



LUTON TOWN TUESDAY 6TH APRIL 2004 KICK OFF 7.45PM

VICTORIA PARK LIFE

Hartlepool United's Official Matchday Magazine £2.50



ASBESTOS

We want you to help secure justice and compensation.

Have you ever worked with asbestos? You may have a claim.

If you have been diagnosed with any of these conditions then contact our specialist asbestos team.

**MESOTHELIOMA
PLEURAL PLAQUES
ASBESTOSIS
PLEURAL THICKENING
LUNG CANCER**

Even if you have not been diagnosed, but believe you may be suffering from an asbestos related illness, we can arrange for you to have a chest x-ray.

Claims can also be made by family members of the victims of an asbestos related illness.

We have unrivalled expertise in dealing with asbestos claims over many years and have won landmark claims on behalf of many victims.

Our dedicated North East team, headed by leading asbestos claims expert Ian McFall, is ready to work for you on a no win no fee basis. With no deductions from your damages.



**THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS**

Make sure your claim is handled by a specialist.

Call Thompsons Solicitors free on:

0800 587 7522

The UK's largest personal injury Law Firm

North East regional offices in Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Durham



COOPERS' *Manager* COMMENTS

Good evening and welcome to tonight's match at Victoria Park. I would like to welcome all the management, players, officials and supporters who have made the trip from Luton. Hopefully we will all see an enjoyable game of football here tonight.

I remember the game at Luton was one of the biggest disappointments of the season. We were bullied out of the game and I do feel that the players will be up for it tonight and be trying to put that right.

Saturday saw us defeated at Brighton, which I felt, was a little bit harsh on us. I wouldn't say we deserved a result if we didn't but I did think we had played well enough to take at least a point.

The turning point was obviously the decision by the referee not to send off Brighton's goalkeeper for bring-

ing down Adam Boyd. He said afterwards that it wasn't an obvious goal scoring opportunity but it appeared to me that Adam would have had a great chance of putting the ball in the net if he hadn't been bundled down.

That defeat meant we lost back-to-back league games for the first time this season. I think that says a lot about the consistency the lads have shown. It is the norm for us to bounce back quickly after a defeat and hopefully that can be achieved again here tonight.

I thought the lads who I brought in to the side did very well on Saturday. Darren Craddock did very well at right-back; he played there for the Reserves last Wednesday and I was happy to give him the chance to step up.

Antony Sweeney was another who has impressed me in the Reserves

this season and I was pleased with his performance at Brighton. Darrell Clarke also came in and produced a good display so I definitely have some thinking to do about my team selection tonight. I think it is important that we reward the players who do well in the Reserves and I will continue to do that.

I would like to end by thanking the fans who made the trip to Brighton on Saturday. It is a long way to go to follow your team and the lads very grateful for your support. I know we didn't get the right result but hopefully we can make up for that this evening.

Enjoy the match.

Neale Cooper

Sponsored by

**South Cleveland
Peugeot**

'Pool Supporter Savings Account

- You receive interest on your savings
- Plus an EXTRA 1%* paid to the 'Pool



With this account, everyone wins.

For further information call into your local branch or telephone

01325 741033

Head Office: Sentinel House, Lingfield Way, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 4PR.
Tel: 01325 366366 Fax: 01325 741000 www.darlington.co.uk



DARLINGTON
Building Society

Looking after local interests

*A cash payment equivalent to 1% of the average total balance in all 'Pool Supporter Accounts throughout that year, and remaining open on 30th June, will be paid to Hartlepool United Football Club Ltd. annually. The Society reserves the right to vary the rate of interest or payment made to Hartlepool United Football Club Ltd., or the manner in which they are calculated at any time subject to compliance with the Banking Code. Such changes will be notified as soon as it is practicable to do so through one or more of the following means: Advertisement in local newspaper(s), Posters and/or leaflets displayed in branches, Personal notice. The Society reserves the right not to accept applications to open accounts from people residing outside the Society's operating area. See product leaflet for full terms and conditions. We subscribe to The Banking Code. We are a member of the Building Societies' Association, and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Registration number 205895.

FROM THE BOARDROOM




HARTLEPOOL UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB,
VICTORIA PARK, CLARENCE ROAD,
HARTLEPOOL TS24 8BZ
TEL: 01429 272584
FAX: 01429 863007
WWW.HARTLEPOOLUNITED.CO.UK

Hon. Life President
Lord Tom Burlison
Club President
Peter Mandelson MP
Chairman
Ken Hodcroft
Directors
Harold Hornsey, Ian Prescott
Senior Administrator/Club Secretary
Maureen Smith
Team Manager
Neale Cooper
Reserve Team Coach
Martin Scott
Youth Team Coach
Paul Stephenson
Physiotherapist
John Murray
Director of Youth
Ian Kerr
Chief Scout
Tommy Miller
Technical Manager
Ian McRae
Marketing Executive
Russ Green
Club Shop Manageress
Sharon Precious
Safety Officer
Maurice Russell
Groundsman
David Brown
Lottery Administrator
Carol Sennett
PA Announcer
John Orley
Football in the Community
Keith Nobbs
Club Doctor
Dr. David Russell
Photography
Frank Reid
Media Manager
Mark Simpson
Website
Paul Mullen, Mark Simpson, John Orley, Chris Fenton
Programme Editor
Mike Challands
Programme Contributors
Phil Dunn, Leigh Edwards, Tony Lynch, Paul Smith, Stuart Clarkson, Phil Smith

Welcome to Victoria Park for tonight's rearranged league match against Luton Town as we try to get back on track after suffering back-to-back league defeats for the first time this season.

Saturday's defeat at Brighton was very disappointing for Neale and the lads after what was a much improved performance where we took the game to Brighton, especially in the first half, and deserved to get a lot more from the match. The game turned on a few minutes early in the second half when we were awarded a penalty for a foul on Adam Boyd as he rounded the keeper. The referee decided not to send off the keeper, despite him clearly being the last man, and he made the most of the let off by saving Gavin Strachan's spot kick. As often happens, this let off spurred on the home team on and we were punished only a few minutes later when they went ahead, at that time against the run of play. The second goal in injury time just rubbed salt in the wounds.

Neale was particularly pleased with the performances of the young and fringe players drafted in on Saturday and also with Mark Tinkler, who was moved back to centre-back to replace the injured Micky Nelson. Tonight's match, postponed at the last minute when the heavens opened over Victoria Park at the end of January, remains a vital one for both clubs as we both try to get back into the Play-off positions after some up and down results lately.

As you will have seen on our web site or read in the papers, our Youth team have

travelled to the States for this year's prestigious Dallas Cup tournament and they started with a fine 4-0 win over local team Dallas Inter with goals from Philip Turnbull, a John Brackstone penalty and two second half goals from David Foley and Michael Rae. Their next game is against another US team, Capitol SC which coach Paul Stephenson believes will be much harder, but he remains confident that his lads can progress through the group stage. You can follow their progress by logging on to our web site on www.hartlepoolunited.co.uk where the most up-to-date news and match reports are available.

Back to tonight's match and another request from us that you all remain seated in the stands as much as possible. We are also doing what we can to make the visiting supporters sit down and we know it can be frustrating when they do not but it will be their club that gets into trouble from the authorities for their behaviour. However, it will be our club that gets into trouble if our fans continue to ignore the rules. Please ensure this does not happen.

So tonight we need everyone to get behind the lads and shout and cheer them on to victory and a vital three points.

Ken Hodcroft

FOOTBALL

 Nationwide

Win a pair of tickets to see England play



Just answer this simple question;

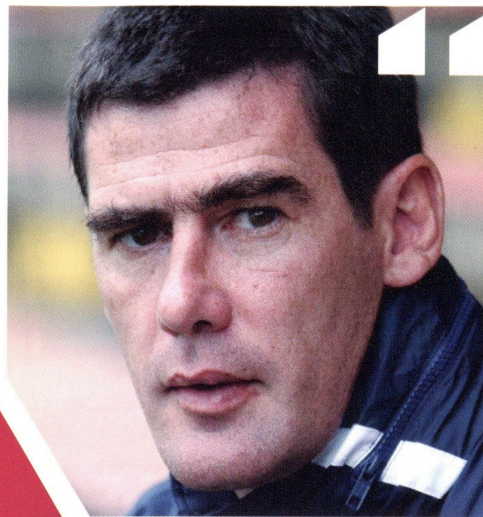
In which country will England take part in the European Championships this summer?

Spain	text	<input type="text" value="ENGLAND A"/>	to	<input type="text" value="→88099"/>
Japan	text	<input type="text" value="ENGLAND B"/>	to	<input type="text" value="→88099"/>
Portugal	text	<input type="text" value="ENGLAND C"/>	to	<input type="text" value="→88099"/>

or enter via www.nationwide.co.uk/football

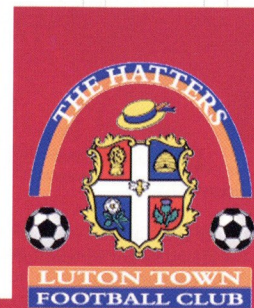
Nationwide is an Official Partner of the England Team and sponsor of The Football League

Text entries cost 25p per entry, in addition to your standard rate. All correct entries will be entered into a draw to win a pair of England Senior Team home international tickets. The deadline for entries is midnight on Sunday 9 May 2004. The competition is powered by textsport.com on behalf of Nationwide. For full terms and conditions visit www.nationwide.co.uk/football



Manager - Mike Newell

TONIGHT'S VISITORS *by Phil Smith* Luton Town



MORTEN HYLDGAARD

goalkeeper
b: Herning, Denmark 26.1.78
Confident shot-stopping keeper signed a couple of months ago from Scottish Premier League outfit Hibernian, with whom he had been since the start of the season following his release due to financial matters from Coventry City. Made 27 League appearances for the Sky Blues after signing from Danish club Ikast FS for £200,000 in July 1999, also had a period on loan a year later with Scunthorpe United, and since arriving at Kenilworth Road has quickly settled into the club's number one position.
2003/04 League stats: to 02.04.04 11 games, 0 goals

KEVIN FOLEY

defender
b: London 1.11.84
Highly-rated young prospect who has begun to establish himself in the first team this season after making his League debut last April against Bristol City. Twice a winner of the club's 'Young Player of the Season' award, he can play at either full back or the wide midfield position, gets forward well, and scored his first goal for the Hatters earlier in the season against Port Vale.
2003/04 League stats: 23 games, 1 goal

KEITH KEANE

defender
b: Luton 20.11.86
Very young trainee midfielder who made his League debut a couple of months ago at Wycombe in the right-back position, and who has been a regular in the first-team squad since then. Has shown tremendous promise in his matches to date, and looks an excellent prospect for the future.
2003/04 League stats: 9 games, 0 goals

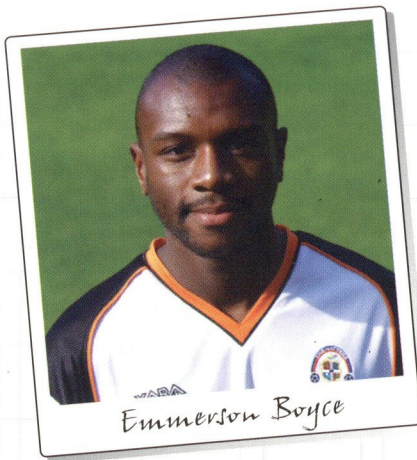
ALAN NEILSON

defender
b: Wegburg, Germany 26.9.72
Experienced and versatile former Welsh international defender who has recently returned to first-team action having missed most of the season through injury. A former Newcastle

THE STORY SO FAR....

All things being equal, the fact that Luton Town arrive at Victoria Park this afternoon still in business and with a realistic chance of making the end of season play-offs is one of the more unlikely scenarios that could have been envisaged when the second division campaign kicked off last August. Following a summer that is safely best described as 'interesting', the Hatters began the season in administration, and with a manager who had been controversially appointed with the aid of a supporters phone ballot. They are still in administration, which has severely restricted their ability to do anything other than the rudimentary basics, but despite that manager Mike Newell has somehow been able to put out a team that has not only competed, but also more than held its own in a very competitive division that can see teams plummet down the table after just a couple of bad results. For good measure, the Hatters also managed to get to the fourth round of the FA Cup and must have fancied their chances of progressing further when they were pulled out of the hat to face a home tie with Tranmere. Sadly, Rovers are no mugs at present, and with a side ravaged by injuries and suspensions, the Hatters left the competition last Saturday with the only consolation that their gate for the game of 8,747 was one of the better figures for Kenilworth Road this season.

To make matters worse after that defeat, manager Newell got into work on Monday to find that his goalkeeper Marlon Beresford had decided to swap a monthly deal at Luton for the security of an 18-month contract at Barnsley, leaving the Hatters with 18-year-old prospect Dean Brill as their only fit keeper as they prepared for this afternoon's game. With that in mind, an A level in General Studies would not have been needed to figure out that this week's main job for Newell will have been to bring in an experienced number one. The manager wouldn't also mind getting some of his walking wounded back in action. For last Saturday's game he was missing the likes of long-term victims impressive young keeper Rob Beckwith, out for the rest of the season with a posterior cruciate ligament injury, former Welsh international defender Alan Neilson with a calf injury, defenders Russell Perrett and Dave Bayliss with groin and Achilles injuries, and former Southampton midfielder Paul Hughes with a fractured tibia. With key midfielder Matthew Spring and striker Adrian Forbes also succumbing to recent injuries, Newell will be relying heavily on former Pools striker Steve Howard to provide most of his attacking options for today's game. It's one the former Pools boss would like to win, without stating the screamingly blinking obvious.



Emmerson Boyce

United trainee, he made 42 League appearances for the Magpies before joining Southampton for £500,000 in June 1995, then moved on to Fulham for half that fee just over two years later. A free transfer signing by Grimsby in October 2001, he switched to the Hatters four months later, and remains a reliable performer who is capable of playing anywhere along the defensive line.

2003/04 League stats:
11 games, 1 goal

CHRIS COYNE
defender

b: Brisbane, Australia 20.12.78
Commanding young central defender who was voted by the Luton supporters as their 'Player of the Year' last season. Formerly with Perth SC in his native land, he joined West Ham for £150,000 in January, but played only one game for the Hammers, as a substitute against Leeds United in May 1999, one week after making his League debut whilst on loan to Southend against Brentford. Left Upton Park the following year to join Dundee on a free transfer and made 20 SPL appearances before joining the Hatters for £50,000 in September 2001. Once again a key figure in defence so far this campaign, he is strong in the air and very comfortable on the ball.

2003/04 League stats:
35 games, 2 goals

EMMERSON BOYCE
defender

b: Aylesbury 24.9.79
Former trainee defender who has become a regular starter in defence this season, and who has now played over 150 League games for the club since making his debut against Lincoln in April 1999. A quick player and a strong tackler, he can play in the cen-

tral or the full back positions, where his ability to get forward often comes into good effect.

2003/04 League stats:
35 games, 3 goals

CURTIS DAVIES
defender

b: London 15.3.85
Highly-rated young central defender who made his League debut last January against Stockport, and who featured to good effect in the recent draw at QPR. Might not be a starter this evening, but another young prospect to keep an eye on for the future.

2003/04 League stats:
3 games, 0 goals

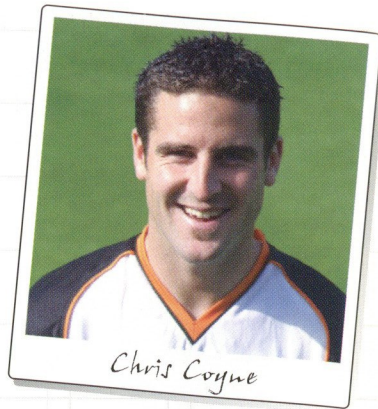
PAUL UNDERWOOD
defender

b: Wimbledon 16.8.73
Dashing left back signed on transfer deadline day from Rushden, for whom he had been a key figure in the Diamonds' recent successes since becoming former manager Brian Talbot's first signing for the club back in June 1997. Spent several seasons on the London non-League scene with the likes of Kingstonian, Molesey, Sutton United, Carshalton and finally Enfield before his £50,000 move to Northamptonshire, and his selection for the PFA Division Three team of last season was a fine recognition for the service he had given the club. Injured a hamstring on his Hatters debut at QPR, and could be doubtful for this evening's game.

2003/04 League stats:
31 games, 0 goals

SOL DAVIS
defender

b: Cheltenham 4.9.79
Very capable and consistent left back who joined the Hatters in August 2002 for a fee of £600,000 from his first



Chris Coyne

club Swindon Town. Made his League debut for the County Ground side at Sheffield United on the opening day of the 1998/99 season, and went on to make 117 appearances before moving to Kenilworth Road. A good tackler who reads the game well, and a particularly useful crosser of the ball when getting forward.

2003/04 League stats:
27 games, 0 goals

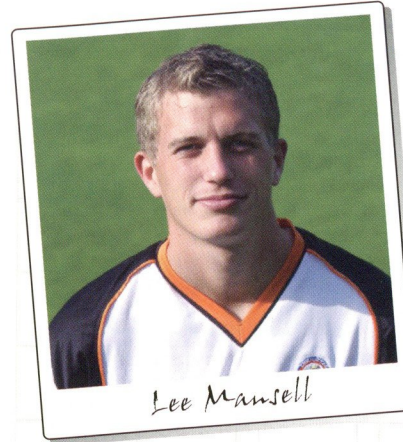
KEVIN NICHOLLS
midfielder

b: Newham 2.1.79
Dynamic club skipper who has recently returned to action following a knee injury, but who will be missing through suspension this evening having been sent off in the recent match against Plymouth. A former Charlton Athletic trainee, he made a dozen League appearances for the Addicks and had a spell on loan with Brighton before being sold to Wigan Athletic for £250,000 in June 1999. Moved on to Kenilworth Road for £25,000 two years later and has since become the driving force in the Hatters midfield with his competitive, all-action style.

2003/04 League stats:
15 games, 2 goals

STEVE ROBINSON
midfielder

b: Lisburn 10.12.74
Former Tottenham trainee and a Northern Ireland international midfielder who joined the Hatters from Preston for £50,000 in June 2002. Made a couple of appearances at White Hart Lane before joining Bournemouth on a free transfer in October 1994, where he was a regular for six seasons, scoring 51 goals from 240 League games. A £375,000 fee took him to Deepdale in May 2000, but a series of injuries caused his career to stall in Lancashire, and he



Lee Mansell

made only a couple of dozen appearances for North End before his move back south to Kenilworth Road, where he has also struggled with injuries but has been a regular starter of late.

2003/04 League stats:
26 games, 2 goals

MATTHEW SPRING
midfielder

b: Harlow 17.11.79
Hard-working and highly-rated central midfielder who recently made his 250th League appearance for the club at the age of 24. A former trainee, he made his debut against Bristol City in September 1997, and after a dozen outings that season he has been a virtual ever-present for the past five campaigns. A strong tackler who surges forward whenever possible, he has been missing from recent matches with a groin injury.

2003/04 League stats:
24 games, 1 goal

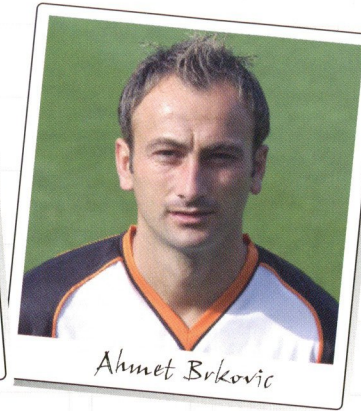
PAUL HUGHES
midfielder

b: Hammersmith 19.4.76
Skilful attacking midfielder and a former Chelsea trainee who made 21 Premier League appearances for the Blues after making a scoring debut against Derby County in January 1997, and also had loan spells with Stockport and Norwich before joining Southampton on a free transfer in March 2000. Linked up with the Hatters 16 months later, completed his 100th League appearance earlier in the season, but has often struggled with niggling injuries since arriving at Kenilworth Road.

2003/04 League stats:
22 games, 1 goal

LEE MANSELL
midfielder

b: Gloucester 28.10.82



Ahmet Brkovic

Young former trainee central midfielder who has had a few opportunities this season after having played just the one League game last season, when he also spent some time on loan with Conference outfit Nuneaton Borough. Made his League debut for the Hatters at Northampton Town in February 2001 and held his place for the rest of the season, earning the club's 'Young Player of the Season' award at the end of the campaign, but up until recently had been making quiet progression since.

2003/04 League stats:
13 games, 2 goals

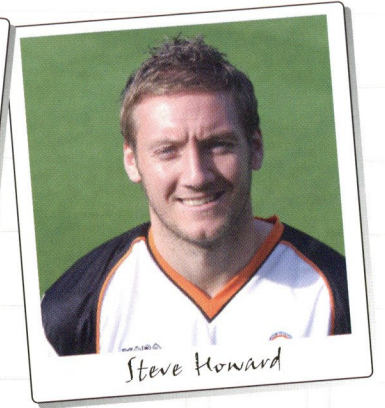
AHMET BRKOVIC
midfielder

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

2003/04 League stats:
27 games, 1 goal

ADRIAN FORBES
forward

b: Greenford 23.1.79
Pacy right-sided winger who missed most of last season following a cruciate ligament knee injury, and who has recently returned to action following another knee injury. Began his career with Norwich City, making his League debut against Wolves in August 1996 and going on to play 112 games for



Steve Howard

the Canaries before moving to the Hatters for £60,000 in July 2001. In good scoring form earlier in the season, and will be hoping to end the season in similar vein.

2003/04 League stats:
18 games, 9 goals

STEVE HOWARD
forward

b: Durham 10.5.76
Strong, goalscoring central striker and former Pools favourite who has proved something of a bargain since joining the Hatters from Northampton Town for just £50,000 in March 2001. Began his League career at Victoria Park in 1995 after joining the club from non-league Tow Law Town, and after three good seasons moved to the Cobblers for £120,000 in February 1999. Missed a few matches earlier in the season with a hernia injury, and again recently, but should be available for this evening's match, has scored 57 goals from just 121 League games for the Kenilworth Road outfit, and will be keen to add to that tally tonight.

2003/04 League stats:
26 games, 8 goals

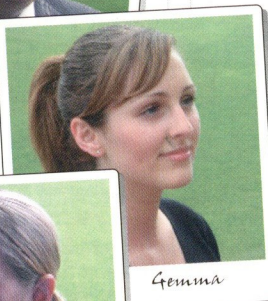
ENOCH SHOWUNMI
forward

b: London 21.4.82
Powerful and hard-working young front runner who was picked up from playing park football for Willesden Constantine of the London Commercial League, and who has been doing well since making his League debut at Plymouth earlier in the season, particularly when netting a hat-trick in a recent win over Brentford. On the mark a couple of times since, he makes up for some of the finer points by giving 100% effort in every game.

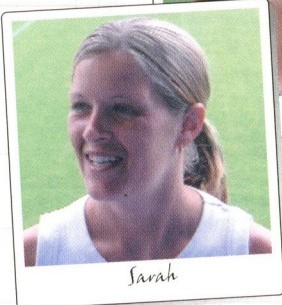
2003/04 League stats:
17 games, 6 goals



Russ



Gemma



Sarah

HUFC Commercial & HOSPITALITY

for all Commercial information visit
www.hartlepoolunited.co.uk and click on 'club'

enjoying a few drinks, discussing the line ups, all everyone was looking forward to was the game, then, sorry, the games off!!! The coach had just pulled up outside the ground with the Luton fans, everything was explained to them, we them a couple of trays of pies from the catering cabins and off they went home. Nothing we could do but apologise for the weather, we certainly can't control that!

We are in the middle of three tough games and after the Bournemouth game on Saturday we will hopefully come through the games still with a chance of the Play Offs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with sponsorship for our Dallas Cup campaign. Our Youth Team left for Dallas on Friday looking very smart in their new kits and their hopes were high on doing well in the tournament.

Good evening and welcome back to everyone for tonight's game with Luton Town. A warm welcome to all the players, staff, directors and fans from Luton who have made the long trek north, have a safe journey home. Lets hope the weather stays good tonight unlike the last time we were due to play Luton. At midday everything was OK but the down pour we had for the next two hours was relentless and the game had to be unfortunately called off. The situation in the boxes was surreal, everyone was finishing off their meals.

Everyone has worked tirelessly to raise the funds to enable the lads to take part in one of the most prestigious tournaments in Youth Football. A special thanks to Baker Botts who are the main sponsors of the team. The Youth at this Club are a vital part of the whole set up and we all feel that the experience that this tournament will give the lads will be second to none.

This evening in our Executive Boxes we have: -

Corus Group

"The Hartlepool 42" Pipe Mill was commissioned in 1993 and has gone from strength to strength to be recognised as one of the World's leading submerged arc pipe mills, capable of providing very thick walled pipe and tightest possible tolerance control.

The Energy Business has been successful in supplying line pipe throughout the world".

Cyrstal Package guests are: -

James Cook University Hospital

Hartlepool United would like to welcome Professor Brian Footit & guests to our executive boxes for this evening's game against Luton Town. Hope you all enjoy the evening at Victoria Park.

Our Matchball Sponsors are: -

Todds Global Travel

TRAVEL AGENCY – INDEPENDENT. A new business formed in 2000 by Eric & Malcolm (son), a local lad after 30 years of travel in the oil & gas sector. A lifelong Hartlepool supporter who has left "Pools" shirts here, there and

everywhere. An independent Travel Agent who arranged the minibus for the Youth squad in the USA. " Get a quote for a holiday" call Eric to beat it!

Telephone: 01642 866845 or Fax: 01642 800200.

Spow Leisure

Paul & his guests are here at Victoria Park once again. Hope you all enjoy the game and we get the three points!

Mears Social Housing Ltd

MEARS is the largest provider of repairs and maintenance for Local Authorities and Housing Associations in the UK, with experience in delivering local solutions to complex repair problems since 1988. A national company with resources to match, MEARS pride themselves on a personal service tailored to their individual customers needs.

Greenlake Leisure, Camerons Brewery, Blackhall Rafa, Crest Identity, Pool Respray, Pyeroy & Playing for Success are here tonight to support us against Luton Town. Enjoy the game!

Guests in our CKs Carvery Restaurant today are

Propipe Ltd, Transmore Van Hire, South Cleveland Garages and Mr Bell and guests – Ian has been going to Pools since he was 9 years old and now takes his 2 children, Ben 11 and Christopher 8 to every match. Ian's most enjoyable moments are when Pools got promoted in 1991 and 2003.

DOT Group are our guests in the SIB-CAS Lounge this evening and in our 1908 Lounge we have guests from the Victory Social Carvery enjoying the say at the Vic.

At next week's home game against AFC Bournemouth and the remaining home games of the season, you can get your FACE PAINTED! Look out for FACE GALORE at Victoria Park. They will be located in the Cyril Knowles Stand for the AFC Bournemouth game and the Camerons Brewery Stand for the Notts County fixture.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who attended the Brentford game

and observed the two minutes silence for Frankie Baggs and Harold Hornsey. In times when football fans are always the butt for criticism from the media, the fans from both teams were superb in their respect for two great men. Thank you.

Get behind the lads tonight and lets cheer them onto the play offs. Good luck Neale, Martin & the lads.

Russ, Gemma & Sarah.



HUGH ROBERTSON

STEPHEN CARSON

PLAYER KIT
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABILITY
Sponsor a Player for
£150+vat
(Home or Away)

We also have several players still available for sponsorship this season. It is proving to be a great form of advertising. Take a look at who is available and give us a call! You will receive the shirt at the end of the season.



Callum Pattinson - Linighan

Niall Pattinson - Linighan

Callum
Age: 8 years old
School: Brudenell school, Leeds
Fav Player: Jim Provett
Fav Sport: Football & Swimming

Niall
Age: 11 years old
School: Brudenell school, Leeds
Fav Player: Michael Barron
Fav Sport: Football

TODAY'S MASCOTS



childboot SPONSORS

Player	Sponsor
Anthony Williams	Lauren Precious
Hugh Robertson	Rachel Swan
Mark Robinson	Craig Moody
Michael Barron	Paul McSweeney
Chris Westwood	Rachel Sharp
Mark Tinkler	Andrew Bell
Ritchie Humphries	Sam Newton
Eifion Williams	Steven & David Haygarth
Darrell Clarke	Matthew Stoddart
Adam Boyd	Nathan Swan
Jermaine Easter	Joe Llewellyn
Anthony Sweeney	David Totty
Jim Provett	Connor Coverdale
Matty Robson	Siobhan & David Osborne
Neale Cooper	Abbie Coulson
Martin Scott	Abbie Coulson
Michael Nelson	Andrew Bell
John Brackstone	Ian Robinson
Steven Istead	Ian Robinson
Paul Robinson	Joe Llewellyn
Andrew Jordan	David Totty
Gavin Strachan	Lauren Precious
Ryan McCann	Siobhan & David Osborne
David Foley	Fiona Henderson
Jack Wilkinson	Kym Thomson
Darren Craddock	Lewis Redhead
Dimitrios Konstantopoulos	Kayleigh Paylor
Scott Walker	Sarah Robinson

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

1 Years FREE insurance
on Peugeot 206 FEVER special edition

from only
£7995

specification includes:
• Metallic Paint
• Remote Control CD Player
• Front Fog Lights



206 1.6 fuel consumption in mpg (L/100 km), urban 29.7 (9.5), extra urban 49.6 (5.7), combined 40.4 (7.0) the official co2 emission is 166g/km.

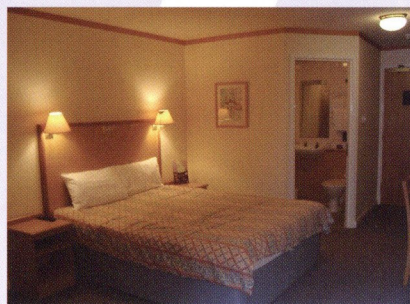
SOUTH CLEVELAND PEUGEOT
Brenda Road, Hartlepool
Tel: 01429 230900
www.SouthClevelandGarages.co.uk





The Old West Quay Travel Inn

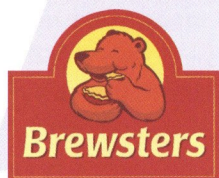
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed



For a single price of £42.95 per room per night

Everything you want for a good nights sleep:

- En suite bathroom with shower
- Double bed with duvet
- Family rooms that sleep up to two adults and two children under 16.
- Remote controlled TV and radio alarm
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Spacious desk area
- Brewsters restaurant and bar next door



Open to non-residents
for breakfast

Mon/Fri 7 am – 9 am
Sat/Sun 8am – 10 am

Open 7 days a week
Mon/Sat 11 am – 11 pm
Sunday 12 noon – 10.30 pm
Last food order 10 pm

Brewsters, it's a whole new experience in family dining. At Brewsters, you'll find all family favourites, but look out for extra generous '**Brewster's Choice and Bites**' and our fantastic kids' menus. Great portions, great value and great fun for your children as they are entertained in out state of the art fun factory.

Our Brewster Restaurant offer a delicious choice for Breakfast
Traditional £6.25 each Continental £4.25each Childs £3.00 each

- Why not join us on our **Fun Quiz Night** Sunday 8 pm – 10 pm
- We have **Parent and Toddler** on Mondays 9.30 am – 11.00 am, three years and under.
 - **Childrens' Parties** Birthday cake Free (for parties over 8)
(Please call the number below for more details)

Travel Inn Hartlepool
The Old West Quay Brewsters
Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool Marina
Hartlepool TS24 0XZ
Tel: 01429 890115
Fax 01429 233105
www.travelinn.co.uk



Phil Dunn's MONKEY PUZZLE

The Boys Are Back In Town!

Good Evening Poolies and Hatters, the REAL Hatters this time, not the Stockport imposters of a fortnight ago! A warm welcome back to the Vic to two of our old boys this evening, Mike Newell our promotion-winning ex-Manager, and the one and only big Stevie Howard, a quality striker who we will have to keep our eyes on tonight. Well, it looks like our play-off ambitions are now fairly and squarely in our own hands after the weekends results, and looking at the various Nationwide League tables on Saturday night it's amazingly tight in all the divisions. One of the saddest sights is down at the bottom of the Third, where it's beginning to look like a scrap for survival between 3 of our oldest, and most local, rivals. Carlisle, York City and Darlington. This can only be bad news for North-East football but the same common problem can be found at all three troubled clubs..money. Carlisle, for so many years blighted by problems at the top, are at least making a fist of their survival attempt and I reckon they'll survive the drop. York City are in freefall, and look to me to be favourites for bottom slot. Darlington had a decent run about a month ago, but have only picked up 2 points out of 12 and would seem to be running out of form at the wrong time.

The Bloke Known As Wishbone!

Speaking to many Darlo fans on the internet, it's a worrying time for them and they often get a sympathetic ear from myself because let's face it, we were not too far short of the same predicament just 5 years ago. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure to meet one such Darlo fan at a gig my band played up in Durham. As is customary at such events, there was a bit

of light-hearted mickey-taking of both Sunderland and Darlo during the first half, but at the interval I could see out of the corner of my eye this HUGE figure approaching the dressing-room...bedecked in a Darlo shirt! I quickly wrote out my last will and testament on the back of a beer-mat in anticipation of a good hiding but was amazed to find myself in deep discussion with one of the most sound, friendly, footy-daft blokes I've ever encountered. Going under the name of "Wishbone", I could basically see a carbon-copy of myself only with a black and white shirt on. (Although he was slightly louder..even without the microphone!) So to Wishbone and all his Darlo mates, here's to survival. And less of the "Monkey Hanging B*&\$!%" next time!

Pools World Works Wonders!

Before I put in this shameless testimony to Pools World, the clubs official internet website, can I please say that I am not connected with it in any way! On Saturday I, like many others, couldn't make it down to Brighton. Obviously, coverage of our match was going to be fairly limited on local radio, with both Boro and Darlo playing at the same time. So, it was big tube of Pringles, litre bottle of Stella and backside on the computer chair for an afternoon with Pools World. To say this service is invaluable would be a serious understatement. Live commentary from Mackern Mark Simpson, joined by the excellent Matty Robson (deffo got a career there, Robbo!), honestly, you could almost have been there. It's a far cry from waiting for the Footy Mail to come out..keep it up lads, top-notch. Hopefully we can get you full match commentary from Cardiff eh? Enjoy The Game.



Ex-Poolie watch! TOPTEN Ex-Hartlepool players who all played in the Nationwide last Saturday

- 1 Paul Arnison**
A sub appearance for rapidly improving Carlisle.
- 2 Tommy Widdrington**
A great result for Tommy's Macclesfield at York.
- 3 Marcus Richardson**
Currently spearheading Lincoln's attack in the 3rd division play-off spots.
- 4 Kevin Dearden**
Still in goal for Torquay ... do these keepers use Duracell batteries?!
- 5 Tony Barras**
Keeps on going for Notts County, 15 years after leaving Pools.
- 6 Phil Gilchrist**
Now at Rotherham partnering fellow Boro-boy Robbie Stockdale in their defence.
- 7 Anthony Williams**
Not strictly an EX-Poolie, but has made the Stockport keepers jersey his own whilst out on loan.
- 8 Jermaine Easter**
Again, still on our books but getting rave reviews, and regular football at Cambridge.
- 9 Ian Clark**
Came on as sub for Darlington for prolific striker Craig Russell.
- 10 Brian Barry Murphy**
Outstanding for Sheff Weds as they slip into the bottom half.

2 DIVISION ROUND-UP *Phil Smith*



BARNSELY

The Tykes saw off leaders Plymouth last Saturday thanks to a goal from on-loan Walsall striker Gary Birch. It was their first win since manager Paul Hart took charge, and afterwards he said: "I am absolutely delighted and I think that overall we deserved it but to be fair the players have deserved a win after the last five performances." Be that as it may, the Oakwell outfit won't make the play-offs this season unless they win their next five.



BLACKPOOL

The Seaside have nothing to play for between now and the end of the season and celebrated that by getting thumped 4-1 at Notts County last Saturday. Manager Steve McMahon said afterwards: "My players were more concerned about what was happening at the Grand National." And he wasn't?



BOURNEMOUTH

This coming Saturday's visitors to Victoria Park are still very much in the play-off picture, but needed a late James Hayter equaliser to secure a point at home to Colchester last Saturday. Sean O'Driscoll's team have now lost just once in their last eight.



BRENTFORD

The Bees sorted out their managerial problem when agreeing to pay Barnet compensation for Martin Allen, but even though they are undefeated in three since he took over, Saturday's 1-1 home draw with Chesterfield sent them back into the bottom four. Sub Steve Evans gave the Griffin Park side the lead in stop-

page time, but they then conceded a sloppy headed equaliser, and that could prove to be very costly indeed.



BRIGHTON

Six straight home wins have put the Seagulls firmly in the play-off picture, but manager Mark McGhee is still hoping for better come the end of the season. After goals from Leon Knight and Chris Iwelumo had seen off Pools last Saturday the burly Scot said: "With Bristol City beating QPR we have a chance of second place. It's a massive task but we'll give it our best shot." It will miss, but barring disasters they'll be involved in mid-May.



BRISTOL CITY

The Robins won their big promotion clash last Saturday against QPR in front of 19,041 at Ashton Gate, and afterwards manager Danny Wilson said: "I thought it was a terrific and really disciplined team performance. Steve Phillips has only had to make one save." Recent signing Scott Murray celebrated his return from Reading by setting up the winning goal for Christian Roberts, and the talented winger could well have a big say in matters between now and the end of the season.



CHESTERFIELD

A last-gasp goal from central defender Ian Evatt gave the Spireites a point at Brentford, but Roy McFarland's team slipped back into the drop zone and their failure to beat the likes of the Bees and before that Grimsby might be their undoing come the end of the season. "I was happy with the point," said the manager afterwards, but three would have helped a lot more.



COLCHESTER UNITED

The U's are another mid-table outfit who are just playing out their games until the end of the season, but Phil Parkinson's side are not rolling over, as last Saturday's point at promotion-chasing Bournemouth proved.



GRIMSBY TOWN

The Mariners claimed three big points in beating woeful Wednesday 2-0 last Saturday, former Owls defender Tony Crane netting the home team's second goal. Manager Nicky Law said afterwards: "The result was important, not the performance. It was ugly but I'd settle for a few more of those this season." He could also have sung: "Can we play you every week?"



LUTON TOWN

The Hatters warmed up for tonight's big game by dropping two valuable points at home to Oldham on Saturday. What made it worse was that the Latics goal was fluked by Dean Crowe, a striker who couldn't buy a goal at Kenilworth Road prior to his recent move north to Boundary Park. Big Enoch Showunmi got his eighth of the season in netting for Mike Newell's selection.



NOTTS COUNTY

The Magpies followed up a 4-0 defeat at Tranmere with a 4-1 win over Blackpool last Saturday, but with other struggling teams also winning they remain firmly in the bottom four. Manager Gary Mills said afterwards: "The last few weeks have been hard as we haven't always got what we deserved, so today I am delighted for everyone connected with the club to claim a 4-1 victory, as it shows we

can win matches." They'll need to win at least three more this season to stay up.



OLDHAM ATHLETIC

The Latics moved another point closer to safety after their draw at Luton, and more importantly got back on track after their recent home defeat by Wycombe. Manager Brian Talbot said after the Kenilworth Road clash: "I can't complain about anything. I thought the effort was there, the commitment was there and I couldn't ask any more from the players." Fair enough.



PETERBOROUGH UNITED

Posh claimed a big three points at London Road last Saturday in beating promotion hopefuls Swindon 4-2, with recent permanent signing Tommy Williams setting up their first three goals with left-wing crosses. Manager Barry Fry said afterwards: "Peterborough were the best side on the day and I think we were worthy winners. I am absolutely delighted to get the three points." Which at least proves he knows his first and third person pro-nouns.



PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

"It's our first defeat in I don't know how many games. In no way shape or form do we have to press any panic buttons." So said Pilgrims caretaker-manager Kevin Summerfield after last Saturday's loss at Barnsley, they are still well clear at the top and to answer his ignorance the number was nine.



PORT VALE

Vale took an early lead at Wycombe last Saturday thanks to Stephen McPhee's 20th of the season, but then conceded two very poor set-piece goals and any team that loses to the Chairboys surely can't be good enough for promotion. Manager Martin Foyle said afterwards: "I'm bitterly disappointed for all the supporters who made their way here. We were very, very poor."



QPR

Rangers' loss at Bristol City on Saturday was particularly painful for manager Ian Holloway, a former Bristol Rovers player and manager. "Being a Bristolian I wanted my team to do me proud on my return to my home city - but they didn't," he said afterwards. "We simply didn't give a good account of ourselves." The Loftus Road outfit are now level on points with City with a game in hand, which takes place tonight at Tranmere, and they'll go into the game without assistant manager Kenny Jackett, who's off to take charge at Swansea.



RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS

Financial pressures forced the Diamonds to ship out four players on transfer deadline day, including leading scorer Onandi Lowe, and if you're looking for a good bet for a team to be relegated next season then the search ends here. That is, of course, assuming they don't get relegated this season, as player-boss Barry Hunter indicated when saying after the defeat at Stockport last Saturday: "We have got to start finding the results soon."



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Wednesday's defeat at Grimsby last Saturday was the final nail in the coffin of their promotion chances, and for once manager Chris Turner held his hands up afterwards, saying: "I apologise to the supporters who travelled to the game. They didn't get what they deserve. I feel responsible, which I should do as a manager, but I just wonder whether some of the players do." Well, he held up one hand anyway.



STOCKPORT COUNTY

County are now unbeaten in six after their win over Rushden, and manager Sammy McIlroy said afterwards: "It was a scrappy game but a great

result. Getting out of the relegation zone is a boost but we've still got a lot of hard work to do." If they do stay up midfielder Rickie Lambert will deserve a bonus - his two goals against the Diamonds made it six from his last seven games.



SWINDON TOWN

Town's automatic promotion chances all but disappeared after their defeat at London Road, and manager Andy King didn't waste his breath afterwards. "It was awful," he said. Three words that need little further explanation.



TRANMERE ROVERS

Rovers have won their last three and are now well and truly safe after their latest success at Wrexham last Saturday. Central defender Ian Sharps scored his first of the season for the late winner, and manager Brian Little can pat himself on the back for a job well done this season.



WREXHAM

The Dragons were another outfit who kissed their play-off chances bye-bye last Saturday when they lost their match against the above-mentioned Rovers. Midfielder Paul Edwards was sent off after two yellow cards, and boss Denis Smith said: "If everybody had done their jobs we wouldn't have been beaten." Including the manager?



WYCOMBE WANDERERS

The Chairboys are undefeated in five and made it two wins in a row when coming from behind to beat Port Vale last Saturday. It's all too late to save them from the drop, but manager Tony Adams was happy enough, and said afterwards: "They are showing commitment and going through brick walls."



THE TREBLE
IT'S WITHIN YOUR REACH

FAMOUS FANS

stuart clarkson

Ed Stewart (Radio D.J.)



Everton F.C. finished 7th in the Premier League last season, a huge disappointment considering one place higher would have meant a place in Europe. For Ed Stewart, missing out was almost heartbreaking.

"At the beginning of last season we were not expected to do particularly well in the Premier league. I'm not a betting man but with odds of 18-1 for the Toffees to finish in the top six, I couldn't resist a little flutter so I put £100 on. Finishing 7th was bad enough but to be in 6th place up to the last game was upsetting!"

A 1-1 draw at home to Manchester United sealed the club's fate and even Wayne Rooney could not take advantage of a great chance to win the game. Ed first started supporting Everton as an eight year old. During his radio career of over 40 years his support for the club has been synonymous with his broadcasting; he never misses an opportunity to give the Merseysiders a plug. The surprising thing is that he has no hereditary connections with the club nor was he born and bred in or anywhere near Liverpool.

"My father took my older brother and myself to see Chelsea vs Everton, we were living in Wimbledon at the time. My brother had decided he was supporting Chelsea, so not wanting to be the same, I adopted Everton. That was it, I've been a supporter ever since. In a way it's amazing as we got stuffed 6-0 on that day at Stamford Bridge."

Stewpot is best known for his twelve years as the presenter of Radio One's

'Junior Choice' which was essential family listening every Saturday and Sunday morning. His radio career began in Hong Kong but the move there was for a different reason. He was the double bass player in a band. With the break up of the group he took a Radio opportunity whilst still resident in the city. On returning to the UK in the mid sixties, he joined the Pirate Station 'Radio London' and following it's demise became one of the original Radio One DJs. During the eighties he was a regular presenter of the children's TV show, 'Crackerjack' and often guested on the travel programme 'Wish You Were Here'. His regular appearances in pantomime are a big success, the latest was in Windsor. He returned to BBC Radio in 1991 but this time with Radio 2, as the host of the weekday afternoon show. That saw out most of the decade until he moved to his present Sunday afternoon request slot. He is just celebrating five years on that show, a good time maybe to tell the world about his long career in a bit more depth?

"Yes. I've actually written the autobiography but would you believe that my publisher has pulled out of publishing! I may wait a little while now as my Radio 2 colleague Johnny Walker is putting his book out soon. His publication was also held up but in his case because of his battle with cancer. Happily he has just returned to the airwaves."

Ed's passion for his team is deep. He gets to watch them whenever he can,

which realistically is about six times a season these days. That's still admirable considering he lives on the South coast and the farthest North his career takes him is Birmingham (the Sunday show is transmitted from the Midlands). Still he follows the team's progress very closely and is enthusiastic to give his opinion, including his feelings about the current manager.

"David Moyes has just completed 2 years in the job and after last season's unexpected progress, he has admitted that he's got a few things wrong this term. I respect that. Personally I think we need a midfield ball winner, but we have some good players. I think Kevin Kilbane has done well recently, the enigmatic Duncan Ferguson is usually exciting and Wayne Rooney is beginning to mature. He is realising that he has to handle the pressure caused by his popularity, himself. But he's a player who rises to the big occasion."

Ed Stewart's own favourite player was the 70's striker, Bob Latchford who he described as the 'ultimate goalpoacher'. Despite the club's consistent bridesmaid role in the late eighties, he still remembers that time as the most exciting for him as a supporter. Nowadays whenever he arrives at Goodison Park for a game, the club always find him a seat and sometimes a meal. That latter perk is probably a necessary relief to the inevitable cries of 'Crackerjack' and 'He's behind you'.



FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS FOCUSES ON LINKS WITH OUR OPPONENTS

CONNECTIONS



LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST LUTON TOWN

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	5	4	0	1	8	4
Away	6	1	1	4	7	11
Total	11	5	1	5	15	15

Strikes by Darrell Clarke and Paul Robinson were insufficient to prevent Hartlepool United from slipping to a 3-2 Second Division defeat at Luton Town on 30th August 2003. Goals by Dean Crowe and Matthew Taylor gave Luton a 2-1 victory on their last League visit to Victoria Park in December 2001. Hartlepool's last League win at home to the Hatters was 1-0 in December 1968 with a goal from Peter Blowman.

MANAGING TO SUCCEED

Luton Town manager Mike Newell guided Hartlepool United to promotion last season. Initially joining Luton as a player from Wigan Athletic in January 1986, the England U-21

international netted 18 goals in 63 League games for the Hatters before moving to Leicester City in September 1987. He succeeded Chris Turner as Hartlepool's boss in November 2002 and remained in charge until May 2003, returning to Luton as manager the following month. Former Luton striker Viv Busby managed Hartlepool for nine months until November 1993.

LEADING MARKSMAN

Former Hartlepool United striker Steve Howard was leading marksman in Luton Town's 2001-02 promotion success. Moving to Victoria Park from Tow Law in August 1995, he netted 27 goals in 142 Third Division games for Hartlepool before being sold to Northampton Town for £120,000 in February 1999. He joined struggling Luton for £50,000 in March 2001 but was unable to prevent relegation that season. Helping the Hatters to regain Second Division status at the first attempt, he topped their goalscoring charts again in 2002-03.

WELSH INTERNATIONAL

Ex-Hartlepool United goalkeeper Andy Dibble was capped twice by Wales while at Luton Town. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Cardiff City for £125,000 in July 1984, he saved a penalty in Luton's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph and made 30 First Division appearances before being sold to Manchester City for £240,000 in July 1988. He briefly rejoined Luton from Glasgow Rangers in September 1997. Moving to Hartlepool from Altrincham in March 1999, he played six League games while at Victoria Park prior to joining

Stockport County in August 2000.

CUP HERO

Former Luton Town defender George Potter was an influential figure as Hartlepool took eventual winners Aston Villa to a League Cup fourth round replay in 1974-75. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Forfar Athletic in March 1968, he helped Luton to clinch the Fourth Division title that season and made seven League appearances for today's opponents prior to joining Torquay United in July 1969. He joined Hartlepool in July 1971 and netted four goals in 213 Fourth Division games while at the Victoria Ground before moving to Gateshead United in July 1977.

TWO SPELLS

Former Luton Town centre-half Gordon Dreyer had two spells at Hartlepool's United. Moving to the Victoria Ground from Bolton Wanderers in June 1934, he made 15 Third Division (North) appearances for Hartlepool's United prior to joining Hull City in June 1935. He rejoined Hartlepool from the Tigers in May 1936 and played a further 26 League games before moving to Luton in May 1937. Displacing Jack Nelson in the heart of the Hatters' defence, he made 22 Second Division appearances for today's opponents prior to the Second World War.

TOP-FLIGHT

One-time Hartlepool's United forward Barry Hawkes played top-flight football for Luton Town. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Shotton Colliery in November 1955, he played alongside his older brother

Ken whilst at Luton and made eight First Division appearances for today's opponents prior to joining Darlington in June 1960. He joined Hartlepool's in July 1961 and contested a first-team slot with Harry Godbold as Pools battled to avoid having to seek re-election for the third successive season, playing nine League games before moving to Chelmsford City in July 1962.

IN SAFE KEEPING

Hartlepool's former loanee goalkeeper Kelvin Davis was an important figure as Luton Town reached the Worthington Cup fifth round in 1998-99. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in July 1994, he made his League debut in Luton's 1-1 draw at home to rivals Watford eight months later and contested a first-team slot with Ian Feuer. He was loaned to Hartlepool in August 1997 and made two Third Division appearances while at Victoria Park. Playing 92 League games overall for the Hatters, he moved to Wimbledon for £600,000 in July 1999.

RECORD VICTORY

Former Luton Town inside-forward Joe Scott scored in Hartlepool United's record 10-1 League victory at home to Barrow on 4th April

1959. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Spennymoor United in February 1952, he briefly partnered record goalscorer Gordon Turner in Luton's attack and netted twice in 13 Second Division games prior to joining Middlesbrough for £5,000 in September 1954. He joined Hartlepool in January 1959 and scored eight goals in 62 Fourth Division outings while at the Victoria Ground before moving to York City in June 1960.

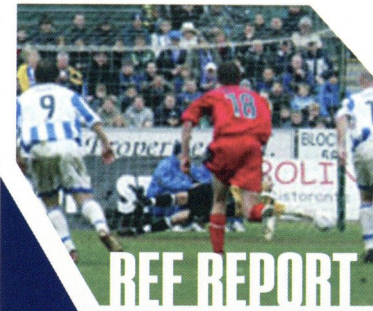
IN DEFENCE

Centre-half Billy Thayne played for both Hartlepool's United and Luton Town during the inter-war era. Moving to Hartlepool's from Crystal Palace in July 1930, he netted eight goals in 101 Third Division (North) games for his home-town club prior to joining Luton in July 1934. He made 29 League appearances while at Kenilworth Road before moving to Northampton Town in March 1936. The likes of Terry Adamson, Harold Briggs, Jackie Foster, Ted Smith, Bob Thompson and Billy Walsh have also played for both clubs.

Leigh Edwards



Robinson takes a penalty... Hartlepool 2 v Luton 3 (30.8.2003)



REF REPORT

Ritchie Humphreys is likely to have the yellow card he received against Brighton on Saturday rescinded by the F.A. after match official Joe Ross admitted a mistake.

Humphreys was shown a yellow card for kicking the ball away but Ross admitted that the Pools midfielder protested his innocence at the time.

"He said it wasn't me, Joe, but I couldn't prove it wasn't him", Ross told the Official Website.

"I told Ritchie I was going to book him but would review the video afterwards and admit any mistake and he seemed content with that.

"I have looked at the match tape now and it should have been Hugh Robertson who was cautioned so I will now include Hugh in my report", he revealed.

It will be good news for Humphreys if the F.A. does wipe off the booking as Saturday's yellow would take him to four and closer to a suspension.

Meanwhile, Ross has revealed the reasons behind his decision to show only a yellow card to Ben Roberts after the Brighton keeper pulled down Adam Boyd inside the area.

Boyd escaped the offside trap and skipped round Roberts but went down under his challenge and despite the striker seemingly being on route to goal, Ross only cautioned the former Middlesbrough keeper.

"It was not a denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity", Ross revealed when speaking to the Official Website.

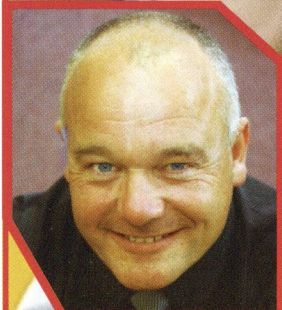
Ross' first game as a referee was a fiery Pools match against Shrewsbury in 2001. He sent off Town's Matthew Redmile and Mark Atkins in a bad-tempered encounter which Pools won 3-1. On Saturday, however, Ross' red card stayed tucked away in his pocket and he stands by the decision.

"The player was on the edge of the box, running away from goal and there were defenders back to cover so the decision had to be a yellow card", the official said.

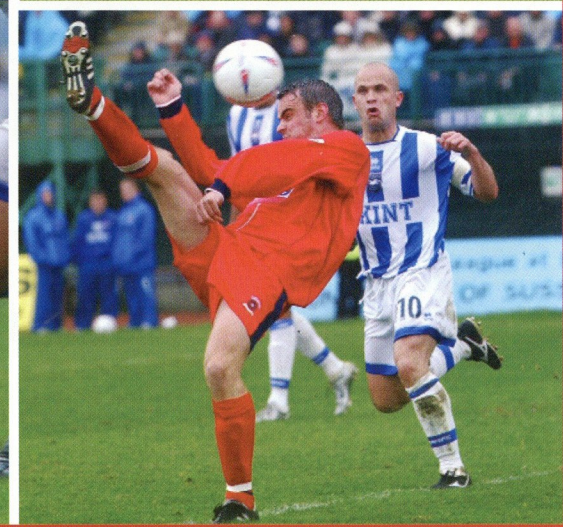
Roberts stayed on the pitch and subsequently saved Gavin Strachan's penalty as Pools fell to consecutive Division Two defeats for the first time this season.

IN ACTION

V BRIGHTON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FRANK REID OF THE HARTLEPOOL MAIL



IN ACTION

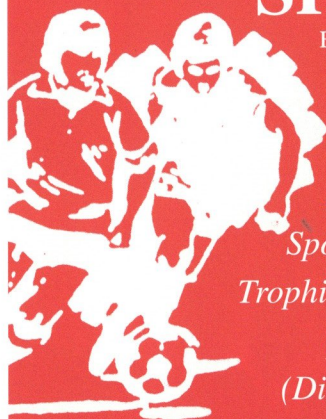
GORDEN CRADDOCK



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FRANK REID OF THE HARTLEPOOL MAIL

MIKE GOUGH SPORTS

ESTABLISHED 1978



Specialists in:-
Sports Equipment
Trophies • Engraving
Club Suppliers
(Discounts Given)

105 York Road Hartlepool
Cleveland TS26 9DH

Tel: (01429) 260227 (shop)
Fax: (01429) 260227 (shop)
Tel: (01429) 236762 (home)



Norton Hotel & Tea Rooms, Seaton Carew

En-Suite Single, Twin & Double Rooms
and Family Rooms available

Rooms from only £20.00 per night
(including Full English Breakfast)

The Green, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool

Tel: 01429 268317
Fax: 01429 283777

Football's Future

Cash in on our support for:

- pitches
- social inclusion projects
- changing rooms
- education schemes
- kit and equipment
- pavilions

Football Foundation

football's biggest supporter

www.footballfoundation.org.uk Helpline 0800 0277766

THE CLUB SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY (09.04.04) AND BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY (12.04.04). HOWEVER IT WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY (10.04.04) AS NORMAL OPENING HOURS.



TWIN PACKS
HUFC SOCKS
£7.00



TWIN PACKS
H'ANGUS SOCKS
£7.00



CLUB TIE
£12.00



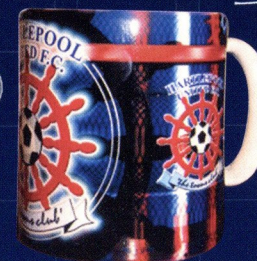
BEANIE BEARS
£4.20



BASEBALL CAP
£6.99



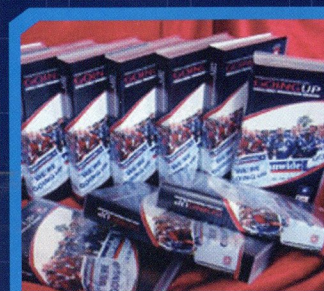
MINI KITS
£4.99



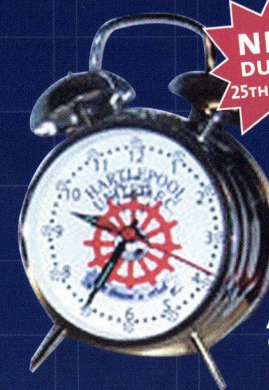
NEW HUFC MUG
£4.99



AIR FRESHENER
£2.00



PROMOTION VIDEO
£15.99



NEW DUE IN 25TH MARCH

HUFC ALARM CLOCK



SPECIAL OFFER

FA CUP T-SHIRTS
£5.00

THE CLUB SHOP

shop online at
www.hartlepoolunited.co.uk

Weekdays	10.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday (matchdays)	10.00am - 3.00pm 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Saturday (non-matchdays)	10am - 12noon
Midweek (matchdays)	10am - kick-off
<i>Subject to change</i>	

OPENING TIMES

All enquires to Mrs. Sharon Precious
Club Shop Manageress

Tel: 01429 272 584
Fax: 01429 863 007

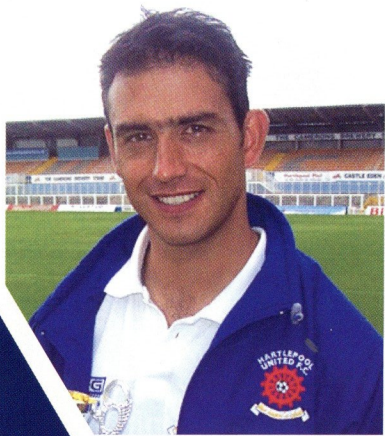
Credit Card and Bankers Card facilities are available for telephone and fax customers



All prices include VAT (where applicable)

UMBRO ISOTONIC LEAGUE CUP AGAINST
CARLISLE UNITED 17TH APRIL 2004 10.30AM AWAY

PONTINS LEAGUE CUP AGAINST NEWCASTLE UNITED
15TH APRIL 2004 KICK OFF 2.00PM AWAY



HUFC *paul stephenson* YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

HUFC *martin scott* RESERVES

All Season Ticket holders
Free entry to League
Youth & Reserve games



SPONSORS

- Michael Maidens Maidens/Plumbing/Heating
- Matthew Robson Coxhoe & District W.M.C.
- Karl Richards Harry Sponsor (Rennard) Family
- Andrew Appleby SSL International
- Neil Muckles Keith Steele The Cliff Pub Sunderland
- Philip Turnbull Leighton Builders South Shields
- Steven Turnbull Lord Driving Technique
- Graham Low Whitburn & Cleadon J.F.C. U17
- John Brackstone R.J.B. Coatings
- Jack Wilkinson United Gas - Danny & Georgie
- Paul Stephenson Helmsley Holiday Flats Bridlington
- Daniel Fox J Welsh & Sons Jewellers
- James Winter Laurel Avenue Comm. Assoc.

By the time you read these notes I will be in America with the Youth Team. We are taking part in the Dallas Cup, which is one of the most prestigious footballing tournaments in the world. In the past some great players have taken part in the Dallas Cup including the likes of David Beckham and Michael Owen so the lads are really excited.

It's going to be a great experience for all the players and also for myself. We have travelled to America full of confidence that we can give a good account of ourselves and do ourselves justice.

We were involved in this tournament last year in a younger section and we were made to feel very welcome so I am hoping that this will be just as enjoyable. Last year the lads that went represented the club impeccably and I am certain that the boys we are taking this time will repeat that.

Our first game was on Sunday and it went very well. We defeated Dallas Inter by four goals to nil. I was pleased with the performance and it was great to see the lads keep a clean sheet as well as scoring goals.

You can find more information on the game on the club's Official Website, which will keep you up to date on our progress in the competition.

We want to make the most out of this tournament because a lot of people have worked extremely hard to make sure we can get there. Obviously it is a massive expense to take a side abroad and we are thankful for every bit of support we have received in this area.

As well as that, our thanks must go to Ken Hodcroft and IOR who have once again backed this excursion. I think it highlights the immense important they place on the Youth side of the club that they have supported our involvement in this competition for two consecutive seasons.

It may cost money but the experience that the players will gain from taking part in this tournament will be fantastic. They will be pitting their wits against teams from all over the world; I was told the other day that there is even a team in there from Afghanistan. It really is an amazing competition.

See y'all!

The Reserves are now very close to winning the Championship after last Wednesday's 4-0 win over Doncaster Rovers at Billingham. It was another pleasing performance from the lads and they deserve to be in the position they are in the league. I was delighted with the tempo the lads played the game against Doncaster and our play warranted the four goals we scored.

I said at the beginning of the season that I wasn't really interested in where the Reserves finished in the table. I believe that you look for other aspects in Reserve Team football but the lads have performed really well all season.

I do now think it is important that the lads go on and clinch the title. There are players who have been regulars in the side that would love to win the league so I will be pleased for them.

The Doncaster game was an excellent one for us and a lot of players stood out which forced them in to the plans for the game at Brighton. I was pleased for Antony Sweeney in mid-field; he was one of the main factors in us winning the game against Doncaster. Darren Craddock did well at right-back too and I thought he looked solid for the First Team against Brighton. Andrew Jordan was also

impressive for the Reserves and he was rewarded with a place on the bench for the First Team on Saturday.

You have to have competition for places at a Football Club and I believe we are getting that. I have said before that if players do perform consistently well for the Reserves then they will not be overlooked but given their chance; it's up to them to take it from there.

Andrew Appleby scored the first goal against Doncaster. He is another young lad looking to force his way in to the First Team reckoning. Ryan McCann got the second goal after some skilful play on the edge of the box by Paul Robinson. Antony Sweeney headed in the third goal from a corner and Stephen Carson rounded off the scoring late on with a late strike from inside the area.

We are playing Newcastle United next Thursday which is a big game for us and if we get a good result then that should be enough to seal the title.

I hope you enjoy this evening's match. It's a big one for us and we need you to get right behind the lads. The end of the season is fast approaching so let's make some noise tonight!



2003/04 Fixtures

HOME fixtures shown in capitals
Home fixtures are played at Peterlee

Jan 10	Darlington	A	1-1
JAN 24	YORK CITY	H	1-0
Jan 31	Halifax Town	A	11-00
Feb 14	Blackpool	A	1-1
FEB 21	SHREWSBURY	H	1-4
Mar 6	Hull City	A	3-3
Mar 13	Scunthorpe Utd	A	1-2
MAR 20	MANSFIELD TOWN	H	1-0
Mar 27	Chesterfield	A	1-2
Apr 17	Carlisle United	A	10-30
APR 24	STOCKPORT C.	H	12-00

Copyright of The Football League Ltd 2004



DIVISION ONE EAST	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
HARTLEPOOL UNITED	12	9	2	1	24	11	+13	29
BOSTON UNITED	12	7	0	5	25	18	+7	21
NEWCASTLE UNITED	12	6	2	4	26	18	+8	20
SCUNTHORPE UTD	12	5	5	2	13	14	-1	20
GRIMSBY TOWN	11	4	4	3	21	13	+8	16
NOTTS COUNTY	13	4	2	7	14	19	-5	14
YORK CITY	12	3	4	5	14	20	-6	13
LINCOLN CITY	12	2	5	5	15	23	-8	11
DARLINGTON	12	3	2	7	18	27	-9	11
DONCASTER ROVERS	12	1	6	5	13	20	-7	9

PONTINS HOLIDAYS LEAGUE 2003/04 Fixtures

HOME fixtures shown in capitals
Home fixtures are played at Billingham Town

Wed Aug 20	Doncaster Rovers	A	0-0
TUES AUG 26	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	3-1
Wed Sep 10	York City	A	2-1
Wed Sep 24	Boston United	A	1-0
WED OCT 1	BRADFORD CITY (LC)	H	5-2
WED OCT 8	NOTTS COUNTY	H	3-1
WED OCT 22	GRIMSBY TOWN	H	2-1
Wed Oct 29	York City (LC)	A	2-0
Wed Nov 5	Lincoln City	A	1-0
WED NOV 19	DARLINGTON (LC)	H	2-2
WED NOV 26	DARLINGTON	H	3-2
Wed Dec 10	Scunthorpe United	A	1-2
WED JAN 14	BOSTON UNITED	H	3-1
Wed Feb 4	Notts County	A	2-2
WED FEB 18	LINCOLN CITY	H	3-0
Wed Mar 3	Grimsby Town	A	P/P
Wed Mar 10	Sheffield Wed	A	2-1
WED MAR 17	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	H	1-1
Wed Mar 24	Darlington	A	2-2
WED MAR 31	DONCASTER ROVERS	H	4-0
Thu Apr 15	Newcastle United	A	2.00 pm



www.a-line.it/

OFFICIAL BOOT SUPPLIERS TO HARTLEPOOL UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

PROFESSIONAL ITALIAN HAND-MADE BOOTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

*Special offers
throughout the season
to all Pools fans*

*Buy 1 get 1
free on all
burgers*



NEW SPONSORS OF HARTLEPOOL UTD FC

SPONSORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| U9's
Stephen Flounders
Harry Cosgrove
Max Stephenson
Elliot Longmore
Matthew Brooks | Sponsor
John Painter-Builer
Cosgrove Decoraters
The Bread Bin Sunderland
Workwise Personnel Limited
Chris Brooks Carpet Fitting |
| U10's
Ross Frankland
Liam Imray
Joshua Noble
Ryan Ashby
Craig Hutchinson
Elliot Horton
Liam Gough
Rhys Morris
Matthew Thomas
Kaime Mosley | Sponsor
Sembcorp Utilities Teesside
TRW Automotive Systems Ltd
Dave Noble Building & Joinery
Latedeals.com
Cleveland Waste Paper Ltd
Miller Construction
Goffy Century FM
Westbrook Construction Services
A Thomas Builders 01429 299827
Touch of Class Catering |
| U11's
Liam Belsham
Andrew Loymes
Liam Cook
Paul Murphy
Ryan Dovenor
James Sutton
Jake Noble
Marc Nicol
Louis Herbert
Steven Hetherington
Jed Garthwaite
James Montgomery
Elliott Woods
Warren Brown
Ben Ward
Jake Horstfield | Sponsor
Wordsley House Care Home
J Jones Butchers/Flowers to you/S Meadows Hairdressing
Mr & Mrs Cook
J Murphy Whitty St Barber Shop
Fabricom Contracting Ltd
Red Admiral Public House
Brian Cooper
C.C.I.
Kestral Youth FC
Paylor's Memorials Family Business
Lumley Castle Hotel
A.C.M.G. Services Ltd
E&M Ritchie Haulage & Storage
Go-Ahead Northern
Timeless Hair Fashions
The Cradle-Nursery Retailers |
| U12's
Greg Anderson
Bill Blackford
Reece Davison
Liam Judson
Ben Twidle
Kyle Morris
Grant Herbert
Alexander Thomas
Luke Muir
Lee Andrews
James Hall | Sponsor
Coatings Plus Ltd
DB Installations Joinery
WD Davison & Sons - Decorators
J.A.R. Food Consultant (Factory Technical Services)
Apollo Fire Detectors Limited
Westbrook Construction Services
Quads '4' all 01429 884026
A Thomas Builders 01429 299827
A Thomas Builders 01429 299827
EDS
Alan Hall Roofing Specialist |
| U13's
Calum Maddison
Ryan Graham
Shaun Brewster
Sean Lavender
Darren Hull
Christopher Killeen
Alex Tait
Craig Buddy
Jak Quantrell
Anthony Rodgers
Zak Healey
Thomas Heselton | Sponsor
Arundale Mitsubishi M'boro
Anonymous
Baltimore Plumbing Service
Anonymous
Mick Hull & Tracey Hull
Robinsons Estate Agents, Hartlepool
Northumbrian Water Limited
Five Star Auto's
ABFAD Limited
Kennek Ryhope Albion Youth FC
Rosway Fire Protection
Charles Dickens Toolstore |
| U14's
Karl Richardson
James Skidmore
Christopher Edwards
Dean Johnson
Craig Lobb
Andrew Wright
Daniel Donovan
Liam Henderson
Paul Gibson
Billy Gatenby
Matthew Hammerton
Garry Stevens
Ross Molloy
Craig Ruddy
Joseph Tait
Gary Fleetham | Sponsor
Leam Rangers Youth FC
Mel Slowgrove Auto Repairs
Elizabeth Ann Kelly
Premier Peel Ltd
G.T. Amerigo
Moorside Community College
Cordell Group
Greencroft Social Club
Mark Jones Staincliffe Hotel 01429 264301
Sarah Gatenby
Yvonne's Unisex Hair Studio
Ladysmith Garage
JCM Retail Services Ltd
Five Star Auto's
Mr & Mrs Tait
Friend of Family |
| U15's
Luke Bythway
Matthew Noble
Matthew Clarke
Damen Mullen
Nathan Smith
Andrew Hetherington
Sonny Andrews
Lewis Collinson
Kyle Anderson
James Debbage
Joshua Kaldani
Shaun Proctor
Alex Kell | Sponsor
Hewden Crane Hire
Conquest Building Services
Hart Lane Motoaport
Team Flooring - 07803 591869
Dad
Prima Window Systems 01429 270008
B.A. Wines
Ravendale Foods Ltd
Helen Anderson Mam of Kyle
In memory of Andrew Oliver
Big Mamma's Pizzas 01429 277177
Arthur and Stuart Proctor
Eastbourne Roofing |
| U16's
Paul Bone
Kyle Sumner
Ben Johnson
Phillip Hudson
James Douglas | Sponsor
Campbell's Tyres & Exhausts (Marske-by-the-Sea)
Sumner
Bradford & Bingley Plc
The Yorkshire Cable Redcar
The George Inn |
| U19's
Kieran Stares | Sponsor
Mum and Dad |



HUFC Centre OF EXCELLENCE

See website for more details

Welcome to everyone for tonight's fixture against Luton Town. Thank you for your attendance and we will look to provide you with an evening of high entertainment and plenty to cheer.

We are now into the penultimate month of the season. We are still in with a fighting chance of a play-off place and tonight we have a very big game against another promotion-seeking Club. At this stage of the season strange things can happen. Points can be hard to achieve and smooth flowing teams can suddenly de-rail. A strong nerve is required and continued belief that you are good enough. We have shown with our performances to date that we are worthy of a top six place and a win tonight would bring us a little closer to a play-off place. Get behind the team this evening and lets get those vital three points we need.

We are now coming to the end of our games programme at the Centre of Excellence for this season, although we will try to arrange some games for the month of May

if possible. We have, like all the other teams, lost fixtures through the course of the season due to the bad weather. The Centre of Excellence is a developmental programme, which is not run on a league basis. So if games are cancelled they are not re-arranged for a later date. Therefore, sometimes we miss out on playing certain teams.

The Youth Development Department is holding an end of Season Raffle. Tickets are now on sale for purchase, so if you require to buy, or can assist in the sale, please contact the Department on 01429 274141. The prizes include a weekend for two in Amsterdam, A meal for two at the Staincliffe Hotel, A 21 inch Colour T.V., and many other prizes.

Thanks again for your support tonight. Enjoy the game and travel safely home.

Ian Kerr



THE HARTLEPOOL MAIL



supporting Hartlepool United

HARTLEPOOL NewDeal FOR COMMUNITIES

New Deal for Communities is a resident-led regeneration programme bringing £54 million of additional government funding into Hartlepool to:-

- Improve health
- Enhance education
- Reduce crime
- Create employment
- Improve housing and the environment
- Build a stronger community

For further information please contact Hartlepool New Deal for Communities at:

The Arches, 79 Park Road, Hartlepool. TS24 7PW.

Telephone 01429 894046, Fax 01429 890235

Email: info@ndc-hartlepool.org.uk,

Website: www.ndc-hartlepool.org.uk



FOOTBALLS

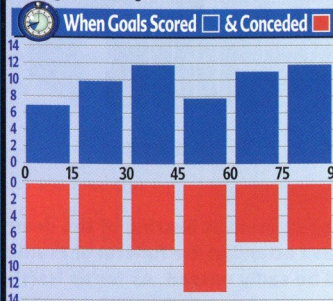


Form Guide:

Won:	2
Drawn:	1
Lost:	3
Scored:	8
Conc:	11
Points:	7
Goal Diff:	-3
Last 6:	WLDWL
Last 5 Home:	DWLDL
Last 5 Away:	LWWWL
Miscellaneous	
Players Used:	33
Clean Sheets:	12
Failed to Score:	10

The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Tinkler	2
Long range shots	Strachan	3
Inside 6 yards	Williams E	6
Shots from 6-18 yards	Williams E	5
Volleyed shots	Williams E	3
Penalties	Robinson, Strachan	2
Scored 1st Goal in match	Williams E	8
Most goals in last 10	6 players	1
Points gained from goals	Williams E	10.98



Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	229
Goals conceded	52
On target/goals scored	4.40
Division 2 rating	12

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	226
Goals scored	60
On target / goals	3.77
Division 2 Rating	5

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	6
Points won	2
Goals Against, last 10	3
Points lost	0

Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	10.74
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	1
Average Offsides per game	4.05
Div 2 Rating	19

Swings

WON when behind	1
DRAWN when behind	5
LOST when ahead	1
DRAWN when ahead	4
WON 2 down	1
WON 1 down	0
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	1
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	5
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	4

Attendances

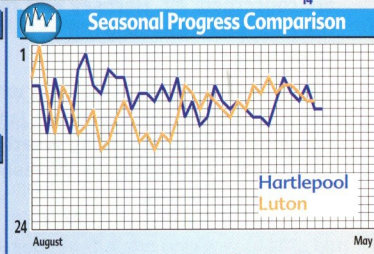
Aggregate	101,602
Highest	7,448
Lowest	4,135
Average	5,347

Where Goals

22	Close Range	11
28	Inside Area	40
10	Outside Area	7

How Goals

32	Shots	33
6	Headers	15
9	Volleys	4
6	Penalties	3
5	Free Kicks	1
2	Own Goals	2



Set Piece Goals

Scored from C	6
Conceded from C	5
Scored from FK	10
Conceded from FK	4

CORNERS:

Scored from C	6
Conceded from C	5

FREE KICKS:

Scored from FK	10
Conceded from FK	4

Margins

WON BY:	7	LOST BY:	7
1 Goal	1	1 Goal	5
2 Goals	6	2 Goals	2
3 Goals	1	3 Goals	2
4 Goals	0	4 Goals	0
5+ Goals	1	5+ Goals	0



Set Piece Goals

Scored from C	6
Conceded from C	5
Scored from FK	8
Conceded from FK	5

CORNERS:

Scored from C	6
Conceded from C	5

FREE KICKS:

Scored from FK	8
Conceded from FK	5

Margins

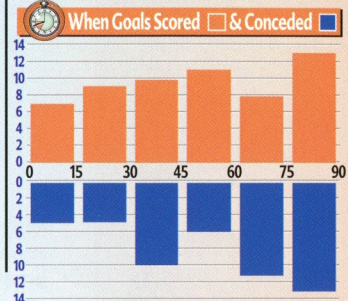
WON BY:	8	LOST BY:	5
1 Goal	8	1 Goal	5
2 Goals	6	2 Goals	2
3 Goals	1	3 Goals	2
4 Goals	0	4 Goals	0
5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	0

Attendances

Aggregate	118,212
Highest	8,499
Lowest	5,002
Average	6,222

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	1
Penalties	Nicholls	2
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	204
Goals conceded	50
On target/goals scored	4.08
Division 2 rating	14

Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	234
Goals scored	58
On target / goals	4.03
Division 2 Rating	9

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	13.39
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	19
Average Offsides per game	4.61
Div 2 Rating	24

Swings

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

Attendances

Aggregate	118,212
Highest	8,499
Lowest	5,002
Average	6,222



Hatters



Form Guide:

Won:	1
Drawn:	4
Lost:	1
Scored:	6
Conc:	6
Points:	7
Goal Diff:	0
Last 6:	DWLDD
Last 5 Home:	WWWDD
Last 5 Away:	LWDL
Miscellaneous	
Players Used:	34
Clean Sheets:	9
Failed to Score:	7

THE **SP** EVERY CLUB, EVERY GAME ...FROM THE PREMIERSHIP TO THE CONFERENCE THE PEOPLE



SMYTHE'S SCRAPBOOK

"Mad as a Hatter"

Firstly, I wish to express my sadness at hearing of the death of Harold Hornsey on the same day as I attended the funeral of Frankie Baggs. Two great Poolies and both will be sadly missed. As far as Hartlepool United are concerned, Mr. Hornsey was the saviour. I cannot even imagine where the club would be today if it hadn't been for the sterling work and passion of Harold.

Welcome Poolies and Hatters to what surely will be a considerably drier Victoria Park than it was in late January. Hopefully there will be no problems this evening regarding weather conditions as Pools attempt to avenge the result from the corresponding fixture as detailed in the scrapbook excerpt below.

MATCH REPORT:

A relatively early start as we board a hired mini bus from would you believe it - Darlington. After having taken a few breaks at Services to answer the calls of nature and to stock up on "junk food" we find ourselves approaching our destination and with limited parking facilities we managed with the help and assistance of a couple of PC's (police constables not computers) to park the vehicle in the confines of The Beech Hill Conservative Club car park. Of course it would be rude not to check out the bar facilities of the aforementioned club, although former Murton Colliery miner Les and Labour party member Derek did have to be somewhat persuaded to enter the premises, their moral crisis is alleviated with a couple of refreshing drinks and good natured banter with Luton fans. As it was my first visit to Kenilworth Road my eyes were well and truly opened at this most unusual stadium. I almost miss the visiting fans

entrance as The Oak Stand turnstiles are well hidden within a row of terraced houses and I felt that I was queuing to go into someone's living room. After having paid the £15 admission and climbing the staircase behind the brickwork façade, Pools fans discover a panoramic view of the occupants back yards including lines of washing, and discover that the toilet facilities appear to be a part of a residents dwelling. Basically, Luton Town boasts an old ground situated slap bang in the middle of a housing estate - a homely ground indeed.

As the game kicked off the first of many Easyjet flights took off from nearby Luton Airport, skimming over the Kenilworth Road Stands and before it had disappeared into the distance and out of sight, the home side were in the lead, courtesy of ex-Pools forward Stevie Howard. Big Steve seems to have a habit of scoring against his former club and today was to be no exception, notching with ease following poor Pools

defending. Not content at scoring once he doubled his tally bagging a brace with a McSheffrey strike sandwiched in-between giving The Hatters a healthy 3-0 lead within 23 minutes. Howard almost secured a 1st half hat-trick only for his thumping header to be denied by the crossbar.

A shambolic and woeful defensive performance had stunned the Pools faithful into silence, but were given a glimmer of hope five minutes before the break when Darrell Clarke was quick to react to a goal mouth scramble, lashing the ball into the net. The cash strapped Southern club who earlier in the season had gone into administration went in at halftime leading 3-1 against an in form Pools side boasting an impressive unbeaten run and no doubt the players could expect a halftime roasting from Cooper who must have been as mad as a hatter at seeing his players under perform in such a way. Another balti pie at half-time could only be described as comfort eating after experiencing such a painful and disappointing 45 minutes and for some Poolies it was too much as they elected to leave the ground and head for the nearest pub. I must either be a masochist or an optimist as I stayed with the rest of the hopeful United fans and a wise choice it was too.

I don't know what was said in the dressing room at the interval but it certainly seemed to have some effect on the lads as they staged a 2nd half fight back. There was evidence of battle and bottle, the defence was somewhat shored up from the constant battering that it had received in the first period, the midfield probed to open opportunities for the forwards Robbo and Marco, and the introduction of subs Istead and Boyd strengthening the attack.



Oak stand turnstiles

The linesman's flag or Luton's keeper either denied Pools efforts until the referee pointed to the spot in the 71st minute. Young Icy set off on one of his mazy runs mesmerising the defenders so much so that the only way to stop him was to pull him down. Up stepped Paul Robinson to convert from the spot, setting up an exciting finale, with Pools pressing for an equaliser but it just wasn't to be. A classic encounter that could perhaps be described as a game of two halves, alas the final score remained Luton 3 v Hartlepool 2 and the lesson to be learned was, you can't be giving teams a three-goal start and expect to win/draw. However a good day out was had by all despite the result, and after a long journey home in the "Darlington" minibus the result became a distant memory, and we were already looking forward to Pools next fixture.

A most enjoyable game for a neutral, a good result for a Hatter, but a disap-

pointment for any travelling Poolie, let's hope tonight's game provides the same amount of entertainment, only this time it will be three points in the bag for the Pools as we look to bounce back from the disappointment of recent games.

Enjoy The Game, and Come On Cooper's Sooper Troopers!

Lord Smythe



A Sunny Griffin Park

GET ACTIVE THIS EASTER

Tuesday 13th - Friday 23rd April

Full range of sports and activities including

- **Kayak Sailing**
- **Trampolining - Archery**
- **Tennis - Badminton**
- **Mountain Biking**
- **Family Orienteering**



For more details, telephone (01429) 223791

Biffa

Waste Disposal Contractors to Hartlepool United

Telephone: 01494 521221



HARTLEPOOL UNITED FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY EASTER SOCCER COURSES HOLIDAY CLUB

MANOR COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY,
Owton Manor Lane, Hartlepool,
Registration rear of building in Sports Hall.

Tuesday 13th April to Friday 16th April
time 9-5pm - age 8-16yrs boys and girls
£28.00 (Includes excursion on Friday)

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th April
time 9-1pm - age 6-7yrs boys and girls
£18.00 (Includes Free Gift)

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd April
time 9-5pm - age 8-16yrs boys and girls
£35.00 (Includes excursion on Friday)

Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd April
time 9-1pm - age 6-7yrs boys and girls
£24.00 (Includes Free Gift)

DYKE HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE
Off Raby Road, Hartlepool.

Tuesday 13th April to Friday 16th April
time 9-5pm - age 8-16yrs boys and girls
£28.00 (Includes Excursion on Friday)

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th April
time 9-1pm - age 6-7yrs boys and girls
£18.00 (Includes Free Gift)

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd April
time 9-5pm - age 8-16yrs boys and girls
£35.00 (Includes Excursion on Friday)

Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd April
time 9-1pm - age 6-7yrs boys and girls
£24.00 (Includes Free Gift)

Hartlepool united players will be attending each event!

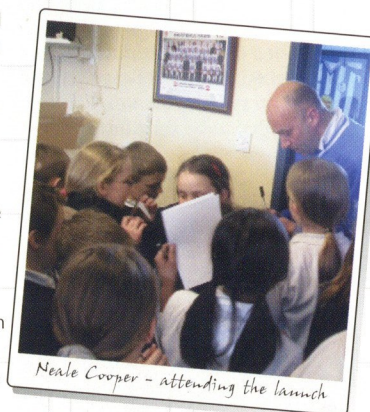
FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

See website for more details

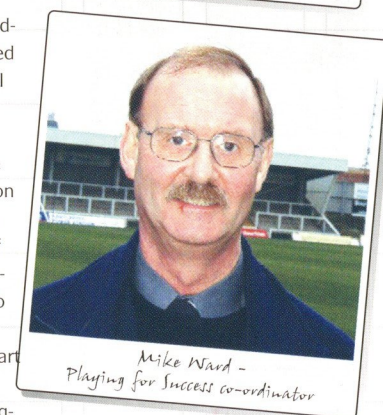
PLAYING FOR SUCCESS

Playing for Success (PFS) is a partnership between the Department for Education and Skills, the LEA, the football Foundation and sporting clubs to establish out of school hours study support centres at sports' club grounds. The centres use the environment and medium of sport as motivational tool. Pools Study Support Centre was the 88th PFS study support centre to be created. The Centre Manager, Michael Ward, took up his appointment at the beginning of January and it is planned that the first pupils to attend the centre will start in April. To begin with, three primary schools and two secondary schools will be invited to attend the scheme once a week for ten weeks - primary pupils from 3.30-5.30pm and secondary pupils from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Supervised transport will be provided from the school to the centre and will then return the children back to the school.

Initially the classroom will be based in the CK restaurant where the pupils will work on numeracy, literacy and ICT projects with a football theme. Pupils will have the use of wireless networked computers, an interactive whiteboard, digital cameras and video cameras, as well as access to the Internet. It is hoped that a new classroom will be part of the planned extension - being built behind the CK Stand adjacent to the changing rooms - which will hopefully be ready early next year. Pools Study Support Centre has hired a Hospitality Box for the current season to promote Playing for Success.



Neale Cooper - attending the launch



Mike Ward - Playing for Success co-ordinator



YOUR WORLD THIS WEEK



Martin Scott

Sweeney Scores

Good afternoon and welcome to tonight's game with Luton Town. We've continued to bring you the latest news from the best possible angle this week on Pools World - the Club's video website. Each and every week-day we provide unique TV News Bulletins which include behind the scenes footage from the club and Training Ground, plus exclusive interviews with the players. If you aren't hooked up with Pools World, then here's a sample of what you've been missing.

Monday 29th March 2004

Brentford's manager Martin Allen was happy to give Pools World an interview following his side's 2-1 victory over Pools and was quick to praise Neale Cooper's side: "I really do hope that Pools can get into the play-offs because they try to play football in the right way; they've got to put this one behind

them and see what they can do," he said.

Tuesday 30th March 2004

On Tuesday, Pools World gave subscribers the chance to watch highlights of the Reserve's draw against Darlington at the Reynolds Arena from the previous week.

Thursday 1st April 2004

Pools World was on hand to get the first interview with Martin Scott, following the Reserve's 4-0 victory over Doncaster, which propelled the team closer to the championship. "I think it is important for the players who have featured regularly that we do finish top; winning the title would be a great reward for them," he said.

Friday 2nd March 2004

After hearing Scott's comments on Thursday, Pools World subscribers would have liked to see the team's performance for themselves. We duly obliged by showing extended highlights of the impressive 4-0 victory that the Reserves achieved on Wednesday afternoon.

If you can't make it to Victoria Park in the future, you can sit back and relax in the comfort of your own home and be talked through the action via Pools World's LIVE AND INTERACTIVE COMMENTARY!

And don't forget, just one hour after tonight's game we'll have a video interview with Neale Cooper available to Pools World subscribers. So don't delay, sign up today and get closer to the club you love. Here are the subscription options available to you:

World Extra (£49.99 for 12 months)

This allows you unlimited access not only to Pools World but also the other 75 league clubs' official video websites. Unbelievable value!

World (£34.99 for 12 months, £19.99 for 6 months)

Get behind the scenes at Victoria Park with the full Pools World package, with video interviews, highlights, features and match commentary.

World Matchlive (£19.99 for 12 months)

If you can't make it to every Pools game then here is your answer - exclusive live commentary of every game, home or away!

For more information visit www.hartlepoolunited.co.uk

THE KIT SPONSORS

Home Sponsor
Away Sponsor

SPONSOR A PLAYER FOR £150+VAT & RECEIVE THE PLAYERS SHIRT AT THE END OF THE SEASON 2003.04

 MICHAEL BARRON Tilley, Bailey & Irvine Jim 'Frosty' Frostwick	 ADAM BOYD Manor College of Technology Manor College of Technology	 ANDREW JORDAN David Squires	 ANTHONY WILLIAMS Turner Viollins	 ANTHONY SWEENEY Paramount Homes
 JOEL PORTER The Norton Hotel The Norton Hotel	 CHRIS WESTWOOD HUFCSA	 DARRELL CLARKE HUDSA	 HUGH ROBERTSON Paul Keay	 GAVIN STRACHAN Marty & Anthony Fidgeon Marty & Anthony Fidgeon
 JIM PROVELT Jake Richardson Jack & Robyn Gibson	 JOHN BRACKSTONE RJB Coatings	 EIFION WILLIAMS Ian & Granty P Dundee Utd HUFC Supporters Club	 DIMITRIOS KONSTANTOPOULOS Gretton Nursing Home	 RYAN MCCANN
 MARK ROBINSON Atomic Planet Entertainment Ltd	 MARK TINKLER Aaron Teather Industrial&Corporate Finance	 MATTY ROBSON MacKenzie Home Improvements Ltd	 MICHAEL NELSON Adverc BM- Wolverhampton Trev Geek Boutique	 PAUL ROBINSON The Engineers Football Team
 RITCHIE HUMPHREYS HUFCSA Simian Services Ltd	 STEVEN ISTEAD Fireplace Centre branches throughout N.E.	 JACK WILKINSON Errol Bristow Errol Bristow	 STEPHEN CARSON Kit Sponsorship available £100+VAT	 NEALE COOPER Pubmaster

Hartlepool United FC Official Pools Broadband Offers

SIGN UP! to AOL or NTL BROADBAND and get POOLS WORLD **FREE!**

- Broadband from £24.99 a month
- 10 times faster downloads
- Phone & surf at the same time
- Enjoy fast, high quality video

AOL Broadband ntl

POOLS WORLD INTERNET, TV AND RADIO

To sign up to AOL or NTL broadband and get your FREE World subscription visit www.hartlepoolunited.co.uk

* Broadband subscription fees and conditions apply



PFA Player of the year 1996

Profiles by Tony Lynch

Les Ferdinand

In footballing terms Les Ferdinand was a late developer. Born in Paddington in December 1966 and brought up in the Ladbroke Grove area of West London, the strapping youngster converted from goalkeeper to goalscorer while still at school. In his teens he joined Vauxhall-Opel League Division Two side Southall who won their way through to the 1986 FA Vase Final against Halesowen at Wembley. Southall's manager, Micky Burns, predicted that one of his team might one day be lucky enough to return to Wembley. Ten years later, Les was delighted to be able to say, 'I'm glad it turned out to be me'.

The excellent Southall side broke up after their 3-0 Vase defeat leaving Ferdinand, with his 20th birthday looming, wondering exactly where he was going to play in 1986-87. The answer eventually came from nearby Hayes. 'I accepted their offer straight away, but I didn't expect my stay there to be such a short one.'

In fact, Ferdinand's Vauxhall-Opel Premier Division tenure lasted less than a season. He was in top form and scoring plenty of goals when, in March 1987, Queens Park Rangers snapped him up for £15,000. 'Hayes were delighted to help launch a player into the professional ranks and I'll always be grateful to them.'

Les jumped into the deep end at Loftus Road. 'I was too old to be an apprentice, so I went straight into the reserves. In April I was named as a sub for the league game at Coventry.

It was quite a shock to go from playing in front of a handful of spectators to be confronted by almost 21,000. I watched most of the match with my mouth open, before Jim Smith sent me on as a replacement for Mike Fillery.'

Two further substitute appearances, a first team start against Everton and a brief loan spell at Brentford were followed by a surprise sojourn with Besiktas in Turkey. 'I was finding it hard to break into the Rangers first team and I believe going to Istanbul was the best move I could have made. That was my apprenticeship.'

Les collected his first professional honour when Besiktas beat Fenerbahce in the Turkish Cup final. He also gained experience in the European Cup Winners' Cup before returning to QPR early in the 1989-90 campaign. His first Football League goals (a brace) arrived in a 4-2 victory against Chelsea - the first of many that were to come over the next five seasons. 'Things really took off for me when Gerry Francis arrived at Loftus Road in 1991-92. He was the first manager to put all his faith in me and even told me that I had the ability to play for England.'

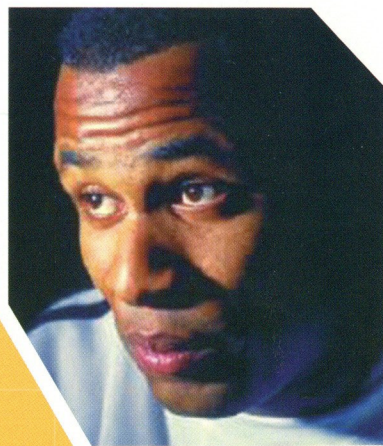
That prediction came true in February 1993 when Ferdinand made his Three Lions debut and netted his first international goal in the 6-0 win against San Marino at Wembley. Within two years he was ready to move on and in the 1995 close season his future was subject to much speculation. Arsenal, Spurs and Villa

were all keen to sign him, but it was the persuasive powers of Kevin Keegan that finally took him north to Newcastle for £6 million.

In the space of three seasons Keegan had rescued the Magpies from the (old) Second Division relegation zone and had lifted them back into the top flight. After a third place Premiership finish behind Blackburn and Manchester United in 1994-95, he was ready for another assault on the pinnacle - and by January 1996, irresistibly displaying all the flair and excitement engendered by the Boss's managerial philosophy, they led the table by a clear 12 points.

Ferdinand's spectacular goalscoring had been at the forefront of Newcastle's surge and was the spur that garnered him the majority vote in the annual poll by his fellow professionals. He accepted the 1996 PFA Player of the Year Award from Merit Award recipient, Pele, while Liverpool's Robbie Fowler collected the Young Player of the Year accolade for the second year in succession.

On the eve of the awards ceremony a 2-0 defeat at Arsenal had seen Newcastle dislodged from top spot. They did not regain that lofty status, allowing Manchester United to take full advantage. But Les finished an otherwise disappointing season with 29 goals in all competitions, a tally that included a hat-trick in a 6-1 thrashing of Wimbledon and his 100th league goal. Pretty good, for a late starter.



APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

	L	Goals	Cup	Goals	Total	Total Goals
Anthony Williams	1				2	
Michael Barron	31	1	6		37	1
Mark Robinson	4		1		5	
Mark Tinkler	36+1	5	5		41+1	5
Michael Nelson	37	3	6		43	3
Chris Westwood	38	1	6		44	1
Darrell Clarke	18+9	6	3+2		21+11	6
Ritchie Humphreys	39	2	6	1	45	3
Eifion Williams	34+1	12	6	1	40+1	13
Marcio Gabbiani	10+5	5	3	2	13+5	7
Kevin Henderson	1+2		+1		1+3	1
Jon Bass						
Paul Arnison	2+2				2+2	
Adam Boyd	3+8	3	+1		3+9	3
Marcus Richardson	3				3	
Jermaine Easter	+3				+3	
Antony Sweeney	1+3				1+3	
Jim Provett	38		5		43	
John Brackstone	5+1		1	1	6+1	1
Steven Istead	1+24	1	+3	1	1+27	2
Matty Robson	17+6	1	3	1	20+6	2
Paul Robinson	20+9	7	4+2	3	24+11	10
Andrew Jordan	4+1		1	1	5+1	1
Gavin Strachan	32+1	5	6	1	38+1	6
David Foley	+1				+1	
Ryan McCann	+4		+1		+5	
Darren Craddock	3+1		+1		3+2	
Jack Wilkinson	2+2	1	+2		2+4	1
Joel Porter	14+6	3	1+1	1	15+7	4
Danny Byrne	2				3	
Chris Shuker	14		1		15	
Hugh Robertson	11	2			11	2
Scott Walker	5+1				5+1	
Steve Carson	1+2				1+2	
Neil Danks	4				4	

+1 indicates substitute appearance



	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Plymouth	40	14	5	1	46	12	8	7	5	29	22	41	78
QPR	39	14	6	0	42	11	5	8	6	27	27	31	71
Bristol City	40	13	5	2	31	11	7	6	7	20	21	19	71
Brighton	40	15	3	2	37	11	4	6	10	22	29	19	66
Swindon	40	12	5	3	38	19	6	6	8	29	34	14	65
Bournemouth	39	11	6	3	32	18	5	6	8	18	22	10	60
Port Vale	40	13	5	2	41	26	4	4	12	23	31	7	60
Luton	38	12	5	2	37	19	3	9	7	21	31	8	59
Hartlepool	39	7	8	4	28	17	8	4	8	32	35	8	57
Barnsley	40	7	11	2	22	13	6	5	9	23	33	-1	55
Wrexham	39	8	6	6	24	16	8	1	10	20	33	-5	55
Colchester	40	8	8	4	24	21	5	5	10	16	28	-9	52
Tranmere	39	10	6	3	31	17	2	9	9	15	34	-5	51
Sheff Wed	40	7	8	5	23	21	6	4	10	20	31	-9	51
Blackpool	40	7	5	8	23	22	6	6	8	24	34	-9	50
Rushden	40	9	5	6	35	27	4	3	13	23	37	-6	47
Oldham	39	7	6	6	29	22	2	11	7	25	32	0	44
Peterborough	40	4	7	9	32	30	6	7	7	17	22	-3	44
Grimsby	40	8	5	7	34	24	3	6	11	17	48	-21	44
Stockport	40	5	7	8	26	31	4	9	7	27	33	-11	43
Chesterfield	40	7	7	6	32	28	3	6	11	12	35	-6	43
Brentford	40	7	4	6	29	35	4	5	5	15	29	-20	42
Notts County	40	6	7	7	30	24	4	1	1	17	42	-16	40
Wycombe	40	5	6	6	29	33	1	10	6	16	32	-20	34

FOOTBALL QUIZ 22

- In 1996, bristol Rovers began a ground-sharing scheme with whom?
- Which 1950 World Cup 500-1 outsiders sensationally defeated the all-powerful England side 1-0?
- For which club did Terry Paine make 713 appearances?
- Which footballer pioneered the wearing of white boots in the 1970s?
- Paul van Himst is considered by many to be which country's finest player ever?
- In 1958, Everton was the first club to install what?
- Elton John had an uncle, Roy Dwight, who played for which club in the 1959 FA Cup Final?
- Which international and club manager devised a successful board game called 'The'?
- Which famous actor narrated 'Hero', the official film of the 1986 World Cup?
- Toni Polster was a key player for which country in the 1998 World Cup Finals?
- For which non-League club did Stuart Pearce play?
- What form of transport is buried deep beneath Wembley's turf?



Deckchair Challenge

Today at half time our new "Deckchair Challenge" in conjunction with TFM Radio and our Centre of Excellence sponsors DFDS Seaways takes place. A Competition will be run prior to all our home league and cup games on TFM Breakfast Show. The winner of the competition qualifies to take part in the "Deckchair Challenge" at half time. The contestant takes part in a timed slalom between to deckchairs and the fastest time is recorded. The fastest contestant for the month wins a mini cruise to Amsterdam, and the overall winner for the season wins a holiday with DFDS Seaways.

STATEMENT REGARDING SAFETY

Unfortunately during last season fans were paying for seats in the Camerons Brewery Stand and then standing up in Block F. The Football Authorities take a dim view of this for safety reasons in as much as there are no safety barriers in the seated areas of the stand. Spectators are asked to sit down during the games because if this practice of standing in the seated areas continues disciplinary action could be taken by the Football Association which may result in the deduction of points. This, as you realise, would be catastrophic. We ask all fans to co-operate this season for the sake of the club.

Quiz 22 Answers
1. Bristol Rugby Club, 2. USA, 3. Southampton, 4. Alan Ball, 5. Belgium, 6. Underhill heating, 7. Nottingham Forest, 8. Terry Venables, 9. Michael Caine, 10. Australia, 11. Wealdstone, 12. A train.

TEAM LINE-UP



1ST GOAL ODDS

4 (1)




2/3

	ANTHONY WILLIAMS	1	
33/1	MICHAEL BARRON	2	
	MARK ROBINSON	3	
20/1	MARK TINKLER	4	✓
50/1	MICHAEL NELSON	5	
66/1	CHRIS WESTWOOD	6	✓
16/1	DARRELL CLARKE	7	✓
14/1	RITCHIE HUMPHREYS	8	✓
11/2	EIFION WILLIAMS	9	S
	STEPHEN CARSON	12	
16/1	NEIL DANNIS	14	✓
6/1	ADAM BOYD	15	✓
12/1	HUGH ROBERTSON	16	✓
	JERMAINE EASTER	17	
	ANTONY SWEENEY	18	✓
	JIM PROVETT	19	✓
	JOHN BRACKSTONE	20	
16/1	STEVEN ISTEAD	21	S
16/1	MATTY ROBSON	22	
6/1	PAUL ROBINSON	23	
	ANDREW JORDAN	24	X
16/1	GAVIN STRACHAN	25	✓
	DAVID FOLEY	27	
	RYAN McCANN	28	
	DARREN CRADDOCK	29	✓
	DIMITRIOS KONSTANTOPOULOS	30	X
	JACK WILKINSON	31	
6/1	JOEL PORTER	32	✓
	SCOTT WALKER	33	

MANAGER: NEALE COOPER

ALAN NEILSON	3	✓
MATTHEW SPRING	4	
RUSSELL PERRETT	5	
ADRIAN FORBES	7	S
KEVIN NICHOLLS	8	
STEVE ROBINSON	11	✓
CHRIS COYNE	12	✓
ENOCH SHOWUNMI	16	✓
EMMERSON BOYCE	17	
AHMET BRKOVIC	18	✓
STEVEN HOWARD	19	✓
PAUL HUGHES	21	
DAVID BAYLISS	22	
IAN HILLIER	23	X
SOL DAVIS	24	✓
PETER HOLMES	27	
CURTIS DAVIES	31	✓
LEE MANSELL	32	X
DEAN BRILL	33	X
DEAN CROWE	34	
DAVID DEENEY	36	
KEITH KEANE	37	✓
MICHAEL LEARY	38	✓
STEVEN O'LEARY	39	X
KEVIN FOLEY	41	✓
MATTHEW JUDGE	43	
PARY OKAI	44	
LEON BARNETT	45	
ROB BECKWITH	47	

MANAGER: MIKE NEWALL

-  **Referee:** F. Stretton
Nottinghamshire
-  **Assistant:** R. Lockhart
-  **Assistant:** D. McCallum

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

- Pools** to win - 5/4
to draw - 9/4
- Luton** to win - 15/8

Dial 0800 0323 365

All odds subject to fluctuation
Quoting Hartlepool Bet

TODAY'S ODDS



The Fitness Connexion

Join now!

Call for more details on: **01429 232222**
plus special student and corporate rates