

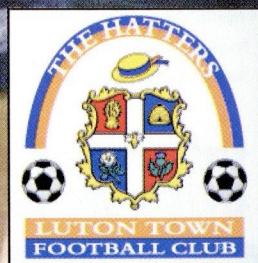
# the Blues

£1.50

The official  
matchday magazine  
of Southend United  
Football Club

**SOUTHEND UNITED  
V LUTON TOWN**

Tuesday 9th  
December 2003  
Kick-off 7.45pm



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# steve tilson



Welcome back to Roots Hall for this evening's LDV Vans Quarter Final fixture versus Luton Town.

Having been in FA Cup action on Saturday versus Lincoln City it was fantastic to have progressed to the third round following a faultless display by the lads. Their application, effort and approach to the game was second to none and as a result they have fought their way through into the next round when we play host to Conference side Scarborough. It was great to have kept another clean sheet at home and to top that, score three great goals in front of our home fans. Everyone out there worked as hard as the next and it's because of this that hopefully we can turn things on their head and to carry this form into the league.

Today's opposition, Luton, are having a good season so far and will be eager to progress as far as possible in this competition as much as ourselves. They will be a tough nut to crack but if we apply ourselves as we have done in our last two home performances then a victory is well within our reach.

The injury crisis seems to be settling down (touch wood) and hopefully we can be back to a full strength squad as soon as possible. Those lads that came in on Saturday did a sterling job and competition for places on the training ground this week is guaranteed to be fiercer than ever which can only be of benefit.

Again your support was fantastic on Saturday and the same again this evening would be great. I know for a fact that it gave the players a boost so it would be great if you can sing us on to another victory this evening.

Finally I would like to welcome this evening's match sponsors, the Harris Van Centre of Grays. I hope that you enjoy our executive suites and have a fantastic evening here at Roots Hall.

Enjoy the game

Steve Tilson



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Shrimpers

The Guys to Watch		
Headed goals	Bramble	1
Long range shots	Constantine	2
Inside 6 yards	Bramble	4
Shots from 6-18 yards	Constantine	4
Volleyed shots	Constantine	4
Penalties	Gower, Corbett, Smith	1
Scored 1st Goal in match	Constantine	3
Most goals in last 10	Constantine	3
Points gained from goals	Constantine	6.75

Where Goals		
5	Close Range	6
8	Inside Area	25
5	Outside Area	2

How Goals		
8	Shots	18
1	Headers	10
6	Volleys	2
3	Penalties	2
0	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	1

When Goals Scored & Conceded		
14	0-15	0
12	15-30	0
10	30-45	0
8	45-60	0
6	60-75	0
4	75-90	0
2	0-15	0
0	15-30	0
0	30-45	0
0	45-60	0
0	60-75	0
0	75-90	0

Goalkeeping		
Opp. attempts on target	130	
Goals conceded	33	
On target/goals scored	3.94	
Division 3 rating	16	

Goalscoring Strike Rate		
Shots on target	132	
Goals scored	18	
On target / goals	7.33	
Division 3 Rating	23	

Goals in last 10 mins		
Goals For, last 10	6	
Points won	2	
Goals Against, last 10	5	
Points lost	1	

Fouls & Offsides		
Average fouls per game	11.55	
Div 3 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	5	
Average Offsides per game	3.25	
Div 3 Rating	8	

Swings		
WON when behind	0	
DRAWN when behind	1	
LOST when ahead	2	
DRAWN when ahead	1	
WON 2 down	0	
WON 1 down	0	
LOST 2 up	0	
LOST 1 up	2	
DRAWN 2+ down	0	
DRAWN 1 down	1	
DRAWN 2+ up	1	
DRAWN 1 up	0	

Attendances		
Aggregate	39,905	
Highest	6,077	
Lowest	2,463	
Average	3,991	

Seasonal Progress Comparison		
1	Southend	
	Luton	
24	August	
	March	

Goalkeeping		
Opp. attempts on target	116	
Goals conceded	33	
On target/goals scored	3.52	
Division 2 rating	22	

Goalscoring Strike Rate		
Shots on target	123	
Goals scored	33	
On target / goals	3.73	
Division 2 Rating	4	

Goals in last 10 mins		
Goals For, last 10	5	
Points won	2	
Goals Against, last 10	6	
Points lost	7	

Fouls & Offsides		
Average fouls per game	13.15	
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	16	
Average Offsides per game	4.70	
Div 2 Rating	22	

Swings		
WON when behind	3	
DRAWN when behind	2	
LOST when ahead	2	
DRAWN when ahead	4	
WON 2 down	1	
WON 1 down	2	
LOST 2 up	0	
LOST 1 up	2	
DRAWN 2+ down	0	
DRAWN 1 down	2	
DRAWN 2+ up	0	
DRAWN 1 up	4	

Attendances		
Aggregate	59,360	
Highest	8,339	
Lowest	5,002	
Average	5,936	

Set Piece Goals		
CORNERS: Scored from C	1	
CORNERS: Conceded from C	6	
FREE KICKS: Scored from FK	2	
FREE KICKS: Conceded from FK	5	

Cards		
25	3	

Set Piece Goals		
CORNERS: Scored from C	4	
CORNERS: Conceded from C	2	
FREE KICKS: Scored from FK	4	
FREE KICKS: Conceded from FK	4	

Cards		
40	5	

Margins		
WON BY: 1 Goal	4	
WON BY: 2 Goals	5	
WON BY: 3 Goals	2	
WON BY: 4 Goals	1	
WON BY: 5+ Goals	0	
LOST BY: 1 Goal	4	
LOST BY: 2 Goals	5	
LOST BY: 3 Goals	2	
LOST BY: 4 Goals	1	
LOST BY: 5+ Goals	0	

Margins		
WON BY: 1 Goal	2	
WON BY: 2 Goals	2	
WON BY: 3 Goals	2	
WON BY: 4 Goals	0	
WON BY: 5+ Goals	0	
LOST BY: 1 Goal	2	
LOST BY: 2 Goals	2	
LOST BY: 3 Goals	2	
LOST BY: 4 Goals	0	
LOST BY: 5+ Goals	0	

Luton Town's 10-Year Record		
Div 1	20th	16th
Div 2	24th	3rd
Div 3	17th	12th
Div 4	13th	22nd
Div 5	21st	9th

Luton Town's 10-Year Record		
93/94	94/95	95/96
96/97	97/98	98/99
99/00	00/01	01/02
02/03		
LS	Dixon	Marshall
CLS	9	11
ATT	7,878	7,350
2 players	2,223	6,294
Thorpe	28	5,879
Thorpe	14	5,527
Douglas	9	5,658
George	14	5,754
Howard	7	6,853
Howard	24	6,747

Hatters

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# the Blues

## third division

**While Southend United were winning their Second Round FA Cup match on Saturday, two matches were taking place in the Third Division - affecting both the top and bottom of the table.**

Darlington secured their first victory since September as they took the honours with a comfortable 3-0 win over York. A result that moved them out of the relegation zone. The Quakers took an 11th-minute lead when York keeper Mark Owendale failed to cut out a Ryan Valentine cross and former City striker Barry Conlon headed home. York should have grabbed an equaliser in the 28th minute when Jon Shaw had a chance eight yards out but could only head straight at Michael Price. The impressive Neil Wainwright picked up a pass in the 34th minute and burst through a static City defence, rounded Owendale to tap home a second. Darlington wrapped up the points 12 minutes from time when Valentine sent over an inch-perfect cross from the right and on-loan Craig James headed his first Darlington goal at the far post.

Meanwhile, Peter Taylor's Hull climbed back up to second place in the Third Division with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Bury. The victory got Hull's season back on track and brought a run of six league and cup games without a

win to an end. Hull went ahead in the 16th minute when Marc Joseph curled in a free-kick, and when Glyn Garner failed to hold the effort, Jason Price reacted the quickest to fire home the rebound. Price's deep cross from the right seconds after the break was controlled and then blasted home by Ben Burgess, who was a constant threat all afternoon. The



Matthew Lockwood

closest Bury came was when Lee Connell's drive flew inches wide of Paul Musselwhite's post.

Last weekend many of the Third Division sides were involved in the Cup. Mansfield were first up on Friday, Iyteden Christie fired home an equaliser to earn the Stags a fully deserved draw and another bite of the cherry to deny Tony Adams his second FA Cup victory as Wycombe boss. Mansfield,

unbeaten in six going into the game, had gone behind to Gavin Holligan's prod home on 53 minutes, but within eight minutes Christie had pounced to level matters.

Then on Saturday, Yeovil avoided a banana skin with an easy 5-1 FA Cup victory to advance to the third round at the expense of Barnet.

Second Division Sheffield Wednesday earned a 2-2 draw and a replay against Scunthorpe with two goals in the closing minutes after they had looked dead and buried. Steve Torpey had fired Scunthorpe into a dominant position with two goals and the Iron looked very comfortable until six minutes from the end. The Owls rarely created any danger - with Grant Holt hitting the bar after two minutes and Lloyd Owusu firing straight at Tommy Evans from a good position. Scunthorpe looked far more confident on the ball and Torpey had three efforts on goal before he put them in front in the 33rd minute, volleying home after a poor back-header from Graeme Lee. Keeper Kevin Pressman denied Scunthorpe on several occasions but could do nothing about Torpey's second goal in the 71st minute when he fired home after a Matt Sparrow header had come back off the woodwork. But just as it looked as though the Iron would then see out time for the win, substitute

# the Blues

## review

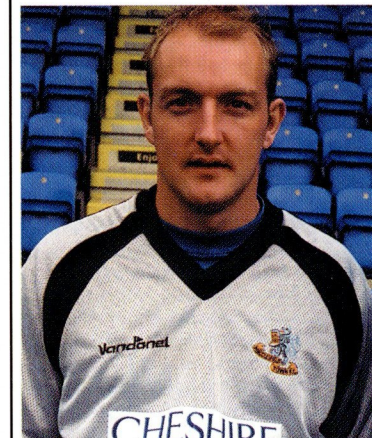
Guylain Ndumbu-Nsungu fired a lifeline for Wednesday in the 84th minute and in injury time Holt cracked a low shot past Evans to save his side.

Dean Bennett's brace helped steer Kidderminster through a tricky FA Cup second round clash at Woking as they won 3-0.

Weston Super-Mare put up a brave fight before succumbing 4-1 in the FA Cup at Northampton, for whom Marc Richards grabbed a second-half brace. Northampton struggled to impose themselves on the minnows, who played for almost an hour with 10 men after Mark McKeever was sent off. Western went close early on but a 36th-minute penalty decision turned the game Northampton's way. The impressive Stuart Jones produced another excellent save to keep out Josh Low's shot, but McKeever was dismissed for handling the ball after it came back off the crossbar. Martin Smith scored from the resultant spot-kick. Low and substitute Richards made the game safe for Northampton before skipper Billy Clark grabbed a late consolation. Richards, a 68th-minute replacement for Low, restored the hosts' three-goal advantage in stoppage time.

Lee Trundle fired Swansea into the FA Cup third round with a 2-1 win but the result was always in doubt

against a dogged Stevenage side. Kevin Nugent gave the home side a deserved lead in the 24th minute when he was first to react after an Andy Robinson shot had bounced down off the crossbar. Graham Westley fired his Stevenage side up during the interval and they stormed on to the attack to equalise within three minutes of the restart. Steve Watson sent over



Steve Wilson

a pinpoint cross and leading scorer Anthony Elding was left unmarked to power a header into the roof of the net. Straight from the restart, the Swans went deep into the visitors half and there were loud claims for a penalty when Trundle was bundled over in the area. As he got to his feet, the loose ball was hacked clear to Leon Britton who threaded a pass back into Trundle and the Swans leading

scorer steered his shot wide of the diving Lionel Perez.

Referee Mark Warren was the centre of attention as he eased Cheltenham's passage into the third round of the FA Cup following a 3-1 win against Leyton Orient. The West Midlands official ignored a physical challenge by Cheltenham striker Damian Spencer on Orient's Glenn Morris, prompting the grounded keeper to pull down the forward in the area. The referee showed Morris a straight red card and Grant McCann scored from the spot. McCann made it 2-0 when he rifled home from eight yards and on the hour Bob Taylor glanced home a header. The visitors dominated the second half and were rewarded when Matthew Lockwood blasted past Cheltenham keeper Shane Higgs from wide on the left.

Keeper Steve Wilson saved Macclesfield from defeat with two magnificent penalty saves in a 1-1 draw with Cambridge United. Kept out of the side for the first two months of the season by the on-loan Boaz Myhill, he reminded the fans of his brilliant shot-stopping skills.

Goals in each half from Steve Robinson and Lee Mansell sent Luton into the third round of the FA Cup at the expense of Rochdale.

## welcometo

## Luton Town



Following a summer that is safely best described as 'interesting', Luton Town arrive at Roots Hall this evening just one point off the second division play-off positions, unbeaten in their last five League games, and in with as good a shout as any regarding a chance of end of season activity come next May.

Considering the circumstances of his appointment, and the restrictions of the club being in administration, that's quite an achievement for manager Mike Newell, who is slowly but surely silencing those that poured scorn on the controversial manner of his phone ballot appointment.

To have the Hatters so far up the table is all the more remarkable when comparing the line-up on the opening day of the current campaign with that likely to face the Blues tonight, as no fewer than seven of the eleven that beat Rushden on August 9th were not in the team that won the Hatters last League game, 1-0 at home to Chesterfield ten days ago.

Starting from the back going forwards, impressive young keeper Rob Beckwith is out for the rest of the season with a

posterior cruciate ligament injury, former Welsh international defender Alan Neilson has missed the last few with a calf injury, and young midfielder Kevin Foley has recently started light running exercises after a thigh injury.

Courtney Pitt has returned to Portsmouth after a loan, former Chelsea and Southampton midfielder Paul Hughes has a fractured tibia and as for striker Tony Thorpe, his £50,000 move to QPR after scoring two of the Hatters goals against the Diamonds didn't exactly go down that well with the Kenilworth Road fans.

That leaves skipper Kevin Nicholls as the seventh missing player, out for the past three months with a knee injury but at least very close to a return to first-team action.

With defenders Russell Perrett and Dave Bayliss also out of action with groin and Achilles injuries respectively, manager Newell has had to throw in some of his younger players for the recent matches. Striker Gary McSheffrey was brought in on loan from Coventry and did an excellent job in scoring nine goals, but he has recently returned to Highfield Road and will undoubtedly be a big miss. The manager will hope that big Steve Howard and pacy Adrian Forbes will provide him with enough firepower, at least until the club's restrictions on bringing in players are eased.

And at least until most of the walking wounded have returned to action.

**Marlon Beresford - Goalkeeper**  
b: Lincoln 2.9.69

Very experienced shot-stopper recently signed on a short-term contract after having played five matches for

Bradford City earlier in the season. A former Sheffield Wednesday trainee, he joined Burnley for £95,000 in August 1992 after having appeared for Bury, Crewe and Northampton twice on loan, and played 240 League matches for the Claretts before moving to Middlesbrough for £500,000 in March 1998. Played just ten League matches for Boro before re-joining the Turf Moor club on a free transfer in July 2002 after a period on loan, then had a spell with York at the beginning of last season before again re-joining Burnley, where he remained for the rest of the campaign. Always a reliable performer wherever he has played, his next League start will be the 350th of his career.

**Ian Hillier - Defender**  
b: Neath 26.12.79

Very versatile former Tottenham trainee and Welsh Under-21 international who has been recently occupying the right-back slot. Failed to get a first-team opportunity in four seasons at White Hart Lane, but made his League debut for the Hatters against Cheltenham in August 2001 soon after joining on a free transfer. Also capable of playing in central defence and midfield, he is a hard-working player who has yet to firmly establish a regular place in the starting line-up.

**Chris Coyne - Defender**  
b: Brisbane, Australia 20.12.78

Commanding young central defender and a very brief former Blue who was voted by the Luton supporters as their 'Player of the Year' last season. Formerly with Perth SC in his native land, he joined West Ham for £150,000 in January, but played only one game for the Hammers, as a substitute against Leeds United in May 1999, one week after playing his one game on



loan for the Blues against Brentford. Left Upton Park the following year to join Dundee on a free transfer and made 20 SPL appearances before joining the Hatters for £50,000 in September 2001. Once again a key figure in defence so far this campaign, he is strong in the air and very comfortable on the ball.

**Emmerson Boyce - Defender**  
b: Aylesbury 24.9.79

Former trainee defender who has become a regular starter in defence this season, and who has now played over 150 League games for the club since making his debut against Lincoln in April 1999. A quick player and a strong tackler, he can play in the central or the full back positions, where his ability to get forward often comes into good effect.

**Sol Davis - Defender**  
b: Cheltenham 4.9.79

Very capable and consistent left back who joined the Hatters in August 2002 for a fee of £600,000 from his first club Swindon Town. Made his League debut for the County Ground side at Sheffield

United on the opening day of the 1998/99 season, and went on to make 117 appearances before moving to Kenilworth Road. A good tackler who reads the game well, and a particularly useful crosser of the ball when getting forward.

**Kevin Foley - Midfielder**  
b: London 1.11.84

Highly-rated young prospect who has begun to establish himself in the first team this season after making his League debut last April against Bristol City. Twice a winner of the club's 'Young Player of the Season' award, he can play at either full back or the wide midfield position, gets forward well, and scored his first goal for the Hatters earlier in the season against Port Vale.

**Kevin Nicholls - Midfielder**  
b: Newham 2.1.79

Dynamic club skipper expected to return to action in the near future after having missed most of the season so far with a knee injury. A former Charlton Athletic trainee, he made a dozen League appearances for the Addicks and had a spell on loan with Brighton before being sold to Wigan Athletic for £250,000 in June 1999. Moved on to Kenilworth Road for £25,000 two years later and has since become the driving force in the Hatters midfield with his competitive, all-action style.

**Michael Leary - Midfielder**  
b: Ealing 17.4.83

Another former trainee who has been given his chance this season after impressing for the reserves last season. Made his League debut in September against Port Vale and was a non-playing substitute for the Hatters' last League match against Chesterfield.

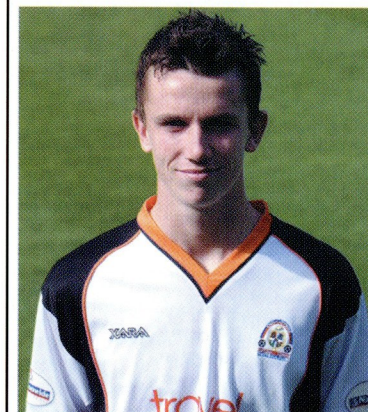
**Steve Robinson - Midfielder**

b: Lisburn 10.12.74

Another former Tottenham trainee and a Northern Ireland international midfielder who joined the Hatters from Preston for £50,000 in June 2002. Made a couple of appearances at White Hart Lane before joining Bournemouth on a free transfer in October 1994, where he was a regular for six seasons, scoring 51 goals from 240 League games. A £375,000 fee took him to Deepdale in May 2000, but a series of injuries caused his career to stall in Lancashire, and he made only a couple of dozen appearances for North End before his move back south to Kenilworth Road, where he has also struggled with niggling injuries since signing.

**Matthew Spring - Midfielder**  
b: Harlow 17.11.79

Hard-working and highly-rated central midfielder now closing in on his 250th League appearance for the club at the age of 24. A former trainee, he made his debut against Bristol City in September 1997, and after a dozen outings that season he has been a virtual ever-present for the past five campaigns. A strong tackler who surges for-



## fixtures 2003/04

Date	Opponents	Time	Att
Sat Aug 9	Cheltenham Town	2-0	4403
Tue Aug 12	Swindon Town	2-3	3385
Sat Aug 16	Doncaster Rovers	0-2	5592
Sat Aug 23	Mansfield Town	0-3	3837
Tues Aug 25	York City	A	4202
Sat Aug 30	Bury	1-0	3172
Sat Sep 6	Oxford United	0-2	5567
Sat Sep 13	Hull City	2-3	12545
Tue Sep 16	Lincoln City	0-2	2874
Sat Sep 20	Carlisle United	2-2	4620
Sat Sep 27	Scunthorpe United	1-1	3390
Tue Sep 30	Darlington	0-0	4369
Sat Oct 4	Huddersfield Town	1-2	4205
Sat Oct 11	Kidderminster Harriers	2-1	2429
Tue Oct 14	Bristol Rovers LDV12-1		1714
Sat Oct 18	Leyton Orient	1-2	6077
Tue Oct 21	Boston United	0-2	2463
Sat Oct 25	Macclesfield Town	2-1	1821
Sat Nov 1	Northampton Town	0-1	5085
Tue Nov 4	Swansea City (LDV2)	2-1	2055
Sun Nov 8	Canvey Island FAC1	1-1	9234
Sat Nov 15	Yeovil Town	0-4	5248
Wed Nov 19	Canvey Island FAC1R	2-3	2731
Sat Nov 22	Rochdale	4-0	3169
Sat Nov 29	Torquay United	3-0	2631
Sat Dec 6	Lincoln City FAC2	3-0	4258
Tue Dec 9	LDV3	H	
Sat Dec 13	Swansea City	A	
Sat Dec 20	Bristol Rovers	H	
Fri Dec 26	Cambridge United	A	
Sun Dec 28	Oxford United	H	
Sat Jan 3	Scarborough FAC3RH		
Fri Jan 9	Cheltenham Town	A	
Sat Jan 17	Doncaster Rovers	H	
Sat Jan 24	Mansfield Town	A	
Sat Jan 31	Bury	A	
Sat Feb 7	Cambridge United	H	
Sat Feb 14	Kidderminster Harriers	H	
Sat Feb 21	Leyton Orient	A	
Sat Feb 28	Macclesfield Town	H	
Wed Mar 3	Boston United	A	
Sat Mar 6	Bristol Rovers	A	
Sat Mar 13	Swansea City	H	
Tue Mar 16	Lincoln City	A	
Sat Mar 20	Hull City	H	
Sat Mar 27	Carlisle United	A	
Sat Apr 3	Scunthorpe United	H	
Sat Apr 10	Huddersfield Town	A	
Mon Apr 12	Darlington	H	
Sat Apr 17	Northampton Town	A	
Sat Apr 24	Yeovil Town	H	
Sat May 1	Rochdale	A	
Sat May 8	Torquay United	H	

### WELCOME

Welcome to tonight's match sponsors, the Harris Van Centre from Grays. They will be enjoying the match from the sponsor's executive suite this evening and the Club would like to extend their gratitude to Simon Hotchkiss for sponsoring tonight's event.

### In the Box

Tonight the following guests will be enjoying the game from our Executive Suites:

- The Lights International Events
- Mike Skecher & Guests
- Cherry Leonard & Guests
- Stephen Ramm & Guests
- Century Salvage Ltd
- Ken Jarvis & Guests
- Karl Dorn & Friends
- Lookers Renault
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- Edmundson Electrical
- Harris Van Centre
- Heathfield FC
- Meyer Property Services
- Courage
- Jason Jay & Guests
- Jerry Bassett & Guests

### The Platinum Suite

The following guests will be enjoying a meal in our Platinum Suite prior to this evening's fixture:

- Alton Garden Centre
- Bill Barker
- Dr Sinha
- Dr Crowhurst
- Cottis House Ltd
- Benham Preservations
- Jubilee Property Services
- Town & Country
- Peter Mitchell & Guest
- Essex Insulation
- Colin Rickards & Guests
- GKC Communications Ltd

### And finally

The Club's thoughts go to Reece Lawrence who suffered a scratched eye ball and spent the night in hospital following the Canvey Island FA Cup replay.

ward whenever possible.

### Peter Holmes - Midfielder

*b: Bishop Auckland 18.11.80*  
Skilful midfielder and a former product of the FA School of Excellence who joined the Hatters in the summer of 2000 after spending three seasons as a professional with Sheffield Wednesday. Made his League debut at Notts County on the opening day of the following season, has since been in and out of the first team line-up, but was a used substitute in the last League match against Chesterfield.

### Lee Mansell - Midfielder

*b: Gloucester 28.10.82*  
Young former trainee central midfielder who has been back in the first-team squad in recent weeks after having played just the one League game last season, when he also spent some time on loan with Conference outfit Nuneaton Borough. Made his League debut for the Hatters at Northampton Town in February 2001 and held his place for the rest of the season, earning the club's 'Young Player of the Season' award at the end of the campaign. But has made quiet progression since.

### Ahmet Brkovic - Midfielder

*b: Dubrovnik, Croatia 23.9.74*  
Skilful attacking midfielder with good distribution signed on a free transfer in October 2001 after having spent the previous two seasons with Leyton Orient. Formerly with the HNK club in Dubrovnik, he arrived at Brisbane Road in October 1999 after coming to London to marry his girlfriend, and after passing a trial with the O's went on to play 79 League games before his contract ran out in the summer of 2001. A regular member of the Hatters first-team squad since signing, he can also fill one of the striking roles when required.

### Adrian Forbes - Forward

*b: Greenford 23.1.79*  
Pacy right-sided winger now back in regular first-team action after missing most of last season following a cruciate ligament knee injury. Began his career with Norwich City, making his League debut against Wolves in August 1996 and going on to play 112 games for the Canaries before moving to the Hatters for £60,000 in July 2001. Has been on fine goalscoring form of late, scoring a hat-trick in the first round FA Cup replay against Thurrock.



**Steve Howard - Forward**  
*b: Durham 10.5.76*

Strong, goalscoring central striker who has proved something of a bargain since joining the Hatters from Northampton Town for just £50,000 in March 2001, having netted 53 goals from just 105 League games since then. Began his League career with Hartlepool in 1995 after joining the Victoria Park club from non-league Tow Law Town, and after three good seasons moved to the Cobblers for £120,000 in February 1999. Missed a few matches recently with a hernia injury, and scored his first League goal since late August when getting the winner against Chesterfield ten days ago.

**Dean Crowe - Forward**  
*b: Stockport 6.6.79*

Former Stoke City trainee who joined the Hatters on a free transfer in September 2001. Made a total of 60 League appearances for the Potters after his debut at Nottingham Forest in September 1997 and also had spells on loan with Northampton, Bury and Plymouth before moving to Kenilworth Road. A quick and lively striker, his campaign last season was ended early by a broken leg, and he has recently returned to the Hatters first-team squad after a spell on loan at York City.





# the Blues

## “the ability to cultivate



**Some two weeks have now passed since the Board (me if you wish to point a finger !) announced that Stan Collymore was not to be appointed Manager at Southend United Football Club.**

During this period some supporters, and others, have made their views known and a number of letters have appeared in the *The Echo*, most recently on 27 November. Most responses support the Board view but some of those published in *The Echo* do not. Whilst I well appreciate those letters may be emotively based, they nevertheless raise issues that need to be answered for the benefit of all. If, for no other reason, than to let fans know that the decisions, indeed any decisions, surrounding the managerial appointment are not taken lightly and certainly not before careful analysis of all the facts.

Your Board will not be diverted by pressure or rhetoric. Indeed, in my

view the Collymore story was deliberately leaked within hours of my second meeting with Stan and his Agent in order to force an early decision and in advance of me completing my due diligence. All this did was delay the process of finding a new Manager. His representative should have made it clear that these were confidential talks. Additionally there was even the suggestion of pulling out of the discussions if a decision was not made by a given time – that deadline came and went.

I do not blame Stan for these tactics as he was ‘advised’ by an Agent who attended the meetings. I found Stan Collymore to be a fair minded individual and I am sure his intentions were honourable, if not tinted with a degree of romanticism. Anyway that is no bad thing if it engages passion and drives adrenalin.

However, a Manager’s role is much wider than what happens on the training ground. I have said previously the ability to cultivate team spirit is pivotal, in my view, to success. This part of the job is 24/7 – really knowing your players on and off the pitch, understanding their weaknesses and lending support so that the individual, every individual, wants to play his best for the Manager. All of this is entirely divorced from tactical awareness and touchline instructions. When I referred to experience or, in Stan’s case, insufficient experience, this was not limited to matters of football alone. Maturity of mind and recognition of what it takes to motivate each of the individuals, particularly so where we have a young squad. Creation of young talent is a big focus of mine at Southend United and therefore maturity is an important feature in the selection of the Team’s Manager.

Above all else that person must be willing to wholly commit to the position and that means dedication. Not just supervision of training, watching reserve matches and flitting about the country. Moreover, spending time with players and their families if needs must. Ensuring curfews are maintained and that these young men are conducting their lives outside football in a manner that provides the very best opportunity for each player to maximise his on field potential by remaining focused together with injury and illness free.

When talking with Stan Collymore all these issues were a consideration, hence why his own Support Team was an important element. I therefore requested an urgent meeting to discuss all these aspects with the three of them. Steve Walsh had been named by Stan as a prime mover and shaker – particularly in the dressing room. Steve Walsh pulled out one hour before my arrival. The third individual, who was to be Head Coach, with whom I will not name for confidential reasons, is currently employed full time outside football and manages a non League side at weekends. This person I understand was put forward by the Agent and not very well known by Stan Collymore.

Before my first meeting with Stan he had assessed the squad and like most of us believed the Club has a nucleus of good young players. Stan wished to supplement our squad with 4/5 mature pros and had also identified who they should be and who he believed he could attract to the Club. By my second meeting, just 48 hours later, only one of those players were prepared or able to join and that player was currently contracted to a team in Italy but hopefully would be available in the



# the Blues

## team spirit is pivotal”

New Year.

Whilst, as I say, Stan’s motives and intentions were true I sensed by the end of the second week’s discussions the perils of management may have been starting to surface.

I have no doubt that Stan would have achieved an initial marketing froth. However, without the immediate and reasonable success on the pitch enthusiasm from the terraces would soon have waned and the pressure on Stan, irrespective of his former stardom at the Club, would unquestionably build. His Agent suggested a cut off at say 2 – 3 months if things ‘were not working out’. Additionally ‘The Team’ were only seeking a short term commitment to the end of the season.

It was all these reasons that influenced the Balance of Advantage for the Club was, and still remains, in a precarious position and therefore had the Collymore team failed there would have been little and probably no opportunity of recovering before the season ends. With the new Stadium plans coupled to the success of the forthcoming B & Q Inquiry to be heard on 20 January (just six weeks away), and which if successful will provide the Club with a new lease of life it is paramount we remain in the Football League. Hence the conclusion that the risk/reward ratio was against the appointment of Stan Collymore.

Whilst not necessarily an insurmountable impediment it is worth mentioning that on the financial front Stan required (not negotiable according to his Agent) a salary three times that of Steve Wignall and the support team – diminished to one (another to be found) - requested more than the Club currently pays Steve Tilson. There was

also the Agent’s fee and expenses for ‘The Team’ that were estimated by the Agent at £2,000 per month.

But as I say it was not necessarily the cost as some of this may have been offset by the potential, but not guaranteed, increased attendances and possibly, but not truly significant, merchandising benefit in the short term. I also appreciated Stan would need to juggle his media work with the expectant loss of revenue but which the Club was effectively being asked to supplement.

Would Stan have played ?

Answer – certainly not in the short term. His primary interest was management. Stan has not played for nearly two years and at 33 with his fitness still to be regained he would not have been the same individual that Southend enjoyed at the age of 22 – but no doubt he could have cut it in Division Three – even on mediocre fitness. Whether he ever did return to the field of play would have been at Stan’s call entirely.

Consider this – if the Team played well there would not have been the need – had the Team played badly and lost the likely outcome would be the termination clause as suggested by the Agent and which would have been invoked.

Whilst a side issue to the main point of this letter (ie, Stan Collymore’s non appointment) I have not over the past three years found a Manager that does have all the attributes that fulfil the role as I see it.

David Webb comes close but even during his spell in 2000-01 his other commitments and perhaps energy levels, together with inclination, was such that time was at a premium.

Nevertheless, David would, with his invaluable industry experiences, make a good Director of Football. Rob Newman certainly had the passion and enthusiasm and at the time was the fans favourite ahead of others. Rob no doubt had the energy but the ‘experience’ to sort out the wheat from the chaff requires time. It is for this reason Clubs, if they have a choice, often shy away from first timers. The learning curve can be steep whilst at the cost of the Club. Rob Newman has a lot to offer and given time I believe he will still make it. Steve Wignall appeared to have what it takes on the face of it but once the veneer was uncovered cracks appeared although he unquestionably cared. Steve Wignall was the best of a mediocre bunch at the time of interview. This is why we are taking our time appointing the next individual who will have many of the required attributes already honed.

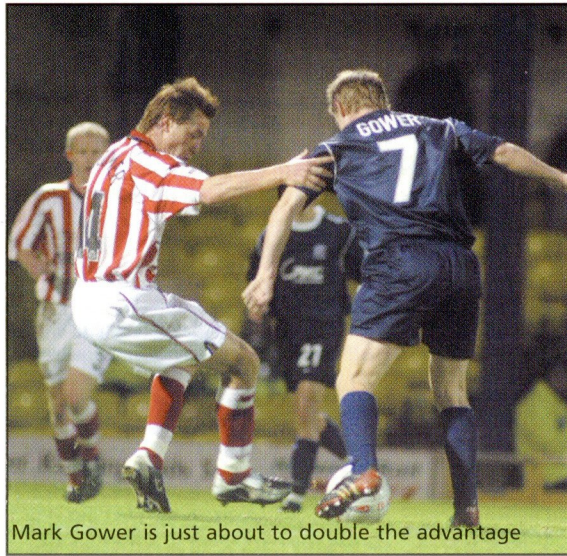
Still I am no magician and if it is felt that the Club is best run by a committee of 4,000 or referendum be sought for major decisions then I shall step aside. The last thing I would wish is to be accused of making decisions that are not in the Club’s best interest. The Club’s success is no less important to me than to each and every one of the Club’s supporters and that is why I am always prepared to listen to reasoned argument and do not make knee jerk reactions.

We continue to interview and I would hope to be in a position to make an announcement (if I am still here !) quite soon but in the meantime Steve Tilson is very capable of managing the squad in the short term.

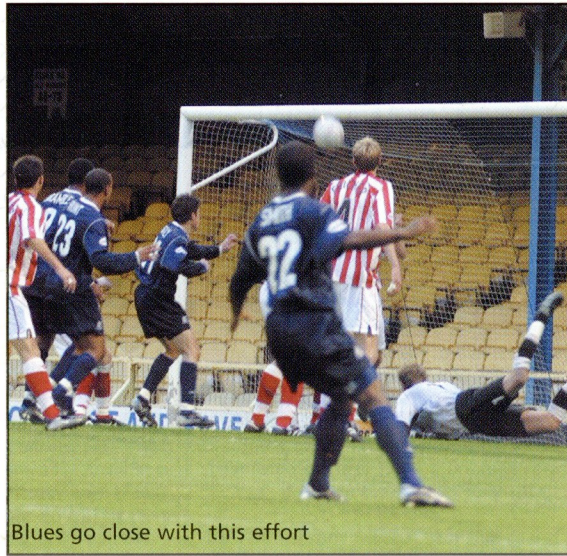
Ronald Martin  
Director

# the Blues

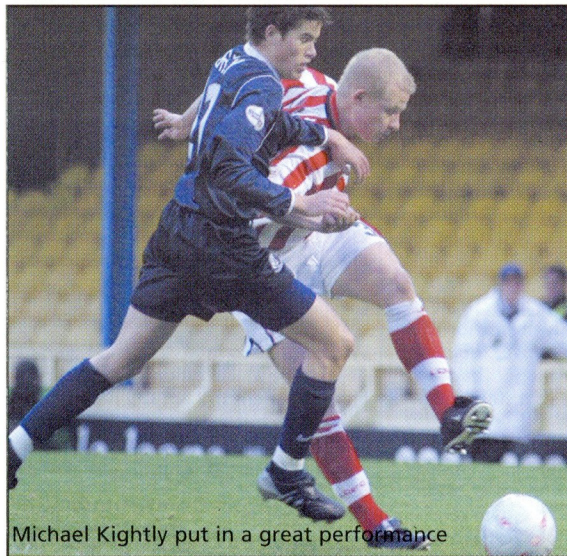
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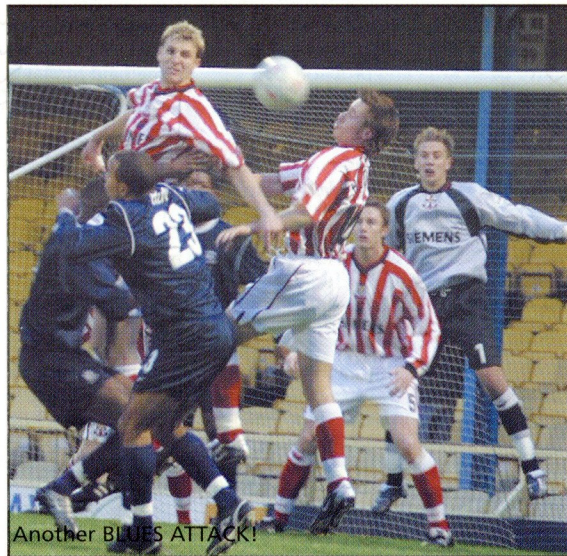
Mark Gower is just about to double the advantage



Blues go close with this effort

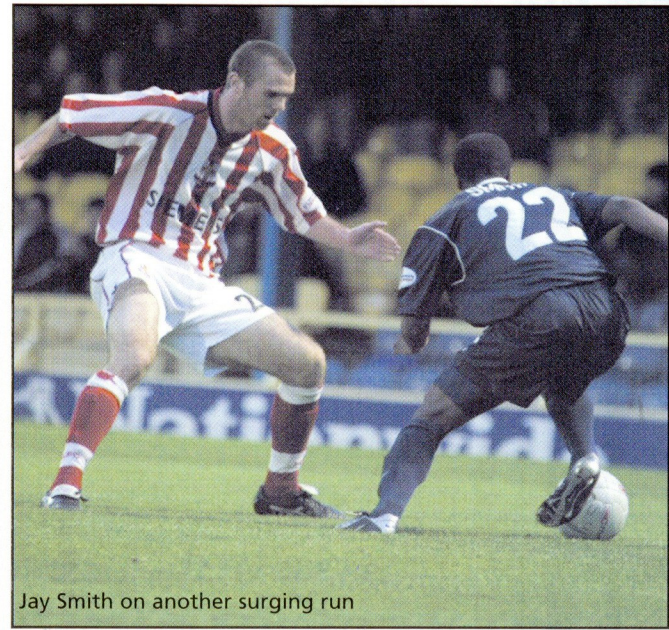


Michael Kightly put in a great performance

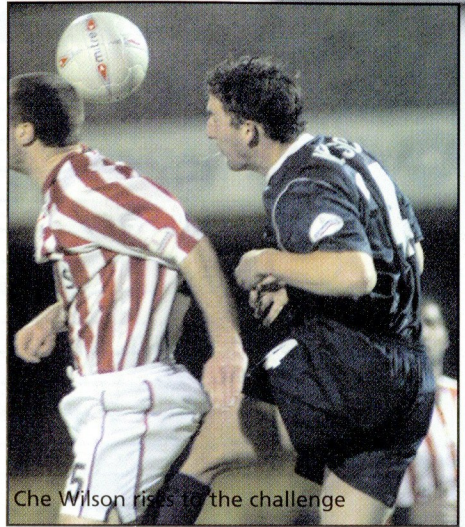


Another BLUES ATTACK!

# the Blues



Jay Smith on another surging run



Che Wilson rises to the challenge



Blues 3 Red Imps 0





# the teams

**Southend Utd v Luton Town**

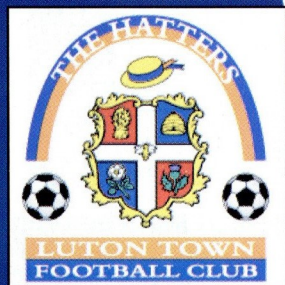
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Blues Caretaker Manager: **Steve Tilson**

1	Carl Emberson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Duncan Jupp	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Jamie Stuart	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Leon Cort	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Mark Warren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	David McSweeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Mark Gower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin Maher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Tes Bramble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Drewe Broughton	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Jim Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Steven Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Ryan Robinson	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Che Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Michael Husbands	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Leke Odunsi	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Jamie Fullarton	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Anthony Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Neil Jenkins	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Stuart Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Michael Kightly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Jay Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Lewis Hunt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Leon Constantine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Darryl Flahavan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
39	Ian Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/>

Luton Manager: **Mike Newell**

3	Alan Neilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Matthew Spring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Russell Perrett	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian Forbes	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Kevin Nicholls	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Steve Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Chris Coyne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Enoch Showunmi	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Emmerson Boyce	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Ahmet Brkovic	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Steven Howard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Paul Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	David Bayliss	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ian Hillier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Sol Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Peter Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Marlon Beresford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Curtis Davies	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Lee Mansell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
33	Dean Brill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
34	Dean Crowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36	David Deeney	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Keith Keane	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	Michael Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Steven O'Leary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41	Kevin Foley	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	Matthew Judge	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Pary Okal	<input type="checkbox"/>
45	Leon Barnett	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Rob Beckwith	<input type="checkbox"/>
	SHOWUNMI	<input type="checkbox"/>
	DEENEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



REF: Mr Crick ASSISTANT REFS: Mr Singh & Mr Tomlinson 4TH OFFICIAL: Mr Conn

NEXT UP AT ROOTS HALL:

BLUES v Bristol Rovers, Saturday 20th December 2003, Nationwide League Division Three

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