



the quaker

darlington football club Official Matchday Programme 08/09 £2.50



poster
liam hatch

interview
pawel abbott



Luton Town
Saturday 17th January 2009 - kick off 3pm



who's who

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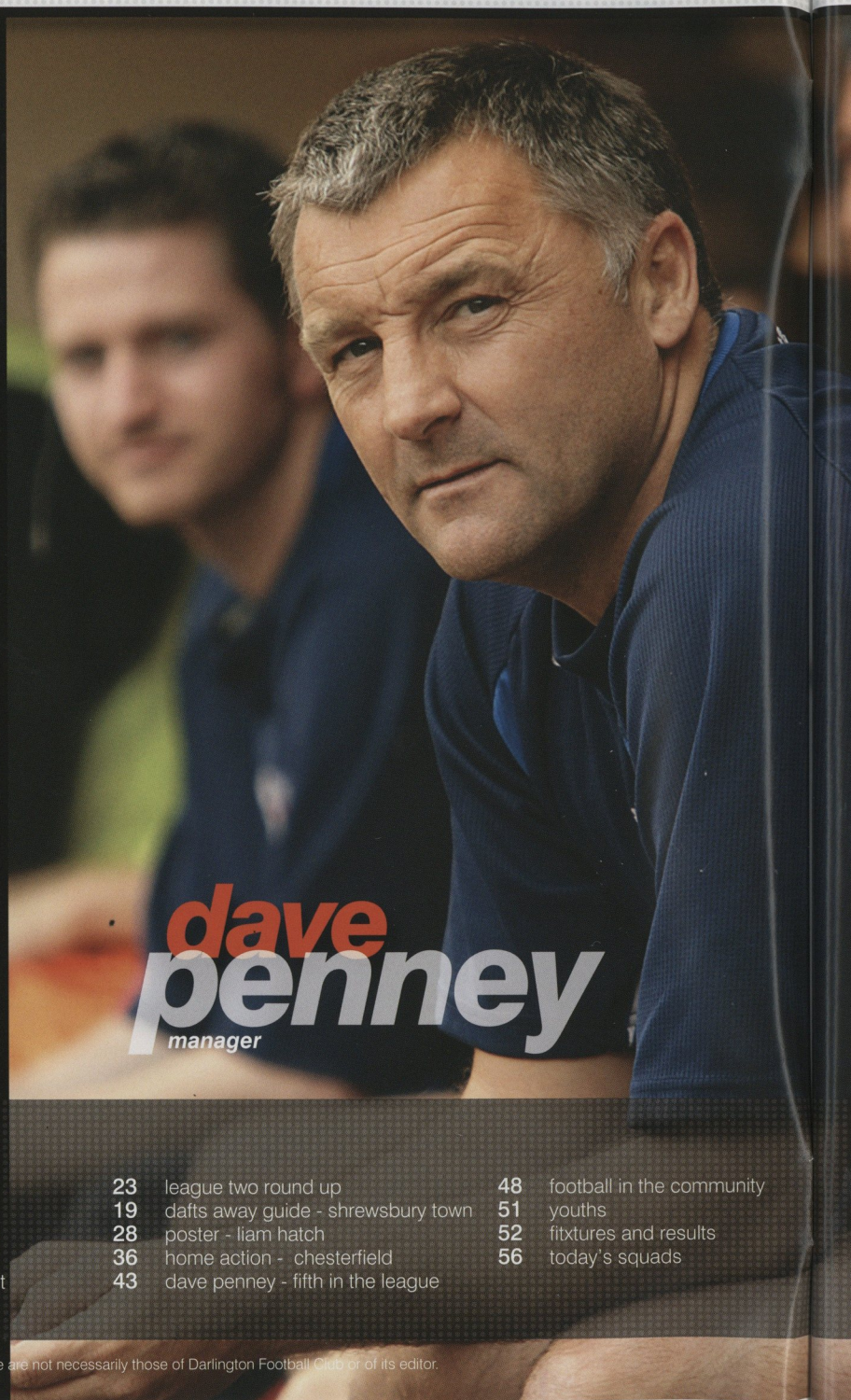
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The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Darlington Football Club or of its editor.



A warm welcome to The Arena to Luton Town manager Mick Harford and his team.

They are battling hard to avoid relegation, a situation that they are in not because they are a poor side, but because of the huge points deduction they have faced.

To recover from a position of starting a season on minus 30 points, when it would be easy to crumble, you not only have to show a lot of ability, but also a great deal of character.

Luton have shown both of those qualities, and are therefore in a position where the deficit has been wiped out and they can now push on to try and catch the teams above them.

We pipped Luton 2-1 earlier in the season with a last minute goal from Gregg Blundell. It was a game that could have gone either way, and we learned at first hand that Luton are a good side, who will give us a hard game today.

We go into the game after a fortnight's break following the postponement of last week's fixture at Accrington. What made it particularly disappointing was that the game looked set to go ahead until a hard frost the previous evening.

We weren't the only victims of the weather, so have not lost much ground in the table.

The upshot is that we play today on the back of our home win over Bournemouth a fortnight ago, another game where we snatched victory at the death.

We have won points and lost points right at the end of games this season, and that shows what a tough division this is with teams capable of competing from start to finish.

What pleased me against Bournemouth was the character we showed in never giving up despite being behind for most of the match. When we were awarded the last minute penalty, several players wanted to take it. It was Rob Purdie's job and he put it away, but I was pleased that so many players were prepared to step up to take a crucial kick. In the weeks ahead we will need that character, and desire to take responsibility in games.

Our performance in that game, and in the winless run we had before that, was not of the standard we want, or that of which we are capable.

I think that there are a number of factors behind that apart from the obvious one that finding consistency throughout a long season is very difficult. The pitches are not at their best at this time of year when the winter weather and the length of time the covers need to be on is not conducive to a perfect surface.

But I also think we suffered from having so many loan players who didn't know what their fate would be when their spell here ended. They gave their all for us, but it is a

distraction when you don't know who you will be playing for in the next game - or whether you will be playing at all.

It is an uncertain time of year - just ask Liam Hatch. He played against Bournemouth knowing it may be his last game for us, and also not knowing whether Peterborough would keep him or whether he would move on, and perhaps be playing against us for another League 2 side.

In the event he came back here, an outcome which delights us and pleases him, for he now knows where he will be for the remainder of the season. That stability can only benefit Liam and the team.

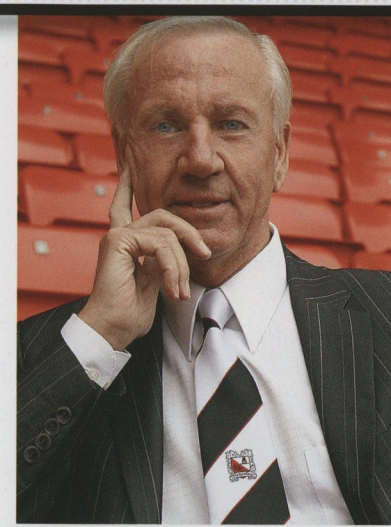
I must thank Simon Brown and Richie Foran for their contribution. They travelled a long way from their Southern based clubs to play for us, gave everything to our cause, and return with our best wishes.

Adam Proudlock has moved on to Grimsby, and while his stay with us will not be the highlight of his career, we are grateful to him. He has found form at Grimsby, and had we not signed Liam, Adam may well have made a big impression here.

However decisions need to be made, and there could be more comings and goings this month. Just before going to press we signed Danny Carlton, who we are delighted to have with us. If we have signed anyone else after these notes were compiled - and I was trying to - then we welcome them.

But transfer activity and speculation must not distract us from our targets on the pitch, which are to play well and win games.

Thanks for your support
 Enjoy the game
 Dave Penney



george houghton

chairman

Good afternoon and welcome to the Darlington Arena. A warm welcome is extended to our visitors today, Luton Town.

We got back to winning ways here at the Darlington Arena against Bournemouth so it was doubly disappointing that our match at Accrington Stanley was postponed. We need to keep the winning run going to build on our top six position and put pressure on the teams above us. It is going to be a very exciting second half of the season and I am desperate for us to go one step further this time and secure promotion.

The signing of Liam Hatch until the end of the season is a big bonus. He has become a firm favourite with fans and team mates and I know Dave Penney is constantly on the phone wheeling and dealing.

I'm sure that most of you will have read the media reports over the Christmas period regarding my plans for the Darlington Arena and the empty stand. This is just one of a number of ideas I am considering. It is by no means a done deal and you certainly won't see bulldozers knocking down any part of the Arena in the near future.

However, particularly in this difficult financial climate, we all have to

accept that maximising the full potential of the stadium and the commercial side of the football club is imperative if we are to have any sort of future. We all want the same thing, a successful team, but that cannot be achieved on gates of 2,500 to 3,000 so every possible avenue must be explored and this is what I was talking about when I suggested that part of the Darlington Arena could be better used as a business proposition rather than lying empty and unused.

You loyal fans have an emotional attachment to Darlington Football Club and nothing radical will take place here without taking your views into account.

Bearing this in mind we recently published a questionnaire canvassing opinion about season ticket prices. The results of this will be published shortly and I hope that you feel we have settled on a package that is fair to everyone.

Thank you for your support, raise the roof and I look forward to seeing you all back here on Tuesday 27th January when Rotherham are our visitors.

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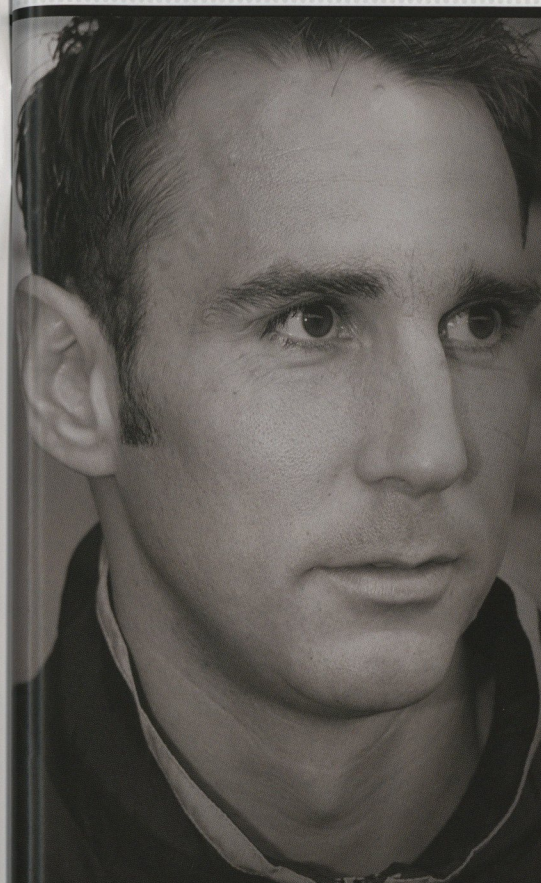
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skipper's review

stephen foster

I've said on numerous occasions that everyone beats each other and it's important to be consistent and this season emphasises that.

Since our last game the loan lads have returned to their clubs with the exception of Hatchie and I would like to wish them all the best. Hatchie has rejoined us now until the end of the season and I hope the impact he has made will continue until the last kick in May.

You may have thought that another loanee had joined and come off the bench against Bournemouth ... but yes it was Pav. His injuries since he joined have been terrible, but let's hope they are behind him and we can look forward to seeing him in full flow and performing to the standard that without doubt make him one of the best forwards this league has to offer.

The gaffer may be bringing in a few new faces and a couple may be going, as Prouds did with a move to Grimsby.

On a personal note a rumour has been going round that I'm off to pastures new, but there is no truth in this. I came to the club to help in getting us out of this division and that's something that I aim to achieve.

At our last game the club could have saved on the lighting bill by switching the floodlights off and using Ozzie's hair to illuminate the pitch. The first training session after he had it dyed he wore a hat to hide it, but as soon as we saw it, we made him put the hat back on to stop his luminous head from blinding us!

We went paint balling around Christmas and Tim is not the sort of team-mate you want in that game. He waits for you to go past him and shoots you straight on the a**e which doesn't half hurt, as I found out. Give him another year or so and that is the only way he will be able to stop the wingers who go past him!

The lads managed to get him back though.

Stick with us, get behind us, and always keep believing.

Cheers
Fozzie.

After last week's game was called off, we go into today's match against Luton raring to go.

It gives us the opportunity to build on our previous home win against Bournemouth. They came to frustrate us by getting men behind the ball with the sole aim of being hard to break down.

We didn't help ourselves by conceding the first goal, which gave them something to hang onto and made our task even harder.

But full credit to the lads as they kept going and got the win that we deserved for we were the only team out there that was trying to play a fluent game. It was a reward for us, and also for a positive approach.

Luton's draw at Chester in midweek wiped out their points deduction, though after being two up they are no doubt

disappointed not to have won.

However a win or draw today will put them in credit, and with them knowing this, it will no doubt see them fight that bit harder. If they had started the season on an even keel they would have been in mid table so the fact they are bottom has no bearing on their performances this season, as we found out only too well when we managed a hard fought win at their place.

Defensively at their ground we showed great team spirit as they put us under a lot of pressure, and we managed to get a last minute goal from Gregg to win the game. We will be out to get the same result, but this time by stamping our authority on the game.

This is now the 24th game of the season so halfway has been reached with us lying in seventh place. We would love to be top, yet we are still in a strong position to push on.

introducing luton town

You've got to hand it to Luton, they're fighting hard to stay in the Football League.

Our last visitors to the Arena, Bournemouth, were handed a 17 point penalty before the season kicked off, but Luton were given a 30 point penalty.

While the reasons for the penalties are a bit too long winded to explain here, many thought that a 30 point punishment for illegal payments to agents and for breaking CVA rules was a little too harsh on Luton, especially as they are now under the control of a brand new company, headed by television personality Nick Owen.

Certainly, the new board thought so, and after they were handed the punishment, they posted a statement on the club website. "It's quite clear that we have made a mistake. We placed our faith in the footballing authorities. We have tried to do everything openly and honestly. Once again, the club suffers from the mismanagement of the past. Once again the faithful supporters are left high and dry. Once again a policy of honesty is not at all recognised by the football authorities who claim they want to clean up the game."

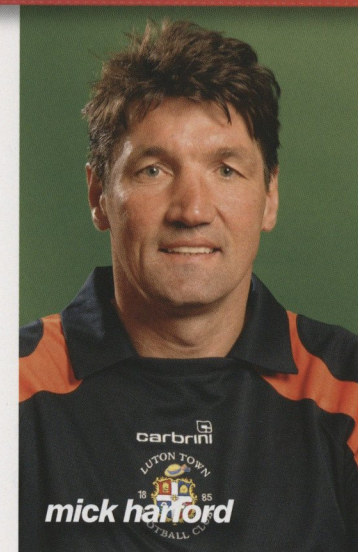
The FA responded; "The deduction was a heavy sanction, as it was intended to be, but was not excessive as a reflection of the seriousness of the breaches and the need to deter such conduct within football clubs."

It would have been too easy for them to shrug their shoulders and meekly await relegation to the Conference, but under manager Mick Harford, they have battled away this season, and they've still got hope in avoiding the drop, especially after beating Lincoln in a thriller at Kenilworth Road at Christmas. They are unbeaten in eight league and cup games coming into today's game.

Harford told BBC Three Counties Radio; "I was really pleased with the effort and commitment of our players, and some of our football was better than the level we're playing at. If we continue to put in performances like that, showing the same commitment allied with the skill we have in the side and with the crowd behind us, then we can still get away from the bottom." And they reached a psychological landmark on Tuesday night when their 2-2 draw at Chester meant that in terms of points they are now out of the red, and are on zero points for the season, but still fourteen points adrift of safety.

Away from the league, they've still got something to shout about, as they reached the southern area final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy with a 1-0 win over Colchester, to set them up for a two legged game against Brighton.

You've got to admire the supporters as well for staying with the club. Even though the Hatters have never been



off the bottom of the table, their average gate this season is 5,978, just 500 less than last season when they were in League One.

Luton's last ten results;

January 13th Chester City (away) drew 2-2 (Martin, Emanuel)
December 28th Lincoln City (home) won 3-2 (Martin 2, Roper)
December 26th Chesterfield (away) drew 2-2 (Craddock, Roper)
December 20th Morecambe (home) drew 1-1 (Spillane)
December 16th JPT Colchester (home) won 1-0 (Gnakpa)
December 13th Wycombe (away) drew 0-0
December 6th Barnet (home) won 3-1 (McVeigh, Martin, og)
December 2nd Bournemouth (home) drew 3-3 (Gallen, McVeigh, og)
November 29th FA Cup 2 Southend

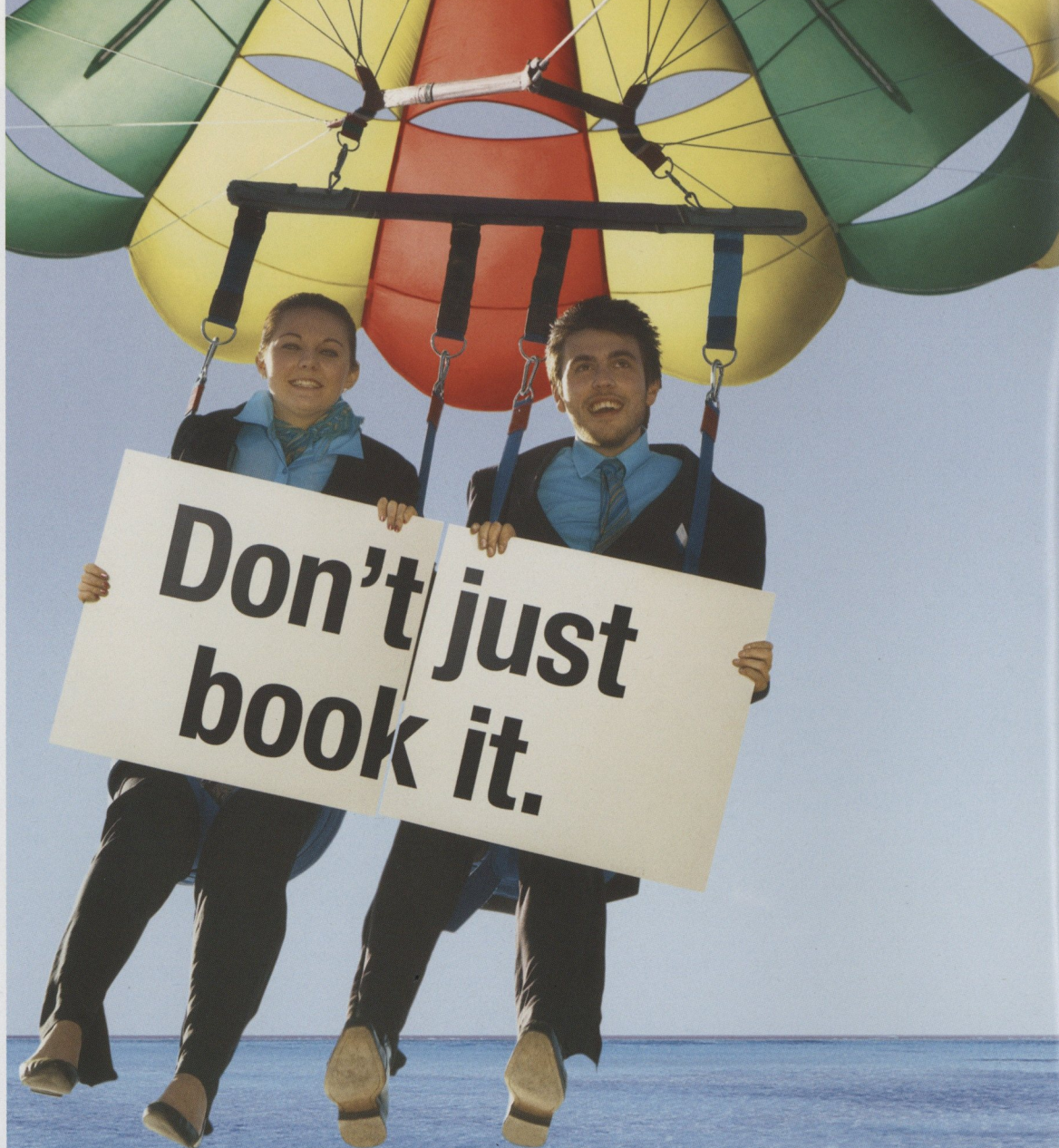
(away) lost 1-3 (Spillane)
November 25th Brentford (home) lost 0-1

Leading scorer (league only)

Chris Martin 5

Luton's away form:

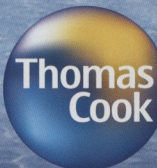
Last away league win; Bury, October 25th, 2-1
Last away league defeat; Rochdale, November 22nd, 0-2
Last away league draw; Chester January 13th 2-2
Last away league clean sheet; Wycombe, December 13th, 0-0
Last away league scoring blank; Wycombe, December 13th, 0-0



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luton town

Conrad Logan, keeper

Conrad is on loan from Leicester City and has been a regular this season in the Luton starting line up. He was on loan last season at Stockport County for whom he made 38 appearances and helped them defeat Rochdale in the League Two play-off final at Wembley.

Dean Brill, keeper

Luton-born Dean won the goalkeeper's jersey when previous Hatters boss Kevin Blackwell took over the managerial reins at Kenilworth Road and despite the club being relegated from the Championship in 2006-07, he was named Young Player of the Season. Dean joined his hometown club at the age of nine and progressed through the Centre of Excellence, representing Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools at a variety of age groups.

Claude Gnaka, defender

Claude is capable of playing centre back or full back, and joined the Hatters on a free transfer in August 2008. Having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz in Liechtenstein, Claude moved to Swindon Town for a brief spell, and then to Peterborough United in July 2007 where he was a regular in the League 2 promotion winning side, starting 25 league games. He scored Luton's goal in the 2-1 home defeat by Darlo.

Sol Davis, defender

It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton, when the highly-rated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of the 2001/02 season. Sol scored his first ever goal in professional football during the club's 5-1 win over



conrad logan



jake howells

Wrexham in November 2004. After suffering a stroke in 2006, he made a miraculous recovery and despite being told by doctors it would take months for him to return, he was back in action and started the game against Cardiff City on New Year's Day, 2007.

Ed Asafu-Adjaye, defender

Ed is in his second year as a professional having made significant progress through the club's youth set-up. The full-back, who spent a short time on-loan at non-league side Walton & Hertham, 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 contract.

Ian Roper, defender

Ian is a central defender with bags of experience who joined the Hatters in August 2008. Ian climbed the ranks at Walsall, gaining a reputation of being a tough, no-nonsense defender. He made 325 appearances during his 13

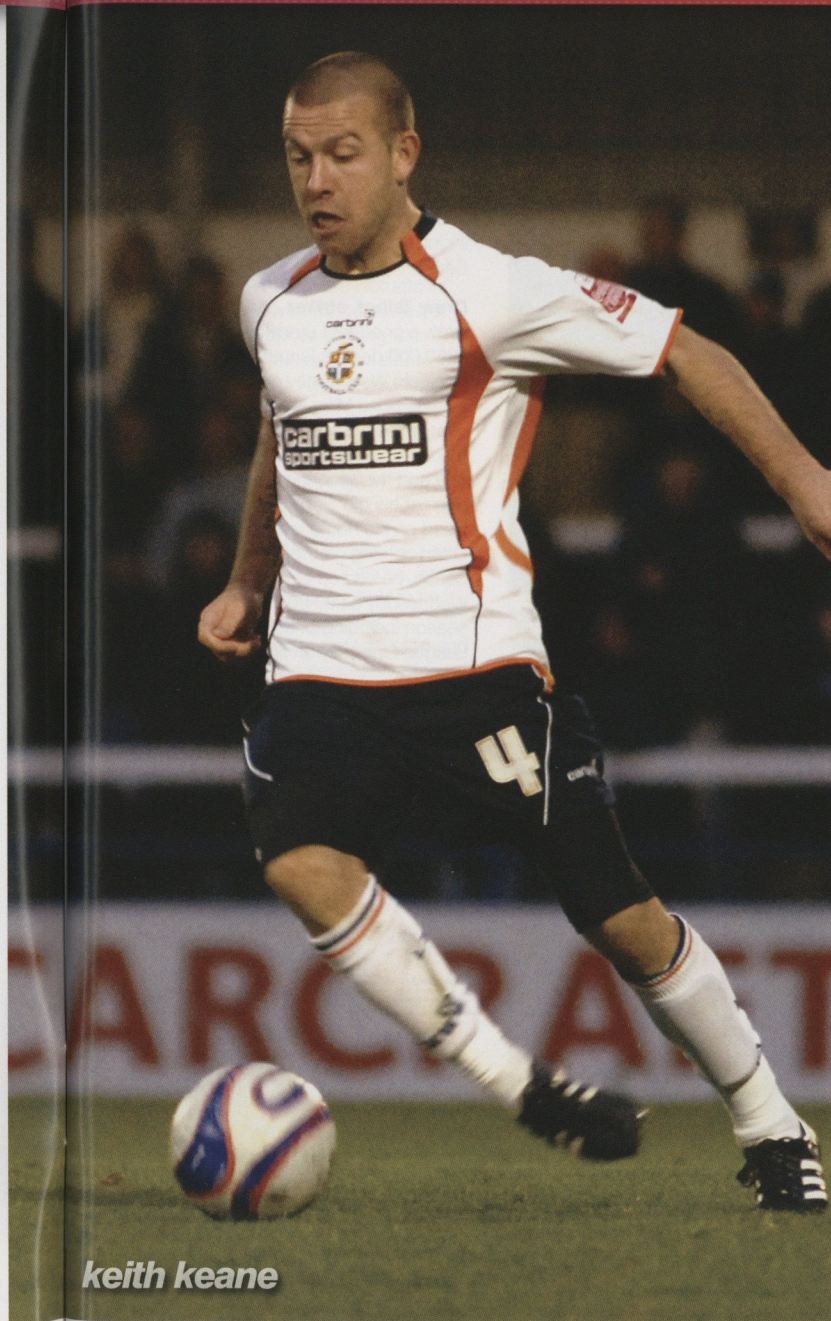
year period at the club scoring eight goals. He won promotion on three occasions, won the Player of the Year award in 2003 and won a League 2 championship winners medal after the Saddlers' success in 2006/07. He scored in successive games against Chesterfield and Lincoln at Christmas.

Lewis Emanuel, defender

Lewis arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2006 after deciding to leave his home town club Bradford City where he started his career. Lewis is a pacy full-back 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.

George Pilkington, defender

George is a highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008 from Port Vale. Having begun his career as an Everton trainee, he joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. He made 223 league starts and 11 goals during his time at Vale Park where the highly-regarded defender was named Player of the Year twice.



keith keane

Michael Spillane, defender

The Irish youngster joined the club on a season-long loan from Norwich City in August 2008, and is equally at home in defence or midfield, having played in both positions in recent seasons for the Canaries. The Jersey-born Republic of Ireland U19 international is tipped to have a bright future ahead of him in the game and is highly thought of by the Carrow Road coaching staff.

Jake Howells, defender

The young left back made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. This season he has pushed on and has been an important part of the first team squad, making his full debut in the Hatters' 1-1 draw at Bradford City.

Keith Keane, midfielder

Keith made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, and went on to enjoy an extended run in the side finishing the season with 14 appearances under his belt, all in the first year of his scholarship. Since then, he has become a regular in the side, and has now made over 100 appearances for the club.

Rossi Jarvis, midfielder

Rossi is an adaptable player who can play on the left or right hand side of defence or midfield, and joined the Hatters in August 2008 following his release from Norwich City. The midfielder came through the Canaries' 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 before coming to Kenilworth Road, where he has been a regular.

Asa Hall, midfielder

Asa joined the Hatters on a free transfer in August 2008. He began his

luton town

football career in Wolves' youth system, before signing his first professional contract with Birmingham City in 2004. While at the Blues 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 Under-19 and Under-20 levels and went on to have loan spells with Boston United, Ashford Town and Shrewsbury Town, starting 13 games for the Shrews.

Kevin Nicholls, midfielder

The 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. He 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.

He moved to Leeds United for £700,000 in July 2006 and was made club captain by then boss Denis 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. Kevin was delighted to re-sign for Luton, signing a three-year deal in August 2008 and being named as club captain.

Ian Henderson, striker

The Thetford-born striker joined the Hatters in January 2009 following his release from Northampton Town. Ian is a product of the Norwich City youth academy where he made the grade to make 79 appearance for the Canaries. After breaking into the first team at Carrow Road he won a First Division championship medal in 2004. A serious injury sustained in 2006 kept him out of action for eight weeks with ligament damage and after falling down the

pecking order at Norwich, was sent on-loan to Rotherham. At the beginning of the 2007-08 season, he was released by the Canaries and was snapped up by Northampton.

Ryan Charles, striker

Ryan has made a huge impact at Kenilworth Road over the last two seasons. He worked his way through the ranks at the club before scoring 17 goals in his debut season for the Luton Town youth team, and then another twelve the following season. He made his first team debut as a second half substitute at Southend in March 2008, and scored on his home debut against Oldham a week later.

Chris Martin, striker

Chris is currently on a season-long loan from Norwich City, Martin had played 30 times for the Canaries, scoring five times. He burst into the

first team in 2007 and his early promise saw him win call-ups for the England Under-19 squad, scoring on his debut against Turkey in March 2007. Up to the end of the year, he had scored six goals for the Hatters, including two in the win over Lincoln City.

Drew Talbot, striker

Drew 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. Often coming off the substitutes' bench, he scored several goals in Wednesday's 2004/05 promotion season including one at Cardiff in the League One play off final against

Hartlepool. During the January 2007 transfer window, he was on loan to League One promotion chasers Scunthorpe for three games before moving on to Kenilworth Road.

Wayne Andrews, striker

Wayne began his career with Watford, making his debut for the Hornets in 1996 where he went on to make 28 league appearances scoring four goals. He was released in 1999 where he moved into non-league football with spells at St Albans City, Aldershot Town and Chesham United before being spotted and signed by Iain Dowie for Oldham Athletic in the summer of 2002.

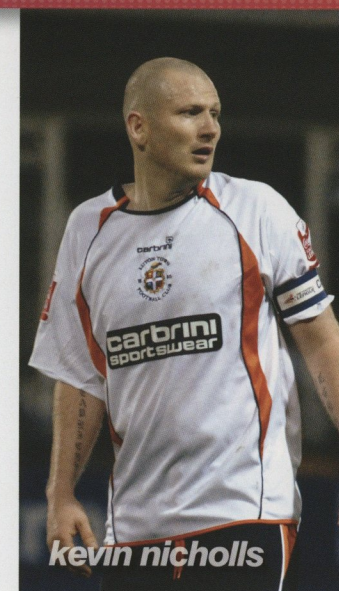
Spells at Colchester, Crystal Palace, Coventry, Sheffield Wednesday, Bristol City and Leeds followed, before he was released in the summer. In October 2008 he signed for Luton and made his debut against Accrington Stanley.

Tom Craddock, striker

Originally a defender, 22 year old Tom developed into a promising forward who did well at youth and reserve levels with Middlesbrough. He was a team mate of Darlo's Jason Kennedy when Boro won the 2004 FA Youth Cup and progressed to first team level. He has previously had spells on loan with Wrexham and Hartlepool United.

Paul McVeigh, striker

Paul, who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in 2007, 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 and in the 2002-03 season he was the club's top scorer with 15 goals. He began the 2006-07 season on the subs' bench, and eventually fell out of favour. During his spells at



kevin nicholls



kevin gallen

Tottenham and Norwich, he was capped by Northern Ireland 15 times in total.

Kevin Gallen, striker

Kevin established himself as something of a legend at QPR, scoring 97 goals for the R's in two spells spanning nearly 14 years. He joined Huddersfield in 2000 and after 10 goals in 30 starts for the Terriers, he moved across Yorkshire to join Barnsley the following summer, but the call of West London saw him return to QPR within a few months.

He scored nine goals in 16 league starts for MK Dons before joining the Hatters on loan in December 2008.

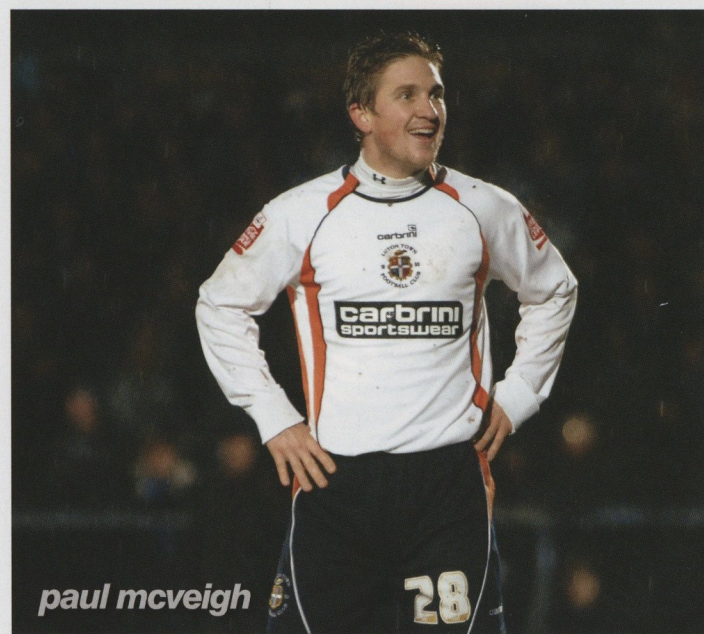
Mick Harford, manager

Since hanging up his boots, 49 year old Mick Harford has twice had a spell on the coaching staff at Luton, initially as assistant manager under Joe Kinnear and then director of football for Mike Newell.

During his first spell at the club he helped mastermind the Hatters'

promotion back to the Second Division in 2001/02 and as director of football and first team coach he played his part in building the side that secured promotion to the Championship, running away with the League One title during 2004/05.

He left the Hatters in November 2004 to be reunited with Joe Kinnear at Nottingham Forest. After Kinnear's departure, he left Forest in January 2005, and had an eight month spell in charge of Rotherham United. He had a short spell coaching the forwards at Millwall before he linked up with his former Derby County team-mate, Geraint Williams at Colchester United in summer 2006, as his number two, a position he held for a year before the opportunity arrived to join John Gregory - again as an assistant manager - at Queens Park Rangers in June 2007. Following the dismissal of Kevin Blackwell in January 2008, Mick returned to Kenilworth Road to take charge of first team affairs.



paul mcveigh

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from the boardroom

raj singh

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's game. I'm Raj Singh, the vice chairman, and through this column, I'd like to give you a regular insight into some of the things that are going on at the Arena, and what we're doing to improve the club, not only on the field, but off it as well.

I've been watching Darlo now for over a year, and I must admit that supporting Quakers has gradually grown on me. Maybe I'm not as hardened as some of you veterans out there, but in the last year I've certainly experienced the highs and lows of supporting the club. Hopefully, we'll have many more highs than lows in the next few months, and I'm sure you'll agree that we'd love to end the season on a high by winning promotion to League One.

I'm working hard with Dave Penney to strengthen our squad for a promotion challenge. Dave and I have had several chats about which areas of the team to strengthen, and one breakthrough Dave has managed to make is to persuade Peterborough United to let us have Liam Hatch on loan for the rest of the season.

Peterborough were hoping to sell Liam to other clubs during the transfer window, but we persuaded them that it would be best for all concerned if Liam finished the season with us on loan.

There is still a fortnight left of the transfer window - it doesn't close until February 2nd - and we will try and back Dave as much we can, whether he is seeking loan or permanent signings. From a personal point of view, I'm determined to enjoy success here at the Arena, and end our long spell in the bottom division. Many fans will remember the last time Darlo were in a higher division way back in 1992, and I'm sure that you would love the club to return there.

We are also working on several projects off the field to increase our commercial income. It's a much used cliché, especially here at the Arena, but the club has to maximise its facilities as much as possible, not just on matchdays, but also on every other day in the week.

We believe that our commercial revenue is well below what it should be, and we're working on different strategies to increase it. We have some excellent conference and banqueting facilities for many different occasions - for example, only recently we hosted an engagement party and a conference - and those facilities are also competitively priced.

No matter what the occasion, event or celebration is, we believe that we can supply the facilities.

We are strengthening our off the field team also. Christine Balford, our commercial director, intends to appoint two more people to her team, whilst we have also brought in Graham Fordy, who has accumulated a huge amount of commercial football experience from his Middlesbrough days, and hopefully he can pass it on to us in some way.

We are also planning for next season, and we're working on different levels of sponsorship packages. The club doesn't have enough sponsors in many ways - for example, executive boxes, programme advertising, matchballs - and that is something we have earmarked as one of our top priorities.

We're also taking on board your responses to the season ticket surveys, and we hope to announce something on that topic soon.

Enjoy the game, and let's hope for three points today.

away
action

There were certainly plenty of talking points after Quakers twice came from behind to draw 2-2 against the second placed Shakers at Gigg Lane.

There was plenty of confusion as well with some of the refereeing decisions, and on top of that, those people watching for the latest scores were confused by an early scoreflash which read "Bury 0 Darlington 1 -Brown" which made some Darlo fans at home think that keeper Simon Brown had somehow put Quakers into the lead. Instead, it was an uncharacteristic clanger by the keeper, when he carried Efe Sodje's lob over his goalline on 31 minutes, that gave Bury the advantage. But Darlo were unhappy with an incident just before that, when referee Graham Salisbury overruled his assistant and gave Bury a free kick that led to the goal.

Quakers levelled on 44 minutes, when Ian Miller, who slotted in well at the back in place of the suspended Alan White, charged into the six yard box to head Seb Carole's perfectly flighted free kick past Bury keeper Wayne Brown for his first goal of the season.

There was also a large degree of sympathy for Miller ten minutes after half time, when he raced back into his own box, and in the eyes of many spectators, appeared to cleanly win the ball from Bury's Glynn Hurst, but instead the referee pointed to the spot from where Andy Bishop scored. Quakers thought there might have been a double whammy as they feared a red card for a professional foul as Miller was the last man, but the referee took no further action.

Quakers deservedly levelled for the second time on 72 minutes when Richie Foran turned quickly on the edge of the six yard line, and volleyed

into the bottom corner for his third goal for Quakers since moving on loan from Southend.

There was plenty of drama after that, with the referee at the centre of it. Bury claimed that a shot by sub Andy Morrell hit the crossbar and bounced down over the line - but with the help of his assistant who was bang in line with play, the ref waved play on - and the home side also had frantic appeals for handball turned down in the last minute.

Both sets of fans made their feelings known to the referee at the end of the game, and Darlo manager Dave Penney certainly would have liked to have made his innermost feelings public, but wisely decided not to. "I can't say too much about the officials, but we weren't happy with a lot of the decisions, even their manager wasn't. But it was a good point, because Bury is a difficult place to go to and we wanted to make sure that we got something."

Bury manager Alan Knill said: "Ten months ago, for us to draw 2-2 against a team like Darlington was impossible. They (Darlington) came here soon after I came here and won comfortably, but now we can compete with the better teams in this league. I thought we were quality against a good Darlington side. They were the favourites to go up, and I thought we were excellent."

What the media said;

Referee Graham Salisbury was at the centre of several controversial incidents at Gigg Lane. *BBC Tees.*

Referee Graham Salisbury was booed off the field by both sets of fans. *The Journal.*

Darlington twice came from behind to secure a dramatic draw at fellow promotion hopefuls Bury in an



incident- packed encounter. *Northern Echo.*

There was no questioning the spirit of Dave Penney's side as they twice came from behind to earn a point. *Evening Gazette.*



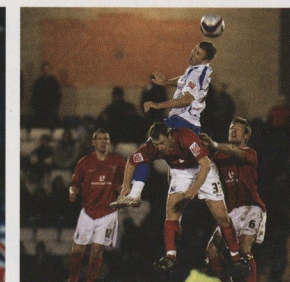
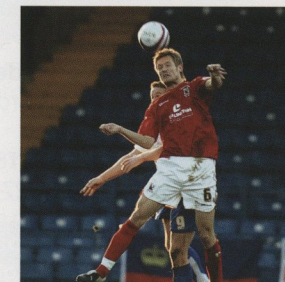
Bury 2
Darlington 2

Friday 26th December 2008

Bury: W Brown, Scott, Sodje, Futcher, Buchanan, Jones, Baker, Dawson, Bennett, Hurst (Morrell 77), Bishop.
Subs Not Used: Haslam, Cresswell, Barry-Murphy, Howell.
Booked: Jones, Futcher, Dawson. Goals: Brown 31 og, Bishop 55 pen.

Darlington: S Brown, Austin (Ryan 60), Foster, Miller, Valentine, Carole, Flynn, Ravenhill, Foran, Clarke (Kennedy 87), Hatch (Burgmeier 59).
Subs Not Used: Oakes, Main. Booked: Valentine.
Goals: Miller 44, Foran 72.

Attendance: 3,454 Referee: Graham Salisbury (Lancashire).



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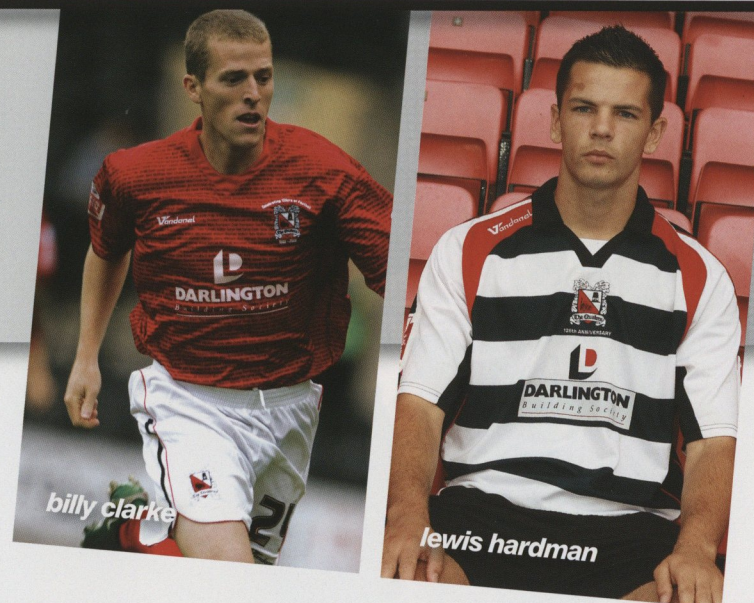


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club news

Praise from parting Billy

Billy Clarke has thanked the club and fans for making his stay at the Arena so enjoyable.

The young striker, our top scorer so far this season with nine goals, said after returning to parent club Ipswich:

"It's been a great experience for me. We have played some quality football and the staff, players and fans have been really good to me. I'm pleased to have scored nine goals, but I would have liked more.

"At the start of my loan in August I would have taken nine by Christmas, but as I scored most of them early on I would have liked a few more. Obviously the game that I will most remember was Macclesfield when I scored four.

"I found it a bit tougher as the season went on, because I am not used to being a first team regular for such a long period. But it has definitely benefitted me. I have respect for the manager, and ideally I would have liked to stay and help win promotion.

"You never know what might happen in football, and I could be back at Darlington. Whether I am or not I would love to see the club go on and do well."

Simon set for hectic spell

Simon Todd is set for a busy time while on loan at Blyth, which is just what he needs according to Dave Penney.

Blyth's FA Cup exploits have given the youngster valuable experience against Premiership giants Blackburn Rovers and League Two high flyers Shrewsbury Town.

But Dave Penney reckons that the weeks ahead will be even more valuable for him: "He is on loan there for the rest of the season and as Blyth have games to catch up they will be playing Tuesdays and Saturdays. If Simon plays a lot of games it will build him up and give him a good insight into what he can expect in the future if he does well in the game.

"Blyth are a good club and close enough for us to monitor his progress so it's an ideal arrangement."

Meanwhile midfielder Lewis Hardman has been released by the club. He has joined Bishop Auckland. We wish him well.

On the right road

Going through the gears - young Darlington players have driven to a footballing first.

The 16 and 17-year-olds at the club have become one of the first groups in the country to take part in a specially designed driving awareness course aimed at improving the country's footballers' driving skills.

The course was designed by the British School of Motoring, whose road safety consultant Robin Cummins said:

"We are delighted to be working with Darlington FC, which is just the type of progressive club we want to work with as part of this important new partnership.

"Young males are statistically more likely to be involved in accidents, so anything that BSM and the Professional Footballers' Association can do to improve road safety is good for all road users. As well as working with youth teams, we will also help to provide new career opportunities in driving instruction for the PFA's members who have now retired."

We can mix ...

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 email: glenwoodinteriors@tiscali.co.uk or glenwood206@btconnect.com



pav's back and greedy for goals

All good strikers are greedy - even those who have been out of action for eight months.

So when Pawel Abbott came off the pitch in the last home game having scored his first goal of the season, and set up a dramatic win, he was only partially satisfied.

"I should have had two or three goals," he said. But even so he couldn't hide his delight having finally recovered from a string of injuries that had sidelined him since last April.

The pain and frustration of hamstring, knee and ankle injuries was swept aside when he latched onto the ball just outside the Bournemouth penalty area, made space for himself and clipped a shot inside the far post.

Seven minutes later Rob Purdie popped in a stoppage time winner from the penalty spot, completing a good day for the team, and a day bordering on the great for Pav.

"To score in front of the home fans and go on to win the game is what I have missed for months," he said. "When you are out of action you desperately want to feel that emotion of scoring and winning. You can't beat it.

"You go home after the game and it feels like a Saturday night should feel for a footballer."

But Pav has the experience to stay level headed, and the adrenalin rush is only temporary, for he said: "The main thing is to concentrate on preparing for the next game."

And that in itself is a good feeling, when for so long all he had in his immediate future was long hours in the gym building up strength and stamina.

However as he dealt with the injury and worked on his recovery, even when he was way short of his best physically, he still felt mentally strong.

"There was never any doubt in my mind that after the operation I would be back," he revealed. "I snapped two of the main ligaments that stabilise my ankle. The surgeon said that it would heal itself, but would take time.

"He also said that there would be the secondary problems that go with these injuries, and if the ligaments go again it could be the end of my career. Despite being told that, I was all right mentally.

"Everybody has been reassuring, especially our physio Will Short. He discussed the rehabilitation programme with me, and gave me targets. I started hitting them and that gave me confidence.

"I don't think of myself as injury prone. Before I joined Darlington I had only had one operation, to cure a hernia, and that kept me out for only four or five weeks.

"I have to be careful this time and ease my way back gradually, trying to play a bit longer in each game until I'm fully match fit again."

In his first game back he came on after 74 minutes, and when asked if it was good to get quarter of an hour under his belt, he was quick to point out with a grin: "Twenty minutes including stoppage time!"

Against Bournemouth it was 45 minutes (49 including stoppage time), which is a little more than he expected, though he came through not only unscathed, but with the goal.

"Fozzie came up out of defence, and was hard to pick up. You don't get many centre backs who do that and it split the Bournemouth defence. The ball fell nicely to me and I managed to hit the target.

"Now I want to go on a run. The first goal is always important, but I want to quickly build on that and score several more. It will be down to how quickly I get fully fit, because I don't think that players lose their touch, even after a long spell out of action.

"I had worked with the ball in training for a while before I played in the Chesterfield game, and I never felt that my ability would go. The only way to get match sharpness is to play games, but I always feel that if I get a chance, I can score."

And while Pav wants to add to his goals tally - he once bagged 27 in a season for Huddersfield - for his own sake, he also wants to repay manager Dave Penney, his teammates, and the Darlington fans.

"The manager has never rushed me, and it helped that he told the media and fans to forget about me until I was back. It was right that I should be out of the spotlight while I got fit.

"The players have supported me, and the fans have been brilliant. To hear the cheer when my name was announced before the Chesterfield game, and when I came on, was special.

"I have a lot to prove to the fans. I want to be their hero, and to do that I have to keep on top of the injuries, stay fit and score goals.

"When you miss pre-season it's hard to catch up, and there is always the danger of letting the adrenalin take over and then over doing it. That's why I have to be careful - but I'm getting there."

While battling his way back Pav has never lost sight of the bigger picture, which is trying to win promotion.

"We know what sort of a team we are when everyone is fit. We should be up there at the top and that is what we are aiming for. It's not about the past for me or the team, but the future."

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dafts awayguide

Shrewsbury Town v Darlington
Saturday 24th January 2009 3pm



The Shrews' new 10,000 all-seater stadium, the New Meadow ground - or Prostar stadium as it's called commercially - is two miles from the town centre.

The club moved there for the start of the 2007-2008 season, after saying farewell to Gay Meadow after 97 years. The old ground, alongside the Severn, has been sold for housing, although the new residents might have to be wary of flooding!

Away fans are in the North Stand behind the goal and matchday admission for adults is £16, with £11 for OAPs, students and disabled, and children £11. £1 off if sold in advance.

How to get there;

Junction 9 of the M6, onto the M54, head west then onto A49 for 35 miles, then left onto A41 towards Wolverhampton, join A49 again after a few miles and right onto A5112, left after 1.5 miles, left again onto A528 into the town.

Alternatively, you can travel towards Chester on the M56, and then take the M53, A55, A483 past Wrexham, and then join the A5 at Oswestry. You follow the A5 to Shrewsbury and the A5112 turnoff is on the left. The postcode of the ground for satnavs is SY2 6ST.

Parking: Stadium parking is very limited to permit holders, disabled and supporters' coaches only.

Shrewsbury have advised us that Darlington fans should use the park and ride at the Shirehall Car Park, London Road, Shrewsbury. Entrance to this site is off London Road. From the A5 East and West bound at Emstrey Island, take the A5064 along London Road. Before you reach the roundabout the car park is on your right-hand side. Proceed on foot to the front of the Shirehall where buses will take you to the Stadium.

Buses from this site to the stadium will operate from 13.00, with the last bus leaving at 14.30. Parking at the site is free but a charge of £2.50 per person will be made for the return journey.

Immediately after the match buses will leave from the back of the South Stand for the return journey to The Shirehall.

A shuttle bus service (Tanat Valley) runs from the town's main bus station in Raven Meadows (a short walk from the railway station) in the town centre, starting at 1 pm until 2.30pm costing adults £3 return, children £2 return. The first return service will leave the stadium at 5.05 pm.

There are also service buses from the bus station: number 25 (every 15 minutes, return journey from top of Moneybrook Way), number 16 (every 30 mins, stopping at Hereford Road), number 23 (every 30 mins, to Reabrook), also an hourly 544/546 stopping at BP Garage and Sainsbury's.

Train times (UPDATED DEC '08):

Darlington 08.21 (Doncaster, 09.15) 09.22 (Birmingham New St, 11.07) 11.24 arr Shrewsbury 12.19. Rtn: 17.54- (Stockport, 18.58) 19.26-(Doncaster, 20.40) 21.12-arr 22.09. Fare: £80.30 London Euston 08.10 (09.48 Crewe) 10.13-arr Shrewsbury 10.41. Rtn: 17.47- (Birmingham New St, 18.55) 19.10-arr 20.56. Fares: From £46 return Birmingham New Street Regular services, suggested 11.07-arr 12.19. Rtn 17.47-arr 18.55. Fares: Cheapday return £11-12.80.

Manchester Piccadilly An hourly service on the half hour - 10.30-arr 11.41; return 17.54-19.15. Fares: From £18.70 return.

Plenty of services from Cardiff Central 09.20 arr 11.15, rtn 17.44-arr 19.47 or 18.53-arr 20.54. Fares: Return from £33.20.



Places to drink and eat

The Loggerheads

1 Church Street (01743) 35545748
Old fashioned, CAMRA-rated Banks' pub split into a series of small rooms - and within easy reach of the station in the heart of the town centre. No overbearing music - bliss. Reasonably priced home-cooked food too.

The Dun Cow Abbey Foregate A favourite over the road from the Abbey and near Kwik Fit, football-friendly with guest beers including Abbots and Adnam's. Bar and restaurant serve food from 10am with steak, chicken and specialities include ostrich, bison, antelope, kangaroo and crocodile.

The Crown Abbey Foregate Almost opposite the Abbey, close to the old ground. A no-frills, football-friendly boozier.

Brooklands Hotel, Mill Street off Meole Brace Island, SY3 9JT

About five minutes walk from the stadium, and it also has a car park with 100 spaces (£5). Does food and a guest ale.

The Charles Darwin, Sutton Road, SY2 6HN

Banks' beers. About 10 minutes walk from the stadium. Some parking.

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enjoy the match a hit with families

Attendances boosted in family areas

The Football League's 'Enjoy the Match' campaign has had an immediate and positive impact upon the behaviour of fans on matchdays. This has helped to produce a significant rise in attendances in family areas between August and December 2008.

Attendances in family areas are up 12%, compared to a rise in total crowds of 3% across League football as a whole. This has generated more than £1.5m in additional ticket sales.

The Enjoy the Match campaign was launched at the start of the 2008/09 season. It aims to encourage even more families to attend matches at their local League club by creating a family

friendly environment at grounds. This includes the eradication of abusive language and aggressive behaviour from family areas. Of The League's 72 clubs, 68 have already pledged their support to the campaign.

Darlington FC fully supports the aims of the "Enjoy the Match" initiative, and encourages families to attend games in a friendly and fun atmosphere. We condemn the use of foul and abusive language and anti social behaviour, not just in our family area, but also in the whole of the stadium.

If you experience anti-social behaviour in our family area, please speak to a steward in confidence.

Recent research shows support for the

campaign is widespread, with 91% of fans agreeing that by eradicating abusive behaviour, Football League matches are more appealing to families, and consequently 95% agreed that the 'Enjoy the Match' campaign is important. 65% of fans who are aware of the campaign feel it has already made a difference to behaviour in family areas.

Commenting on the results, Football League Chairman, Lord Mawhinney, said: "These findings are encouraging. They show that fans support our efforts, both to get more families attending club games, and also to grow the supporter base.

"Our aim is to build the next generation of Football League supporters and this initiative is a positive step in that direction."

To find out more about the campaign and to pledge your support, visit www.enjoythematch.co.uk.

valentine's evening

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Served with Seasonal Vegetables
& Potatoes

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Served with Orange Shortbread Rounds

Coffee & Mints

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league 2 round up



And then there were none...next weekend's FA Cup fourth round will go ahead without a single representative from League Two.

While non-league sides Kettering and Torquay are in action, all those from our division have been knocked out.

In the third round Gillingham pushed Aston Villa hard, the Premiership giants finally winning with a late penalty from James Milner, after Simeon Jackson had netted a classy equaliser for Gills, his 12th goal of the season.

Macclesfield played well at home to Everton, but were pipped 1-0.

And Chesterfield went down 3-0 at Ipswich, a tame exit after their long drawn out second round drama with Droylsden, one of the most controversial ties in the competition's history.

Floodlight failure, fog and an ineligible player all contributed to a war of words between the clubs.

Chesterfield - at the time of writing - still have Jamie Ward in their ranks, despite accepting a reported £400,000 offer from Barnsley for the striker.

Ward, 22, who has scored 16 goals this season, could not agree personal terms with the Championship side, who have stated that they will not come back with new figures.

Bury manager Alan Knill took the

unusual step of declaring a pitch unplayable - after his side had won.

While several games in the Lancashire area - including our fixture at Accrington and Hartlepool's at Oldham - were last Saturday called off because of frozen pitches, Bury managed to host Barnet.

Mike Jones won it with a first half goal to send Bury above us in the table. But Knill said:

"I thought both sets of players were outstanding on a surface that, in my opinion, was not playable. It's no coincidence that all the games near us were off. The pitches would have been no different to ours yet ours was on.

"Everyone could see it was really difficult for the players. It's dangerous, the players can't express themselves properly, and the public pays to be entertained. The game's gone ahead so we're delighted to get the three points because it gets us back on track."

Because of the weather there were only three League Two games played last Saturday - and another manager was unhappy with a playing surface.

Lincoln drew 2-2 at home to high flying Brentford, but Bees boss Andy Scott stormed:

"The pitch was atrocious. It was rock hard. In the corners it was impossible for the players to stand upon. I thought it was dangerous and the referee (Steve Bratt) agreed with me.

"We believed it was off and we went back to our hotel only to find out he had allowed it go on. I am just delighted we got through without any injuries. The players showed a lot of character and in the end it may prove to be a good point."

Exeter manager Paul Tisdale reserved his criticism for his own team after their promotion hopes were dented in a 2-1 defeat at Notts County.

After seeing his side lose to goals from Delroy Facey and Gavin Strachan, Tisdale admitted: "The better side won. We are not a team of individuals but didn't play as a team so I'm very disappointed. We were not effective



enough, nothing like it."

In what will be a hectic month on the transfer front, Morecambe have had a transfer embargo placed on them by the Football League after spending more than 60% of their income on player wages.

Manager Sammy McIlroy has not given up hope of carrying out some January transfer activity, but he must move players on before he can bring any in.

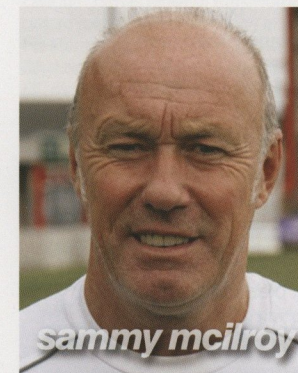
He said: "It's a blow because I have been talking to a couple of players who I'm confident would come. But they can't wait for me forever and time is crucial now.

"I have had a few clubs showing interest in a couple of our players so there may still be some action, but I can't really do what I'd like to do straight away."

Keith Hill moved quickly to distance himself from reports suggesting that he had been in contact with Walsall over the vacant manager's role. The Rochdale manager, who last season took the club to the play-off final, said:

"I can categorically state that I have never, whilst I have been contracted to this club, applied for any jobs. I want everyone to know that I am 100% committed to the club, to the board, to the players and to the supporters.

"I would want also to assure everyone that we are totally focussed and working towards our goal of achieving the success that everyone at Rochdale wants."



today's mascots



Chloe Colqhoun, who is 8 years old on Monday goes to Mount Pleasant School in Darlo. Her hobbies are playing football and her favourite player is Steve Foster, because he is a defender like herself. When Chloe grows up she wants to play football and play for England!



Elliot Malcolm from Newton Aycliffe, is 6 years old today. He goes to Vane Road Primary in Newton Aycliffe, and his favourite player is Franz Burgmeier. He's been watching Darlo for five years, and wants to be a footballer when he grows up.



Max Harris, who celebrated his 8th birthday last week, goes to Abbey Road Junior School in Darlo. His hobbies are playing football, collecting football cards, and watching Darlo, which he's done ever since he was born. His favourite player is Steve Foster - Max says that Steve is a good organiser and role model. Max wants to be a scientist or a footballer when he grows up.

Football historian Leigh Edwards profiles ten post-war Luton Town goalscoring favourites!

Gordon Turner

Long-serving inside-forward Gordon Turner holds Luton Town's all-time goalscoring record. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in March 1950, he featured in Luton's 1951-52 FA Cup run and 1952-53 promotion near-miss. He was leading marksman seven times, including 1954-55 when ever-present as they won promotion to the top-flight, also representing the Football League. Netting 243 goals in 406 League outings for the Hatters, he briefly reunited with Jesse Pye at Wisbech Town in July 1964, then played for Kettering Town, Dunstable and Bletchley. He lived and worked locally until his death in December 1976.

Ron Davies

Welsh international striker Ron Davies was Luton Town's leading marksman in 1962-63. Initially with Chester, he twice topped their goalscoring charts and moved to Kenilworth Road in October 1962. He impressed with his aerial strength in a struggling side, netting 21 goals in 32 League games for Luton before joining Norwich City in September 1963. Moving to Southampton in August 1966, he was top scorer three times prior to joining Portsmouth in April 1973. He played for Manchester United, Arcadia Shepherds, LA Aztecs, Tulsa Roughnecks and Seattle Sounders, becoming a soccer coach in Florida.

John O'Rourke

England U-23 striker John O'Rourke was Luton Town's top scorer in three successive seasons. Initially with Arsenal, he moved via Chelsea to Luton in December 1963 and netted 64 goals in 84 League games while at Kenilworth Road before joining Middlesbrough in July 1966. He starred as they regained Second Division status at the first attempt in 1966-67, then had spells with Ipswich Town, Coventry City and QPR in the top-flight, moving to AFC Bournemouth in January 1974. Later with Poole Town, Johannesburg Rangers, Weymouth, Dorchester Town and Poole again, he has since been a newsagent in Highcliffe.

Malcolm Macdonald

Ace marksman Malcolm Macdonald was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Initially with Tonbridge, he joined Fulham in August 1968 and moved to Kenilworth Road in July 1969. He was

Luton's top scorer in two consecutive seasons including their 1969-70 promotion success and netted 49 goals in 88 League games before being sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. An FA Cup finalist in 1974, he joined Arsenal for £330,000 in August 1976 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1978 before injury ended his career. He managed Fulham and Huddersfield Town and now works in the media, as well as being involved with Northern League club North Shields.

Barry Butlin

Striker Barry Butlin was leading marksman as Luton Town regained top-flight status in 1973-74. Signing professional for Derby County in January 1967, he had limited opportunities under Brian Clough and was loaned to Notts County prior to joining Luton for £50,000 in November 1972. He netted 24 goals in 57 League games while at Kenilworth Road before moving to Nottingham Forest for £122,000 in October 1974. Reunited with Clough, he featured in their 1976-77 promotion campaign and joined Peterborough United in August 1977, then played for Sheffield United. He is a financial adviser, living in Chellaston.

Brian Stein

England international striker Brian Stein scored twice in Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Edgware Town in October 1977, he was leading marksman in Luton's 1981-82 Second Division success and also starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88. He joined Caen in July 1988 and moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991. Voted their 'Player of the Year' for the second time in 1991-92, he netted 130 goals in 427 League games overall before joining Barnet in August 1992, helping win promotion in 1992-93. His brother Mark also played for Luton.

Paul Walsh

England international striker Paul Walsh was capped five times while at Luton Town. Signing professional for Charlton Athletic in October 1979, he starred in their 1980-81 promotion success and moved to Luton in July 1982. He was 'Player of the Year' in 1982-83 and leading marksman in 1983-84, netting 24 goals in 80 First Division games for the Hatters prior to joining Liverpool in May 1984. Helping to win the League Championship in 1985-86, he

joined Tottenham Hotspur in February 1988 and was an FA Cup winner in 1991. Later with Portsmouth and Manchester City until injury ended his career, he is now a football agent.

Mick Harford

England international striker Mick Harford played for Luton Town in consecutive Littlewoods Cup finals including their 1988 Wembley triumph. Signing professional for Lincoln City in July 1977, he had spells with Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham City prior to joining Luton in December 1984. He starred as the Hatters were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88, moving to Derby County in January 1990 and returning to Luton in September 1991. Joining Chelsea in August 1992, he then played for Sunderland, Coventry and Wimbledon. He has since been coach and now manager back at Luton.

Tony Thorpe

Striker Tony Thorpe was the leading marksman as Luton Town qualified for the Second Division play-offs in 1996-97. A former Leicester City trainee, he reunited with David Pleat at Luton in August 1992 and was also top scorer in 1997-98. He joined Fulham for £800,000 in February 1998 and helped them reach the play-offs that season. Sold to Bristol City for £1,000,000 in June 1998, he was top scorer three times prior to rejoining Luton in July 2002 after two loan spells. He netted 70 goals in 164 League games overall before moving to QPR in August 2003, then Swindon, Colchester, Stevenage, Grimsby and Tamworth.

Steve Howard

Striker Steve Howard topped Luton Town's goalscoring charts in five successive seasons. Initially with Northern League club Tow Law, he joined Hartlepool United in August 1995 and moved to Northampton Town for £120,000 in February 1999. He starred in their 1999-2000 promotion campaign, joining Luton for £50,000 in March 2001. A key figure as the Hatters won promotion from League Two in 2001-02, then the League One title in 2004-05, he scored 95 goals in 212 League outings before being sold to Derby County for £1,000,000 in July 2006. He helped them win promotion in 2006-07 and joined Leicester City for £1,500,000 in January 2008.

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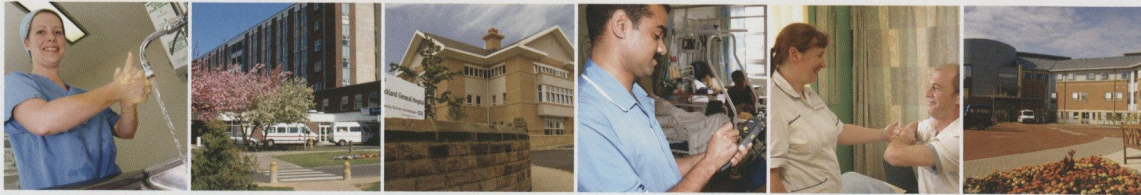
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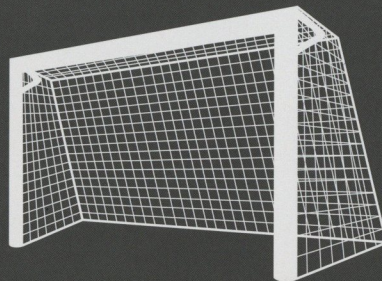
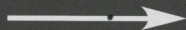
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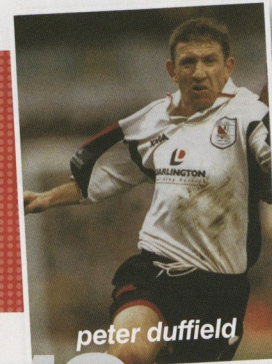
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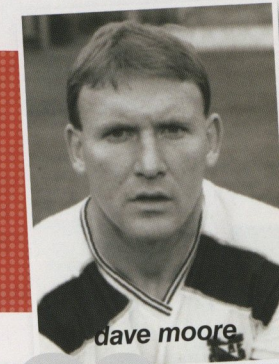
10 Years Ago

Cardiff City 3 Darlington 2

Division Three Attendance 5803

We made our second trip of the New Year all the way down to South Wales to face the league leaders Cardiff City at Ninian Park with us lying eleventh in mid-table. There was a new face in the Quakers line-up with former Sheffield United striker Peter Duffield arriving from Falkirk after six years in Scotland with five different clubs. We got off to a flying start when Glenn Naylor scored in the first minute but Richard Carpenter levelled on twenty-three minutes to send us in all square at half-time. The table-toppers took the lead eight minutes after the break through big John Williams (who later joined the Quakers in December 2000) and it looked all over when Craig Middleton added a third on eighty-one minutes. However Marco Gabbiadini snatched a goal back in the eighty-seventh minute to give us a glimmer of hope but realistically it was too late to salvage a point, as the 'Bluebirds' went on to eventual promotion.

Team: Preece, Reed, Barnard, Liddle, Tutill, Bennett, Brumwell (sub Gaughan), Oliver, Duffield (sub Roberts), Gabbiadini, Naylor (sub Costa).



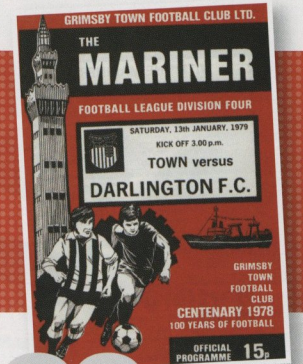
20 Years Ago

Darlington 0 Hartlepool United 0

Division Four Attendance 3521

We faced our great local rivals Hartlepool United in our first home game of 1989 still precariously perched just second from bottom of the table, despite suffering only two defeats in the last eight games, with the 'Pool' comfortably in mid-table thirteen points above us. The home fans were given a first look at former Middlesbrough forward David Shearer who had joined us a couple of weeks previously from Scunthorpe United. Dave Moore was back at the heart of the defence with veteran Tony McAndrew dropping out. The visitors included former Quaker Brian Honour and future signing Andy Toman in their starting eleven. As is often the case in local derbies the two sides cancelled each other out in every department and, not for the first time, the clash of the great local rivals ended in a draw, although it was the first goal-less one at Feethams in twenty meetings!

Team: Batch, McJannet, Morgan; Hine, Moore, Willis, N Robinson (sub A Smith), MacDonald, Shearer, Worthington, Hyde (sub Stonehouse).



30 Years Ago

Grimsby Town 7 Darlington 2

Division Four Attendance 5620

We had not played a league game in three weeks, because of the dreadfully cold weather, since winning at Doncaster Rovers on Boxing Day, although we had gone out in the third round of the F.A. Cup at home to Colchester United a week before. Ron Ferguson returned to the forward line in place of Tom Paterson, who had started the last three games. Grimsby had former Darlington central defender Geoff Barker in the middle at the back, while in goal was a twenty-one year old Nigel Batch who joined us ten years later in September 1988 after over four hundred games for Grimsby. The 'Mariners' hit us with an absolute barrage of goals and by half-time the shell-shocked Martin Burleigh had conceded six with Mike Lester grabbing four and Tony Ford and Joe Waters one each. The kindest thing we can say is that we shaded the second-half scoring twice through Jimmy Cochrane and John Stone with Grimsby adding just one more from Kevin Moore.

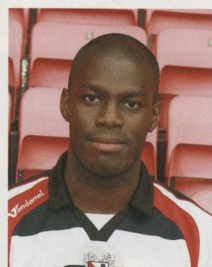
Team: Burleigh, Nattress, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Probert, Ferguson, Seal (sub Maitland), Walsh, Wann.



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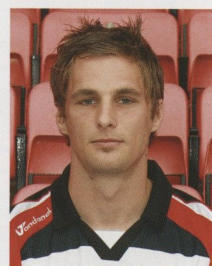


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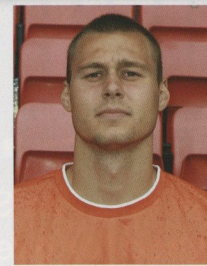
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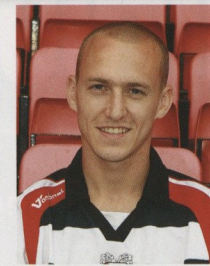
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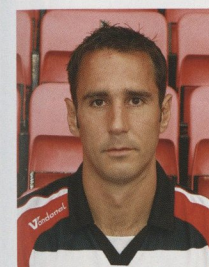
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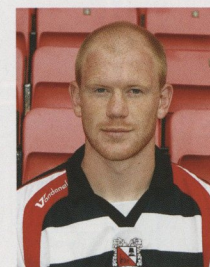
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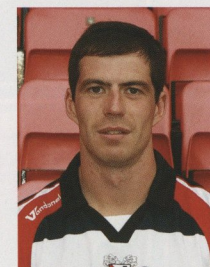
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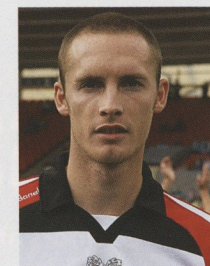
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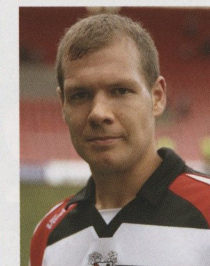
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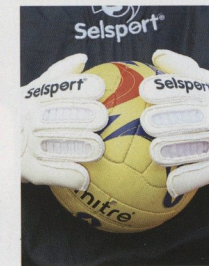
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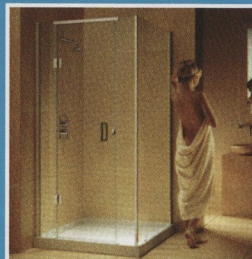
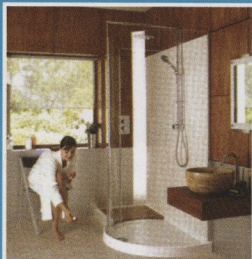
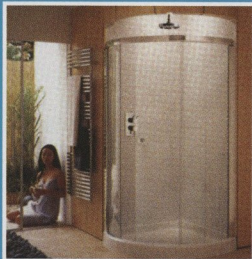
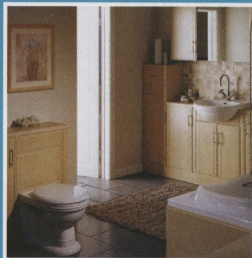
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luton town back again

Frank Twedde, looks back at the previous visits of today's opponents

We welcome Luton Town to the Arena for the first time this afternoon and indeed this is only their sixth visit to Darlington in total as they have only ever played three league and two cup games here before.

The last time we saw them here in town was in January 2002 (with Joe Kinnear as their manager) when two late goals from substitute Mark Sheeran gave us a 3-2 victory after former Hartlepool striker Steve Howard had given the visitors the lead on thirteen minutes. We equalised through Gary Pearson on the half-hour but French midfielder Jean-Louis Valois, signed from Lille, put the second-placed 'Hatters' back in front. Then goals in the eighty-first and eighty-eighth minutes from super-sub Sheeran gave us our first win of the new year.

Since then, Luton have experienced a roller-coaster ride up and down the Football League after winning automatic promotion in 2002 and spending three years at the next level, before winning the Division One title in 2005. Then they spent two years in the Championship, finishing tenth in 2006 before being relegated back to Division One in 2007. Last season a ten point deduction saw them end bottom of that league to return to the basement league after six extremely eventful seasons, only to begin this season's campaign with a crippling thirty point deduction which is tantamount to further relegation.

The first ever meeting of the 'Quakers' and the 'Hatters', took place down in Bedfordshire on Easter Saturday 9th. April 1966 in Division Four with both sides pushing for promotion. Luton came out victors by two goals to none but just three weeks later the return game took place at Feethams when we

entertained Luton for the first time.

There were only five games of a thrilling season left when Luton arrived just four points behind us in the Fourth Division table and an expectant crowd of 11,155 packed into Feethams: yet it was only the third best so far with Tranmere Rovers and Doncaster Rovers attracting more! Further details of this epic encounter are revealed in the 'Match to Remember' article on page 54.

The following season we played in the Third Division while Luton remained down in the Fourth having only managed to end in sixth place losing out on goal average to Colchester United. However we suffered immediate relegation and so were reunited with the 'Hatters' in 1967-8 and strangely made two trips to Kenilworth Road as the first on 28th. October 1967 was abandoned after just seven minutes play due to intensifying fog. We returned on 26th. February to try again and this time finished on the end of a 1-3 defeat with Jimmy O'Neill getting the Quakers goal. Again it was within a month that we met at Feethams when Luton were again the winners, this time by 2-1 and again Jimmy O'Neill was our scorer. At the end of the season it was Luton who were champions to return to a higher league and it would be thirty-three seasons before they would drop into the lowest league again to meet the Quakers. However, during this long spell we did manage to be drawn together twice in cup competitions.

The first of these cup meetings was in the second round of the Football League Cup in September 1975 after we had disposed of Sheffield Wednesday on penalties after three games in round one. Then Second Division Luton Town came to Feethams for only the third time and took a first-half lead through Ron Futcher but an

incredible late spell saw Darlington stun the 'Hatters' with two rapid goals from Stan Webb to earn a third round trip to West Ham United. It was twenty-five years before we came together again this time in the second round of the F.A. Cup in December 2000, when we played out a goal-less draw at Feethams before losing the replay at Kenilworth Road 0-2.

The very next season we met in the league for only the third time losing 2-5 away in October 2001 to the second placed 'Hatters' with Danny Mellanby and Neil Wainwright getting our two goals. Our third home league meeting ended in a 3-2 win for the Quakers in January 2002 as outlined in the second paragraph. This season we finally achieved a win at Kenilworth Road (after four straight defeats) when last October a ninetieth minute strike from substitute Gregg Blundell gave us the points after Claude Gnakpa had equalised Billy Clarke's opener in the first-half.

So we look forward to a rare meeting with a team that is only spending a fifth season in the lowest of the Football Leagues in the fifty years since they became national after the abolition of the Third Divisions North and South in 1958.

Our Complete League Record.

Home

Feethams
P3 W2 D0 L1 F5 A4

Away

Kenilworth Road
P4 W1 D0 L3 F5 A11

Match to remember page 54

home
action

The return to action of Pawel Abbott brought the biggest cheer of an otherwise forgettable afternoon.

He made his first appearance of the season following injury, coming off the bench for the last 20 minutes as we sought a breakthrough.

He immediately injected a touch of class, but by then Chesterfield were intent on packing players behind the ball to earn their draw.

Earlier they had been lively on the break, with Jamie Ward ever dangerous, though he found it tough to escape the attention of Alan White.

Given that it was Chesterfield's third game of the week after an FA Cup replay with Droylsden as well as a Boxing Day game, they had every right to play a tactical game geared to containment.

And in Tommy Lee they have a keeper who is becoming a thorn in our side. He starred for Rochdale in their penalty shoot win in the play-offs last May, and again he denied Jason Kennedy, this time with a 50th minute save after Curtis Main had put Kennedy through on goal.

Main's full debut, at the age of 16, was something he can take pride in. He put himself about and had a couple of headers saved, and a first half shot blocked as he sought his first senior goal.

But frustration is part and parcel of life as a striker, and Billy Clarke, who replaced Main during the second half, missed a last minute chance when he failed to convert Sebastien Carole's cross which wrongfooted the defence.

It was Clarke's final appearance before his loan from Ipswich expired, and he would have loved to sign off with a goal.

And he wasn't the only one. A winner would have been met by a huge wave of relief, for the final whistle sounded with us having now gone eight games without a win - though the last four had all been draws.

Darlington manager Dave Penney said: "Frustrating is the best word to describe it. It was a nothing game in the first half, although we upped the tempo in the second, and had a couple of good chances to win it.

"We made a couple of changes to freshen the team up, yet it was a flat performance. However we can take a plus from the clean sheet because we haven't had enough of them."

Chesterfield manager Lee Richardson said: "We defended very well and looked dangerous on the break. The clean sheet is something for us to build on, because it has been a feature of our season to lose when we should have had points. This time it didn't happen."

What the media said:

Both sides appeared lethargic and incapable of finding the net. The Northern Echo.

Despite their winless run Darlington remain in the thick of the promotion race, and Abbott's return is a massive boost. Evening Gazette.

Darlo's winless run continued, though this time there were no defensive lapses. BBC Tees.

Darlington dominated possession but struggled to break down a resolute Chesterfield defence. On the few occasions on which they did, their finishing was wayward. The Journal.



Darlington 0
Chesterfield 0

Sunday 28th December 2008

Darlington: Brown, Austin (Abbott 74), White, Foster, Valentine, Purdie, Flynn, Kennedy, Burgmeier (Carole 54), Foran, Main, (Clarke 61). Subs not used: Oakes, Ryan.

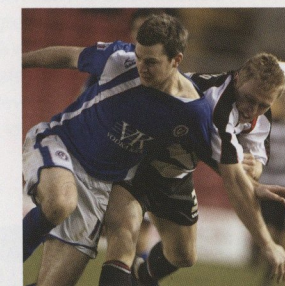
Booked: Flynn (foul), Foran (ungentlemanly conduct).

Chesterfield: Lee, Picken, Hall, Downes, Austin, Lowry, Kerry, Winter, Robinson, Boden, Ward. Subs not used: Carsen, Bowery, Askham, Moller, Currie.

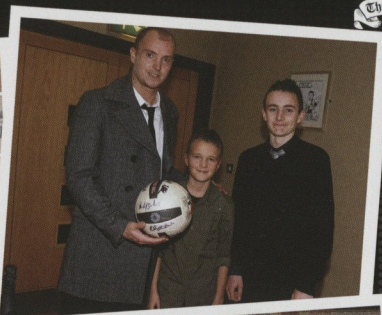
Booked: Robinson (ungentlemanly conduct).

Referee: Michael Oliver (Ashington).

Attendance 3352.



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thornberry in yourside

Scott Thornberry

Global warming, pah, ya joking aren't ya! Last weekend we witnessed the league fixtures decimated by the cold weather and it was no surprise when our away fixture at Accrington Stanley fell foul to the elements.

It also saw the Uncovered FC fixture called off too. The group of hardy Darlo fans had already set off from Darlington, heading over to face our friends from Bury on the morning before heading over to the Accrington game in the afternoon. Luckily they had only reached the Reg Vardy roundabout before they found out that the game was off, a few quick phone calls later and a 5 a side pitch was booked at Aycliffe and at least some football went ahead! We now have a few added Tuesday night games to come, but for those of us still lucky enough to have a job, it may be more difficult to get to the games.

The credit crunch is certainly hitting hard now and by the sounds of it things are only going to get worse. Hopefully most of us will manage to survive but obviously some will suffer. Obviously this will affect football due to the fact there will be less disposable income and in reality if we lose our jobs then luxuries like football will drop to the bottom of the list. I wonder if the pay structure for the Premier League clubs will be affected,

maybe it will hit them more when the new TV deals get negotiated.

I am certainly not feeling the pinch in my fantasy football dream team mind. I have spent £49.9m of my £50m budget and at this moment in time I am struggling. I seriously don't know why I joined the league alongside my work colleagues, because at this moment in time I am bottom of the pile and they are certainly letting me know about it. I am finding myself desperate to know the scores of the Premiership games and cringing when the likes of Vidic get a clean sheet AND score. A nice addition to the Telegraph's fantasy football game this season is the League Two version. We have two Darlington leagues set up, one from Loidland and one from Uncovered, both doing very well against the rest of the country.

The Uncovered league has 134 players with Michael Lovegreen currently leading the pack. The league itself is sixth in the country with Loidland a respectful 12th. It certainly keeps the interest up for the rest of the league results and also gives an insight into how unpredictable some players are.

Back to the internet, one of the biggest threads this week was one titled 'Ugliest Footballer Ever'. (Yes there is a world recession going on!). The transfer window is open and the whole Steve McDonald, Becky and Michelle love triangle has been outed,

but the ugly thread received the most replies. So here are some of the nominations:

Steve Ogrizovic, Joleon Lescott, Carlos Tevez and Phil Neville. But the top five are:

- 1: **Jamie Pollock**
- 2: **Peter Beardsley**
- 3: **Luke Chadwick**
- 4: **Eric Gates**
- 5: **Jimmy Bullard**

Last Friday I managed to find myself a bit star struck when confronted by a Darlo player. I am old enough and wise enough to really know better but found myself unable to speak properly when I came face to face with Liam Hatch. I pulled up behind a car and noticed the Darlo tracksuit the driver was wearing, I then realised it was Liam, returning to his residence. Hell what do I do, do I speak to him or do I just ignore him and walk on by? I decided that I must speak to him and consequently acted like a seven year old meeting David Beckham. But he was a canny lad and humoured me for a few minutes and then we went our separate ways. Must ask him to answer the fans' questions sometime.



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from the
big
screen

It was great to see the services of Liam Hatch secured until the end of the season.

I think I have said on a past occasion in this programme how good a player he has been for us so far - you only have to look at the fixture list to see the impact he had. As soon as he stepped into the team we started to get results. He adds a different sort of outlet up front which allows us to vary our approach.

He has become a real favourite of the fans in the short time he has been here. Obviously he must have enjoyed his spell here to extend his stay until the end of the season. However there was a period when it looked like the deal would hit the rocks. It seemed as if Hatch was about to extend his stay but then all of a sudden he was recalled to London Road. Thankfully it has all been resolved now but personally I think there is a nasty side to this deal. Hopefully it is one we don't see any more.

Whilst I don't know the particulars of the situation it doesn't take a genius to work it all out. For a start Dave Penney doesn't normally announce deals until they are completed. With this in mind he must have been pretty confident of getting the deal done. As the manager has said on various occasions in interviews he doesn't like to get people's hopes up only to see things slide away at the last moment. Because of this I, and I suspect many others, were very surprised to see Hatch seemingly return to Peterborough.

It was announced that Peterborough had received two significant bids for the services of the forward. Shrewsbury

Town and Rotherham United were said to be interested in him. Fair enough you might think but it seems Posh had already agreed to loan him to us before the interest from other clubs emerged. In my mind that should have been it. If a club agrees to a deal with another club then that should be it. If they have shaken on it and agreed then regardless of interest from other parties the deal should be concluded as planned - obviously as long as the player is happy with the move.

Instead the offers from two other clubs emerged and it looked like everything was off. I could almost look the other way on that front despite a deal with us seemingly being agreed. However it then emerged that the offers were merely enquiries. It then got worse as both Paul Simpson and Mark Robins both said they would not be taking the deals any further as they didn't like the figures involved. That for me was the real kick in the teeth. By that point it was obvious there was a certain amount of playing the field going on.

I am not an idealist. I realise that clubs have a right to get the best offer they can for a player. That said I firmly believe that if a club agrees a deal with another one then they should try and honour it. If other clubs had actually made an offer I could accept it but in this situation that doesn't appear to be the case as they were seemingly just enquiries. That is the most annoying thing about it. I certainly wouldn't like to see us turn back on an agreed deal just because someone else decided they might make an offer. If a club thinks other offers might come in for a player during the transfer window then they should wait and see how the

situation develops, not accept a deal and then change their mind at a later date.

Maybe it is an indication of the way that football is at the moment. There is not a huge amount of money around at the moment. Even some of the big Premiership clubs are tightening their belts and it will probably get worse over the course of the year. The transfer window obviously has played a part in situations like this developing. The one month opening at this time of the year has created an increased pressure on clubs to conclude deals. I'm sure it is not the last time we'll see it happen.

The situation must have been difficult for the manager as well. He has remained diplomatic but it could have caught him out. Thankfully we have a man in charge who doesn't put all his eggs in one basket. I am sure if he had decided to end the deal, which I wouldn't have blamed him for under the apparent circumstances, then he would have had someone else lined up. Mostly though it is hard for the player. One moment they think they are set for one place and then another they are going elsewhere. That is perhaps the worst thing about the transfer window and situations like these - even the players don't know where they are going and they are probably the most important part of any deal.

Thankfully it has all been concluded. Maybe not in the way I would have liked it but at least we have Hatch. He could play a big part in the rest of our season and we all know why. I'm delighted to see him here for the rest of the season. The thought of him and Pawel Abbott up front is a mouthwatering prospect.

Kevin Luff

MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Dave Penney	Mick Harford
Played 99 Won 44 Drawn 28 Lost 27 For 135 Against 98 Av Pts/game 1.62 Biggest Win(s) Macclesfield 0 Darlington 6 (30/08/2008). Biggest Loss(es) Darlington 0 Stockport 5 (05/05/2007).	Played 45 Won 9 Drawn 12 Lost 24 For 47 Against 69 Av Pts/game 0.87 Biggest Win(s) Luton 3 Oldham 0 (15/03/2008). Biggest Loss(es) Hartlepool 4 Luton 0 (02/02/2008).

MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ..2	Dave Penney.....1	Mick Harford1
Draws ..0	Goals 2	Goals 2

Player with the most...

shots	shots on target	shots off target	assists	crosses	fouls	free-kicks-won
Liam	Billy	Franz	Franz	Franz	Liam	Franz
Hatch 39	Clarke 23	Burgmeier 20	Burgmeier 6	Burgmeier 51	Hatch 47	Burgmeier 33



GAMES SINCE

	a win	a home win	an away win	a defeat	a home defeat	an away defeat	a score draw	a no score draw	conceding a goal	scoring a goal	conceding > 1	scoring > 1	keeping a clean sheet	failing to score	back to back wins	back to back defeats	gaining a point	losing a point	win by > one	loss by > one
Chris	0	0	5	5	3	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	11	5	0	1	9	20
Martin 38	0	0	5	7	5	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	3	4	28	7	0	1	5	7

Player with the most...

shots	shots on target	shots off target	assists	crosses	fouls	free-kicks-won
Chris	Chris	Chris	Rossi	Rossi	Michael	Claude
Martin 38	Martin 20	Martin 18	Jarvis 5	Rossi	Spillane 33	Gnakpa 30

SHARP SHOOTERS

Darlington	CCFL Cup	Tot	Luton	CCFL Cup	Tot	
Liam Hatch	7	0	7	5	1	6
Robert Purdie	4	0	4	4	0	4
Alan White	2	2	4	3	1	4

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played7	Darlington wins3	Luton wins4
Draws0	Goals 10 (1.4 per game)	Goals 15 (2.1 per game)
0-0's0	Times failed to score 1	Times failed to score 1

Biggest League win at Darlington for each team:

26/01/2002 Darlington 3-2 Luton
23/03/1968 Darlington 1-2 Luton



2008/09 LEAGUE STATS

7	Position	24
23	Played	23
10	Won	7
8	Drawn	8
5	Lost	8
37	Goals For	30
23	Goals Against	33
38	Points	-1

Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
3	5	2	9	6	2	4	4

Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
7	3	3	8	1	6	4	22

Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
8	5	1	8	7	4	0	13

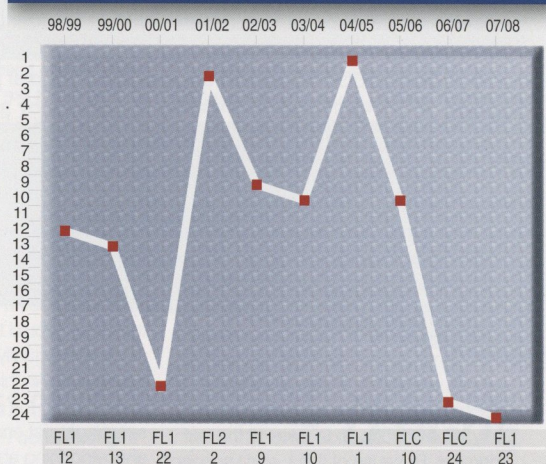
Record When Conceding First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
2	1	4	8	0	3	8	20

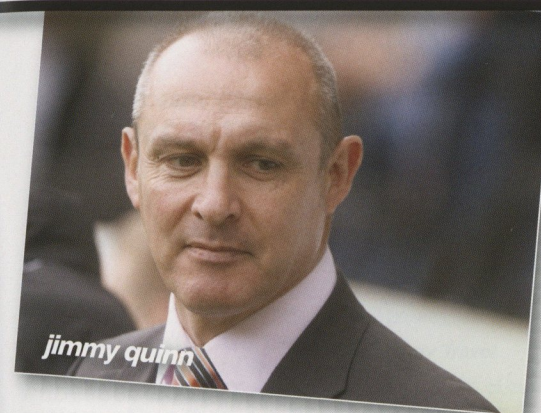
Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[1], 2-0[1], 2-1[5], 3-0[2], 6-0[1], Losses: 0-1[1], 1-2[3], 1-3[1], 1-3[1], Draws: 0-0[2], 1-1[4], 2-2[2], 3-3[1]

LUTON - TEN SEASON RECORD



*up to and including 11/01/2009



Our man Dave Penney is now the fifth longest serving manager in League Two following the departure of Barnet's Paul Fairclough at Christmas.

Dave, who was appointed just after the Hartlepool away game in October 2006, is headed in the list by four managers who have guided their clubs to promotion from the Conference - just as Dave did with Doncaster six years ago. Indeed, in terms of service in League Two, Dave is second in the list to John Coleman of Accrington Stanley, as the other three came into the league after Dave was given the job here at the Arena.

The exit of Jimmy Quinn from Bournemouth on New Year's Eve - after we'd gone to print on our programme for our game on January 3rd - was the sixth change in the division this season, and the second at Dean Court, as Kevin Bond was in charge when the season kicked off.

Quinn had been in charge for 121 days and for 19 league games, winning five and drawing seven, but the knives were out after the FA Cup second round defeat to Blyth just before Christmas, which the club reckoned cost them £250,000 in television and gate money. Director Adam Murry said; "We're at the stage now where it is make or break for the club and we need to be winning games. We need to see some consistency on the pitch. We're trying to breathe new life into the club. We need different tactics and different strategies on the pitch and, at this point in time, we felt things needed freshening up."

Events happened quickly after previous owner Paul Baker, who is based in Chester, decided to sell his 50 per cent stake in the club. "I just felt the football club deserved better than I could possibly give it," he said. "In terms of trying to run businesses 250 miles from another business and the economic climate as it is at the moment, I have to devote a lot of time to those businesses and just thought the football club was getting a short deal from me personally."

Paul Fairclough decided to quit at Christmas, but will stay at the club as director of Barnet Sports Development. He had guided the club to the Conference title in 2005, and was the ninth longest serving manager in the country. "In football it is ultimately the manager who pays the price for poor results," he said after a run of thirteen games without a win. "My chairman has been supportive but I will not allow him to suffer on my behalf any longer."

Fairclough revealed that he would quit after Barnet played at Bournemouth on December 28th - and yes you've guessed it, his team ended their barren run and won 2-0. Ian Hendon, who was assistant to Fairclough, took temporary charge after that. Coincidentally, Barnet's win at Dean Court also proved to be Jimmy Quinn's last game in charge of Bournemouth.

- The list of serving managers in League Two is;**
- John Coleman (Accrington Stanley) appointed May 1999
 - John Still (Dagenham) April 2004
 - Sammy McLroy (Morecambe) May 2006

dave penney fifth in the league!

- Paul Tisdale (Exeter City) June 2006
 - Dave October 2006
 - Keith Hill (Rochdale) December 2006
 - Mark Robins (Rotherham United) March 2007
 - Lee Richardson (Chesterfield) March 2007
 - Gary Waddock (Aldershot) May 2007
 - Stuart McCall (Bradford City) May 2007
 - Peter Jackson (Lincoln City) October 2007
 - Ian McParland (Notts County) November 2007
 - Mark Stimson (Gillingham) November 2007
 - Andy Scott (Brentford) December 2007
 - Mick Harford (Luton) January 2008
 - Keith Alexander (Macclesfield) February 2008
 - Alan Knill (Bury) February 2008
 - Paul Simpson (Shrewsbury) March 2008
 - Peter Taylor (Wycombe) May 2008
 - Dean Glover (Port Vale) October 2008
 - Mike Newell (Grimsby) October 2008
 - Mark Wright (Chester) November 2008
 - Ian Hendon (Barnet) December 2008
 - Eddie Howe (Bournemouth) January 2009
- Altogether, there have been 21 managerial changes so far this season in the three divisions of the Football League - and by the time you read this, there might have been 22!

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Having watched football regularly for the last 25 years, this afternoon will be the first time that I have witnessed Luton Town in action, other than on TV.

We all know that 'The Hatters' started this season with a huge points deduction, and therefore need to win games arguably more than anybody else. Our form of late has been disappointing, however thankfully we returned to winning ways when we hosted Bournemouth a fortnight ago. We didn't play particularly well during the game, but thankfully stepped things up towards the end and we claimed a very valuable victory. The big talking point of the game was the return to scoring for Pawel Abbott. He made a big difference up front in the second half, and it was great to see him hitting the back of the net again. We thought that the game spelled the end of Liam Hatch's stay at Darlo, but thankfully the big fella has returned for the remainder of the season. So with plenty of positives to concentrate on, everything was set for the away trip to Accrington Stanley last weekend. However, it was unfortunate that the game did not survive the severe frosts. It was no surprise that the game was called off, and was obviously one of many which was beaten by the weather conditions.

Whilst I am on the subject, I would like to commend our groundsman Gary Ventress who is clearly doing a great job with the pitch here at the Arena. At this time of the year many pitches around the country are usually in a very poor state, but Gary has produced a

good playing surface which appears to be well maintained. Well done Gary!!

Away Travel

The details of our next 2 away games are as follows:

Saturday 24th January 09

Shrewsbury Town 8.30 am £21.00

Saturday 31st January 09

Dagenham & Redbridge 7.30 am
 £30.00

Bookings for away travel are being taken today at our table in the Tinshed Bar, so please feel free to call in and see us. Don't forget that enquiries can be made by telephoning us on 01325 243911, whilst you can also catch up on Supporters Club news by clicking onto www.dfsc.co.uk

Those supporters who had paid to travel with us to Accrington Stanley last Saturday, should call into the Tinshed Bar today and speak to either Glen or Mary.

Now that we are into January, the transfer window has obviously re-opened, and at the same time a number of our loan deals have expired. A number of players have left the club in recent weeks, and it is certainly good news that Hatchy is staying with us. I'm sure that Dave Penney will still be working on one or two other transfer targets, so let's hope that the squad is ready to put together a serious promotion push. If we can stay clear of major injuries and suspensions, then I'm sure that we are more than capable of being there or thereabouts by May.

supporters club



Yet again though, I find myself looking at our attendances. I would really like to think that if we do put together a serious promotion push, then will our attendances increase significantly? I'm sure that bigger attendances would create a better atmosphere at games, and in turn help the lads on the pitch. A number of ideas have been tried over recent years to improve attendances with limited success. I know that a number of ideas and incentives are presently being looked at by the football club, but in the meantime can I ask supporters to please try and encourage their friends and family to come along and support Darlo?? The old term, 'the more the merrier', seems to spring to mind.

Please give Dave Penney and the lads your full support this afternoon, and help cheer them towards hopefully another home win. Enjoy the game, and see you next time. Andy.



looking forward

Hoping for better weather!

Our next game is our re-arranged trip to Accrington Stanley, which was postponed because of a frozen pitch a fortnight ago.

Our record at the Crown Ground - or the Fraser Eagle Stadium to the more commercially minded — in the last two years is;

2007-08 won 3-0 (Abbott 2, Wright)

2006-07 won 2-0 (Cummins, Smith)

Their last eight league results before today's away game at Bradford City, have been;

January 3rd Rochdale (away) lost 3-1 (Cavanagh)

December 28th Grimsby (home) won 3-1 (Clarke 3)

December 20th Rotherham (home) lost 3-1 (Procter)

December 12th Lincoln (away) lost 5-1 (Miles)

November 29th Bury (home) lost 2-1 (Clarke)

November 22nd Chesterfield (away) drew 1-1 (Ryan)

November 15th Bournemouth (home) won 3-0 (Mullin, Gornell, Griffiths)

November 1st Dagenham and Redbridge (away) drew 0-0

Jamie Clarke scored his first senior hat trick against Grimsby, but the crowd was a meagre 1,200, one of the lowest in the division this season. Regular keeper Kenny Arthur has a kidney injury, and will probably miss the game.

We're on our travels again next Saturday to Shrewsbury, one of our promotion rivals - and we'll be hoping for much better weather than last season.

Our first ever visit last season to Shrewsbury's new ground, the Prostar

Stadium, saw most of the game played in strong winds and a hailstorm, so not surprisingly it ended in a goalless draw.

Shrewsbury haven't been scared to splash the cash this season, and during the summer paid Nottingham Forest £170,000 for striker Grant Holt, who has scored 20 goals in 28 games for them, including five in a 7-0 win at Wycombe in the JP Trophy. However, he will be missing our game because he is suspended.

According to Peterborough, the Shrews were also supposed to have made an offer for Liam Hatch early this month, but Shrewsbury boss Paul Simpson, who has been linked with the vacant Blackpool job, played that one down; "We made an enquiry about Liam, but the figures we were quoted by Peterborough were far too much for us," he told BBC Radio Shropshire. "They say we made a six-figure offer, which isn't true. We made an enquiry, and now we are looking elsewhere."

One interesting fact about Shrewsbury's move across town to their new ground is that their average attendance this season is around a thousand more than it was at Gay Meadow. At Christmas, the average was 5,762, compared to 4,729 two seasons ago.

Shrewsbury's last six results, before today's away game at Port Vale, have been;

January 10th Chester - postponed

January 3rd Bradford City (away) drew 0-0

December 28th Bury (home) won 1-0 (Holt)

December 26th Rochdale (away) lost 2-1 (Holt)

December 20th Wycombe (home) lost 1-0

December 16th JPT Brighton (home) drew 0-0, lost 5-4 on penalties

Our last five results at Shrewsbury have been;

2007-08 drew 0-0 Team; Stockdale, Austin, Foster, Miller, Parker (Wainwright 74), Valentine, Kennedy, Cummins, Joachim, Gall (Ndumbu-Nsungu 30, Abbott 69), subs not used Blundell, Liversedge.

2006-07 drew 2-2 (Giallanza, Wainwright)

2005-06 lost 1-3 (Stamp)

2004-05 lost 0-4

2002-03 drew 2-2 (Conlon, Keltie)

In fact, our last win at Shrewsbury was on August 21st 1999, when Neil Heaney's 25th minute goal from thirty yards out in front of the away fans gave us a 1-0 win. The team that day was; Collett, Heckingbottom, Aspin, Reed, Liddle, Himsworth, Gray, Atkinson, Heaney (sub Oliver), Nogan (sub Carruthers), Gabbadieni. Subs not used; Duffield, Bennett, Samways.

The Shrewsbury game is the first of four in nine days. After the trip to the Prostar Stadium, we play Rotherham at home on Tuesday January 27th, and then we're at Dagenham on Saturday January 31st, quickly followed by a game at Bradford City in front of the Sky tv cameras on Monday February 2nd.



from a Mann's point of view

Garry Mann

The winter weather has always been a crux upon the English football fixture schedule.

Indeed the unpredictability of the British climate renders any given Saturday as a potential candidate for postponement.

So why was there such a fuss made about last weekend's cancellations?

Anyone who has any of their major senses about them could not help but be blatantly aware of the atrocious overnight frost that inevitably took its toll at many stadiums across the country. In some parts of the country there were record breaking low temperatures!

Postponements are accepted as an inevitable natural wastage throughout every campaign. That's of course provided you're not a Premiership club.

Portsmouth and Fulham's home games both bit the dust because of the elements and yet this seemed to receive as many column inches as the action that was played over the weekend.

Every lower league supporter must have been spitting feathers at the bigotry and self-importance that the domestic elite aptly indulged in the aftermath of the two postponements. Fans demanding compensating for travel tickets, discounted entry at the rearranged match and apologies!

Granted the so-called best league in the world should have adequate facilities and measures in place to deal with bad weather but both Fratton Park and Craven Cottage are about the only 'traditional' grounds still existing in the Premiership. Nearly every other club has upgraded to a super-stadium within the last decade and naturally comes

with all the mod cons. This is not an excuse for the two clubs concerned but it's not as if they were isolated incidents, barely a game was played in their respective areas of the country.

The Premiership has quickly become God as a league of its own, leaving the Football League behind with its only connection the exchanging of largely the same pool of clubs once a year around May time.

The demands of the clubs and their fans are frankly disgusting and totally disrespectful to the average football fan but are nothing more than a by-product of the over-zealous spending of billionaire foreign benefactors. Take Manchester City for example. A club with unlimited spending power that's been able to attract stars from the international cream and is almost certain to buy itself as much success as it wants in the very near future. It's only natural its supporters should feel a sense of elitism.

When the Darlington supporters' bus entered Exeter only to be passed by the team coach going in the opposite direction seven years ago were they any major qualms or demands for subsidy? When we parked up at Swansea to be told the match was off, did we cause a stir? And midweek at Torquay, was there any sign of trouble when the match was postponed upon arrival?

The answer to all these questions is no. Why? Simply because certain sectors of the football supporting network are embedded in reality, accept this is going to happen particularly at this time of the year and get on with their day knowing this is all part of the rich tapestry of any part of the season.

The Football League advised clubs throughout the week about being prudent with cancellation times given the adverse forecast for Saturday. Indeed many heeded the warning as a batch of games were postponed Friday evening and some even prepared contingency plans for rearranging games a matter of a few days later - Oldham played Hartlepool on Monday night.

Official supporters' travel clubs have insurance policies in place that allows for full refunds in the event of postponed games, so in the event of suspected dodgy weather there is a convenient travel solution even if some find the idea of coach travel a bind.

The point is it's only the silver spoon merchants from the Premiership who have taken any issue with the weekend's cancellations. It seems almost an alien concept to some people that this should occur. It's this attitude that I find a total turn off about supporting Premiership clubs. I've seen Newcastle several times this season and I can never wait to return to the pragmatism and genuineness of League Two. The football might be rubbish at times, the catering might be mediocre and might cost you more than you bargained for, but at least it's respectful, it's friendly and it's a comfortable environment to enjoy the beautiful game away from the snobs, the half wits and misguided rabble rousers.

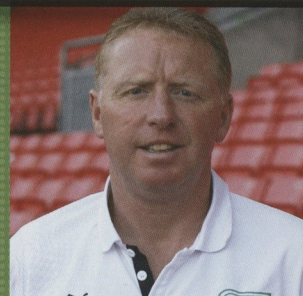
Besides all of which Darlington has just landed itself potentially the strongest strike partnership it's had for years, and arguably the strongest in the division. Let's all hope that some good weather helps them.

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football in the community



dfc half term soccer courses



Good afternoon and welcome to today's game against Luton Town.

February Half Term Courses

Please see the details on this page for our upcoming half term soccer courses. We are delighted to also announce the beginning of GIRLS ONLY SOCCER COURSES at half term which will be held at Skerne Park Primary School.

After the success of the October 2008 course, we have again secured Harrowgate Hill Primary School for our Darlington venue for boys and also girls who wish to continue playing with the boys. Running alongside this, is our

North Yorkshire soccer course which is anticipated to be very well attended. This to be held at Richmond Sports Complex at Richmond School.

Junior Quakers

COMPETITION TIME - all Junior Quaker members will receive competition news in the post as well as the details printed in our notes here. These details will feature in the programmes later this month and you will receive it well in time for the February half term as you may wish to do the activity during this time.

We are receiving applications for new members all the time, if you want more information please get in touch and we

will be happy to send you it.

Matchday Experience

Over the Christmas period, our matchday experience packages were full with children's parties. They all had a great day and were also treated to an opportunity to fire questions at players who visited the the matchday experience on that day. We will put the pictures in here also this month with details of our packages. Again, for information, please contact us.

For now, enjoy the game and cheer the lads on for 3 more points.

Darlington FC half term courses

Course 1

NEW: Girls only soccer course

Available to Girls only aged 5 -14yrs

Course: February Half Term

Venue: Skerne Park Primary School, Coleridge Gardens, Darlington, DL1 5AJ

Dates: Monday 16th February - Wednesday 18th February

Time: 10am - 3pm

Cost: £25 for 3 days or £10 per day

*Junior Quaker Members: £15 for 3 days

The Course includes:

- Top tuition from experienced staff
- LOTS OF FUN! Take part in World Cup day, Football Olympics and much more
- Win trophies and medals
- Match tickets

What every child needs to bring:

- Football kit (shin pads, football boots & trainers)
- Waterproof clothing, warm coat
- Packed lunch (with plenty of drinks)

- We have an inside and outside facility to accommodate all weather conditions

Trophies and medals will be presented on the final day.

Children may turn up on the day to register but we request if possible to book in advance to secure your place!

Course 2

Venue: Harrowgate Hill Primary School, Thompson St West, Darlington, DL3 0HZ

Available to all Boys & Girls aged between 5-12 years

Dates: Monday 16th February - Thursday 19th February

Time: 10am - 3pm

Cost: £35 for all 4 days or £10 per day Junior Quaker members: 4 days £25

The Course includes:

- Top Tuition from experienced staff
- LOTS OF FUN! Take part in World Cup day, Football Olympics and much more
- Win trophies and medals to be presented to you by a Darlington player!
- A chance to visit the Darlington Arena and have a tour of behind the scenes. (When transport available)
- If you impress our coaches, you may have the opportunity to have trials with our academy.

What every child needs to bring:

- Football kit (Shin pads, football boots & Trainers)
- Waterproof clothing, warm coat
- Packed lunch (with plenty of drinks)
- We have an inside and outside facility to accommodate all weather conditions

Trophies and medals will be presented by Darlington players if available on Thursday 19th February

Children can also turn up and register on the day of the course starting or days they wish to attend. Junior Quaker members are requested to bring their card.

Course 3

Venue: Richmond Sports Complex, Richmond School, Darlington Road, Richmond, DL10 7BQ

Available to all Boys & Girls aged between 5-14 years

Dates: Monday 16th February - Wednesday 18th February

Time: 10am - 3pm

Cost: £30 for 3 days if pre-booked, £33 if registered on day or £11 per day

The Course includes:

- Top tuition from experienced staff
- LOTS OF FUN! Take part in World Cup day, Football Olympics and much more

- Win trophies and medals
- Match tickets

What every child needs to bring:

- Football kit (shin pads, football boots & trainers)
- Waterproof clothing, warm coat
- Packed lunch (with plenty of drinks)
- The Course will take place on AstroTurf

Trophies and medals will be presented on the final day

Children may turn up on the day to register but we request if possible to book in advance to secure your place!

For any of the mentioned courses please book now by calling 01325 387019/387060 or 07790015410 or e-mail fitc@darlington-fc.net or complete form below and post it back to us.

Soccer Course form

Course

Name

Address

Post Code

Emergency Contact No

Age

Health issues



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sunday lunch carvery

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MAIN COURSE **£6.99**

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Lakeland Turkey
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Oven Roast Leg of
English Pork

All served with fresh seasonal
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Yorkshire Puddings

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01325 387000



supporters trust

Is it a crime to watch football?

Our friends at the Football Supporters' Federation have joined ranks with Liberty, the Civil Rights organisation, to campaign for the rights of football fans who have been unjustly detained under Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act.

In recent weeks, the FSF has become aware of the cases of fans from Stoke City and Plymouth who have been served with Section 27 orders, made to miss their team's game, and taken back home under threat of arrest with no compensation for match tickets or travel. In these cases, the police cited "intelligence" reports, despite the fact that the landlords from the pubs these supporters were in said that there had not been any trouble and very little in the way of singing, never mind violence.

We at the Darlington Supporters Trust have long argued that football fans should not automatically be assumed to be hooligans. Ann Fairclough, Legal Officer for Liberty, shares our views and said that "this is a football-loving country and it's not only wrong, but counter productive to treat all fans as hooligans". The FSF, of which the Trust is a member, is taking this issue very seriously. We have no issue with the police or stewards correctly taking action against people who have committed offences; the legislation is designed to allow the moving on of individuals or small groups misbehaving under the influence of alcohol. However, it was not designed so that the police could impose football banning orders at will across entire counties. It seems that, in some cases, the legislation is being used unlawfully and the FSF is taking a firm stance against this, campaigning for compensation for innocent fans, refunds on travel expenses and match tickets, deletion of any records of incidents held on file and a written apology.

Interestingly, I attended a meeting with



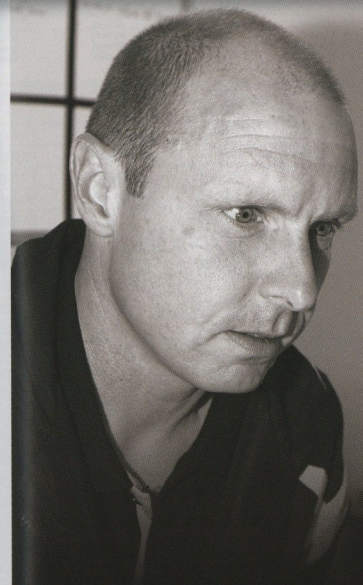
the Football Club recently and the standard of stewarding was mentioned as one factor that is a serious consideration in fans attending matches. I, for one, recognise that stewards face a challenging task but I do think that there is always room for improvement. Similarly, we are aware of issues - not at Darlington, I hasten to add - where ambulant disabled fans have been arrested on the grounds of being under the influence of alcohol; again, this is an instance where better training, and particularly in relation to disability awareness, would be of great benefit. The recent appointment of Paul Hodgson, from the Trust, as Disability Liaison Officer at Darlington is a positive move forward which we welcome and demonstrates the positive moves the club is taking.

Meanwhile, our parent organisation Supporters Direct, of which I am Vice Chair, is working closely with the Football Supporters Federation in developing a series of proposals on the future of football, in response to the questions raised by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he spoke at our annual conference in London recently. In particular, we are making a number of recommendations in terms of corporate governance issues and transparency in accounts which we believe to be essential. The FA, the Football League and the Premier League have also been asked to offer their contributions to this important debate - watch this space.

The Trust is your opportunity to really make a contribution, with membership still costing just £5 a year for adults - if you would like to help with our work, please contact us by email at info@darlotrustdsg.co.uk or write to us (Darlington Supporters Trust, P O Box 178, Northallerton, DL7 7AG)

Enjoy the game.

Tony Taylor Chairman - Darlington
Supporters Trust

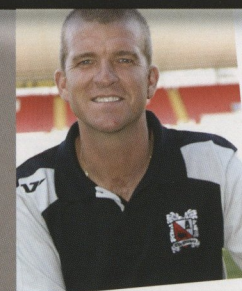


york
darlington 2
0

Our first game of the New Year was a disappointing one in both result and performance.

We started the game quite brightly and were well on top before falling behind to a first half goal that came against the run of play.

Once the goal went in we lost our way, and didn't recover, which was a big disappointment because I wanted the boys to put it behind them, and take control again.



2008-09 youths

craig liddle and neil maddison

Instead we resorted to playing long aimless balls which the York defence dealt with quite comfortably, whereas when we had played more constructive football, we had stretched them.

In almost all of the games so far this season we have played neat attractive football. We have players who are comfortable on the ball but we gave it away very cheaply on the day and made wrong decisions both in and out of possession.

York added a second goal late on in the game, a goal that stemmed from poor decision making from us.

Perhaps you learn more from defeats than from wins, so there is plenty for the boys to take on board from this performance, so that they can return to higher standards in future games.

We are currently short of one or two players through injuries and with Curtis Main involved with the first team so we have been able to give quite a few under 16 players the chance to join the squad and gain valuable experience.

Against York we had six under 16 players in the squad. This is encouraging, as it is important for us to have players of good quality coming in, so that they can replace the second years who either sign professionally or move on.

Most people will tell you at this level it isn't all about winning but it does give us an indication of what we have got. Overall the players can be very pleased with the first half of the season.

Over the Christmas period the boys had a short break and a couple went out and played a game in the Northern League to keep in shape and gain some experience of football outside of the professional game. We wanted to give the boys a bit of a rest especially the first years as well as keeping them sharp. Last Saturday's game was called off due to the weather so today we were looking for an improved performance and result at Doncaster. Enjoy today's game and, as always, get behind the lads. Lidds

	North East Conference	Pld	W	D	L	For	Agt	GD	Pts
1	Grimsby Town	13	9	2	2	32	13	+19	29
2	Darlington	14	8	4	2	33	17	+16	28
3	Hull City	11	8	1	2	29	13	+16	25
4	York City	13	7	3	3	24	14	+10	24
5	Scunthorpe United	11	5	4	2	20	8	+12	19
6	Chesterfield	12	6	1	5	19	21	-2	19
7	Mansfield Town	13	6	1	6	20	27	-7	19
8	Lincoln City	13	4	5	4	23	21	+2	17
9	Bradford City	13	5	1	7	15	23	-8	16
10	Hartlepool United	10	2	2	6	13	19	-6	8
11	Boston United	14	2	2	10	22	43	-21	8
12	Doncaster Rovers	12	1	4	7	14	26	-12	7
13	Rotherham United	11	1	2	8	15	34	-19	5

Bathroom World Dtn
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






Proud sponsors of the Youth Team

For more information telephone/fax:

01325 463081

Scorers in **bold** 1st substitute 2nd substitute 3rd substitute substitute not used

Date	Opponents	Result	Attend	Pos	Referee					
August										
Sat 9	Exeter City	H 1-1	3559		G Salisbury	Brown	Purdie1	White	Foster	Fortune
Tue 12	Walsall (Carling Cup 1)	A 2-1	2707		D Drysdale	Brown	Austin	Miller	Foster	Purdie
Sat 16	Notts. County	A 0-0	4352		M Hayward	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Sat 23	Gillingham	H 1-2	2831		C Pawson	Brown	Austin	Miller	Foster	Purdie1
Tue 26	Watford (Carling Cup 2)	A 1-2	5236		F Graham	Brown	Austin	Miller	Foster	Valentine
Sat 30	Macclesfield Town	A 6-0	1554	12	S Hooper	Brown	Austin1	White	Foster	Purdie
September										
Sat 6	Aldershot Town	A 1-2	3460	13	O Langford	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Sat 13	Port Vale	H 2-1	3040	10	K G Evans	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Sat 20	Accrington Stanley	H 3-0	2814	7	A Taylor	Brown	Austin	White1	Foster	Purdie
Sat 27	A.F.C. Bournemouth	A 1-3	4124		C Penton	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
October										
Sat 4	Shrewsbury Town	H 1-1	2899	10	C Sarginson	Brown	Austin	White1	Foster	Purdie
Tue 7	Huddersfield Town (JP2)	H 1-0	1791		G Salisbury	Kazimierczak	Austin	White1	Foster	Purdie
Sat 11	Luton Town	A 2-1	5560	9	J Linington	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Sat 18	Wycombe Wanderers	A 1-1	5345		D Phillips	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Mon 20	Bradford City	H 2-1	3034	7	R Shoebridge	Brown	Austin1	White	Foster	Purdie
Sat 25	Dagenham & Redbridge	H 3-0	3070	6	J Moss	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Tue 28	Rotherham United	A 1-0	3322	3	A Bates	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
November										
Sat 1	Grimsby Town	A 2-1	3509	1	A Woolmer	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Tue 4	Bury (JP3)	H 1-0	1651		N Swarbrick	Kazimierczak	Austin	White1	Foster	Poole
Sat 8	Droydsden F.A. Cup 1	H 0-0	2479		M Haywood	Brown	Austin	Griffin	Foster	Purdie
Sat 15	Lincoln City	H 2-0	3534	1	S Mathieson	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Tue 18	Droydsden (F.A. 1 replay)	A 0-1	1672		K Wright	Oakes	Austin	White	Miller	Purdie
Sat 22	Brentford	A 1-1	4837	2	J Linington	Oakes	Austin	White	Ryan	Purdie
Tue 25	Chester City	H 1-2	2416	3	K Friend	Brown	Austin	White	Ryan	Purdie1
December										
Sat 13	Morecambe	A 0-1	1873	6	J Singh	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Purdie
Tue 16	Rotherham JP Area SF	A 1-1	2706		D Whitestone	Brown	Austin	White	Foster1	Flynn
Sat 20	Barnet	H 2-2	2770	7	T Kettle	Brown	Austin	Miller	Foster	Flynn
Fri 26	Bury	A 2-2	3454	7	G Salisbury	Brown	Austin	Miller1	Foster	Flynn
Sun 28	Chesterfield	H 0-0	3352	8	M Oliver	Brown	Austin	White	Foster	Flynn
January										
Sat 3	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H 2-1	2571	6	S Mathieson	Brown	Ryan	White	Foster	Hulbert
Sat 17	Luton Town	H 3pm								
Tue 20	Accrington Stanley	A 7.45pm								
Sat 24	Shrewsbury Town	A 3pm								
Tue 27	Rotherham United	H 7.45pm								
Sat 31	Dagenham & Redbridge	A 3pm								
February										
Mon 2	Bradford City	A 7.45pm								
Sat 7	Wycombe Wanderers	H 3pm								
Sat 14	Lincoln City	A 3pm								
Sat 21	Grimsby Town	H 3pm								
Tue 24	Rochdale	H 7.45pm								
Sat 28	Exeter City	A 3pm								
March										
Tue 3	Notts. County	H 7.45pm								
Sat 7	Macclesfield Town	H 3pm								
Tue 10	Gillingham	A 7.45pm								
Sat 14	Port Vale	A 3pm								
Sat 21	Aldershot Town	H 3pm								
Sat 28	Barnet	A 3pm								
April										
Sat 4	Morecambe	H 3pm								
Sat 11	Chesterfield	A 3pm								
Mon 13	Bury	H 3pm								
Sat 18	Rochdale	A 3pm								
Sat 25	Brentford	H 3pm								
May										
Sat 2	Chester City	A 3pm								
Sat 30	FA Cup Final									

											
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Griffin	Proudlock	Clarke	Austin	Blundell	Hulbert	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy1	Ravenhill	Griffin	Proudlock	Clarke1	Main	Blundell	Hulbert	Valentine	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Griffin	Proudlock	Clarke	Miller	Blundell	Hulbert	Valentine	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Griffin	Proudlock	Clarke	Main	Blundell	Hulbert	Bergmeier	Kazimierczak	
Burgmeier	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hulbert	Blundell1	Clarke	Purdie	Main	Griffin	Poole	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch	Burgmeier	Clarke4	Valentine	Blundell	Hulbert	Proudlock	Kazimierczak	
Hulbert1	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Valentine	Blundell	Clarke	Poole	Proudlock	Griffin	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch1	Burgmeier1	Clarke	Hulbert	Proudlock	Griffin	Blundell	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch	Burgmeier	Clarke2	Hulbert	Proudlock	Blundell	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch1	Burgmeier	Clarke	Blundell	Proudlock	Hulbert	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Ryan	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch	Burgmeier	Clarke	Blundell	Proudlock	Hulbert	Poole	Kazimierczak	
Poole	Hulbert	Ravenhill	Proudlock	Burgmeier	Blundell	Clarke	Kennedy	Hatch	Miller	Brown	
Poole	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch	Ryan	Clarke1	Proudlock	Blundell1	Hulbert	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Ryan	Kennedy1	Hulbert	Hatch	Burgmeier	Clarke	Blundell	Griffin	Miller	Valentine	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch	Burgmeier	Clarke	Blundell	Proudlock	Hulbert	Griffin	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy1	Ravenhill	Hatch2	Burgmeier	Clarke	Blundell	Proudlock	Hulbert	Griffin	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill1	Hatch	Burgmeier	Clarke	Blundell	Proudlock	Hulbert	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill1	Blundell	Burgmeier	Clarke1	Foran	Proudlock	Hulbert	Miller	Kazimierczak	
Ryan	Hulbert	Ravenhill	Proudlock	Burgmeier	Foran	Griffin	Blundell	Kennedy	Miller	Oakes	
Valentine	Kennedy	Hulbert	Blundell	Clarke	Miller	Foran	Ravenhill	Gray	White	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch1	Burgmeier	Foran1	Ryan	Blundell	Hulbert	Main	Oakes	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hatch	Blundell	Foran	Ryan	Griffin	Hulbert	Main	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Hulbert	Burgmeier	Foran1	Miller	Griffin	Blundell	Main	Kazimierczak	
Valentine	Kennedy	Ravenhill	Clarke	Burgmeier	Foran	Blundell	Hulbert	Main	Miller	Oakes	
Ryan	Flynn	Ravenhill	Hatch	Burgmeier	Foran	Clarke	Carole	Kennedy	Valentine	Oakes	
Ryan	Kennedy	Carole	Hatch	Flynn	Clarke	Foran	Purdie	Valentine	Burgmeier	Main	Oakes
Valentine	Kennedy	Carole	Hatch2	Burgmeier	Clarke	Foran	Ravenhill	Purdie	Main	Liversedge	
Valentine	Ravenhill	Carole	Hatch	Clarke	Foran1	Burgmeier	Ryan	Kennedy	Main	Oakes7	
Valentine	Kennedy	Purdie	Main	Burgmeier	Foran	Carole	Clarke	Abbott	Ryan	Oakes	
Valetine	Kennedy	Purdie1	Hatch	Carole	Foran	Abbott1	Burgmeier	Austin	Main	Oakes	

football league guidelines to postponements

Following the onset of the recent cold snap, The Football League has re-iterated to clubs the recommended procedures with regard to early pitch inspections. Football League Head of Communications, John Nagle, said, "Given the low temperatures we are currently experiencing it is very likely that we'll see a number of games being called off in the days ahead. Therefore, it is important that clubs do everything they can to prevent supporters making wasted journeys to postponed fixtures." Consequently, in instances where there is any possibility of a fixture being postponed because of bad weather, the home club is expected to:

- provide an early warning to The Football League that the fixture might be in doubt and seek appropriate advice;
- contact the visiting club at least 24 hours prior to kick-off to ascertain their travelling arrangements and to keep these in mind throughout the ensuing lead up period;

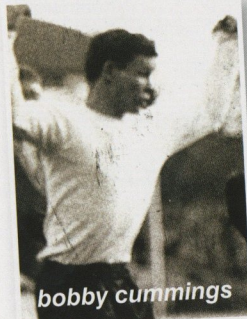
- contact the match referee to inform him of the situation and to make him aware that an early inspection might be required. If needed, this inspection should be made prior to the visiting club and their supporters beginning their journey;

- contact The Football League if they believe a very early pitch inspection is a sensible course of action (e.g. Friday for a Saturday match). In such cases The League may arrange for the inspection to be made by a local referee, with the decision made by The League, itself, based on his/her report;

- keep supporters informed of any changes to the status of the match through relevant news channels such as Radio Five Live, the Press Association and Club websites & SMS services. The League has also emphasised, once again, that whilst the responsibility for the initial action resides locally with the home team, no club may postpone a match by itself. Such a decision can only be taken by the match referee or The Football League. Of course, the unpredictability of the British weather may still lead to some matches being called off late in the day or even abandoned after they have begun. However, through the implementation of these procedures it is hoped that such cases can be kept to a minimum.

match to remember

Frank Tweddle



bobby cummings

played in Darlington between the two sides, but it is this inaugural game I

Luton Town's first ever appearance at Feethams in April 1966 certainly vies with their cup visit of September 1975 as the most memorable of the mere five matches

have chosen as it set us up for promotion with just four games of the season left. We lay second and Luton were only four points behind in seventh place when we lined up on a hot afternoon with manager Lol Morgan selecting the same eleven for the tenth game in succession - not surprising as we had won seven of them! It was a tense first forty-five minutes as the teams cautiously probed and tested each other with the visitors happy to contain the game. Then three minutes into the second-half the large crowd erupted as Bobby Cummings soared like an eagle to head Bary

30th April 1966

Darlington
Luton Town

1
0

Attendance 11,155

Hutchinson's floated cross past the flailing arms of former Darlington keeper Colin Tinsley in the Luton goal. The Darlington defence then held firm against the 'Hatters' attack, desperately missing the injured 31-goal John O'Rourke (who joined Middlesbrough that summer), and gained the precious win that sent us back to the top of the Fourth Division table with only four games to play and three of them were at home.

Team: Darlington - Moore, Peverell, Keeble; Yeoman, Jacques, Ratcliffe; McGeachie, Hutchinson, Cummings, Sproates, O'Neill.

league table and appearances

LEAGUETABLE



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wycombe	24	7	5	0	20	8	6	5	1	13	6	19	49
Brentford	23	6	4	1	18	8	5	5	2	13	9	14	42
Bradford	24	6	6	1	24	14	5	1	5	16	13	13	40
Bury	25	6	2	4	18	11	5	4	4	18	16	9	39
Dag & Red	23	6	3	1	26	6	5	2	6	20	18	22	38
Shrewsbury	24	9	1	2	28	7	1	7	4	10	13	18	38
Darlington	23	6	4	2	20	11	4	4	3	17	12	14	38
Rochdale	23	7	3	2	24	12	3	5	3	14	16	10	38
Exeter	23	5	3	4	17	16	5	3	3	15	12	4	36
Gillingham	23	7	4	1	23	7	2	3	6	9	26	-1	34
Aldershot	22	7	4	1	22	15	3	0	7	11	20	-2	34
Lincoln City	24	4	6	2	18	11	4	1	7	11	16	2	31
Chesterfield	23	3	4	4	18	17	4	3	5	19	18	2	28
Notts County	24	3	5	5	11	16	3	4	4	16	20	-9	27
Macclesfield	23	4	1	7	14	26	4	2	5	15	21	-18	27
Port Vale	23	4	1	7	12	21	4	1	6	12	16	-13	26
Morecambe	23	4	5	2	16	12	1	5	6	9	22	-9	25
Chester	24	4	3	5	18	14	2	3	7	10	27	-13	24
Accrington Stan	23	4	1	6	16	16	2	3	7	10	21	-11	22
Rotherham	23	5	3	3	16	12	5	4	3	15	12	7	20
Barnet	24	1	3	7	9	22	3	4	6	17	26	-22	19
Grimsby	23	1	4	6	10	17	1	4	7	9	25	-23	14
Bournemouth	24	4	4	4	10	9	1	5	6	16	27	-10	7
Luton	24	4	4	4	20	19	3	5	4	12	16	-3	0

2008/09STATS

	League		Cup		Total	
	Starts	Goals	Starts	Goals	Starts	Goals
Pawel Abbott	2	1			0	2
Neil Austin	21	2	7		28	2
Gregg Blundell	2	14	1	4	6	16
Jason Bradley					0	0
Simon Brown#	22		4		26	0
Franz Burgmeier	16	3	2	3	19	4
Seb Carole	3	2		1	4	2
Billy Clarke*	18	2	8	4	22	3
Michael Flynn**	4		1		5	0
Richie Foran%	7	2	3	3	10	3
Clayton Fortune	1				1	0
Stephen Foster	21		6	1	27	0
Josh Gray				1	0	1
Adam Griffin	3	3		2	3	6
Lewis Hardman					0	0
Liam Hatch\$	15	7		2	17	7
Robin Hulbert	4	13	1	4	8	15
Przemyslaw Kazimierzczak				2	2	0
Jason Kennedy	21	2	2	5	26	4
Nick Liversedge					0	0
Curtis Main	1	3		1	1	4
Ian Miller	3	4		4	7	4
Andy Oakes	1			1	2	0
David Poole	8	1		3	11	2
Adam Proudlock	3	5		3	6	5
Rob Purdie	21	1	4	4	25	2
Ricky Ravenhill	19	1	2	5	24	2
Tim Ryan	7	2		2	9	3
Simon Todd					0	0
Ryan Valentine	12			3	15	0
Alan White	20	2		4	24	0

** on loan from Huddersfield Town % on loan from Southend United
on loan from Brentford \$ on loan from Peterborough United
* on loan from Ipswich Town

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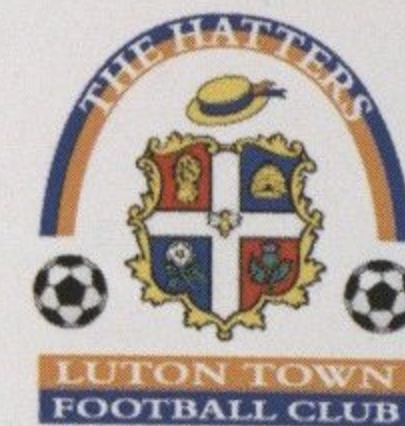


e.on



darlington

- 1 Andy Oakes
- 2 Neil Austin
- 3 Clayton Fortune
- 4 Alan White
- 5 Stephen Foster
- 6 Ian Miller
- 7 Jason Kennedy
- 8 Gregg Blundell
- 9 Pawel Abbott
- 10 Danny Carlton
- 11 Rob Purdie
- 12 Ryan Valentine
- 13 Przemyslaw Kazimierczak
- 14 Ricky Ravenhill
- 15 Nick Liversedge
- 16 David Poole
- 17 Adam Griffin
- 18 Franz Burgmeier
- 21 Jason Bradley
- 22 Dean Gerken
- 23 Robin Hulbert
- 25 Curtis Main
- 26 Jonathan Hewitson
- 27 Josh Gray
- 28 Michael Smith
- 29 Liam Hatch
- 30 Tim Ryan
- 32 Dan Riley
- 34 Sebastien Carole



luton town

- 1 Dean Brill
- 2 Claude Gnakpa
- 3 Sol Davis
- 4 Keith Keane
- 5 Ian Roper
- 6 George Pilkington
- 7 Ian Henderson
- 8 Kevin Nicholls
- 10 Ryan Charles
- 11 Lewis Emanuel
- 14 Asa Hall
- 15 Ed Asafu-Adjaye
- 16 Rossi Jarvis
- 18 Chris Martin
- 19 Drew Talbot
- 20 Michael Spillane
- 21 Conrad Logan
- 22 Wayne Andrews
- 24 Tom Craddock
- 25 George Beavan
- 28 Paul McVeigh
- 29 Jordan Patrick
- 30 Mark Farthing
- 32 Kevin Gallen
- 33 Jake Howells
- 36 Aaron Fletcher
- 40 Scott Sinclair

today's officials



Referee
J Moss



Assistant Referees
R Clark



G Mellor

4th Official
P Simpson

next home game

Rotherham

Tuesday 27th January

Kick off 7.45pm

today's other games

Aldershot v Macclesfield,
Barnet v Dagenham,
Bradford City v Accrington Stanley,
Brentford v Notts County,
Chester v Chesterfield,
Exeter v Bury,
Morecambe v Gillingham,
Port Vale v Shrewsbury,
Rochdale v Lincoln City,
Rotherham v Bournemouth,
Wycombe v Grimsby

we would like to thank all of our fans, sponsors and executive box holders for their support