYCE, 18 AHMET BRKOVIC, 19 STEVE HOWARD, 21 PAUL NEILSON, 22 DAVID BAYLISS, 23 IAN HILLIER, 24 SOL DAVIS, 25 GARY MCSHEFFREY, 32 LEE MANSELL, 33 DEAN BRILL, 34 DEAN CROWE, 38 MICHAEL LEARY, 39 STEVEN O'LEARY, 41 KEVIN FOLEY, 43 MATTHEW JUDGE, 44 PARYS OKAI, 45 LEON BARNETT, 47 ROB BECKWITH

Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town

Charlton Athletic versus Luton Town



## Instability is football's foe

The club's reserve-team manager and veteran of lower-league football reveals what has been keeping him awake at night

I won't say that regardless of the result, it's great to see Luton Town here at The Valley, because we firmly want to progress to the next round of the Carling Cup, but cup competitions are wonderful for keeping clubs in touch with the wider football world.

The Hatters have not had the easiest few months, particularly off the pitch, but it's great to see them still competing under a good friend of mine, Mike Newell, and looking forward to a better future than looked possible at one stage.

I hope that doesn't sound patronising, because that is certainly not the intention. But while Manchester United operate in a different stratosphere to a club like Charlton Athletic, we also live in a different world to a club like Luton, and it's good to be reminded of the connections to the lower divisions every now and again.

Of course, here at Charlton we have experienced our own off-field problems prior to the last decade or so and, as with the Hatters, everyone at this club has plenty of gratitude towards the efforts of the supporters. But why do supporters need to help save football clubs, and why do football clubs constantly need saving?

It is a question I have long considered, but I still don't have any easy answers, although things like the collapse of the ITV Digital deal obviously don't help with the financial situation.

You hear about a lot of clubs in trouble and supporters coming to the rescue. But supporters shouldn't have to get involved in that way and have to dig into their own pockets, other than the usual costs of being a fan such as tickets and merchandise.

You hear of clubs struggling, but there always seems to be someone willing to take the club over, so there must be something about being in charge of a football club – it can't be all bad.

One solution might be for clubs to merge, but the supporters understandably don't want that. You talk to fans at Sheffield United and Wednesday, or Bristol Rovers and City, and that's the last thing they want.

They want to be able to watch their own team that they have supported since being a lad and that their dad supported before them.

They want to know that they are part of the 92 clubs in the English league system and even if that club is only getting gates of 2,000, that club means everything to those 2,000 fans.

Of course, there are some First Division clubs that are geared up towards better things, hoping to get into the top flight, and there are also a few Conference teams with some reasonable financial backing attempting to climb through the leagues. But generally the majority of Second and Third Division clubs are quite instable and face an uncertain future – and that can't be good for football.

You take things for granted in the Premiership. I remember what life was like working in the lower leagues; when I was joint manager of Doncaster Rovers or even back to when I started out as a youth-team coach at Scarborough – you are fighting from the moment you wake up in the morning.

Every penny saved is crucial. Club suits have to last two years, never mind six months, and there is plenty of fundraising, whereas you can attract money a lot more easily in the Premiership.

I suppose the only good news is that very few clubs, regardless of their problems, go under, and that is something to cling to. There is always another businessman who wants to have a crack, or a supporters' club fund that comes to the rescue, although I would hate to see clubs relying on that.

There must be something in running a football club, though, otherwise why would so many attempt it?

I love football and if I was unable to coach or manage a team, and I had a few bob, I would love to stay in the game, even if it means that. ■ ■ ■

“ Why do supporters need to save football clubs, and why do clubs constantly need saving? ”

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