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# ROBINS REWIEW

ALTRINCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

# v Luton Town F.C.

Tuesday, 18th November 2008. Kick Off 7.45pm

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**EdLines** 

Good evening and welcome to everyone for this FA Cup 1st Round replay. The winners of tonight's game will play away to either AFC Telford or Southend who also play this evening.

What a great few days it's been for the Football Club. Ten days ago we travelled en mass to Kenilworth Road and put in a very creditable performance to earn tonight's replay. Every player worked tremendously hard and with a little bit more luck we could have finished the job at the first attempt. A few changes were made to the line-up for the Cheshire Senior Cup tie at Stalybridge on Tuesday but again in atrocious weather conditions the lads dominated the game and came out with a second clean sheet and progression to the semi-final of the competition where we now meet Witton Albion at Moss Lane on Tuesday 20th January. On Saturday it was down to the "New Lawn" where we never seem to play well but things have changed and again a competent team effort saw Dale Johnson cause no end of problems up front with Colin Little and Chris Senior both benefitting. The jury is still out on the opening goal, with Colin wishing to add it to his tally but Mr Peake happy to award it to his central defender - the dubious goals panel may have to sit! Andy Ralph also wasn't too pleased with losing his clean sheet run but as long as the forwards are firing on all cylinders an occasional goal against will be allowed. James Smith came into the back line and was an able deputy for Laney and it was great to see both Stuart Coburn back on the bench and Joe O'Neill fit again - selection problems for GH ahead!

Due to tonight's game, the scheduled fixture against Mansfield away has been re-arranged for Tuesday 13th January 2009.

The Christmas Party Night is now almost fully sold - a great credit to Karen and Sarah who have been organising it. If there is anyone who still requires a place please see Karen/Sarah as soon as possible as final numbers have to be confirmed this week. Contingency plans have been made in the case of our progression to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round and these will be announced if and when required - not to tempt fate!

This week the ground underwent a Ground Grading inspection by the FA and a few matters were brought to light that require attention in order for us to maintain our Grade A status. Additional toilets are required for the away end, additional toilets are required in the dressing rooms and a First Aid room has to be made available during games. All work must be completed by March 31st to maintain our current status. Although the work required isn't extensive it still requires finance to complete it and thus emphasises the need for continual support for club events. With this in mind if anyone knows someone who would be willing to sponsor one of the Players tables at the Christmas Party I would be interested in hearing from them (altrinchamprog@yahoo.co.uk or 07720-606897).

Finally, as there aren't too many scheduled home games between now and the end of the year, I am compiling a list of people who we would wish to remember in a minute's silence to be held before our game against Northwich Victoria. Please speak to me or phone the office (928-1045) during the week to add a name to the list.



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## ROBINS REVIEW

## Cotes'Comments



## Lots of Plusses over the last Week

What a fantastic week we have just had - so many positives and the players deserve an enormous amount of credit. They put in a very creditable performance at Luton to earn tonight's replay as did you the fans - it was a terrific day out with all our players there, injured ones as well. These sort of days go a long way to gelling you as a squad of players.

We then made a lot of changes for the Cheshire Senior Cup tie at Stalybridge and I thought the attitude towards that game was superb. We all know how

difficult these Cheshire Senior Cup games can be from a motivational point of view and the lads who didn't start against Luton did a very good professional job culminating in a good 2-0 win that puts us into a semi final. I'm sure that the possibility of playing in such an exciting encounter as tonight's game should and did work as a great incentive to do well. Having put in two good performances, we then faced our third away game of the week - a very important Blue Square Premier fixture where we needed to put to an end a couple of defeats that we sustained in our last two league games, and again we started very positively and led 3-0 after 32 minutes and did another good job against a team who were desperate to gain the three points that week and more importantly our performance in it should ensure that the players go into tonight's game in good heart and with a belief that on their day our players can achieve very positive results. Added to this that Val Owen played for 70 minutes at Stalybridge and both Stuart and Joe should now become available again and we can honestly say hopefully we have got through a very difficult time for us with so many injuries.

Again, credit to the players who have knuckled down and a big thank-vou to Richard Acton for helping us out at Luton - again another unsung hero here over the last few seasons. So, a lot of plusses but we have to realise as far as the FA Cup is concerned, we have to better our performance at Luton. They have a far better away record this season which tells me that we will have a very difficult cup tie on our hands tonight and you can all help with the sort of vocal support that you gave us down at Luton right from the kick-off, in the warm up even. The prize of a very difficult away tie awaits. We know noone gets there because you did ok in the 1st game. It's about what we do tonight. We will have prepared as well as possible and our players will be focussed. They have given themselves an opportunity to create their own piece of history - it's how much they want to achieve it that counts. On the back of our last three performances I don't think it will be lack of effort.

Enjoy another special FA Cup night here at Moss Lane - it can only be a special, special night if we win!

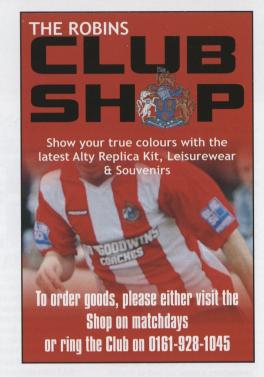
Graham

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## PLTRINGHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Tonight's Visitors

Dean Brill - Luton-born goalkeeper Dean Brill is another young player of whom big things are expected. Dean won the goalkeeper's jersey when boss Hatters boss Kevin Blackwell took over the managerial reigns at Kenilworth Road and despite the Club being relegated from the Championship, he was named Young Player of the Season. Brill joined his hometown club at the age of nine and has progressed through the Centre of Excellence, representing Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools at a variety of age groups. He kept a clean sheet in his Under-19 debut as a 15-year-old in April 2001 and his impressive displays alerted the attention of several bigger clubs, but Luton fought off the competition to secure his signature. A tall, commanding goalkeeper standing at six foot three, Brill is a great organiser whose voice will always be heard throughout a game.

Claude Gnakpa - Claude Gnakpa is a defender capable of playing centre back or full back, who joined on a free transfer in August 2008. Having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz, Claude moved to English side Swindon for a brief spell, before being taken on in July 2007 by Peterborough United. He was a regular in the League 2 promotion winning side, starting 25 league games

starting 25 league games. Sol Davis - It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton, when the highlyrated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of the 2001/02 season. Swindon boss Andy King failed in attempts to persuade him to sign a new deal, and Luton swooped for the tough-tackling left back. Davis had joined Swindon as a trainee in the summer of 1998, and made rapid progress through the youth and reserve teams to become a regular in the Nationwide League. Sol scored his first ever goal in professional football during the clubs win over Wrexham in November 2004. He scored again later that season, his only other goal to date, in a win against Bristol City in



March 2005. Sol was unfortunately involved in a serious incident during the 2006/07 season when he suffered a stroke on the team bus prior to the Club's visit to Ipswich Town. He was taken into the specialist unit at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. The squad had been on their way to the Belstead Brook hotel in Ipswich on Saturday when Davis lost feeling in his left side and this was affecting his speech. Sol however made a miraculous recovery and despite being told by doctors it will take months for him to return, he was back in action and started in the game against Cardiff City on New Years Day.

Keith Keane - Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003. Keith Keane went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured. Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level and he finished the season with fourteen appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship. Another of the youth team who regularly appears for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level, he joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and has made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential to convince Mike Newell to give him his first taste of senior action. Keith has featured most prominently on the right of midfield, bursting forward to great effect to provide many goals for himself and his team-mates.

lan Roper - Ian Roper is a central defender with bags of experience who signed a contract at Luton in August 2008. Roper climbed up the ranks while at Walsall, gaining a reputation of being a tough, no nonsense defender. He made 325 appearances during his 13 year period at the club, where he won promotion on 3 occasions, most recently in 2006/07 as a League 2 champion.

George Pilkington - George Pilkington is a highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began his career as an Everton trainee, George joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for Port Vale, George was highly regarded at the Staffordshire club being named player of the year twice and club captain.

Kevin Nicholls - Kevin Nicholls needs no introduction to most Hatters fans. The hard-working midfielder enjoyed six successful seasons at Kenilworth Road between 2001 and 2006, captaining the side to the League One title in the 2004-2005 season.

Nicholls began his career at Charlton Athletic, before moving to Wigan Athletic in 1999, where he made 28 appearances in two years. He moved to Luton in 2001, and in the next six seasons went on to appear 175 times, scoring 30 goals.

Following Luton's successful firstseason in The Championship and the spirited FA-Cup performances. Nicholls was a player very much in demand. He moved to Leeds United for £700,000 in July 2006 and was made club captain by then boss Dennis Wise. However, his very public fall-out with Wise saw him fall down the pecking order at Elland Road, and the following summer he moved to Preston North End for a fee of £750,000. His time at Preston began encouragingly, however a change in the management team saw his firstteam opportunities limited. Kevin was delighted to re-sign for Luton, signing a three-year deal in August 2008 and

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being named as club captain.

Sam Parkin - Ex-Chelsea trainee Sam Parkin is a forward with a prolific goalscoring record, and choose Kenilworth Road as the place to further his career in August 2006 despite strong interest from other Championship clubs. Unfortunately, Sam's career at Kenilworth Road has vet to get going after a serious injury meant he played only eight games since signing under former boss Mike Newell. After signing for League One side Swindon Town in August 2002, Parkin set the Football League world alight, scoring 67 league goals in 120 appearances. Naturally, his goalscoring talents captured the attention of the bigger clubs, and Parkin signed for Ipswich Town in the summer of 2005 for £550,000. Unfortunately, a broken ankle forced him to miss much of his time at Portman Road, although he still managed to score five goals in 17 Championship appearances during his first season. Following Joe Royle's departure at the end of last season. the new Blues boss Jim Magilton made it clear that Parkin would not get regular football at Portman Road, leaving the player to weigh up his options. After fees were agreed with both Preston and Luton, 25-year-old Parkin had a straight choice of two Championship clubs, but signed a three-year deal at Kenilworth Road, costing the club £340.000. Coincidentally, Parkin arrives at a club to replace an outgoing Steve Howard for the second time in his career, having previously played for Northampton on-loan after they sold Howard to Luton in 2001.

Ryan Charles - An energetic striker who has made a huge impact at Kenilworth Road over the last two seasons. Charles, who has been at Kenilworth Road since the age of nine, had worked his way through the ranks at the Club before scoring 17 goals in his debut season for the Luton Town youth team. He has followed that form up by scoring 12 goals for the youth team this season and his exploits during them two campaigns earned him his first team debut as a second half substitute at Southend in

March. He was given his full team debut in the following game against Carlisle before scoring on his home debut against Oldham. Charles had turned down the chance to join local rivals Watford as a youngster

Lewis Emanuel - Lewis Emanuel arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2006 after deciding to leave his home town club Bradford City, the place where the defender started his career. Lewis is a pacy fullback but can also play on the left side of midfield, a position where he started on his league debut for the club. Lewis made over 150 appearances for Bradford in six-years at the club, scoring four goals. In his first season at Kenilworth Road he made 40 appearances, scoring twice.

Asa Hall - Asa Hall is a versatile player capable of playing in midfield or defence. Hall began his football career in Wolverhampton Wanderers youth system, before signing his first professional contract with Birmingham City in 2004. While at Birmingham he was a regular in the reserve team and was named young player of the year in the 2004/05 season. He also received caps for England at Under19 and Under20 levels. He went on to have loan spells with Boston United, Ashford Town and Shrewsbury Town, starting 13 games for the latter.

Ed Asafu-Adjaye - Ed Asafu-Adjaye is in his first year as a professional footballer having made significant progress through the Club's youth setup. The full-back, who spent a short time on-loan at non-league side Walton & Hersham, made the breakthrough into the first team under former boss Mike Newell, when the Club was stretched to the limits through injury and suspension. Although the youngster was an unused sub for three matches. Youth Coach Marvin Johnson gave Ed a glowing reference to incoming boss Kevin Blackwell, who gave him a one-year

Rossi Jarvis - Rossi Jarvis is an adaptable player who can play on the left or right hand side of defence or midfield. Jarvis came through the Norwich City youth system, becoming

the youngest player to appear for the reserve team at the tender age of 14. He went on to spend loan periods at Torquay United and Rotherham United. After finding first team opportunities hard to come by Jarvis joined Luton Town in August 2008 on a free transfer.

Kevin Watson - An experienced central midfielder who joined the Hatters on a free transfer in August 2008 after being released by Colchester United. Watson started his career with Tottenham, making a handful of first team appearances and spending time on loan at Brentford, Bristol City and Barnet. In 1996 he moved to Swindon Town, where he helped assure their Division 1 status, from the County Ground Watson went on to spend three successful years with Rotherham United, where made 109 appearances and captained the Millers to two successive promotions. His influence was noted by then Reading manager Alan Pardew who took him to the Madejski Stadium for a £150,000, where he won yet another promotion. He then joined Colchester United where he started 132 league games and added a fourth promotion to his list of achievements.

Chris Martin - Chris Martin joined the club on a season-long loan from Norwich City in August 2008. Martin is a young striker who has played 30 times for The Canaries, scoring 5 times. He burst into the first team in 2007, and his performances quickly saw him become a fans' favourite at the club. He is strong for his age and technically gifted, and his early promise saw him win call-ups for the England Under-19s squad, scoring on his debut against Turkey in March 2007.

Drew Talbot - Drew Talbot signed for Luton Town in a £250,000 deal in January 2007 from Sheffield Wednesday as former Hatters boss Mike Newell looked to strengthen his options in attack. He made an immediate impact, making one and then scoring the winner against his old club at Kenilworth Road on his home league debut. Originally on the books of Barnsley, Talbot drifted out of football after injury but came back

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## ROBINS REVIEW

... Luton Town F.C.

with Sheffield Wednesday's academy in the 2003/04 season. Often coming off the substitutes bench he scored goals in Wednesday's 2004/05 promotion season including one at Cardiff in the League One play off final against Huddersfield. The following season proved a disappointment for Drew as a back injury ruled him out. After his impressive first full season at Hillsborough, he was not to play again until September 2006, where he made a substitute appearance against Derby County in a 2-1 home defeat. During the January 2007 transfer window, Talbot signed a loan-contract with League One promotion-chasers Scunthorpe United before signing at Kenilworth

Michael Spillane - Michael Spillane joined the club on a season-long loan from Norwich City in August 2008. The Irish youngster is equally at home in defence or midfield, having playing in both positions in recent seasons for The Canaries. The Republic of Ireland U19 international is tipped to have a bright footballing future ahead of him.

Tristan Plummer - Tristan Plummer is on loan from Championship side Bristol City. He has been capped for England Under17s. He is a pacey forward who Bristol City regard as one for the future.

Paul Underwood - Luton Town fought off competition from a number of clubs to complete the free transfer signing of Paul Underwood from Rushden & Diamonds on transfer deadline day. The Wimbledon-born defender joined Rushden for £50,000 in the summer of 1997 from Enfield and went on to make over twohundred appearances for the Northamptonshire club. During his time at Nene Park he was a regular in England semi-professional squad as Diamonds progressed up the nonleague pyramid and in 2002/03 he led the club to the Third Division Championship and was named as Rushden's Player of the Season. Unfortunately a hamstring injury sustained twenty minutes into his Luton Town debut against QPR ruled him out for the rest of the season and he has made in a Hatters shirt this season now that he has regained his full fitness, forming a formidable partnership with Sol Davis on the left hand side. Paul's career with Luton has been put in some doubt when he contracted a blood infection after undergoing a routine operation last summer and as a result missed the entire 2006/07 season.

George Beavan - A highly promising central defender who was spotted by former Youth Team coach Marvin Johnson, who initially gave him a trial at the Club.

He impressed tremendously and soon became a consistent member of the Luton Town Youth team during the 2006/07 season.

Good in the air and strong in a tackle, George was promoted into the reserve team and a combination of injuries and player sales saw him given an unexpected debut against Bournemouth when, after just six minutes, he came on as a substitute as Keith Keane hobbled off injured. George is predicted to have a bright future in the game by many at Kenilworth Road.

Richard Jackson - Richard Jackson, one of nine summer signings made by Kevin Blackwell prior to the start of the season, had a distinguished career at Derby County. The full-back was the longest serving player at Pride Park prior to completing a signing a two year deal at Kenilworth Road. Jackson joined Derby in March 1999 from Scarborough after playing only 24 senior games for the Seaside club. He made a few Premiership appearances for Derby before he made more of a breakthrough in 2002/03. He became a more permanent player in the side the following year. Jackson was hampered by injuries in the 2004/05 season, but still remained a popular figure at Pride Park. He started five games last season before being released from his contract this summer.

Dean Morgan - Dean Morgan became an instant favourite with Luton fans after his 90th minute winner in the 3-2 victory over Southampton in

August 2005. Morgan moved to Kenilworth Stadium from Reading in July 2005 after seeing his opportunities limited at the Madjeski Stadium. The former Colchester striker scored three league goals in 13 starting appearances for the Royals. Morgan, who once had a trial with the Hatters earlier in his career, came through the ranks at Colchester where he scored six goals in 25 appearances. including a 35-vard screamer against Cardiff City at Ninian Park, Dean is a skilful midfielder who likes to get forward at every opportunity.

Paul McVeigh - The capture of Paul McVeigh, the ninth and final signing of Kevin Blackwell during pre-season, came somewhat of a surprise to many Luton Town. At the time of his signature, Luton were in desperate need of a centre-half and talk in the local media was linking defenders with a move to Kenilworth Road. However, Blackwell managed to sign this free scoring striker to add further competition to his forward line. McVeigh, who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road, started his career at Tottenham Hotspur where he made three appearances. before he enjoyed a successful career with Norwich. He joined Norwich in March 2000 on a free transfer and although he took a few years to really establish himself, in the 2002-03 season he was the club's top scorer with 15 goals. McVeigh helped Norwich win promotion to the Premiership the following season and although he played few games for the Canaries at the top flight, he did get on the score sheet at Old Trafford. In the 2005/06 campaign, he was voted Player of the Month for December & January, in a season where he scored eight goals in total. McVeigh began the 2006-07 season on the substitute's bench, though an injury to Darren Huckerby briefly gave him an opportunity to play in the starting line-up although he eventually fell out of favor with boss Norwich manager Peter Grant. During his spells at Tottenham and Norwich, he was capped by Northern Ireland 20 times



#### FACUP FIRST ROUND REPLAYS

Tonight's match is the fifth occasion on which we have hosted a First Round replay here at Moss Lane. A look back over the previous four such encounters may be instructive. We begin this survey the little matter of 34 years ago - less seven days - on the night of Monday November 25th 1974 when Alty entertained Scunthorpe United, having held the Iron to a 1-1 draw at the Old Show Ground two days beforehand with John Hughes scoring for the Robins. Goals from John Davison, Hughes and Ian Morris ensured Alty's progress, Collier replying for the League side: the reward was a home tie with Gateshead United, which the Robins won 3-0 to set up a memorable encounter with Everton in Round Three. The writer can't claim to remember this particular game - I was working in France at the time - but I do have the clearest of recollections of the next instalment in this saga.

Monday November 23rd 1981 remains one of the great nights in Alty's Cup history as the Robins took on Sheffield United. Two days earlier an epic effort at Bramall Lane had seen John Rogers' second-half brace secure a 2-2 draw, Edwards and Hatton scoring for the South Yorkshiremen in front of over 12,000 fans. The crowd for the replay was less than half that number, but the atmosphere engendered by the 5,137 fans present was no less passionate as wing wizard Barry Howard's two goals and a classic Graham Heathcote freekick secured a memorable scalp. This time the prize was a visit to York City - which turned out freezing cold and goalless; the replay was a muddy 4-3 thriller and this odyssey came to an end at Turf Moor where Burnley's Trevor Steven ran the show in the second half in particular as the Lancastrians won 6-1.

Five years later - on this exact date in 1986 - a somewhat lower-key occasion saw Frickley Athletic come to Moss Lane after a goalless draw at Westfield Lane, Goals from Gary Anderson, Mike Farrelly, Paul Reid and Eddie Bishop secured victory and the dubious honour of a trip to the Buck's Head home of Telford United (now there's a coincidence for you - depending on events at Roots Hall tonight!) in Round Two which yielded defeat by a single goal, manager John Williams' defensive outlook getting more or less what it deserved.

The last leg of this journey through time brings us to Wednesday November 25th 1992. By now the practice of staging replays ten days or so after the original tie had come in and Graham Barrow's Chester City had had time to digest the lessons of a 1-1 draw at the Deva Stadium before making the short journey to Moss Lane. Barry Butler should have given them the lead and Stuart Rimmer also came agonisingly close before Ricky Harris put Alty in front. In the dving minutes came the Clive Freeman thunderbolt which won the BBC 'Goal of the Month' award and is still vividly remembered here - indeed, the 'Freeman Square' takes special status in the Pitch Sponsorship even now. It may be of interest that at that time the Popular Side roof was all on the same level: the BBC facilities for that evening were housed on top of the central section, directly opposite the Main Stand. Shortly after that extremely wet evening it became clear that that section of roof was now unsafe and it was subsequently replaced by the raised section you now see. As to any connection between the BBC's visit and the roof replacement - I couldn't possibly comment, as somebody once said! Alty bowed out at home to Port Vale in the next round.

This is the first time we have staged a replay since Round One 'went national', so previous precedent should be treated with extreme caution. It has also become harder for parttime clubs to spring surprises 'second time round' since the ten-day gap was established. Those who were at Kenilworth Road ten days ago know full well that our guests will make things very difficult for us this evening; not only is there a substantial cash reward for the winner, but Luton will view this as an occasion when their professional pride is at stake. However, the fact remains that Alty's record in home replays at this stage is as vet unblemished, and the lads will fight tooth and nail to progress. May the better team win!





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## Captain'sLog...



THERE are any number of incentives that will drive us on tonight, from simply trying to reach the FA Cup second round to repaying all those who travelled to Kenilworth Road and gave us a level of support that was second to none.

Several members of my family made the journey to cheer us on a week last Saturday, and they all agreed the day had been memorable, not so much because of our endeavours on the pitch as what you did off it.

The noise generated from start to finish was phenomenal and played no small part in helping us weather Luton's first-half pressure and end up thoroughly deserving tonight's replay.

We could hear you throughout, and if we did our bit to fly the Blue Square Conference flag, you certainly did yourselves proud with a vociferous backing that gave us all a lift.

You could see the positive effect it had by the way we stood up to Luton's early forays and gradually began to impose ourselves after the break.

In fact, if you look at chances created over the 90 minutes, we had the clearest. Chris Senior could count himself unfortunate to be denied by a linesman's flag, though he did admit afterwards he may have been fractionally offside, while you would normally put your mortgage on the outcome of any one-on-one involving Colin Little.

For once, the keeper came out on top, but I still saw enough overall to feel we are in with a shout of finishing the job at the second time of asking.

It's not as is we were on the back foot all afternoon. Far from it. We gave a good account of ourselves, and if they were dominant in the first half, we bossed the second.

If you are a Conference side facing League opposition on their own ground, you are hardly likely to have things all your own way. There will be times when you have to stand up and be counted, and our back four did just that, whenever Luton looked like threatening.

No-one epitomised the spirit on the day more than Greg Young, who was equal to everything Luton could throw at him and set the tone for a really solid team performance.

As it's probably fair to assume we won't win the FA Cup, there is a case for saying last Saturday was just as important as the Saturday before.

It is great to raise the profile of the club with our Cup exploits, and bring in some much-needed finance, but consolidating our position in the Conference has to be the main priority.

We managed that in emphatic style with a 3-1 victory at Forest Green Rovers that went some way towards making up for the recent disappointments against Weymouth and Histon and was a welcome revival of the form that previously took us on a run of six League games without defeat, including five wins.

We adopted a commendably professional approach in last Tuesday's Cheshire Senior Cup win at Stalybridge and carried it into the Forest Green game, as we quickly established a 3-0 lead and protected it with few alarms at a venue that hasn't always been the happiest of hunting grounds.

I have left there empty-handed a few times, but we were seldom in danger, once Chris and Colin - the Little and little partnership up front - had put us in control.

All credit to the manager, Graham Heathcote, for doing his homework on Forest Green and spotting a weakness on the left of their defence. He exploited it by using Dale Johnson on the right of a front three, and their left-back couldn't

Dale's height and strength caused havoc, especially in the first half, when he showed time and again what great feet he's got for such a big lad. I have always rated Dale highly, and if he can keep producing that level of performance week-in, week-out, it is going to be a massive bonus for

The only downside for me was picking up another booking another unjutsified one, in my view. All I did was put my body across their player as he went down the left, and I couldn't believe it when the referee reached for his pocket.

I spoke to him at half-time and asked if he would reconsider, but he said he couldn't. That's seven bookings now, and I could be heading for a two-match ban, if I pick up another.

I wouldn't mind, but it's not as if I'm kicking lumps out of people. Most have been for nothing, and it's hard to take. I won't change my style, though. It's my nature to be competitive, and I will continue in the same yein.

That goes for all of us. Same again tonight - from you, as well as us and it might just be enough to carry us over the line and add another Cup scalp to this club's great tradition.



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## ROBINS REVIEW

**AltrinchamvLutonTown** 

Although Altrincham and Luton have never met in a competitive fixture, surprisingly there have been quite a number players, (considering the distance between the clubs), that have played for both clubs going back as far as 1925. In addition former Altrincham Manager Maurice 'Matt' Woods played 38 games for Luton in season 65/66, joining in July 1965 after a spell playing in Australia. where he had captained the National side. Matt joined Altrincham February 1969, after a spell with Stockport County and a brief spell in Ireland. Unfortunately things didn't work out and Matt left in August to eventually take over at Stockport County. Moving on to the players, first

up is Altrincham goal scoring legend, Stewart Littlewood, who scored on debut in a 3-3 home draw against Brighton & Hove, following up with another goal in a 3-2 home win over Norwich City. Stewart also scored on his FA Cup debut but only played a total of 6 League and 1 FA cup games for the club. Nine years later, after a relatively successful career with Oldham Athletic and Port Vale he was with Altrincham on a 3 season run that saw him score over 100 goals at a rate not far short of a goal a game. Next up was centre half Bill Miller, who as a teenager had joined Altrincham from Marple in 1928 and was taken on by Bolton Wanderers before joining Luton in 1931 and playing, making his debut in the season's opening

fixture, a 2-1 defeat at Reading but played only 2 further league games before ending up at Runcorn. Bob Weaver joined Luton for the 1932/33 season, having started with Altrincham and having had a two season spell at Burnley but played only 3 league games after scoring on debut in a 2-1 defeat at Norwich City, before moving on to Bristol City.

The first couple of players who turned out for Luton after the war were Herbert Blackshaw who had played for Altrincham in the mid thirties and had a good career with Oldham Athletic before the second World War who played a game for Luton in 1946 and he was Joined by former Wolves, Wrexham and Manchester United player, William Bryant, who went on to turn out for Altrincham during the early part of the 1946/47 season

Moving into the 1960's mercurial striker Harvey McCreadie joined Luton, then in the first division in January 1960, from Accrington, playing a single game (a 2-3 defeat at Wolves) and eventually ended up at Moss Lane for a brief spell under Freddie Pye (scoring 13 goals in 23 games), having moved from Luton to Wrexham, in November 1960 and having spells at Northwich Victoria, Mossley and Hibernian. Alan Rivers started as an apprentice with Luton and played two seasons (65/66-66/67) playing 30 league games and 4 league cup games during that time and arrived at Moss Lane for a brief spell during the

1970/71 season, scoring once in 5 games for Altrincham.

John Oliver Ryan had two seasons at Luton in 1967/68 and 1968/69, having signed from Wigan Athletic, playing 18 league games, 1 FA Cup and 2+1 League cup games in his time at Luton before moving on to Notts County and then Altrincham for two seasons in 1970/71 and 70/71, playing 76 games.

Former Tranmere striker George Yardley had been a goalkeeper, (he was capped as an amateur for Scotland), in his earlier days had played both in goal and up front for East Fife before spells at Montrose, St Georges Budapest in Australia saw him join Luton briefly in October 1966, playing just once before signing for Tranmere Rovers in November, scoring 69 games in 123 games. He eventually had a brief spell at Moss Lane in the 1973/74 season.

Andy Dibble joined Luton in July 1984, after starting out with Cardiff City and playing 37 games for Luton over the next 4 seasons, Andy went on to have an interesting and varied career with an interesting collection of clubs both north and south of the border including; Manchester City, Aberdeen, Glasgow Rangers, Luton (again) before arriving at Moss Lane in August 1998. Unfortunately injuries and difficulties adapting to part time football, meant Dibble first going out on loan at Barry Town and then returning to league football with Hartlepool, Carlisle, Stockport and Wrexham.

# AltrinchamyLutonTown

Graham Jones started his senior career with Luton, joining in June 1976 and playing 43 league and cup games over the next 4 seasons before moving on to Torquay United and Stockport County. After 2 seasons at Runcorn he joined Altrincham for the 86/87 season, playing 45 games before a £1500 fee took him to Northwich Victoria.

A player well known to both sets of fans is **Paul Showler** who played one outstanding season for Altrincham in 1990/91 before moving into the Football league, firstly with Barnet and then Bradford City, before joining Luton in August 1996

Former Irish under 21 International, Robert Wilson, joined Altrincham in December 1992 and played 9 games before leaving in February had played had started at Fulham (scoring 33 league goals in over 170 games) before a spell at Millwall saw him join Luton in August 1986, playing 24 games and scoring 2 goals. He then returned for two further seasons at Fulham and going on to play for Huddersfield Town, Rotherham and Farnborough prior to his stint at Moss Lane.

Rob Mathews and Peter Thomson both had brief spells at both clubs, Rob playing 12 games for Luton in season 94/95, after joining from Notts County and going on to play for York City, Bury, Stockport, Blackpool, Halifax, Hull City, Northwich Victoria and Mossley before joining Altrincham in July 2003, scoring once in 8 games before returning to Mossley in September. Thomson had signed for Luton for £100,000 from Dutch side NAC Breda in

September 2000 and was released in January 2001, after spells at Morecambe, Southport, Lancaster City and Stafford Rangers he joined Altrincham in June 2006 but was released in March 2007 having scored only once in 3 starts and 10 substitute appearances.

Finally 3 other players had spells at Luton before playing for Altrincham, Alan Richards, who started with Luton before having spells at Chester and Runcorn, joining Altrincham for the 92/93 and 93/94 seasons, scoring 3 goals in 14 appearances. Neal Ryan, started at Luton before playing for Altrincham in 2001/02 and 02/03 and Neil Murphy had a spell on loan at Luton whilst on loan from Liverpool, eventually playing briefly for Altrincham in 2002/03 after being at Blackpool.

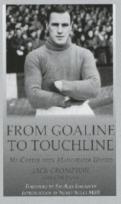
# Jack Crompton's Autobiography From Goal-Line to Touchline: My Career with Manchester United

Jack and Sheila Crompton are the special guests of our Chairman this evening and with Jack's association with both Altrincham and Luton Town we thought it an ideal opportunity to promote his recently released autobiography. Jack will be available in the club shop this evening from 6.30 till 7.15 to personally sign copies. The book, a superb read, is available at a discount price of £12 and makes an ideal Christmas present.

One of the reviews recently written stated -

"As we approach Christmas, the bookshops will offer a variety of new books to tempt football fans, but if you only buy one book this year make sure it is the fine autobiography of Jack Crompton. If you want a real

football story, a real life story of a true Manchester man, and if you want a change from the 'story so far' of a twenty-something millionaire footballer, the tale of Jack Crompton has the lot. as Sir Alex Ferguson says in the forward, "Jack's story is a refreshing departure from the endless modern and unremarkable football autobiographies which hit the bookshops these days. His recollections are taken from a veritable treasure trove of memories and make truly fascinating reading".......







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## Altrincham Football Club

## Season Statistics 2008-2009

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O'NEIL

MEECHAN

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Sat.23.8.08		Kidderminster Harriers	0-4	1335	COBURN	LANE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR		STREET	LAWTON	DENHAM	LITTLE		NOSNHC	
Mon.25.8.08		WREXHAM	1-1		COBURN	LANE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LANTON	DENHAM	LITTLE		NOSNHC	
Sat.30.8.08		Eastbourne Borough	0-1	2619 1170	COBURN COBURN	BATTERSBY	PEYTON	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	MEECHAN	LITTLE		ENIOR '	
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Sat. 6.9.08		SALISBURY CITY	0-0	1002	COBURN	BATTERSBY	YOUNG	McGREGOR McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		ИОЗИНС	
Sat. 13.9.08		Stevenage Borough	0-0	1804	COBURN	BATTERSBY	YOUNG	McGREGOR	LANE	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENHAM	LITTLE		ИОЗИНС	
Tue.16.9.08		VAUXHALL MOTORS (CSC)	4-2	128	RALPH	DENSMORE				DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENHAM	LITTLE		EYTON	
Sat.20.9.08		LEWES (CSC)	1-0				PEYTON	McGREGOR	LANE	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENHAM	LITTLE		TREET	
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		EBBSFLEET UNITED	2-0	967	COBURN	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		ENIOR '	
Tue.7.10.08 A		Salisbury City	3-1.	950	COBURN	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		NIOR	
Sun.12.10.08 H		OXFORD UNITED	1-0	1806	COBURN	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		NIOR	
Tue.14.10.08 H		FARSLEY CELTIC (Setanta Shield)	4-2 on pens	259	RALPH	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	WATERFALL	LITTLE		NIOR	
Sat.18.10.08 A		Weymouth	0-2	926	COBURN	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		NIOR	
Sun.26.10.08 A		Newcastle Blue Star (FA Cup)	2-1	305	COBURN	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	PEYTON	LANE '	LITTLE		NOSNH	
Sat.1.11.08 H		HISTON	0-1	953	COBURN	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		NIOR	
Tue.4.11.08 H		WREXHAM (Setanta Shield)	1-2	537	RALPH	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	WATERFALL	LANE	LAWTON	MEECHAN			NOSNH	
at.8.11.08 A		Luton Town (FA Cup)	0-0	3200	RALPH	DENSMORE	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	LANE	LITTLE		NIOR	
Tue.11.11.08 A		Stalybridge Celtic (csc)	2-0	312	RALPH	WATERFALL	PEYTON	J. SMITH	LANE	DANYLYK '	LAWTON	OWEN	MECHAN	JC	NOSUHC	1
Sat.15.11.08 A		Forest Green Rovers	3-1	851	RALPH	HTIM2	DOUGHTY	McGREGOR	YOUNG	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	LITTLE	1 10	HOSON	
Tue.18.11.08 H		LUTON TOWN (FA Cup Replay)	7.45pm													
Sat.22.11.08 H		CAMBRIDGE UNITED	3pm													
Sat.29.11.08 H		RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	3pm										AR MANAGEMENT			Ī
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available square Penalty spot £50.00 Centre spot £25.00 Penalty area £5.00 Centre circle £10.00 Corner quadrants £10.00 Normal pitch square 73 £3.00 "Freeman Square"

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			HARC									CAMPBELL McLAT	CAMPBELL McLAT	CAMPBELL McLAT
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b									FREEMAN SQUARE					Anna Beswick
	LES PEARSON					lan Jones	A-FZAERROTHE FEE	Lisa Jones					MARTIN GREEN	Anna Beswick
							A-TZAEMM-THE FEE							Anna Beswick
						GRAHAM JOHES			GRAHAM JONES				CAMPBELL Helat	CAMPBELL McLAT
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special prize their very own square of Moss Lane turf to plant at home in their garden! What better way to add a permanent piece of Moss Lane to your home? You will also receive a nice bottle of champagne to toast your victory!

#### SO HOW DOES IT WORK? "Special squares"

There are some parts of the Moss Lane pitch which have been selected as "special squares", where a lot of the action has taken place over the years. Both penalty spots have seen their fair share of drama over

STEVENAGE BOROUGH

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

Grays Athletic

WEYMOUTH

Lewes

Wrexham

**Ebbsfleet United** 

**CRAWLEY TOWN** 

**GRAYS ATHLETIC** 

Cambridge United

3pm

3pm

3pm

3pm

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3pm

Sat.28.2.09

Sat.7.3.09

Sat.14.3.09

Sat.21.3.09

Sat.28.3.09

Sat.4.4.09

Sat.11.4.09

Mon.13.4.09

Sat.18.4.09

Sat.25.4.09







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# ROBINS REVIEW NovemberFooty

We're into November and, for my money, that's the perfect time of the year for a night game at Moss Lane. I take an old friend. Alan Collins, to the match. I moved next door to Alan and his brothers when my family left Hulme for Wythenshawe back in the early 60s. We've been pals ever since and we've played and watched football together for well over 40 years (in fairness the playing part has dropped off quite a bit since we turned 50). He loves the game and, like me, he loves the up close and personal nature of football at this level. Work commitments have kept him away for a couple of years.

in the Directors box. That's allowed, by the way. We haven't sneaked in and we're both wearing ties. It's a perk of my lofty position with the club. Being an honorary Life Vice President of Altrincham FC brings no money and no real responsibility, which is fine on both counts: financially I started with nothing and I've managed to hang on to most of it and having kids is plenty of responsibility for a feckless soul like me. It does, though, give me a real, if slightly irrational, sense of pride. I might not quite be master of all I survey, but it's a close as I'll ever get (or want to).

After a beer, we take our place

It's cold but not freezing and the cool air means that all comments from the technical area to the players and officials are shared with the crowd and all comments from the crowd to the technical area become the property of all. Not always nice, but often funny.

The match against Wrexham is fast and furious, though only distantly related to the beautiful game. Colin Little may be a veteran at 36, but, by some way, he's still the cleverest player out there. As an Alty player launches the ball 40 yards to no one in particular, Colin throws his hands up in frustration and Graham Heathcote turns away from the pitch and mouths an almost wistful "cherish the ball......" Not tonight Graham lad, not tonight...

There is an interesting contrast in the respective technical areas. Graham is absolutely steeped in non league football, of course, but his opposite number, Dean Saunders, played football in the Premier league. I always find it fascinating to see how high level players adapt to management in the lower reaches of the game. It must be challenging, at least initially, to work with players who are simply not capable of doing things out on the pitch that you yourself did instinctively. I remember asking Sammy McIlroy how he had come terms with that particular conundrum and he said the there is only one possible solution. The manager has to learn to manage less talented players, because no manager or coach can ever give the lads the skills and gifts that separate them from the players in the Premier League.

It turns into a long night with the match going to extra time. Altrincham concede a poor goal to lose the game. Graham is a poplectic, Saunders undemonstrative.

My friend and I walk out of the ground. It wasn't a great game, Alty lost and we're both feeling a bit cold and stiff jointed. We could have stayed home and watched Liverpool and/or Chelsea in the Champions League. We part with the following exchange:

"We could have watched the Scousers."

"Yeah"

"Sorry it wasn't much of a game for you to come back to"

"You're jokin'. Wouldn't have missed it for anything. I've had a great night - well, apart from the football'

"Comin' again?"

"Next midweek match, I'm there."

Don't you just love football in November?

# RLTRINGHAM FOOTBALL CLUB BBCNonLeagueShow

It was the front page of the Sun, of the Mirror, even the Telegraph got in on the act with a mention or two; Laura White booted off the X Factor and the baying masses weren't happy.

Now, I have been known to watch the reincarnation of "Search For A Star" and yes Laura shouldn't have been voted off. Mariah Carey was a more likely candidate but, is it really front page news?

How's about this for a headline? "Fleetwood super-mac?" after the story of the electrician who fixed the lights at Leiston so the game could go on (Grays could have done with him mid-week when their floodlights failed) or how about "Bird helps Robins fly" after Carshalton's boss Havden gets to grips with his new squad? Now, bar getting voted off the X Factor, some inappropriate phone messages, or even the cure for the old credit crunchy apple, there's not much from the world of Non League that would make it on Fleet Street. and more's the pity.

Every week now I hear tales of heroic deeds at Non League level, from the 90-year-old fan still mowing the grass, to the tea lady, which further down the job description reads; kitman, boot boy, programme seller, secretary and washer-uper. No, definitely not news worthy.

Quick shufty at the sports pages of the major tabloids and it's about Respect again this week. Joe Kinnear and his "Mickey Mouse" comments and Sir Alex ranting about one man or another. So here's the deal Unfortunately trash sells. We like salacious gossip, we like scurrilous headlines and we like

big time Charlies giving it the big I am. Non League is never going to be like that.

This week of all weeks there has been one exception. The story of AFC Wimbledon capturing so many national headlines. Here's a club trying to do it the right way and trying to approach the game with a true professional club attitude. Terry Brown, interviewed live on TV, made no reference to the officials, and their Chief Executive Erik Samuelson refused to be drawn into a 'spend the TV money and gamble' debate. All Dons feet are firmly rooted.

Perhaps it takes a spell at the very bottom to realise what you had. Perhaps the majority of Non League clubs realise their moment in the sun may not come round too often, so choose to use it wisely.

As Laura White, booted off the X Factor probably realised, the show is just a programme for our entertainment, with four human beings judging, playing the game and acting up. Maybe Joe Kinnear has a touch of the Louis Walsh's about him, playing up for the cameras. Maybe that's what makes Non League refreshing, it's not quaint, jumpers for goalposts, the image bandied around every time the FA Cup pops up. Perhaps though on the whole it's just a little more honest about what it is. Football.

BLU	JE SQUARE PREMIER TABL	E.							
	TEAM	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	PT
1	Burton Albion	19	11	4	4	33	24	9	37
2	Torquay United	18	10	4	4	26	16	10	34
3	Histon	17	10	4	3	24	14	10	34
4	Kidderminster Harriers	18	10	3	5	30	20	10	33
5	Kettering Town	18	9	5	4	24	16	8	32
6	Crawley Town	18	9	4	5	31	20	11	31
7	Cambridge United	18	8	7	3	22	16	6	31
8	Wrexham	17	9	3	5	31	20	11	30
9	Stevenage Borough	18	8	4	6	29	29	0	28
10	Rushden & Diamonds	19	7	5	7	22	18	4	26
11	Weymouth	19	7	5	7	27	29	-2	26
12	Altrincham	18	7	4	7	19	22	-3	25
13	Barrow	18	7	3	8	26	30	-4	24
14	Ebbsfleet United	18	6	5	7	25	22	3	23
15	York City	18	5	8	5	22	22	0	23
16	Salisbury City	18	7	2	9	20	24	-4	23
17	Oxford United	18	6	4	8	21	24	-3	22
18	Eastbourne Borough	18	6	3	9	22	31	-9	21
19	Mansfield Town (-4 Pts)	18	7	3	8	27	25	2	20
20	Woking	18	4	5	9	13	20	-7	17
21	Forest Green Rovers	18	4	4	10	23	34	-11	16
22	Grays Athletic	18	4	3	11	15	25	-10	15
23	Northwich Victoria	19	3	5	11	24	33	-9	14
24	Lewes	18	2	5	11	13	35	-22	11





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At Stalybridge last Tuesday, Alty were faced by three ex-Robins in the Celtic team. They were Steve Torpey, Richard Battersby and Lee Ellington.

Former Alty midfielder Ged Murphy scored an equalizer for his new club, Bradford Park Avenue recently at Silverlands against Buxton "when he drilled in a low shot from 30 yards". Ex-Alty captain Steve Bushell has also joined Bradford Park Avenue, whilst ex-Alty loanee from Tranmere, Alex Hay, scored for Cammell Laird yesterday Leigh Genesis in the Trophy.

Striker Tom Cahill, a loanee from Rotherham Utd to Alty last season has had his loan from the Millers at Ilkeston Town extended. He recently played against Ben Deegan's Ashton United in the FA Trophy.

Left-winger James Olsen, who was at Alty in 2005-06 has left Burscough joined former Robins Gary Scott, Rod Thornley, Mark Drew and Lee Thompson at Witton Albion. Alty face Witton in January in the Cheshire Senior

Former Alty defender Paul Ellender (now at Alfreton Town) and ex-Alty goalkeeper Dean Greygoose (Bury Town) met again as their clubs met in the FA Cup 1st Round, with the Midlanders winning 4-2. Neither of the ex-Alty team-mates got off the bench, however. In contrast, lan Craney scored again for Huddersfield Town.

Ex-Alty players on the move include Chris Downey, from Flixton to AFC Fylde, former Youth and reserve team player Paul Monaghan, to Abbey Hey, and the much travelled striker, Anthony Hargreaves, to Bacup Borough. Fromer Alty reserves' manager Neil Brown guided his team Abbey Hey, including

numerous ex-Moss Laners to a 3-2 away win at Ashton Athletic in the Vodkat League Cup Second Round

In the FA Cup, Colin Potts played the first hour for Fleetwood Town, and Carlos Logan again started for Barrow. Matty Berkeley has joined Mossley, whilst ex-reserve Ashley Stott recorded a brace for FC Halifax Town in a 3-3 win against Woodley Sports. Playing for Woodley in that match, former Alty reserve Levi Kennedy recorded an own goal and there was one at the right end for Gavin Salmon, a former Alty trialist. Striker Josh Mitten scored twice for Flixton earlier this month.

Jake Sedgemore played again for Solihull Borough whilst Karl Munroe was a sub for Hyde United. Former Alty Youth defender Rico Colulo has joined Salford City from Colwyn Bay.

Greg Tansey, on loan at Alty last season, scored for Stockport County in their 3-2 defeat by Crewe in the Cheshire Premier Cup recently. On the same night, Ryan Shotton scored again for Tranmere Rovers who "have extended Stoke City defender Ryan Shotton's loan deal by one month. The 20-year old joined Rovers at the end of August and has since made 14 appearances and scored four goals. He has been given permission to play in the FA Cup for Tranmere by Stoke City. Tranmere manager Ronnie Moore said: 'I'm delighted to keep Ryan here for a third month. He has been fantastic for us at rightback and has fitted very well into the team".

Former reserves' centre-back, Laurence Ball, netted for Ryman Premier League runaway leaders Dover Athletic in the FA Trophy but saw his effort chalked off after the game was abandoned due to heavy rain.



#### Sean's Surgery...

Good evening everyone! May I extend a warm welcome to tonight's visitors Luton Town, for this FA cup replay.

Over the past few weeks, our relatively small squad has been depleted even more due to injuries to key players. noteably Stuart Coburn (calf), Chris Lane (back) Kevin Street (cruciate ligament) and Joe O'Neill (cartilage surgery). To add to this. Shaun Densmore had to be withdrawn from Saturday's game at Forest Green with what I suspect may be a condition known as compartment syndrome (a build up of pressure in the muscles on the front of the shin area) affecting both Shaun's

We will have this confirmed by the club surgeon later this week.

On the positive side, (excluding Kevin Street), the above mentioned players have all responded well to treatment and should be available for selection ahead of tonight's game. Another boost for the gaffer is the continued progress being made by Val as he aims to regain full match fitness and push for a regular 1st team place.

Enjoy the game, Sean.



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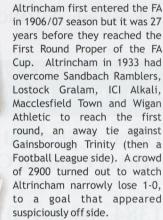


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## Altrincham in the



It was then 30 more years till Altrincham again made the first round, when Altrincham were drawn against Wrexham. The original match was abandoned due to fog and when the match was played a few days later Altrincham gained a creditable 0-0 draw in front of a crowd of 7,000. The replay at the Racecourse, attracted 9035 spectators as Altrincham went down 3-0. Two years later Altrincham hosted Scarborough in the first round and playing in an all white strip in front of

7182 spectators, Jack Swindells scored five times as Scarborough were dispatched 6-0, with Pat Connolly scoring the other goal. In 1967 Altrincham travelled to Grantham and returned home 3-0 winners with goals coming from Bert Lister, Frank Peters and an own goal. Altrincham's next three appearances all resulted in defeat, against Crewe Alexandria in 1968, Rossendale United in 1971 and Notts County in 1972. Altrincham then went on to make the 1st Round for the next 5 years, Beating Hartlepool United in 1973, with goals by Lennie Dickinson and Andy Windsor, seeing Altrincham through to a 2<sup>nd</sup> round tie against Blackburn Rovers. This was followed the next season when Scunthorpe United were overcome after a replay, 4176 being in Moss Lane to watch John Hughes, Ian Morris and John Davison score the goals in 3-1 win. In 1975 Altrincham





## **FA Cup 1st Round**

was Altrincham's only reward in a 3-1 defeat. This was followed a 5-0 defeat by Rotherham United the following season.

In 1978 a Jeff Johnson hat trick and a further goal from Mal Bailey saw off Southport (with current Altrincham assistant manager, Graham Barrow playing for Southport) at Moss Lane, 4-3, this was followed in 1979 by a 3-0 win over Crewe Alexandria, where 5001 spectators cheered goals by John Rogers, Barry Whitbread and Phil Wilson. In 1980 saw a difficult trip to Burscough, which Altrincham managed to win with goals by Jeff Johnson and John Rogers. The next two seasons saw both Sheffield United (after a replay) and Rochdale beaten at the 1st Round stage, with 5138 watching 2 goals from Barry Howard and one from current Altrincham manager Graham Heathcote, see off Sheffield and 3053 watched the Rochdale game. Still on winning ways the next 4 seasons saw Altrincham going through to the second round, beating Frickley Athletic, twice along with Blackpool and Chorley. Mick Fagan being the scorer in the 1-0 win over Blackpool. Wigan Athletic ended the winning run the following season. In 1988 Lincoln City were beaten 3-2, with goals from John Timmons and two from Ronnie Ellis. The crowd was 2169. Huddersfield Town beat Altrincham in 1990 and then came the famous tie with Chester, where Clive Freeman scored the 'goal of the month' in the replay. Since that Chester game Altrincham have featured much less often in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round, beating Southport

and Lancaster in 1994 and 2001 but losing to Crewe Alexandria in 1995 and Preston North End in 1996. Of course last season Altrincham hosted Milwall and were unlucky to lose the tie 2-1.

1933-4	25-Nov	1933	Gainsborough Trinity	A	FAC	lst	L	0-1
1963-4	20-Nov	1963	Wrexham	Н	FAC	lst	D	0-0
1963-4	27-Nov	1963	Wrexham	A	FAC	Ist Rep.	L	0-3
1965-6	13-Nov	1965	Scarborough	Н	FAC	lst	W	6-0
1967-8	09-Dec	1967	Grantham	A	FAC	lst	W	3-0
1968-9	16-Nov	1968	Crewe Alexandra	Н	FAC	lst	L	0-1
1971-2	23-Nov	1971	Rossendale United	A	FAC	lst	L	0-1
1972-3	18-Nov	1972	Notts County	Н	FAC	lst	L	0-1
1973-4	24-Nov	1973	Hartlepool United	Н	FAC	lst	W	2-0
1974-5	23-Nov	1974	Scunthorpe United	A	FAC	lst	D	1-1
1974-5	25-Nov	1974	Scunthorpe United	Н	FAC	Ist Rep.	W	3-1
1975-6	22-Nov	1975	Halifax Town	A	FAC	lst	L	1-3
1976-7	20-Nov	1976	Rotherham United	A	FAC	lst	L	0-5
1978-9	25-Nov	1978	Southport	Н	FAC	Ist	W	4-3
1979-80	24-Nov	1979	Crewe Alexandra	Н	FAC	lst	W	3-0
1980-1	22-Nov	1980	Burscough	A	FAC	lst	W	2-1
1981-2	21-Nov	1981	Sheffield United	A	FAC	lst	D	2-2
1981-2	23-Nov	1981	Sheffield United	Н	FAC	Ist Rep.	W	3-0
1982-3	20-Nov	1982	Rochdale	Н	FAC	lst	W	2-1
1983-4	19-Nov	1983	Frickley Athletic	A	FAC	lst	W	1-0
1984-5	17-Nov	1984	Blackpool	A	FAC	lst	W	1-0
1985-6	16-Nov	1985	Chorley	A	FAC	lst	W	2-0
1986-7	15-Nov	1986	Frickley Athletic	A	FAC	lst	D	0-0
1986-7	18-Nov	1986	Frickley Athletic	Н	FAC	Ist Rep.	W	4-0
1987-8	14-Nov	1987	Wigan Athletic	Н	FAC	Ist	L	0-2
1988-9	19-Nov	1988	Lincoln City	Н	FAC	lst	W	3-2
1990-1	18-Nov	1990	Huddersfield Town	Н	FAC	lst	L	1-2
1992-3	14-Nov	1992	Chester City	A	FAC	lst	D	1-1
1992-3	25-Nov	1992	Chester City	Н	FAC	Ist Rep.	W	2-0
1994-5	12-Nov	1994	Southport	Н	FAC	Ist	W	3-2
1995-6	21-Nov	1995	Crewe Alexandra	Н	FAC	lst	L	0-2
1996-7	16-Nov	1996	Preston North End	A	FAC	lst	L	1-4
2001-02	17-Nov	2001	Lancaster City	Н	FAC	lst	D	1-1
2001-02	27-Nov	2001	Lancaster City (AET)	A	FAC	Ist Rep	W	4-1
2007-08	10-Nov	2007	Millwall	Н	FAC	lst	L	1-2

SOUTHPORT

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BURSCOUGH



#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY RAFFLE**

Our first fundraising venture is the New Year's Day Raffle which will take place at 5.30pm on January 1st in The Noel White Suite.

We have some fantastic main prizes this year:-The list of main prizes is as follows:-

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- Vouchers for two people at Chill Factor-e
- Anglesey Caravan weekend
- A Round of Golf for four people at The De Vere Carden Park Hotel
- Dinner for two at The Cresta Court Hotel

There will also be many other prizes so there are loads of chances to win!!!!

Tickets are priced at 40 pence each or a book of 5 is

We have set ourselves a challenging objective of selling 5000 tickets to raise £2,000 for Altrincham Football Club. To achieve this we will need all Altrincham supporters to pull together by buying tickets themselves & selling them to Friends, Family & work colleagues!

Tickets will be available tonight from the Club Shop & if every Altrincham fan could take some books to sell then this will go a long way to helping us achieve our target. Vice Chairman, Grahame Rowley, has already sold fifty books of tickets (that's £100) to friends & work colleagues not connected with Altrincham Football Club.If everyone else could sell 10% of that figure then we would have no difficulty in achieving our target.

## BAG2THEFUTURE , Who are Bag2TheFuture?

They are a business which specialises in collecting second-hand clothes in their original condition, these are then sold to developing countries in Africa, the Indian sub-continent and parts of Eastern Europe. See

http://www.bag2thefuture.org/ for more info What is it?

If you have any good quality secondhand clothing, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes (tied together please), belts and handbags you could donate (No Bric a Brac). Please start saving these items now.

#### How do I do this?

On **Saturday 22nd November 2008**, at the Cambridge United game you will be asked to take a donation bag home and fill it with the above items is possible. If extra bags are required you can just use an ordinary bin bag.

#### What do I do with my bag then?

Please return your bag with articles to Altrincham Football Club on **Sunday 30th November 2008** between 10am - 3pm. Please look for the signs and somebody will be there to take it from you.

#### What happens next?

The bags will be collected by the organisers Bag2TheFuture on Monday 1st December and be taken away to be weighed, the club will receive £200 per ton, basically the more we collect the more money will be made (if we don't make the ton, we still get paid for as much as the items weigh)

#### How much does this cost?

The cost to you is nothing apart from a bit of time filling your bag and bringing to Altrincham Football Club on the above date. All bags are supplied by organisers.

Please note all bags are checked before weighing.

#### Will you be able to collect my bag?

No door to door collections will be available.

#### Can I bring my bag to the game on the 29 November 2008?

The answer is no as no storage space will be available.

Please do your best to support the above scheme it is not very often we have a fundraising idea that doesn't involve you putting your hand in your pocket.

Any queries please contact **Darren Gregory** at altychiefsteward@ntlworld.com

These are our first fundraising ventures since the launch of the new Supporters Group so hopefully both will be very successful. Of course the players can do some significant fundraising themselves tonight if we can beat our visitors from Bedfordshire!

Enjoy tonight's game....& the occasion!

Brian Flynn

Chairman

The Altrincham Supporters Group (TASC)



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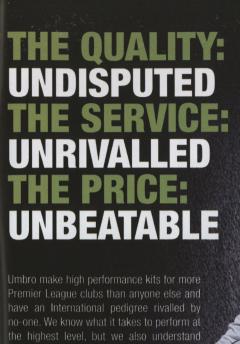
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Sept 6th	Sat	Salisbury	BSCP	B&J Hire Services		Margaret Dawson Saturday Yankee/ Derbyshire Family
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Sept 23rd Oct 4th Oct 12th Oct 14th	Tues Sat Sun Tues	Mansfield Town Ebbsfleet Oxford Farsley Celtic	BSCP BSCP BSCP SS	Carole Nash Insurance Boardman Conway Flexichem Services	Rowlands Solicitors The Flaggers Barry Pond	Thomas Birt Cresta Cout The Flaggers Shawston
Oct 25th Nov 1st Nov 4th	Sat Sat Tues	TBC Histon Wrexham	FA Cup BSCP SS	20/20 Research Freeflow Ducted Systems Silverwood Grinding	Regal Couriers	Terry Surridge
Nov 18th	Tues	Luton Town	FA Cup1	20/20 Research / Stirling Group	Robinsons Preservation	Alexander Events / Sport Trafford
Nov 22nd	Sat	Cambridge	BSCP	Gallagher Roofing / Dunham Scaffolding	Leon Herman & Co.	Stuart Ritchie / Aldi Altrincham
Nov 29th	Sat	Rushden & Dmonds	BSCP	Brown, Dunne & Gray	Lanes for Drains	Campbell McClay / Andrew Mitchell
Dec 18th	Thur	Burton Albion	BSCP	John Smiths		Gavin Delaney / The Education Warehous
Jan 1st Jan 3rd Jan 24th Jan 27th Feb 7th Feb 21st	Thur Sat Sat Tues Sat Sat	Northwich Victoria Forest Green Rovers Torquay York City Eastbourne Woking	BSCP BSCP BSCP BSCP BSCP BSCP	Brian Flynn Robinsons Preservation Ashley Mowers Slater Heelis Collier Littler Co-operative Bank Dunham Scaffolding /	Apollo Cinemas High Legh Goes to Alty Milner Boardman Wykamol	The Cinnamon Club Apollo Cinemas Bears Paw / Hills Bakery WPA Healthcare / Keywa Stuart Ritchie In Memory of
Feb 28th Mar 14th Mar28th Apr 11th Apr 18th	Sat Sat Sat Sat Sat	Stevenage Weymouth Crawley Kidderminster Grays Athletic	BSCP BSCP BSCP BSCP BSCP	Gallagher Roofing Bennett Brooks Deborah Services Priestley & Partners  Premium Collections	Freeflow Ducted Systems The Orange Tree TBA The Flaggers	Bill Brocklehurst Saturday Yankee Lee Wolstenholme AXA Insurance Sport Trafford Education Warehouse
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#### **How to Play**

Please ring the Club on 0161-928-1045 and ask for Jenny Heslop, the Yankee Manager.

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#### **November Birthdays**

All at Altrincham FC would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Luke Vayro who is 8 years old on the 21st November.

Welcome to all our young fans from Luton Town FC, we hope you all enjoy your visit to Moss Lane today.

Can you find the 28 Luton Town players' surnames in the wordsearch below?

Z Q P B U A O I U N D C L N U L I U Q K J A J I O W N A V A E B N Y P O I S T C E E N X V H D H F U W P E V Q Z L V I U S O Y S L L E W O H V D U U S

Andrews	Hall
Asafu-Adjaye	Howells
Beavan	Jarvis
Brill	Keane
Charles	Logan
Craddock	Martin
Davis	McVeigh
Emanuel	Morgan
Fletcher	Nicholls
Gnakpa	O'Connor



Thank you to everyone who has already joined the Junior Robins for the 2008/09 season.

If you are under the age of 12 and have not already joined, for a fee of only £5 you will be able to enjoy many benefits such as 10% off in the Altrincham FC Club Shop and a Christmas Party.

All you need to do is fill in the application form below and include your membership fee. There will also be a page in each programme with puzzles for you all to complete

Name

Address
Planting Control
Date of Birth
Email
Contact Name and Phone
Number





The Football Foundation provides grants for kit, goalposts, pitches, floodlights, clubhouses, coaching and innovative projects that use football to deliver a wide range of community benefits. If you are a local authority, football club, youth group, charity or a school looking to update your football facility or need to build a new one, or have an idea for using football to tackle a local issue you can take advantage of this funding.

For more information visit www.footballfoundation.org.uk





improving facilities · creating opportunities · building communities

Parkin

Roper

Sinclair

Spillane Talbot Watson Worley

Pilkington



#### **BINGO NIGHT**

Monday 24th November 2008. 7:30pm start. Entrance: 50p Any unwanted gifts, Christmas gifts, paper, chocolates, sweets, biscuits, bottles etc would be very much appreciated and can be dropped into the club during the week or on matchdays.

Thank you for your support

#### ALTRINCHAM FC CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT

You are invited to join the players and staff of Altrincham FC at the annual Christmas Party. To be held on Saturday November 29th 2008 at the Cresta Court, Church Street, Altrincham, Tickets priced at £30 each Dress Code - Lounge Suits Start Time - 7.30pm for 8pm Three course meal and Disco MC - Graham Heathcote Please contact Grahame or Karen Rowley for further details. altrinchamprog@yahoo.co.uk or 07720-606897

#### CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 18th December 2008 It might be early but please book this date in your diary. Our Chaplain, Andy Barclay-Watt has agreed to hold a carol service in the Noel White Suite starting at 8.15pm. The bar will be open and mince pies will be available.

Everyone is welcome - love to see you there.

#### CHRISTMAS AT ALTRINCHAM FC BUY.AT/ALTRINCHAMFC

Whilst searching for that special present for Christmas take a look at the retailers who have signed up to the buy.at/ scheme whereby they offer commission to the football club for buying your goods through their website. Amongst those participating are "Game", "Mothercare", "Littlewoods Direct", "Next" and "hmv.com" to name but a few.

It's so easy to use - just go to our official website, click on the but, at/ bar in the vellow section near the top of the home page and this will direct you to a listing of all the companies who are offering commission. Any purchases made via this link will generate income for your club at no expense to you. Give it a go and do your bit this Christmas.

#### HALF SEASON "SEASON TICKETS"

What better present for an Alty fan than a season ticket to watch all the remaining games this season - a season that promises much if we can maintain the impetus of late.

#### HALF SEASON TICKET PRICES

Standing - Adults £100; Concessionaries £50 Seating - Adults £120; Concessionaries £55

Please speak to Jenny or Karen in the office for further details.

#### ALTY MERCHANDISE AT THE CLUB SHOP

A wide variety of Alty goods are available from the club shop ranging from pens and pencils to replica shirts and drawings of the Moss Lane ground. Ideal presents for friends and family. Pop into the shop and take a look there's a bargain to be

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE CRESTA

There are still a few places left for the Christmas party at the Cresta Court on Saturday 29th November. Priced at just £30, a ticket includes a four course meal and dancing the night away to the sounds of the resident DJ along with all the players and backroom staff of the club. Always an enjoyable night don't miss out. See Grahame or Karen Rowley for further details.

#### SPONSORED SLIM

For those of you who can remember, we will be holding another "Sponsored Slim" after Christmas for those who want to lose that Christmas tummy and raise some money for the club as well.

Starting on New Years Day participants will have just over 7 weeks to shed those pounds before the final weigh in on February 21st at the Woking game.

Anyone interested in taking part can collect a sponsor form from the office from Monday and start collecting sponsors. An appropriate prize will be awarded for the "Slimmer of the Season" - details to

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A belated Happy Birthday to Jack Thorpe - the former Altrincham FC Groundsman - who celebrated his 95th Birthday on November 4th. Jack still comes to most home games and travels away as well. Everyone at the Football Club sends their belated good wishes to Jack.

#### THIS WEEKS FIXTURES

Thursday, 20 November 2008 Crawley Town v Ebbsfleet United Saturday, 22 November 2008 Altrincham v Cambridge Utd Barrow FC v Weymouth Burton Albion v Stevenage Forest Green v Mansfield Histon v Oxford Utd Kidderminster v Wrexham Lewes v Grays Athletic Rushden & D v Eastbourne Boro Salisbury v Northwich Woking v Torquay Sunday, 23 November 2008 Ebbsfleet United v Kettering York v Crawley Town Tuesday, 25 November 2008 Oxford Utd v Kidderminster Saturday, 29 November 2008 Altrincham v Rushden & Diamonds Barrow FC OFF Histon Burton Albion v Eastbourne Boro Cambridge Utd v Ebbsfleet United Kettering v Lewes Northwich v Crawley Town Oxford Utd v Forest Green Salisbury v York

Stevenage v Wrexham

Weymouth v Mansfield

## THE ROBINS

Show your true colours with the latest Alty Replica Kit, Leisurewear & Souvenirs



## KIT & LEISUREWEAR

Replica Shirts Adults: £35 Childs: £30 **Sweatshirts** Adults: £25 Childs: £22 Polo Shirts Adults: £20 Childs: £17 T-Shirts Adults: £16 Childs: £14 Rain Jacket Adults: £25 Childs: £22

Titan Pro-Sweat Adults: £25 Childs: £22

Climate Pro T-Shirt Adults: £20 Childs: £17

Adults: £50

**Directors Coats** Childs: £40



#### COLIVENIDO

300 I LIVING		Umbrella	£7.50
Ties	£10	Pens and Pencils	£0.60
Scarf	£7	Car Sticker	£1
Plastic Kit Key Ring	£2	Small Teddy Bear	£3
Erasers	£1.50	Large Teddy Bear	£15
Hand Painted Mugs	£6	Team Kit Hang-Up	£3
Mugs (Black or White)	£5	Baby's Bibs	£2
Bronx Hat (Black or Red)	£7	Autograph Book	£1.50
Drawstring Bag	£5.50	Robins Pin Badge	£2.50
Pennant	£5	DVD's (2008/09)	£7.50

To order goods, please either visit the Shop on matchdays or ring the Club on 0161-928-1045

# THE TEAMSHEET

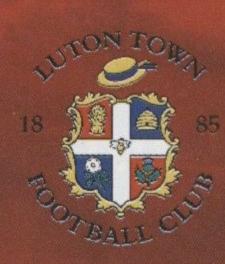
Tuesday, 18th November 2008. KO: 7.45pm

**OFFICIALS** REFEREE: Mr C.W. Oliver ASSISTANTS: Mr A.J. Horton & Mr. C. Akers 4th OFFICIAL: Mr D. Handley



## LTRINCHAM F.C.

			` ' '	
SEL	ECTED FROM	G	YC	RC
1	Stuart Coburn			
2	Chris Lane			
3	Matt Doughty			
4	Mark McGregor			
5	Greg Young			
6	Kevin Street			
7	Robbie Lawton			
8	Val Owen			
9	Colin Little			
10	Chris Denham			
11	Warren Peyton			
12	Joe O'Neill			
13	Andy Ralph			
14	Dale Johnson			
15	Alex Meechan			
16	Anthony Danylyk			
18	Lee Elam			
19	Chris Senior			
21	Shaun Densmore			
22	James Smith			



# LUTON TOWN F.C.

SEI	LECTED FROM	G	YC	RC
1	Dean Brill			
2	Claude Gnakpa			
3	Sol Davis			
4	Keith Keane			
5	lan Roper			
6	George Pilkington			
7	Garreth O'Connor			
8	Kevin Nicholls			
9	Sam Parkin			
10	Ryan Charles			
11	Lewis Emanuel			
12	Harry Worley			
14	Asa Hall			
15	Ed Asafu-Adjaye			
16	Rossi Jarvis			
17	Kevin Watson			
18	Chris Martin			
19	Drew Talbot			
20	Michael Spillane			
21	Conrad Logan			
23	Wayne Andrews			
24	Tom Craddock			
25	George Beavan			
27	Dean Morgan			
28	Paul McVeigh			
33	Jake Howells			
36	Aaron Fletcher			
40	Scott Sinclair			

## COMING UP HOME FIXTURES...

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