



ROBINS REVIEW

ALTRINCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SEASON 2010-2011



v Luton Town FC

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Edlines...



Good afternoon and welcome to the players, management and fans of Luton Town for this Blue Square Premier Bet fixture. At the time of writing I did not know their result at Wrexham on Thursday night but on recent form it should have been an entertaining game from 2 sides that are desperate to escape this league as soon as possible.

The game on Tuesday against AFC Wimbledon was a very entertaining affair but one which again saw us play some great football but end up with no points. It didn't help by the uphill task we set ourselves after just 28 seconds of the game when a speculative ball forward saw Danny Kedwell surge between our two centre-halves and fire the ball past Stuart. However from then until the 44th minute of the half we dominated proceedings but were unable to turn this dominance into goals and then the killer punch arrived with their second goal, again scored by Kedwell.

The second half saw us change formation, bringing on Chris Denham and Sam Hewson and really pushed for a goal. Most people in the ground thought it had arrived in the 70th minute with a stunning strike by Twissy after a great through ball by Denham. Even the referee turned away to return to the centre circle only to see his assistant's flag raised. He went over to consult him and unfortunately concurred with his decision and disallowed the goal. So, instead of hopes being raised and the game being upped, AFC Wimbledon came back into the game and killed it off with good possession play.

Speaking to the referee after the game he agreed that he thought that the goal was a good one and promised to look at the DVD - some good that will do. The assistant stated that the offside was "marginal" - I always thought in these instances that the benefit of the doubt should hang with the attacking side. Unfortunately this doesn't seem to happen when you're at the bottom of the table!

Following today's game we have Hyde FC in the Cheshire Senior Cup on Tuesday followed by another monumental task when we travel to Crawley Town next Saturday. Your support, as always, would be much appreciated by the team.

Kenny has been working immensely hard over the last few weeks and along with Bimmo has done a great job in turning around the fortunes of the club. It was never going to be an easy job but it goes to show how far we have come over these weeks when we are all so disappointed in losing to the League's top sides. Kenny and Bimmo both believe that we can give anyone a game here at Moss Lane and let's hope that the lads prove them right today!

See you in the bar,
Grahame.



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...From The Bench



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Luton town for today's game. I think I can say that most Altrincham fans and personnel were disappointed with the result on Tuesday against AFC Wimbledon. Looking at the last two away games when we collected four out of the six points we knew that this run of 3 difficult games was on the horizon and were therefore pleased with the haul. However, we believed that the concentration for the games would need to be at its highest and unfortunately it wasn't - conceding a goal in the opening minute which gave us an uphill battle right from the start. However the reaction to that goal was great - we were

positive, on the front foot and moved the ball around well being just a fraction away from getting behind them on numerous occasions. We were winning the first balls, flicking it on but we didn't win enough of the 2nd balls and there lies the problem. The start and end of each half are important times in games of football and unfortunately on Tuesday we didn't keep it tight at these times and were punished by two excellent finishes. We need to be more aggressive when going forward to give ourselves a chance but we didn't and suffered the consequences. Looking forward to today, we have a chance to put things right and that's the great thing about football - the next game is never

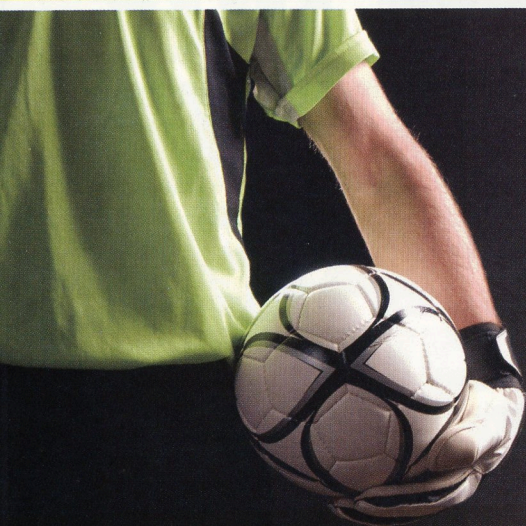
far away. We have got to get at Luton straight from the start and try to make amends for the errors of Tuesday. We have got ourselves back in the pack now and having achieved that we now need to push on. In this league everyone is capable of beating any other team - you need to get in people's faces, get the ball and then use it in a positive manner. The team have got a good attitude and it'd be lovely to get a good result at home so that we can all enjoy our weekend.

We follow this game with a local derby against Hyde FC in the Cheshire Senior Cup followed by another vitally important game at Crawley next Saturday. We need to pick up as many points as we can from these games as the number of games remaining in the season soon start to run out - a lot quicker than you think. So the sooner we start to pick up results and points the better for all concerned.

Thank you for your support - it's been magnificent. Keep it up and keep the faith. We are progressing and getting better with each game - let's hope we show that again today.
Bimmo.

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Tonight's Visitors...

GOALKEEPERS

Mark Tyler... Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United.

Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road and was rewarded for his loyalty with a testimonial against Liverpool in 2007.

After falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League 2 Bury where he made 11 appearances for the Shakers.

A former England Youth international, Tyler was handed the number one shirt by the Hatters boss who admitted he'd failed in an attempt to sign the stopper the previous summer.

Kevin Pilkington... Vastly experienced goalkeeper who joined the Hatters in May 2010 after his release from Notts County. Pilkington began his career with Manchester United playing six times in the Premier League under Sir Alex Ferguson. During his six years at Old Trafford Pilkington enjoyed loan spells at Rochdale, Rotherham and Celtic before a two-year stay at Port Vale.

After 23 league appearances for the Valiants, he was on the move once more, with Aberystwyth Town and Wigan Athletic his next two ports of call.

However, he found stability at his next club, Mansfield, joining the Stags in 2000 and went onto feature 167 times in league action over the next five years.

In 2005 the Hitchin-born stopper made the short hop down the M1 to sign for Notts County and another five year stay resulted in him making 141 appearances at Meadow Lane.

However, Notts began flashing the cash at the start of the 2009/10 campaign with goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel one of many high-profile arrivals.

Frozen out of the County team, and with Mark Tyler injured, Pilkington joined the Hatters on-loan in November and went onto make 11 appearances between the sticks whilst at Kenilworth Road before injury curtailed his stay.

But when the Magpies released him in the summer of 2010, Money was quick to snap up the veteran permanently, giving the Town the choice of two excellent goalkeepers.

DEFENDERS

Zdenek Kroca... Centre-half who



impressed in assured display alongside George Pilkington in two pre-season fixtures in 2010 to earn a one-year contract.

Kroca made 169 league appearances belt in 10 years with hometown club Tescoma Zlín in his native Czech Republic.

Last season the imposing 6ft 5in defender was in fine, commanding form, scoring four times in 27 league appearances with the Letná Stadium outfit as they finished in second place in the Czech second division - a position - like the Town last season - that was not enough to earn promotion.

George Pilkington... Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly-regarded defender has been named Player of the Year twice.

Injury frustrated the centre-half in his first season at Kenilworth Road in 2008/09 but he still managed to pick-up a Johnstone's Paint Trophy winners' medal.

Pilkington hit the headlines for his goalscoring exploits in the Town's first season in the Conference, twice scoring braces in early season victories over Mansfield and Crawley.

His impeccable form on the pitch led to him winning a string of end-of-season awards and underlined his loyalty to the Hatters by signing a new contract at the end of the campaign.

Dan Gleeson... Tall and athletic defender, primarily a right-back, Gleeson signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from his home town club Cambridge United.

A product of the U's academy, Gleeson made his debut at 18 and soon became a regular at the Abbey Stadium making 61 league appearances before Notts County snapped up his signature in 2006.

Gleeson only lasted a season at Meadow

Lane, featuring 17 times before he was back at the Abbey, firstly on-loan before resigning permanently in 2007.

Recognised as one of the best right-backs outside the Football League, Gleeson's performances have seen him rewarded with seven England C caps.

Ed Asafu-Adjaye... Capable of playing in any position across defence, Asafu-Adjaye has made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up.

After a loan spell with non-league side Walton & Hersham, he 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.

However with first team opportunities limited, Ed went on-loan to Salisbury City where he earned rave reviews and when Mick Harford arrived as Manager at Kenilworth Road one of the first things he did was recall the young defender.

Making his full debut in March 2008 at Kenilworth Road against Crewe Alexandra he has gone from strength to strength and was part of the Town team that won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley in 2009.

Shane Blackett... Luton-born Shane became Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009 after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesley Town in 2003.

His form with the United Counties side alerted the attentions of Dagenham & Redbridge who signed the 6ft 3in defender in May 2004.

He made 83 appearances during his time at Victoria Road and helped the Daggers win the Conference title and earn promotion to the Football League in 2006/07.

His reputation as a pacey defender alerted the attention of Peterborough who snapped him up with Dagenham team-mate Craig Mackail-Smith in January 2007. He went on to make 38 appearances during his time at London Road.

Freddie Murray... Left-footed versatile defender who joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009 and the deal was made permanent in January 2010.

Murray only signed for the Essex club in August before making his debut for the Town in the 4-1 victory over Mansfield Town just hours after putting pen to paper.

Previously with Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United the Irishman began his career as a trainee with Blackburn Rovers.

Taylor Nathaniel... Versatile young defender who signed a professional contract with the Hatters in June 2010 after impressing in the club's Under-18s.

Capable of playing on either flank in defence or midfield, Nathaniel made his first senior appearance for the Town when coming off the bench in a 3-0 victory over Grays Athletic, in the FA Cup in October 2009, making an instant impact when setting up the third goal.

Alex Lacey... Up-and-coming second year scholar who impressed Richard Money in the 2010 pre-season to earn a squad number.

The centre-back has yet to make a first team appearance but was an unused substitute at the Hatters' FA Cup third round tie with Southampton in January 2010

MIDFIELDERS

Pavel Besta... Assured, tenacious and a good passer of the ball, the Town snapped up the former Czech Under-21 international after impressing in the pre-season friendly against Newcastle.

Besta began his career with his hometown side Banik Ostrava, and in a seven year period, helped them win the Czech league title in 2004 which led to appearances in the Champions League qualifying rounds and made a UEFA Cup appearance against Middlesbrough.

He joined the Hatters alongside fellow countryman Zdenek Kroca in August 2010 after a campaign in Slovakia with Ruzomberok.

Jake Howells... The young winger, who can also play at left-back, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his full debut in the Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008.

After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 the England C international was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May.

In his first season as a pro, Howells made huge strides with impressive performances on the left-side of midfield, ending the 2009/10 campaign with six goals, including his first senior goal in the incredible 4-3 win over Cambridge in September.

...Luton Town FC



Godfrey Poku... Tenacious defensive midfielder who signed together with JJ O'Donnell from Blue Square South outfit St Albans City in January 2010 on an 18-month contract.

A tough-tackling and no-nonsense midfielder, the Town beat off competition from several Football League clubs for his signature.

He featured and impressed in the Hatters' reserves in 2009/10 and was an unused substitute in the Blue Square Premier but made his debut as a substitute in the 1-0 win at Barrow in October 2010.

JJ O'Donnell... Tricky winger who joined the Town with St Albans team-mate Godfrey Poku in January 2010.

Also capable of playing in attack the youngster featured for the Hatters' reserve and youth teams during 2009/10.

Claude Gnaka... A defender capable of playing centre back or full back, who joined on a free transfer in August 2008.

Having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz of Liechtenstein, Claude moved to Swindon Town for a brief spell.

He was then off again in July 2007 to Peterborough United and was a regular in the League 2 promotion winning side, starting 25 league games.

A favourite with the Kenilworth Road crowd the Frenchman scored the Hatters' winning goal in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final against Scunthorpe United in April 2009.

He continued in fine style down the right-hand side of midfield in 2009/10 finishing with nine goals including a remarkable second-half hat-trick in a 6-1 win at Ebbsfleet in March 2010.

Keith Keane... Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, Keith Keane went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured.

Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level and he finished the season with 14 appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship.

Another product of the youth system who regularly appeared for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level. He joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential to convince Mike Newell to give him his first

taste of senior action. Keith has featured most prominently on the right of midfield, bursting forward to great effect to provide many goals for himself and his team-mates.

Over the course of his career at Kenilworth Road Keane has proved to be one of the, if not the most, versatile players to pull on a Luton shirt.

Capable of playing right the way across the back four or in midfield the only positions he's not featured for the Town (yet) are in goal and up-front.

Out of contract at the end of the 2009/10 campaign the winner of the Hatters' Goal of the Season award delighted everyone at Kenilworth Road by penning a two-year deal to keep him at the club until 2012.

Adam Newton... Ascot-born Adam became Mick Harford's second summer signing of 2009 after agreeing a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road following his release from Brentford.

Predominantly used as a right winger, the pacey wide man is equally as comfortable at right-back.

Adam started his career at West Ham United, coming through the Hammers' respected Academy only made three substitute appearances during his time at Upton Park before signing for Peterborough United in May 2002.

The former England Under 21 international went onto make a name for himself with the Posh making 249 appearances in six years at London Road going onto win promotion at the end of the 2007/08 campaign.

After leaving Peterborough at the end of the 2007/08 season, Adam was snapped by Andy Scott and Brentford where he helped the Bees to the League 2 title.

A St Kitts and Nevis international, he has spent time on-loan at Portsmouth, Notts County and Leyton Orient.

Andy Drury... A highly-rated box-to-box player who is capable of playing in any position across the midfield or in attack, Drury signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from Conference Champions Stevenage.

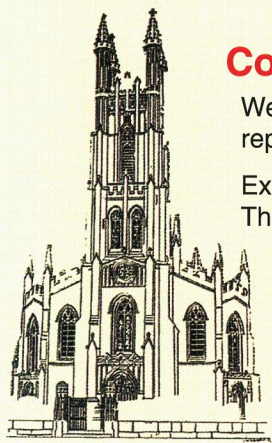
He started his career at Sittingbourne as a youngster before making the short hop to sign for Gravesend and Northfleet (now Ebbsfleet United) in 2003.

Three successful years at Stonebridge Road followed before Lewes secured his signature in 2006 helping the Rooks lift the Conference South title in 2007/08.

His performances at the Dripping Pan

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...Luton Town FC



alerted the attentions of several clubs and Boro boss Graham Westley was quickest to move in the summer of 2008 to take him to Hertfordshire.

The driving force behind Stevenage's Play-Off campaign in 2008/09 that also saw the club win the FA Trophy, Drury scored six times but was the creator of many more.

It was a similarly successful season for the midfielder in 2009/10 earning rave reviews at Broadhall Way with his creative and industrious performances, dangerous set pieces and eye goal that culminated in a super strike in the FA Trophy final against Barrow that Boro went onto lose.

Adam Watkins... Young midfielder, capable of playing in attack, who signed professional forms at Kenilworth Road in June 2010.

A self-confessed Hatters fan, he made his first team bow in a 1-0 defeat at Southampton in the FA Cup third round in January 2010.

He spent the tail end of the 2009/10 campaign on-loan at Arlesey Town.

FORWARDS

Kevin Gallen... A Shepherds Bush native, Gallen established himself as something of a legend at QPR. He notched up over 400 appearances and hit 97 goals for the R's in two spells spanning nearly 14 years. Gallen joined Huddersfield 2000 and after 10 goals in 30 starts for the Terriers, Gallen 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 then scored nine goals in 16 league starts for MK Dons before joining Luton on loan.

After a successful loan spell Gallen joined permanently in January 2009.

The striker enjoyed a prolific season in non-league football with his football know-how often too good for opposition defences. He struck-up a partnership with Tom Craddock and finished the campaign with 21 goals in all competitions. Remarkably, given the length and success of his time in the game, it therefore came as a surprise when he revealed that his hat-trick in the 6-0 win over Grays Athletic in April 2010, was the first of his career.

Matthew Barnes-Homer... Prolific striker who joined the Hatters initially on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers before agreeing a two-and-a-half year contract to move permanently when the transfer window re-opened on 1st January 2010.

The powerful forward followed up his 21 goals in all competitions during 2008/09

with nine goals in 20 league appearances last term.

Barnes-Homer also enjoyed a dream start to his international career when he netted the winner on his debut for England C in their 2-1 win over Poland in November.

An energetic talent, the front man began his career as a trainee at Wolves before going on to lead something of a nomadic life prior to finding his feet at Kidderminster.

After leaving Molineux he tried his luck in the United States before returning to England and, following success with a clutch of non-league sides, he was snapped by Wycombe Wanderers.

He struggled to make an impression at Adam Park but, after being released at the end of the 2006/07 season, Harriers Manager Mark Yates beat off competition from a host of sides to capture his signature.

His form in front of goal at Kidderminster had alerted the attentions of a number of Football League teams but Barnes-Homer was suitably impressed by the Hatters' vision and became Richard Money's first signing for the club.

Danny Crow... A nippy poacher of a striker, Crow joined the Hatters from Cambridge United in May 2010 following the expiry of his contract at the Abbey Stadium.

The front man started his career as a trainee with Norwich City and made his senior bow in the Premier League for the Canaries in December 2004.

A loan spell at Northampton followed towards the end of the 2004/05 season before he was released by Norwich and signed for Peterborough in the summer of 2005, notching 17 goals in his debut season at London Road.

Following a short loan spell at Notts County, Crow was released by Posh and was snapped up by Cambridge in September 2008.

The energetic forward's strike-rate of 22 goals in 43 league starts won him many admirers and his 19 goals during 2009/10 saw him scoop the U's online Player of the Year award.

Dan Walker... Quick young forward capable of playing down the flanks who signed a one-year deal in July 2010 after impressing in pre-season in games for and against the Hatters.

Previously with Bedford Town, Walker has also played for Stony Stratford Town and Leighton Town.

He made his first team debut for the Hatters as substitute in a 3-0 win over AFC

Wimbledon in September 2010 before scoring his first senior goal against Forest Green a month later.

Taiwo Atieno... Kenyan international striker Taiwo originally signed in March 2010 until the end of the 2009/10 season after returning to the UK after a spell playing in Puerto Rico and America.

The big, strong frontman was released at the end of the campaign but after a deal in South Africa fell through Richard Money was first to re-sign him in on 3rd September until the end of the 2010/11 season.

Starting his career as a scholar at Walsall he failed to make the breakthrough at the Bescot and was sent out on loan gain first team experience to a number of Football League sides.

After failing to make the grade with the Saddlers he was snapped up by Tamworth and scored 12 goals in his first season with the Lambs before signing for the Puerto Rico Islanders in 2007.

Amari Morgan-Smith

Striker or wide man who arrived at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following a two-year spell at Ilkeston Town.

He put pen to paper on a two-year deal after two years with the Blue Square Bet North side in which he scored 34 goals in 77 starts.

The fast and skilful frontman's impressive form for the Robins earned him a call-up to the England C squad at the end of last season, earning his first cap against the Republic of Ireland in May.

Wolverhampton-born Morgan-Smith started his career as a trainee with Wolves. He then signed for Crewe and then Stockport where he made one Football League appearance before moving to Ilkeston.

Before the 2009/10 season began the striker impressed in a trial for Championship side Derby County and has since gone on to score three goals in seven appearances for Ilkeston.

Earlier this season his former boss Kevin Wilson hailed the striker, who scored 23 goals last season, as the "hottest property in non-league football".

With huge interest in the forward, Town boss Richard Money was delighted to beat off competition from a number of Championship and League One sides for Morgan-Smith's signature.

And, hours after completing the paperwork, Morgan-Smith was thrust into action for his debut against Mansfield and scored in the 2-0 victory.



From The Other Side...

Dons overtake Crawley to regain top spot

The Dons regained top spot as they overcame bottom club Altrincham with a comfortable victory.

Terry Brown made three changes from the side that started Saturday's FA Cup game with Fraser Franks, Ricky Wellard and Jon Main coming in for Ismail Yakubu, Luke Moore and Christian Jolley. There was also a welcome return to the substitute's bench for Lee Minshull.

Once again on their travels, Wimbledon made a dream start with a goal in the first minute when Danny Kedwell ran onto Ricky Wellard's through ball and

outpacing the two central defenders shot past Stuart Coburn.

Despite their lowly position Altrincham played some neat football and Seb Brown was called upon to make an excellent save from Nicky Cleve. The Dons increased their lead on the stroke of half time when Kedwell volleyed home Sam Hatton's cross.

The Dons remained in control in the second half although the home side were denied a goal when the assistant referee flagged for a very close offside decision. At the other end when a stunning shot from Rashid Yussuff beat Coburn all ends up hitting the crossbar and post before rebounding to safety.

Terry Brown made use of his

three substitutes as the Dons saw the game out to record an important victory.

Terry was in a very happy mood on the team coach home. "It was a fantastic win in what will be a busy week for the team. The three hundred plus fans who made the long journey north will have found it very worthwhile. It was important to get back to winning ways in an important month in our history. It was a really good night gaining three important points and no injuries. We will be rotating the squad to utilise the energy and potential of the players and not overplay the same players. It would be nice to rest Danny Kedwell in particular but anyone watching him tonight will see how important he is for us.

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts	H	A
1	AFC Wimbledon	18	12	2	4	33	18	15	38	0-2	
2	Crawley Town	17	11	3	3	30	15	15	36	0-1	
3	Luton Town	17	10	3	4	35	18	17	33		1-2
4	Fleetwood Town	18	8	7	3	25	15	10	31	1-0	
5	Newport County	18	8	6	4	30	21	9	30		
6	Rushden & Diamonds	18	9	3	6	26	17	9	30	2-2	
7	Mansfield Town	18	8	3	7	30	23	7	27	0-4	
8	Kidderminster Harriers	18	7	6	5	27	28	-1	27	1-2	
9	Darlington	18	6	8	4	20	14	6	26	2-2	
10	Wrexham	17	6	7	4	25	19	6	25		
11	Grimsby Town	18	6	7	5	25	24	1	25	2-2	
12	Kettering Town	18	6	6	6	21	24	-3	24		3-3
13	Gateshead	18	6	5	7	19	22	-3	23		0-2
14	Cambridge United	18	5	6	7	23	21	2	21		
15	Eastbourne Borough	18	5	6	7	34	38	-4	21		0-5
16	Bath City	18	4	8	6	24	29	-5	20		2-2
17	Tamworth	18	5	5	8	25	32	-7	20		
18	Histon	17	5	4	8	19	28	-9	19		0-3
19	Southport	17	4	6	7	17	20	-3	18		0-1
20	York City	17	4	6	7	18	23	-5	18		0-3
21	Barrow	18	4	6	8	20	28	-8	18	2-0	
22	Hayes And Yeading United	18	5	2	11	18	33	-15	17		1-0
23	Forest Green Rovers	18	3	6	9	20	35	-15	15		
24	Altrincham	18	3	5	10	17	36	-19	14		
Totals		150	126	150	581	581	0				

OTHER GAMES TODAY

Barrow v AFC Wimbledon
 Darlington v Crawley Town
 Eastbourne Boro v Newport County
 Fleetwood Town v Rushden & D'monds
 Forest Green v Mansfield
 Hayes & Yeading v Grimsby
 Histon v Kidderminster
 Kettering v Cambridge Utd
 Southport v Bath City
 Tamworth v Gateshead

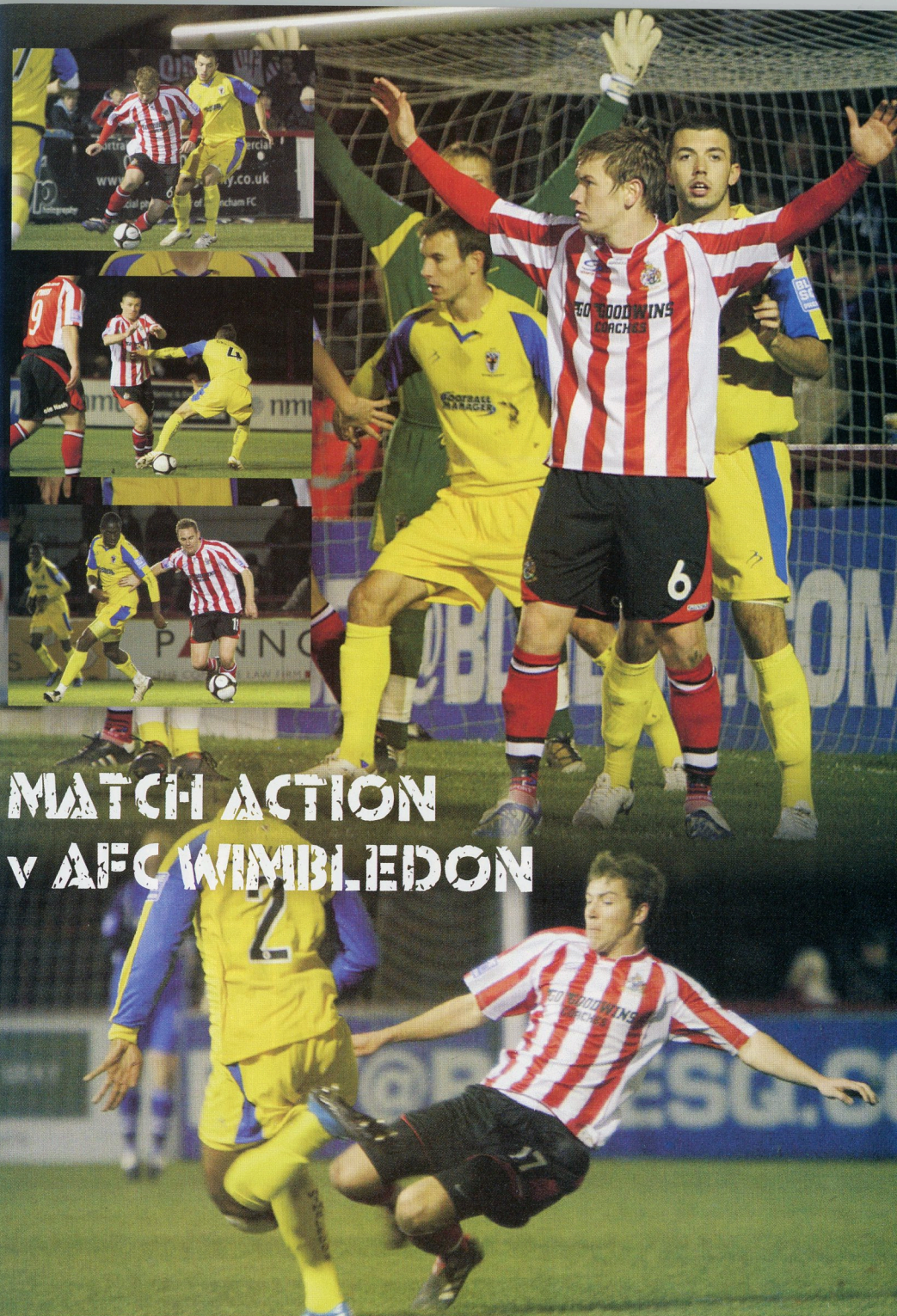
THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, 14 November 2010

York v Wrexham

Saturday, 20 November 2010

AFC Wimbledon v Kettering
 Bath City v Fleetwood Town
 Cambridge Utd v Tamworth
 Crawley Town v Altrincham
 Gateshead v Forest Green
 Grimsby v Barrow
 Kidderminster v Eastbourne Borough
 Luton v Histon
 Mansfield v Hayes & Yeading
 Newport County v Southport
 Rushden & Diamonds v York
 Wrexham v Darlington



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Captain's Log...



There is no point trying to dress it up any other way. Gifting AFC Wimbledon a goal after 29 seconds last Tuesday night represented the worst start to a game I can ever remember us making, regardless of who we have been up against.

All our preparation focused on the first 10-15 minutes and what we hoped to achieve, in terms of contesting every ball, winning some cruching tackles and generally letting Wimbledon know they were in a game.

They have travelled up from South London, and it's a bitterly cold night, so let's get in amongst them and let them have it. That was the idea, anyway, but it soon unravelled, as we did the exact opposite inside the opening minute.

It's not as if they carved us open with clever play, either, and that made it all the more galling. It was a really poor goal, a straightforward ball from back to front, and while we tried to decide who should take responsibility for it, Danny Kedwell nipped in to finish it off.

Fair play to Kedwell, his second, on the stroke of half-time, was a great finish and showed why he is a top striker who already had a stack of goals to his name, coming into the game.

But there was no excuse for the opener. We stayed in contention for most of the first half, but all our tactical and strategic approach had to change, because we suddenly found ourselves chasing the game.

It's unfortunate, to say the least, because when we looked at our run of games, against Wimbledon, Luton today and Crawley away next Saturday, our aim was to take as many points as we could. It may look a daunting run of fixtures, but we have been in decent form and had no intention of simply making the numbers up.

You could see why Wimbledon are up at the top. They knocked the ball

around crisply and accurately, but it still rankled that we gave them the platform to turn it on like that, instead of making it difficult for them and forcing them to scrap for everything they got.

When the second goal went in, it changed the tone of the half-time team talk dramatically, from still being in it to simply trying to salvage what we could. If we could pull one back, we might still be in with a shout. But we were facing a far steeper uphill battle than we should have, and the manager was not happy.

In fact, he was very upset-stroke-angry at the manner in which we had conceded. He was absolutely fuming, and the general sense of frustration scarcely got any better when a debatable offside flag denied Michael Twiss, with enough time left for us to mount a late charge for a point.

I was off the pitch by then, after being substituted, and couldn't be sure from my vantage point, though my impression was it looked no worse than level. What I can say, is that I cannot imagine a striker of Michael's calibre seeing a cross is about to be delivered and allowing himself to be caught in an offside position.

Michael said afterwards that he had been in front of the last defender when he met the ball but behind him when the cross left Chrissie Denham's boot. In other words onside, and exactly what you would expect of a goalpoacher with his experience and scoring record.

It was good forward play, in my book, and such a shame it didn't count, because you never know what might have happened with a bit of momentum behind us. We would have gambled and thrown bodies forward, like others have done to us, and we could have ended up celebrating a hard-earned point, instead of reflecting on

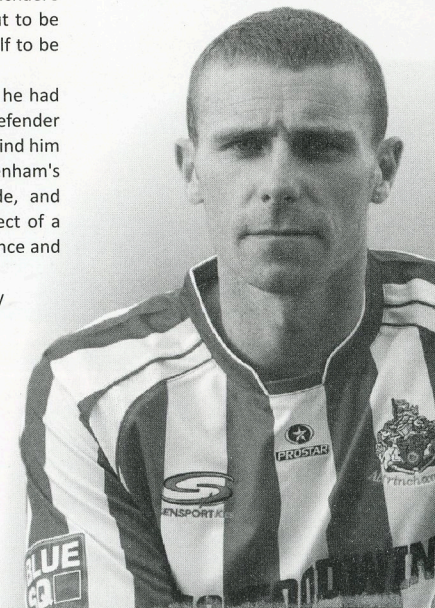
Wimbledon being a good side who really don't need a goal start.

Luton will no doubt come here with the intention of securing a winning position as early as possible, so they can withdraw one or two key players and rest them for their next game, but we must make sure we have none of that.

We have to set ourselves up like we were supposed to on Tuesday night and let them know they are going to be in for a tough afternoon. You get the impression Luton probably feel they should already have climbed out of this division and reclaimed their place in the Football League. But they have not. The reality is, they remain a Conference club. A big one with a massive budget, but a Conference club, all the same.

They are clearly in a hurry to put that right, and a glance at the table shows they are handily placed to do it this season, but we must try and ensure it is not at our expense.

Robbie.



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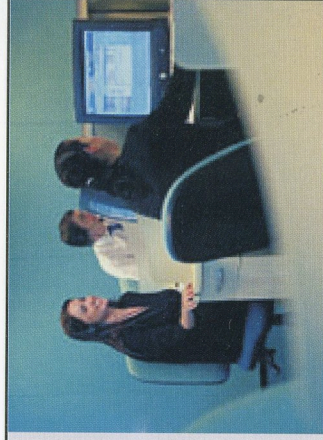
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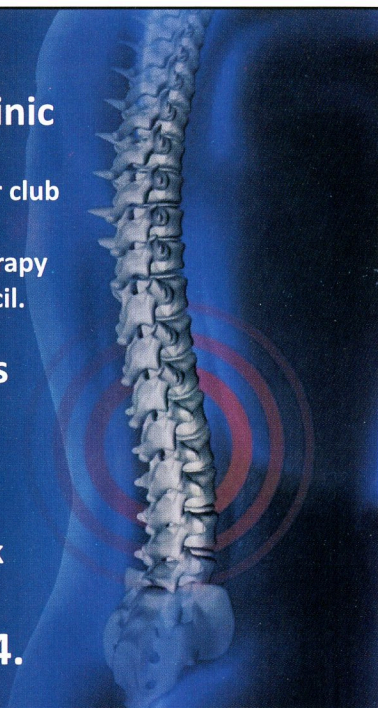
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When We Were Kings...



ALTY IN THE APL 1979/80

PART 36: FIVE STRING SERENADE

After negotiating eight cup ties in their opening nine fixtures of the nascent decade, Saturday, 16th February 1980 saw the Robins resume their pursuit of the Alliance Premier League (APL) title via a prospectively arduous assignment at York Street, the well-appointed home of Boston United FC.

In common with Alty (plus Worcester City and Gravesend & Northfleet), the Pilgrims boasted an unbeaten record on their own turf in the APL, having attained six wins and five draws from their 11 home league fixtures to date. The four-times Northern Premier League (NPL) Champions occupied eighth position in the APL table, five spots and five points respectively behind the third-placed Robins, whilst still possessing a game in hand on the Moss Lane club.

The Alty manager, Tony Sanders, still deemed Boston United to be ambitious outsiders for the APL crown and he had more than a feeling that the Pilgrims represented the potential dark horse in the title race, an opinion that he had repeatedly expressed in various press interviews. In the 18th January 1980 edition of *The Daily Telegraph*, the regular column covering the APL had included the statement that: "Mr Sanders still expects Boston United to pose a major threat." This caveat was duly corroborated in the issue of the *Altrincham Guardian* published two days prior to the York Street encounter, in which the Robins' boss cautioned that the Pilgrims were "still in contention for the title."

Since the dawn of the NPL back in August 1968, the Robins' visits to York Street had proved to be generally unprofitable. In the 11 league clashes between the two clubs staged in Lincolnshire, Alty's record read as follows: won: two; drawn: two; lost: seven; goals scored: 12; goals conceded: 21 and points accumulated: merely six out of a possible tally of 22.

Alty's debut at York Street had comprised the third match of the inaugural NPL season back on Saturday, 17th August 1968. Geoff Barrowcliffe had given the Pilgrims the lead on the half hour, eventually scoring after his initial penalty kick had been saved by Steve Fleet, the erstwhile Manchester City and Stockport County goalkeeper. Jackie Swindells

stemmed the Pilgrims' progress by equalising for the Robins five minutes later but a last minute header from Peter Thompson clinched the two points for the hosts in front of an attendance of 2,480.

The evening of Monday, 30th September 1974 witnessed the Robins finally achieve their first NPL victory at York Street at the seventh time of asking. Watched by 1,042 spectators, Alty overcame a Boston United side that included the subsequent England Caretaker Manager and current Sheffield Wednesday Chairman, Howard Wilkinson, courtesy of strikes from Ian Morris and the prolific John Hughes (his 10th goal in the opening 13 games of that season). This triumph marked the completion of a league double over the reigning NPL Champions, who had been annihilated 5-1 at Moss Lane just seven days earlier.

The 1978/79 NPL campaign saw the Robins accomplish their second league double over a Boston United team who were once again the presiding league Champions. The Pilgrims would eventually conclude this season in 6th spot in the league table, four places adrift of the Robins, and duly ascend into the APL.

Saturday, 11th November 1978 marked the date of a memorable 4-1 success for the Robins at the Pilgrims' headquarters. Jeff Johnson put the visitors ahead after only 93 seconds but Jim Kabia levelled matters five minutes prior to half-time. However, a 62nd minute John Rogers strike and a Graham Heathcote brace (64 minutes and a 73rd minute penalty) duly secured an impressive win for Tony Sanders' charges. However, exactly how much of this action had been visible to the crowd of 1,640 remains questionable, as Alty diehard Bill Waterson recollects that York Street was largely enshrouded by dense fog on that particular afternoon and he spent the majority of the second half praying that the match would not be abandoned.

For the Robins' first APL fixture at York Street, Tony Sanders introduced several changes to the team which had defeated Runcorn 2-1 in that delayed Cheshire Senior Cup Quarter-Final at Moss Lane just three days previously. Stan Allan; John Davison and John Owens were all restored to Alty's starting XI, as were Jeff Johnson and club captain John King, both of whom had shaken off respective

injuries comprising an ankle knock and a burst blood vessel in the calf. Graham Heathcote was demoted to the role of substitute and Ivan Crossley; Mickey Brooke; Graham Tobin and Phil Wilson were all omitted.

This heavyweight contest between the Pilgrims and the Robins attracted a gate of 2,284 to York Street, which constituted Boston United's highest home attendance to date in the APL. Striving to gain their first league points of the decade, the Robins made a dream start by opening the scoring after merely 50 seconds of the first half had elapsed. The Pilgrims' midfielder, Gary Mallender, was dispossessed by Barry Whitbread and the latter's subsequent cross into the home side's penalty area was directed into the net from an acute angle by Jeff Johnson, who thereby registered his eighth goal of the season.

In the sixth minute, the Robins survived an anxious moment when Boston United's leading goalscorer, Bobby Brown, squandered a good chance to restore parity. However, Alty proceeded to double their advantage eleven minutes later, when the perceptive Barry Howard intercepted a careless backpass from Jim Kabia and duly slotted the ball into the net past the hosts' goalkeeper, Kevin Fox.

Barry Whitbread was booked for a foul on Neil Callery after 28 minutes and 60 seconds later it was 3-0 to the rampant Robins, as the Pilgrims were again the victims of another errant backpass, the blunder on this occasion being committed by full back Denis Leigh. Alty's leading goalscorer, John Rogers, was the latest beneficiary, as he pounced upon this gaffe and promptly bewitched Kevin Fox by virtue of an astute chip, which elicited his 12th strike in the APL and his 17th goal of the campaign in all competitions.

Two minutes prior to the interval, the Robins emphasised their supremacy even further, as Barry Howard conjured up the pick of the Alty goals. The mercurial winger beat two defenders and rounded the goalkeeper before claiming his second goal of the match, which increased his personal total for the season to 11, seven of which had been recorded in league fixtures.

The early stages of the second half failed to produce any much-needed respite for the beleaguered Boston United players



When We Were Kings...

and their shellshocked supporters. Indeed, the Robins added a fifth goal after 51 minutes, when Barry Whitbread headed home a John Rogers cross from point blank range for his 15th goal for the club since his £6,400 transfer from Runcorn at the advent of October 1979.

As the game progressed towards its finale, the Robins eased off somewhat and, consequently, allowed the hosts to grab a couple of consolation goals. In the 66th minute, the Pilgrims' towering central defender, Dave Poplar, notched his seventh goal of the season and Bobby Brown's 83rd minute effort took the former Sheffield Wednesday striker's tally for the campaign up to 17.

Thus, Alty's breathtaking 5-2 drubbing of the Pilgrims signified that they had executed consecutive league doubles over their adversaries from Lincolnshire and, in the process, demolished Boston United's proud unbeaten home record in the APL. Understandably, Tony Sanders' synopsis of events brimmed with elation at his team's accomplishment: "We put on one of our best displays of the season to inflict their first home defeat this term." This verdict was shared by Alty devotee Paul Murray, who duly reflects on Alty's own Boston tea party: "I was there and I remember it being totally unreal. I was used to us letting in four at Boston, after all. The first half was one of the most complete Alty performances ever."

The aforementioned Bill Waterson had undertaken his third visit to York Street and he was overjoyed to observe this gratifyingly comprehensive evisceration of Boston United. He recalls: "This match had a very different feel about it than the previous season's fixture. It is difficult to remember now just how dominant Boston United were in the early to mid-1970s. Indeed, I always used to feel that both themselves and Wigan Athletic were a much stronger bet for the NPL title than Alty, even when we were at our best. I do recollect that Boston invested heavily in making York Street reportedly the 'best ground in Non League football' and this diverted funds from the playing staff. So, from circa 1978/79 onwards, they had become a relatively weaker proposition on the field.

"Given that the home 3-0 victory over Boston United earlier in that 1979/80 season was our third successive win over the Pilgrims by that margin at Moss Lane and taking into account that we had been

indomitable in the league since the onset of October 1979 (except, alas, against teams whose name began with the letter 'N'), I never doubted that we would win this game.

"And, in fact, we stroked the ball around majestically in the first half, as Boston chased shadows and we scored at will. It was much more like a visit to the Giant Axe; Northolme or the Moss Rose than a game against a formidable Non League side. "Great ground, rubbish team!" I commented (albeit somewhat sotto voce, admittedly) as we walked past a coven of inbred racist Lincolnshire thugs whilst departing from the stadium."

Notwithstanding Alty's vanquishing of Boston United, the Robins remained in third position in the APL table, having gleaned 33 points from their 23 fixtures to date. Leaders Weymouth had maintained their two point advantage over the Robins by dint of a 6-0 home trouncing of basement club Redditch United although Tony Sanders' men did still possess two games in hand on the Dorset club. Meanwhile, second-placed Bangor City's 1-0 win against Wealdstone at Farrar Road kept them just a single point ahead of Alty but having played five games more than the Robins.

Elsewhere, back at Moss Lane, Alty's recently-acquired goalkeeper, John Connaughton, had been making his bow for the club in a 1-1 draw between the Robins' second string and Everton 'A' in a Lancashire League fixture.

Tuesday, 19th February 1980 found the Robins exploring unknown territory, as they made their debut on the infamously sloping pitch at Barnet's Underhill stadium for the APL Cup Semi-Final First Leg against Barry Fry's side.

The Hertfordshire club had progressed to this stage of the competition via a 2-0 home success versus Bath City and an ensuing 2-1 Quarter-Final Replay victory (after extra time) at Underhill against Nuneaton Borough. The Bees occupied 16th position in the APL table, having accrued just 18 points from their 23 league fixtures up to that point. Unusually for a team under the supervision of the ebullient Barry Fry, goals had been at a premium and they had only contrived to find the back of the net on 21 occasions in all of their league matches to date.

In the week prior to this second meeting between the Bees and the Robins, Barry Fry had endeavoured, in vain, to sign an

experienced player to bolster his young squad. His target had been Peter Simpson, the ex-Arsenal defender who had amassed 458 (+19 as sub) appearances for the Gunners and been a member of their 1970/71 league and FA Cup double-winning team.

Barnet's match programme stipulated their avowed objective for this First Leg clash: "We will be trying to build up a lead to take to Altrincham next Monday and, when one looks at our visitors' home record, it will probably have to be by two or three goals. This is a tall order but anything can happen in football."

Tony Sanders was obliged to invoke one amendment to the Alty side that had perpetrated that convincing away triumph at Boston United on the preceding Saturday, which saw Graham Tobin replace John Owens in central defence.

The opening 45 minutes found the Robins kicking up the notorious Underhill gradient on a heavy and clingy surface. Early opportunities fell to both Barry Whitbread and Barry Howard, the latter testing the agility of the Bees' goalkeeper, Kevin Blackwell, after being set up by a Jeff Johnson pass.

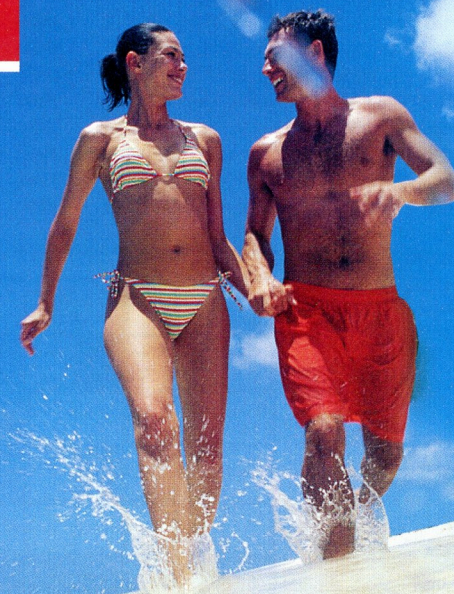
However, the solitary goal of the contest didn't arrive until the 53rd minute, as the Robins duly emulated the scoreline of that premier meeting between the two clubs in an APL fixture staged at Moss Lane back on Monday, 26th November 1979. John Rogers pilfered the ball off a defender and his resulting cross picked out his skipper (and fellow Altrincham FC 'social club' guru) John King, who delighted in slamming the ball into the hosts' net from close range for his second goal in this particular competition (and his fourth goal of the season to date).

In front of 804 onlookers, the Robins created a pair of decent chances to extend their lead but a John Rogers drive was inaccurate and then a Jeff Johnson shot was cleared off the goal line. However, Alty did endure one late alarm, when Barnet's striker, Elwyn Roberts, latched on to a slack backpass from Barry Howard. His ensuing shot was parried by Alex Stepney before Mal Bailey interceded to clear the loose ball to safety off the Robins' goal line and thereby ensure that Alty would go into the following Monday's Semi-Final Second Leg having established a one goal cushion.

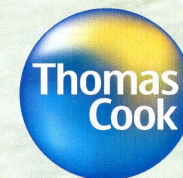
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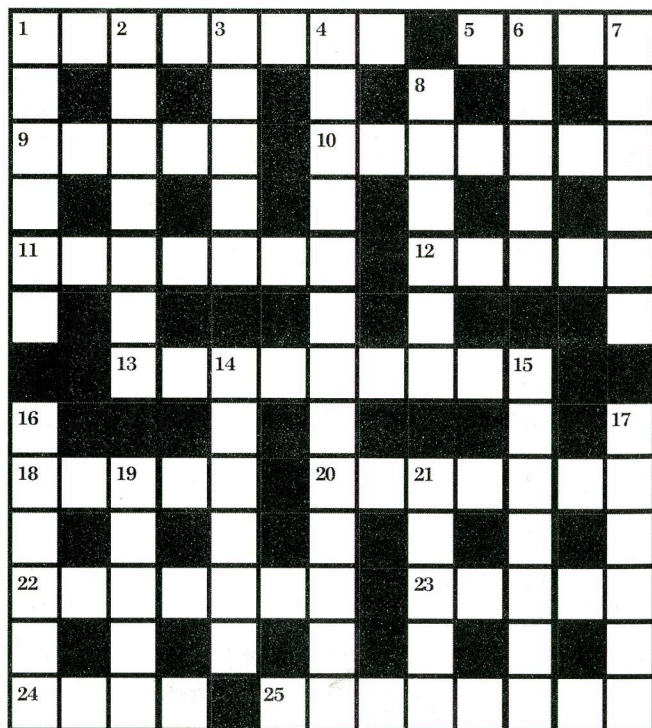


Altrincham Football Club

Season Statistics



DATE	OPPOSITION	AT	SCORE	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	S	S	S	S	S	S
Aug	Sat 14th Luton Town	A	1-2	6665	COBURN	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	REEVES	JOHNSON	CLEE	COATES	DENHAM (10)	HOLMES (6)	McCREADY	WELCH (11)	-
	Tues 17th DARLINGTON	H	2-2	1099	COBURN	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	REEVES	DENHAM	CLEE	COATES	JOHNSON (9)	HOLMES (7)	HOLSGROVE (11)	WELCH	-
	Sat 21st CRAWLEY TOWN	H	0-1	776	COBURN	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	WELCH	DENSMORE	REEVES	DENHAM	CLEE	COATES	JOHNSON (9)	HOLMES (6)	HOLSGROVE (3)	McCREADY	-
	Tues 24th Southport	A	0-1	1088	COBURN	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	HOLMES	WELCH	HOLSGROVE	JOHNSON	DENHAM	CLEE	COATES	REEVES (10)	McCREADY (9)	TWISS	LAWTON	-
	Sat 28th York City	A	0-3	2095	COBURN	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	WELCH	DENSMORE	REEVES	CROWELL	HOLSGROVE	COATES	JOHNSON (9)	McCREADY (6)	TWISS (7)	HOLMES	-
	Mon 30th MANSFIELD TOWN	H	0-4	1261	COBURN	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	HOLMES	HOLSGROVE	DENSMORE	REEVES	CROWELL	CLEE	COATES	DANYLYK (6)	McCARTHY (7)	TWISS (11)	WELCH	-
Sep	Sat 4th KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	H	1-2	929	COATES	SMITH	R. BROWN	WELCH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	McCARTHY	DENHAM	CROWELL	COBURN	REEVES (7)	HEWSON (11)	TWISS	JOSEPH (4)	-
	Sat 11th Gateshead	A	0-2	539	COATES	SMITH	R. BROWN	WELCH	WILLIAMS	HEWSON	LAWTON	DENSMORE	McCARTHY	CROWELL	CLEE	COBURN	REEVES (9)	DANYLYK (7)	TWISS (11)	JOSEPH	-
	Sat 18th Eastbourne Borough	A	0-5	1117	COATES	SMITH	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	CROWELL	LAWTON	DENSMORE	McCARTHY	REEVES	CLEE	COBURN	DANYLYK	HEWSON (11)	HOLSGROVE (9)	WELCH (4)	-
	Tues 21st BARROW	H	2-0	1042	COATES	SMITH	R. BROWN	WELCH	WILLIAMS	JOSEPH	LAWTON	DENSMORE p	McCARTHY	DENHAM	DANYLYK	COBURN	REEVES (9)	HOLMES	HOLSGROVE (10)	HEWSON	-
	Sat 25th GRIMSBY TOWN	H	2-2	1364	COATES	SMITH	R. BROWN	WELCH	WILLIAMS	JOSEPH	LAWTON	DENSMORE	McCARTHY	DENHAM	DANYLYK	COBURN	REEVES (9)	CROWELL (4)	HOLSGROVE	HEWSON (3)	-
	Tues 28th Kettering Town	A	3-3	1194	COATES	SMITH	JONES	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	REEVES	DENHAM	CLEE	COBURN	McCARTHY	CROWELL (4)	HOLSGROVE (9)	HEWSON (7)	-
Oct	Sat 2nd RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	H	2-2	897	COATES	SMITH	CROWELL	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	REEVES	DENHAM	CLEE	COBURN	McCARTHY (9)	JONES	HOLSGROVE (10)	HEWSON (3)	-
	Sat 9th Histon	A	0-3	655	COATES	SMITH	R. BROWN	WELCH	WILLIAMS	DANYLYK	LAWTON	DENSMORE	REEVES	DENHAM	CROWELL	COBURN	TWISS (6)	CLEE (4)	HOLSGROVE (9)	JOSEPH	-
	Sat 16th FLEETWOOD TOWN	H	1-0	1106	COBURN	SMITH	MILNE	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	SOMNER	HOLSGROVE	DENSMORE	TWISS	HEWSON	CLEE	COATES	REEVES	LAWTON (7)	R. BROWN (10)	McCARTHY (9)	-
	Sat 23rd GATESHEAD FAC 4th Q	H	0-2	797	COBURN	SMITH	MILNE	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	SOMNER	BAYNES	DENSMORE	TWISS	HEWSON	CLEE	COATES	REEVES (9)	LAWTON	R. BROWN (4)	WELCH (2)	HOLSGROVE DANYLYK
	Sat 30th Hayes & Yeading United	A	1-0	274	COBURN	MILNE	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	SOMNER	BAYNES	DENSMORE p	TWISS	HEWSON	CLEE	COATES	REEVES (9)	LAWTON (10)	DANYLYK (5)	WELCH	-
Nov	Sat 6th Bath City	A	2-2	794	COBURN	MILNE	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	SOMNER	LAWTON	DENSMORE	TWISS	BAYNES	CLEE	COATES	REEVES (11)	HEWSON	DANYLYK (9)	WELCH	-
	Tues 9th AFC WIMBLEDON	H	0-2	901	COBURN	MILNE	R. BROWN	JOSEPH	WILLIAMS	SOMNER	LAWTON	DENSMORE	TWISS	BAYNES	CLEE	COATES	REEVES	HEWSON (4)	DANYLYK	DENHAM (7)	-
	Sat 13th LUTON TOWN	H																			
	Tue 16th HYDE (CSC Cup 1st Rnd)	H																			
	Sat 20th Crawley Town	A																			
	Sat 27th Cambridge United (or FAC 2nd)	A																			
Dec	Tues 30th FOREST GREEN ROVERS	H																			
	Sat 4th Tamworth	A																			
	Sat 11th FAT 1st																				
	Sat 18th HISTON	H																			
	Sun 26th Wrexham	A																			
	Tues 28th YORK CITY	H																			
Jan	Sat 1st WREXHAM	H																			
	Mon 3rd Mansfield Town	A																			
	Sat 8th Rushden & Diamonds	A																			
	Sat 15th FAT 2nd																				
	Sat 22nd BATH CITY	H																			
	Tues 25th HAYES & YEADING UNITED	H																			
	Sat 29th Barrow	A																			
Feb	Sat 5th SOUTHPORT (or FAT 3rd)	H																			
	Sat 12th Kidderminster Harriers	A																			
	Sat 19th KETTERING TOWN	H																			
	Sat 26th AFC Wimbledon	A																			
Mar	Sat 5th GATESHEAD	H																			
	Sat 12th Newport County	A																			
	Sat 19th TAMWORTH	H																			
	Sat 26th Darlington	A																			
Apr	Sat 2nd CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H																			
	Sat 9th Forest Green Rovers	A																			
	Sat 16th Fleetwood Town	A																			
	Sat 23rd NEWPORT COUNTY	H																			
	Mon 25th Grimsby Town	A																			
	Sat 30th EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	H																			



ACROSS

- Big Irish outfit now known as ____ FORAS Co-Op after legal wrangles (4,4)
- One of Welsh football's converts from the Northern Prem (4)
- Cricketer Ryan Sidebottom's dad who played for Man Utd (5)
- The best known of the Fittipaldi GP family (7)
- Chester City play at this Stadium (3,4)
- Blackburn and West Ham striker ____ McCarthy (5)
- Current presenter who won middle distance gold at World and European but not Olympic (5,4)
- Mendonca or Woodward (5)
- Basketball's Magic city (7)
- The FA Trophy used to be known as the FA ____ Cup in the days of 'non-payment' (7)

- Fulham's Dempsey (5)

- Famed for his slog sweep against the quicks, this ex Lancs opener made his England one-day debut aged 34 (4)

- Washington's NFL ____ (8)

DOWN

- Eric Bristow was 'The ____ Cockney' (6)
- In a group with Man Utd, Valencia and Bursaspor (7)
- This Alex play at Gresty Road (5)
- Football ground that The Crusaders play their rugby league (3,10)
- Dad Glenn played for Liverpool, son Tobias for

- Sunderland and both for Sweden (5)

- Disgraced Tour winner out to discredit Lance Armstrong (6)

- Led the F1 standings with 3 races to go (6)

- City managed by Paul Tisdale in Div 1 (6)

- Under pressure City manager (at time of writing!) (7)

- Flame haired midfielder who resigned as Bradford City boss last season (6)

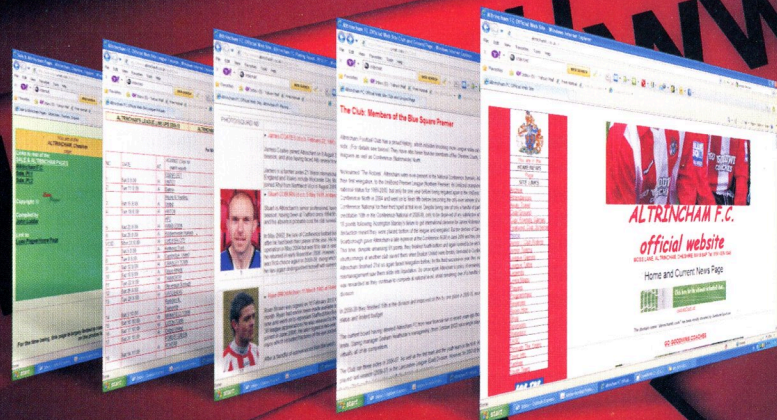
- QPR's Road (6)

- Beat Serbia 3-0 in less than 10 minutes! (5)

- Ex Preston, Leeds and Wednesday keeper now at Swindon (5)

ACROSS... 1. CORK CITY 5. RHYL 9. ARNIE 10. EMERSON 11. THE DEVA 12. BENNI 13. STEVE GRAM 18. CLIVE 20. ORLANDO 22. AMATEUR 23. CLINT 24. LOYE 25. REDSKINS
DOWN... 1. CRAFTY 2. RANGERS 3. CREWE 4. THE RACECOURSE 6. HYSEN 7. LANDIS 8. WEBBER 14. EXETER 15. MANGINI 16. MCCALL 17. LOFTUS 19. ITALY 21. LUCAS

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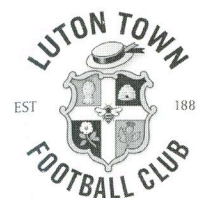
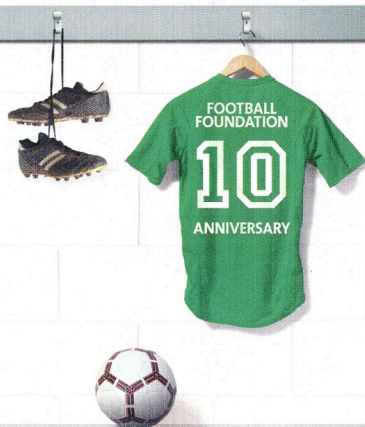
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It was two years and five days ago that the Robins and the Hatters first met in competitive action, the occasion being, as many here today will recall, an FA Cup 1st Round tie at Kenilworth Road.

As can be seen from the statistics, our guests have had the better of the exchanges so far; this afternoon would be a very good time to 'break our duck' against the men from Bedfordshire.

Playing Record v Luton Town

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	2	0	1*	1	0	1
(* - FA Cup match, lost on penalties)						
Away	3	0	2	1	1	2
Overall	5	0	3*	2	1	3

Where two or three are gathered together...

A fortnight ago there was a classic contrast in the attendances at our respective games. 7,003 people went to Kenilworth Road to see Luton play Bath City; meanwhile at Church Road, Hayes 274 spectators saw Hayes & Yeading United entertain the Robins - it should be pointed out that about 60 of those were Alty fans, which is a more than respectable percentage. Apart from raising the perennial question in my mind as to quite how the home club pays its way on gates like that - a matter which is entirely the business of Hayes & Yeading, its board, backers and bankers, and nothing to do with you or me, of course - these gate figures left me wondering if we had ever played a game at this level in front of less people than were at Hayes or more than were at Luton two weeks ago.

To deal with these in reverse order - I recall a match at Layer Road, Colchester in April 1991 when both the U's and the Robins were in the running for promotion. Originally there was no question of my attending this game as I was due to be in charge of a school cricket match that morning; however, a snow-covered Oldham field on the Friday led to an entirely justifiable cancellation and a hurried examination of railway timetables (in the days before t'Internet!) resulting in the decision to give it a go - and hang the expense. Engineering work and a broken-down train in front of us caused 75 minutes' worth of delays on the way down to Euston and in the end I got to Colchester Station at 2.15 (having left home seven hours earlier!) and proceeded to the ground by taxi. My arrival was greeted with cries of "What the blue pencil are you doing here?" from

...Luton Town FC

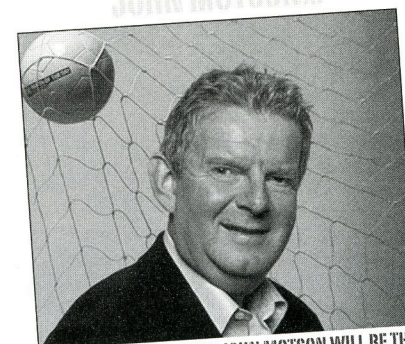


fellow-members of The Bench - with friends like that, as I've often thought, who needs enemies? - and we then settled down, after a bit of a rumpus before kick-off as the home club's segregation arrangements appeared to break down, to view a 1-1 draw which kept both sides in with a shout - though, as many will remember, Barnet finally won the title. The attendance was given on the day as 6,986 but was later corrected upwards to 7,221, which so far as I can discover is the largest crowd Alty have ever played before in this league, just beating the 7,090 at Cambridge for the last game of the 2008-09 season. Just to complete the story - another hour's worth of delays on the way back led to me getting home at 1.35 on the Sunday morning!

The 'booby prize' for lowest gate ever in a game involving Alty at this level does I think now go to Hayes & Yeading; the lowest Moss Lane gate I can find is 332 for a 1-0 win over Sutton United on a Wednesday night in early April 1989, and the previous lowest away from home appears to have been a gate of 317 at Merthyr in March 1992.

Mike Garnett.

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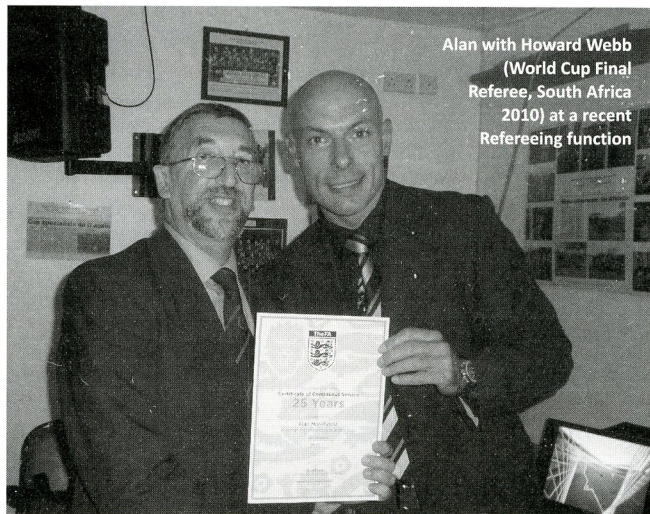
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Alan Moorehouse...

...Fan of The Robins, Hatters and Boys in Black. Today's game is going to be a difficult one again for football fan Alan Moorhouse.

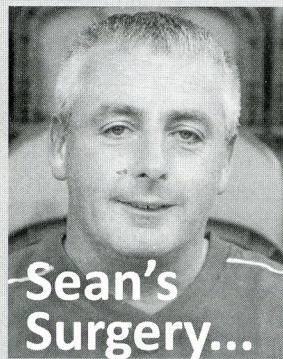
Alan, born and brought up in Sale, saw his first Alty game in 1961 when Moss Lane was graced by England international Tommy Banks. He has followed The Robins, his natural home team, to famous results in the league and to cup exploits at Everton, Tottenham, Liverpool and Luton, and to Wembley too. He recalls great Alty players of the past including Jackie Swindells, John Rogers, Jeff Johnson and Paul Showler. Alan moved to Bedfordshire in 1974 and adopted Luton Town as his home side. He handed the reins for supporting the Robins to his long time school friend David Bullock who has been a faithful regular at Moss Lane ever since. Alan has also followed The Hatters to their great achievements and successes including the Littlewoods Cup win at Wembley in 1988, the recent new Wembley victory



Alan with Howard Webb (World Cup Final Referee, South Africa 2010) at a recent Refereeing function

over Scunthorpe in the Johnstones Paint final in 2008, and the great and fine decade in the highest flight and some great FA cup successes. He was there to cheer the great victory at Maine Road in 1982. He recalls great Hatters stars including Alan West, Paul Walsh, Mal Donaghy, Steve Foster, Mick Harford, and Ricky Hill. Interestingly, Alan recalls the great service both managers, as well as those of the past, have given to their

respective teams as players. Alan is even able to legitimately shout for the third team out on the pitch today, the officials. Alan is a longstanding Referee with Bedfordshire FA. He has clocked up over 1000 games and been blowing the whistle and dishing out the cards for 25 years, and recently received a certificate in recognition of his achievements from the FA at Wembley. He wishes everyone a successful occasion this afternoon.



Sean's Surgery...

Good afternoon everyone!

On Tuesday night Chris Denham played nearly half an hour following his recent groin problem and had no reaction following the injections ten days ago. Mark Joseph signaled to me just before the hour that his groin had become tight so he was withdrawn straight away to prevent a more serious injury occurring. The injury smithy sustained has almost totally healed now and he will be available today. The groin strain Welch picked up at Bath is responding well to treatment and he should hopefully be available for the CSC match on Tuesday night.

Enjoy the game.

Sean.

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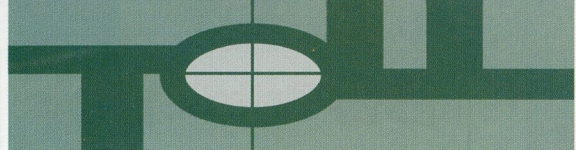
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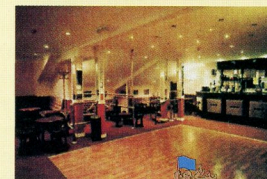


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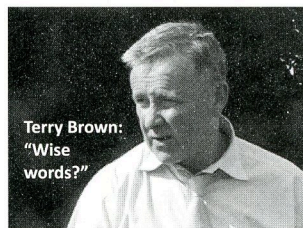




FlynnZine...

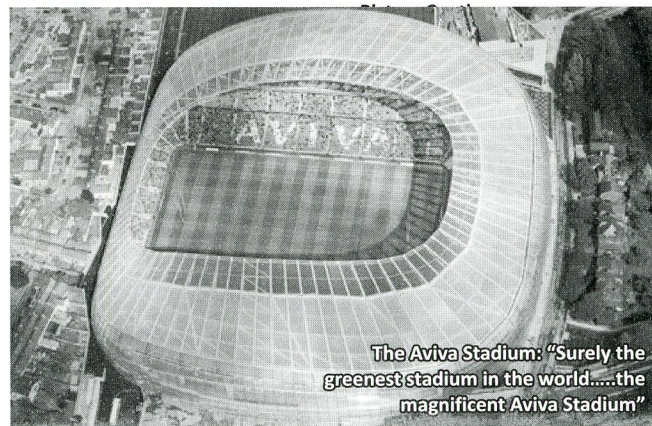
Full Time & Proud of It???

When it comes to using technology to help make decisions in sport, I am generally in favour, as the positives of making a fair & correct decision generally outweigh the negatives of delays in making the decision & the inevitable loss of spontaneity of the moment. On Tuesday night, Michael Twiss, had what appeared to be a perfectly good goal wiped out by the linesman flagging for offside. The doubt about the decision being correct was such that even the referee went over to check his assistant's decision. It was one of those incidents where technology was not needed.....anyone who had a decent viewing angle instinctively knew that Twiss was inside. This was just about the final kick in the... teeth for us. A tough assignment at 7.45pm against second in the league AFC Wimbledon, became a mountain inside thirty seconds of the kick off as the AFC cult hero, Danny Kedwell, took advantage of some sleepy defending & a ball that held up nicely in the wind to open the scoring. Despite a positive response & a high tempo performance by Alty, Kedwell punished us again just before half time & the disallowed goal triggered the immediate onset of tiredness in a number of players & the match drifted towards its inevitable conclusion. Funnily enough, on reflection, I admire the referee, Mr. Handley, for the way he dealt with that big decision. He obviously thought that no offence had been committed, bravely went over & asked his assistant, who having confirmed his incorrect view of the incident, left the referee with little option other than disallowing the goal.



Terry Brown:
"Wise words?"

After the game, I was at the bar & overheard Terry Brown, the AFC Wimbledon manager talking to what I assumed were some Altrincham fans. He was saying "You need to go full time.....it's the best thing that we ever did. The fitness level of all of our players.....apart from XXXX (unnamed here.....but it would have been useful if he hadn't played on Tuesday!)..... has improved dramatically. If you went full time, you would pick up a lot of really good young players from United, City & the other big clubs in the North West". Now this was an interesting statement, as it is the theory that one of our most shy & retiring fans, Pete Hughes, has been peddling around for some time now. I returned from the bar to one of the group of Alty fans that was 'licking its post match wounds' & told them what I had heard. Another lively &



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interesting debate about going full time ensued & we had just about sorted out Alty's destiny when Gareth Thomas mentioned that the F.C. United of Manchester manager, Karl Marginson, had been in the bar.....I realised then that Terry Brown had been talking about them & not us.....anyway all good fun!

It's a big footballing weekend for the Flynny as tomorrow morning, I am flying out to Dublin to see the FAI Cup Final at the brand new Aviva Stadium. Shamrock Rovers take on my favourite full time professional club, Sligo Rovers, who hopefully will exorcise the painful memory of last season's final when defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory as Sporting Fingal scored twice in the last five minutes to overturn a one goal deficit. Whilst Sligo Rovers are a full time outfit, Shamrock Rovers.....probably Ireland's biggest & most famous club, remain part time.....so the boot will be on the other foot for me tomorrow afternoon.

So three points for Alty today & Sligo to lift the cup tomorrow it is.....simples!!!

Enjoy the game
Brian

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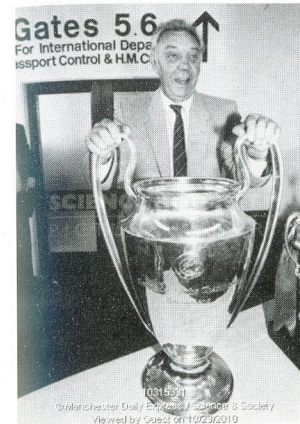
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Famous but not for Altrincham



An occasional series of people who have served Altrincham AFC but made their name elsewhere...

The announcement in the press in early October of the death of Lil Fagan aged 92 reminded us that her husband Joe was another former Altrincham player who went on to achieve fame elsewhere.

Joe Fagan was born in Liverpool on March 12th 1921 and spent his childhood in the Litherland area of the city and as a boy he watched both Everton and Liverpool play, although he preferred Anfield, he later recalled, "...as it had a better boys' pen". He was educated at St Elizabeth Central School, where he led the 1st XI to victory in the Daily Dispatch Trophy in 1935 before moving on as an amateur to Earlestown Bohemians. Playing for Bohemians as a reliable centre half, good in the air and solid on the ground, he caught the eye of several clubs. Although he was offered forms by Liverpool, in October 1938 he opted instead to join Manchester City. However, as with all his peers, Joe's playing career was severely hampered by the onset of war in 1939.

During the war Joe served his country in the Royal Navy but continued playing occasionally in the wartime league. It was during this time he first came into contact with Harry Catterick, a man who would later make an impact with Everton. Fagan eventually made his full official debut

for City on New Year's Day 1947, nearly 9 years after signing for the club, helping the club attain promotion to the 1st division that he season. In the following four seasons he made 168 appearances, skipping the side for the last three.

In 1951, at the age of 30 Joe Fagan left Maine Road to become player-manager of part-timers Nelson, a job he combined with one inspecting gas meters in local factories. Under Fagan, Nelson were champions for a second time in 1951/52, this time scoring 139 goals and in 1952/53, Fagan's second and final season in charge Nelson finished in 5th place.

Joe then briefly returned to the professional game with Bradford Park Avenue before being appointed trainer at Rochdale in 1953, under the management of his old wartime friend Harry Catterick. In October 1954 Joe joined Altrincham, playing at centre half and finished the season having scored once in 27 Cheshire County League games in addition to one league cup and two Cheshire Senior Cup games. That concluded Joe's playing career leaving him to concentrate on coaching.

In May 1958, just 18 months before the arrival of Bill Shankly Fagan, on Harry Catterick's recommendation joined Liverpool as assistant trainer. Bill Shankly had long been an admirer of Fagan's and had indeed tried to sign him when he was managing Grimsby when Fagan was playing for Manchester City. One of Shankly's first acts on arrival was to reassure the back room staff at Anfield that their positions were safe. It was the start of a footballing dynasty that Joe Fagan was to play a major role in. After a spell looking after the reserves, Fagan was appointed first team trainer in 1971, and stepped up to chief coach in 1974 with the retirement of Shankly forcing a reshuffle. In 1979 he continued his move up the 'Boot Room' hierarchy by becoming assistant manager and was instrumental in helping to grow the club's ever increasing pile of silverware. Joe finally took the helm at

Liverpool as manager in the summer of 1983 on the retirement of Bob Paisley.

The following two years from were astonishing with Joe leading the club to an unprecedented treble, a treble that included the League Championship and European Cup, which led to Joe being named 'Manager of the Year' in 1984, after just one year in charge, the only English manager to achieve this feat. The following season was to be a disappointment though as the club finished second in the league to a rejuvenated Everton. Fagan had already decided to quit as manager at the season's end but the tragic events of Heysel in May 1985 with the deaths of 39 Juventus supporters before the European Cup Final was destined to cast a dark shadow over his tenure as manager. In a game subsequently rendered meaningless by earlier events Liverpool were to lose the European Cup 1-0 and ended the season without a trophy.

Joe kept a low profile in retirement, although he returned occasionally to the Liverpool training ground at Melwood, especially when Roy Evans was in charge. Joe died in Liverpool 30 June 2001.

Note* Joe's son Michael also played for Altrincham during 84/85 & 85/86, scoring 7 goals in 56 games, with the most notable achievement being his winning goal in the 1-0 FA Cup win over Blackpool.

JOE FAGAN'S CAREER

Wartime...

Man City 1943/44 & 44/45 5 games, **Portsmouth** 42/43 1 game

Man City (08/1938)
46/47 20-0L 4-0 FAC
47/48 42-13 3-0 FAC
48/49 42-0 1-0 FAC
49/50 39-11 1-0 FAC
50/51 5-0 1-0 FAC

Nelson

51/52
52/53
Bradford City (08/53)
53/54 3-0LG

Altrincham (10/1954)

54/55 27-1 CCL, 1-0 CLC, 2-0 CSC



TASC...

IT'S THE 1.1.11 DRAW!!!

We are launching our New Year Draw today & tickets will be available to be purchased before this afternoon's game with Luton Town.

This year's main prizes are as follows:-

- **Samsung 19" LCD TV**
- **Nintendo DS**
- **Dyson DC30 Handheld Vacuum Cleaner**
- **£90 worth of Aroma Spa Treatments at The Marriott, Worsley Park**
- **2 Tickets to the Altrincham F.C. Centenary Ball plus a signed ball & shirt**

PLUS MANY MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The draw will take place in The Noel White Suite, Altrincham F.C. at 5.30pm on Saturday January 1st 2011 following the game against Wrexham.

Tickets are priced the same as last year at 40 pence each or £2 for a book of 5 tickets.

This is normally TASC's biggest fundraising event of the year & we hope that all Altrincham fans support it as well as they have done in the last couple of years.

TASC GOAL SPONSORSHIP

TASC are running the Goal sponsorship scheme again for this season.

We therefore invite you to join the goal sponsorship scheme in any form you wish. We are happy to have any arrangement, whether to sponsor an amount for every goal the team score, every clean sheet the team have, every goal an individual player scores, or even every penalty that Stuart Coburn or James

Coates makes.

As last season, we will be updating you during the season of how much your sponsorship has cost you and we propose that the money should, as before be paid in a couple of instalments. The names of the goal sponsors and the amount that they have sponsored will be published in the program

If you are interested in sponsorship for this season, please send an email to Steve Foster(friendsofaltyfc@hotmail.co.uk) or call the club.

CURRENT GOAL SPONSORS ARE:-

Grahame Rowley £1 per goal
Karen Rowley £1 per goal
Chris Rowley £5 per penalty save
Sarah Rowley £2.50 per Robbie Williams goal
Dan Jones £1 per clean sheet
Stacie Rowley £1 per Chris Denham goal
Steve Foster £1 per goal
Laurence Howarth £1 per goal

Simon Ellis £1 per goal

Theo Langeveld £5 per clean sheet

Bryan Ford £1 per goal and £1 per clean sheet

RECYCLING OLD MOBILE PHONES

Thanks to those people who have recently donated their old mobile phones to us. We recently received a cheque for £90 which goes to show what a good scheme this is!

If you have an old mobile knocking about & not being used anymore, please bring it into the Club Shop on matchdays & hand it to Anthony Wright or Mike Garnett in the TASC area of the shop.

Alternatively, you can drop it in at the club offices during the week or hand it to Steve Foster.....(red haired demon golden goal seller.....if you don't know him!). That's all for now folks!

Brian Flynn
TASC Chairman

FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN SPONSORS 2010/11

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YORK CITY	MARK GRIFFIN
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GATESHEAD	
TAMWORTH	
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	
NEWPORT COUNTY	
EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	

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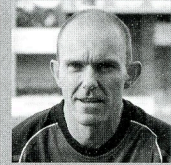
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Player Sponsorship



Stuart Coburn
Home Shirt: Chris Rowley
Away Shirt: Andy Bushell



James Smith
Home Shirt: I. Wilkinson/D. Foulkes
Away Shirt:



Matt Doughty
Home Shirt: Sarah Rowley
Away Shirt:



Marc Joseph
Home Shirt:
Away Shirt:



Rob Williams
Home Shirt: Shanleys
Away Shirt: Shanleys



Shaun Densmore
Home Shirt: Terry Surridge
Away Shirt: Hannah Fletcher



Robert Lawton
Home Shirt: Spencer Fletcher
Away Shirt: Hugh Purchas



Damian Reeves
Home Shirt: Richard Salk
Away Shirt: Neil Faulkner



Michael Twiss
Home Shirt: Richard Salk
Away Shirt:



Chris Denham
Home Shirt: Neil Faulkner
Away Shirt: Sam Fletcher



Nicky Clee
Home Shirt: Campbell McLay
Away Shirt: The Fosters



Kevin Holsgrove
Home Shirt:
Away Shirt:



Dale Johnson
Home Shirt: I. Wilkinson/D. Foulkes
Away Shirt:



Ryan Brown
H:
A:



Anthony Danylyk
Home Shirt: Harbingers
Away Shirt:



Tom McCready
Home Shirt:
Away Shirt:



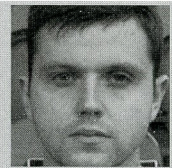
Matty Crowell
Home Shirt: Hugh Purchas
Away Shirt:



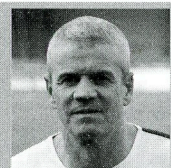
Sam Hewson
Home Shirt: Reflex Couriers Ltd
Away Shirt:



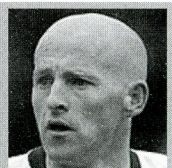
James Coates
Home Shirt:
Away Shirt:



Michael Welch
Home Shirt:
Away Shirt:



Ken McKenna
H: Eliot, Jack and Lara Shaw



Stuart Bimson
H:



Sean Riley
H: Eliot, Jack and Lara Shaw

If you're interested in sponsoring a player for this season the cost has again been frozen at £150. Your name will appear here throughout the season as the Sponsor and you will receive the signed match worn shirt at the end of the season. Please speak to Karen or Sarah in the office on 928-1045.

Commercial News

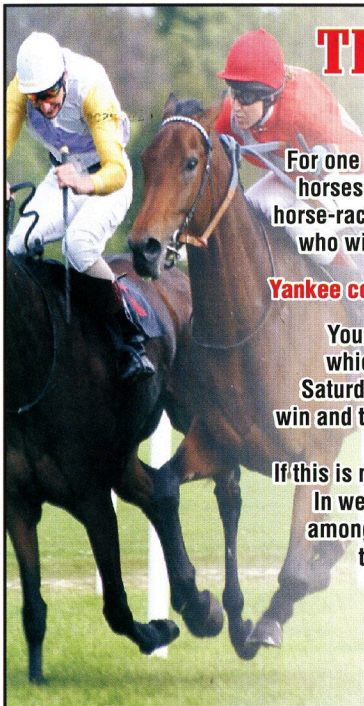


Date	Day	Opponents	Comp	Match Sponsor	Match Sponsor
17th Aug	Tues	Darlington	BSBP	Robinsons Preservation	Patrons Club - Isobel Riley
21st Aug	Sat	Crawley Town	BSBP	Gallagher Roofing	
30th Aug	Mon	Mansfield Town	BSBP		
4th Sept	Sat	Kidderminster H	BSBP	Boardman Conway	Bubble 'n' Squeak Balloons
21st Sept	Tues	Barrow	BSBP	Carole Nash Insurance	Terry Surridge
25th Sept	Sat	Grimby Town	BSBP	Hale Personal Training	Michael Shelton
2nd Oct	Sat	Rushden Diamonds	BSBP	Sensport Kits	Saturday Yankee
16th Oct	Sat	Fleetwood Town	BSBP	The Flaggers	Stuart Ritchie / LBM
23rd Oct	Sat	Gateshead	FAC4Q	20/20 Research	Robinsons Preservation
2nd Nov	Tues	Hyde Utd	CSC	Silverwood Grinding	
9th Nov	Tues	AFC Wimbledon	CSBP	Dunham Scaffolding	Milner Boardman
13th Nov	Sat	Luton Town	BSBP	B & J Hire Services	Robinsons Preservation
16th Nov	Tues	Hyde Utd	CSC		
30th Nov	Tues	Forest Green Rovers	BSBP	The Old Star	Phil Taylor
18th Dec	Sat	Histon	BSBP	Rowlands Field Cunningham Solicitors	
28th Dec	Tues	York City	BSBP	Engineering Design Partnership	Keyways Security
1st Jan	Sat	Wrexham	BSBP	Bricklayers Arms	www.kadzinuni.org.uk
22nd Jan	Sat	Bath City	BSBP	Ashley Mowers	John Norbury/David Norbury
25th Jan	Tues	Hayes & Yeading Utd	BSBP	Slater Heelis	
5th Feb	Sat	Southport	BSBP	Deborah Services	Paul Daine / Kim Brocklehurst
19th Feb	Sat	Kettering Town	BSBP	High Legh goes to Alty	
5th Mar	Sat	Gateshead	BSBP	Dunne and Gray Solicitors	Stuart Ritchie
19th Mar	Sat	Tamworth	BSBP	Deborah Services	
2nd April	Sat	Cambridge Utd	BSBP	Orange Tree	Dunham Scaffolding
23rd April	Sat	Newport County	BSBP	The Old Plough Supporters Club	City Plumbing
30th April	Sat	Eastbourne Borough	BSBP	Premium Collections	In memory of James Black

Altrincham FC Patrons 2010/11

Many thanks to the following people/companies who have signed up to become Patrons for the forthcoming season. They have each donated £50 to the Football Club to help with finances over the close season. On Friday at half time there will be a draw for all the members with three prizes of hospitality in the Sponsors Lounge for the game against Darlington on Tuesday 17th August - our first home game of the season. There will also be a corporate draw with the prize of a advertising hoarding around the ground for the forthcoming season. If you would like to be a Patron for this season, it's still not too late - come and see Grahame or Karen Rowley today.

- Terry Surridge
- Paul Brady
- Neil Faulkner
- Keith Davey
- Stan Riley
- Isabel Riley
- Paul Daine
- Jim Hankinson
- Grahame Rowley
- Karen Rowley
- Chris Rowley
- Sarah Rowley
- John Laidlar
- Dana Laidlar
- Steve Foster
- Peter Foster
- Judy Foster
- Alan Blinkhorn
- Barry Pond
- Mrs E Brown
- Martin Green
- Hugh Purchas
- Dave Baldwin
- The Late Tom Baldwin
- Andrew Dannatt
- Michael Bonson
- Jennifer Bonson
- Alan Bonson
- In Memory of Kath Bonson
- Lee Wolstenholme
- Carrie May Wolstenholme
- Ken & Muriel Wolstenholme
- Howard Sharples
- David Peek
- The McCabe Family in Dominica
- Hills Bakery, Hale
- The Needham Family
- Stuart Ritchie
- In Memory of James Black
- Bernard & Winifred Robinson
- Irene & Melvin White
- Steve Murray
- Winnie Stack
- John Norbury
- Bob Allan
- Claire Allan
- In Memory of Jimmy McKiernan
- Dave Jennings
- Mike & Tricia Davies
- Paul Salt
- Denis Massey
- Jane Massey
- Ashley Mowers
- Mike Garnett
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- David Slack
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For one pound a week you receive four numbers, which represent four horses which are scheduled to take part in each Saturday's national horse-racing programme. You can either pay a weekly sum to a collector who will visit your address, or you can subscribe by standing order.

Yankee collectors earn commission and volunteers are always welcome.

Your Yankee Collector delivers a slip to your home each week which allows you to see which horses are yours in the coming Saturday's races. These are normally televised races. If the horses win and their race numbers are in the same order as your four numbers, you win the Yankee, which is a minimum of **£300**.

If this is not won, **£300** is added to the Yankee each week until it is won. In weeks where the Yankee is not won, a total of **£200** is divided amongst those holding three winning horses; if the Yankee is won then those holding three winners share a prize of **£100**.

How To Play

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and ask for Jenny Heslop, the Yankee Manager.

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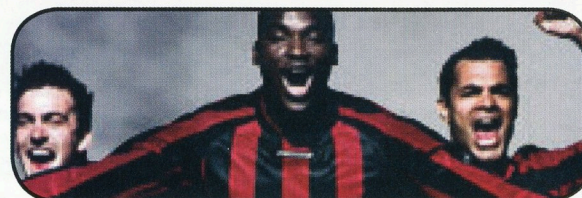
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Press Box Banter...

From our own Ken McKenna tearing his hair out to Blackpool's Ian Holloway 'getting a bit wiggy', you see managers putting themselves through it time and again, and you wonder why.

What motivates them to stand in the firing line - risking ridicule from disgruntled supporters, temper tantrums from players they have substituted and the sack from fickle directors - and still keep coming back for more?

Kick-off on matchdays is supposed to be the highlight of their week, but you would never guess it from watching them prowling the technical area for 90 tension-filled minutes, kicking every ball and disputing every decision.

Winning brings its own reward, a buzz that lasts a few minutes until the realisation dawns that another game is fast approaching, but defeat merely reinforces the view that, never mind goalkeepers, you have to be slightly mad to be a manager.

Our Ken had described, in the most convivial of chats shortly after the Cheshire Senior Cup tie with Hyde had been postponed, the effect losing has on him, by saying 'I hate it.'

To what extent became apparent a week later, after the AFC Wimbledon game at Moss Lane. A defensive mix-up in the first minute had gifted one of the Blue Square Bet Premier's top teams the sort of flying start Ken had meticulously planned against, and the Sale and Altrincham Messenger wanted his response before the evening was out.

Deadlines dictated that it wouldn't wait until the morning, and Ken, with a professionalism befitting a largely full-time league like ours, stood in the corridor and answered each and every question. Through gritted teeth and with eyes that blazed with anger, it has to be said.

The hurt and annoyance at a result that could conceivably have been avoided was all too evident, as he reflected on Danny Kedwell's 29-second opener and said: 'Honestly, you'd be tearing your hair out at something like on a Sunday morning, never mind at this level.'

Managers' success rates may vary enormously - and Ken's returns so far must put him up among the best in our division, given the disparity over

budgets and time spent with players - yet they all seem to share the same passion.

They go on about three games in a week being too much for young men who are in their prime, physically, yet they happily subject themselves to that punishing workload. It's not quite the same, I know, but while players can at least catch their breath, in between bouts of action, the likes of Gordon Strachan, David Moyes, Tony Pulis and Holloway seem to be bouncing round the side of the pitch non-stop, living and re-enacting every moment.

There is no respite for the men in charge, and if you doubt the intensity of their involvement, just think how many times an aerial chance has been missed, and the television camera has panned to the bench to show the manager staring at the ball coming over, tensing his neck muscles and then powering home an imaginary header, as though he's got number nine on his back, rather than his striker.

They must be drained, mentally and physically, by the final whistle, and it is no wonder their quotes so often fill the following morning's back pages, when they are wheeled out before the media, with all the flashpoints, controversy, misfortunes and perceived injustices still swirling through their minds.

The adrenalin is still flowing, as was evident when Holloway was asked about his 10 team changes, after Aston Villa snatched a last-gasp winner with a header that should have been cleared off the line, and whether he feared it could lead to an FA fine.

The Blackpool boss is every football reporter's dream - combustible and quotable - and he duly let fly with a typically impassioned defence of his selection policy and glowing tribute for

those who had stepped in, followed by an apology of sorts, as he added: 'It's not surprising I get a bit wiggy with questions like that.'

Holloway's vocabulary is like no other, but he broke new ground with that one. It was clear what he meant, but no-one could quite work out the origins of 'wiggy', other than surmising it may have sprung from an outburst like his leading to a retort of 'keep your hair on.' At least Holloway has the fairytale triumph of Blackpool's elevation to the Barclays Premier League, and further examples this season of odds being defied, to compensate for the odd post-match irritation.

You look at others and wonder what keeps them going. Mark McGhee, for example. Already no stranger to the sack, it loomed again after a 9-0 thrashing at Celtic. Another defeat, a couple of days later, would seal his fate, the rumour mill insisted, and it duly materialised, as Terry Butcher took Inverness to Aberdeen and plotted a 2-1 win.

They don't come any more ferociously committed than former England centre-back Butcher. Legend has it he fired himself up for games at Ipswich by head-butting the dressing room walls shortly before going out.

Yet he was almost apologetic at Pittodrie, as he walked hesitantly towards the home bench afterwards for the most low-key of handshakes. McGhee remained defiant, amid the volley of questions about his future, but the look said it all.

He knew he was on his way, but he knew just as surely he would put his name forward the next time a vacancy arose. That's the hold the job has on managers, and it won't let go.

John Edwards.



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Club News...

THANKYOU FROM SHAWN

Many thanks for showing my son Shawn and I around your ground last Thursday and to Jenny and Karen for spending the time to find some of your club badges for us to purchase.

Please find attached a photo from our visit of Shawn with his Under 12 Churchdown Panthers team shirt. I run the team and we play in the Cheltenham Youth League.

We travelled up from Gloucester and spent 2 days visiting a number of grounds. By the end we had visited 14 grounds.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday Ade! Hope you have a great day at your first Altrincham FC



game! Have a great Day, Love Carl & Bec, Sam, Mom and Dad and all your family and friends!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday Nov 26th Noel White Suite - Real Young and the Lazy Horse

As you may have gathered from the name, this is a Neil Young tribute band - but with a hard rock edge. They are: Guitars & Vocals: **Simon Foster** Guitar player with well known North West bank. Cheapskates - awesome. Enough said!

Drums: **Jim Fallon** - another regular here at Moss Lane with his dad. Jim runs his own drum school and is an ace drummer - hits the skins real hard - in fact he is one of the best drummers I have ever played with (the other one is Jim Benson)

Bass Guitar: **Manuel Kochgruber** - Mani moved from Switzerland to be in this band - when he was 6. He is the most laid back person I know and a fantastic musician. He also plays in another band - The Replicants
2nd Guitar: **Nigel Hennerley** - I have been a Neil Young fan since the 70s when I first picked up the guitar with a Neil Young song book. So when I was asked, last year, to rehearse with the band, I didn't need to be asked twice. I am not too sure about tribute bands as a rule, but this seems different, we do things our own way.

Sunday November 28th 11am-2pm Sponsors Lounge - Christmas Fair

A Christmas fair will be held in the Manchester Glass Sponsors lounge with stalls to include "Good as New" toys and games, Chocolate tombola, Toiletries, raffle and cakes. Why not come along and have a hot turkey sandwich and a cup of tea whilst browsing the stalls and supporting your Football Club Free entry.

Friday December 3rd - Cresta Court - John Motson Sportsman's Dinner

Come along and see "Motty" at our annual Sportsman's Dinner. Only a few tickets remaining priced at just £50 per ticket or £450 per table of 10.

Four course Dinner, Comedian, raffle and auction with the night compered by Jimmy Wagg of BBC Radio Manchester.

Wednesday December 8th - Sponsors Lounge - Pensioners Lunch

Another annual event which becomes more popular every year. With places limited to just 45 please book your place early. Priced at just £9 per ticket for a traditional Christmas Dinner, drink and mince pie.

Saturday December 18th - Noel White Suite - Christmas Celebration

With the Sportsman's dinner being held in December we have found it impossible to find a date for our usual Christmas party night at the Cresta Court so we are intending to hold a more informal event in our own bar following the game against Histon. Details to follow.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

In the Manchester Glass Sponsors Lounge, Sunday 28th November 2010. 11am-2pm

We are looking for donations of:-

1. Good as new Toys & Games
2. Unwanted Toiletries
3. Chocolate for the Tombola (bars, tins, boxes)
4. Raffle Prizes

These can be brought into the club office during the week or to the club shop on matchdays.

Thank you for your help, and please make a note in your diary to come along on the day, when we will also be serving bacon butties and other refreshments.

Louise and Karen



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FOOTBALL CLUB**



**LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**

PL G YC RC

PL G YC RC

[illegible]

Stuart Coburn	1
James Smith	2
Matt Doughty	3
Marc Joseph	4
Rob Williams	5
Shaun Densmore	6
Robbie Lawton (c)	7
Damian Reeves	8
Michael Twiss	9
Chris Denham	10
Nicky Clee	11
Kevin Holsgrove	12
Andrai Jones	14
Ryan Brown	15
Anthony Danylyk	16
Tom McCready	17
Matty Crowell	18
Danny Holmes	19
Sam Hewson	20
James Coates	21
Michael Welch	22
James McCarthy	23
Matthew Somner	25
Andy Milne	27

- 1 Mark Tyler
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- 3 Fred Murray
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- 6 George Pilkington
- 7 Adam Newton
- 8 Amari Morgan-Smith
- 9 Matthew Barnes-Homer
- 10 Taiwo Atieno
- 11 Andy Drury
- 12 Shane Blackett
- 13 Zdenek Kroca
- 14 Alex Lawless
- 15 Jake Howells
- 16 Ed Asafu-Adjaye
- 17 Pavel Besta
- 18 Claude Gnakpa
- 19 Danny Crow
- 20 Kevin Gallen
- 24 Alex Lacey
- 25 Godfrey Poku
- 26 Jonathan O'Donnell
- 27 Taylor Nathaniel
- 28 Adam Watkins
- 29 Dan Walker
- 30 Kevin Pilkington
- 31 Lewis Kidd
- 32 Jordan Patrick
- 33 Caley Woodrow

[illegible]

Today's Match Officials

Referee: R.J. West

Assistants: A. McIntyre & D. Lawrence

4th Official: M. Walsh

Coming Home Fixtures

Tues, 16th November HYDE (CSC Cup 1st Rnd)

Tues, 30th November FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Sat, 18th December HISTON