



Luton Town Football Club

Official Matchday Magazine • Price £2.50

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 3rd April 2004 • Kick Off 3.00pm



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Official Kit Supplier



Luton Town

v

Oldham Athletic

Joint Match Sponsors: David Lloyd Leisure

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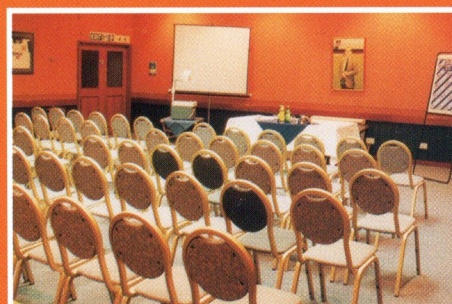
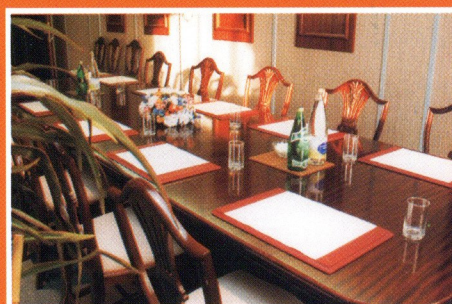
For meetings, receptions, presentations, parties, AGM's or product launches, all year round.

Luton Town Football Club offers unique facilities with a warm welcome.

Six function rooms offering professional catering from coffee to buffets to waitress silver service, from 8 to 80 persons. Comprehensive business facilities include projectors and screens, flip charts, fax and photocopying.

Room layouts can be boardroom, theatre or banqueting.

Bar, dance floor and disco information available on request



Function Suite	Reception or Bar only	Conference or Dinner
Eric Morecambe Suite	100	80
Century Club	100	80
Kenilworth Suite	100	50
Joe Payne Lounge	100	45
Millennium Suite	70	35
The Boardroom	50	30

For more information call the Commercial Department on 01582 411622 or email: commercial@lutontown.co.uk

www.lutontown.co.uk

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Honours

Littlewoods Cup
Winners 1987-88
Finalists 1988-89

FA Cup
Finalists 1958-59

Simod Cup
Finalists 1987-88

Division 2
Champions 1981-82

Division 3 (S)
Champions 1936-37

Division 4
Champions 1967-68

Official Matchday Magazine

Editor

Brian Swain

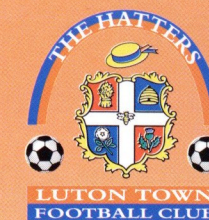
Design & Printing

Regal Litho Ltd

Photography

Gareth Owen

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



Luton Town FC

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Bedfordshire LU4 8AW

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01582 411622
Fax: 01582 405070

Ticket Office: 01582 416976
Community Dept: 01582 391927

Vice Presidents

R. L. Banks, D. Ludlow MBE,
R. Safranek, J. Sapsworth
Chief Executive/Secretary

Cherry Newbery

Manager

Mike Newell

Director of Football & First Team Coach

Mick Harford

Coach

Brian Stein

Youth Team Coach

Marvin Johnson

Youth Development Officer

Mark Ridgway

Medical Officer

Dr. Bill Berry

Football in the Community

Stuart Smith

Physiotherapist

Paul Coleman

FA Treatment of Injuries

Consultant Physio

John Sheridan

Commercial Manager

Peter Davis

Catering Manager

Lee Clark

Safety Officer

Geoff Lovell

Ticket Office

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Financial Controller

Tania Buonpane FCCA

Club Dentist

A. Chris BDSA (Syd)

Club Chaplain

Rev Catherine Moss

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

The FA Women's Cup Final in partnership with Nationwide

Arsenal v Charlton Athletic

Bank Holiday Monday May 3rd 2004, 1.00pm
Loftus Road, QPR FC

TheFA.com/women

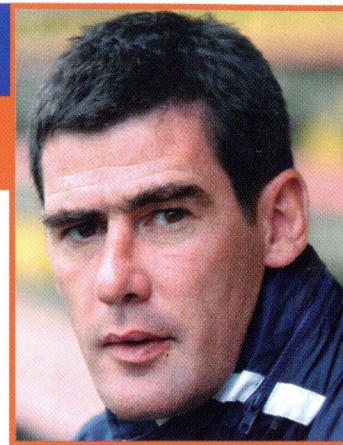


Live on BBC1
from 12.40pm



Tickets: £3 adults and £1 concessions (£5/£1 on the day)
Call the ticket hotline on 0870 112 1967

The Manager's Message



HELLO and welcome to Kenilworth Road for today's game against Oldham Athletic. Welcome also to Brian Talbot and his staff, players and directors from Boundary Park. Oldham have been through a difficult year after reaching the play-offs last season, and off the field events have obviously affect what happens on it, but their results lately, and particularly their away win at Bristol City, prove they will still be a danger. We will play seven games in the next 21 days, and it will be a tough test, not helped by the events at Queens Park Rangers when we lost another three players before the half-hour mark. The players' efforts in the second half were fantastic, and what we have come to expect from them. It is that sort of spirit that we will be looking for in the next few weeks. The support at Loftus Road was again magnificent, and I know it lifts the

lads, as it does all of us. Having played the top two sides in the last two games, and performed well against both, it should give us the confidence to go out and beat anyone, especially at home. We had the better of the Plymouth game without a doubt, and to play with ten men for over 45 minutes and concede in the last seconds of injury time was devastating. We don't condone any sort of violent conduct, but when I see players feigning injury or playing possum to get another professional sent off, it galls me. It is supposed to be a man's game played by men. If we are not careful it will become a non-contact sport.



WELCOME BACK: Adrian Forbes returned to league action after his knee operation in Saturday's game at Loftus Road, as one of three subs the Town had to use in the first 36 minutes. The QPR man forced to be second best is Kevin McLeod.

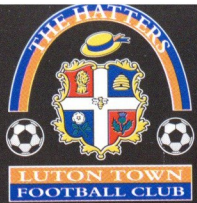
Not only did we miss the player for the second half, which ultimately cost us the win, but we also miss him for another three games, which we cannot afford. By the time you read these notes we may well be out of administration, which will be great news, and an indication that the club is in good hands. As the transfer deadline has now passed it will not mean a great deal in terms of what happens on the pitch, but none the less it should give everybody a lift for the final nine games. Enjoy the game, and get behind the lads.

Mike Newell

For the latest news, views & interviews call:
CLUB CALL on 09068 121123

5

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The Town Captain's View



THE LEAGUE table shows that in our last two games we have taken on the two best teams in this division. And we have proved we are just as good as QPR and Plymouth. We were well worth the point we earned in each game, and could have taken all three each time.

We really deserved victory here against Plymouth, despite being down to ten men for so long. It is a little worrying about how we have conceded late goals that have cost points too often for our liking, and it was particularly cruel that it should happen again against Plymouth. We were leading at their place in September until they nicked two goals in the last eight minutes, and in the return they left it even later to steal a point which we didn't think they deserved.

Difficulties mounted for the trip to Loftus Road, but it was another game we could easily have won. The gaffer told us afterwards that we should be proud of ourselves. I agree, particularly when you realise that we went into the game without Matt Spring, Sol Davis, Chris Coyne and Steve Howard. Then we lost three more to injuries in 36 minutes, and to hold a top team on their own park to a draw in such difficult circumstances was a magnificent achievement. We had to put on Adrian Forbes and Kevin Foley as subs, which was probably too early for them to return after injuries. But because of what has gone on off the field, the gaffer has had little choice in such matters. Ideally players who have been out a while need reserve games to regain sharpness, but that is a luxury the club could not afford this season. Having said that, they both did well in their comeback game, and I felt in the second half that we had Rangers rocking.

Enoch took his goal brilliantly and it was an equaliser we deserved. The game was then there for the taking. If it had lasted another ten minutes we would have got a winner. It wasn't to be, but we had played our part in a good game, and so did the crowd. We could hardly believe the support we had at Loftus Road, and we appreciated it. With both sets of fans in good voice it made for a big match atmosphere, which helped to lift players on both sides.

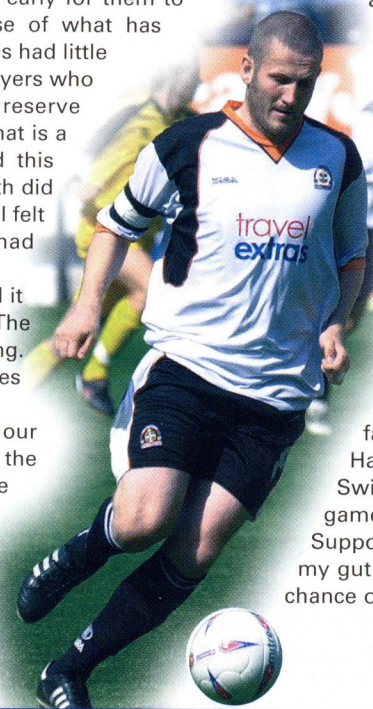
I want to say well done to

Curtis Davies for the way he stood in for Chris Coyne. He had a great game, and perhaps the emergence of good young players has been the bright silver lining behind the dark cloud of administration. The boss has had to "make do and mend" with his squad, and I think Luton Town has a lot to be thankful for in the young players coming through. Curtis Davies is the latest of several boys who still qualify for youth football who have made it to the first team squad – think of Keith Keane, Kevin Foley, Steven O'Leary and Dean Brill, and it augurs well for the future.

We had hoped that we would be out of administration by deadline day so that more signings could be made to strengthen us for the promotion run-in. The boss was restricted to one in and one out, and I was delighted to hear that he had got Paul Underwood from Rushden. Having played against him I knew he was a good player, and he has already settled in well. It was a blow when he limped out of the QPR game so early into his debut, but I know that he will be an asset to the club. The end of administration is important as the club plans for next season, particularly in the matter of keeping important players.

Everyone wants to perform at a higher level, of course, and I believe there is every chance we will do exactly that next season. Because of games in hand, it is in our own hands. We must get a good result today and then we face four massive games on the trot. Hartlepool and Tranmere away, and Swindon and Bristol City at home are games that will shape our destiny.

Supporters are playing their part too, and my gut feeling is that we have a very good chance of clinching a play-off place.



Kevin Nicholls

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

Kenilworth Suite Members

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Corporate Coaching

DBF Crosswinds Ltd

Mr K Harvey

Mr R Harvey

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Mr P Mitchell

Protexx Mortgage &
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Mr J Siegler

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David Lloyd Luton,
Capability Green, Luton, Beds LU1 3LU



From The Chief Executive



AT THE time of writing we are still in administrative receivership, but with the new consortium having completed the agreement with the receivers we are simply waiting for one more document to be submitted to The Football League for their approval, and then we can all start celebrating and look forward to a secure future.

Supporters will be aware that numerous clubs encountered problems a fortnight ago, when we played Plymouth Argyle here at Kenilworth Road. Some games were postponed and others abandoned due to very high winds. We ourselves had problems, when the wind lifted some of the roof sheeting, and our grateful thanks go to those supporters in Block E of the Main Stand who assisted by allowing spectators from another area of the ground to move into the spare seating in their locality. It was all done very

smoothly, with the game in progress!

Speaking of the Plymouth game, it was very disappointing that the club was reported to The Football Association because a plastic bottle was thrown from the Kenilworth Stand towards the pitch. Whatever your frustrations, this is an offence, and must not happen. Anyone identified, at any time, will be banned from Kenilworth Road.

I reported in an earlier column that the documentary completed during the dark days of last summer was due to be shown on BBC 2 on April 15. Unfortunately, due to re-scheduling at the BBC – for golf coverage! – the broadcast has been postponed. I am waiting to hear when the new date will be, and will let you know as soon as possible.

As usual, you again gave generously to the MENCAP collection held at the home match with Blackpool, and a total of £353.49p was collected. Thank you, everyone. Congratulations to Luton Town Belles for putting another trophy in their cabinet – their under-11s have won the Luton Sports Awards Young Team of the Year title for 2003-04.

Our under-17 squad hopes it will be third time lucky with their Umbro Isotonic Football League Youth Alliance fixture with Queens Park Rangers. It has been postponed twice, but is now re-scheduled to be their final match of the season, at Brunel University on Saturday April 17, kick-off 11am.

Enjoy the game, and I wish everyone a very happy Easter.



We were delighted to hand over cheques, for £3,950 each, to two local good causes at the last home game. The money was Luton Town's share of The FA Charity Shield Fund. One went to the Pasque Hospice and the other to LAMP, the Luton Accommodation & Move-on Project. Receiving the cheques were Jack Sapsworth on behalf of the Pasque, and Lysle Osborne from LAMP.

Cherry Newbery

Hatters Away Twice In Five Days

THE TOWN will clock up over 800 miles next week, going to the north east for the re-arranged game with Hartlepool on Tuesday before beginning their East programme in the north west, at Tranmere on Saturday.

Town on Tour and the Bobbers Travel Club are running coach services to both games.

Town on Tour, part of Luton Town Supporters Club, will set off for Hartlepool from Leighton Buzzard at 12.45, calling at Houghton Regis before a 1.30pm departure from Luton. They will also pick up at Milton Keynes Coachway at around 2pm. Fares are £18 for members of LTSC, £15 for concessions members and £21 for others. The Bobbers service sets off from Cranfield at 12.15pm and Luton an hour later and will charge £17.50 for adults and £14.50 for concessions.

Bobbers coaches to Prenton Park will leave Cranfield at 8.30am and Luton at 9.30, and fares will be £14.50 adults, £12 concessions. Town on Tour will begin their service at Leighton Buzzard at 8.45am, with a 9.30 departure from Luton and a 10 am call at MK Coachway. Fares are £16 adult members of LTSC, £14 concessionary members and £18 for others.

Driving To Hartlepool



YOU can expect to take about three and a half hours to drive to Hartlepool non-stop, with the route being motorway and good A roads. Head north up the M1, to just beyond Sheffield, where you take the M18 north. Leave M18 at junction 2, and continue north on the A1(M). There is a route to Hartlepool sign-

posted from junction 48, but our advice is to stay on A1 a little longer, leaving at junction 49 to turn right onto the A168 towards Dishforth. Stay on that road towards Thirsk and then join the A19. Just beyond Middlesbrough, watch for a right turn onto the A689, and follow that dual carriageway all the way to the ground. Head for the town centre, then follow the road signposted The North on the A179. Shortly after passing the Middleton Grange shopping centre on your left, and still on A179, you will see the ground on your left.

Mileage: 230

The Road to Prenton Park



IF TRAFFIC is flowing well, the drive to Prenton Park, Birkenhead, can be done comfortably in not much over three hours. It is worth considering the new toll road in the midlands to avoid the worst stretch of the M6. Or you can avoid it by ignoring the M6 where it branches off from the M1, and stay on M1 before taking the A50 towards Derby and Stoke and on to M6 near Stoke. However you get there, leave M6 at junction 20 to turn left onto the M56, which you follow to junction 15. There, turn right onto the M53. Leave that motorway at junction 3, making a right turn onto the A552, signposted to Birkenhead and Liverpool. After just over a mile watch for a right turn, signposted B5151 to Clatterbridge. Make that turn, into Storeton Road, and then take the first left, into Woodchurch Lane, which leads to the ground.

Mileage: About 200

BOOKINGS for away games travel can be made at the LTSC or Bobbers kiosks in Kenilworth Road, before or after home games. Paul Deason on 01234 750996 will take phone bookings for the Bobbers, whose service includes pick-ups at Cranfield, Marston Moretaine, Ampthill, Flitwick, Westoning and opposite the Travelodge Motel in Dunstable Road, Luton, close to the M1.

Town on Tour offers LTSC members the best deals, and seats can be reserved at the Supporters Club kiosk or by phoning 07960 567465. They offer additional pick-ups at Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis.

Travelling Army The Biggest Yet

MIKE Newell sends thanks on behalf of himself and all the Town squad for the magnificent support at Loftus Road. The game attracted QPR's second highest attendance of the season, 17,695, which was only 144 short of the turn-out for the visit of Brighton in January.

The Town support was 3,139 and the only club to have a bigger following at Rangers home games was Plymouth Argyle, who had 3,387 fans in the away end in November, when QPR were top of the table and Plymouth were third.

Argyle's travelling support helped the Town house their highest attendance of the season so far a fortnight ago, and this time without any winding-up by a manager! The league leaders brought 1,638 fans to Kenilworth Road, the best away following we have seen except for the visit of QPR in September.

The latest statistics on travelling fans:

Town Travellers

Stockport	671
Brighton	727
Notts Co	1,215
Plymouth	449
Charlton (CC)	2,407
Oldham	487
Swindon	412
Stevenage (LDV)	1,028
Brentford	1,468
Bournemouth	462
Bristol City	496
Rushden (LDV)	876
Thurrock (FAC)	509
Sheffield Wed	1,462
Rochdale (FAC)	562
Southend (LDV)	216
Blackpool	458
Colchester	941
Bradford	1,620
Rushden	2,319
Wycombe	1,838
Grimsby	249
Peterborough	2,583
Barnsley	723
Port Vale	601
QPR	3,139
Total:	27,918
Average:	1,074

Visitors to Luton

Rushden	922
Yeovil (CC)	493
Grimsby	318
Hartlepool	573
Port Vale	344
QPR	1,872
Tranmere	170
Wycombe	414
Peterborough	579
Wrexham	176
Thurrock	239
Chesterfield	168
Barnsley	358
Notts County	363
Stockport	364
Tranmere(FAC)	1,344
Colchester	367
Brighton	1,107
Brentford	579
Blackpool	325
Plymouth	1,638

12,713
605

News From The Ticket Office



Nationwide League Division Two Hartlepool United v Luton Town

Tuesday April 6, 2004, kick-off 7.45pm

Prices: Adults £15, Concessions £7

This is a re-scheduled match following the postponement on January 31.

Tickets purchased for the original date will still be valid. However, if you have a ticket and are unable to attend on the new date, you can obtain a full refund from the Luton Town ticket office providing the ticket is returned before the match is played.

For supporters without tickets, the game is pay on the night only, with no further tickets available in advance from Kenilworth Road.



Nationwide League Division Two Tranmere Rovers v Luton Town

Saturday April 10, 2004, kick-off 3pm

Prices: Adults £15, Senior Citizens £8,
Under-16s £4

This match is pay on the day only, with no tickets available in advance from Kenilworth Road.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO STUDENT CONCESSION THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON'S CONCESSION FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 22. TO CLAIM YOU MUST PRODUCE VALID ID, WITH PROOF OF YOUR DATE OF BIRTH, AT THE TRANMERE TICKET OFFICE



Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Swindon Town

Monday April 12 2004, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability.

Remember there are **no concessions** available on cash turnstiles.



News From The Ticket Office



Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Bristol City

Saturday April 17 2004, kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.
Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability.
Remember there are **no concessions** available on cash turnstiles.



Nationwide League Division Two Luton Town v Bournemouth

Tuesday April 20 2004, kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

This is a re-arranged fixture following the postponement on March 2. Season ticket holders are asked to produce special match voucher 0 at the turnstile to gain entry. All other tickets previously purchased for this match are still valid, including those which have the stub removed.

Cash turnstiles will be open on the day subject to availability.

Remember there are **no concessions** available on cash turnstiles.



Nationwide League Division Two Wrexham v Luton Town

Saturday, April 24, 2004, kick-off 3pm

Prices: Adults £15, Senior Citizens and

Juniors £10 No student concessions available.

This match is pay on the day only for Luton Town supporters, with no tickets available in advance at Kenilworth Road.

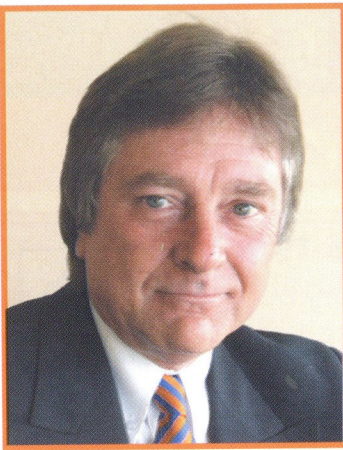


Easter opening hours

Good Friday: 10am – 2pm

Easter Saturday: 10am-2pm

Easter Monday: 9am until match kick-off, then after the game



Commercial Corner

MAY we extend a warm welcome to all of our commercial sponsors and partners for this afternoon's match against Oldham Athletic. As per usual, our special thanks on

Sports Department, where you will find an extensive range of shotguns, air Guns and country clothing. John Eaststaff (Builders Merchants) Ltd can contacted on **01767 691652**.

JOINT MATCH SPONSORS

David Lloyd Leisure

Need to be fitter? Want to feel healthier? Then look no further than the facilities and services offered by today's joint match sponsor, David Lloyd Leisure. Their Luton location offer 5-star facilities, which include a licensed restaurant and clubroom with free internet usage, plus a safe secure crèche with first class amenities. Membership benefits also include discounted rates at a range of local businesses, including Nando's, Aroma and Stockwood Golf. The David Lloyd extensive range of "get fit" options, also include two indoor swimming pools, a spa and solarium, together with a children's "High 5" timetable, which is a great fitness regime introduction to the younger members of the family. David Lloyd Leisure is used extensively by our own football squad, and a special introductory rate is available for Hatters fans on production of this programme Why not give them a call on **01582 692046**.



JOINT MATCH SPONSORS

John Eaststaff (Builders Merchants) Ltd

JOHN EASTSTAFF (BUILDERS MERCHANTS) LTD.

We welcome for the first time this season Peter Clare and the guests of Sandy-based John Eaststaff (Builders Merchants) Ltd. Having recently moved to a new purpose-built depot, the company now has an even greater range of products of heavy side building materials. The original range was extensive, and the additions include MDF, Fischer Fixings, window boards and architraves, plus an exciting new range of paving slabs. And if you are not ready for a home extension or DIY project just yet, then why not visit their well-established and now expanded Country



A very happy looking John Creasey receiving a match sponsors certificate on behalf of "Don't Wait Up" after our game against Plymouth Argyle



John Cushing, Managing Director of Walnut Tree Launderers, receiving his sponsor's certificate and the all important match ball, from squad members at our Eric Morecambe VIP hospitality presentation for the Plymouth match.

Welcome to All Our Sponsors and Guests

MATCH BALL SPONSOR

Decillion Financial Planning



Billy Popham, Director of Decillion Financial Planning, joins us with his guests as match ball sponsor. Based in Bramingham Business Centre at Enterprise Way, Decillion specialise in tax mitigation, corporate planning, investments and protection. As independent financial advisors, they are committed to the support of your financial security and future. They also support the Town and would be delighted to donate 25% of all fees and commissions from our fans directly to Luton Town FC. We thank them for that gesture, and to find out more Decillion Financial Planning can be contacted on **01582 516111**.

PLAYERS KIT SPONSORS

Chris Payne, Scott Simpson, Mark Norman

It's with great pleasure that we welcome players kit sponsors Chris Payne, Scott Simpson and Mark Norman. Sponsoring Enoch Showunmi, Morton Hyldgaard and Keith Keane respectively for the last part of the season meant that they missed the kit sponsors hospitality days at Barnsley and Wycombe, so we are delighted to see them here with us today.

NEW SPONSORSHIP LAUNCH

Weir Estate Agents



Mike Newell and Mick Harford together with local boxing hero Billy Schwer at the launch of Weir Estates.

It's tremendous to have the opportunity to support the launch of a brand new local business, and to this end our dynamic football management team of Mike Newell and Mick Harford were only too happy to add their support to the recent opening of estate agents Weir Estates. Based in Tennyson Road, Luton, the



Commercial mascot Alex Lake receiving his certificate from Man of the Match Steve Robinson and fellow squad members

company is committed to deliver a refreshing difference to the selling or buying of houses. With innovative new ideas they are completely focused on ensuring the experience, which traditionally can be fraught with problems, is transformed into as smooth a transaction as possible. Being a staunch Luton Town fan, Darren Weir a partner in the business, chose the club colours for his company branding, and as a further statement to the firm's commitment to the club, he is offering a special reduced fee to all Hatters fans. If you are buying or selling, why not give Darren a call on **01582 537676**

Have a great afternoon,

Peter Davis



The team from Cougar Direct, joint match sponsors for Plymouth, checking out the hallowed Kenilworth Road turf.

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Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 3HG
Telephone: 01582 439080
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Hatters



Form Guide:

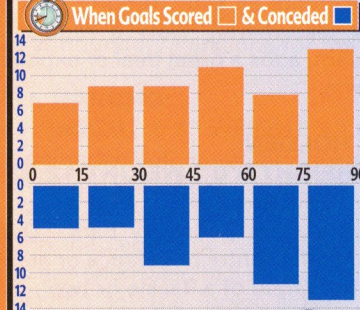
Won: 2
Drawn: 3
Lost: 7
Scored: 7
Conc: 6
Points: 9
Goal Diff: 1
Last 6: **WDWLDD**
Last 5 Home: **WWWWD**
Last 5 Away: **LWDL**

Miscellaneous

Players Used: 34
Clean Sheets: 9
Failed to Score: 7

The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	3 players	2
Long range shots	Howard	2
Inside 6 yards	Coyne, Perrett	2
Shots from 6-18 yards	Forbes	6
Volleyed shots	3 players	2
Penalties	Nicholls	1
Scored 1st Goal in match	Howard	5
Most goals in last 10	5 players	1
Points gained from goals	Howard	9.5



Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	202
Goals conceded	49
On target/goals scored	4.12
Division 2 rating	15

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	227
Goals scored	57
On target / goals	3.98
Division 2 Rating	8

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	5
Points won	1
Goals Against, last 10	10
Points lost	12

Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	13.35
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	19
Average Offsides per game	4.59
Div 2 Rating	24

Swings

WON when behind	3
DRAWN when behind	5
LOST when ahead	3
DRAWN when ahead	6
WON 2 down	1
WON 1 down	2
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	3
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	5
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	6

Attendances

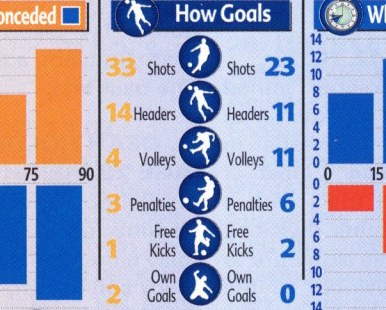
Aggregate	112,246
Highest	8,499
Lowest	5,002
Average	6,236

Where Goals

Close Range	14
Inside Area	30
Outside Area	9

How Goals

Shots	33
Headers	14
Volleys	4
Penalties	3
Free Kicks	1
Own Goals	2



Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	200
Goals conceded	53
On target/goals scored	3.77
Division 2 rating	21

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	209
Goals scored	53
On target / goals	3.94
Division 2 Rating	7

Goals in last 10 mins

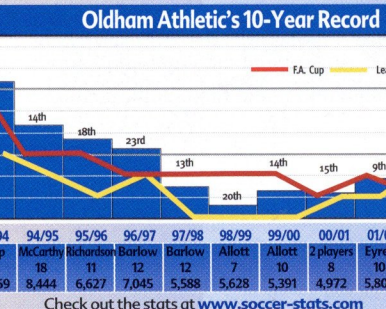
Goals For, last 10	5
Points won	4
Goals Against, last 10	6
Points lost	4

Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	12.11
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	10
Average Offsides per game	4.13
Div 2 Rating	20

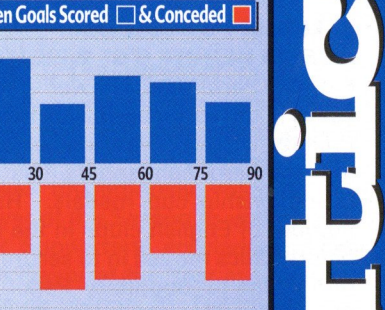
Margins

WON BY:	1 Goal	4	1 Goal	9
LOST BY:	1 Goal	5	1 Goal	2
WON BY:	2 Goals	2	2 Goals	2
LOST BY:	2 Goals	2	2 Goals	1
WON BY:	3 Goals	2	3 Goals	1
LOST BY:	3 Goals	2	3 Goals	1
WON BY:	4 Goals	0	4 Goals	1
LOST BY:	4 Goals	0	4 Goals	1
WON BY:	5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	0
LOST BY:	5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	0



The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Vernon	3
Long range shots	Vernon, Eyres	2
Inside 6 yards	Vernon, Cooksey	3
Shots from 6-18 yards	Vernon	6
Volleyed shots	Murray	2
Penalties	Sheridan J	5
Scored 1st Goal in match	Sheridan J, Vernon	4
Most goals in last 10	Murray	2
Points gained from goals	Vernon	11.33



Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	200
Goals conceded	53
On target/goals scored	3.77
Division 2 rating	21

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	209
Goals scored	53
On target / goals	3.94
Division 2 Rating	7

Goals in last 10 mins

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Average fouls per game	12.11
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Margins

WON BY:	1 Goal	4	1 Goal	9
LOST BY:	1 Goal	5	1 Goal	2
WON BY:	2 Goals	2	2 Goals	2
LOST BY:	2 Goals	2	2 Goals	1
WON BY:	3 Goals	2	3 Goals	1
LOST BY:	3 Goals	2	3 Goals	1
WON BY:	4 Goals	0	4 Goals	1
LOST BY:	4 Goals	0	4 Goals	1
WON BY:	5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	0
LOST BY:	5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	0

Attendances

Aggregate	124,591
Highest	13,007
Lowest	4,990
Average	6,557

EVERY CLUB, EVERY GAME ...FROM THE PREMIERSHIP TO THE CONFERENCE

THE PEOPLE

Welcome to Today's Visitors

GOALKEEPERS

1. LESLIE POGLIACOMI: AGE 28 HEIGHT 6'5" WEIGHT 12.10

Former Parramatta Power goalkeeper joined Latics in the summer of 2002 from the Australian Premier League. Very respected goalkeeper in the southern hemisphere has won a host of championship cup medals. Had trials with a number of English clubs in the higher divisions before Latics moved in to secure his signature to bring him to Boundary Park. Winner of the Player of the Year last season.

13. CHRIS GRANGE: AGE 19 HEIGHT 6'0" WEIGHT 13.13

Chris has come through the youth ranks at the club to earn a squad number for this season. Yet to make a start for the first team, and has now suffered a broken leg which has meant Latics bringing in on loan 'keeper Kieren Westwood from Manchester City.

DEFENDERS

20. DAVID BEHARALL: AGE 24, HEIGHT 6'2", WEIGHT 11.12

David spent six months on loan at Boundary Park from Newcastle United and impressed so much Latics stepped in with a permanent offer. Very quick and good in the air, has suffered with injury of late but now on the road to recovery.

14. MICHAEL CLEGG: AGE 26, HEIGHT 5'8", WEIGHT 11.11

Joined Athletic from near neighbours Manchester United, Michael's strongest position is that of fullback. Three appearances for United in the Champions League but only nine in the Premier League meant Michael was loaned out to Ipswich Town and with his

MICHAEL CLEGG:



future uncertain at Old Trafford decided his future lay elsewhere. Now a regular in the Oldham team. adds a great deal of experience to the back line.

2. DEAN HOLDEN: AGE 23, HEIGHT 6'0", WEIGHT 12.03

Ex-Bolton Wanderers man who spent seven months on loan at Boundary Park. Dean can play either at the centre of defence or at fullback, pacy and not afraid of a 'tackle or two'. Pops up to score important goals.

27. MARC TIERNEY: AGE 19, HEIGHT 5'10", WEIGHT 11.00

Second year scholar who has risen from the youth team. Has figured regularly in the reserve team this season and having impressed the management team was given a place in the squad for the Colchester game. Although Marc didn't get on the field he is definitely one for the future and has since made a number of substitute appearances.

37. ROB WALKER: AGE 17, HEIGHT 5'8" WEIGHT 10.02

Rob impressed during the pre season trip to Northern Ireland and has been involved in the first team build-up. The young defender has put in a number of solid displays as Latics prepared for the start of the season.

22. DANNY HALL: AGE 19, HEIGHT 6'1" WEIGHT 12.00

Impressive in both the reserve and Under 19 sides during the 2002/03 season, Danny was given the opportunity to step up shortly after fellow youth team defender Marc Tierney had been drafted into the first team squad. He had first team experience in the 2002/03 season with Conference side Scarborough but



Oldham Athletic FC



returned to Boundary Park shortly after making his sole appearance for them. Now a regular in defence at Boundary Park, one for the future.

23. WILL HAINING: AGE 21, HEIGHT 6'1" WEIGHT 13.02

Central defender Will is another player to have come through the youth set up at Boundary Park. Left sided defender who is equally comfortable in the centre, he can also play in midfield and has been used in a number of positions when playing for the junior sides. His form brought him to the attention of the Scotland Under 21 selectors and is now rated as one of the best and most forceful defenders in the Second Division.

6. GARETH OWEN: AGE 21, HEIGHT 6'1", WEIGHT 12.01

Signed by the Latics in mid January 04 on until the end of the season on loan from Stoke City. 6'1" defender comes highly recommended by Clint Hill the ex-Athletic/Tranmere centre half. Solid and dependable and good in the air.

MIDFIELD

11. MATTY APPLEBY: AGE 32, HEIGHT 5'10", WEIGHT 11.11

Been laid off with a persistent hip injury for 18 months, just about ready to make a comeback. The ex Newcastle and Barnsley man has been sorely missed.

18. DANNY BOSHELL: AGE 22, HEIGHT 5'11", WEIGHT 11.10

Came through the youth set up at Boundary Park now a regular in the centre of midfield. An excellent passer of the ball, is being groomed as an understudy to John Sheridan and is now an

DANNY HALL



exciting prospect.

28. DAVID EYRES: AGE 39, HEIGHT 5'11", WEIGHT 11.07

Another Latics player with vast experience of the Football League, over 500 appearances with Blackpool, Burnley, Preston and Oldham Athletic where David was unanimously voted as the Supporters' Player of the Season as well as winning the Junior Supporters' accolade and the coveted Lookers Player of the Year at Boundary Park. Age holds no barriers for David who still bamboozles defences with his tricky footwork ... Lethal left foot. Top scorer with 14 goals last term has spent the last few months as stand-in manager since the departure of Iain Dowie.

7. PAUL MURRAY: AGE 27, HEIGHT 5'8", WEIGHT 10.07

Paul joined Latics from Premier League Southampton midway through the 2001-02 season in a surprising free transfer deal, Paul having joined Southampton from Queens Park Rangers for a substantial £600,000 fee. Paul's career began at Carlisle United under the guidance of Mick Wadsworth, the then Cumbrian's manager. Clever passer of the ball, never-say-die attitude won Paul England 'B' and Under 21 caps.

3. DARREN SHERIDAN: AGE 35, HEIGHT 5'6", WEIGHT 11.06

Darren joined Latics from the other Lancashire Latics of Wigan during 2001 and immediately made himself at home at Boundary Park with goals against Manchester City and Blackpool. The tigerish midfielder player is one of the game's great battlers, and when the going gets tough you can find Darren at the forefront, laid off with a leg injury of late, expect the uncompromising midfielder to be back in the thick of it in mid March.

Welcome to Today's Visitors

8. JOHN SHERIDAN: AGE 39, HEIGHT 5'10", WEIGHT 11.12

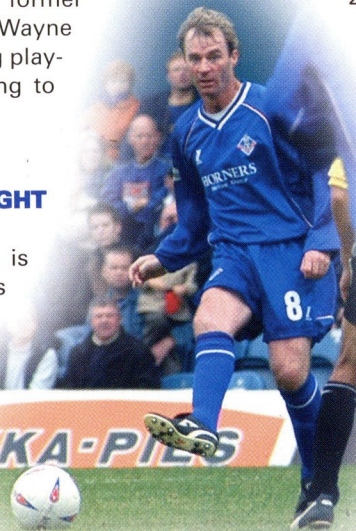
John Sheridan is one of the lower division's greatest passers of a ball, recognised by his peers for his silky skills for which age holds no barriers. Capped by Ireland 34 times for whom he has scored five goals. John's career began with Manchester City before moving on without playing a game for the Blues to Leeds United, 230 games and 47 goals later John made a high-profile move to Nottingham Forest where he stayed for only a short period before moving on to Sheffield Wednesday. He became known as one of Wednesday's greatest ever players in his seven-year stay at Hillsborough before joining Bolton Wanderers in 1996. After having had a short spell with Doncaster Rovers, he joined Latics in 1998, now one of the first names on the Latics teamsheet, John was asked to become temporary manager of the Club (with David Eyres) when Iain Dowie joined Crystal Palace.

4. ERNIE COOKSEY: AGE 23, HEIGHT 5' 11" WEIGHT 11.11

Ernie joined Latics after impressing in a three week trial period prior to the start of the 2003/04 season. He began his career with Colchester United but after failing to win a contract drifted into non-league football. Played in the same team as former Latics players Fitz Hall and Wayne Andrews, competitive battling player with great 'spring' allowing to head the highest of crosses.

26. ADAM GRIFFIN: AGE 18 HEIGHT 5'11" WEIGHT 9.10

Left midfielder Adam Griffin is another product of the Latics Youth Policy. After an impressive season in the youth team and reserves in the 2001/02, he was rewarded with a call up to the first team squad for the final match at home to Q.P.R. Moved to



JOHN SHERIDAN

the fullback spot and made the position his own with some terrific performances.

35. DANNY FORDE: AGE 17 HEIGHT 5'9" WEIGHT 12.03

Generally a central midfielder, Danny also has the ability to play at the back and was a key member of the youth team last season. Danny was promoted to the first team set up at the start of the 2003/04 season and is now one to watch for the future.

FORWARDS

10. JOHN EYRE: AGE 29, HEIGHT 5'11", WEIGHT 12.00

John started his career at Boundary Park where he made 10 appearances scoring one goal before moving on to Scunthorpe United for a £40,000 fee in 1994. Having made 173 appearances and scoring 51 times for The Irons John left for Hull City, his home town club in a £70,000 transfer where he scored 13 times in 50 games before re-joining the Latics under the Bosman Ruling. Now captain at Boundary Park, John is one of the lower league's most experienced players.

24. CHRIS KILLEN: AGE 21, HEIGHT 6'1", WEIGHT 11.06

20 year old striker signed from Manchester City for a fee of £200,000 plus appearance related bonuses. Chris, born in Wellington, New Zealand, is an established international for his native country and a proven goalscorer, scoring 15 goals in 2 appearances for the Kiwis. On loan at Port Vale last season, he netted six times in ten appearances before going on to score four goals for Manchester City reserves against an experienced Liverpool reserve side in a 6-0 route of the Reds, which convinced Latics to make a move for the giant striker.



Oldham Athletic FC



17. SCOTT VERNON: AGE 18 HEIGHT 6'2" WEIGHT 13.02

Scott made an immediate impact for Athletic, scoring two goals on his debut in the LDV Vans Trophy in October 2002. Scott has been a regular feature in the reserve side in the past couple of seasons and was given his chance in the first team following an injury to Clyde Wijnhard, now the first choice striker at Boundary Park and top scorer. Smashed an impressive hat-trick against Grimsby Town in February and can not stop scoring at present.

38. CARLOS ROCA: AGE 18 HEIGHT 5'4" WEIGHT 8.12

Carlos is one of a number of young players promoted to the first team squad for this season. A tricky winger who has been a regular in both the reserves and youth sides over the last couple of seasons, definitely one for the future.

9. CALVIN ZOLA: AGE 19 HEIGHT 6'4" WEIGHT 13.03

Zola has joined Athletic on loan from Newcastle United having earned a reputation of being a terrific up and coming goalscorer. Scorer of a brace in the Newcastle reserves v Everton reserve match. Hoping to continue his goalscoring form with the Boundary Park club, a forward to be watched, could be a star of the future, notched a number of goals with his all round ability, good on the ground, excellent in the air ... very dangerous.

DEAD LINE DAY SIGNINGS

33. JERMAINE JOHNSON: AGE 19 HEIGHT 5'11" WEIGHT 11.12

Joined Latics from Bolton Wanderers

on loan to the end of the season, very quick forward who has played internationally with Jamaica.

If you end up in a one to one race for the ball with him it will be no contest!

25. MARK BONNAR: AGE 29 HEIGHT 5' 10" WEIGHT 11.08

Very experienced midfield player signed from Cardiff City to the end of the season. The ex Cardiff and Blackpool player has played more than 350 games for the two clubs and chipped in with important goals.

32. DEAN CROWE: AGE 24 HEIGHT 5'5" WEIGHT 11.4

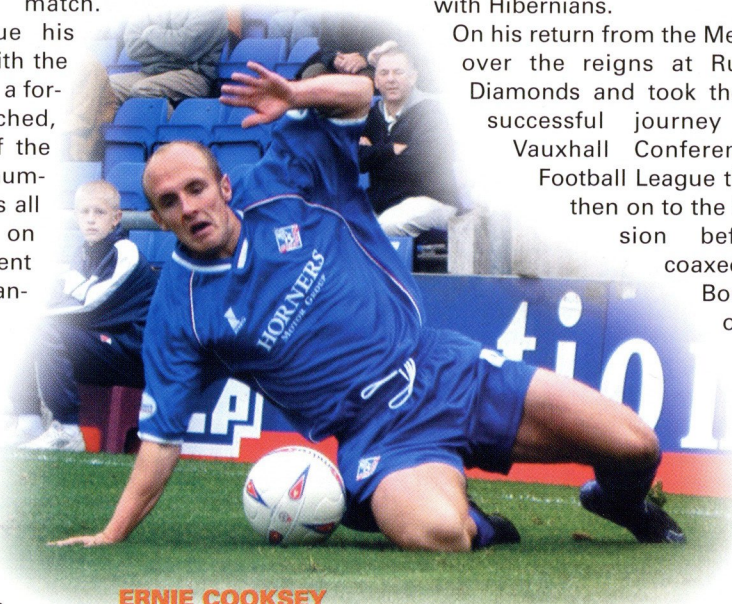
Dean joined Latics' from Luton Town on deadline day, the ex Stoke City, Northampton and Bury player has good pace and is an excellent link-up player who can score goals.

MANAGER

BRIAN TALBOT

Joined Oldham Athletic in March 2004 following the departure of Iain Dowie to Crystal Palace. Brian began his managerial career with West Bromwich Albion before spending time in Malta with Hibernians.

On his return from the Med Brian took over the reigns at Rushden and Diamonds and took the club on a successful journey from the Vauxhall Conference to the Football League third division then on to the Second division before being coaxed to join the Boundary Park outfit.



ERNIE COOKSEY



Blast From The Past

When David Pleat was given the manager's job at Kenilworth Road in the early part of 1978 it soon became obvious to him that radical changes to the squad would be required if there was to be a realistic tilt at the title of the old Division Two.

Out, more or less immediately, went long serving centre-half John Faulkner who joined Memphis in the North American Soccer League where he teamed up with another ex-Town veteran Jimmy Husband. With the money raised, Pleat signed Terry Hayes from Linfield for £15,000 and, more importantly, 18 year old Mark Aizlewood who was snatched from under the noses of a host of Division One scouts.

The real wheeler dealing came in the close season, however, when England under-21 international Paul Futcher was sold to Manchester City for £350,000. Pleat now had serious money with which to play the market and he lost no time in trying to spend it all before it burnt a hole in his pocket.

Firstly he entered into a battle with Stoke over the signature of the highly rated Swindon winger David Moss with the result that Pleat had to increase his bid from £90,000 to £110,000 in order to get his man. At the same time, highly regarded junior players John Lucas and Steve Sherlock were signed from Manchester United and Manchester City respectively with Pleat once more seeing off strong competition.

Additional forward strength was now a priority and names such as Steve Finnieston of Chelsea and

John Duncan of Tottenham were bandied about, but it was to Blackpool's Bob Hatton that Pleat eventually turned. Hatton had seen his side relegated to Division Three and wanted a higher grade of football as well as a move of house back to the Midlands.

David Pleat was able to satisfy both demands and paid out £50,000 for the services of this proven goalscorer after the offer of Ron Futcher in part exchange fell through. Futcher, who was spending the summer in the States with Minnesota Kicks, did not want to drop a division and by waiting realised a dream when he joined his twin brother at Maine Road in a £75,000 deal.

Next on the list was Mal Donaghy of Larne who was being chased by a host of clubs including Q.P.R, Wolves and Celtic. Larne manager Dave Halliday knew he had a precious jewel and so Pleat waited for his counterpart to go on holiday before approaching the Northern Irish club's directors and picking up Donaghy for a bargain £15,000. "This man



David Moss knocks in the Town's second goal during the 6-1 win over Oldham in August 1978.

New Boys Shatter Latics

will play for his country for many years to come," predicted Pleat.

After full-back Kirk Stephens was picked up from one of Pleat's old clubs, Nuneaton Borough for £5,000, a centre-half to replace the transferred Faulkner was seen to be the final piece in the jigsaw.

Pleat had his eye on Peterborough's Chris Turner, but he also knew that Norwich were interested. Without further ado, Pleat skipped across the Atlantic to talk to Turner, who was turning out for New England Teamen, and clinched the deal that would bring him to Kenilworth Road for £100,000.

Pleat now felt he had a squad to take on the best in the division, but the acid test would come when the league season started.

Oldham were the visitors to Kenilworth Road on the opening day of the 1978/79 campaign and a bemused crowd of 8,043 turned up to see if they could recognise anyone as no fewer than seven players were making their first appearance in the league in Luton colours, a record apart from the opening game of the first post-war season.

At half-time that day we were all wondering if the money had been spent wisely as the Latics

had taken the lead through Ian Wood early on and were comfortably in control.

What was said at the interval can only be guessed at but after just 15 seconds of the restart Hatton latched on to a long ball from Turner to level the score and then Moss put the Town in front a minute later.

This amazing turnaround drained the Latics' enthusiasm and a further three goal salvo midway through the half killed the game.

Firstly, Brian Stein netted from close in after a shot came back off the post, followed by a Lil Fuccillo penalty and then Moss hammering in a long cross from Donaghy.

Bob Hatton headed his second and Luton's sixth in the final minute. An incredible game and an unbelievable scoreline. It was not me that doubted Pleat's expertise in the transfer market it was that other bloke!

Luton: Aleksic, Stephens, Sherlock, Donaghy, Turner, Aizlewood, Hill, Fuccillo, Stein, Hatton, Moss.

Oldham: McDonnell, Wood, Edwards, Blair, Holt, Hurst, Gardner, Taylor, Young, Halom, Chapman.

Roger Wash

Yesterday's pages



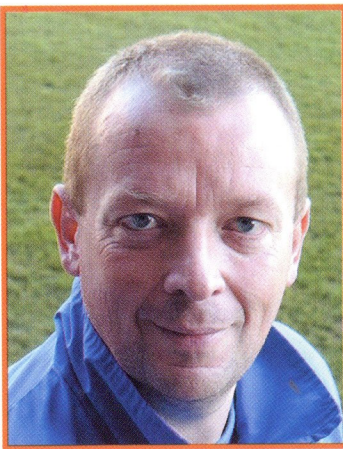
Six of the seven players about to make their debut for the Town smile from the front cover of the Oldham programme in August 1978. The missing player was Chris Turner.

This was the third season of an awkwardly shaped programme from the Town but there was a fair amount of reading material for your 20p. David Pleat, in his manager's column, was obviously in bullish mood because of his summer spending spree while new signing Bob Hatton, in a player interview, felt the same way and praised the progressive attitude of his new boss.

In his 'All our Yesterday's' column Brian Swain looked back ten years and remarked that, co-incidentally, Oldham were the visitors to Kenilworth Road on the opening day of the 1968/69 season. We won that one as well!

LTFC in the Community

working in conjunction with Bedfordshire Football Association and Luton Borough Council



OVER the last few weeks we have made some presentations on the pitch on behalf of the Bedfordshire FA. The first was made before the postponed game against Bournemouth.

Bedfordshire Football Association has recently piloted, on a local basis for the national FA, a new version of the current Level 1 Coaching Certificate which is aimed at delivering safe practises to children. This new course is another Level 1 Certificate, but aimed at delivering safe practises to adults.

Managers of local adult teams are now able to benefit from the same learning opportunity as the managers of junior teams. This will then give them the basic knowledge to take the first major step on the coaching ladder, the FA Level 2 Coaching Certificate.

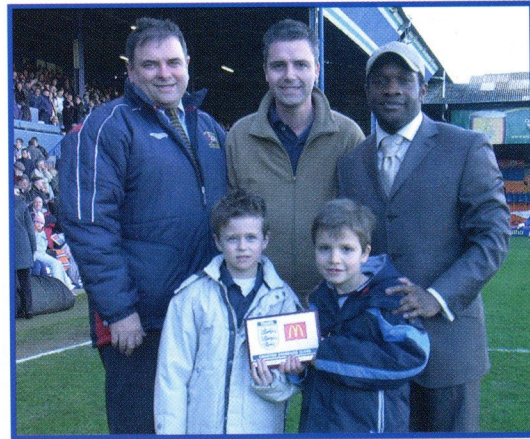
After the successful pilot in Bedfordshire, the scheme has now been adopted nationwide. In



the picture are the successful candidates from the Bedfordshire Course.

At the Blackpool match we presented the latest batch of certificates to the successful recipients of the FA Charter Standard Club Award. These go to local clubs who have achieved the FA's kitemark of good practice.

This includes having qualified coaches, a code of conduct for players, parents and managers, a



Coaching Standards Are Adopted Nationwide



child protection policy and a structured constitution, providing football for all ages and both genders and a structured exit route. They join 41 others who have achieved this prestigious award in the county. The latest clubs to achieve the award are Cranfield Colts, Barton Rovers, Dunstable Colts, Woburn Lions and Harlington Lower School FC. Our pictures show their representatives receiving their awards.

Stuart Smith

TWO NEW COACHING COURSES.

Two evening soccer schools will be run at Barnfield College, New Bedford Road, on Thursdays from 4.30 until 6, for boys and girls aged between five and 11.

Course One will run for 12 weeks, and the cost is £3 per session, or £30 for a block booking.

Dates: April 22 & 29, May 6, 13, 20 & 27, June 10, 17 & 24, and July 1, 8 & 15

Course Two is an eight-week programme, costing £3 per session or £20 for a block booking.

Dates: September 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, October 7, 14, 21



You can enrol on both courses at a discount, for a combined fee of £45.00

To enrol, call the Community Office on 01582 391927

WE are still taking bookings for our Easter Holiday courses

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY COURSES ARE THE ONLY ONES WHERE YOU CAN MEET PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS



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Sunday 2nd May 2004
7.00pm til late
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Vauxhall Recreation Centre
Gipsy Lane, Luton

Special Guest Speaker
Bruce Rioch

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Smart Casual Dress
Tickets now on general sale,
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Price: £14 members, £20 non-members.
Ticket sales enquiries: phone 01908 569339



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Just think, what a unique Birthday Gift this could make, as well as perhaps a very special way to commemorate a loved one, or family member. Additionally as a local business why not buy a block to promote and advertise your service or product?

To take advantage of this unique offer just pick up an application form from the Club Shop, Ticket Office or simply download an application form from the Luton Town website www.lutontown.co.uk.

Complete it and post it back to **Names on Seats**, Luton Town Football Club, Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW, enclosing your remittance for a minimum of £15.00, either by cheque payable to **Luton Town FC** or alternatively by completing the credit/debit card details section of the order form.



Leaders So Lucky To Nick A Point

Luton Town 1 Plymouth Argyle 1

TOP of the table for three months, and almost certain to be in the First Division next season, Argyle were very relieved to avoid their first defeat in seven outings against a Town side down to ten men for the last 44 minutes.

A Plymouth equaliser in the fourth minute of stoppage time put the final cruel twist on a fascinating match, with the Town showing once more that the tougher the challenge the better they play.

With a gale force wind swirling around, and the biggest attendance of the season creating a hot atmosphere, Chris Coyne headed the opening goal just before the break. Just after it Kevin Nicholls was sent off for violent conduct as he led attempts to prevent Plymouth taking a quick free kick inside the area.

Two excellent defences were a match for their opposing strikers, but still unable to keep clean sheets in a tense and sometimes niggly encounter. Peter Holmes was unlucky with a first-half shot that hit a post, although Plymouth, defending well and looking for counter-attacks, wasted a couple of chances, with David Friio and Nathan Lowndes the culprits.

Coyne gave the Town the lead when he ghosted in for a far post header to meet a free kick by Steve Robinson, and the midfielder then set about doing the work of two men after Nicholls was sent off to keep the Town very much in the game.

Referee Graham Salisbury was criticised by both managers. Kevin Summerfield, caretaker boss of Plymouth, called him "abysmal" and said the free kick leading to the Town's goal should never have been given. Mike Newell reflected the crowd's anger over the red card incident. It started with the ref penalising Morten Hyldgaard for taking too long to get rid of the ball.

"He said he had the ball in his hands for ten seconds," said the Town boss. "So why didn't he blow on seven? Week in, week out, you will never see goalkeepers penalised under the six-second rule – it just doesn't happen.

"If Nicholls was guilty of violent conduct he deserved to be sent off, and he has let us down, and we will deal with it. But their man made a meal of it, and that upsets me and really annoys me."

It annoyed the crowd too, with Lowndes never going to be a Kenilworth Road favourite anyway in view of his previous employers including one in Hertfordshire. After tangling with Nicholls he went to ground as though he had been shot. Lengthy treatment followed, and that was to have its effect later in the game, when the board went up showing a minimum of three minutes added time. In a crowded area midfielder Steve Adams headed the equaliser on 93 minutes and five seconds. "We all feel gutted," said Mike Newell.

Until then the ten men had been more than a match for Argyle's 11, despite losing Coyne to an ankle injury early in the second half. Curtis Davies, 19, replaced him, and Emmerson Boyce took on the role of minder to continue to handle Argyle's two front men, Lowndes and Micky Evans, so effectively that both were subbed.

Summerfield confessed that he thought he was about to suffer his first defeat in his fourth game since succeeding Paul Sturrock. "I am very relieved we have got a point," he said, "And it could be a very big point by the end of the season. The swirling wind didn't help either side – it spoiled the game as a spectacle because in some areas of the pitch it was virtually impossible to play a pass. I was a little bit disappointed with our performance, and even up against ten men it was difficult for us."

Match Details

TOWN: Hyldgaard; Keane, Boyce, Coyne (Davies 49 mins), Neilson; Nicholls, Robinson, Hughes, Holmes; Showunmi (Crowe 87 mins), Howard. Unused subs: Brkovic, Hillier, Brill.

SENT OFF: Kevin Nicholls for violent conduct against Nathan Lowndes.

BOOKED: Peter Holmes and Steve Howard for fouls.

PLYMOUTH: McCormick; Connolly, Wotton, Coughlan, Gilbert; Norris, Friio, Adams, Capaldi (Phillips 55 mins); Evans (Sturrock 76 mins), Lowndes (Keith 76 mins). Unused subs: Hodges, Aljofree.

BOOKED: David Friio for dive to try to win a penalty against Kevin Nicholls.

REFEREE: Graham Salisbury, Lancashire.

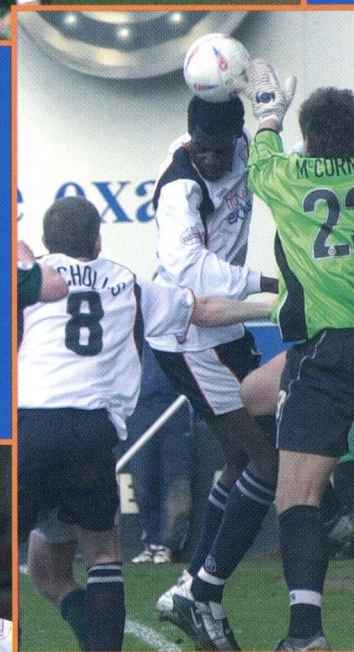
ATTENDANCE: 8,499, highest of the season, with 1,638 making the 500-mile round trip from Plymouth.



HATTERS AHEAD: Chris Coyne tumbles after heading the Town into the lead, from a free kick to the far post by Steve Robinson. Kevin Nicholls kept his run going to ensure that if Coyne's effort did not cross the line he could finish it off.

RIGHT: Enoch Showunmi is well up for it, to win a header in competition with goalkeeper Luke McCormick

BELOW: Peter Holmes gets in a shot as the Town seek the second goal that might have finished off the league leaders



Hatters Pic of the Week



HAPPY HATTERS: Chris Coyne has given the Town the lead against Plymouth, and he and the fans enjoy the moment. Unfortunately, the centre-half had picked up an ankle injury earlier in the game, and he had to be subbed early in the second half, and also missed Saturday's match at QPR.

Depleted In Numbers But Not In Spirit

Queens Park Rangers 1 Luton Town 1

WITH THE stakes so high for both teams, QPR and the Town provided remarkable entertainment in a match in which there was hardly any difference between the sides, despite the Town being well under-strength and hit by three more injuries in the first 36 minutes.

Steve Howard and Chris Coyne had joined Matthew Spring on the injured list and Sol Davis was suspended. Paul Underwood came in for his Town debut after his move from Rushden, but had to be subbed after only 19 minutes because of a hamstring injury. A robust tackle left Paul Hughes with ankle ligament damage, so Adrian Forbes returned for his first appearance in two months two minutes before Paul Holmes, who had replaced Underwood, was forced out with a twisted knee.

It meant that the Town had to chop and change as the game went on, having started with Ahmet Brkovic as the emergency front man alongside Enoch Showunmi. Forbes took over that role, and while Rangers were fired up for a high tempo game, they were never allowed to dictate.

The big Town following enjoyed goading Tony Thorpe, especially when he was subbed after being fairly anonymous for 72 minutes.

It was full-blooded football. There was a hint of desperation about the way Rangers played, and if the home side edged possession the Town had chances to steal a win. Driven on by Kevin Nicholls, who relished the battle, the Town had a header by Emmerson Boyce cleared off the line before Rangers scored.

Morten Hyldgaard had made an excellent early save to push out a 20-yarder by Martin Rowlands, and he blocked shots by Kevin Gallen and Paul Furlong. Curtis Davies, as replacement for Coyne, discovered just what a battle it can be between two tense and anxious teams, and he and Boyce looked in command of a lacklustre attack until stoppage time at the

end of the first half, when Gallen delivered a quality cross and Furlong was given too much space, and headed his 11th goal of the season.

But it was the Town who responded better to that disappointment. Showunmi, who was giving Clarke Carlisle nightmares, had a drive blocked by the keeper, and Nicholls twice got into the box and saw his shots parried. Perhaps he hit them too cleanly, opined the manager later.

Justice was done after 76 minutes when Brkovic and Forbes worked the ball into the inside-left position for Showunmi to take charge, hold off would-be markers, and drive in his seventh goal of the season, and his first away from home in the league. A yellow card for his celebrations in front of the Town fans seemed a little mean-spirited.

Marcus Bignot, on his Rangers debut after leaving Rushden, fired a cross-cum-shot onto the outside of a post from a narrow angle, and Furlong flicked a late close-range shot wide, but with every man ready to battle until the final whistle, the Town were well worth their point.

Rangers boss Ian Holloway said: "It was an exciting game, and give credit to Luton because they played very well. We needed a second goal, and it was disappointing not to get it."

He admitted his game plan of getting Gallen to attack inexperienced Keith Keane on one flank, and Martin Rowlands to get at Alan Neilson on the other, had been less than a roaring success.

Mike Newell was delighted with a point gained in the face of ever-growing adversity. "I don't think anybody can deny we deserved something out of the game," he said. "After the substitutions we were really up against it, but we dug deep. And I couldn't have asked for anything more from the players, and I am very proud of every single one of them. We played as a team."

Match Details

TOWN: Hyldgaard; Keane, Boyce, Davies, Neilson; Nicholls, Hughes (Forbes 34 mins), Robinson, Underwood (Holmes 19 mins, Foley 36 mins); Brkovic, Showunmi. Unused subs: Mansell, Brill.

BOOKED: Enoch Showunmi for celebrating his goal too exuberantly.

RANGERS: Camp; Bignot, Gnohere, Carlisle, Edghill; Rowlands, Bean (Cureton 82 mins), Johnson, Gallen; Furlong, Thorpe (McLeod 72 mins). Unused subs: Day, Palmer, Ainsworth.

BOOKED: Kevin McLeod and Martin Rowlands, fouls on Keith Keane and Alan Neilson respectively.

REFEREE: Andy D'Urso, Essex.

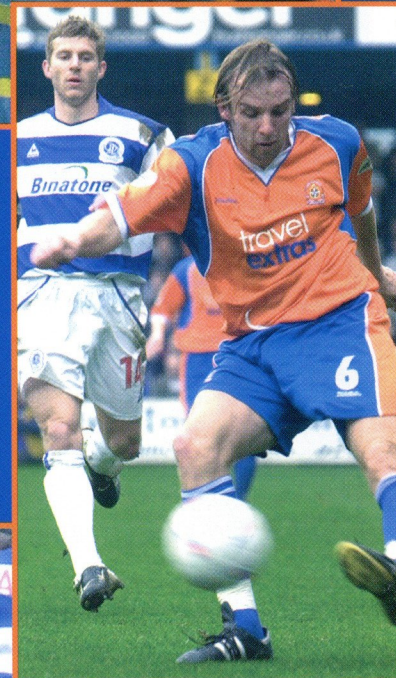
ATTENDANCE: 17,695, QPR's second highest of the season, atmosphere boosted by 3,139 Town fans.



CULT HERO: Enoch Showunmi is barely visible as he is engulfed by Town fans at Loftus Road. Kevin Nicholls and Curtis Davies are leading the charge to join the celebrations for the equaliser.

RIGHT: Paul Underwood, signed on deadline day from Rushden, goes down the left wing to put over a cross in a debut appearance which was cut short by injury.

BELOW: Ahmet Brkovic, who started as an emergency striker before reverting to midfield, takes them on two at a time, with Arthur Gnohere and Clark Carlisle trying to stop him.



Town Teaser

IF YOU know your Town Trivia, you could win a pair of match tickets in our Town Teaser competition. Listen to the PA announcer before kick-off for your chance to have a go. At the last home game we asked who made his debut against that day's opponents, Plymouth, and the answer was Enoch Showunmi. Today's question is another on the theme of connections between the clubs involved in today's game.

TODAY'S QUESTION

WHO is the connection between Oldham, Luton Town and Crystal Palace, and what is that connection?

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Winning Double For A Lucky Fan

WE MIGHT have been robbed at our last home game, when Plymouth equalised in stoppage time, but there was one rather happy family in the enclosure. Paul Meaton, from Stanford Road, Luton, was the day's Golden Gamble winner, collecting £845 in cash, and 12-year-old son Jacob joined him on the pitch for the presentation. Scott Boatwright, also 12, was the supporter picked out to make the draw. The Golden Gamble costs only £1 to enter, and so far this season it has paid out 22 jackpots worth a total of £14,640, an average of £665 each, and another wedge of cash is on offer today. Half of the stake money goes into the jackpot, and the other 50p per ticket goes to club funds. The draw is made at half time, and the prize is available for collection there and then.

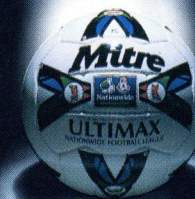


WE ARE still looking for the winner from the Bournemouth game, which was postponed just before kick-off. Ticket number 29485, sold in the main stand or executive areas is worth £585 and if you have that ticket please contact the commercial department.

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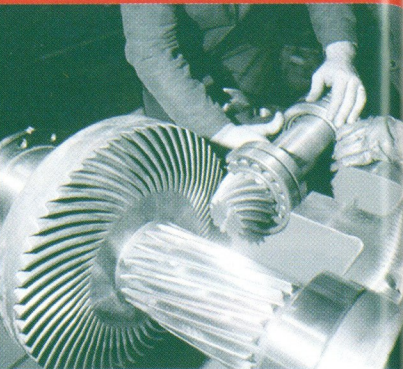
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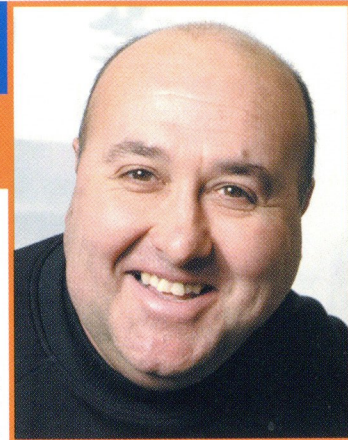
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Youth Soccer

The under-17s



Brighton & Hove Albion 2 Luton Town 1

WE LOST after scoring after only four minutes, but I was still very pleased with our performance because we played very well against the best side in the league. Brighton needed to win to clinch the championship, and put out a very strong team against our side of 14, 15 and 16-year-olds.

Matt Kenneford shot our early goal from just inside the box, and Brighton became more and more frantic as we played well. They were given a lift with an equaliser on the stroke of half time, a goal which we should have prevented. It settled Brighton down, but in a good open game we matched them and could easily have come home with a point.

Unfortunately a ball over the top caught us out in the 85th minute and Brighton scored again, but to their credit our lads refused to give in. We put Brighton under tremendous pressure, and even our goalkeeper was going up for corners and set pieces and Brighton were very relieved to hear the final whistle. We had had a few chances on the break, but our keeper, Zach Barrett, also had to make some good saves.

Brighton are an excellent team, and this was the second

tight 2-1 game we have had with them, and their director of football, Martin Hinchelwood, took the trouble to ring us this week to tell us: "Your boys were magnificent."

They certainly were, and while our efforts at this level are about developing players more than getting results, we are going well in the league, and a top four or five finish is within our reach, which would also be magnificent.

Luton Town: Barrett, Asafu'Adjaye, Pendleton, Kennett, Tague, Green, Hanley, Reynolds, Kenneford (Hamilton 65 mins), Preston, R. Sinclair (Cowley 65 mins).

WE WERE due to complete our home fixture list today, against Portsmouth, and have just one more match, an away game with QPR which was postponed a fortnight ago.

APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Green 22, Pendleton 21(1), Tague 19(1), S. Sinclair 18(1), Barrett 17, Hanley 16, Smyth 15, R. Sinclair 13(4), Preston 12(4), Burrows 10, Magadah 9(1), Asafu'Adjaye 8(8), Ridgway 8, Andrew 6, Mountford 6, Clark 6, Richardson 5(1), Goodchild 5, Maitland 4(1), Deeney 4, Kenneford 3(4), Reynolds 3(1), Kennett 3, Jones 3, Charles 2(2), Freeman 2, Keane 2, R. Quinn 2, Robinson 1(4), Hamilton 1(2), Farrell 1, Potter 1, Kelly 1, Field 1, McNally 1, Port 1, Hooper 1, Ward 1, Edae 0(3), Cowley 0(3), K. Quinn 0(2), Foley 0(1), McGuinness 0(1), Marsiligo 0(1),

Goals: Andrew 8, Preston 7, Burrows 6, Freeman 4, Ridgway 4, Magadah 4, S. Sinclair 3, Richardson 3, Hanley 3, Magadah 4, Maitland 2, Green 2, Kenneford 2, Tague 1, Smyth 1, R. Sinclair 1, Keane 1, Jones 1, Hamilton 1, Charles 1, Deeney 1.

Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-17 South East Conference

August			
9	Brentford	A	1-2 Burrows
16	Brighton	H	1-2 Burrows
23	Rushden	A	3-1 Burrows 2, Preston
September			
6	Cambridge	A	0-2
13	Portsmouth	A	0-3
20	L. Orient	H	3-1 Andrew 2, Freeman
27	Southend	A	2-6 Magadah, Tague
October			
4	Northampton	A	4-1 Preston 2, S. Sinclair, Burrows
11	Colchester	H	0-2
18	Oxford	A	0-1
November			
1	Gillingham	A	4-1 Richardson, Smyth, Kenneford, Hanley
8	Wycombe	H	8-0 Freeman 3, Maitland 2, S. Sinclair, Magadah, Richardson
			R. Sinclair, Burrows, Richardson, Preston
15	L. Orient	A	4-0
December			
6	Colchester	A	0-1
13	Oxford	H	6-1 Ridgway, Keane, S. Sinclair, Hanley, Green, Jones
January			
17	Gillingham	H	3-1 Preston 3
24	Wycombe	A	3-0 Andrew 2, Hanley
31	Brentford	H	Postponed
February			
14	Rushden	H	2-1 Hamilton, Charles
17	QPR	H	3-1 Deeney, Magadah, Green
21	Cambridge	H	2-2 Ridgway 2
March			
6	Southend	H	2-2 Ridgway, Andrew
13	Northampton	H	4-0 Andrew 3, Magadah
20	QPR	A	Postponed
27	Brighton	A	1-2 Kenneford
April			
3	Portsmouth	H	

Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-17 South East Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Brighton	26	20	1	5	74	28	46	61
QPR	24	16	6	2	79	27	52	54
Cambridge	24	13	4	7	55	30	25	43
Portsmouth	25	12	7	6	51	36	15	43
Rushden	26	11	8	7	59	51	8	41
Colchester	26	11	7	8	56	45	11	40
Luton Town	23	12	2	9	56	33	23	38
Southend	24	9	5	10	48	43	5	32
Gillingham	26	8	6	12	42	68	-26	30
Oxford	25	9	2	14	39	60	-21	29
Brentford	25	7	7	11	36	48	-12	28
Wycombe	24	6	7	11	37	60	-23	25
Northampton	26	4	3	19	32	74	-42	15
L. Orient	26	3	3	20	35	96	-61	12

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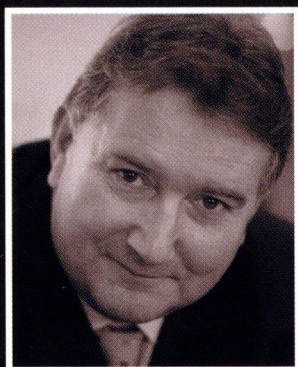
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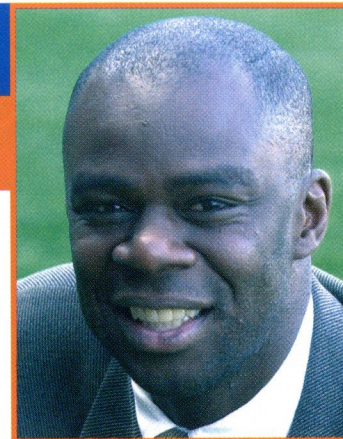
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Youth Soccer: The under-19s



Luton Town 3 Torquay Utd 1

THE RESULT was a fair reflection of the game, and I was pleased with the overall team performance. There were no individual stars, but everyone did well, with good passing and movement.

We might have scored more goals, and I was a little disappointed that we did not keep a clean sheet, especially as Torquay's 84th-minute consolation came from a corner, and I expect better defending at set pieces.

But if we continue to play as well as this we will win more games than we lose, and we certainly created more chances than Torquay. They had a first-half "equaliser" disallowed because the scorer was a long way offside, and opened us up on only one other occasion, but the lad shot wide.

Matthew Judge completed a good move with a calm finish on 29 minutes, and he netted again after 58 minutes with a goal that delighted me - it was a tap-in after a ric-

ochet fell to him, and I have been on at him to get in there because he doesn't score enough of those "easy" goals. Parys Okai shot the third on 80 minutes, three minutes before Torquay replied.

Luton Town: Edae, Mountford (Green HT), Mansell, Deeney, Howell, Barnett, Maitland (S. Sinclair 75 mins), Ridgway, Andrew, Judge, Okai.

Luton Town 4 Oxford Utd 0

WE WERE only one up at half time, with the sides apparently fairly evenly matched, but in the second half I couldn't have asked for more from the players, because we overran Oxford.

The visitors were lucky to avoid a heavier defeat, because as well as scoring four we hit the bar twice, through David Deeney and Mathew Judge, and Richard Mansell had a goal ruled out for an alleged foul on the keeper which I felt was very debatable to say the least.

The team performance was excellent, probably the best since I took over the squad. I could not pick out individuals for special mention because every one was a star, and when you have everyone really on their game it is a pleasure to watch.

Oxford rarely threatened us, and I was a little disappointed that it took us 42 minutes to make the breakthrough, but the overdue goal was spectacular. Matthew Judge received the ball at last 30 yards from goal, took his shot early and his perfectly-placed lob caught the goalkeeper by surprise.

Three goals in seven minutes early in the second half rewarded some very good team play. We went two up on 58 minutes when Parys Okai's cross led to a defender diverting the ball into his own net. Sean Ridgway extended the lead with a shot from the edge of the box, and Luke Maitland made it 3-0 with a back post header.

Luton Town: Edae, Mountford, Mansell, Deeney, Howell, Barnett, Maitland (S. Sinclair 70 mins), Ridgway, Andrew, Judge (Ward 65 mins), Okai (Francis 74 mins).

Marvin Johnson

Umbro Isotonic FL Youth Alliance Under-19 South Central Conference

August

9 Rushden H 3-2 Judge 2, Andrew
16 Cambridge A 1-2 Barnett
23 Kidderminster H 1-1 Judge

September

6 Cheltenham H 2-0 Mansell, Davies
13 Walsall A 1-4 O'Leary
27 Oxford H 3-3 O'Leary 2, Okai

October

4 Northampton H 3-0 Judge 2, Okai
11 Southend (LC) A 1-0 Barnett
16 Brighton (FAYC1) A 0-2
18 West Brom A 3-1 Freeman, Deeney, Barnett
25 Cheltenham A 4-2 Freeman, Ridgway, Magadah 2

November

1 Walsall H 0-3
15 Oxford A 1-1 Davies
22 Swindon (LC) H 0-4
29 Northampton A 2-0 Andrew, Ridgway

December

6 West Brom H 1-0 Andrew

January

10 Cambridge H 0-1
17 Rushden A 1-1 Green

February

7 Kidderminster A 1-2 Judge

Merit Division S. Section Div II

February

14 Portsmouth A 3-2 Judge, Andrew, Hanley
28 Swansea H 3-0 Judge, Maitland, Okai

March

20 Torquay H 3-1 Judge 2, Okai
27 Oxford Utd H 4-0 Judge, Ridgway, Maitland, OG

April

3 Swindon A
17 Brentford A
24 Cheltenham H

Merit Division Two South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Luton Town	4	4	0	0	13	3	10	12
Portsmouth	4	3	0	1	10	4	6	9
Cheltenham	4	3	0	1	5	2	3	9
Torquay	5	1	1	3	11	8	3	4
Swindon	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4
Oxford	4	1	1	2	4	9	-5	4
Swansea	3	1	0	2	6	14	-8	3
Brentford	5	0	1	4	5	14	-9	1

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WE HAVE an Easter treat for Junior Hatters next week – a trip to Prenton Park to see the Town play Tranmere. It looks like being a good match, and for one of our members it will be a memorable occasion, because Tranmere have invited us to provide a mascot. As usual the choice will be made by lucky dip on the coach, so if you want to be in with a chance book your seat early, and remember to bring with you your Luton Town kit and trainers or football boots.

The price will be £14 for Junior Hatters, £22 for adults, and £18 for concessions, and that includes match tickets, so it is a real bargain – it amounts to a

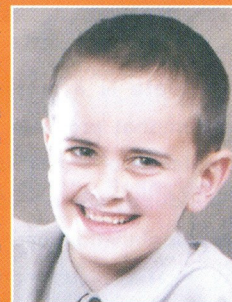
£10 coach fare for young fans and only £7 for their parents.

Departure will be 9.30 from Luton, and seats are sold on a first come, first served basis. Book at the Community Office in Oak Road, which is the Junior Hatters headquarters, or by phone to Luton 391927. Members should have received in the last few days leaflets about the Community Department's school holiday coaching courses, along with a voting slip to name their player of the season. This year we are joining up with junior members of Luton Town Supporters Club, who already have an award for the young fans' choice of best Town player. If you want to vote, make sure you return your slip as soon as possible, because the LTSC presentation night is early next month.

Incidentally, don't forget that if you book places on the coaching courses, you get a 10 per cent discount if you are a Junior Hatter.

Today's Mascot

NINE-year-old Ronan Lennon is today's luckiest Junior Hatter, because his name was picked out to be this afternoon's mascot. He is a real Luton Town fan, coming to games with his dad and brother, who usually sit in the Main Stand while Ronan cheers for the Town with the rest of the Junior Hatters in the Kenny End. Ronan lives at Rosslyn Crescent, Luton, and goes to St. Joseph's Junior School, and while he enjoys football and swimming he has just been rewarded for his badminton ability, by being picked for Bedfordshire. His duties today will include joining the players in the dressing room before kick-off, where he hopes to meet his favourite, Steve Howard, before going out onto the pitch for the pre-match formalities.



VIP FANS: Three mascots were on duty at the Plymouth match, and are pictured with the skippers and match officials at the toss of the coin before kick-off. Daniel Cadden was there for the Junior Hatters, and the other two lads are commercial mascots Alex Lake and Jason Lee.

JUNIOR Hatters membership is open to boys and girls aged from 0 to 16 who support Luton Town. There are lots of advantages, including the Saturday Club, organised trips to away games, and the chance to be a mascot at home matches – the choice is made at random from the membership list. For more information call Junior Hatters headquarters in the Community office, on 01582 391927.

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Historic Win For Young Belles

Cambridge United 0 Luton Town 2

BELLES under-15s were in action last Saturday evening at Cambridge United's Abbey Stadium at the beginning of a run of very tough matches as they seek to retain the league championship. The game was played under floodlights after United's Third Division home victory over Cheltenham, and a number of fans stayed behind to see a little bit of history - it is believed to be the first a girls youth match has been played in such circumstances. Home fans who were anticipating a one-way procession by the hosts were quickly disappointed as Luton defended solidly in the opening exchanges and broke to win a sixth minute corner. Lizzie Randall delivered it superbly towards the penalty spot and Fay Rolls rose high to head into the top corner. The goal quietened the home crowd and they were stunned into silence with a repeat performance in the 11th minute. This time Lizzie Randall's corner was half cleared to Janine Daly, who struck a powerful half volley high into the net from 12 yards. Cambridge fought back hard but were restricted to long-range efforts that the Belles defence

dealt with easily. It was all the more remarkable as injuries had forced changes, and keeper Lauren Bishop had made her debut just the week before while converted striker Ann Folan at right back was making only her second appearance for the team. United's best opening came following a defensive mix-up on the goal line, but Lauren Bishop recovered well to block on the line.

With Belles two up at the break, both sides continued to play good passing football in the second half but the well-organised and disciplined Town rearguard were rarely in trouble. When Cambridge did manage to break through Alice Middleton put in a superb tackle to rob the striker as she prepared to shoot.

With 15 minutes left United changed formation to leave just three at the back, but this just allowed Luton to apply more pressure. Michelle Byrne, who had been tightly marked all night, relished her new-found freedom and created three chances with her powerful running, and was very unlucky not to score with one effort flying over the bar, another rolling narrowly wide of the post and the third well saved by the keeper.

With five minutes left the match looked to be over as Byrne was brought crashing to the ground with only the keeper to beat, and the referee was the only one in the ground who didn't think it was a penalty. The two sides meet again in the League Cup semi-final next month, and as for the league the mathematics are simple: Luton must win all three remaining matches to retain the championship. That will be no simple task as their opponents are Stevenage Borough and main rivals Leyton Orient and Watford.



Lauren Bishop deals with another Cambridge shot

Dave Baker

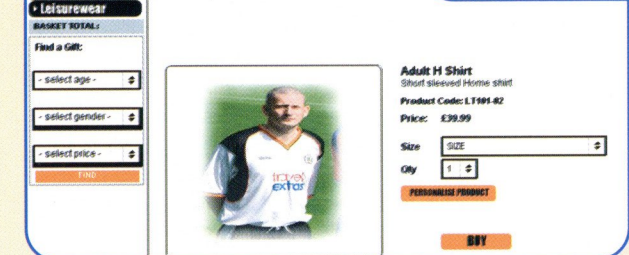
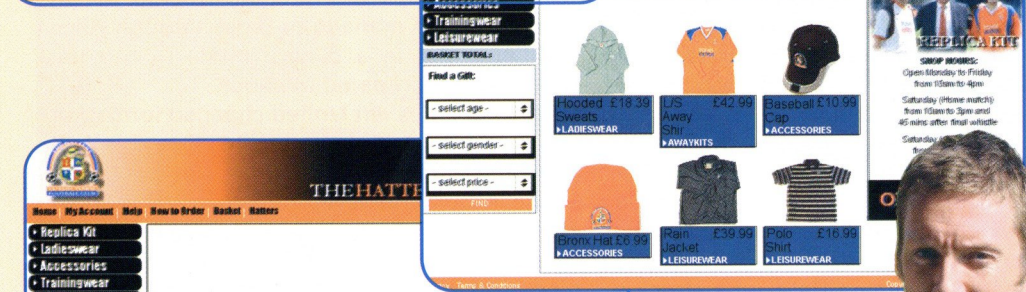
LUTON Belles organises football for girls of all ages, from six upwards. If you want to know more, or fancy being involved, e-mail Dave Baker at lutonbelles@hotmail.com The Belles also have a website - pay a visit to www.lutontownbelles.com Home matches are played at Stockwood Park athletics stadium, under-10 to senior on Sundays and under-10 and under-12 mini soccer on Saturdays. Fixtures details can be found on the website.

Telephone the Luton Town ticket office on 01582 416976

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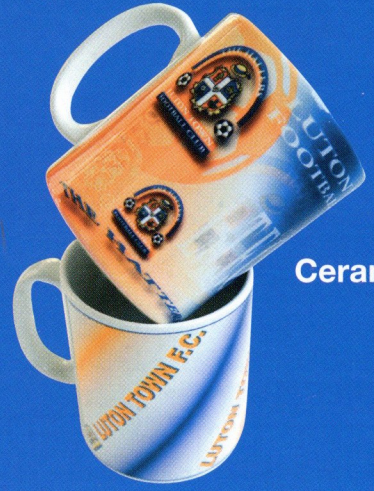


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Focus On: ISLEBEST LIMITED



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Pipe Band Heralds St. Patrick's Day



IT WAS quite like old times when the crowd at Kenilworth Road was entertained by a band playing on the pitch in the lead-up to St. Patrick's Day. Years ago we used to have brass bands, but more modern music has taken over at just about all football grounds. But there is still something special about live music, as was demonstrated when the Dookinella Memorial Pipe Band put on a display of marching and music. They were in Luton for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, on a visit sponsored by the Luton Irish Forum.

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Mike Newell and Mick Harford together with local boxing hero Billy Schwer at the launch of Weir Estates.

Picture courtesy of the Herald & Post

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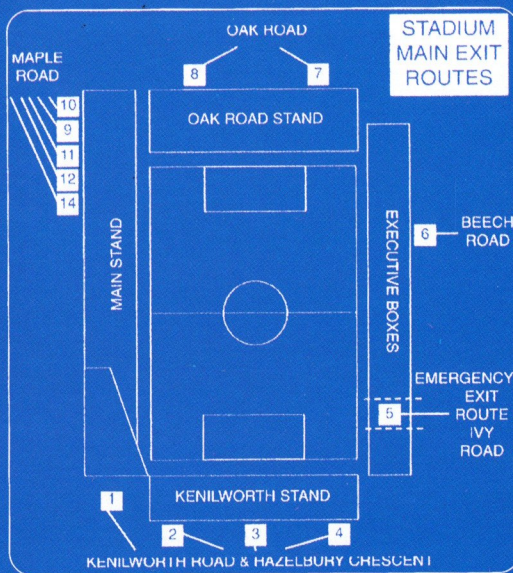
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EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

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

Geoff Lovell, Safety Manager.



TwoStats

Comebacks - Games won by teams who were trailing

Port Vale	5	Wrexham	3	Plymouth	2	Oldham	1
Blackpool	4	Barnsley	2	Swindon	2	QPR	1
Bournemouth	4	Bristol City	2	Hartlepool	1	Stockport	1
Luton	3	Grimsby	2	Brentford	1	Tranmere	1
Chesterfield	3	Notts County	2	Brighton	1	Wycombe	1
Rushden	3	Peterborough	2	Colchester	1	Sheff Wed	0

Throwaways - Games lost by teams who were in the lead

Port Vale	5	QPR	3	Sheff Wed	2	Hartlepool	1
Grimsby	4	Rushden	3	Stockport	2	Notts County	1
Oldham	4	Wrexham	2	Swindon	2	Brighton	0
Peterborough	3	Wycombe	2	Tranmere	2	Bristol City	0
Brentford	3	Blackpool	2	Bournemouth	1	Chesterfield	0
Luton	3	Colchester	2	Barnsley	1	Plymouth	0

Nationwide Division 2 2003-2004 Season - The Stats So Far

Highest Attendance	25,664	Sheff Wed v Barnsley
Lowest Attendance	2,513	Colchester v Stockport
Average Gate	7,354		
Aggregate Attendance	3,412,108		
Biggest Home Win	Hartlepool 8-1 Grimsby Plymouth 7-0 Chesterfield		
Biggest Away Win	Port Vale 1-5 Plymouth		
Biggest Aggregate Score	Bournemouth 6-3 Luton, Hartlepool 8-1 Grimsby		
Total Games	464		
Home Wins	208 (45%)		
Away Wins	113 (24%)		
Draws	143 (31%)		
1-1 Draws	65 (14%)		
0-0 Draws	39 (8%)		
Winning Sequence	Bristol City11		
Unbeaten Sequence	Bristol City12		
Losing Sequence	Chesterfield6		
Winless Sequence	Wycombe, Chesterfield, Peterborough 13		
Total Yellow Cards	1,421		
Total Red Cards	107		
Current Winning Sequence	Brentford, Tranmere2		
Current Unbeaten Sequence	QPR9		
Current Losing Sequence	Bristol City3		
Current Winless Sequence	Barnsley11		

Use Your Head! - Goals Scored & Conceded from Headers

Scored	All Gls	%	Conceded	All Gls	%		
Plymouth	24	75	32.0	Luton	18	49	36.7
Bristol City	16	50	32.0	Brentford	21	63	33.3
Swindon	19	65	29.2	Bristol City	10	32	31.3
Tranmere	13	45	28.9	Barnsley	14	46	30.4
Bournemouth	14	49	28.6	Brighton	12	40	30.0
Colchester	11	39	28.2	QPR	11	37	29.7
Brentford	12	43	27.9	Colchester	14	48	29.2
Chesterfield	12	43	27.9	Hartlepool	13	50	26.0
Sheff Wed	11	43	25.6	Wrexham	12	48	25.0
Port Vale	16	63	25.4	Chesterfield	15	62	24.2
Luton	14	57	24.6	Sheff Wed	12	50	24.0
Rushden	14	57	24.6	Blackpool	12	52	23.1
Wrexham	10	44	22.7	Oldham	12	53	22.6
Grimsby	11	49	22.4	Tranmere	11	51	21.6
Stockport	11	51	21.6	Plymouth	7	33	21.2
Oldham	11	53	20.8	Rushden	13	62	21.0
Notts County	8	43	18.6	Stockport	13	63	20.6
Wycombe	8	43	18.6	Peterborough	10	50	20.0
Barnsley	8	44	18.2	Wycombe	12	64	18.8
Peterborough	8	45	17.8	Grimsby	12	72	16.7
QPR	12	69	17.4	Notts County	10	65	15.4
Brighton	9	57	15.8	Bournemouth	6	39	15.4
Hartlepool	6	60	10.0	Swindon	6	49	12.2
Blackpool	4	46	8.7	Port Vale	6	55	10.9

Set Piece Power - Goals Scored & Conceded from Free Kicks

Scored	All For	%	Conc.	All Agt	%		
Stockport	11	51	21.6	Bristol City	9	32	28.1
Plymouth	13	75	17.3	Stockport	12	63	19.0
Hartlepool	10	60	16.7	Peterborough	9	50	18.0
Chesterfield	7	43	16.3	Tranmere	9	51	17.6
Peterborough	7	45	15.6	Colchester	8	48	16.7
Swindon	10	65	15.4	Bournemouth	6	39	15.4
QPR	10	69	14.5	Brighton	6	40	15.0
Luton	8	57	14.0	Chesterfield	9	62	14.5
Brentford	6	43	14.0	Swindon	7	49	14.3
Sheff Wed	6	43	14.0	Grimsby	9	72	12.5
Wycombe	6	43	14.0	Wycombe	8	64	12.5
Barnsley	6	44	13.6	Plymouth	4	33	12.1
Port Vale	8	63	12.7	Sheff Wed	6	50	12.0
Brighton	7	57	12.3	Blackpool	6	52	11.5
Bournemouth	6	49	12.2	Oldham	6	53	11.3
Grimsby	6	49	12.2	Brentford	7	63	11.1
Notts County	5	43	11.6	Barnsley	5	46	10.9
Colchester	4	39	10.3	Wrexham	5	48	10.4
Rushden	5	57	8.8	Luton	5	49	10.2
Blackpool	4	46	8.7	Port Vale	5	55	9.1
Bristol City	4	50	8.0	QPR	3	37	8.1
Oldham	4	53	7.5	Rushden	5	62	8.1
Wrexham	3	44	6.8	Hartlepool	4	50	8.0
Tranmere	2	45	4.4	Notts County	5	65	7.7

Goals Scored & Conceded from Corners as % of all corners for & agt.

Scored	Corn For	%	Conc.	Corn Agt	%		
Bristol City	11	243	4.53	Wycombe	11	207	5.31
Plymouth	11	246	4.47	Brentford	13	291	4.47
Rushden	8	180	4.44	Chesterfield	11	251	4.38
Tranmere	8	202	3.96	Bristol City	6	165	3.64
Brentford	9	231	3.90	Oldham	7	200	3.50
Port Vale	7	186	3.76	Hartlepool	5	178	2.81
Brighton	8	217	3.69	Wrexham	6	218	2.75
Hartlepool	6	189	3.17	QPR	5	182	2.75
Luton	6	200	3.00	Bournemouth	5	187	2.67
Grimsby	6	210	2.86	Port Vale	6	229	2.62
Oldham	6	229	2.62	Sheff Wed	5	192	2.60
Chesterfield	4	162	2.47	Barnsley	5	198	2.53
Swindon	6	244	2.46	Stockport	6	239	2.51
Colchester	5	207	2.42	Notts County	5	200	2.50
QPR	5	232	2.16	Grimsby	6	247	2.43
Wrexham	5	238	2.10	Plymouth	5	212	2.36
Barnsley	4	195	2.05	Luton	5	223	2.24
Sheff Wed	4	195	2.05	Blackpool	5	238	2.10
Stockport	4	217	1.84	Colchester	4	204	1.96
Blackpool	3	170	1.76	Rushden	5	261	1.92
Notts County	3	260	1.15	Brighton	3	192	1.56
Bournemouth	2	219	0.91	Tranmere	3	214	1.40
Wycombe	1	205	0.49	Peterborough	1	187	0.53
Peterborough	1	233	0.43	Swindon	0	195	0.00

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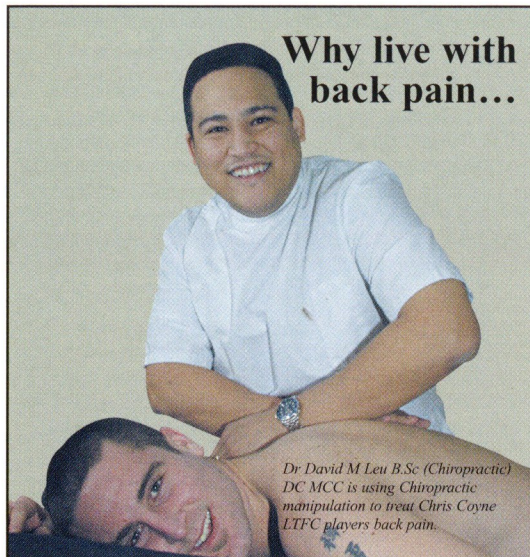
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Scene on Two: Games In Hand Are Crucial

THE HOME draw with Plymouth knocked the Town out of the play-off frame, and a similar result at Loftus Road last week cost another place, down to eighth. But with two games in hand on all the teams in the play-off places a top six finish is in the Town's own hands.

Only two teams in the top half of the table managed victories on Saturday, Bournemouth at Rushden and Port Vale at home to third-placed Bristol City.

Bournemouth's 3-0 success at Nene Park, against a club with financial problems and who released five players on deadline day, saw them jump from ninth to sixth in the table. But their pleasure was diluted on Tuesday when Port Vale overhauled them with a 3-3 draw at home to Swindon. Vale led 3-0 before Andy King's men, our Easter Monday visitors, hit back with three in the last 27 minutes. The draw was probably the best result for the Town, with two teams each dropping two points.

Danny Wilson, another former Town man yet to bring his squad to Kenilworth Road, is suffering a wobble. Eleven straight wins hoisted City to the top of the table briefly in February, but since then they have lost five of seven league games, gathering just four points out of 21, and may well have to settle for a play-off spot. The sequence includes a home defeat against Oldham.

City were deadline day's highest spenders, splashing out £500,000 to re-sign winger Scott Murray, who

had moved to Reading for £650,000 last summer. The only other major money to change hands saw Everton's Sean O'Hanlon sign for Swindon for £150,000 after being on loan at the County Ground. Another name on the deadline day transfer schedule was Courtney Pitt, on loan to the Town from Portsmouth earlier this season, and now an Oxford United player after a free transfer from Fratton Park. Today's visiting manager will be hoping to break a hoodoo - Brian Talbot, as manager of Rushden for seven years, was never able to conjure a victory over the Town, and Oldham will be well pleased if he breaks the jinx today.

Like the Town they have gone through the financial mill, enjoying largesse from a wealthy chairman, then going into administration when he cut off his support.

They emerged in early February, after Iain Dowie had been poached to be manager of Crystal Palace. Brian Talbot was installed as boss a month ago, when Oldham were 19th in the table. Unbeaten in his first three matches, the revival was under way until a surprising home defeat on Saturday, to Wycombe, who had not won away for 12 months. Dean Crowe, a non-contract recruit from the Town, made a 14-minute debut as a sub. Oldham's other deadline day signings were Mark Bonner on a free from Cardiff and Steve Corrie, from Bedfordshire non-league side Wootton Blue Cross.

Oldham have managed two away victories this season, at Wycombe in September and at Bristol City a fortnight ago. They have drawn ten times on the road, at Sheffield, Hartlepool, Barnsley, Peterborough, Plymouth, Chesterfield, Grimsby, Brighton, Blackpool and QPR. Their seven away defeats were at Brentford, Tranmere, Wrexham, Colchester, Rushden, Port Vale and Bournemouth. Oldham's last six results: Bournemouth A 0-1, QPR A 1-1, Colchester H 0-0, Barnsley H 1-1, Bristol City A 2-0, Wycombe H 2-3.

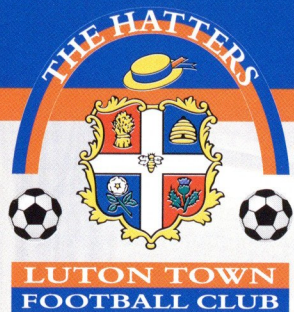
Nationwide League Division Two

	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L			F
Plymouth	39	14	5	1	46	12	8	7	4	29	21	42	78
QPR	38	14	6	0	42	11	5	8	5	27	26	32	71
Bristol City	38	12	5	2	30	11	7	6	7	20	21	18	68
Swindon	39	12	5	3	38	19	6	6	7	27	30	16	65
Brighton	39	14	3	2	35	11	4	6	10	22	29	17	63
Port Vale	39	13	5	2	41	26	4	4	11	22	29	8	60
Bournemouth	38	11	5	3	31	17	5	6	8	18	22	10	59
Luton Town	37	12	4	2	36	18	3	9	7	21	31	8	58
Hartlepool	38	7	8	4	28	17	8	4	7	32	33	10	57
Wrexham	38	8	6	5	24	15	8	1	10	20	33	-4	55
Barnsley	39	6	11	2	21	13	6	5	9	23	33	-2	52
Sheff Wed	39	7	8	5	23	21	6	4	9	20	29	-7	51
Colchester	39	8	8	4	24	21	5	4	10	15	27	-9	51
Blackpool	39	7	5	8	23	22	6	6	7	23	30	-6	50
Tranmere	38	10	6	3	31	17	1	9	9	14	34	-6	48
Rushden	39	9	5	6	35	27	4	3	12	22	35	-5	47
Oldham	38	7	6	6	29	22	2	10	7	24	31	0	43
Chesterfield	39	7	7	6	32	28	3	5	11	11	34	-19	42
Peterborough	39	3	7	9	28	28	6	7	7	17	22	-5	41
Brentford	39	7	3	9	28	34	4	5	11	15	29	-20	41
Grimsby	39	7	5	7	32	24	3	6	11	17	48	-23	41
Stockport	39	4	7	8	24	30	4	9	7	27	33	-12	40
Notts County	39	5	7	7	26	23	4	3	13	17	42	-22	37
Wycombe	39	4	6	9	27	32	1	10	9	16	32	-21	31

Today's Other Second Division fixtures

Barnsley v Plymouth
Bournemouth v Colchester
Brentford v Chesterfield
Brighton v Hartlepool
Bristol City v QPR
Grimsby v Sheffield Wednesday
Notts County v Blackpool
Peterborough v Swindon
Stockport v Rushden & Diamonds
Wrexham v Tranmere
Wycombe v Port Vale

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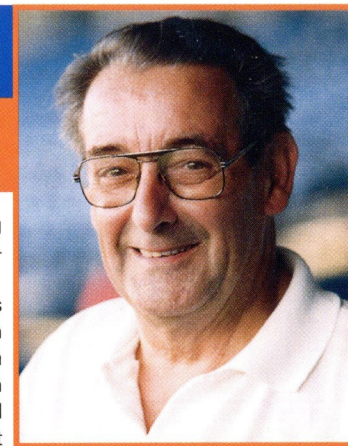
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Around The Town - By The Editor



Steve Howard

BECAUSE they were still in administration, the Town's transfer deadline day business was restricted by the Football League, with one signing allowed if one of the squad left. The result was that Dean Crowe, a Stockport lad who was keen to return to the north of England, was given a free transfer, while Paul Underwood, skipper of Rushden, was signed by the Town.

But Underwood, who started the game against QPR on the left of midfield, is unlikely to be able to make his home debut this afternoon. He had to be subbed after only 19 minutes because of a hamstring injury, which could delay his first full appearance for another week or so.

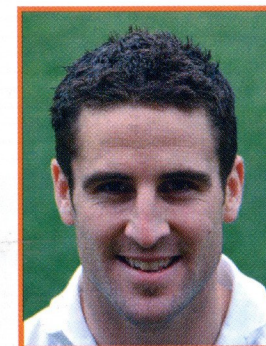
Crowe, meanwhile, has joined Oldham on a non-contract basis, and could be in line for a rapid return to Kenilworth Road, having made a debut for the Latics as a sub a week ago.

In nearly three years with the Town he had awful luck with injuries, making 78 appearances and scoring 17 goals.

Mike Newell was delighted with the capture of Underwood, 30, one of five players released under a cost-cutting exercise by Rushden. Playing mainly at left back, he led the Diamonds to the Third Division championship last season, and was voted their player of the year.

He had moved to Nene Park from Enfield in the summer of 1997, having been a regular semi-professional England international.

The visit to Loftus Road was a disaster in injury terms, with Underwood replaced by Peter Holmes, who lasted only 17 minutes before he limped off with a twisted knee. Paul Hughes had been forced out a little earlier because of an ankle injury after a heavy midfield tackle, so three midfielders have been under treatment this



Chris Coyne

week, struggling to be fit for selection today.

The good news is that while Kevin Nicholls starts a three-game ban for his red card against Plymouth, Sol

Davis can return after suspension and Adrian Forbes and Kevin Foley are both in the frame again after going on as subs at Loftus Road.

There is also better news of Chris Coyne and Steve Howard, who missed the QPR game. Both were showing every sign of recovering from their knocks and could be available today. But Matt Spring faces a longer lay-off after undergoing surgery to cure a nigging groin problem.

International Recognition

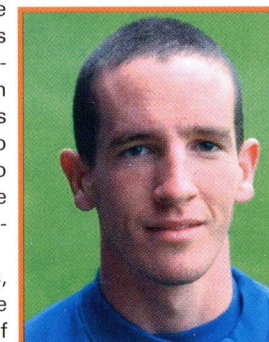
THE excellence of the Town's youth set-up has been well tested this season, and as Kevin Nicholls points out in his column today boys who have been asked to become men have responded to the challenge magnificently.

Centre-half Curtis Davies, only just turned 19, is the latest to join the likes of Robert Beckwith, Dean Brill, Kevin Foley and Keith Keane from a squad

which is currently going strong for honours in the Football League Youth Alliance.

Selectors from the Republic of Ireland are also taking notice, and this week midfielder Stephen O'Leary and striker Matthew Judge were called up for the Irish under-19s for a four-nations international tournament which kicks off in Portugal on Tuesday.

It offers exciting prospects for the two Town youngsters, because the tournament, also involving Portugal, Norway and Ukraine, is the final part of Ireland's preparation for the European Youth Championships next month.



Matthew Judge

Brian Swain

You can email the programme editor at
brian.swain@btinternet.com

Today's Squads



Manager: Mike Newell

1	Morten HYLDGAARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	Alan NEILSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	Matthew SPRING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	Russell PERRETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	Paul UNDERWOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	Adrian FORBES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
8	Kevin NICHOLLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11	Steve ROBINSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12	Chris COYNE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16	Enoch SHOWUNMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17	Emmerson BOYCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18	Ahmet BRKOVIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19	Steve HOWARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21	Paul HUGHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22	David BAYLISS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23	Ian HILLIER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24	Sol DAVIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27	Peter HOLMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31	Curtis DAVIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
32	Lee MANSELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	Dean BRILL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
37	Keith KEANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
38	Michael LEARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
39	Steven O'LEARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
41	Kevin FOLEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
43	Matthew JUDGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
44	Parys OKAI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
45	Leon BARNETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
47	Rob BECKWITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Manager: Brian Talbot

1	Les POGLIACOMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	Dean HOLDEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	Darren SHERIDAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	Ernie COOKSEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	Gareth OWEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	Paul MURRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8	John SHERIDAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9	Calvin ZOLA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10	John EYRE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11	Matty APPLEBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12	Wes WILKINSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13	Chris GRANGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14	Michael CLEGG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
15	Kieran WESTWOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16	Steven SCHUMACHER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17	Scott VERNON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
18	Danny BOSHELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19	Craig FLEMING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20	David BEHARALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21	Ashley WINN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22	Danny HALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23	Will HAINING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24	Chris KILLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25	Mark BONNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
26	Adam GRIFFIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27	Mark TIERNEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28	David EYRES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
30	Matthew WOLFENDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31	Steve CORRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32	Dean CROWE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	Jermaine JOHNSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
35	Danny FORDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
37	Rob WALKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
38	Carlos ROCA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Today's Officials

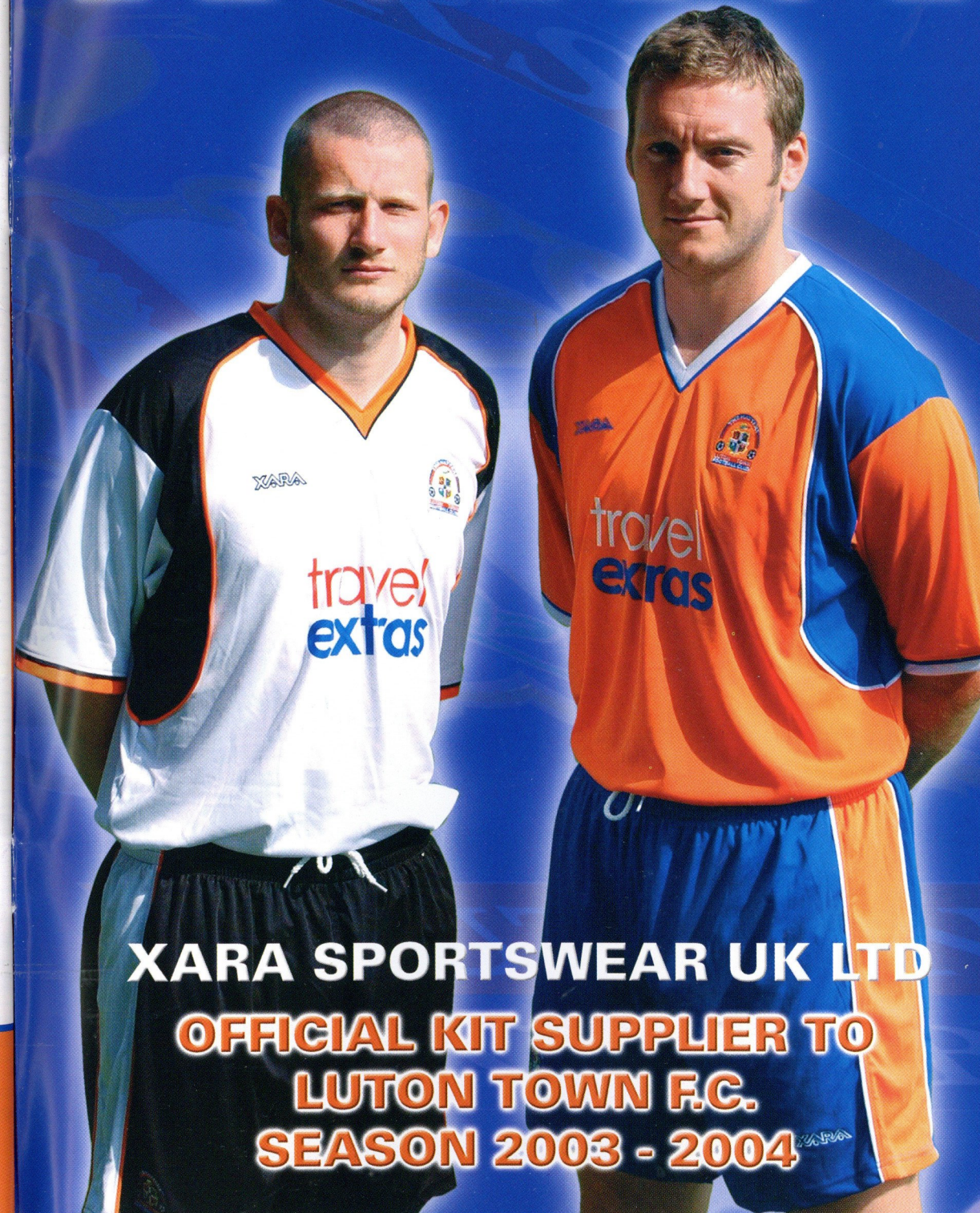
Referee: Richard Beeby, Northamptonshire

Assistants: Trevor Pollard, Suffolk (red and yellow flag);

Greg Pryme, Essex (yellow flag)

Fourth official: Norman Appleby, Hertfordshire

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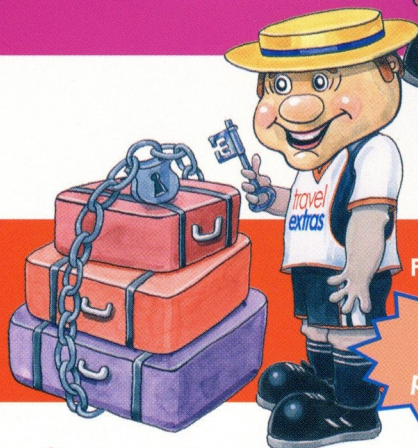
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