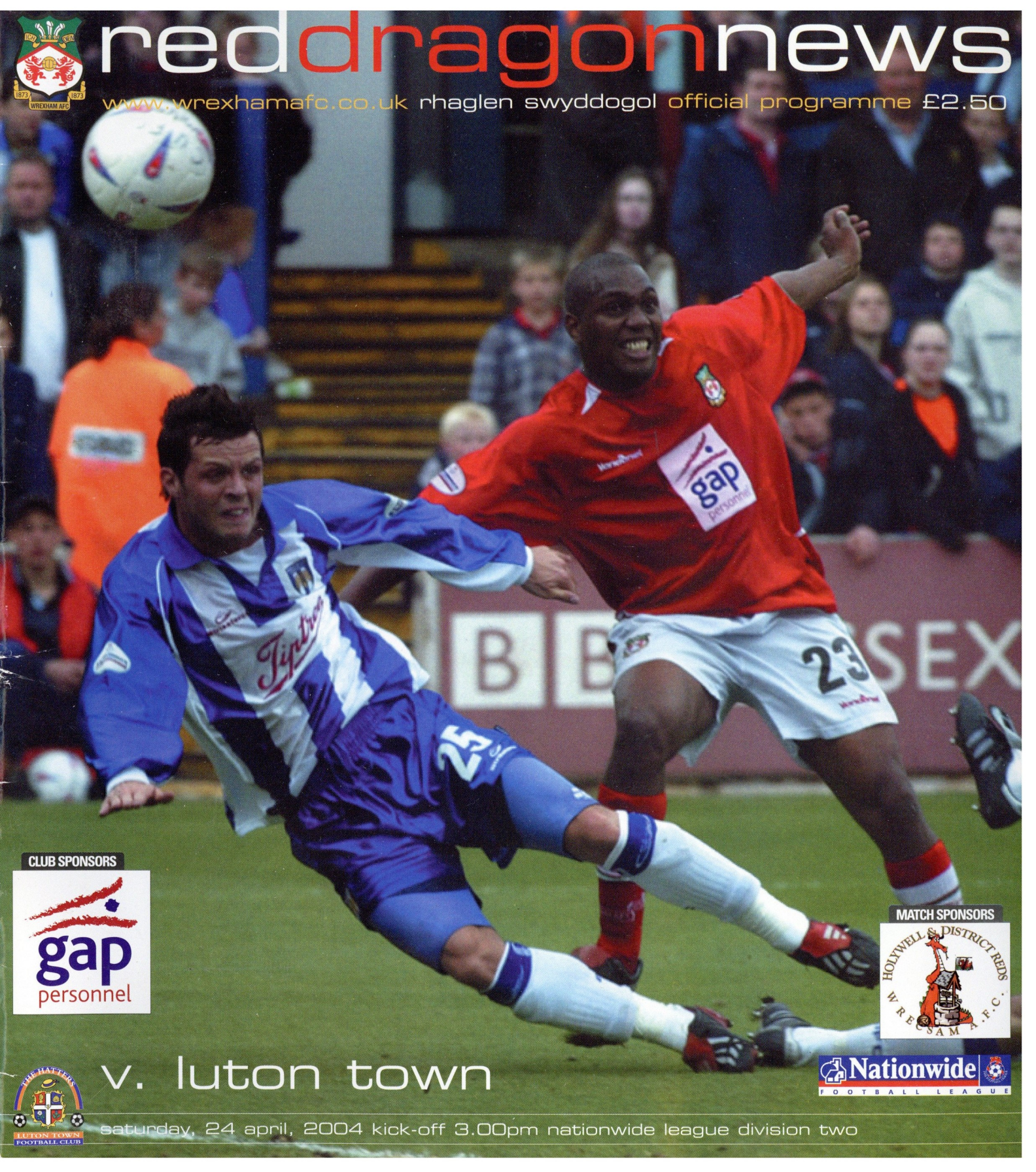




# red dragon news

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## Still Plenty To Play For!

Welcome along to the Racecourse once again, as we face our penultimate home league fixture, with Luton Town our guests this afternoon.

While we were earning a 1-1 draw on Tuesday night at Boundary Park, the Hatters were also recording the same result in a play-off battle with Bournemouth at Kenilworth Road.

It was an outcome that suited neither side greatly and was probably all the more galling for Mike Newell and his players, as they took a first half lead against the Cherries.

Still, they sit within shooting distance for the play-offs and with that in mind, we know they will arrive in North Wales determined to add to the 3-2 success they enjoyed over ourselves in Bedfordshire some five months ago. That was a day when we looked like heading into the dressing room at half time with a comfortable two-goal lead, following a good display in the first 45 minutes, only to be hit by goals either side of the interval and then to end up on the losing side!

With Luton having to come looking for the three points this afternoon and this should ensure an exciting 90 minutes for supporters of both teams.

While many pundits have written us off as having nothing to fight for, and Oldham will testify that certainly wasn't the case in midweek, we have a duty to ourselves and our fans to continue battling right until the final day of the season.

After the year we have had, we still want to finish up in the top half of the table and that means a couple more wins. So you won't see any let up from my players in the next two weeks, especially with the FAW Premier Cup final at Rhyd to look forward to, as we go out to retain the trophy we won in such convincing fashion last May.

After four straight league defeats, it was a relief to everyone that we halted that poor run of results against the Latics on Tuesday night and it was also nice that we actually took the lead in a game!

The return of both Darren Ferguson and Paul Edwards was a big help to our cause, even if we did lose Chris Armstrong in the process.

With so many players missing in recent weeks, it's small wonder that results have gone against us, so to welcome two of the lads back at Oldham gave everyone a lift.

Indeed, the injuries to Carlos Edwards and Jim Whitley, within minutes of each other against Hartlepool, were to ultimately cost us the chance of a result from a game that we were doing so well in up until that stage.

We then moved onto Colchester United and to have to play against them, or anyone else for that matter, with six first team starters missing, made it practically impossible to get anything from the game.

But having said that, credit to the players who went out there and fought back to grab a quick equaliser in the first half. We also had a couple of decent chances to draw level again after the break, but in the end it was all to no avail.

If we can get anyone else back this week, then the situation will look better, but I'm not banking on that at this stage.

What does happen when you are short of experienced hands though is that it gives your younger players an opportunity and I have been delighted by the way in which Matty Crowell, Craig Morgan and Simon Spender have all taken this chance.

Sometimes we do tend to forget how young the likes of Craig and Matty are, but they will only benefit from the experience.

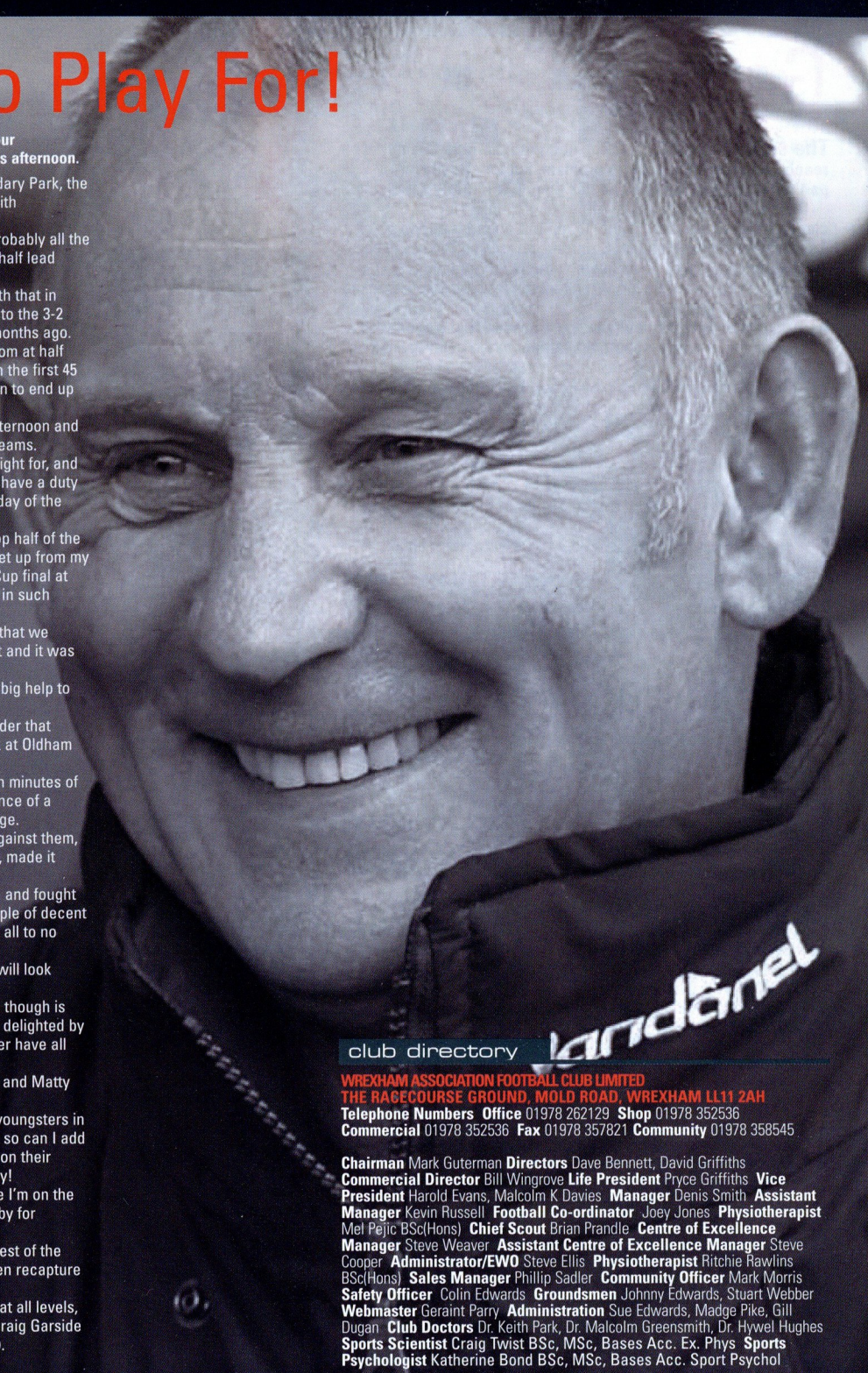
One immediate spin off has been the inclusion of four of our youngsters in the Wales U21 squad that will be training in Wrexham next week, so can I add my congratulations to Matty, Craig, Mark Jones and Levi Mackin on their inclusion, while assuring Simon that his time can't be too far away!

It's great for the club and the players to be involved and while I'm on the subject, well done to Michael Ingham on his inclusion as a standby for Northern Ireland's match with Serbia & Montenegro in midweek.

I'm also pleased that Michael will be staying with us for the rest of the season, as we look to finish with a good run in the league and then recapture the Premier Cup.

Just to show people that we are continuing to look for talent at all levels, we have had several players in for training this week, including Craig Garside (Everton), Alan Goodall (Bangor City) and Matt Shore (Sheff Wed).

Thanks again for your support today...



## club directory

WREXHAM ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED  
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# Good To Be Back

**The season might be petering out, with the play-offs out of reach and relegation never a problem, but for one player in particular, the last week or so has been particularly satisfying.**

Back in the side after a lay-off through injury, Hector Sam has clearly relished the opportunity to get out onto the pitch. Returning at Layer Road last Saturday, he scored the equaliser in a 3-1 defeat, and on Tuesday night he maintained his goalscoring streak by giving Wrexham the lead for the first time in six games at Oldham.

"I'm just happy to be back playing," he said. "We played well at Oldham and it was a good point, although we gave away a sloppy goal, but all in all it was a fair result."

After his injury, picked up playing for his country in a friendly away to Egypt, the Trinidadian striker is glad to be back on the pitch before the season's end, giving him a chance to end the campaign as the club's top scorer.

"It's just great to be back playing; I'm so happy to be back! I was out with a hamstring, and you never know how long that sort of injury might last, but it feels alright at the moment, after two games in four days, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed!"

Sam's pace certainly troubled Athletic's defenders on



Tuesday, and he enjoyed being given carte blanche by Denis Smith to cause mayhem: "The gaffer told me to have a go at them, so every time I got the ball I just ran at them and it seemed to cause them some problems."

His reward for his endeavours was a finish that even drew complimentary comments from Latics boss Brian Talbot after the match.

Latching onto a through ball from Darren Ferguson, turning the last defender and slotting the ball in, it was certainly a more typical Sam goal than the one at Layer Road!

"There was a good build-up for the goal at Oldham and the link-up play was good all through the match, I thought.

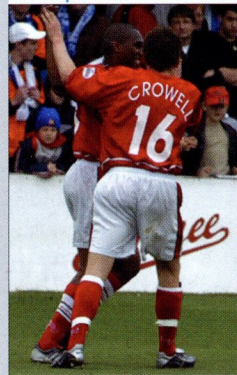
"The goal at Colchester was a header, which isn't what I'm known for!

"Mind you, I scored with a header at Colchester in my first season here as well, so maybe there's something strange going on!"

The season might be drawing to a close, but Sam reports there's no letting up in the dressing room:

"We're playing for a bit of pride. We went to Oldham after four losses in a row and we knew we had to stop that run.

"We were happy to get that point, but now we need to get back to winning ways: it doesn't matter if you're going for promotion or not; you still need to be looking for three points!"



**Good afternoon** and welcome to our home game against Luton Town.

The Community Scheme has just completed its Easter Soccer Schools programme in Wrexham, Buckley, Mold, Flint and Holywell. All courses were very well attended with over 350 boys and girls aged between 5-16 attending.

Pictured are some of the children from the course held at the NEWI Sports Centre, with each child receiving a free match ticket for this afternoon's game, which we hope they enjoy.

We are already organising our next courses for Junes which will be taking place at all the above mentioned venues.

As the end of season is drawing closer, can we remind all Junior Dragons that we will need your nominations for the Player and Young Player of the Season awards.

You should all be receiving your final free ticket very soon for our last home match of the season v Brighton on May 8.

The Community coaches will be visiting the following schools this term: Ysgol Bryn Tabor, Borras Park Juniors, The Roft, Penygelli, Acton Park Juniors, Eytton, Marchwiell and Bangor on Dee.

In Flintshire: Glanarâfon, Llanfynydd, Rhydydynd, Wood Memorial, St David's, Lixwm and Northop Hall.

For further information on Football in the Community, please contact us on 01978 358545.



## RIP

The club was saddened to hear of the passing of another of our loyal supporters last week.

Glyn Williams from Penycae had been a follower of the side over 40 years, since moving to the area from Caernarfon and even brought his daughter Cerys up to follow in his footsteps, taking her to her first match at aged just three.

Glyn went also worked on the turnstiles at the Racecourse, supporting the team through thick and thin, and refusing to ever have a bad word said about the club.

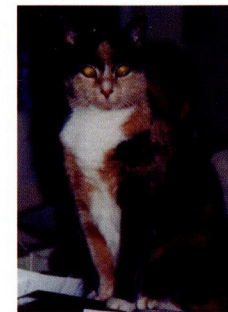
A friend of Joey Jones, he was always proud to declare his support of Wrexham AFC and he will be deeply missed by both his family and friends.

## Gladys

There was another sad loss at the Racecourse last weekend, as Gladys the club cat also passed away.

An institution amongst visitors and staff alike for over 20 years, she had featured in numerous publications and television clips, and prowled the corridors of the ground as if she owned them!

An award winner in her own right at a recent national cat presentation ceremony, she was recognised as a stray who had turned good!



## Llanelli Rugby

Next game at the Racecourse will be Llanelli v Glasgow on Saturday, May 1 at 5:30pm. Tickets are available from the Scarlets Ticketline on 0871 871 8088 or in person from the Racecourse ticket office (01978 366388).

One person who is looking forward to the fixture is Robin McBryde who has never played in a Scarlet shirt in his native Gogledd.

"The boys have told me what a great reception they had back in November," said Robyn. "They were overwhelmed with the support for the game up there and I'm really looking forward to this one."

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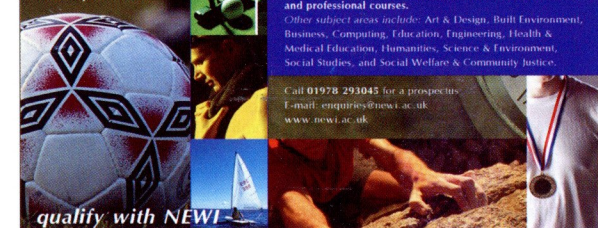
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## CROESO

CROESO TREF LUTON

Dyn ni'n croesawu'r tim o Swydd Bedford i'r Cae Ras p'nawn 'ma am ein gem olaf ond un o'r tymor gan obeithio am well hwyl yn erbyn yr "Hatters" nac a gawson ar Floridd Kenilworth nol yn mis Tachwedd. Bryd hynnu, colodd y Dreigiau o 3-2, er iddynt fod 2-0 ar y blaen! Yn waeth byth cafodd Darren Ferguson ei hel o'r cae. Felly, er nad oes gan y Dreigiau siawns o gyrraedd y gemau ail gyfle bellach, mae heddiw yn siawns i ni dalu'r pwyth yn ol i'r "Hatters" am y golled nol yn yr hydref tra yr un pryd yn rhoi siawns i ni ddringo'r tabl. Wrth gwrs, i ryw raddau mae Luton yn yr un sefyllfa a ni! Mae ganddynt dal siawns mathemategol y wneud y gemau ail-gyfle, ond i bob pwrpas, tra y bydd pawb sy'n ymwmued a'r clwb am iddynt gario ymlaen i ennill gemau a gorffen cyn uchel a phosibl yn y tabl, mae hi fyny i'r timau wrth eu pennau i lithrio ac i'ldio pwyntiau cyn y bydd yr "Hatters" a siawns gwirioneddol o'r gemau ail-gyfle. I'r perwyl hwmnw felly, bydd yr "Hatters" am fynd am y triplwynt p'nawn 'ma, a, gan nad ydyn ni bydi yn mynd am ddim byd llai na buddugoliaeth ar ein tomen ein hunain, dylai gem p'nawn 'ma fod yn un cyffrous, llawn goliau...cawn weld am bump o'r gloch! Mwynhewch y gem!

## What the papers say

"Wrexham's play-off hopes are over but Hartlepool's are very much alive and kicking after a 2-1 win at the Racecourse Ground. Injury-ravaged Wrexham conceded goals either side of the break but came back with one of their own to make a fight of it in the second half but it was too little too late. But Wrexham were unlucky to be a goal down at the break. Chris Armstrong hit the post in the second minute with a diving header and the ex-Spurs striker then had another header brilliantly saved by Jim Provett." *www.sporting-life.co.uk*

frenetic response in search of an equaliser before the break. Anywhere would do as Hartlepool had their backs against the wall but somehow they hung on grimly until the half-time whistle. Revitalised Wrexham made a promising start to the second period. Spender whipped the ball over from the right and Paul Edwards' header had to be tipped over by Provett. But again that only led to another goal against as Danns drove the ball home past an unsuspected Ingham."

*Dave Lovett, Wrexham Evening Leader*

"Hartlepool fans had to wait just over half-an-hour to see the visitors threaten as midfielder Neil Danns; on loan from Blackburn, had a header tipped over by Michael Ingham. United opened the scoring on 41 minutes when midfielder Darrell Clarke fired home a right-footed effort after Hugh Robertson had gone close with a free-kick from 25-yards."

*Darren Devine, The Western Mail*

"That was totally against the run of play and Wrexham launched a

"Two minutes later Provett went down smartly to save a Steve Thomas free-kick and the home side were finally rewarded for their dogged determination when with 19 minutes remaining Paul Barrett volleyed an all to rare goal from Armstrong's cross. Ingham kept Wrexham in the hunt for a point with a superb save from another Roberston free-kick but his team-mates were unable to profit from nervous defending in the final few minutes." *Mark Currie, The Daily Post*

## Sky's the limit

There are certain to be varying opinions as to whether the new record breaking television deal, said to be worth £10m, struck between the FAW and SKY Sports will be good for the game in Wales.

On the face of it, the extra revenue will filter down to all levels of the game in Wales and should be good news for everyone concerned.

However, there will be questions into what both parties will make of their new opportunities!

As regards television, the case for previous long standing incumbents BBC Wales would be, the devil you know is better than the one you don't! The former have been in occupation of the rights to televise Welsh international matches for 20 years or more and as such have become something of an institution on the matter.

So much so in fact, that it is difficult to envisage how SKY will adapt to their new assignment, even though that sounds a little unfair.

It has to be said that most serious sports followers regard the BBC as the number one for know how and presentation, despite all the saturation coverage available in the satellite station, together with all the modern interactive extras and what have you!

Having said that, there have been hints of late that the corporation in Wales have been rather too parochial in their round ball Welsh international presentations, giving the impression that they were world beaters, and not enough thought going into how streetwise the opposition were!

That is, except for the likes of John Toshack, who really hits home how knowledgeable he is about the game, with far more reasoned opinions compared to his fellow presenters and summarisers, although to be fair the likes of Dai Davies, Ian Walsh and Radio Wales' John Hardy tell it as it is!

Expect a more objective version of events on SKY, who will tend to present an unbiased view of the games to the Welsh public, for them to make up their own minds on the state of play.

A large percentage of living rooms will not have the benefit of SKY and the worry is that the Wales 'feel good' factor could be lost, with only the converted getting in on the act, while the 'floating public' will just become disinterested, although there could well be a deal that sees terrestrial viewers still getting to see the action via S4C.

It is hoped that there will be improved coverage of the flag ship Welsh Premier as it must be said it could be something that persuaded the FAW to take their new option in the fact that the very popular 'Gol' was taken off the air a couple of years ago!

The new contractors can enhance their image if they can perhaps include a Welsh football regular action and chat show on the same lines as the S4C production.

Whilst not wanting in any way to be detrimental to the Welsh language, to present a magazine that all followers of the game in Wales can understand would be welcome – without wanting to stand on dangerous ground!

Understandably, BBC's Head of Sport, Nigel Walker was upset over the outcome, but no doubt many will turn back the clock almost four years to when the FAW and BBC Wales struck the last contract, which expires this summer. After that deal the BBC insisted there was no more money on the table to give to Welsh football, only for a huge multi-million pound package to be agreed with the WRU a matter of days later!

This, no doubt, was in the minds of the powers that be in Westgate Street, but let us hope that they will have their thinking caps on when deciding how to delegate some of the extra revenue they have opted for.

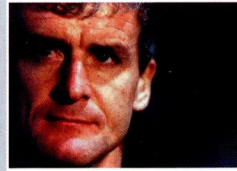
Number one on the list has to be the grass roots of football in Wales, as having to pull out of this season's international Centenary Shield Tournament was an insult to the Welsh Schools FA and this for the first time in 30 years!

The U17s, 18s and 19s also need urgent funds to be able to function in their quest to feed the senior side with stars for the future. Without the finances to fuel the parts, the engine will fall off the rails with only the FAW to blame if the conveyor belt dries up!

Whatever the why's and wherefores it is the future of Welsh football that is of paramount importance.

BBC Wales' turn will come again, of that there is no doubt. Indeed, their sports department may come up with some innovative new football programmes to compensate viewers for their loss. It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good!

Gareth M Davies



### Wales v Canada

The FAW have announced ticket prices for the end of season friendly with Canada, to be played at the Racecourse on Sunday, May 30 (2.30 pm). With manager Mark Hughes looking to have all his star names on duty for the double-header clash with Norway (the previous Thursday in Oslo) and then the Canadians in North Wales, local supporters of the national team can look forward to watching their heroes for as little as just £7.50!

The bosses of Welsh football remember the overpricing of the last international in the north (against Switzerland in October 1999) and are making amends by charging just £7.50 for anyone to stand on the Kop for this game.

As with the Millennium Stadium, there will only be concessions in the Family Enclosures, which for this game will be the lower section of the Eric Roberts Stand and the Sainsbury's Paddock. In these areas, Adults will be £10.00 and Children (under 16) £5.00.

All available seats in both the Pryce Griffiths and Sainsbury's Stands will be just £15.00, with the upper section of the Eric Roberts Stand costing just £12.50.

No tickets will be on public sale for probably the next two weeks, as applications forms have only just been sent out to those supporters on the FAW's ticket lists, and these fans have until April 30 to indicate their requirements.

We will, of course, be keeping you fully informed of selling arrangements in due course.

## Rounding up the latest WAFC news

### 12.04.04 DRAGONS HOME DEFEAT

Wrexham disappointedly continued their bad form of late when they lost out to Hartlepool at home, Paul Barrett scoring the only goal for the Dragons as they crashed to a 2-1 defeat.

### 14.04.04 STEADYING THE SHIP

After the Reserves 6-0 defeat in their League Cup game with Sheffield Wednesday, they were able to steady the ship at home against Oldham as they drew 1-1. Colin Quirke scoring Wrexham's opener before the visitors were able to peg the Dragons back. This also was incidentally the last home game of the season for the Reserves; they now travel to Bury and Rochdale for their last two encounters in the league.

### 14.04.04 CONGRATULATIONS TO CARLOS

Carlos Edwards has been awarded a place in the PFA Divisional Player of the Year team. This is not Carlos' first time for such an award as he was in last year's team of the year too.

### 15.04.04 UNDER 21 TRAINING CAMP'S CALL UP'S

Craig Morgan, Matty Crowell, Mark Jones and Levi Mackin have all been chosen to go on a three-day training squad to get a feel for the Wales Under 21 set up, prior to their possible call up to one of the squads which will play in the up and coming qualifying group for the UEFA Under 21 Championship.

### 16.04.04 SHOULD WE STAY OR SHOULD WE GO?

After a decision early in the week was made to have the Reds travel to Colchester on the day of the game, there was a sudden change late on Thursday when the club decided that the team could now travel on the Friday afternoon.

### 16.04.04 INGHAM ON STAND BY

Michael Ingham has been put on stand by for Northern Ireland's game against Serbia & Montenegro in just over two weeks time. The on loan Wrexham goalkeeper told the official website he was pleased to be involved in some way with his country.

### 17.04.04 ANOTHER THREE POINTS GO MISSING

Our day out at Colchester was certainly not a successful one for the Dragons. Hector Sam scored Wrexham's only goal when he equalised to make it 1-1 midway through the first half. Unfortunately, due to injuries and Colchester's persistence, the Dragon's were not able to hold onto the point and United scored twice more to beat Wrexham 3-1.

### 18.04.04 NO TRIP TO THE MILLENNIUM

The next time any Wrexham fan sets foot inside the Millennium Stadium it is more likely to be for a Welsh international, as after our defeat at Colchester it is mathematically impossible for the Dragons to catch any of the top six. Meaning they are now out of reach for the play-offs, but are guaranteed to play Second Division football next year. As you may have noted, the slim chance of our relegation has now also gone.

### 18.04.04 RACECOURSE INTERNATIONAL

The Welsh FA have announced their ticket prices for the game at the Racecourse with Canada on the 30th May. Please check the website for further details.

### 19.04.04 THAT'S A DATE

There has now been a date announced for our Premier Cup Final away at Rhyl. It will be played on 12th May, which is a Wednesday and will kick-off at 7.pm.

### 20.04.04 A POINT

Following four consecutive defeats, the Reds bounced back to take a point at relegation haunted Oldham, who had beaten leaders Plymouth only three days earlier. Hector Sam gave us an early lead, but that was pegged back tight on the stroke of half time and the second period failed to produce any further scoring.

### the questions

1. Luton boss Mike Newell was previously in charge of which other current Nationwide League Second Division side?
2. For which Welsh international did the Kenilworth Road club receive their record transfer fee of £2.5 million?
3. Who defeated Luton in the 1988 FA Cup semi-final, which was staged at White Hart Lane?
4. From which Nationwide League First Division club did the Hatters loan free scoring striker Gary McSheffrey earlier this season?



5. Can you name the goalkeeper who saved a penalty for Luton in their dramatic 1988 League Cup final victory over Arsenal at Wembley?
6. Who are the only team in the Nationwide League that is yet to register a draw away from home this season?
7. Can you name the bottom three clubs in the Nationwide Conference this season?
8. Having played 596 times, can you name the player who has made the most League appearances for Blackburn Rovers?
9. From which Italian club did Middlesbrough sign striker Massimo Maccaroni?
10. Can you name the ten clubs that currently make up the Scottish League Third Division?

### the answers

1. Hartlepool United.
2. John Hartson.
3. Wimbledon.
4. Coventry City.
5. Andy Dibble.
6. Wimbledon.
7. Farnborough, Leigh RMI and Northwich Victoria.
8. Derek Facklerley.
9. Empoli.
10. Albion Rovers, Cowdenbeath, East Stirling, Elgin City, Gretna, Montrose, Peterhead, Queens Park, Stirling and Stranraer.

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**WREXHAM EVENING LEADER**

oh darren darren

## Lets Have A Winning Finish

After missing three games, it was good to be back in action at Oldham in midweek and help the side to a 1-1 draw that stopped a poor sequence of results.

Having been forced to sit out the Easter matches against Port Vale and Hartlepool United due to suspension, it was frustrating to then find myself out of contention for a return at Colchester United because of a tight hamstring.

With the number of such injuries that we seem to be suffering from of late, it just wasn't worth the risk of waiting a few more days and getting over the problem.

Everyone knows that we have had an extraordinary number of players missing in recent weeks and for any club operating with a smaller squad, this will obviously hurt you.

At Boundary Park though, I felt that we gave a performance which was much more like us. Indeed, had Oldham not drawn level with the last kick of the first half, then I'm convinced we would have gone on to win the game.

Particularly in the first 45 minutes we looked lively and Hector Sam was giving the Latics defence all sorts of problems. It was no surprise that he should score his second goal in two games and it was a nice finish after drawing the goalkeeper off his line.

While Dean Holden gave Michael Ingham no chance with the equaliser, he was rather fortunate that the build-up came via a mishit shot which flew straight to him on the opposite flank!

We also conceded a goal late in the first half at Colchester United last Saturday, so that's a little trend we could do with halting right away.

With our position in the Second Division confirmed, we can now start to reflect on the season and I think it's fair to say that over the piece we have to admit that we have been found wanting at times.

We have been fortunate that our young professionals have come in and helped out, more than contributing when called upon, but when you pick up injuries and suspensions as we have done in the last couple of months, then it's almost inevitable that you are going to go through a period of struggle.

Last year we enjoyed the luck at just the right time, this season we have not been so fortunate.

Our victory over Barnsley in mid February lifted us up to sixth spot, but since then we have not been able to capitalise on that position and our great run of away victories also dried up.

It's something that we will look to put right for the new campaign, but overall we have plenty to be happy since gaining promotion 12 months ago.

Today we welcome Luton Town to North Wales, knowing that they still have half a chance of making the play-offs, but it will probably require three wins from their remaining three games.

This means we can almost guarantee an open attacking game, unlike some of our home fixtures this season, when our opponents have appeared happy to come here and settle for a point.

We saw at Kenilworth Road just how dangerous Luton can be, as after we took a two-goal lead they stormed back to beat us 3-2!

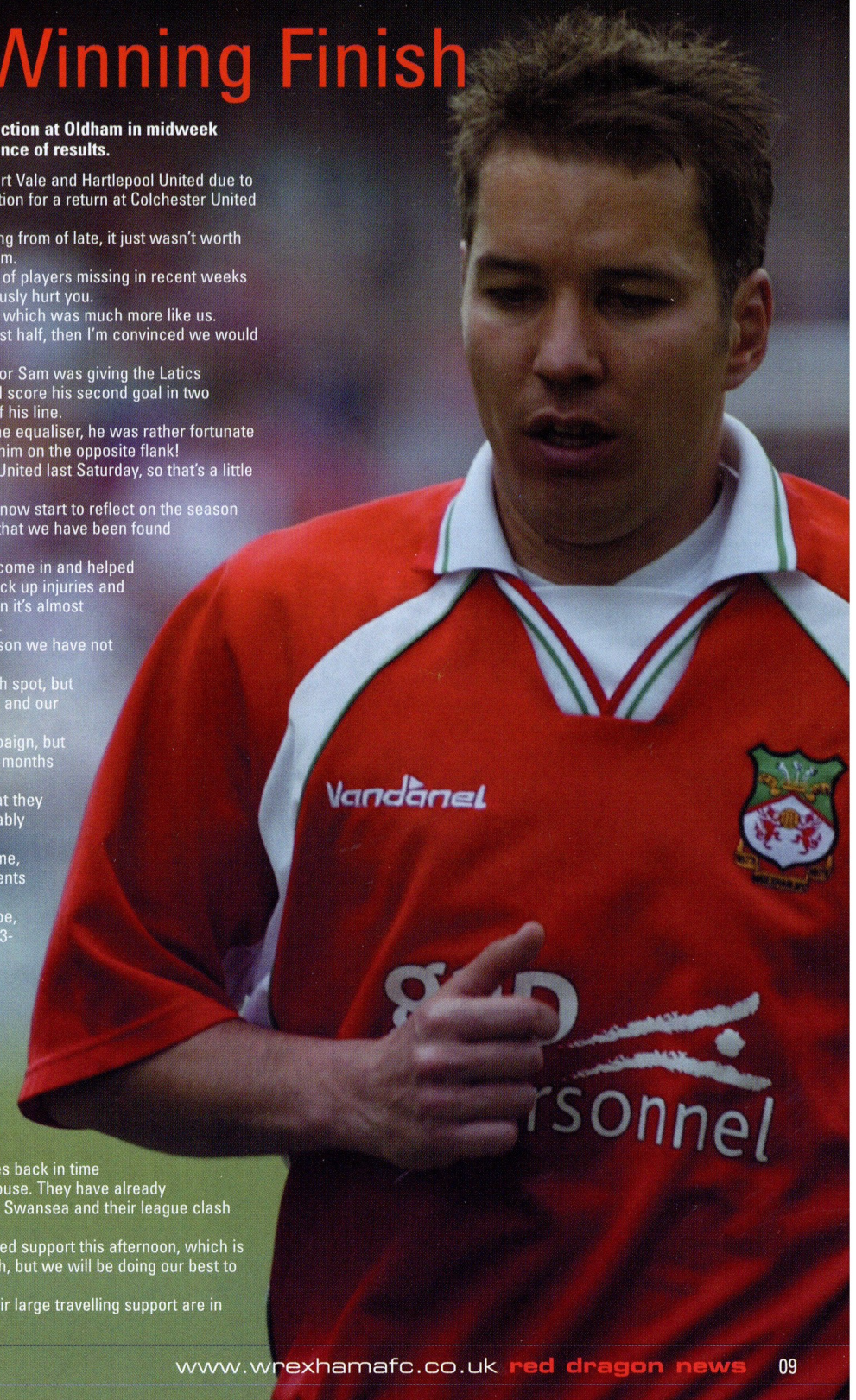
In Steve Howard they have a player who is capable of scoring goals and he has helped them to some important victories in recent weeks. Although looking at their record this season, it has been away from home that they have found greatest difficulty in picking up points, with just three wins on their travels in the league, compared to only three defeats at home.

Still, we want to end the season on a high note and try to force our way back into the top half of the table, while we also have one eye on the Premier Cup final at Rhyl.

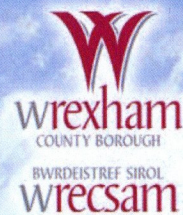
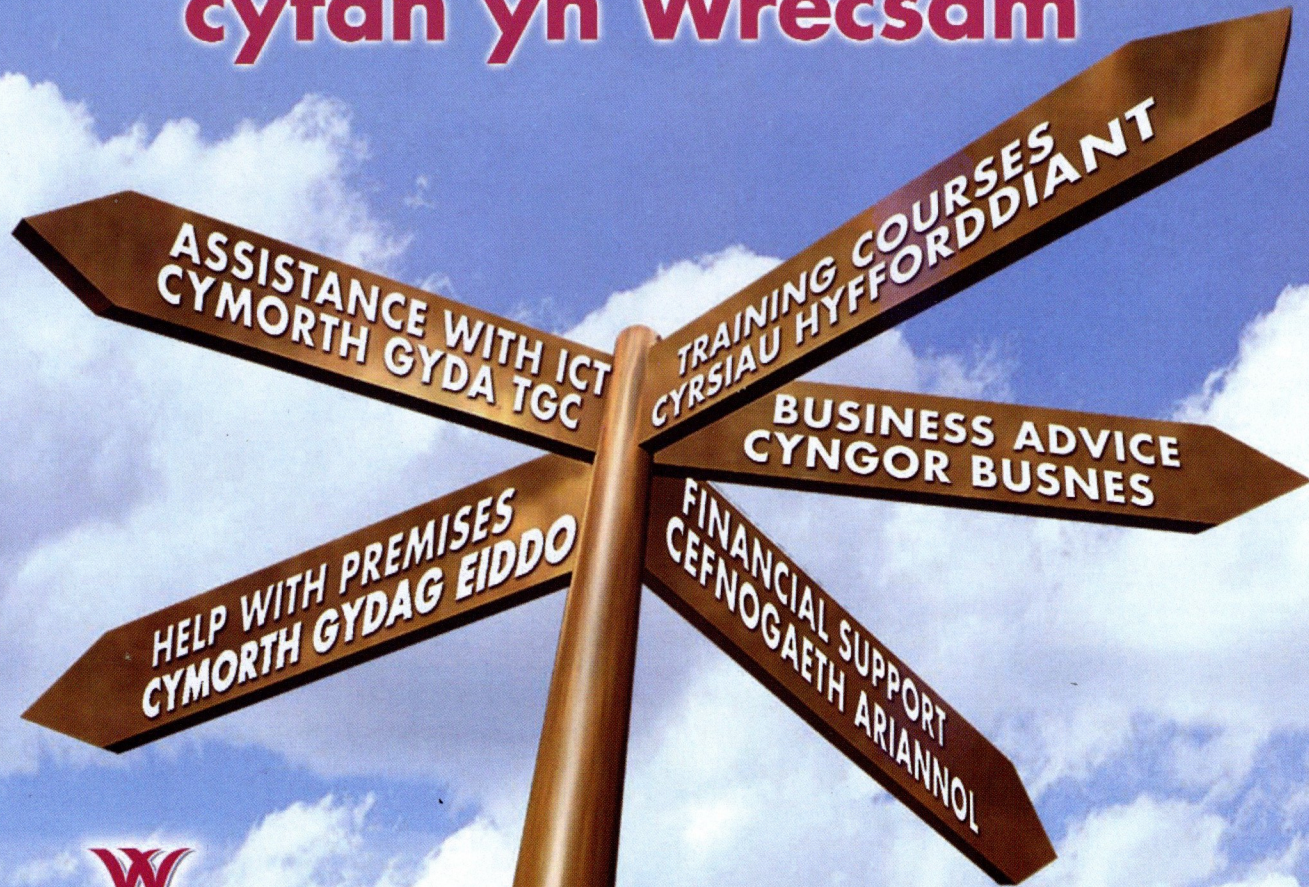
It would be nice to think that we could get a few more bodies back in time for our visit to Belle Vue, as that game is building up to a full house. They have already enjoyed crowds of well over 2,000 in the semi-final win against Swansea and their league clash with TNS, and now expect nearly 4,000 for our visit!

Thanks again to you all for coming out to show your continued support this afternoon, which is much appreciated by the players. It's going to be a tough match, but we will be doing our best to give you a few wins to round the campaign off.

See you all again in two weeks time, when Brighton and their large travelling support are in town...



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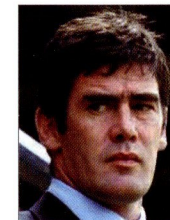
opposing view luton town

## Last Chance Saloon

**Luton Town; club of contrasts.** The team of Eric Morecambe and Nick Owen; Ricky Hill and Andy Dibble, Town find themselves in a confusing state. It looks like their season-long quest for a play-off berth will end in disappointment, but considering the problems they have had off the pitch the fact that they still have an outside chance of promotion so late in the season is a remarkable achievement.

Tuesday's 1-1 home draw against Bournemouth appears to have extinguished the Hatters' play-off hopes. Six points off the top six with three games left, Luton are praying for maximum points and a dramatic collapse from someone above them to allow them to extend their campaign. Being a game in hand for both sides, the game was a golden opportunity which neither of them took. A draw just doesn't seem to be enough as the duo chase Hartlepool.

The result illustrates Luton's problem though: plenty of decent performances but too many draws is not a good combination, and



"It's not over yet. We needed to win tonight but the gap is six points and we now need to win our last three matches; it's as simple as that. It's very often been the case this season that we haven't put teams to the sword. They were the better side in the second half and we didn't really create anything until the last five minutes. In the first half we had better chances in the box."

«Boss Mike Newell following Tuesday's draw with Bournemouth.

that pattern has cost Town dear. They might have only lost two of their last eleven games, but they've only won four of them, and with three points for a win you're better off winning one and drawing one than drawing both. The lost opportunity against Bournemouth was not an isolated incident.

Boss Mike Newell was not willing to concede defeat after the match, though, as he told Luton's official website:

"It's not over yet. We needed to win tonight but the gap is six points and we now need to win our last three matches, it's as simple as that.

"It's very often been the case this season that we haven't put teams to the sword. They were the better side in the second half, we didn't really create anything until the last five minutes. In the first half we had better chances in the box.

"There have been occasions when games should have been over by half-time but it hasn't been the case. It's been one of those things this season, we can look back on matches we know we should have won.

"Steve Robinson has had a good season and it's unfortunate. Mistakes are always highlighted when they lead to goals, these things happen.

"Emmerson Boyce took a bang just below the eye. His eye was closed and he was a bit groggy. We took him off as a precaution and we'll have to see how he is for Saturday. Curtis Davies came on and he did really well, as he has done on the occasions that we've used him."

Allowing Bournemouth back in after taking the lead was frustrating for the Hatters, especially after their dramatic victory over Bristol City the previous Saturday had kept their hopes alive. A late winner clinched a 3-2 win Wrexham will be familiar with the idea of Town snatching a 3-2 fightback victory of course! Newell told BBC Online that he felt then that the lack of killer instinct he bemoaned on Tuesday might have been conquered:

"I had a funny feeling that we were due one after they scored -



▲ Ahmet Brkovic - can play either midfield or on the wing.

even though it was as late as it was.

"We have taken knocks at the death in the past, sometimes with one of the last kicks. We were due a bit of luck.

"City are strong, they keep the ball well and they've got a threat up front. But it isn't about performances now, it's about results.

Director of Football Mick Harford told Luton's website that the example of that comeback against Bristol City illustrated the sort of spirit required for the rest of the season as Town refuse to give up: "I looked around and I thought everyone had given up. A few people started to leave the ground.

"It was a fantastic save by the goalkeeper and Keith Keane was the first to react. We are delighted with that, I think we deserved it over the 90 minutes.

"I think there are going to be lots of twists and turns over the next two or three games, so we'll never give it up until it's clear that we can't do it."

The fact that Luton are pushing for promotion at all is remarkable, as they are one of the many clubs who are struggling with financial problems off the field. They are waiting, somewhat impatiently, for Football League permission to come out of administrative receivership.

A takeover has allowed the club to begin showing signs of recovery, although waiting for final confirmation that the deal has been done has been frustrating.

Barry Ward, the administrative receiver currently in charge of Town, said on Saturday that the final requirements of the Football League had been satisfied and that the new owners should be in charge of the club by early this week.

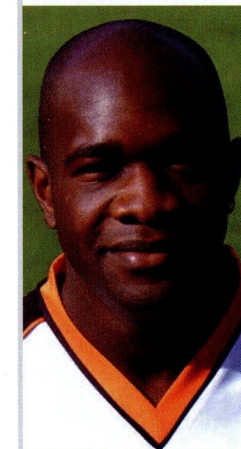
It is certainly crucial that the club gets things together outside the pitch. The halcyon days of Andy Dibble are a reminder of the potential Town have, and Mike Newell will be desperate to rekindle memories of those days: his success on a shoestring this season certainly augers well.

### last five results

#### NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
06.04.04	Hartlepool United	A	3-4	Howard, Leary (2)
10.04.04	Tranmere Rovers	A	0-1	
12.04.04	Swindon Town	H	0-3	
17.04.04	Bristol City	H	3-2	Howard, Boyce, Keane
20.04.04	Bournemouth	H	1-1	Howard

«Adrian forbes virtually missed all last season due to injury.



## quote unquote

**Luton boss Mike Newell is still clinging on to the club's slim chance of reaching the promotion play-offs despite dropping two points on Tuesday night when Bournemouth visited Kenilworth Road. The Hatters took the lead through a first-half header from Steve Howard but a nervous second half display from the home side led to an equaliser for the Cherries. When Luton's Steve Robinson was caught in possession inside his own half the ball fell free to Warren Feeney who slotted the ball home from 18 yards.**

"It's not over yet," said a defiant Newell on Luton Town's official website ([www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)). "We needed to win tonight but the gap is six points and we now need to win our last three matches, it's as simple as that. It's very often been the case this season that we haven't put teams to the sword. They were the better side in the second half; we didn't really create anything until the last five minutes. In the first half we had better chances in the box. There have been occasions when games should have been over by half time but it hasn't been the case. It's been one of those things this season. We can look back on matches we know we should have won."

Luton may have held on for a priceless win without the mistake that led to the equaliser but Newell was philosophical about it. "Steve Robinson has had a good season and it's unfortunate. Mistakes are always highlighted when they lead to goals, these things happen. Emmerson Boyce took a bang just below the eye. His eye was closed and he was a bit groggy. We took him off as a precaution and we'll have to see how he is for Saturday. Curtis Davies came on and he did really well, as he has done on the occasions that we've used him."

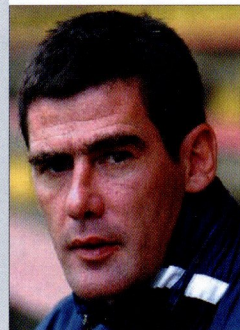
If Luton do miss out on the play-offs they can point to a seven game period in March and early April when they suffered seven games without a victory. The fans showed their frustration at this poor form and aimed the brunt of their anger at their giant Danish goalkeeper Morten Hyldgaard, who gave a series of nervous displays during this period. "It's a lonely position," said manager Newell as he attempted to build bridges between goalkeeper and supporters. "People will level criticism at goalkeepers when they make mistakes because their mistakes are highlighted more so and can cost you goals at the end of the day. Morten kept about three or four clean sheets in his first however many games here and I said to him 'you don't become a bad goalkeeper overnight'. Newell continued: "You have to be strong mentally, but he's not the first person to have to deal with flak from our supporters or from other people's supporters. What I would say to our fans is that sometimes that criticism spreads to other players and it's not something that's nice. I hope they can respect that and bear with him."

Meanwhile, freelance journalist Brian Swain, who has been covering the fortunes of his hometown club for over 30 years, has decided to retire and auction off his collection of over 1,600 Luton programmes (home and away). The auction will be in aid of the Supporters Club appeal to raise £20,000 to buy a new minibus for the youth squad.

"I have no idea how much the collection is worth on the open market, but I've declined to offer it to dealers, hoping a genuine Town fan might be prepared to offer a good price to aid a good cause," said Swain.

If you are interested in purchasing this historic and comprehensive collection then you can contact Brian c/o Luton Town or by e-mail on: [brian.swain@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.swain@btinternet.com)

Bids will be accepted until May 3, but you'll need deep pockets – Brian has already had an offer of £1,100.



## IN CHARGE

**MIKE NEWELL**  
Nearing the end of an impressive first season at Kenilworth Road, Mike has led his charges to the verge of a much coveted play-off spot after being appointed following a telephone poll prior to the start of the campaign. Who says that the fans don't know anything about the beautiful game! Having spent the latter part of last season managing Hartlepool, he took the Victoria Park outfit to promotion building on the excellent start made under former boss Chris Turner, but his contract was not renewed at the end of the campaign. Pool eventually secured runners-up spot behind Rushden & Diamonds, although, in reality, they will have been disappointed not to have gone up as champions, having led the league for so long. Prior to this, he had served his time as a coach at Tranmere. As a player, he had pulled on the colours of Luton as well as Crewe, Wigan, Leicester, Everton, Blackburn, Birmingham City, West Ham United, Bradford City, Aberdeen and Blackpool, and will be remembered as a hard-working but unselfish striker who was good in the air.

## pen pictures...luton town

## goalkeepers

## MORTEN HYLDGAARD

Signed in January on a free transfer from Scottish Premier Division side Hibernian to replace Marlon Beresford, who had signed for divisional rivals Barnsley, Morten stands at 6'6" tall and is a goalkeeper who commands his area and likes to pluck crosses out of the air. Born in Henning, Denmark, the 26-year-old ex-Danish under-21 keeper was spotted by Coventry when turning out for Ikast and moved to Highfield Road for a fee of £200,000. Enjoyed loan spells with Scunthorpe, where he made five appearances including facing Wrexham in our 2-0 win at Glanford Park in February 2000, and Grimsby, where he failed to register a senior outing, before heading north of the border last summer.

## 33 DEAN BRILL

A regular on the subs bench this term, Dean is the club's second choice keeper but has already made a handful of appearances after initially replacing the red-carded Rob Beckwith in the 3-0 loss at Oldham in September. The locally born custodian then made an impressive full debut a couple of weeks later against Wycombe Wanderers. Still a second-year scholar, he is a tall goalkeeper of tremendous potential who has impressed in the reserves.

## defenders

## 03 ALAN NIELSON

Now into his third season in Bedfordshire, Alan is a former full international for Wales, having pulled on the famous red shirt on no less than five occasions, and has also been capped at both B and under-21 level. Born in Wegburg, Germany, the 31-year-old defender started out with Newcastle United and played 50 times for the Toon, before moving south to sign for Southampton in exchange for a fee of £500,000. Spells with Fulham and Grimsby followed prior to arriving at Kenilworth Road on a free in February 2002, although he has failed to establish himself with a regular first-team slot during that time.

## 06 PAUL UNDERWOOD

One of the many employees to leave cash-strapped Rushden & Diamonds on transfer deadline day, Paul is still settling in to life at his new club but could well prove to be another astute signing by Mike Newell. Wimbledon-born, the 30-year-old was capped four times by England at semi-professional level while at Nene Park, where he was one of the mainstays of the side that took them from non-league to the Second Division. Prior to this he did the rounds of the semi-pro scene serving Kingstonian, Molesey, Sutton United, Carshalton Athletic and Enfield in the process.

## 12 CHRIS COYNE

Nearing the end of his third season with the Hatters, Chris made his 100th league appearance for the club earlier this term and has established himself as a regular member of the rearguard, which led to him being voted the Supporters Player of the Year last season. Born in Brisbane, Australia, the 25-year-old joined West Ham from Perth Soccer Club in 1996 but made just one senior appearance for the Hammers, while also being loaned out to both Brentford and Southend. A move north of the border to Dundee on a free transfer led to a further 28 games before a fee of £50,000 saw the commanding defender arrive at Kenilworth Road in September 2001.

## Photos courtesy of Gareth Owen

## 17 EMERSON BOYCE

A one-club servant so far in his career, Emerson came through the junior ranks with the Hatters before putting his signature on his first ever professional contract in April 1998 and has since matured into a fine defender. Aylesbury-born, the 24-year-old can play either as a full-back or as a central defender and likes to venture forward when given the opportunity. Has been unlucky to suffer with a number of injuries in his career to date, but has been a regular so far this term when he has already registered his 200th senior appearance for the club. Scored the second goal against Bristol City last weekend.

## 24 SOL DAVIS

A regular visitor to the Racecourse Ground with former club Swindon Town, Sol is no stranger to life in the Second Division having spent most of his career to date at this level. Cheltenham-born, the 24-year-old left-back is an intelligent attack minded defender who has an eye for an opportunity and is strong in the tackle. Having come through the junior sides at the County Ground, he went on to pull on the Robins' shirt 131 times over a five-year spell before moving to Bedfordshire at the start of last season for a not inconsiderable six-figure fee.

## 37 KEITH KEANE

One of the brightest talents at Kenilworth Road, Keith is still a first-year scholar who has been with the club since the age of 9, where he has since risen through the various age groups. Locally born, the youngster was called up by the Republic of Ireland for their under-17 squad last season and has continued to make rapid progress since. Having made his first team debut back in November, against Rushden & Diamonds in the LDV Trophy when aged just 16, he has gone on to establish himself as a regular in the first team and netted the winning goal in the 3-2 thriller against Swindon last Saturday.

## midfielders

## 08 KEVIN NICHOLLS

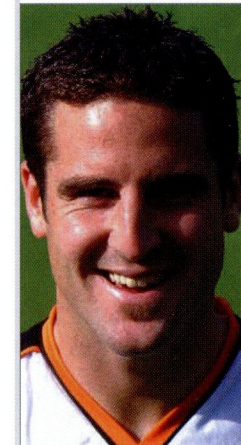
A workaholic midfielder who is rarely still throughout the 90 minutes, Kevin is the club captain and is usually a danger at set-pieces. Newham-born, the 25-year-old moved to Luton from Wigan in August 2001 in exchange for a fee of £25,000 and has since made himself virtually indispensable in the midfield. The former England youth international started his career with Charlton Athletic, where he made just a handful of appearances and was loaned out to Brighton and Hove Albion, before joining the Latics for £250,000 in the summer of 1999.

## 11 STEVE ROBINSON

Likely to feature on the right-side of the Town midfield this afternoon, Steve cost just £50,000 when moving from Preston in the summer of 2002 and who, barring injury, has been a regular feature since. Lisburn-born, the 29-year-old has been capped by his native Northern Ireland at all levels from schoolboys right up to the full side. Having started his career with Spurs, he went to Bournemouth on a free transfer after just a couple of outings and was then sold to Preston for a fee of £375,000 at the end of the 1999/2000 season.

## 18 AHMET BRKOVIC

Scored the fastest hat-trick in the club's history against Stevenage



## 21 PAUL HUGHES

A well-travelled midfielder who has bags of skill and energy, Paul played in the Premier League no less than 21 times for his first club Chelsea, where he was reported in the press to have attracted interest from former Red Dragons boss Brian Flynn. Hammersmith-born, the influential midfielder celebrated his 28th birthday just five days ago and will be looking for a win today to aid the Hatters' lingering play-off push. Spent loan spells with both Stockport County and Norwich City prior to a free transfer move to Southampton, for whom he never played a first team match, in March 2000 from where he signed for Luton via an unsuccessful trial with Burnley.

## 32 LEE MANSELL

Having rarely featured in the first team last season, Lee has enjoyed a much more fruitful campaign this time around when he has regularly been involved either in the starting XI or on the subs bench. Gloucester-born, the 21-year-old is usually to be found in the centre of midfield and spent the latter part of last term on loan at Nuneaton Borough, where he gained invaluable experience. Having come through the junior sides at Town, he burst onto the scene in the 2000/2001-season scoring five times from 18 League games but has found that impressive start difficult to maintain since.

## attackers

## 07 ADRIAN FORBES

Having missed virtually the whole of last term due to a serious cruciate knee ligament injury, Adrian missed the start of the current season but returned to the side in October and has been a regular choice since. Ealing-born, the 25-year-old was capped by England at youth level and can play either on the wing or as a central striker. Made 121 senior appearances for his first club Norwich, but then moved to Bedfordshire in exchange for a fee of £60,000 in July 2001 and is nearing his 100th appearance in a Hatters shirt.

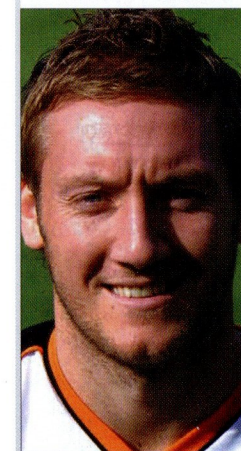
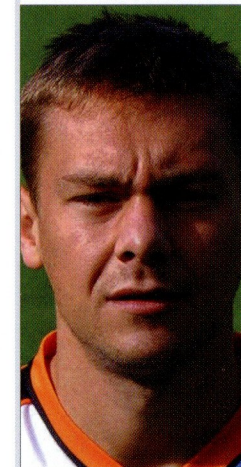
## 16 ENOCH SHOWUNMI

Probably the find of the season anywhere in the Nationwide League, Enoch initially came to Kenilworth Road on trial without pay to prove himself and boy has he done that. London-born, the former University graduate is a big striker who is also good on the deck and is averaging roughly a goal every three games in his professional career to date. Signed from non-leaguers Willesden Constantine after the Hatters received special dispensation from the Football League to override their transfer embargo, he has been tied to the club until the summer of 2006.

## 19 STEVE HOWARD

A big, bustling and hard-working centre-forward of the old school, Steve was the club's top scorer last term, netting 22 League goals in the process. Durham-born, the 27-year-old was spotted by Hartlepool United when playing locally for Tow Law Town and signed for the Victoria Park outfit in August 1995. Northampton was his next port of call after the Cobblers agreed to pay a fee of £120,000, before moving to Luton for less than half of that amount in March 2001 and this has proved to be money well spent as he has now netted more than 50 League goals in a Hatters shirt.

« From the top Chris Coyne, Sol Davis, Steve Howard



from artificial pitch to zenith

an a-z of luton town

**A is for ARTIFICIAL Pitch**

In the summer of 1985 saw Luton Town dig up the grass playing surface at Kenilworth Road and lay an artificial pitch. This 'pitch' remained in situ for six years before the traditional grass surface was re-introduced. Queen's Park Rangers had been the original pioneers of artificial turf in the English game with their Omniturf pitch. Luton's first Football League game on Kenilworth Road's artificial pitch was a 1-1 draw with Nottingham Forest on 17 August, 1985 with Mark Stein netting the 'Hatters' goal. The side that day was: Andy Dibble, Tim Breacker, Mitchell Thomas, Peter Nicholas, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill (Garry Parker), Brian Stein, Mick Harford, Chukwuemeka Nwajobi & David Preece.

**B is for BRISTOL Rovers**

It was against Bristol Rovers that the 'Hatters' chalked up their record Football League win when they thrashed their visitors 12-0 in a Third Division (South) fixture on 13 April 1936. The game is best remembered for Joe Payne scoring a Football League record ten goals, which surprisingly has never been beaten! Quite incredibly not one of his goals came via the penalty spot. Just to put the feat into context, the most anyone has scored in a league game since that day is seven, a figure achieved just twice in the post-war era.

**C is for FA CUP Finalists**

Luton Town reached the F.A. Cup final in 1959 when they beat Leeds United (5-1), Leicester City (1-1, 4-1), Ipswich Town (5-2), Blackpool (1-1, 1-0) and Norwich City (1-1, 1-0) to earn a Wembley appearance with Nottingham Forest. Sadly for the Hatters' fans, player-manager Syd Owen's side were beaten 2-1 despite Forest playing 55 minutes of the game with ten men, David Pacey scoring the Luton goal. The Luton side that historic day was: Ron Baynham, Brendan McNally, Ken Hawkes, Groves, Syd Owen, David Pacey, Billy Bingham, Allan Brown, Bob Morton, George Cummins & Tony Gregory.

**E is for ESTABLISHED**

Luton Town Football Club came into existence through an amalgamation of two existing clubs, namely The Wanderers and The Excelsiors. A meeting at Luton Town Hall on 11 April, 1885 passed a resolution that the "Luton Town Club be formed" and decreed that the colours should be "navy blue and pink halves for both shirts and caps." The merger was not entirely harmonious, even though the first ever Luton Town team consisted of six players from one club and five from the other, as what was left of the Wanderers team competed in that season's F.A. Cup as Luton Wanderers.

**F is for FOUNDER Members**

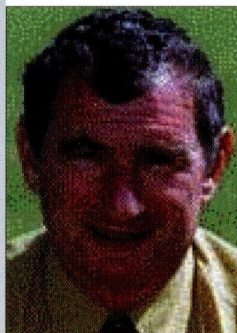
The 'Hatters' became founder members of the Southern League in 1894 and finished runners-up to Millwall in both the first two seasons. Having joined the Football League Second Division in 1897, they lasted just three seasons before resigning and returning to play in the Southern League. However, success did not quite come so readily this time; in fact they slumped into the Second Division of the Southern League for a brief period. Following the end of the World War One however, the Southern League reformed as Division Three of the Football League in 1920 and Luton Town thus became a Football League side once again.

**G is for GAMES GALORE!**

No player in the history of Luton Town has played in more league games for the 'Hatters' than wing-half, Bob Morton. Bob joined the 'Hatters' following the Second World War, eventually making his league debut in a 1-0 defeat at West Ham in October 1946. In all, he made a total of 495 league appearances, scoring 48 goals in the process, in an 18-year career that came to an end in April 1964, his last appearance coming a 3-1 home win over Wrexham! During that time he had helped the 'Hatters' to promotion to Division One in 1955 and also played in the 1959 F.A. Cup Final.

**H is for HATTERS**

It is believed that Luton Town changed its club nickname of 'The



**D is for DAVID Pleat**

David Pleat is an articulate manager who achieved much success at Luton Town where he helped establish the club as a top-flight side. Pleat had league experience as a player with Nottingham Forest, for whom he gained England caps at both Schoolboy and Youth level. He then played for Luton, Shrewsbury, Exeter and Peterborough before becoming player-manager at Nuneaton Borough at the age of 26! Within a year he joined the coaching staff at Luton, eventually becoming manager in 1978. He led them to the Second Division title in 1982 and also established the 'Hatters' as a constant danger in cup competitions. He later took charge at Tottenham and Leicester City before returning to Kenilworth Road in June 1991. However, despite playing attractive soccer, the club were relegated to Division Two after ten years in the First Division. He later managed Sheffield Wednesday and is currently in temporary charge back at Tottenham, where he has been Director of Football since 1998.

Straw Plaiters', which reflected the town's long-held association with the hat trade, to 'The Hatters' in the 1930s. Just as a sideline, the 'Mad as a Hatter' phrase is derived from the hat industry, but not the straw-hat manufacturing business associated with Luton. For this you have to go to Stockport, which became of the centre of the felt-hat making industry in late-Victorian times, hence why Stockport County are also nicknamed 'The Hatters'.

**I is for ILLUMINATED**

Floodlights first illuminated Kenilworth Road on 7 October, 1953 when Turkish side Fenerbache provided the opposition to celebrate the occasion. The lights were individually mounted on short poles on each stand roof, but even when the system was updated a few years later there was insufficient room to erect four corner pylons.

**K is for KENILWORTH Road**

All three grounds used by Luton Town have been within a few hundred yards of each other. They first played at the Excelsior Ground in Dallow Lane in 1885. Two years later they moved the short distance to Dunstable Road, the new ground being opened by the Duke of Bedford on 3 April, 1897 for a game against Loughborough Town. However, this ground proved sadly inadequate to cope with the mounting spectator interest in football and in 1905 they moved to Kenilworth Road, which at that time was just open fields. Luton's first ever game at Kenilworth Road was against Plymouth Argyle on 4 September, 1905 and next year will celebrate 100 years in residence.

**L is for LEAGUE Debut**

Having been elected to the Football League in 1897, Luton's first ever opponents were Leicester Fosse. The game was played on 4 September, 1897 and ended in a 1-1 draw with Fred Ekins scoring the 'Hatters' first ever league goal. The side that historic day was: Richard Williams, John McCartney, Jimmy 'Punch' McEwen, Sam Davies, William Stewart, James Docherty, W.Gallacher, James Coupar, Edwin Birch, Tom McInnes & Fred Ekins. Luton finished the season in a creditable eighth place, the division having consisted of 16 teams.

**M is for MAL Donaghy**

The Northern Ireland defender has made more international appearances whilst a Luton player than any other. He won 58 of his 91 caps whilst with the 'Hatters' following his transfer from Northern Irish league side Larne Town in the summer of 1978. Donaghy made a total of 515 league appearances for Luton, scoring 16 goals. Only three players have made more. He also won a Second Division championship medal in 1982 and a League Cup winners medal in 1988 before joining Manchester United in October of that same year. Donaghy later had a loan spell at Kenilworth Road before joining Chelsea. He is now full-time Youth Development Officer at Irish First Division club Donegal Celtic.

**N is for NOTTINGHAM Forest**

Nottingham Forest twice denied Luton Town's hopes of lifting a trophy at the old Twin Towers of Wembley Stadium. The 1959 F.A. Cup Final defeat was repeated some 30 years later when the sides once again met, this time in the 1989 Littlewoods Cup Final with Forest triumphing 3-1. Mick Harford scored for Luton, whose side was: Les Sealey, Tim Breacker, Ashley Grimes (Darron McDonough), David Preece, Steve Foster, Dave Beaumont, Danny Wilson, Roy Wegerle, Mick Harford, Ricky Hill & Kingsley Black.

**O is for Mike O'HARA**

On 1 October, 1960 Mike O'Hara became the youngest ever player to turn out for the 'Hatters' in a Football League match. He replaced Ron Baynham in goal in a Second Division game at Stoke City's Victoria Ground. However, he ended up on the losing side as Stoke won 3-0. O'Hara made just one further league appearance for Luton – a 1-0 home defeat to Leyton Orient three weeks later. He was subsequently transferred to Swindon Town for whom he made a further 30 league appearances.

**P is for PROFESSIONAL**

Election to the Football League in the summer of 1897 saw the 'Hatters' officially become a professional club on 11 June, 1897. They also became a limited company at the same time, namely Luton Town Football and Athletic Company Limited. Election to the Football League was duly achieved when they replaced Burton Wanderers following a ballot of member clubs. Lincoln gained 21 votes, Burton Swifts 15, and were both re-elected, whilst Luton 13 gained votes to Burton Wanderers' 9. Other clubs seeking election were Burslem Port Vale (11 votes), Nelson (7), Glossop North End (5), Fairfield Athletic (3), Crewe Alexandra (2) & Millwall Athletic (1).

**Q is for QUIZ QUESTION**

Who scored six goals in a F.A. Cup tie and still ended up on the losing side? That popular quiz question refers to Luton Town's Fourth round match with Manchester City during the 1960-61 season. City were leading 6-2 at Kenilworth Road on 28 January, 1961 with Dennis Law having netted a double-hat-trick but the game was abandoned due to fog. The re-arranged match took place on 1 February, 1961 with Luton winning 3-1, Dennis Law netting Manchester City's consolation goal!

**R is for RICKY Hill**

Ricky Hill played for Luton during arguably their most successful-ever period during the 1980s, a period that saw the club lift the Littlewoods Cup in 1988, reach the final again the following season, twice fall at the F.A. Cup semi-final stage, lose in the Simod Cup final, and win the Division Two Championship in 1982. Hill joined Luton from school and made a scoring debut as a substitute in a 3-1 home win over Bristol Rovers in April 1976. He was a fixture in the side for the next 12 years, winning three England caps to add to his numerous youth and under-21 appearances. Hill made 436 league appearances and scored 54 goals before joining French side Le Havre in 1988. He later had a spell with Leicester, before becoming player-coach for American side Tampa Bay Rowdies, whom he took to two national championships, a feat which saw him named 'Coach of the Year'. On his return to England, Ricky played briefly for non-league Chertsey Town before returning to USA as player-coach of Coco Expos, whom he led to a championship final. In 1996 David Pleat appointed him youth team coach at Sheffield Wednesday, before taking charge at Luton in July 2000. However, a record just two wins in 21 matches saw him sacked in November. Since leaving Luton, Ricky has had a spell as a football agent and is currently manager of Trinidad & Tobago side San Juan Jabloteh.

**S is for SIMOD Cup**

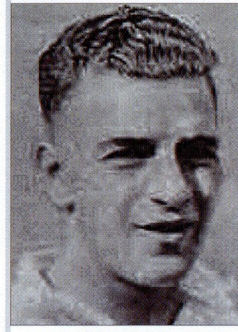
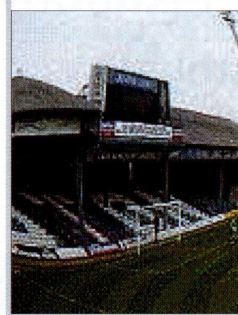
The 1987-88 season saw Luton qualify for the Simod Cup, a competition open to First and Second Division clubs not involved in European competition. Public interest was limited, save for those sides that reached the Wembley showpiece final. The 'Hatters' duly reached that stage in 1988 by beating Everton (2-1), Stoke (4-1), Swindon (2-1), before losing 4-1 to Reading in the final with Mick Harford netting the 'Hatters' consolation goal. The Luton side that day was: Les Sealey, Tim Breacker, Ashley Grimes, Darren McDonough, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Danny Wilson, Brian Stein (Rob Johnson), Mick Harford, Mark Stein (Kingsley Black) & Ian Allinson.

**T is for Gordon TURNER**

No player in the history of Luton Town has scored more goals for the club than Gordon Turner. Having served in the Royal Navy, he joined the club in March 1950. He made his debut the following December in a 4-1 defeat at Coventry. Initially played as a wing-half, he was later switched to an inside-forward and then centre-forward, scoring a club record 243 goals in 406 league games, including 32 goals in the 1954-55 promotion season. His last game for Luton was a 2-1 home win over local rivals Watford in April 1964. He later went into non-league soccer with Wisbech Town.

**U is for UP'S & Downs!**

Excluding their first brief spell as a Football League side, Luton have



**J is for JOE Payne**

Joe Payne was a reserve half-back with Luton and had only figured spasmodically in the first-team during the 1935-36 campaign season. He reported to Kenilworth Road for a Third Division (South) game with Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday 1936 expecting merely to watch the game. However, an injury to regular centre-forward Billy Boyd saw Joe called up an hour before kick-off. The 13,962 spectators present then witnessed Football League history as Payne hit ten goals in a club record 12-0 win. He continued his breathtaking goalscoring the following season when he hit a club record 55 goals as Luton romped to promotion. This in itself was a divisional record and third only to Dixie Dean's all time achievement of 60 goals in one season in 1927-28. In March 1938 Payne was transferred to first division Chelsea for the mysteriously low figure of £2,000, this after representing England against Finland in Helsinki the previous May. Sadly the outbreak of hostilities ended Payne's playing career.

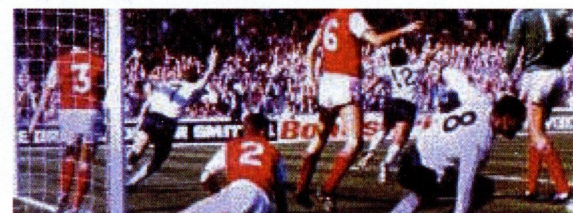
had more than their fair share of ups and downs in the Football League. They have been relegated seven times during their history, but on the other hand have also won promotion on seven occasions. Their first relegation came in 1960, a feat repeated in 1963, 1965, 1975, 1992, 1996 and 2001. Conversely, celebration parties for 'Hatters' fans came in 1937, 1955, 1968, 1970, 1974, 1982 and 2002. They have played in the top division from 1955 to 1960, 1974-75 and from 1982 to 1992 respectively.

**V is for VERSATILITY**

Syd Owen showed his versatility when he was captain and manager for Luton's 1959 F.A. Cup final with Nottingham Forest at Wembley in 1959, a game which proved to be his last as a player. Regarded as 'a true leader of men', he was widely considered as Luton's best ever centre-half. Signed from Birmingham in June 1947, he made 388 league appearances for the 'Hatters', scoring three goals. However, his ensuing period as manager proved less successful and he was dismissed following the club's relegation in 1960.

**W is for WEMBLEY**

Luton's first ever trip to Wembley came in the 1959 F.A. Cup final. However, their most memorable trip to the Twin Towers came in 1988 in the Littlewoods Cup Final. Luton had beaten Wigan (1-0 & 4-2), Coventry (3-1), Ipswich (1-0), Bradford (2-0) and Oxford (1-1, 2-0) before meeting Arsenal in the final. A crowd of 95,732 saw the 'Hatters' overcome the 'Gunners' 3-2 with two goals from Brian Stein and one from Danny Wilson. The Luton side that memorable day was: Andy Dibble, Tim Breacker, Rob Johnson, Ricky Hill, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Danny Wilson, Brian Stein, Mick Harford (Mark Stein), David Preece (Ashley Grimes) & Kingsley Black.



**X is for X-WreXham**

Andy Dibble is the only current connection between the 'Hatters' and the 'Dragons' having had two spells at Kenilworth Road, most notably winning a Littlewoods Cup medal in 1988. Others to have turned out for both clubs include Phil Boersma, Carl Griffiths, Seamus Heath, Jack Lewis, Harvey McCreddie, Tom Parker, Jimmy Pugh, Harold Readett, Gareth Salisbury, Eddie Tunney and Bill Vaughan.

**Y is for YARMOUTH**

It was against Great Yarmouth that Luton Town chalked up their biggest ever win in any competition. They beat the non-league side 15-0 in an F.A. Cup at Kenilworth Road in November 1914. Their side that day with goalscorers in brackets was: Mitchell, Elvey, Dunn, Fred Hawkes (1), Frith (1), Bob Hawkes, Roberts (1), Arthur Wileman (2), Ernie Simms (4), Rollinson (4) & Sid Hoar (1). Housego netted an own-goal.

**Z is for ZENITH**

Luton Town's zenith was the 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons when they finished seventh and ninth respectively in the First Division, whilst winning the Littlewoods Cup, and being runners-up in the Simod Cup, as well as reaching the semi-finals of the FA Cup all in 1988. Managed by David Pleat that side is arguably the best ever Luton side and included the likes of Andy Dibble (now of course a Racecourse favourite), Les Sealey, Tim Breacker, Rob Johnson, Peter Nicholas, Ashley Grimes, David Preece, Danny Wilson, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill, the Stein brothers Brian and Mark, Mick Harford and current manager Mike Newell.



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TheFA.com/women



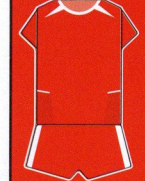
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### head to head luton town



# Dragons

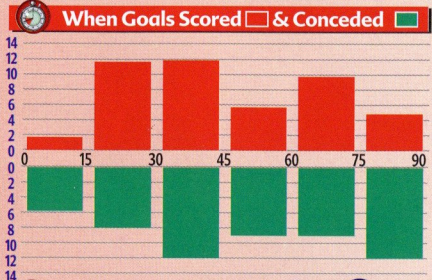


**Form Guide:**  
Won: 0  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 4  
Scored: 3  
Conc: 8  
Points: 2  
Goal Diff: -5  
Last 6: D L L L L D  
Last 5 Home: D W W L L  
Last 5 Away: L D L L D

**Miscellaneous**  
Players Used: 24  
Clean Sheets: 14  
Failed to Score: 17

#### The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Lawrence	5
Long range shots	4 players	2
Inside 6 yards	3 players	2
Shots from 6-18 yards	Jones L, Sam, Llewellyn	3
Volleyed shots	4 players	1
Penalties	Jones L	2
Scored 1st Goal in match	Llewellyn	5
Most goals in last 10	Jones M, Barrett	1
Points gained from goals	Lawrence	8.25



#### Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	220
Goals conceded	56
On target/goals scored	3.93
Division 2 rating	17

#### Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	244
Goals scored	47
On target / goals	5.19
Division 2 Rating	23

#### Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	2
Points won	2
Goals Against, last 10	7
Points lost	1

#### Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	11.93
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	7
Average Offsides per game	3.42
Div 2 Rating	11

#### Swings

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

#### Where Goals Scored

Close Range	10
Inside Area	24
Outside Area	13

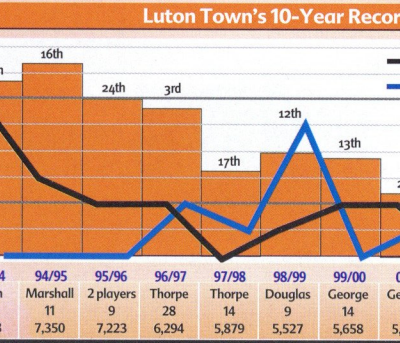
#### How Goals Scored

Shots	28
Headers	11
Volleyed	4
Penalties	2
Free Kicks	1
Own Goals	1



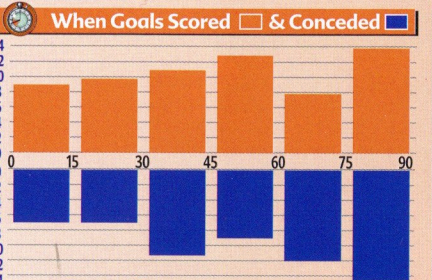
#### Margins

WON BY:	LOST BY:	WON BY:	LOST BY:
1 Goal	11	1 Goal	12
2 Goals	3	2 Goals	5
3 Goals	1	3 Goals	0
4 Goals	1	4 Goals	0
5+ Goals	0	5+ Goals	2



#### The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Howard	5
Long range shots	Howard	2
Inside 6 yards	Howard	4
Shots from 6-18 yards	Forbes	6
Volleyed shots	4 players	1
Penalties	Nicholls	2
Scored 1st Goal in match	Howard	8
Most goals in last 10	6 players	1
Points gained from goals	Howard	11.5



#### Goalkeeping

Opp. attempts on target	235
Goals conceded	61
On target/goals scored	3.85
Division 2 rating	18

#### Goalscoring Strike Rate

Shots on target	262
Goals scored	65
On target / goals	4.03
Division 2 Rating	8

#### Goals in last 10 mins

Goals For, last 10	6
Points won	1
Goals Against, last 10	12
Points lost	13

#### Fouls & Offsides

Average fouls per game	13.70
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	23
Average Offsides per game	4.67
Div 2 Rating	24

#### Swings

WON when behind	3
DRAWN when behind	6
LOST when ahead	4
DRAWN when ahead	7
WON 2 down	1
WON 1 down	2
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	4
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	6
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	7



# Hatters



**Form Guide:**  
Won: 1  
Drawn: 2  
Lost: 3  
Scored: 8  
Conc: 12  
Points: 5  
Goal Diff: -4  
Last 6: D L L L W D  
Last 5 Home: D D L W D  
Last 5 Away: D L D L L

**Miscellaneous**  
Players Used: 35  
Clean Sheets: 9  
Failed to Score: 9

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

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, SATURDAY 10 APRIL 2004

# Port Vale 1

Cummings

# Wrexham 0

**Five points off sixth spot following the defeat by Tranmere Rovers, the Dragons knew that three points at Port Vale was essential if our faint hopes of reaching the play-offs were to be maintained.**

But this second successive defeat left us trailing sixth-placed Hartlepool by eight points - albeit with a game in hand - and so even the most optimistic supporter was left feeling that it would take a near miracle to achieve our dream.

The galling thing about this defeat is that I, for one, felt that we deserved something from the game. Maybe not a win for we rarely troubled Jonathon Brain in the Valiants' goal but, on the other hand, they didn't provide an awful lot in terms of an attacking threat either and so maybe a draw would have been a fair result.

In fact the following morning's Football First contained a match report accompanied by some interesting stats; namely that we enjoyed 53% of the possession and out-scored the Valiants 9-3 on corners and 6-3 on shots-on-target.

That might suggest that we should have won the game but even I think that would be taking things a little too far!

Indeed Denis Smith suggested as much in his post-game interviews, bemoaning the lack of goals that have proved to be our Achilles heel for most of the season.

"We've gone three games now without scoring and if you do that you're not going to win games," he said. "Neither keeper had a great deal to do and I thought there were some good performances from my players, but obviously not good enough to go and win the game. The lads have tried, they've worked hard, but we haven't scored enough goals throughout the season, which has been the obvious problem.

"We lost our two goalscorers in the summer. We've tried to replace them and that hasn't happened. We must figure out other ways of getting the goals we want but today I thought our delivery at set plays was poor. If you get good delivery you might get a goal."

Injuries and suspensions obviously haven't helped Denis' plight - with Darren Ferguson and Craig Morgan both suspended, Brian Carey, Mark Jones, Andy Dibble and Shaun Pejic injured, and both Carlos Edwards and Jim Whitley carrying knocks into the game.

It was always going to be difficult with such a small squad anyway and the current situation hardly helps our cause, does it?

Still those out on the Vale Park pitch battled hard and it took a solitary Michael Cummins goal on 52 minutes to give the home side - with just two home League defeats all term (to Plymouth and Hartlepool) - their narrow success.

To be fair the home side had upped the pace at the start of the second period after the Dragons had finished the first half strongly, with both Chris Armstrong and Chris Llewellyn gong close with headers.

But it could have been a different outcome had, just 6 minutes after Cummins' strike, Matty Crowell's 25-yard drive creep inside the post instead of being diverted by Brain onto the outside of his right-hand upright. That was as close as we came!

Finally, as Denis declared: "If we win six on the trot that might be enough for us." We can but hope!

### MATCH FACTS

**Port Vale:** Brain, Rowland, Pilkington, Collins (Burns 85), James, Paynter, Brisco (Lipa 82), Cummins, Bridge-Wilkinson, Brooker (Littlejohn 63), McPhee.

**Subs:** Delaney, Armstrong.

**Booked:** Bridge-Wilkinson

**Wrexham:** Ingham, Whitley, Roberts (Spender 68), Lawrence, C

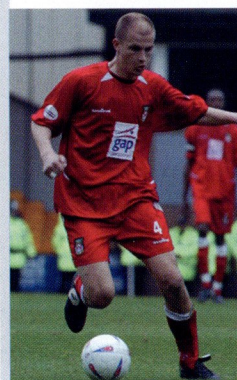
Edwards, P Edwards, Barrett (L Jones 65), Thomas (Holmes 82), Crowell, Armstrong, Llewellyn.

**Subs:** Whitfield, Mackin.

**Booked:** Crowell, Thomas

**Referee:** Mr. CH Webster

**Attendance:** 5,892



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, MONDAY 12 APRIL 2004

# Wrexham 1

Barrett 71

# Hartlepool United 2

Clarke 41, Danns 63

**Well, that's that** as far as the play-offs are concerned. The 1-0 defeats by Tranmere and Port Vale had already ended all realistic hope but even so, a victory here would have put us within five points of Hartlepool - with a game in hand.

But this defeat leaves us eleven points adrift and even if we win all five remaining games results elsewhere will almost certainly - make that definitely - see us missing out.

Disappointing I know but nothing that happens over the coming weeks should detract from what has, overall, been a fairly decent season.

Pessimists amongst Dragons' followers had us facing a season of struggle to stay in the Division almost before the ink had dried on last season's promotion - yet we've been concentrating more on events at the top end of the table. But at the back of many people's minds will still be the words 'if only'.

Hartlepool, however, still have their sights on a second successive promotion after a victory that I consider extremely flattering.

Despite more changes to the starting eleven due to Steve Roberts' injury at Port Vale - Craig Morgan returning after suspension - and losing both Carlos Edwards and Jim Whitley early on, the patched-up Dragons were still the better side.

The referee hardly helped matters either, as I would cast doubts as to the validity of both free kicks that ultimately led to the visitors' goals.

"I thought we were the better team, but to lose to two set plays is what happens when you have not got time to work on it," declared Denis Smith afterwards. "We finished with two 18-year olds at centre backs but we were still the better team by a long way."

"The trouble is people will look at the result and not the performance. I'm not happy, as we should at least have got a draw. When you are so much in control as we were, and then to lose Carlos Edwards and Jim Whitley in a couple of minutes of each other, you wonder whether someone up there doesn't like you."

I agree. In fact, I think we deserved to win the game - particularly after our first half performance in which we had the visitors clearly on the back foot.

Chris Armstrong saw a header come back off a post on 2 minutes, and was denied by a smart save from Provett midway through the opening 45 minutes.

The enforced double substitution then gave the visitors some impetus; a fact not lost on manager Neale Cooper after the game: "We knew it would be a difficult game because Wrexham have a presence in their side. It was a bonus for us when Edwards went off, but even so we have had to battle to win."

For the record, Darrell Clarke volleyed 'Pools in front just before the break and Neil Danns, on loan from Blackburn Rovers, doubled their lead with a low drive from the edge of the box on 63 minutes.

Paul Barrett pulled a well deserved goal back 8 minutes later with a superb volley after Chris Llewellyn's cross had been flicked on at the near post, but there was to be no dramatic comeback and the nervy visitors held on without too much of a scare.

**MATCH FACTS**

**Wrexham:** Ingham, Whitley (L Jones 36), Lawrence, Morgan, C Edwards (Spender 34), P Edwards, Barrett, Thomas, Crowell (Sam 82), Armstrong, Llewellyn.

**Subs:** Whitfield, Holmes.

**Booked:** L Jones, Lawrence, Llewellyn  
**Hartlepool United:** Provett, Tinkler, Westwood, Clarke, Humphreys, Danns, Boyd (Istead 88), Robertson, Sweeney, Craddock, Williams (Porter 68).

**Subs:** Barron, McCann, Konstantopoulos.  
**Referee:** Mr. T. A. Parkes

**Attendance:** 3,786



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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, SATURDAY 17 APRIL 2004

# Colchester United 3

Williams 16, Halford 45, McGleish 82

# Wrexham 1

Sam 18

**On the whole, football managers are quick to come up with excuses following a disappointing result in an attempt to gloss over either their own, or their players', deficiencies.**

How often do you hear managers moan about injuries, referees or even just bad luck after a defeat to try and appease their club's disgruntled fans?

Thankfully for those of us with Racecourse matters close to our hearts the current incumbent of the Dragons' 'hot seat' doesn't fall into that category. Quite the opposite in fact – and that is something for which we can all be grateful.

It might not always be what we want to hear, but at least we know that what we either hear or read is a genuinely felt.

It's with this in mind that we must reflect on last Saturday's defeat at Colchester United – the fourth straight since the 0-0 draw at Plymouth Argyle a month ago.

No one likes losing – least of all Denis Smith – but can anyone honestly remember the last time we suffered such a horrendous spell of suspensions and injuries?

Okay, so the list of absentees for this Layer Road clash may not fully excuse the first half display but the absence of Andy Dibble, Brian Carey, Shaun Pejic, Paul Edwards, Carlos Edwards, Jim Whitley and Darren Ferguson certainly contributed towards it.

I don't think any side in the world could cope with the absence of almost two-thirds of their strongest eleven. Just consider how Manchester United and Arsenal have fared in the Carling Cup recently when they've 'rested' players.

Still, at least Arsene Wenger and Sir Alex Ferguson had a choice – Denis basically had to include all his available professionals.

"I've got six or seven lads, who normally start, out today," he said. "No matter how much I want people to do things, you are asking them to do jobs they are not capable of doing. We changed the system in the first half and it didn't work, so we changed it again.

"But it's not systems you need – it's players. All my professional players played today at some stage.

"In the second half we had the better chances and Chris Armstrong could have changed the game with two excellent opportunities."

He's right – again! For however badly we played in the first half, we still only trailed to Greg Halford's 45th minute header after Hector Sam had netted his tenth goal of the season heading in a Dennis Lawrence cross within a couple of minutes of Gareth Williams' 15th minute opener. And even then only an acrobatic save from Simon Brown denied Armstrong an equaliser before the break!

We spent most of the second period inside the U's half of the field but were left to rue two great chances to level, firstly when Armstrong had time to pick his spot from eight yards only to see Brown divert the ball to safety on 55 minutes.

Then, on the hour, Sam made headway down the right and crossed towards the near post. Armstrong got in front of his marker but blazed over the crossbar.

With that went our best chance – and substitute Scott McGleish merely rubbed salt in the wounds when, at the second attempt, he wrapped up the three points late on.

### MATCH FACTS

#### Colchester United:

S Brown, Keith, Johnson (Pinault 85), Izzet, Fagan, Bowry, White, Halford, Stockley, Williams (McGleish 77), W Brown.

**Subs:** Gerken, Chilvers, Cade.

**Wrexham:** Ingham, Roberts, Lawrence, Morgan, Holmes, Barrett, Crowell (M Jones 78), Thomas, Llewellyn, Armstrong (L Jones 82), Sam.

**Subs:** Whitfield, Spender, Mackin.

**Booked:** Thomas

**Referee:** Mr. A Marriner

**Attendance:** 3,077



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giant killers

# Into the Quarter Finals

After dumping West Ham United out of the F. A. Cup during season 1996-97, Second Division Wrexham came from 1-2 down at divisional rivals Peterborough to win 4-2 in Round Four. This set up a visit to First Division Birmingham City in Round Five. Wrexham's journey to the Quarter Final stage may be the stuff of fairy tales, but it also owed a little to the traditional giant killing virtues of pluck and opportunism.

The Reds were passing and moving their way into the history books. They were not so much upsetting opponents of a loftier status, but rather out-playing them at their own game and this victory at St. Andrews was a compelling demonstration of Wrexham's potential to thrive at a higher level.

Wrexham manager Brian Flynn found this latest success, over Birmingham, more satisfying than the earlier victory against Premiership outfit West Ham, probably because on this occasion the Reds emphatically imposed their own attractive style and authority on the contest.

Skipper Tony Humes, an inspiration as well as a goal scorer, commented afterwards that Wrexham's taste for the 'big time' came naturally: "Teams from higher divisions give you a bit more room to play in than we get in our league games and we thrive on that. We made the most of a good playing surface and showed the crowd (21,511) how well we can play. No-one can deny that we were the better side today."

Wrexham's cause was also helped by the 58th minute dismissal of Paul Devlin, which reduced City to ten men for the last half hour. Referee Martin Bodenham's decision to dismiss Devlin for a 'tackle' on Martyn Chalk, that he judged malicious as well as dangerous, provided the home fans with a focus for their anger and frustration. It was identified by City boss Trevor Francis as the turning point of the game.

It was an obvious conclusion for him to make, but it flattered his team. If the game had a turning point at all, it was Bryan Hughes' 51st minute goal that brought Wrexham level at a time when the Reds were hard done by to be behind. The fragile confidence of City's expensive side visibly cracked the moment Hughes' header, from Peter Ward's curling free kick, hit the back of their net.

Wrexham had fallen behind to a 37th minute goal. An Anders Limpar corner from the left dropped behind Brian Carey to Steve Bruce, who struck a half volley into the top corner. However, falling behind is nothing new to Wrexham. It had happened several times in this particular cup run alone.



▶▶ Bryan Hughes (hidden) heads Wrexham level in front of a packed away end at St. Andrews.

▶▶ Anders Limpar goes head-to-head with Karl Connolly.



Following Wrexham's equaliser, all Birmingham's anxieties surfaced again and were seized upon by the restless home crowd. This made the task of loosening Wrexham's ever tightening grip on the game almost impossible. The experience of former Premiership players, ex-Red Barry Horne, Bruce, Gary Ablett and Limpar wasn't enough to lift the others.

Indeed, Wrexham's Humes, Carey, Ward and Kevin Russell were more influential.

Even so, the 'kill' came surprisingly swiftly. Ward delivered another fiendish dead ball kick on the hour. This time it was an out-swinger from wide on the left that Humes met with a powerful header. It hurtled past City goalkeeper Ian Bennett's flailing right hand and finished in the bottom corner of the net.

Birmingham's attempts to mount a fight back came to little as Wrexham demonstrated an appetite for possession that their hosts could not match. City's best efforts at goal were from Andy Legg's long throws. Paul Furlong thumped one over the bar and Reds' keeper Andy Marriott saved a header from Bruce. When Jason Bowen mis-hit a tame shot on 88 minutes, it brought an early exit by many home fans.

Those who left missed Wrexham's third goal. Karl Connolly out-paced Michael Johnson to reach Carey's long clearance. Connolly steered his shot past the out-rushing Bennett and into the unguarded net, to seal a Quarter Final place!



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### programmes past

## What's in a Nickname

There's something about a club nickname that evokes special memories for supporters. Here at Wrexham, the majority of older fans will always associate the club as **The Robins**, so named after **Ted Robinson** who played such an important role in the club's formative years.

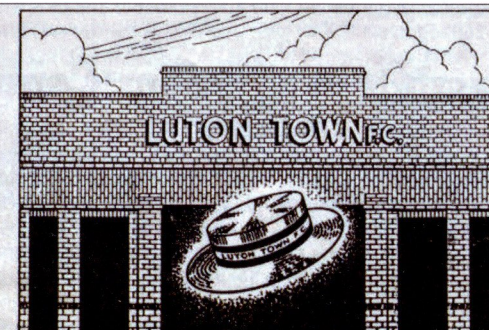
For Luton's travelling supporters here this afternoon, their nickname of **The Hatters** has become synonymous with the side and has often been used when designing their programme.

One such case was back in September 1965 when the front cover of the issue against Wrexham depicted a drawing of a straw-hat in front of the official entrance to Kenilworth Road. The match details were denoted below this along with the club's crest and a half-page advertisement for Williams & Richardson's Electrical Retailers.

The 12-page issue, priced at 6d, included an informative page of Club Notes and detailed pen-pictures on Wrexham. However, the only other contents of note were statistically related with a fixture grid showing all the season's Division Four results, details of Player's Appearances and Goal Scorers and a list of First Team and Reserve results.

The back page featured an advert for the opening of the new Wilds of Luton sports store by Manchester United's Denis Law, the Scotland International having scored six goals for Manchester City in an abandoned F.A. Cup tie at Kenilworth Road just four years earlier!

The match itself ended in a 1-0 win for the home side before a crowd of 4,660.



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### PEN PORTRAITS OF OUR VISITORS

**Steve Fleet** (goalkeeper). Signed from Manchester City in the 1963 close season. Steve has been goalkeeping understudy to the great Bert Trautmann—making a number of senior appearances whilst with Manchester City. Last season he more or less shared the first team position with Albert Dunlop.

**Haydn Jones** (right back). In his second season as a professional with the Club, his Caernarvon born youngster was originally a member of the Club's ground staff and gained Youth International Caps. If he continues to make the progress which is anticipated a lot should be heard of him in the not too distant future.

**Reg Holland** (right half). Born at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts. Reg arrived at the Racecourse ground from Manchester United, his only other League Club. Captained the Central League side at Old Trafford, a distinction he also gained with the English Schoolboys. Was a regular performer in the first team last season.

**Raymond Mielczarek** (centre half). Is a Welsh speaking youngster from Caernarvon despite his unfamiliar surname, and joined the Club's ground staff in the summer of 1962, signing professional two years later. Captained the Club's successful Youth Team and Welsh Youth XI two seasons well-built six-footer from who is expected of this dominating

**Keith Webber** (outside right) Everton for four seasons from was transferred to Brighton Albion. Spent only one season before moving to Wrexham in 1965 season. Has played very since arriving here.

**Arfon Griffiths** (inside right) his career at the Racecourse, Arsenal in February 1961

Club record fee of £15,000. Made many First Division appearances for the 'Gunners' as well as Welsh Under 23 Caps before returning to Wales in September 1962. Although inside forward is his usual position, Arfon has given a number of star performances at outside right. A Wrexham boy.

**Martyn King** (centre forward). Signed on from Colchester United in October 1964. As a junior he represented Essex Grammar School, finally selected for England Public and Grammar Schools against Scotland in April 1956 as a centre forward as he is today. Whilst at Oxford University he played for them at Wembley. Signed professional forms for Colchester in 1958, and scored 124 goals in 210 appearances.

**David Campbell** (outside left). A local boy from nearby Acton. Joined Manchester United from school and was at Old Trafford for two seasons. Joined the Wrexham ground staff in May 1964. Signed professional forms June 1965, and made his debut for Wrexham against Hartlepool at the end of last season. He enjoys everything connected with sport.

**Peter Jones**. An ex-Busby babe who made appearances in the first team at Old Trafford. Peter was signed in March

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# Youngsters Get Their Chance

**There are plenty of games to cover as we enter our final two home League games of the season. In fact there will have been eight games between those covered in the last programme and our final game against Brighton & Hove Albion in a fortnight's time.**

It therefore makes sense to cover four games in each programme, starting with the Pontin's League Cup Semi-Final clash with Sheffield Wednesday at the Racecourse back on Monday 5th April.

Unfortunately there will be no Final appearance for Joey Jones' side as a far more experienced Owls outfit brushed aside the Dragons' challenge with an emphatic 6-0 victory.

"Won't be needing the suits lads," was Joey's philosophical reaction after the defeat; one that brought back bitter memories of a 7-1 defeat by Wednesday's city rivals, United, at the same stage back in April 1998!

The defeat was perhaps understandable - given the youthfulness of the Dragons' side and the experience within Wednesday's eleven (including former Wrexham loan signing Terry Cooke!).

However the young Dragons, to their credit, kept going right to the end and their play warranted at least a couple of goals in reply.

That said, the Owls did manage to waste a 47th minute penalty - Paul Whitfield diving to his right to superbly parry Jon Shaw's spot kick.

Unfortunately there was little else to cheer as the visitors had raced into a 3-0 lead inside the half-hour mark and were 4-0 ahead by half time.

But it was the Dragons that had the first sniff of an opening when Mark Jones pounced on a poor pass across the visiting back four only for his shot to be blocked by a last-ditch lunge from Owls' defender Richard Wood.

This bright start never blossomed into anything more however, and goals from Shaw (16 and 29), Olsen (27) and Cooke (35) gave the visitors a 4-0 lead before half time. Olsen made it 5-0 on 48 minutes before Matty Crowell tested substitute keeper Rob Poulter with a well-struck 25-yard free kick a minute later.

The Dragons kept plugging away and only an offside flag denied substitute Jamie Reed a goal on 54 minutes. And Mark Jones then had the Owls defence back-peddalling with a surging run through the middle, but his 20-yard effort flew just over the bar. An Olsen header made it 6-0 on 72 minutes, before Shaun Holmes put a free kick over, Phil Gray tested Poulter from 20 yards and Wayne Leather headed a Crowell corner wide as the game entered its closing stages. But there was to be no consolation - however hard the Dragons tried.

Two days later an even younger side travelled to the Gay Meadow to face a Shrewsbury side that included Darren Moss, Ryan Lowe, Jamie Tolley, Jimmy Quinn and Colin Cramb. Even so, the 5-2 defeat did give a rather unbalanced look to what had been a far more competitive encounter than the score might suggest.

▶▶ **Mark Duffy** scored from the spot at Shrewsbury.



Only Craig Morgan in the Dragons' side had tasted Football League experience while two trialists, James Thomas and Colin Quirk, both from the Liverpool area, were given outings.

Indeed the latter gave the Dragons a 15th minute lead when he pounced on a Mark Harris through ball to find the top corner of the net with a 12-yard shot that took a slight deflection on its way past Joe Hart in the Shrews' goal.

The experienced Shrews' forward line had been kept quiet and it took midfielder Dave Edwards to equalise for the home side five minutes before the break.

The lively Quirk then saw an angled shot tipped onto the crossbar nine minutes after the restart as the young Dragons continued to impress. But Welsh U21 international Tolley put the home side ahead on 64 minutes, and Cramb (75) and Ross Stephens (82) made it 4-1 before Mark Duffy pulled a goal back from the penalty spot a minute later after Joe Feeney had been felled. Stephens wrapped up the scoring from close range five minutes from time but there was still time for Andy Spencer, Thomas and Feeney to all try their luck in the closing stages as the Dragons refused to throw in the towel.

Next up for the busy youngsters was a Football League Youth Alliance clash with Burnley at Colliers Park a fortnight ago - a game that saw the Dragons slip to a narrow 1-0 defeat.

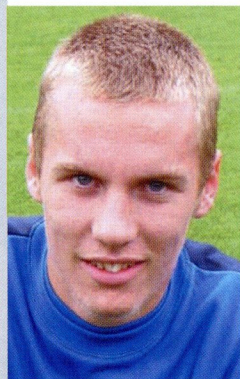
However there were some mitigating circumstances as we had to field a very young side that included a number of under-16s and two trialists, James Thomas and Colin Quirk who'd played at Shrewsbury in midweek. Simon Spender, Kieran Quinn and Levi Mackin were all away with the first team squad at Port Vale, and both Wayne Leather and Jimmy McNulty were injured.

"We found it hard going first half," explained Centre of Excellence Director Steve Weaver. "We didn't get into it in the opening 20 minutes."

The decisive goal came on the half-hour mark but both Chris Evans and Mark Duffy came close to equalising before the break.

Substitute Jamie Reed missed a chance straight after the restart when a neat passing movement in midfield

◀▶ **Danny Evans** - made many good saves v. Shrewsbury.



ended with Evans slotting the ball through to give Jamie a one-on-one with the keeper. He went to take the ball around the keeper, who somehow managed to stretch out and save.

Evans then played a one-two with Reed but put his shot wide, though as the Dragons continued to push forward the visitors were swift to counter attack and should really have put the game safe.

"The main difference was that they were an under-19 side," added Steve. "As you'd expect the first year's are a bit up and down at the moment, but it takes time getting used to being at a professional club full-time."

Finally, and briefly, we look back to our final home Pontin's League game of the season against Oldham Athletic on Wednesday 14th April.

The game proved to be a competitive and thoroughly enjoyable one with a young Dragons side - with only Paul Whitfield this time with first team experience - taking a first half lead only to be pegged back by a second half equaliser as the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Colin Quirk made it two goals in two appearances with an emphatic close range finish to give the Dragons a sixth minute lead, and Chris Evans, Levi Mackin and Mark Duffy all had half-chances to double the lead before the break.

One can only assume that the Latics still harboured promotion ambitions by the way they came out after the break - pegging the Dragons back for long periods - and it wasn't much of a surprise when they snatched an equaliser on 65 minutes. Calvin Zola, on loan at Boundary Park from Newcastle United, held off a challenge before drilling a low drive from about 15 yards out past Whitfield.

Phil Gray failed to connect with a free header a couple of minutes later and Latics' keeper Charlie Treacy did well to turn an awkwardly bouncing Evans 25-yarder away to safety as the Dragons looked to regain the lead.

The visitors had Jason Taylor dismissed in the closing seconds after an altercation with Joe Feeney but it was too late to have a bearing on things as the referee blew the final whistle shortly afterwards.

Another battling display from a very young side, and one that must provide encouragement for the future.

### THE YELLOW SHIRT

<b>Joe Feeney</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mark Harris</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Liam Jones</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mark Anderson</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Andy Spencer</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Simon Spender</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kieran Quinn</b>	<b>1</b>



#### MATCH LINE-UPS

**v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (H):** Paul Whitfield, Simon Spender, Shaun Holmes, Jimmy McNulty (Mike Williams 46), Wayne Leather, Matty Crowell, Kieran Quinn, Levi Mackin, Joe Feeney (Jamie Reed 53), Mark Jones, Mark Duffy (Phil Gray 53). Subs: Danny Evans, Kev Williams.

**v SHREWSBURY TOWN (A):** Danny Evans, Mark Harris, Mike Williams, Liam Jones, Craig Morgan, Kieran Quinn (Andy Spencer 85), Mark Duffy, Kev Williams (Jamie Reed 59), Colin Quirk (Joe Feeney 69), James Thomas, Phil Gray. Subs: Michael Jones, Chris Evans.

**v BURNLEY (H):** Michael Jones, Mark Harris, Mike Williams, Liam Jones, Joe Feeney, Kev Williams (Mark Williams), Phil Gray, Mark Duffy, Colin Quirk (Jamie Reed), Andy Spencer, Chris Evans. Subs: Danny Evans, James Thomas, Graham Roche.

**v OLDHAM ATHLETIC (H):** Paul Whitfield, Mark Harris, Mike Williams, Liam Jones, Gareth Evans, Levi Mackin, Phil Gray, Chris Evans, Jamie Reed (Joe Feeney 77), Colin Quirk (Andy Spencer 88), Mark Duffy. Subs: Danny Evans, Kev Williams, Mark Anderson.



#### Reserves

##### PONTIN'S DIVISION ONE WEST

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
20.08.03	Shrewsbury Town	H	1-1	Reed
26.08.03	Oldham Athletic	A	0-0	
10.09.03	Rochdale	H	4-0	Holmes, One, Whitley, L. Jones
24.09.03	Blackpool	H	4-6	Crowell 2, Spender, Sam
08.10.03	Stockport County	A	2-3	Leather, Thomas
26.11.03	Bury	H	1-3	Duffy
03.12.03	Macclesfield Town	A	2-2	L. Jones 2
10.12.03	Carlisle United	A	3-1	Armstrong 2, Leather
21.01.04	Wigan Athletic	H	1-4	Barrett
11.02.04	Stockport County	H	2-4	M. Jones, L. Jones
18.02.04	Wigan Athletic	A	4-3	Sam (3), Crowell
03.03.04	Macclesfield Town	H	3-2	L. Jones 2, M. Jones
17.03.04	Carlisle United	H	4-0	McNulty, L. Jones, M. Jones, Sam
31.03.04	Blackpool	A	1-1	M. Jones
07.04.04	Shrewsbury Town	A	2-5	Quirk, Duffy
14.04.04	Oldham Athletic	H	1-1	Quirk
26.04.04	Bury	A		
28.04.04	Rochdale	A		

##### PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP

17.09.03	Tranmere Rovers	A	2-0	Thomas, Sam
01.10.03	Macclesfield Town	H	2-1	Crowell, Robinson
19.11.03	Carlisle United	H	0-1	
10.03.04	Grimsby Town (QF)	H	1-0	L. Jones
05.04.04	Sheffield Wed (SF)	H	0-6	

#### under-19's

##### UMBRO ISOTONIC YOUTH ALLIANCE

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
09.08.03	Port Vale	H	1-1	Duffy (pen)
23.08.03	Mansfield Town	H	2-1	Reed
06.09.03	Macclesfield Town	H	1-1	Owen
13.09.03	Notts County	A	1-3	Reed
20.09.03	Shrewsbury Town	H	0-2	
27.09.03	Rotherham United	A	0-6	
04.10.03	Chester City	A	1-2	Reed
18.10.03	Chesterfield	H	3-3	McNulty, Done, Filson
25.10.03	Macclesfield Town	A	2-0	Owen, Mackin
01.11.03	Notts County	H	1-6	Owen
08.11.03	Shrewsbury Town	A	3-0	Reed (2), Feeney
15.11.03	Rotherham United	H	0-5	
29.11.03	Chester City	H	0-3	
06.12.03	Chesterfield	A	2-1	Reed (2)
13.12.03	Port Vale	A	1-3	Feeney
24.01.04	Mansfield Town	A	2-1	Reed, Braisdell
14.02.04	Chester City	H	5-1	Reed (2), Duffy (2), Spender
21.02.04	Darlington	A	2-1	Leather, OG
13.03.04	Halifax Town	H	1-2	M. Williams
20.03.04	York City	H	0-1	
27.03.04	Rochdale	A	2-3	Reed, Duffy (pen)
10.04.04	Burnley	H	0-1	
17.04.04	Bury	A	0-2	
24.04.04	Macclesfield Town	A		

##### LEAGUE CUP

11.10.03	Oldham Athletic (1)	A	3-1	Owen, Mackin, Duffy
22.11.03	Port Vale (2)	A	3-1	Duffy, Feeney, Bihon-Price
07.02.04	Rotherham United (3)	H	3-2	Braisdell, Duffy (pen), Reed
06.03.04	Preston North End (4)	H	1-4	M. Williams

◀▶ Top of the page **Chris Evans** outstanding in midfield against Latics.



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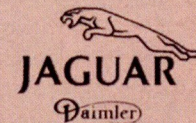
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With Wrexham now through to the final of the F.A.W. Premier Cup at Rhyl next month, we thought it appropriate to look back nearly 30 years to another Reds side that tasted cup success.

Back in May 1975 Wrexham faced First Division Cardiff City in the Welsh Cup Final having beaten Rhyl (2-0), Britton Ferry (8-0) and Shrewsbury (2-1) in the previous rounds.

Played over two legs, the first match took place at the Racecourse and a crowd of 6,862 - the second highest of the season - saw the Reds clinch a memorable 2-1 win. Goals from Brian Tinnion and youngster John Lyons proved decisive and gave John Neal's side the advantage as they travelled to South Wales for the return seven days later.

With Cardiff having dominated the competition over the previous ten years, Wrexham's sole success during that period having come in 1972 also against the Bluebirds, many experts expected Jimmy Andrews' side to overcome the one goal deficit.

However, it was the youthful Wrexham side that took the game to their more experienced opponents and deservedly triumphed 3-1 with Billy Ashcroft netting a brace and Graham Whittle also getting his name on the scoresheet.

The 5-2 aggregate victory was particularly sweet for former Bluebirds' midfielder Mel Sutton, whose last game for City had been against Wrexham in the 1972 final. A much under-rated player, Sutton played a vital role in developing the talents of Mickey Thomas and was a key figure in the Wrexham midfield for nearly a decade.

Our photograph shows the 1975 side with the Welsh Cup proudly on display. Back Row (l-r): George Showell (Physio/Trainer), Mel Sutton, Alan Dwyer, Brian Tinnion, Dave Fogg, Mickey Thomas. Middle Row (l-r): Geoff Davies, John Lyons, Eddie Niedzwecki, Brian Lloyd, Alan Hill, Billy Ashcroft, Gareth Davis. Front Row (l-r): Graham Whittle, Bob Scott, Eddie May, Arfon Griffiths, Mickey Evans.

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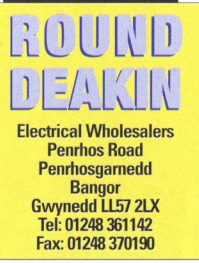
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| 10. <b>DARREN FERGUSON</b><br>DUNCAN & ALISON QUAINTON VILLAGE STORES  | KEVIN RUSSELL<br>RICHARD, GWEN AND JOHN HUGHES                             |
| 11. <b>CHRIS LLEWELLYN</b><br>DAVID GRAY   | JOEY JONES<br>GARETH COLLINS<br>www.red-passion.com                        |
| 12. <b>PAUL BARRETT</b><br>DAVE HUGHES   | MICHAEL INGHAM<br>GERAINT LLOYD  |

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# Division 2 Stats

## Comebacks - Games won by teams who were trailing

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

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

Highest Attendance	25,664	Sheff Wed v Barnsley
Lowest Attendance	2,513	Colchester v Stockport
Average Gate	7,369	
Aggregate Attendance	3,802,469	
Biggest Home Win	Hartlepool 8-1 Grimsby	
	Plymouth 7-0 Chesterfield	
Biggest Away Win	Port Vale 1-5 Plymouth	
	Bournemouth 1-5 Tranmere	
Biggest Aggregate Score	Bournemouth 6-3 Luton	
	Hartlepool 8-1 Grimsby	
Total Games	516	
Home Wins	234 (45%)	
Away Wins	123 (24%)	
Draws	159 (31%)	
1-1 Draws	76 (15%)	
0-0 Draws	42 (8%)	
Winning Sequence	Bristol City	11
Unbeaten Sequence	Bristol City	12
Losing Sequence	Chesterfield	6
Winless Sequence	Wycombe, Chesterfield, Peterborough	13
Total Yellow Cards	1,581	
Total Red Cards	115	
Current Winning Sequence	Hartlepool	4
Current Unbeaten Sequence	Stockport	9
Current Losing Sequence	Wycombe	3
Current Winless Sequence	Chesterfield	8

## Set Piece Power - Goals Scored & Conceded from Free Kicks

Team	Scored	All For	%	Conc.	All Agt	%	
Stockport	13	58	22.4	Bristol City	13	36	36.1
Chesterfield	9	47	19.1	Stockport	14	66	21.2
Luton	12	65	18.5	Peterborough	11	55	20.0
Barnsley	9	51	17.6	Bournemouth	9	50	18.0
Swindon	13	74	17.6	Tranmere	9	53	17.0
Plymouth	13	78	16.7	Colchester	9	54	16.7
Sheff Wed	7	45	15.6	Brighton	7	43	16.3
Hartlepool	11	72	15.3	Chesterfield	10	69	14.5
Wycombe	7	47	14.9	QPR	6	42	14.3
QPR	11	76	14.5	Barnsley	7	53	13.2
Brentford	7	50	14.0	Grimsby	10	77	13.0
Grimsby	7	52	13.5	Swindon	7	54	13.0
Port Vale	9	67	13.4	Wrexham	7	56	12.5
Rushden	8	60	13.3	Plymouth	5	40	12.5
Peterborough	7	53	13.2	Sheff Wed	7	57	12.3
Brighton	7	61	11.5	Blackpool	7	58	12.1
Bournemouth	6	55	10.9	Brentford	8	67	11.9
Notts County	5	48	10.4	Wycombe	8	72	11.1
Oldham	6	61	9.8	Oldham	6	58	10.3
Blackpool	5	56	8.9	Luton	6	61	9.8
Colchester	4	49	8.2	Port Vale	6	61	9.8
Tranmere	4	54	7.4	Rushden	6	68	8.8
Bristol City	4	55	7.3	Hartlepool	4	57	7.0
Wrexham	3	47	6.4	Notts County	5	74	6.8

## Throwaways - Games lost by teams who were in the lead

Port Vale	6	Brentford	3	Colchester	2	Hartlepool	1
Grimsby	4	QPR	3	Sheff Wed	2	Notts County	1
Luton	4	Rushden	3	Stockport	2	Brighton	0
Oldham	4	Wrexham	2	Swindon	2	Bristol City	0
Peterborough	3	Bournemouth	2	Tranmere	2	Chesterfield	0
Wycombe	3	Blackpool	2	Barnsley	1	Plymouth	0

## Use Your Head! - Goals Scored & Conceded from Headers

Team	Scored	All Gls	%	Conceded	All Gls	%	
Plymouth	25	78	32.1	Luton	22	61	36.1
Luton	20	65	30.8	Bristol City	12	36	33.3
Chesterfield	14	47	29.8	Brentford	22	67	32.8
Swindon	22	74	29.7	Colchester	17	54	31.5
Tranmere	16	54	29.6	Hartlepool	16	57	28.1
Bristol City	16	55	29.1	Brighton	12	43	27.9
Colchester	14	49	28.6	Wrexham	15	56	26.8
Bournemouth	15	55	27.3	Barnsley	14	53	26.4
Brentford	13	50	26	QPR	11	42	26.2
Sheff Wed	11	45	24.4	Oldham	14	58	24.1
Port Vale	16	67	23.9	Chesterfield	16	69	23.2
Wrexham	11	47	23.4	Sheff Wed	13	57	22.8
Rushden	14	60	23.3	Tranmere	12	53	22.6
Grimsby	12	52	23.1	Blackpool	12	58	20.7
Peterborough	11	53	20.8	Peterborough	11	55	20.0
Oldham	12	61	19.7	Bournemouth	10	50	20.0
Wycombe	9	47	19.1	Plymouth	8	40	20.0
Stockport	11	58	19.0	Stockport	13	66	19.7
Notts County	9	48	18.8	Rushden	13	68	19.1
Barnsley	9	51	17.6	Wycombe	13	72	18.1
Brighton	10	61	16.4	Grimsby	13	77	16.9
QPR	12	76	15.8	Notts County	11	74	14.9
Hartlepool	8	72	11.1	Swindon	8	54	14.8
Blackpool	5	56	8.9	Port Vale	7	61	11.5

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

Team	Scored	Corn For	%	Conc	Corn Agt	%	
Plymouth	13	260	5	Wycombe	13	227	5.73
Bristol City	12	274	4.38	Chesterfield	11	264	4.17
Rushden	8	190	4.21	Brentford	13	317	4.10
Hartlepool	9	223	4.04	Oldham	9	229	3.93
Brentford	10	248	4.03	Bournemouth	8	207	3.86
Tranmere	9	225	4.00	Hartlepool	7	202	3.47
Port Vale	7	199	3.52	Bristol City	6	181	3.31
Luton	8	231	3.46	Wrexham	8	242	3.31
Brighton	8	234	3.42	Sheff Wed	6	209	2.87
Colchester	7	236	2.97	QPR	6	213	2.82
Oldham	7	250	2.8	Luton	7	257	2.72
Barnsley	6	224	2.68	Port Vale	7	262	2.67
Chesterfield	5	187	2.67	Notts County	6	238	2.52
Grimsby	6	230	2.61	Plymouth	6	244	2.46
Swindon	6	255	2.35	Stockport	6	260	2.31
Stockport	5	236	2.12	Barnsley	5	218	2.29
Wrexham	5	261	1.92	Grimsby	6	264	2.27
QPR	5	264	1.89	Colchester	5	224	2.23
Sheff Wed	4	223	1.79	Blackpool	5	260	1.92
Blackpool	3	186	1.61	Rushden	5	293	1.71
Peterborough	4	259	1.54	Brighton	3	200	1.50
Notts County	4	287	1.39	Tranmere	3	236	1.27
Bournemouth	2	255	0.78	Peterborough	2	202	0.99
Wycombe	1	232	0.43	Swindon	1	220	0.45



EVERY CLUB, EVERY GAME  
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# Don't Count Your Chickens!

**A wise man would not give up his job until a new one had been confirmed. A fool indeed he would be, to announce a new employer, whilst still awaiting that confirmation.**

Enter Walsall manager Colin Lee, once touted for the manager's job here at the Racecourse, he asked for permission to apply for the recently vacant Plymouth Argyle manager's job. He was given permission by Jeff Bonser to apply if he wished, but was promptly sacked after going public to confirm it on Sky Sports.

Suitably chastened he sat out the weekend, and could only watch as Kevin Summerfield continued in temporary control for the Pilgrims match at Oldham, Summerfield in control since the departure to Southampton of Paul Sturrock. By Monday, Lee was going to press again, as the silence from Home Park was deafening.

Surely he knew he had blown his chances of a return to Devon, as he told Sky Sports News: "I told the Walsall chairman what I had done, and basically there was a response to that in a serious manner."

"It went public and I have ended up having my contract terminated. I saw nothing wrong in talking to Plymouth, it was more to do with the future, and I'm ambitious and want to be successful."

"Plymouth would have been a boyhood dream for me as I come from the area. I'm a Devonian and used to stand on the terraces at Plymouth."

"I'm not the manager of Walsall any more and I don't know if I'll be manager at Plymouth. Perhaps it might happen, but it might not, a very strange situation has occurred this last week."

Deep down Lee must have known he was not going to get the top job at the league leaders, and by Tuesday, Bobby Williamson was watching his first training session then being introduced to the nation's press.

Williamson had been at Hibernian, who he had taken to the final of this season's CIS Cup and prior to his time at Easter Road had enjoyed a remarkable spell at Kilmarnock, who he took into European four seasons out of five. There were also three top four finishes, despite financial constraints, and they lifted the Scottish Cup during that period.

A striker in his playing days, he began at Clydebank but soon moved to a higher level, joining Rangers in 1984. He then had spells at West Brom and Rotherham, before returning to Scotland and signing for Killie.

Williamson was delighted to be joining Division One bound Argyle. "It's a great place to be" said the beaming Scot. "It's however been very difficult. The press north of the border have been pestering me to find out what's happening, but I'm a great believer in not saying anything until everything is completed - I'm just delighted it's completed."

Hmmm, take note Mr Lee!

Bobby continued: "It was a big decision to leave Hibernian but this is a club which is moving forward. Paul Sturrock, John Blackley and Kevin Summerfield, have done a tremendous job and we are on the verge of promotion. I've been keeping an eye on things down here and been very envious of what Paul has been achieving, and I'm delighted to be here."

It then emerges that Colin Lee was premature to laud his chances.

"I spoke to the board last week and I was very impressed with what they had to tell me, so it was not difficult to make the journey from north of the border to south."

Clearly they had lined up Williamson with offers to relocate from his Scottish base. They had looked for a manager who had been successful, to move to a successful club, and Williamson was quick to acknowledge the fact.

"It's probably unique, most managers move to a club which is in turmoil, but everything works swimmingly well here. They have worked very, very hard to get where they are, and it's my aim to take them that bit further."

"It's a challenge and I'm looking forward to it, hopefully we can get ourselves a First Division team, and that is the aim. We need to make sure we are a very good First Division team, and then see how far we can go."

Cautiously, Williamson then sees the pitfalls of predictions. "The First Division is a high standard, we played a couple of matches against Preston and Sunderland, so I know the standard and know most of the managers and coaches."

Williamson also cited his experience with Kilmarnock in Europe as a powerful factor, as he embarks on the Pilgrims' challenge.

"It was tremendous; it was a great experience, a great learning curve. We were involved in 16 European ties, whether we can do that at Plymouth

is another question. But it did give me invaluable experience. We have to set our standards high, and our ambitions. We will play attractive football, which will include wingers, I want to see balls crossed into the box, and the goals will follow. Allied with a sound defence, we have to strike the right balance."

Asked about his managerial style, Williamson was candid: "It's not manufactured, it has to come naturally, if the players need to be told, then they get told."

"I don't want them to lose respect from their team-mates, and I certainly don't want them to lose respect for me. So we'll do everything professionally, and honestly, and if I have to say anything to a player, I will do that as a private matter."

"I need now to speak to the coaching staff, and see what they have got planned, if I feel the need to change it, I'll change it, but I don't plan on upsetting the cart too much, because everything has been going well."

"The result at Oldham was not good, and I will speak to Kevin and John to find out what their plans are, but at this time I don't see any reason to change things. These two guys are doing a good job, and at this stage I'll just oversee things, and let them carry on doing the good work."

"I actually played against John many years ago when I was at Clydebank, and John was coming to the end of his career. He was a fantastic player who went on into management; I've a lot of respect for him, even though he did try to sign me!"

Mutual admiration is always a good starting point for any management team, and it seems that Williamson will be happy with the cards already dealt to him.

Plymouth play in the division's 'match of the day' against nearest rivals QPR and a victory will guarantee promotion; such is the superiority of their goal difference. Having average gates around the 12,000 mark sets them up well for their new challenge, and they certainly look capable of staying there for a few seasons at least.

At the other end of the table relegation has been confirmed for Wycombe, whilst Notts County manager Gary Mills admitted after their 4-0 defeat at Hartlepool that: "We look doomed. We're just not good enough. Questions have to be asked of some players because I felt that some were hiding."

Anything other than a win against Port Vale and Mills will be right. Stockport and Grimsby meet today with the loser looking at Third Division football next season, while Chesterfield have slipped back into the zone at just the wrong time, after weeks of looking as if they were pulling clear.

Rushden are still racing towards the drop, in a clear case of 'pulling relegation from the jaws of mid table safety'. Barry Hunter this week issued a rallying call to the fans to save the Nene Park club from its first ever demotion.

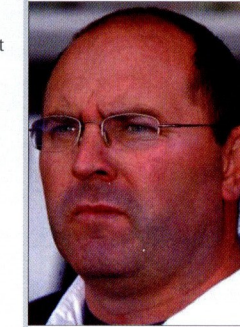
The play-off places now seem settled, notwithstanding Bristol City's automatic promotion challenge, whilst Doncaster, Hull, Huddersfield and Bradford will make a Yorkshire quartet in this division next season. We could also see Walsall... but we won't see Colin Lee!

## today's fixtures

### SATURDAY 24 APRIL

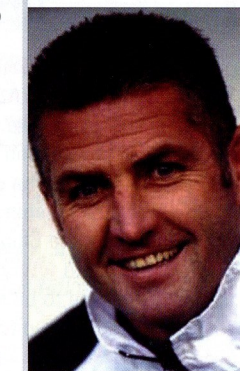
Brentford	v	Wycombe Wanderers
Bristol City	v	Brighton & HA
Chesterfield	v	Blackpool
Notts County	v	Port Vale
Peterborough United	v	Bournemouth
Plymouth Argyle	v	QPR
Rushden & Diamonds	v	Hartlepool United
Sheffield Wednesday	v	Colchester United
Stockport County	v	Grimsby Town
Swindon Town	v	Oldham Athletic
Tranmere Rovers	v	Barnsley

« Top: Bobby Williamson - arrives at Plymouth, Left: Gary Mills - heading to Div 3.



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statistics 2003/2004

match by match

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS	REFEREE	SCORERS	TEAM
<b>AUGUST</b>									
9 Sat	CHESTERFIELD	H	0-0	5,688	431	-	A. M. Penn		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
12 Tue	Crewe (Carling Cup 1)	A	0-2	3,152	688	-	T. Parkes		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
16 Sat	Notts County	A	1-0	4,768	400	8	C. Boyeson	Sam (58)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
23 Sat	BRENTFORD	H	1-0	4,048	125	4	A. R. Leake	Lawrence (18)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
25 Mon	Sheffield Wednesday	A	3-2	24,478	1,513	2	F. Stretton	Lawrence (39), Llewellyn (59), C. Edwards (64)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
30 Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	0-1	4,929	154	6	A. Bates		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>									
13 Sat	Swindon Town	A	0-1	6,160	200	10	L. Cable		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
16 Tue	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H	0-2	4,539	537	14	G. Laws		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
20 Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	2-2	3,945	548	13	M. Ryan	Lawrence (28), L. Jones (42)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
27 Sat	Tranmere Rovers	A	2-1	8,248	1,400	12	C. Webster	L. Jones (63), Holmes (64)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
30 Tue	Hartlepool United	A	0-2	4,677	104	16	C. Foy		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
<b>OCTOBER</b>									
4 Sat	PORT VALE	H	2-1	5,822	1,998	13	G. Cain	L. Jones (32), (76)	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
14 Tue	MORECAMBE (LDV1)	H	4-1	1,078	100	-	E. Evans	L. Jones (37), (51), (54), Sam (64)	Whitfield Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
18 Sat	BRISTOL CITY	H	0-0	4,405	658	14	M. Clattenburg		Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
21 Tue	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	4-0	3,968	748	11	M. Messias	L. Jones (32), C. Edwards (41), Lawrence (50), M. Jones (88)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
25 Sat	Rushden & Diamonds	A	3-2	4,117	434	9	K. Friend	C. Edwards (10), Ferguson (34), Sam (56)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
28 Tue	Barnsley	A	1-2	8,196	400	9	M. Cowburn	Holmes 74	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
31 Fri	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	0-1	4,629	150	9	R. Prosser		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
<b>NOVEMBER</b>									
5 Wed	Stockport County (LDV2)	A	4-5	1,469	138	-	A. Hall	M. Jones (8), Holmes (43), Sam (48), Armstrong (61)	Whitfield Roberts Morgan Pejic Thomas Holmes Sam
8 Sat	Yeovil Town (FAC1)	A	1-4	5,049	230	-	C. Penton	Armstrong (88)	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
11 Tue	Blackpool	A	1-0	4,864	244	7	S. Mathieson	Lawrence (74)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
15 Sat	Luton Town	A	2-3	5,505	176	11	T. Kettle	Sam (74), OG (43)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
22 Sat	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	0-0	3,208	200	11	G. Salsbury		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
29 Sat	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	0-2	5,642	179	14	T. Bates		Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
<b>DECEMBER</b>									
13 Sat	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H	2-0	3,003	156	11	D. Pugh	Carey (67), Sam (75)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
26 Fri	Stockport County	A	1-0	6,256	1,500	8	T. Leake	Barrett (88)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
28 Sun	BLACKPOOL	H	4-2	6,171	1,200	6	M. Cooper	Llewellyn (15) (21), Sam (33) (43)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
<b>JANUARY</b>									
3 Sat	SHEFFIELD WED	H	1-2	8,497	1,371	7	D. Crick	Carey (49)	Dibble Pejic Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
10 Sat	Chesterfield	A	1-2	3,585	349	8	K. Wright	Armstrong (76)	Dibble Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
17 Sat	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1	4,212	291	10	R. Pearson		Dibble Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
20 Tue	Grimsby Town	A	3-1	3,572	78	7	G. Heggley	Llewellyn (19), Thomas (23), Armstrong (63)	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
24 Sat	Brentford	A	1-0	4,567	350	5	P. Armstrong	Armstrong (72)	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
27 Tue	TNS (PC-QF)	A	2-0	1,056	700	-	M. Whitby	Sam (15), Roberts (78)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
<b>FEBRUARY</b>									
7 Sat	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	0-0	5,056	767	8	L. Mason		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
14 Sat	BARNLSLEY	H	1-0	4,086	678	6	M. Warren	Llewellyn (24)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
21 Sat	Bristol City	A	0-1	13,871	507	9	P. Danson		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
24 Tue	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-6	5,899	111	9	L. Probert		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
28 Sat	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	H	1-1	3,680	169	9	E. Evans	C. Edwards (20)	Dibble Roberts Carey Pejic C. Edwards P. Edwards Crowell
<b>MARCH</b>									
6 Sat	GRIMSBY TOWN	H	3-0	3,127	179	9	B. Curson	Crowell (34), Armstrong (36), (37)	Dibble Pejic Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Crowell
13 Sat	Peterborough United	A	1-6	4,323	339	9	N. Miller	Llewellyn (21)	Dibble Pejic Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Crowell
16 Tue	Queens Park Rangers	A	0-2	13,363	200	10	S. Tomlin		Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
20 Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H	3-2	3,394	432	10	M. Pike	Llewellyn (25), C. Edwards (54), Thomas (68)	Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
24 Wed	CARDIFF CITY (PC-SF)	H	2-2 aet	1,626	73	-	M. Whitby	Llewellyn (75), Armstrong (88)	Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
27 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	A	0-0	12,275	113	10	P. Taylor		Ingham Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
<b>APRIL</b>									
3 Sat	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	0-1	4,496	1,230	11	M. Ryan		Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
10 Sat	Port Vale	A	0-1	5,892	360	13	C. Webster		Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
12 Mon	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H	1-2	3,786	425	14	T. Parkes	Barrett	Ingham Whitby Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
17 Sat	Colchester United	A	1-3	3,077	125	14	A. Marniner	Sam (18)	Ingham Roberts Morgan Lawrence Sam Holmes Thomas
20 Tue	Oldham Athletic	A	1-1	5,646	252	14	M. Ryan	Sam (18)	Ingham Roberts Morgan Lawrence Spender P. Edwards Thomas
24 Sat	LUTON TOWN	H							
<b>MAY</b>									
1 Sat	Wycombe Wanderers	A							
8 Sat	BRIGHTON & HA.	H							
12 Wed	Rhyl (PC-Final)	A							
15 Sat	Play-Off SF 1								
19 Wed	Play-Off SF 2								
22 Sat	FA Cup Final								
30 Sun	Play-Off Final								

**PLAYER OF THE SEASON 2004**  
 Make sure your vote counts for both the Official Supporters Association's Player of the Season and Young Player of the Season.  
 Fill in and return the voting form included with this programme or printed in the Wrexham Evening Leader to the address shown. They can also be handed in at the Club Shop.  
 Or go online to [www.wrexhamafc.co.uk](http://www.wrexhamafc.co.uk) and vote via email.  
 All votes need to be registered by Wednesday, May 4, as the trophies will be presented on the pitch prior to our final home game against Brighton & HA.

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS	REFEREE	SCORERS	TEAM
<b>APRIL</b>									
3 Sat	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	0-1	4,496	1,230	11	M. Ryan		Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
10 Sat	Port Vale	A	0-1	5,892	360	13	C. Webster		Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
12 Mon	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H	1-2	3,786	425	14	T. Parkes	Barrett	Ingham Whitby Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
17 Sat	Colchester United	A	1-3	3,077	125	14	A. Marniner	Sam (18)	Ingham Roberts Morgan Lawrence Sam Holmes Thomas
20 Tue	Oldham Athletic	A	1-1	5,646	252	14	M. Ryan	Sam (18)	Ingham Roberts Morgan Lawrence Spender P. Edwards Thomas
24 Sat	LUTON TOWN	H							
<b>MAY</b>									
1 Sat	Wycombe Wanderers	A							
8 Sat	BRIGHTON & HA.	H							
12 Wed	Rhyl (PC-Final)	A							
15 Sat	Play-Off SF 1								
19 Wed	Play-Off SF 2								
22 Sat	FA Cup Final								
30 Sun	Play-Off Final								

**NEXT AWAY**  
**WYCOMBE WANDERERS**  
 Nationwide League Div 2  
 Saturday, 1 May – 3.00pm  
 Coach 9.30pm – £15.00

**NEXT AT HOME**  
**BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION**  
 Nationwide League Div 2  
 Saturday, 8 May – 3.00pm  
 See website for full details

nationwide league division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Plymouth	43	15	5	1	48	13	8	7	7	30	27	81	38
QPR	43	15	7	0	46	12	5	10	6	30	30	77	34
Bristol City	43	14	5	2	32	11	7	7	8	23	25	75	19
Swindon	43	12	6	3	39	20	8	6	8	35	34	72	20
Brighton	43	16	4	2	38	11	4	6	11	23	32	70	18
Hartlepool	43	10	8	4	38	21	9	4	8	34	36	69	15
Port Vale	43	14	6	2	43	27	4	4	13	24	34	64	6
Luton	43	13	6	3	41	25	3	9	9	24	36	63	4
Bournemouth	43	11	7	4	35	25	5	7	9	20	25	62	5
Tranmere	43	11	7	3	32	17	4	9	9	22	36	61	1
Blackpool	43	9	5	8	30	24	7	6	8	26	34	59	-2
Barnsley	43	7	12	3	25	18	7	5	9	26	35	59	-2
Colchester	43	10	8	4	31	23	5	5	11	18	31	58	-5
Wrexham	43	8	6	7	25	18	8	2	12	22	38	56	-9
Sheff Wed	43	7	9	5	24	22	6	5	11	21	35	53	-12
Oldham	43	8	8	6	35	25	2	12	7	26	33	50	3
Brentford	43	8	4	9	32	37	5	6	11	18	30	49	-17
Peterborough	43	5	7	9	35	31	6	8	8	18	24	48	-2
Rushden & D'monds	43	9	5	7	37	30	4	4	14	23	38	48	-8
Stockport	43	5	8	8	27	32	5	10	7	31	34	48	-8
Grimsby	43	9	5	8	35	26	3	6	12	17	51	47	-25
Chesterfield	43	7	7	7	32	31	3	8	11	15	38	45	-22
Notts County	43	6	8	7	30	24	4	3	15	18	50	41	-26
Wycombe	43	5	6	11	30	38	1	10	10	17	34	34	-25

first team rollcall 2003/04

Player	League Apps	League Goals	Cup Apps	Cup Goals
ARMSTRONG, Chris	19(6)	5	2(1)	3
BARRETT, Paul	18(7)	2	3	0
CAREY, Brian	31(2)	2	3	0
CROWELL, Matty	8(6)	0	2(3)	0
DIBBLE, Andy	35	0	3	0
EDWARDS, Carlos	41	5	5	0
EDWARDS, Paul	37(1)	0	4	0
FERGUSON, Darren	36	1	4(1)	0
HOLMES, Shaun	3(10)	2	2(1)	1
INGHAM, Michael	8	0	1	0
JONES, Lee	13(9)	5	3(1)	3
JONES, Mark	0(12)	1	1(2)	1
LAWRENCE, Dennis	42	5	5	0
LLEWELLYN, Chris	43	7	5(1)	1
MCNULTY, Jimmy	0	0	0(1)	0
MORGAN, Craig	13(3)	0	3(2)	0
ONE, Amrand	2(1)	0	0	0
PEJIC, Shaun	20(1)	0	2	0
ROBERTS, Steve	21(3)	0	5	1
SAM, Hector	21(13)	8	4(1)	3
SPENDER, Simon	1(3)	0	0	0
THOMAS, Steve	28(9)	2	4(2)	0
WHITFIELD, Paul	0(2)	0	2	0
WHITLEY, Jim	33(2)	0	3	0
Own Goals	0	1	0	0

Player	Yellow	Red	Steve ROBERTS	2	1
Brian CAREY	10	1	Player	Yellow	Red
Jim WHITLE					

we're on the road to...

## Wycombe Wanderers



SATURDAY 1 MAY 2004 KICK-OFF 3.00PM

**Wrexham conclude their league travels for another season when they head to Buckinghamshire next Saturday for a Bank Holiday weekend fixture with relegated Wycombe Wanderers.**

It's been a tough introduction to management at the Causeway Stadium for ex-Arsenal and England captain Tony Adams, who joined the club early in the current campaign following the dismissal of now Northern Ireland manager Lawrie Sanchez. The Chairboys have endured a torrid campaign, which has seen them collect just six wins from their 43 games so far and leaves them rooted to the bottom of the Division Two table. Their long expected relegation was confirmed after an Easter Monday defeat against Tranmere Rovers.

Last Saturday, Wanderers took on Swindon Town at the Causeway and Tony Adams chose to use the match to experiment for next season. However his plan clearly backfired as Wycombe were outclassed by their visitors, crashing to a 3-0 defeat and Adams did not mince his words after the match.

"It was men against boys," he said. "They were better than us in every department and it has been like that all season. I've got a hell of a job to do here. I need players with passion and I didn't see too much of that."

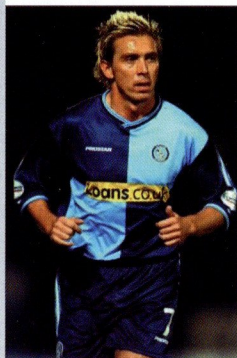
Adams undoubtedly

realises the enormity of the task facing him in rebuilding the squad in the summer. With relegation already a reality, Adams had offered an olive branch to several of the players saying that they could still impress sufficiently in the final four games of the campaign to earn a playing contract for next season.

Sadly, even with the pressure now off, there was no visible upturn in fortunes and it was clear that the manager's patience had finally run out. It was in stark contrast to the battling display his side managed at the Racecourse back in November when they deservedly held out for a goalless draw.

With little at stake other than three points and professional pride, it remains to be seen whether Dragons' manager Denis Smith will also choose to use the opportunity to experiment with an eye on next seasons campaign.

The final words, however, go to Tony Adams who remains both defiant and positive despite a baptism of fire into management: "I've still got a lot of faith in next season and hopefully I can build a successful team."



### DANGERMAN

**DARREN CURRIE** is a 29-year-old midfielder who has shared the goal scoring responsibility this season with Jemaine McSpornan, now on loan with Walsall. Hampstead-born Currie started his career as a trainee with West Ham United in 1993 before loan spells took him to Shrewsbury (twice) and Leyton Orient. He signed permanently for the Shrews in February 1996 for a £70,000 fee and in just over two years with the Gay Meadow club, he turned out 46 times in league games and managed 8 goals. A short spell at Plymouth followed before Currie was allowed to join Barnet on a free transfer in July 1998 and in three years at Underhill he scored 18 goals in 120 starts. This was sufficient to persuade Wycombe to part with £200,000 to secure his transfer to Adams Park in July 2001. To date he has turned out almost 150 times including substitute appearances scoring 20 goals in the process, including seven in the current campaign.

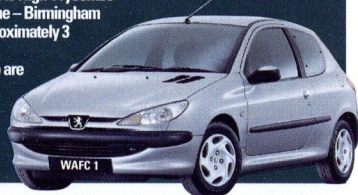
### getting there

#### CAUSEWAY STADIUM

**BY CAR:** From Wrexham take the A483 and A5 south to Shrewsbury to join the M54 and then M6. Follow M6 south to join the M42 and then M40 signs London & Oxford. Continue south on the M40 to junction 4 and join the A4010, Aylesbury and follow the white signs for Wycombe Wanderers FC. Parking at the ground is restricted although there are pay car parks available at the ground and at some of the industrial units on the access road to the ground.

**BY TRAIN:** The nearest rail station is High Wycombe situated on the London Marylebone - Birmingham Snow Hill line. The station is approximately 3 miles from the ground.

**BY COACH:** The Away Travel club are expected to be running coaches to the game. Please contact the club shop for times and prices and remember to book early to guarantee a seat.



and finally...

## Next Season's New Opponents?

**Well, as we will be in the same division next season (for the first time in three seasons incidentally), I thought it would be a good time to look at our potential and actual opponents next season: both those who have fallen from grace and those who have achieved greatness!**

Coming down: we will have Wimbledon visiting the Racecourse for the first time in a league game and for the first time since an FA Cup third round replay in 1997-98. On that occasion; we lost 3-2, having drawn at Selhurst Park 0-0 in the original tie. There was no disgrace in losing to Wimbledon in those days, as they were a Premiership club; these days of course they have fallen on comparatively hard times, and are to be found in Milton Keynes!

Incidentally, if you are thinking of visiting Wimbledon's current lodgings, in the famed home of the concrete cows, you'd better start saving now for your £25 ticket!

We will also, barring an absolute miracle, be facing Bradford City next season, as Bryan Robson has failed to work the oracle at Valley Parade and there are rumours that he will leave in the summer. We haven't met Bradford in a league match since the 1995-96 season, when the Bantams completed the double over us.

However, we did meet them in a friendly during their brief tenure as a Premiership side, and we played them last season in the League Cup, and I'm glad to say we triumphed on both occasions!

The last member of the trinity coming down from Division One is still up for grabs!

Obviously, we would all prefer a big fish: Nottingham Forest, Derby, Burnley or even Watford! However, until it is cut and dried it is pointless building castles in the air as Gillingham, Walsall & Rotherham are also in the mix!

Of added interest, is the fact that our near neighbours Crewe could also fall into the "relegation dogfight" even though they are currently five points clear of third from bottom Gillingham.

To turn to the teams that are coming up: Congratulations must first go to Doncaster who secured their promotion with four games to go. This is indeed an achievement for the South Yorkshire club as they achieve promotion for the second successive season. But who will go up with Donny?

Well, Hull City with their big support and new stadium must be favourites as they need only another four points from their five remaining games to join Doncaster. Currently lying third are Huddersfield, who hope to "do a Wrexham" and achieve promotion at the first attempt following their relegation last season. They are now five points ahead of the Torquay with just three games left.

Of the teams vying for a place in the play-offs: Torquay, Lincoln, Mansfield and Yeovil currently occupy those places; with four points between them. However, Northampton and Oxford will be looking to exchange places with two of those four before the end of the season and both these sides have a game in hand. But who of these six will eventually triumph as the Third Division play-off winner? I've really no idea ...but I will find out along with everyone else by the time next season comes around!

**Forecasting Eddie** (well ...I know we will be playing Doncaster and Wimbledon next season anyway!)

### reddragonnews

#### PROGRAMME TEAM

**Co-Editors** David Roberts, Geraint Parry & Phil Jones  
**Contributors** Paul Atherton, Eddie Davies, Gareth Davies, Nathan Davies, Paul Davies, Mark Griffiths, Peter Jones, Paul Sleeman, Steve Trinick, Shaun Williams, & Nigel Wynn

**Photographs** Les Evans, Wrexham Evening Leader

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Wrexham AFC.

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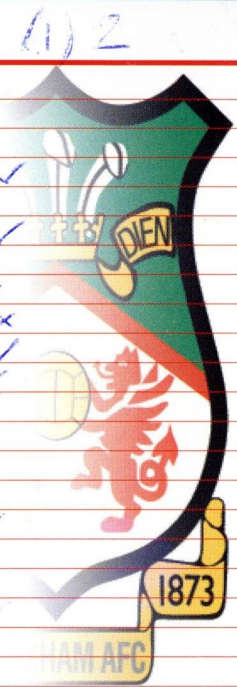
Christina Aguilera  
WesTlife  
Robbie Williams  
Madonna  
Stereophonics  
Oasis  
J Lo  
Travis  
Kylie  
Craig David  
David Gray



**Today's Best Mix  
for Wrexham & Chester**

wrexham

- (1) 2
- 01 andy dibble
  - 02 jim whitley
  - 03 shaun holmes x
  - 04 stephen roberts ✓
  - 05 brian carey ✓
  - 06 dennis lawrence ✓
  - 07 carlos edwards ✓
  - 08 lee jones x
  - 09 chris armstrong x
  - 10 darren ferguson ✓
  - 11 chris llewellyn ✓
  - 12 paul barrett ✓
  - 13 paul whitfield x
  - 14 paul edwards ✓
  - 15 craig morgan ✓
  - 16 matt crowell ✓
  - 17 mark jones ✓
  - 18 shaun pejic ✓
  - 19 steve thomas ✓
  - 22 jimmy mculty ✓
  - 23 hector sam ✓
  - 27 michael ingham ✓



luton town

- (0) 1
- 01 morten hyldgaard ✓
  - 03 alan neilson x
  - 06 paul underwood ✓
  - 07 adrian forbes ✓
  - 08 kevin nicholls ✓
  - 11 steve robinson ✓
  - 12 chris coyne ✓
  - 16 enoch showunmi ✓
  - 17 emmerson boyce ✓
  - 18 ahmet brkovic ✓
  - 19 steve howard ✓
  - 21 paul hughes ✓
  - 24 sol davis ✓
  - 27 peter holmes ✓
  - 31 curtis davis ✓
  - 32 lee mansell ✓
  - 33 dean brill x
  - 37 keith keane ✓
  - 38 michael leary ✓
  - 39 steven o'leary ✓
  - 41 kevin foley ✓



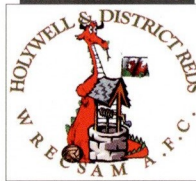
match officials

**Referee** E. L. ILBERTON  
**Assistant Referees** J. T. TAYLOR & J. WARING  
**Fourth Official** A. D. HUTCHINSON

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[golfshop@wrexhamgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:golfshop@wrexhamgolfclub.co.uk)

TODAY'S MASCOTS

Today's mascot is 9-year-old RYAN CRUMP from New Broughton. He attends Ysgol Penrhyn, enjoys playing football, hockey and computers. He names Carlos Edwards as his favourite player. We hope Ryan and his family have a day to remember.



Monday, 16 April, 2001  
 Nationwide League Division Two  
**WREXHAM 3 LUTON TOWN 1**

**WREXHAM:** Walsh, Roche, Hardy, Carey, McGregor, Williams, Gibson (Edwards), Thomas (Blackwood), Russell, Faulconbridge, Ferguson.  
**Scores:** McGregor 18, Carey 84, Ferguson 86  
**LUTON TOWN:** Owendale, Boyce, Watts, Dryden, Shepherd, Mansell, McLaren (Locke), Taylor, Douglas, Howard, George.  
**Scores:** Watts 27  
**Referee:** H. Webb  
**Attendance:** 3,329

Wrexham's faint hopes of a play-off spot were kept alive following a victory that virtually condemned the visitors to relegation in the process. With Sir Alex Ferguson watching from the stands, son Darren was in commanding form in the centre of the midfield as Wrexham deservedly took the lead inside 18 minutes, Mark McGregor slotting home Brian Carey's cross. Former Leicester City centre-half Julian Watts levelled matters nine minutes later when he applied the finishing touch to Matthew Taylor's corner. Despite having the majority of the play, the Reds had to wait until six minutes from time to regain the lead when Brian Carey sent a firm header past the despairing dive of former Barry Town keeper Mark Owendale. Ferguson himself then capped a fine display by adding a third two minutes later to seal the three points.

ground regulations

■ In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at the Racecourse Ground and will be enforced by the Club's stewards, with the full support of North Wales Police:

REMEMBER

■ The club has the right to refuse entry or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a steward or police officer. ■ Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground. ■ Any person whose behaviour could reasonably be construed as a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators may be ejected.

ALSO

■ It is a criminal offence, for which you may be arrested: ■ to throw anything on to the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters ■ to take part in any indecent or racist chanting ■ to go on to the playing surface at any time ■ to try to enter the ground with intoxicating liquor, to try to enter the ground whilst drunk ■ to possess any article, such as knives, bottles, fireworks, smoke canisters, cans and flagpoles which might be used as offensive weapons ■ to use behaviour which is threatening, abusive or insulting towards another. ■ Persons convicted of criminal offences will become subject of Exclusion Orders banning them from all Football League grounds.