

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 31 — November 1997

38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.

(01582) 573485

So, another issue of Hatters Matters arrives on your doorstep. This issue is slightly later than planned, but it's deliberate this time. With no fixture between December 2nd and 13th this seemed the ideal time to be sending a newsletter out. I hope that this meets with your approval. One piece of bad news though, I'll be asking many of you for subscriptions come the new year. Meanwhile, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous new year.

Transfers/Contracts

Nick Webb, Ian Jones and Andrew Barr, all members of last season's successful youth team, have signed contracts to the end of the current season. Jones and Barr have both joined Hitchin Town on a one month loan.

Nottingham Forest and former Oxford United winger Chris Allen has joined Luton Town on loan for one month, starting on 27th November but there is not likely to be a permanent deal.

Bryan Small's three month loan period has now come to an end. Although a £50,000 fee has been agreed with Bolton, it is not known whether the move will be made permanent.

Injuries

Steve Augustine, who had been out of action for about a year with a stomach injury, broke a leg in the second game of his comeback, against Ipswich on November 10.

Darren Patterson, having made it back from an ankle injury, succumbed to a cartilage problem putting him out of action again, but is back in training, along with Dwight Marshall.

Marvin Johnson and Phil Gray are expected to be out of action until Christmas, but Paul Showler and Richard Harvey will be resuming full training in the next week,

Other News

John Moore has replaced Wayne Turner as first team coach. Turner was offered an alternative position at the club, but rejected this, feeling that his future lies elsewhere.

Kelvin Davis was called up for the England under-21 team for a UEFA Championship play-off match against Greece in Crete on November 13.

There is a special offer available for the home match against Bristol Rovers on December 20th. Season ticket holders will be able to buy guest tickets for only £5.00. This offer is available up to 6pm on Friday 19th.

Results and Reports

01/11/97 WYCOMBE WDRS A 2-2
Att: 6,219

Ref: John Brandwood, Lichfield.

Team: K. Davis, James, Johnson, Steve Davis, Small, Waddock, McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Gray, Thorpe. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Fotiadis, White.

Goals: Mark Stallard, 12 min - received McGavin's cross and found himself in ample space to finish. Oldfield, 45 min - drilled the ball home after Steve Davis' cross ricocheted to him off a defender. McGavin, 62 min - excellent curling shot from Scott's cross after a long punt upfield. Thorpe, 74 min - a

looping header past a stranded keeper, from James' hopeful cross.

Bookings: Gray.

Comment: Good performance by the Town, but if chances created had been taken we would have won 6-2.

League position: 18th.

04/11/97 BURNLEY H 2-3
Att: 5,315

Team: K. Davis, James, Johnson, Steve Davis, Small, Waddock (Fotiadis 73 min), McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Gray, Thorpe. Unused subs:

Goals: Michael Williams, 24 min - excellent control on edge of penalty area to volley home. Graham Alexander, 32 min - thundering drive from McLaren's rolled free kick. Alexander, 35 min - took the free kick himself this time, scoring from 30 yards out. Creaney, 61 min - close range header after Barnes knocked on Waddock's corner. Paul Barnes, 64 min - beat offside trap, cut inside Small and lashed the ball past Davis.

Bookings: Johnson, Alexander and Steve Davis.

Comment: A disappointing performance.

League position: 19th.

08/11/97 PRESTON NORTH END H 1-3
Att: 5,767

Ref: Clive Wilkes.

Team: K. Davis, James, Johnson, White, Small (Simon Davies 78 min), Waddock (Marshall 70 min), McLaren, Oldfield, Alexander, Gray (Fotiadis 59 min), Thorpe.

Goals: Tony Lormor, 15 min - unmarked, side-footed Mark Rankine's cross home from 8 yards. Thorpe, 25 min - mishit James' skidding cross. David Eyres, 45 min - unmarked at far post, slid home Lormor's mishit grass cutting shot. Lee Ashcroft, 90 min - breakaway goal, beating the advancing Kelvin Davis with a neat chip and then sidefooting home.

Comment: Even more disappointing with a goal conceded in the last minute of each half.

League position: 22nd.

15/11/97 TORQUAY UNITED H 0-1
FA Cup first round.

Att: 3,446

Ref: Paul Durkin

Team: Feuer, James, White, Spring (Simon Davies 59 min), Harvey (Doherty 80 min), Waddock (Patterson 73 min), McLaren, Oldfield, Alexander, Thorpe, Fotiadis.

Goal: Paul Gibbs, 72 min - penalty, after Tony Bedeau was brought down on the byline by Graham Alexander.

Comment: A poor Town performance, beaten by a rather average Torquay side. The first time Town have gone out at the 1st round since 1929/30.

22/11/97 WALSALL H 0-1
 Att: 4,726
 Ref: Mark Halsey.
 Team: Feuer, James, White, Small, Waddock (Spring 74 min), Simon Davies (Douglas 65 min), McLaren, Oldfield, Alexander, Fotiadis, Thorpe. Unused sub: Harvey.
 Goal: John Hedge, 61 min - superbly struck shot from Gary Porter's cross that just flew into the bottom corner. A genuine goal of the season contender.
 Comment: A poor performance in which possession was not turned into chances.
 League position: 23rd.

29/11/97 YORK CITY A 2-1
 Att: 3,636.
 Ref: D.Pugh, Wirral.
 Team: Feuer, James, White, Steve Davis, Small, Waddock, McLaren, Allen, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Fotiadis, Thomas.
 Goals: Alexander, 13 min - low drive smashed home from 15 yards after Thorpe laid off Oldfield's cross. Thorpe, 72 min - coolly slotted the ball underneath the advancing keeper after

receiving McLaren's defence splitting pass. Richard Cresswell, 87 min - headed home from a free kick.
 Comment: A vastly improved performance in which the Town created a hatful of chances.
 League position: 20th.

02/12/97 GILLINGHAM H 2-2
 Att: 4,408
 Ref: Paul Taylor.
 Team: Feuer, James, White (Thomas 46 min), Steve Davis, Small, Waddock (Fotiadis 61 min), McLaren, Allen, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe.
 Goals: Steve Davis, 26 min - towering header from Alexander's free kick. Ade Akinbiyi, 27 min - stole in behind the defence for an instant equaliser. Akinbiyi, 57 min - stretched the defence for an easy second. Thorpe, 78 min - shot on the turn through keeper Stannard's legs.
 Sent off: Gillingham's Matty Bryant.
 Booked: McLaren, Oldfield and Feuer.
 Comment: Not the best performance, but the 22 man brawl in the last minute added some excitement.
 League position: 21st.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Dec	13	Chesterfield	A	Pay on the day. Terrace £8, seats £9. No concessions.
Sat	Dec	20	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	Guest ticket special offer £5 — see above.
Fri	Dec	26	NORTHAMPTON TN	H	
Sun	Dec	28	Millwall	A	Pay on the day. Seats only, £10 adults, concessions £6.
Sat	Jan	3	Southend United	A	No ticket details yet.

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Thu	Dec	4	Millwall	A (2pm)
Mon	Dec	8	Swindon Town	H (HT, 7pm)
Tue	Dec	16	Crystal Palace	A (2pm)
Mon	Jan	5	Tottenham Hotspur	H (HT, 7pm)

The fixtures with Arsenal were switched and the home game will now be played at Hitchin on February 16.

Home matches at Kenilworth Road or Hitchin Town (HT) (reserves) and Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road (youth).

Youth

Sat	Dec	6	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Sat	Dec	13	Bristol Rovers	A
Sat	Dec	20	Wycombe Wanderers	A
Sat	Dec	27	Wimbledon	A

The reserves featured a number of players on their way back from injury when they lost 1-0 at Norwich City on October 27th. Ian Feuer, Andrew Fotiadis and Steve Augustine were all making comebacks and Marvin Johnson continued his comeback with a full 90 minutes. The Town team didn't set the world on fire on November 5th when they went down to a 2-0 defeat on their trip to Wimbledon. This was followed up with a 3-0 home defeat by Ipswich Town on November 10th. On Monday 17th a youthful Town side took on Barton Rovers in the quarter final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup and rolled out 5-3 victors with goals from Robert Kean, Tresor Kandol, Emerson Boyce, Terry Sweeney and Andre Scarlett. On 17th at Southampton, Gary Doherty scored the Town goal in a 1-1 draw. A strong Arsenal side beat the Town at Hitchin on Monday 24th with Dennis Bergkamp and Matthew Upson among their goalscorers in a 4-1 win, With Steve Davis scoring the Town consolation.

The youth team extended their lead at the top of the South East Counties Division Two with a 1-0 home victory over Tottenham, Moses Jerry netting the winning goal. On Nov 1st, visitors Reading were beaten 4-2 with goals by Andre Scarlett, Tresor Kandol, Moses Jerry and McKoy. Two weeks later Colchester were the visiting team to be beaten, this time 3-2 with Kandol on the scoresheet twice and Michael McIndoe once. The good season continued when Swindon were beaten 4-2 at Newlands Road in the third round of the South East Counties League Cup. Jimmy Cox grabbed a brace of goals with Clifford Akurang and Darren Howe also finding the net. Michael McIndoe was sent off for violent conduct during the Town's visit to Bournemouth on November 29th, but the ten men were able to hang on for a 1-1 draw with Jimmy Cox scoring the Town goal. The FA Youth Cup got under way on December 3rd, with the Town winning 4-0 away to Coventry City.

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If you look carefully, you may discern a slight improvement in results recently. Let's hope that this will be the start of a happier New Year for all of us. Sadly, as advised in the last issue of HM, it is time to be asking you for more money, and 60 of you will have a renewal letter with this issue. Sorry about that, but these things have to be done.

Transfers/Contracts

Bryan Small will not be signed from Bolton.

Dwight Marshall has been placed on the transfer list, and is available on a free, but has been told that if he does not find another club by January 10th he will have to see out the season at Luton.

Chris Allen's loan from Nottingham Forest has been extended for a second month.

Injuries

Julian James (ligament damage) is expected to be out of action until February.

Phil Gray, Marvin Johnson, and Paul Showler are all out of first team action for another couple of weeks, but could play some part in the Auto Windscreens Shield match against Brentford.

Stuart Douglas will be out for several weeks after damaging ankle ligaments in the Bristol Rovers match.

Other News

David Kohler has made it clear that Lennie Lawrence will not be sacked. Kohler said "I am not going to let him off the hook".

Results and Reports

02/12/97 GILLINGHAM H 2-2

Att: 4,408

Ref: Paul Taylor.

Team: Feuer, James, White (Thomas h/t), Steve Davis, Small, Waddock (Fotiadis 61 min), McLaren, Allen, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused sub: Simon Davies

Goals: Steve Davis, 26 min - towering header. Ade Akinbiyi, 27 min - . Akinbiyi, 57 min - . Thorpe, 78 min - shot through keeper Stannard's legs.

Booked: McLaren, Oldfield and Feuer.

Sent off: Gillingham's Matt Bryant, in the 89th minute.

Comment: The game was particularly enlivened by the 22 man brawl in the dying minutes of the game.

League position: 21st.

13/12/97 CHESTERFIELD A 2-2

Att: 4,358.

Ref: John Robinson.

Team: Feuer, James (Douglas 7 min), Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Waddock, Allen, McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Fotiadis.

Booked: Thorpe, Alexander and White.

Comment: A dour draw, with few goal chances.

League position: 22nd.

20/12/97 BRISTOL ROVERS H 2-4

Att: 5,266.

Ref: David Orr, Iver.

Team: Feuer, Patterson, White, Steve Davis, Thomas, McLaren (Simon Davies 72 min), Alexander, Allen, Douglas (Fotiadis 35 min), Thorpe, Oldfield. Unused sub: Waddock.

Goals: Chris Allen, 8 min - fired home the rebound after Oldfield's shot was parried onto the post by the Rovers keeper. Cureton, 12 min - Douglas' miscued header from halfway saw Beadle release Cureton for a simple, clinical shot. Barry Hayles, 21 min - easy goal after mix-up between Davis and Feuer. David Oldfield, 25 min - excellent volley into bottom left corner from Thorpe's lay-off. Peter Beadle, 30 min - simple shot from Hayles pass, after the latter won the ball in a midfield mix-up. Hayles, 37 min - scored after being released by White's miscued header.

Booked: McLaren.

League position: 22nd.

26/12/97 NORTHAMPTON TN H 2-2

Att: 8,035

Ref: Clive Wilkes, Gloucester.

Team: Feuer, Patterson, White, Steve Davis, Thomas, Waddock, McLaren, Alexander (Fotiadis 64 min), Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Spring.

Goals: Jason Dozell, 8 min - penalty, after he fell over in a tangle with Mitchell Thomas. Alan White, 12 min - own goal, headed over Feuer's head from edge of penalty area after a lack of communication between the two. Oldfield, 68 min - poked home from close range after being fed the ball by Thomas, from a corner. Thorpe, 86 min - fired firmly past the visiting keeper after Waddock's ball into the area was cushioned into his path.

Booked: Thomas

Comment: An abysmal first half, but the rousing second half performance was considerable consolation.

League position: 21st.

28/12/97 MILLWALL A 2-0

Att: 7,461

Ref:

Team: Feuer, Patterson, White, Steve Davis, Thomas, Waddock, McLaren, Alexander, Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Fotiadis, Simon Davies, Spring.

Goals: Steve Davis, 90 min - header squeezed past the keeper from Alexander's free kick. Thorpe, 90 min - simple goal, beating keeper in a one-on-one after dispossessing Bowry who appeared to have control of Oldfield's pressure relieving pass.

Booked: McLaren

Comment: Not the best of games, until the last minute anyway, but Town were the better value throughout.

League position: 20th

Forthcoming Fixtures

Tue	Jan	6	BRENTFORD	H (AWS2)	Entry £5.00 adults, £1.00 juniors/senior citizens.
Sat	Jan	10	BLACKPOOL	H	
Sat	Jan	17	Oldham Athletic	A	Seats only, £12.00 adults, £5.00 concessions.
Sat	Jan	24	FULHAM	H	Subject to Fulham's progress in the FA Cup.
Sat	Jan	31	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	<i>Mad as a Hatter!</i> issue 45 on sale.
Sat	Feb	7	Wrexham	A	No ticket details yet.

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Wed	Jan	7	Tottenham Hotspur	H (HT, 7pm)
Tue	Jan	13	West Ham United	A (7.30pm)
Wed	Jan	21	Watford	A (7.30pm)
Mon	Jan	26	Brighton & HA	H (HT, 7pm)
Wed	Feb	4	Charlton Athletic	A (2pm)

All matches, obviously, subject to postponement due to inclement weather, injuries, etc.

Youth

Sat	Jan	10	Swindon Town	H
Wed	Jan	14	Tottenham Hotspur (FAYC)	H (KR, 7pm)
Sat	Jan	17	Oxford United	A
Sat	Jan	24	Barnet	H
Sat	Jan	31	Brighton & HA	A
Sat	Feb	7	Bristol City	H

Home matches at Kenilworth Road or Hitchin Town (HT) (reserves) and Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road (youth).

The reserves had an excellent away win at Millwall on December 4th, with Stuart Douglas (2) and Liam George scoring the Town goals without reply. The deluge of goals continued on 8th when Swindon Town visited Top Field (Hitchin) and left with their tails between their legs after losing 6-0. George (2), Fotiadis (2), Douglas and Matthew Spring scored the goals. Tuesday 16th December saw a trip to Crystal Palace and another victory, this time 2-1 (goalscorers in next issue).

The FA Youth Cup campaign got under way on December 3rd, with the Town winning 4-0 away to Coventry City, with goals by Gary Doherty, Michael McIndoe, Emerson Boyce and Matthew Spring. On the following Saturday, Doherty scored a brace in the 2-2 home draw with Bristol Rovers. Seven days later in the return fixture, Andre Scarlett scored the only goal of the game to secure an away win for the Town.

In the third round of the FA Youth Cup the Town have been drawn at home to Tottenham Hotspur, a match which will be played on January 7th at Kenilworth Road.

New Stadium

As ever, no real news on this subject, but I have heard (secondhand) from Luton Borough Council that they do not expect an announcement on the result of the planning inquiry before January. David Kohler stated in an interview with BBC Three Counties Radio that he had been told that "we will be hearing in January". Mind, he has said things like this before.

Books

I mentioned in issue 30 the publication of Kristina Howells' new book, "A Hatter Goes Mad". Well, there is now a second book on LTFC available. "The Definitive Luton Town FC" contains a record of every Football League match ever played by the Town, including line-ups, scorers and attendances. Full FA and Football League Cup records are also included along with individual records for all the players who have ever represented the club in the League. The book retails at £7.99, and is available by post from Mad as a Hatter! (at the same address as HM) for £9.89 including post and packing (cheques should be made payable to Mad as a Hatter!).

And Finally.....

That's it for now. Christmas meant that some news was even more difficult to get hold of than usual, let's hope that things improve in the new year. The next issue of HM will be sent out in the week ending 31st January.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 33 — January 1998
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Last month we brought you a slightly better selection of results, and this continues in the early part of this month. Thanks to all those who have renewed their subscriptions. You'll be pleased to hear I've now started buying matchday programmes in order to improve the news service.

Transfers/Contracts

Chris Allen's loan spell may be extended for a third month.

Injuries

Julian James has started light training after his knee ligament injury. Marvin Johnson continues his comeback from injury with reserve matches, but Paul Showler and Phil Gray have suffered minor setbacks. Stuart Douglas is back in training after his ankle injury. Liam George and Andrew Fotiadis have both received treatment for slight achilles injuries.

Other News

Bedford Rugby Club have discussed the possibility of using Kenilworth Road to stage Rugby matches next season in the event of their being promoted. Nothing has been finalised and Luton is one of a number of venues being investigated.

The *Luton on Sunday*, dated January 11th, carried a front page story suggesting that the KohlerDome application would be refused. This claim was made by 'businessman' David Rolls, who says he has 'inside knowledge'. It also revealed that Mr Rolls, a "lifetime Luton Town supporter" intends to buy the club from David Kohler and is prepared to put in £450,000 of his own money. His accountants stated that he could not buy the club on his own, and that the proposal is in the infancy stage. The day after the report was published David Kohler said, on Three Counties Radio, that the report was "pure fabrication". Two weeks later the same newspaper revealed that the man was an imposter, and the whole story had been a hoax.

Paul McLaren missed the matches against Oldham and Brentford after totting up 5 bookings since November. Mitchell Thomas misses the matches against Bournemouth and Wrexham for similar reasons.

To date, the Hatters have used no less than 30 players in League matches this season, and 25 in cup games. Of these 20 have received red or yellow cards.

Tony Thorpe has been the subject of transfer speculation, with Bristol City making a bid that was described as "not worthy of consideration". The goal Thorpe scored against Fulham was his 50th for the club, taking him past Malcolm MacDonald's figure for the club.

Ian Feuer was dropped ahead of the AWS tie at Fulham, following a lack of form. This is the first time he has been dropped since joining the club.

Luton have been drawn away to AFC Bournemouth in the regional semi-final of the Auto Windscreen Shield. The match will be played in the week commencing February 16th.

Results and Reports

03/01/98 SOUTHEND UNITED A 2-1
Att: 5,056

Ref: Barry Knight, Orpington.

Team: Feuer, Patterson, Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Waddock, McLaren, Alexander, Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Fotiadis, Spring, Simon Davies.

Goals: Alexander, 2 min - burst through to fire past southall from 18 yards. Andy Thomson, 20 min - unmarked, hooked the ball past Feuer from Dublin's commanding header. Alexander, 62 min - accurate sidefooted shot from Thorpe's lay-off of Allen's miscued shot.

Booked: None.

Comment: An excellent battling performance, in difficult conditions.

League position: 19th.

10/01/98 BLACKPOOL H 3-0
Att: 5,574

Ref: Robert Styles, Waterlooville, Hants.

Team: Feuer, Patterson, Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Waddock, Allen, McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Fotiadis, Evers.

Goals: Thony Thorpe, hat-trick. 33 mins - side footed lob over keeper from about 15 yards out, after a defender kindly headed on Davis's long ball. 74 min - low, left foot drive into bottom corner from 18 yards after receiving a pass from Oldfield. 76 min - right footed, 8 yard volley from Alexander's headed return of McLaren's cross.

Booked: Ian Feuer, after charging out of his area and upending Blackpool's Phil Clarkson and handling the ball at the same time.

Comment: A fine, confident home performance (at last) which started a little nervously, but became more dominant as the game went on.

League position: 18th.

13/01/98 BRENTFORD H 2-1
Auto Windcreens Shield, Round 2.

Att: 3,106

Ref: Mick Pierce, Portsmouth.

Team: Feuer, Patterson, Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Evers, Alexander (Waddock 75 min), Simon Davies, Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe (George 82 min). Unused sub: Harvey.

Goals: Thorpe, 51 min - drilled home from 10 yards after receiving ball from Steve Davis' free kick. Oldfield, 83 min - fired home from 20 yards. Leon Townley, 90 min - close range header from a free kick given away by Davis.

Booked: Steve Davis.

Comment: After a drab, uninspiring first half the game livened up considerably after the break, and Town dominated the second spell.

17/01/98 OLDHAM ATHLETIC A 1-2

Att: 6,057

Ref: Terry Heilbron

Team: Feuer, Patterson, Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Waddock (Marshall 83 min), Alexander, Spring (Simon Davies 71 min), Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused sub: Evers.

Goals: Richard Graham, 54 min - headed home from close range from Neil Thompson's inswinging corner. Graham, 65 min - identical goal to his first. Alexander, 77 min - fierce drive from 10 yards which went in off the post, from Thorpe's lay-off.

Comment: Not the prettiest of matches, and Hatters only really livened up in the last 20 minutes when it was too late. Although coming close to equalising, the pair of identical goals scored by the home side was enough to preserve their unbeaten home record.

League position: 18th.

24/01/98 FULHAM H 1-4

Att: 8,366

Ref: Scoti Mathieson, Stockport.

Team: Feuer, Patterson, Steve Davis, White (Simon Davies 3 min), Waddock, McLaren, Alexander, Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Evers, Marshall.

Goals: Paul Moody, 43 secs - fired past Feuer after outpacing White to an up-field punt from the Fulham keeper. Moody, 37 min - stole in between Steve Davis and Alexander to head home a Bracewell cross. Thorpe, 44 min - drilled the ball into the bottom corner past the keeper after being found in space by McLaren. Moody, 56 min - penalty, after Feuer's poor clearance, being returned by Trollope, hit Steve Davis' hand. Steve Hayward, 61 min - knocked the ball into an empty net after Matt Lawrence's cross had travelled across the face of the goal.

Comment: A game which was won by the better team, but by a slightly flattering scoreline. An early goal and the injury to Alan White did much to remove the Town's hopes of victory. League position: 19th.

27/01/98 FULHAM A 2-1

Auto Windscreens Shield, Round 3.

Att: 5,103

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, Steve Davis, White, Harvey, Evers, Simon Davies, Allen, McLaren (Waddock 75 min), Oldfield, Marshall (Thorpe 79 min).

Goals: Marshall, 21 min - first to react after Fulham keeper Walton parried Steve Davis' volley into his path, burying his shot in the bottom corner. Kyle Lightbourne, 62 min - met a deep cross from Lawrence to fire in off the post, after a poor clearance by White. Thorpe, 90 min - stooped low to head home with the last touch of the game from a Simon Davies cross after good work by Allen.

Comment: A pretty good performance by the Town apparently, but I'm afraid I didn't go.

31/01/98 BOURNEMOUTH H 1-2

Att: 5,466

Ref: Roger Furnandiz, Doncaster

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, Steve Davis, Johnson, Harvey, Waddock (Simon Davies), McLaren (Marshall), Alexander, Allen (Evers), Oldfield, Thorpe.

Goals: Jason Brissett, 10 min. Steve Fletcher, 58 min. Johnson, 71 min.

No bookings.

League position: 19th.

FULL DETAILS NEXT MONTH.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Feb	7	Wrexham	A	Pay on day only. Seats £12, £7 cons. Terrace £9, £5 cons.
Sat	Feb	14	Watford	A 12 noon.	Seats only, £12 (cons £8 in advance only). Tickets can be bought in advance or pay on the day.
Tue	Feb	17	AFC Bournemouth	A (AWS)	Terrace £8.50, £3 concessions.
Sat	Feb	21	BRISTOL CITY	H	
Tue	Feb	24	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	
Sat	Feb	28	Plymouth Argyle	A	Seats (advance booking only) £12, £10 cons. Uncovered terracing £9.50, no concessions, pay on the day.
Tue	Mar	3	Preston North End	A	Terrace only, £9, £5.50 cons, pay on the day.

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Wed	Feb	4	Charlton Athletic	A (2pm)
Mon	Feb	9	Portsmouth	H (HT, 7pm)
Mon	Feb	16	Arsenal	H (HT, 7pm)
Wed	Feb	25	QPR	H (KR, 2pm)
Wed	Mar	4	Wimbledon	H (KR, 2pm)

Youth

Sat	Feb	7	Bristol City	H
Sat	Feb	14	Brentford	A
Sat	Feb	21	Southampton	H
Sat	Feb	28	Tottenham Hotspur	A

Home matches at Kenilworth Road or Hitchin Town (HT) (reserves) and Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road (youth).

There have been a number of fixture changes recently, with postponements and other games being re-arranged at short notice. At present Combination matches away to Brighton and West Ham, and at home to West Ham and Tottenham, a Bedfordshire Premier Cup semi-final away to Brache Sparta and a youth match away to Wycombe Wanderers have no dates set. I can only suggest that you should check with the home club first if you intend to attend any of the above matches, but there's probably not a lot I can do to help, especially when matches are brought forward at short notice.

The reserve goalscorers in the 2-1 victory over Crystal Palace on December 16th were Liam George and an own goal. On Tuesday 13th, Liam George came off the bench at the Manor Ground to score the Town's only goal in their 2-1 defeat by

Oxford United (and yes, I know the last HM said they were playing away to West Ham on that date). Paul Showler, Phil Gray and Marvin Johnson all played for an hour on their way back from injury. The game at Watford on 21st ended in a 1-0 win for the home side.

The youth team suffered a setback in their South East Counties League Division 2 championship campaign when they were beaten at home by mid-table Swindon Town on January 10th. On 14th the youngsters were held to a 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road by Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Youth Cup, a match in which Matthew Spring scored both Town goals. On Saturday 17th, Clifford Akurang scored the Town goal in a 1-1 draw at Oxford. On Friday 23rd January, Stuart Fraser, Jimmy Cox and Akurang scored the goals in a 3-0 home win over Barnet. The FA Youth Cup run ended at White Hart Lane on the following Monday when Spurs ran out 4-2 victors. The Luton goals were scored by Matthew Spring and Gary Doherty. In the fourth round of the South East Counties League Cup, Town will be away to Watford on a date to be arranged.

New Stadium

The *Herald & Post*, dated 15th January, reported a Department of the Environment spokesperson as saying that a decision is still "several weeks away" and that the matter is being held up by complex legal issues.

The match programme on January 24th contained a statement from the Government Office for Eastern Region which said, "the Inspector's Report is actively under consideration". On the same page a spokesperson for the Department of the Environment was quoted as saying, "No decision has yet been made. A number of complex issues are holding up the decision, which is still some weeks away."

Books

Amazingly, it seems that a third book is on its way to publication, and could be available by the end of the season. At this rate, we'll soon be needing a dedicated library! Full details of this latest publication when there is more definite information about a publication date, and we'll try to get hold of it to sell through Mad as a Hatter! and HM.

And Finally.....

I have been asked again about giving subscribers details in order that you can contact each other in respect of lifts etc. I am loathe to do this, and do not think it would be right to do so without permission. However, I am open to ideas about how to get round this. After all, it may well benefit someone not to have two or three cars coming to Luton from Gloucester (this goes to three different addresses with GL2 postcodes) for a home game, or to have a number of people sitting around in Staffordshire (three WS11 postcodes) thinking they won't go to the game because they don't want to drive on their own, or can't get a lift.

If it helps concentrate your minds on this, the most popular counties and postcode areas for HM are as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Postcodes</u>
London	6	B 4
Hertfordshire	5	BS 4
Gloucestershire	4	GL 4
Staffordshire	4	WS 4
West Midlands	4	SN 3
Avon	3	
Cambridgeshire	3	
Hampshire	3	
Kent	3	
Surrey	3	
Wiltshire	3	

The above is by no means the total number of Town supporters in these areas, and there might well be higher concentrations than you would think likely in some areas. If the list for Mad as a Hatter! was combined with this it would thrust Leicestershire up to the top of the list.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 33 — February 1998
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

Sorry people, but another desperately late issue of HM. I'm afraid that pressure of work over recent weeks has meant that it has been very difficult to find time to put this together. Please forgive me!

Transfers/Contracts

Chris Allen's loan spell was extended for a third month, but he has now returned to Nottingham Forest.

Colin Omogbehin, the reserve midfielder taken on earlier this season has had his contract terminated by the club.

Bristol City had a second bid for Tony Thorpe turned down. The offer was described by Lennie Lawrence as "nothing worthy of consideration".

Tony Thorpe has joined Fulham in a deal worth, initially, £800,000, although this could rise to around £1 million with money for appearances.

Dwight Marshall has turned down the chance to join Southend United on a contract to the end of the season.

Goalkeeper Nathan Abbey has joined Vauxhall Conference side Woking on loan. Fellow youth player Robert Kean is at Boreham Wood on loan.

Ian Feuer has left Luton Town and joined New England Revolution in Major League Soccer in the USA. A fee of around £150,000 is believed to have been involved. In a recent interview Feuer revealed that homesickness had much to do with his desire to return to the States.

David Oldfield and Darren Patterson are both out of contract at the end of this season.

Crewe goalkeeper Mark Gayle has been signed on loan until April 25th, as cover for Kelvin Davis.

Injuries

Paul Showler, a stalwart of this section, has suffered another setback in his comeback from a niggling groin injury after breaking down again in training, and is described as being "back to square one". He is back in rehabilitation and is likely to be several weeks away from fitness. Latest news is that he is likely to be playing in a reserve team match shortly, so watch this space for the next injury.

Marvin Johnson tore a hamstring and was out of action for several weeks after being stretchered off during the Watford match. He is now well on the way to full fitness.

Richard Harvey has had a knee operation, sidelining him for two to three weeks.

Other News

Luton Town won the Performance of the Round award for their 2-1 win at Fulham in the Auto Windscreens Shield regional quarter-final. The prize was a cut glass trophy, 10 Mitre footballs and a cheque for £1000 for youth development.

After being dropped from the first team, Ian Feuer has indicated that he may want to leave the club, although he has not made a transfer request.

Trevor Peake, Luton's oldest ever player, has left the club and joined the coaching staff at Coventry City.

Results and Reports

31/01/98 **BOURNEMOUTH** **H** **1-2**
Att: 5,466

Ref: Roger Furnandiz, Doncaster

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, Steve Davis, Johnson, Harvey, Waddock (Simon Davies, 77), McLaren (Marshall, 55), Alexander, Allen (Evers, 64), Oldfield, Thorpe.

Goals: Jason Brissett, 10 min - unchallenged header from Steve Robinson's cross. Steve Fletcher, 58 min - fired past keeper after Harvey's poor header fell straight into his path. Johnson, 71 min - headed through a crowded goalmouth from Alexander's corner.

No bookings.

Comment:

League position: 19th.

07/02/97 **WREXHAM** **A** **1-2**
Att: 3,527

Ref: T. Jones

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, Steve Davis, Johnson, Harvey, Waddock (Marshall 72), McLaren, Alexander, Allen, Oldfield, Thorpe. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Evers.

Goals: David Brammer, 66 min - low, hard shot from just inside the penalty area, after Wainwright's cross was pulled back by Roberts. Neil Roberts, 88 min - fired into roof of net from Basham's break down the right and cross. Steve Davis, 89 min - wrested ball from home full-back to lob in after McLaren's cross.

Bookings: Alexander, Waddock.

Comment: I didn't go, but apparently a poor Town performance against a poor home side. Few chances were created by the Town side, until it was too late.

League position: 20th.

14/02/97 **WATFORD** **A** **1-1**
Att: 15,182

Ref: John Kirkby, Sheffield.

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, Thomas, White, Johnson (Simon Davies 90), Waddock (Evers 71), Allen (Marshall 71), McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe.

Goals: Paul Robinson, 52 min - after and unfortunate rictpchet off White, calmly lifted the ball over the advancing Davis. Marvin Johnson, 81 min - stuck out a leg to deflect Paul McLaren's hopeful shot past the helpless keeper.

Booked: Thomas, Thorpe and McLaren.

Comment: Not the win we would have liked, but a deserved draw for a spirited Town performance. Luton dominated much of the match, but were unable to take their chances, in particular a good chance which fell to David Oldfield late in the first half.

League position: 20th.

17/02/97 AFC BOURNEMOUTH A 0-1

Auto Windscreens Shield, Round 4.

Att: 5,367

Ref:

Team: Feuer, Alexander, White, Patterson, Thomas, Evers, McLaren, Simon Davies (Gray 88), Allen, Oldfield, Marshall.
Unused subs: Harvey, Waddock.

Goal: Franck Rolling, 86 min - fired in from 12 yards after two shots had been blocked.

Comment:

21/02/97 BRISTOL CITY H 0-0

Att: 6,405

Ref: Ken Leach, Wolverhampton.

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, White, Steve Davis, Thomas, Evers (Marshall 76), Alexander, McLaren, Allen (Fotiadis 69), Oldfield, Gray. Unused sub: Waddock.

Booked:

Comment: A game that the Town really should have won, if only the referee had been charitable and awarded a couple of deserved penalties. City were disappointing.

League position: 21st

24/02/97 WIGAN ATHLETIC H 1-1

Att: 4,403

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Evers, McLaren, Marshall (Fotiadis xx), Alexander, Oldfield, Gray. Unused subs: Allen, Waddock.

Goals:

Booked:

Comment:

League position: 20th.

28/02/98 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE A 2-0

Att: 4,846

Ref: Andrew D'Urso, Billericay.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Patterson, Steve Davis, Thomas, Waddock, Evers, McLaren, Marshall (Fotiadis 71, Doherty 89), Oldfield, Gray. Unused sub: Simon Davies.

Goals: Fotiadis, 78 min - nipped in to head a short back-header past stranded keeper. Evers, 87 min - swept ball into roof of net after being picked out by Gray's right wing cross.

Comment:

League position: 19th.

03/03/98 PRESTON NORTH END A 0-1

Att: 6,992

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Steve Davis, Patterson, Thomas, Waddock (Simon Davies 77), Evers (Spring 77), Oldfield, Gray, Marshall (Fotiadis 67).

Goal: Ryan Kidd, 67 min - curling right-footed strike,

returning Kelvin Davis' punched corner clearance.

Comment: Town had enough chances to win the game in the first half, but failed to capitalise, and lost to the better side in the second.

League position: 20th.

07/03/98 WYCOMBE WDRS H 0-0

Att: 6,114

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Steve Davis, Patterson, Spring (Simon Davies 74), Evers, McLaren, Oldfield, Gray, Marshall (Fotiadis 65). Unused sub: Waddock.

Comment: Lots of possession and no goals, but this time the opposition did not have any better idea about how to attack.

League position: 21st.

14/03/98 BURNLEY A 1-1

Att: 9,656

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, James, Steve Davis, Patterson, Thomas, Waddock (Simon Davies 73), Evers, McLaren, Oldfield, Gray, Fotiadis (Marshall 75). Unused sub: White.

Goals: Andy Payton, 61 min - sprung the offside trap, racing on to a through ball to beat the hopelessly exposed Kelvin Davis. Thomas, 80 min - incisive low flicked header from Gray's flick on of Simon Davies' corner.

Comment: The same old story. Dominated long periods of the game, but looked like being punished for failing to take chances.

League position: 21st.

21/03/98 GRIMSBY TOWN H 2-2

Att:

Ref: Andrew Hall, Birmingham.

Team: K. Davis, James, Steve Davis, Patterson, Thomas, Evers, McLaren, Oldfield, Alexander, Fotiadis (Douglas 62), Marshall. Unused subs: Simon Davies, Waddock.

Goals: Tony Gallimore, 54 min - belted a 20 yard free kick past Kelvin Davis with the aid of a deflection. The kick was awarded after Steve Davis had pulled back Jack Lester. Kevin Donovan, 64 min - turned in a miscued shot from Gallimore. Evers, 66 min - fired in from the edge of the area from David Oldfield's excellently placed pass. Steve Davis, 85 min - headed in Alexander's cross.

Booked: Steve Davis.

Comment: A forgettable first half, but a second that was full of action. After Steve Davis was fortunate to escape with a booking, and Grimsby went two up, Stuart Douglas' introduction changed the game and the Town's grandstand finish was unfortunate not to secure all three points.

League position: 23rd.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Mar	28	Walsall	A
Sat	Apr	4	YORK CITY	H
Tue	Apr	7	Grimsby Town	A
Sat	Apr	11	Gillingham	A
Tue	Apr	14	CHESTERFIELD	H
Sat	Apr	18	Bristol Rovers	A

Pay on the day. Seats £10 adults, £6 concessions.

Pay on the day. Seats £12 adults, £6 concessions.

Seats in advance only: £12 adults, £7 oap, £7 juniors.

Terrace, pay on the day: £9 adults, £7 oap, £4 juniors.

No details yet.

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Wed	Apr	1	Southampton	H (2pm)
Wed	Apr	8	Portsmouth	A (7pm)
Wed	Apr	15	Ipswich Town	A (7pm)
Mon	Apr	20	Wimbledon	H (HT, 7pm)
Wed	Apr	22	Chelsea	H (7pm)
Thu	May	7	West Ham United	H (2pm)

Youth

Sat	Mar	28	AFC Bournemouth	H	
Sat	Apr	4	Wimbledon	H	
Mon	Apr	6	Bedford Town	A	EJC
Sat	Apr	11	Wycombe Wanderers	A	

Home matches at Kenilworth Road or Hitchin Town (HT) (reserves) and Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road (youth).

The reserve match against Brighton on January 28th saw a 3-1 win for the Town with Liam George scoring a brace of goals and Stuart Douglas adding a third. The visit to Charlton Athletic on February 4th resulted in a 2-0 defeat for the Town. On Monday 9th Mitchell Thomas, Dwight Marshall and Liam George were all on target in a 3-1 home defeat of Portsmouth. A week later, Arsenal were the visitors to Top Field and secured a 1-1 draw with former Luton player Matthew Upson replying to Terry Sweeney's goal. Thursday 26th February saw a 0-0 draw at home to QPR, and on Wednesday 11th March, Norwich City visited for another draw, this time 1-1 with Simon Davies netting for the Town. The reserves have a busy month ahead with dates still to be set for away games at West Ham and Brighton.

The youth team secured a 1-1 draw with Brighton on 31st January with Delroy McKoy scoring the goal at the seaside. This was followed a week later with a 2-0 home win against Bristol City with McKoy and Michael McIndoe scoring the goals. McKoy continued his scoring ways with another against Brentford on St Valentines day, and was joined on the scoresheet by McIndoe, Gary Doherty and Clifford Akurang in a 4-0 win. Jimmy Cox scored the juniors goal in a 1-1 draw with Southampton at Luton Rugby Club on Saturday 21st. February 28th saw an emphatic 5-0 away win against Spurs youth with McIndoe on the scoresheet twice, accompanied by Akurang, Cox and Tresor Kandol. A mainly youth side went out of the Bedfordshire FA Premier Cup on March 5, losing 1-0 away to Brache Sparta. On March 9th they were more successful, beating Mirlees Blackstone 4-1 in the Eastern Junior Cup. Jimmy Ayers, Joe Harrington, Akurang and Cox were the goalscorers. Town have been drawn away to Bedford Town in the next round. Back in league action on 14th March with a trip to Wimbledon, Andre Scarlett and Richard Clarke led the Town to a 2-0 win. March 21st saw a 2-1 win over Colchester United with goals from McIndoe and Cox. This result took the Town six points clear at the top of South East Counties League Division 2.

New Stadium

From the Luton News, Feb 18, 1998 — "Luton South MP Margaret Moran was told by civil servants four weeks ago that the result of the public inquiry would be given in about two weeks time. Now she has been told by Government officials that a date for publication of the inquiry result has still not been fixed."

And Finally.....

As stated at the top of page one, this issue is rather late. I plan to send out the next issue in mid April, with the next one to follow in early May after the final match of the season.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 35 — March 1998

38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.

(01582) 573485

Sorry about the cock-up with production schedules recently, which has been due to pressure of (real) work. The next issue of HM will be coming out after the season's end.

Transfers/Contracts

Striker Rory Allen was a deadline day signing from Spurs. The 20 year old has been out of action most of this season through injury, and had only played in 2 reserve matches before joining the Town.

Robert Kean, who made a first team appearance at Bristol City this season, has been released.

David Oldfield, Darren Patterson and Julian James are out of contract at the end of this season. No contract discussions will take place until the relegation issue has been resolved.

Injuries

Richard Harvey has had a minor knee op to clear up scar tissue left from an earlier operation, and will be resuming training shortly.

Marvin Johnson is making a slow recovery from his Hamstring injury.

Paul Showler has made a couple of reserve appearances and was on the way back to full fitness until he suffered a fresh injury in training. He has been told by Lennie Lawrence that he will be training throughout the summer to regain full fitness.

Phil Gray will be out for the remainder of the season as he is going in to hospital for a back operation.

Other News

Marvin Johnson's testimonial match will take place on May 5th. Sheffield Wednesday are the opponents, but as with matches of this sort, other players are expected to make guest appearances. These include Brian Stein (recently released by St Leonards Stamcroft) and Ricky Hill, and possibly Mick Harford and David Preece. It is hoped that Marvin may play as well!

Gary Doherty and Liam George were both called into the Ireland under-18 squad for a tournament in Portugal from April 7 to 12.

Town star of the 1970s, Paul Fitcher is on his way to Wembley for the first time. The 41 year old player-manager of Southport will lead his side out for the FA Trophy final on May 17th.

Mad as a Hatter! beat Watford fanzine *Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet* 3-2 on Good Friday.

The 1998/99 season will open on Saturday August 8th — just a month after the conclusion of the World Cup. The first round, first leg, of the Coca Cola Cup will be played during the following week. There will be a full League programme on Saturday December 19th, and on Boxing Day, December 26th and Bank Holiday Monday, December 28th. So now you can plan your holidays!

Results and Reports

28/03/98 WALSALL A 3-2
Att: 3,922

Ref: Bill Burns, Scarborough.

Team: K. Davis, James, Steve Davis, White, Thomas, Waddock, McLaren (Evers 75), Alexander, Marshall, Oldfield (Doherty 85), Allen. Unused sub: Simon Davies.

Goals: Oldfield, 35 min - looped ball over the keeper after sticking out a hopeful boot at Rory Allen's cross. Adrian Viveash, 52 min - powerful header to meet Dean Keates' corner. Allen, 58 min - slotted home after David Oldfield's shot rebounded off the post. Marshall, 73 min - fired home from an acute angle after a good run and one-two with Oldfield. Didier Tholot, 74 min - stabbed home Viveash's header.

Booked: McLaren and Alexander for Luton, and Peron for Walsall.

Comment: A scrappy game with a tense final 15 minutes after Walsall scored their second. A good debut performance from Rory Allen.

League position: 21st.

04/04/98 YORK CITY H 3-0
Att: 5,541

Ref: David Crick, Worcester Park, Surrey.

Team: K. Davis, James, Steve Davis (White 74), Patterson, Evers, McLaren, Alexander, Marshall (Gray 71), Oldfield, Allen. Unused sub: Waddock.

Goals: Alexander, 35 min - penalty, after Rennison had stopped the ball on the line with his hand. Oldfield, 45 min - beautiful curling shot into top right corner from Alexander's lay-off. Gray, 85 min - header from 8 yards out from Alexander's cross.

Sent-off: York's Rennison for handball, and Tinkler, for two bookable offences.

Booked: Thomas and Allen, plus York's Rennison, Bushell and Tinkler.

Comment: A pretty good performance by the Town with the bit of luck that has been missing most of this season.

League position: 19th.

07/04/98 GRIMSBY TOWN A 1-0
Att: 4,455

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, James, Patterson, White, Thomas, Waddock, McLaren, Alexander, Marshall (Evers 86), Oldfield (Gray 80), Allen (Doherty 90).

Goal: Allen, 54 min - first to react when Grimsby 'keeper Aidan Davison could only block Oldfield's ferocious 30 yard volley.

Comment: An excellent team effort, with Allen's goal rewarding enterprising and crisp play by the Hatters, with some stunning saves by Kelvin Davis keeping the Mariners at bay.

League position: 17th.

11/04/98 GILLINGHAM A 1-2
 Att: 6,846
 Ref: Fraser Stretton, Nottingham.
 Team: K. Davis, James (Evers 29), Patterson, White, Thomas, Waddock (Doherty 79), Marshall (Gray 59), McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Allen.
 Goals: Ade Akinbiyi, 28 min - turned the ball in from Butler's left wing cross, while the Town were down to 10 men due to James' injury. Allen, 45 min - slipped the ball between the 'keeper and the near post after picking up Hesenthaler's woefully short back-pass. Akinbiyi, 49 min - rifled into the bottom corner after Butler had left Smith's right wing cross.
 Sent-off: Darren Patterson, for two bookings.
 Comment: Akinbiyi only managed to take two of his chances, but could have had five, in a match where the Town were comprehensively beaten. The referee attracted criticism from both managers, who thought that the first goal should never have happened due to an earlier offside.
 League position: 19th.

14/04/98 CHESTERFIELD H 3-0
 Att: 5,884
 Ref: Mike Bailey, Cambridge.
 Team: K. Davis, James, Thomas, S. Davis, Patterson, Evers, Marshall, Spring (Waddock 80), Alexander, Oldfield, Allen (Douglas 76). Unused sub: Doherty.
 Goals: Mark Williams, 24 min - own goal, knocking in Marshall's effort from Allen's low cross. Allen, 49 min - close range volley at far post as Thomas knocked down Alexander's cross. Oldfield, 64 min - sidefooted home from about 12 yards after an excellent right wing run and pass from Sean Evers.
 Comment: A strong performance from the Town outplaying Chesterfield with confidence and style. There were many more goal chances than the three taken, whilst the visitors had only one good chance, and that hit the crossbar. Of the Town team, Evers and Spring were particularly impressive, running the midfield in the absence of McLaren and Waddock.
 League position: 17th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Apr	18	Bristol Rovers	A	All ticket. Adults £9, concessions £4.50.
Sat	Apr	25	Brentford	A	All ticket. Seats £14, cons £11. Terrace £9, cons £6.
Sat	May	2	CARLISLE UNITED	H	
Tue	May	5	SHEFFIELD WEDS	H	Marvin Johnson Testimonial. Pay on the night, £8 adults, £4 seniors, £2 juniors. Tickets also available in advance, contact club for details.

Reserves and Youth

Reserves				Youth			
Mon	Apr	20	Wimbledon	H (HT, 7pm)	TBA	Chelmsford City	A EJC
Wed	Apr	22	Chelsea	H (7pm)	TBA	West Ham United	H (KR) SECC
Thu	May	7	West Ham United	H (2pm)	TBA	West Ham United	A SECC
			TBA Brighton & HA	A			
			TBA West Ham United	A			
			TBA Tottenham Hotspur	H			

Home matches at Kenilworth Road or Hitchin Town (HT) (reserves) and Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road (youth).

The reserve match on Wednesday 1st April, at home to Southampton, ended in a 1-1 draw with Stuart Douglas scoring for the Town.

The youth team were successful at Vicarage Road on March 24th, beating Watford 2-0 in the semi-final of the South East Counties League Cup, with Matthew Spring and Jimmy Cox scoring the goals, securing a place in a two-legged final against West Ham. This was followed up with a 3-0 league win at Bournemouth on March 28th, with Cox getting two goals and one from Moses Jerry. A week later visitors Wimbledon were put to the sword in a 3-0 win with Cox, Richard Clarke and Delroy McKoy scoring the goals. They went on to secure the league title a week later with a goalless draw at Wycombe. This is the second season running that the Town youngsters have won the title. From their 28 games they have scored 61 points with 18 wins and 3 draws. I hope to provide a league table in the next issue.

In addition to the league title, the youth team are still involved in two cup competitions. As yet no dates have been arranged for the two legged SE Counties League cup final against West Ham. Meanwhile they are in the last four of the Eastern Junior Cup after winning 2-1 at Bedford Town on April 6th. They are due to travel to Chelmsford City in the semi-final — on a date to be decided.

New Stadium

No more news. Will there ever be??

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 36 — April 1998
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

So, at last safety was reached at Brentford, rendering the final match of the season utterly meaningless — thank goodness. Let's hope next season can be something to look forward to rather than something to dread.

Transfers/Contracts

Rory Allen's loan period was extended so that he could play in the final home game of the season. Although the club are talking to Spurs about a 3 month loan at the start of next season, a permanent deal remains unlikely. Allen is on a three year contract, and his wages are very high by LTFC standards. Andrew Fotiadis is out of contract at the end of the season, and seems unlikely to agree a deal after a season bedevilled by injury.

Injuries

Julian James suffered a broken leg in the match at Bristol Rovers. The break was in both bones of the right leg. The injury is not career threatening, but he will be out of action for about 6 months.

Phil Gray's back problem is a leaking disc, and he has now had an operation.

Dwight Marshall suffered a pulled hamstring after scoring at Brentford.

Steve Augustine is on the road to recovery from a broken leg, having had a pin removed.

Ticket prices for next season have been announced. Season ticket prices are unchanged, but there appear to be some minor increases on matchday ticket prices.

Other News

Darren Patterson not only won his first international cap for two years against Switzerland on 22nd April, he also scored the only goal of the match.

At the Luton Town Supporters Club presentation evening, David Oldfield was the Supporters Player of the Year, Steve Davis won the Players and Junior members Player of the Year awards, and Matthew Spring and Gary Doherty were jointly declared Young Player of the Year.

Lennie Lawrence wants the wage bill to be increased next season in order to aid a promotion challenge.

The average attendance at Kenilworth Road for the League season was 5,878.

The only pre-season match to be confirmed so far is a home friendly with Coventry City on Friday July 31, kick off 7.45 pm.

Two more books about Luton Town are planned to be published later this year. *Kenilworth Sunset* by Tim Kingston, and *Luton Town: The Modern Era — A Complete Record* by Roger Wash which will chronicle every match played since winning promotion in 1967/68. Further details of these as and when available.

Due to the delays in completing their fixtures, I will hold back full statistics for reserve and youth teams until the next issue.

Results and Reports

14/04/98 CHESTERFIELD H 3-0

Att: 5,884

Ref: Mike Bailey, Cambridge.

Team: K. Davis, James, Thomas, S. Davis, Patterson, Evers, Marshall, Spring (Waddock 80), Alexander, Oldfield, Allen (Douglas 76). Unused sub: Doherty.

Goals: Mark Williams, 24 min - own goal, knocking in Marshall's effort from Allen's low cross. Allen, 49 min - close range volley at far post as Thomas knocked down Alexander's cross. Oldfield, 64 min - sidefooted home from about 12 yards after an excellent right wing run and pass from Sean Evers.

Comment: A strong performance from the Town outplaying Chesterfield with confidence and style. There were many more goal chances than the three taken, whilst the visitors had only one good chance, and that hit the crossbar. Of the Town team, Evers and Spring were particularly impressive, running the midfield in the absence of McLaren and Waddock.

League position: 17th.

18/04/98 BRISTOL ROVERS A 1-2

Att: 8,087

Ref: Tony Leake, Darwen.

Team: K. Davis, James (White 15), S. Davis, Patterson, Thomas, Waddock (Spring 70), Evers, Alexander, Marshall (Douglas 55), Oldfield, Allen.

Goals: Peter Beadle, 5 min - hopeful 25 yard effort that should have been saved. Andy Tillson, 32 min - headed in to bottom corner from Foster's unchallenged return across the face of goal from Holloway's corner. Oldfield, 75 min - fired in across the goal, after Dougals created space and laid the ball off.

Comment: A game marred by Julian James' injury, but the Town were second best throughout.

League position: 18th.

25/04/98 BRENTFORD A 2-2

Att: 6,598

Ref: Mark Halsey, Welwyn Garden City.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, S. Davis, White, Thomas, Waddock, Evers, McLaren (Spring 87), Marshall (Douglas 16 (Doherty 82)), Oldfield, Allen.

Goals: Marshall, 13 min - hooked the ball in from close range, as Steve Davis headed down Alexander's corner. Andy Scott, 22 min - nodded in at the near post from Bates' long throw-in. Allen, 59 min - long punt from Kelvin Davis, well controlled and slipped past the opposing keeper. Carl Hutchings, 80 - leapt highest to head in Paul Watson's corner.

Booked: White, Steve Davis, Douglas.

Comment: A thoroughly entertaining match with plenty of action, including a mass brawl after Aspinall's late challenge on Davis (K), and almost the cock-up of the season by the same Davis. A last minute Brentford effort jangled the Hatters fans' nerves, but on balance a draw was the right result.

League position: 18th, and safe.

02/05/98 CARLISLE UNITED H 3-2

Att: 6,729

Ref: J.P. Robinson, Hull.

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, S. Davis, White (Doherty 69), Fraser, Evers, McLaren (Spring 60), Alexander, Fotiadis (Douglas 60), Oldfield, Allen.

Goals: Evers, 26 min - a crisp low drive from Allen's neat pass. Graham Anthony, 53 min - tremendous 25 yard free kick which zipped into the net off the inside of the far post. Nick Wright, 82 min - header from Ian Stevens' cross. Oldfield, 84

min - claimed, but his shot across the face of the goal was deflected in by a defender. Allen, 90 min - in off the crossbar from 12 yards out after Oldfield headed down Alexander's right wing free kick.

Booked: Spring.

Comment: A scarcely deserved victory in a typical end of season match with an exciting climax.

Final league position: 17th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Tue May 5 SHEFFIELD WEDS H

Marvin Johnson Testimonial. Pay on the night, £8 adults, £4 seniors, £2 juniors. Tickets also available in advance, contact club for details.

Fri July 31 COVENTRY CITY H

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Mon	May 11	Brighton & HA	A
Wed	May 13	Wimbledon	H
Fri	May 15	Tottenham Hotspur	H
	TBA	West Ham United	A
	TBA	West Ham United	H

Youth

Wed	May 6	Chelmsford City	A	EJC
Fri	May 8	West Ham United	A	SECC

Home matches at Kenilworth Road or Hitchin Town (HT) (reserves) and Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road (youth).

The reserve match on Wednesday 8th April, away to Portsmouth, ended in a 2-0 victory for the Town with Andrew Fotiadis and Jimmy Cox on the scoresheet. The visit to Ipswich Town on 15th saw Terry Sweeney and Fotiadis score the Town goals in a 2-1 win. The home fixture with Wimbledon on 20th was a victim of the weather, but two days later Chelsea came to Kenilworth Road, a game which ended 2-2. Matthew Spring and Fotiadis were the names on the scoresheet. On Monday 27th a trip to Swindon Town ended in a 4-2 victory with Clifford Akurang grabbing a brace of goals, with Marvin Johnson and Liam George adding one apiece. Chris Willmott was sent off in this match. The match at West Ham was scheduled for Thursday 30th April, but was called off. Although both West Ham fixtures are shown as TBA in the above list, West Ham have decided that due to fixture congestion they will not be fulfilling their fixtures, so these are unlikely to be played.

The youth team goalscorers in the Eastern Junior Cup victory at Bedford Town on April 6th were Tresor Kandol and James Ayres. On Wednesday 29th April, in the first leg of the South East Counties League Cup Final, West Ham United visited Kenilworth Road, and were beaten 4-3 in an exciting match. The goals for the Town were scored by Tresor Kandol (2), Jimmy Cox and Matthew Spring.

New Stadium

No news is good news. Or so they say. Personally, I thought that no news means that you've been forgotten.

And Finally.....

The next issue of HM should be coming to you around the end of this month, once all the season's fixtures are completed and I have been able to get final statistics and tables for youth and reserve teams. I hope that I will also be able to include details of the pre-season tour.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 37 — May 1998

38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

Transfers/Contracts

Julian James has signed a new one year contract after breaking his leg.

Dwight Marshall is being offered a new one year contract, and Darren Patterson and David Oldfield are also being offered new deals, but all are free to leave the club under the Bosman ruling. Andrew Fotiadis is also considering his future, but if he chose to leave there would be a transfer fee as he is under 24.

Gary Waddock has retired from playing and is leaving the club to join Queens Park Rangers as a coach to their under 17's academy. The 36 year old has made 178 appearances and scored 3 goals since signing on a free transfer from Bristol Rovers in 1994, and a career total of 573 games.

Richard Harvey is not being offered another contract and will leave the club.

Reserve goalkeeper Nathan Abbey has signed a one year contract.

June 3rd's *Luton News* reports that Town have offered terms to Gavin McGowan, available on a free transfer from Arsenal.

Injuries

Mitchell Thomas has had another hernia operation, and will spend the summer recuperating.

Other News

Several pre-season friendlies have been announced and details are listed, below:

Thu	July	23	St Albans City	A (7.30)	1st/reserve team
Sat	July	25	Scunthorpe United	A (3.00)	
Tue	July	28	Hull City	A (7.30)	
Fri	July	31	COVENTRY CITY	H (7.45)	
Tue	Aug	4	Boreham Wood	A (7.30)	1st/reserve team

Forthcoming Fixtures

Pre Season

Tue	July	21	Harrow Borough	A (7.30)	
Mon	July	27	Ely Town	A (7.30)	Presumably this should read Ely City
Thu	July	30	Hendon	A (7.30)	
Sat	Aug	1	Hitchin Town	A (7.30)	

The reserve team lost 3-2 at Brighton on May 11th, fielding a team that included a couple of trialists. Two days later Wimbledon visited Kenilworth Road and were beaten by the same score, with Matthew Spring, Andrew Fotiadis and Terry Sweeney scoring for Luton. The final reserve match of the season was on the Friday of the same week, when Tottenham Hotspur visited Luton, winning the match 2-1, Fotiadis scoring the Town goal. The two remaining matches with West Ham United were cancelled by West Ham who decided not to fulfil them due to fixture congestion.

The youth team lifted the South East Counties League Cup when, on Friday May 8th, they recorded a resounding victory over West Ham. Already 4-3 ahead from the first leg of the final, they won the second leg at Upton Park 4-0. A peculiarity is that the Town scorers were the same in both legs — Tresor Kandol (2), Jimmy Cox and Matthew Spring.

Results and Reports

02/05/98 CARLISLE UNITED H 3-2

Att: 6,729

Ref: J.P. Robinson, Hull.

Team: K. Davis, Patterson, S. Davis, White (Doherty 69), Fraser, Evers, McLaren (Spring 60), Alexander, Fotiadis (Douglas 60), Oldfield, Allen.

Goals: Evers, 26 min - a crisp low drive from Allen's neat pass. Graham Anthony, 53 min - tremendous 25 yard free kick which zipped into the net off the inside of the far post. Nick Wright, 82 min - header from Ian Stevens' cross. Will Varty, own goal, 84 min - deflected in Oldfield's shot across the face of the goal. Allen, 90 min - in off the crossbar from 12 yards out after Davis headed down Alexander's right wing free kick.

Booked: Spring.

Comment: A scarcely deserved victory in a typical end of season match with an exciting climax. Town finished the match with seven players under the age of 21, after two 21 year-olds and a 20 year-old had been substituted.

Final league position: 17th.

05/05/98 SHEFFIELD WEDS H 0-2

Marvin Johnson Testimonial match

Att: 2,572

The Town used a total of 22 players in this match, with guest appearances from Mick Harford, Brian Stein, Ricky Hill and David Preece. The Sheffield Wednesday goals were both scored by Guy Whittingham.

New Stadium

I have been told that FAST (Fight Against Stadium Transfer), the main objectors against the KohlerDome planning application, have been informing their members that the decision (or announcement) on the application has been put back to July. Which year was not specified, nor when it has been put back from.

Statistics

First team appearances and goals 1997/98:

Player	Lge Apps	Lge Gls	Cup Apps	Cup Gls	LT Career App	LT Career Gls	Player	Lge Apps	Lge Gls	Cup Apps	Cup Gls	LT Career App	LT Career Gls
Nathan Abbey			1		1		Julian James	24		2		335	14
Graham Alexander	38	8	5		140	11	Marvin Johnson	14	2	3		306	8
Chris Allen	14	1	3		17	1	Robert Kean	1				1	
Rory Allen	8	6			8	6	Dwight Marshall	29	3	4	1	148	33
Simon Davies	19	1	8		27	1	Gavin McGowan	8				10	
Kelvin Davis	32		1		54		Paul McLaren	43		7		94	1
Steve Davis	38	5	6	1	144	17	David Oldfield	45	9	8	1	178	31
Andy Dibble	1		2		41		Darren Patterson	23		4		69	
Gary Doherty	10		1		11		Trevor Peake	1				202	
Stuart Douglas	17	1	4	1	41	3	Paul Showler	1				34	6
Sean Evers	23	3	5		32	3	Bryan Small	15				15	
Ian Feuer	13		4		115		Matthew Spring	12		1		13	
Andrew Fotiadis	15	1	1		39	4	Mitchell Thomas	28	1	4		305	6
Stuart Fraser	1				1		Tony Thorpe	28	14	6	5	144	60
Liam George	1		3		4		Gary Waddock	38		7		178	3
Phil Gray	17	2	2		86	28	Alan White	28	1	5		33	1
Richard Harvey	6		5		192	5	own goal		1				

Final Nationwide League Division Two Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	46	24	16	6	67	41	88
Bristol City	46	25	10	11	69	39	85
Grimsby Town	46	19	15	12	55	37	72
Northampton Town	46	18	17	11	52	37	71
Bristol Rovers	46	20	10	16	70	64	70
Fulham	46	20	10	16	60	43	70
Wrexham	46	18	16	12	55	51	70
Gillingham	46	19	13	14	52	47	70
AFC Bournemouth	46	18	12	16	57	52	66
Chesterfield	46	16	17	13	46	44	65
Wigan Athletic	46	17	11	18	64	66	62
Blackpool	46	17	11	18	59	67	62
Oldham Athletic	46	15	16	15	62	54	61
Wycombe Wanderers	46	14	18	14	51	53	60
Preston North End	46	15	14	17	56	56	59
York City	46	14	17	15	52	58	59
LUTON TOWN	46	14	15	17	60	64	57
Millwall	46	14	13	19	43	54	55
Walsall	46	14	12	20	43	52	54
Burnley	46	13	13	20	55	65	52
Brentford	46	11	17	18	50	71	50
Plymouth Argyle	46	12	13	21	55	70	49
Carlisle United	46	12	8	26	57	73	44
Southend United	46	11	10	25	47	79	43

Grimsby Town promoted after play-offs.

Bookings: 10 - Paul McLaren. 8 - Graham Alexander, Steve Davis. 7 - Mitchell Thomas, Darren Patterson. 5 - Phil Gray. 4 - David Oldfield, Gary Waddock, Alan White. 3 - Tony Thorpe. 2 - Rory Allen, Ian Feuer, Julian James. 1 - Matthew Spring, Simon Davies, Kelvin Davis, Stuart Douglas, Sean Evers, Marvin Johnson, Dwight Marshall, Bryan Small.
Sendings-off: 1 - Darren Patterson, Gavin McGowan, Matthew Spring.

Due to holidays at LTFC I am have been unable to obtain final tables for the Combination and South East Counties League, and I haven't yet found out what happened to the youth team in the Eastern Junior Cup.

And finally....

The next issue of HM will be winging it's way to you as soon as I can manage once the fixtures for next season have been published. Of course, that's if I can tear myself away from watching the World Cup on the telly....

Stop Press

Ex-Manchester United midfielder Simon Davies has been placed on the transfer list.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 38 — June 1998
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

Although we do not have the comprehensive fixture list just yet, I wanted to get this issue of HM out to you as soon as possible with the League fixtures for the season, and details of the Arsenal friendly. The next issue will probably come out in mid July, but this will depend on having some worthwhile news before I have my annual holiday.

Transfers/Contracts

Simon Davies has been placed on the transfer list. Darren Patterson is said to be having talks with both Swindon Town and Reading. Meanwhile, David Oldfield is believed to be discussing a possible move with Northampton Town. Lennie Lawrence has confirmed that he wants to sign Arsenal defender Gavin McGowan, but has denied any interest in Tottenham midfielder Danny Hill, as has been reported.

Injuries

Mitchell Thomas has had another hernia operation, and will spend the summer recuperating.

Other News

Gary Doherty was selected by Mick McCarthy in May for a place in the full Republic of Ireland squad, but did not make an appearance. Stuart Fraser was selected for the Scotland youth team.

Accounts for the year ending May 1997 have been published, and show that the club made a loss of £110,675. Much heavier losses were offset by receiving transfer fees of £1,752,860. Salaries and wages totalling £2,552,307 were paid during that year. In the previous year (1995/96) the loss was £1,745,225. Since the end of the 1996/97 financial year transfer fees of £794,000 have been received.

The away friendly planned for Scunthorpe has been cancelled and replaced by a rather more attractive home match with double winners Arsenal. The match is part of the Matthew Upson transfer deal, and Arsenal have promised to send a full strength Premiership side. Obviously, with the match taking place only two weeks after the World Cup final, this may exclude some of their international players.

The Town players return to training on July 6th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Thu	July	23	St Albans City	A (7.30)	1st/reserve team
Sat	July	25	ARSENAL	H (3.00)	Special ticket arrangements apply, see below.
Tue	July	28	Hull City	A (7.30)	
Fri	July	31	COVENTRY CITY	H (7.45)	Special ticket arrangements apply, see below.
Tue	Aug	4	Boreham Wood	A (7.30)	1st/reserve team

Tickets for the two home friendlies are available only as a joint ticket, costing £15.00 adults, £10.00 juniors and senior citizens, with restricted view tickets at £12.00 (concessions £7.50). Season ticket holders may buy two tickets each and members one ticket, subject to availability. These tickets are available by postal application only, send cheque or credit card details, with details of tickets required, and your name, address and daytime 'phone number, AND a stamped addressed envelope to Ticket Office, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road, Luton, LU1 1GH, marking your envelope AC1. Applications should be made by July 1st at the latest. Please note that no single-match tickets will be sold.

Reserves and Youth

Pre Season

Tue	July	21	Harrow Borough	A (7.30)	
Mon	July	27	Ely Town	A (7.30)	Presumably this should read Ely City
Thu	July	30	Hendon	A (7.30)	
Sat	Aug	1	Hitchin Town	A (7.30)	

The scorers for the reserve team in the 2-3 defeat at Brighton on May 11th were Terry Sweeny and Andrew Fotiadis.

Final news of the youth team for the 1997/98 team is of their Eastern Junior Cup campaign. In the semi final at Braintree Town, Luton went down to a rather unlikely 0-7 defeat to Chelmsford City. In mitigation, it should be said that the usual reserve team were rested prior to their SECL Cup Final, and the Town team was, to say the least, very weakened. In fact, when I was told the line-up, I had only heard of two of the players.

1998/99 Fixture List

PROVISIONAL list as published on Teletext on Monday 15 June. The list is subject to amendment and some tinkering with dates.

The draw for the Coca Cola Cup has not yet been made. According to the *Herald & Post* this week, a Football League spokesman said, "The Coca Cola Cup draw is not expected for at least a week." Now call me a cynic if you like, but I would have thought that the Football League would know when they are going to make the draw, rather than it coming as a surprise to them!

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	Jan	2 *	Colchester United	A	FAC3
	11	CCC 1/1			9	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H		16	Preston North End	A	
	18	CCC 1/2			23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	FAC4
	22	Reading	A		30	AFC Bournemouth	A	
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	Feb	6	Burnley	A	
	31	Wigan Athletic	A		13	WREXHAM	H	FAC5
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H		20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	8	Wrexham	A		27	BLACKPOOL	H	
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	Mar	6	Walsall	A	FAC6
	15	CCC 2/1			9	FULHAM	H	
	19	Blackpool	A		13	STOKE CITY	H	
	22	CCC 2/2			20	Chesterfield	A	
	26	WALSALL	H		27	GILLINGHAM	H	
Oct	3	Fulham	A	Apr	3 *	Oldham Athletic	A	
	10	York City	A		5 *	YORK CITY	H	
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H		10	Northampton Town	A	FAC s/f
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H		14	Manchester City	A	
	24	Gillingham	A		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	31	CHESTERFIELD	H		24	Notts County	A	
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	10	NOTTS COUNTY	H		8	Millwall	A	
	14	FA Cup 1						
	21	Lincoln City	A					
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H					
Dec	5	FA Cup 2						
	8	AWS 1						
	12	Macclesfield	A					
	19	MILLWALL	H					
	26	READING	H					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A					

* Colchester have requested that the January 2nd match be switched to New Year's Day, January 1st.

* Oldham have requested that the April 3rd match be switched to Good Friday, April 2nd.

* The *Luton News* shows this fixture as the Easter Monday date, whilst the *Herald & Post* shows it as Tuesday April 6th.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 39 — July 1998
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

At last. The compiler gets back from holiday, and manages to put a newsletter together. A bit later than planned, but I wanted to include all the ticket information for August matches.

Transfers/Contracts

David Oldfield has joined Stoke City under the Bosman ruling and has signed a three year contract. It seems that Northampton Town were unable to match the wages which Oldfield was receiving at Luton.

Gavin McGowan has become Luton's first summer signing, joining on a free transfer from Arsenal. McGowan has already had two spells on loan at Kenilworth Road.

Kelvin Davis has signed a new 3-year contract which will keep the 21 year-old at Kenilworth Road until 2001. Meanwhile, Paul McLaren, Liam George and Alan White have committed themselves to the club for a further two years, and Matthew Spring for a further three years. Sean Evers and Stuart Douglas are already under contract.

Dwight Marshall has signed a three month contract, and Andrew Fotiadis has signed a one-year deal.

Darren Patterson has signed a 3-year contract with Dundee United after they improved the terms they were offering.

After no club showed any interest in signing him, it looks like Simon Davies will be staying with the Hatters.

Lennie Lawrence has admitted talking to Scottish striker Ally McCoist, who is available on a free transfer from Rangers, but admits that a deal is highly unlikely.

Trialists

Herve Bactuet is an ex-Monaco (reserves) striker aged 22, and is joined by former clubmate Robert Camara, and fellow countryman Frederick Griumard, a midfielder from Troyes. Also at the club has been ex-Feyenoord reserve Michael van Meerlin, and ex-Dundee United midfielder Ray McKinnon. In addition, Lithuanian defender Andrius Teresilinas played an ill-fated 19 minutes against Arsenal before limping off with a groin strain. There have undoubtedly been other foreign players at the club recently, and more (from Portugal and Iceland for instance) will be joining, if only very briefly.

Injuries

Phil Gray and Marvin Johnson are now back in action, but Paul Showler has suffered a recurrence of a knee injury and is undergoing further treatment.

Other News

The Football League Cup has been renamed the Worthington Cup under a new sponsorship deal after Coca Cola's 6 year deal ended. Perhaps the change of name will herald a change of luck for the Town in the competition!

Mitchell Thomas has joined the coaching staff, being appointed player-coach. His role has been described as 85% player and 15% coach until he hangs up his boots. John Moore will now be coaching the reserve team, and assisting with the first team on match days, whilst Paul Lowe is the new youth team coach. Dean Rastrick replaces Lowe as Youth Development Officer. A further full time coach is to be appointed, along with a fitness trainer.

The Town players returned to training on Monday July 6th.

Rory Allen, the star of the Town side at the end of last season has declared that he wants to stay at Spurs. He has three years remaining on his contract, and says that he wants to be a success at the North London club, although he enjoyed his time at Luton.

At the end of June, season ticket sales at Kenilworth Road had reached 2,500, which is on a par with the previous year.

The away Easter fixture with Oldham has been switched to Good Friday, April 2, with a 3.30 kick-off.

Town transfer target Gerry Harrison, the former Burnley midfielder has joined Sunderland on a free transfer.

Trevor Hartley has rejoined Luton Town's coaching staff in what is described as a roving role. He left 12 years ago to join David Pleat at Spurs, and has since coached the Malaysian national side, amongst others.

Luton have jumped into the modern age by appointing Mandy Malins as their first full time fitness trainer. She previously worked at Dunstable Leisure Centre. Part of her brief is to improve the players resistance to injury. It is rumoured that Paul Showler is to be her first customer.

Liam George and Gary Doherty were included in the Republic of Ireland squad which won UEFA under-18 Championship in Cyprus. Doherty played in two matches, whilst George scored the decisive spot kick in the final's penalty shoot-out victory over Germany.

Forthcoming Fixtures: Pre-season

Fri	July	31	COVENTRY CITY	H (7.45)	£10 adults, £5 juniors.
Sat	Aug	1	Hitchin Town	A (3.00)	Reserve/youth team.
Tue	Aug	4	Boreham Wood	A (7.30)	1st/reserve team.

Forthcoming Fixtures: Real season!

Sat	Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	All Ticket. Amersham & Wycombe College Stand £14 adult, £13 oap, £12 juniors. Roger Vere Stand £12, £11, £10. Family tickets (available only from Wycombe, tel 01494 441118) £10, £8, £5.
Tue	Aug	11	OXFORD UNITED	H (7.45)	Pay on turnstiles. Adults £10, senior citizens/juniors £5.
Sat	Aug	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	
Tue	Aug	18	Oxford United	A (7.30)	Pay on the day. Seats £14, cons £9.50. Terrace £11, £6.50.
Sat	Aug	22	Reading	A	All ticket match. Seats only £14, concessions £8.
Sat	Aug	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	
Mon	Aug	31	Wigan Athletic	A (3.00)	Seats £10, cons £6. Terrace £7.50, cons £4.

Pre-Season friendly reports

21/07/98 Harrow Borough A 2-1

Town opened their season with a victory against non-league opposition. Andrew Fotiadis opened the scoring when Sean Evers rolled the ball into his path in the penalty area. Triallist Herve Bactuet extended the lead on 26 minutes when he lifted the ball over the Harrow keeper, before Harrow pulled one back on 58 minutes through Damien Markman. The Town line up was: Kelvin Davis, Camara, Thomas, Evers, Steve Davis, Johnson, Simon Davies, Alexander, Bactuet (Douglas 76), Fotiadis, Marshall.

23/07/98 St Albans City A 4-2

The Town strolled to victory at Clarence Park, with a team made up of first, reserve and youth team players. Michael McIndoe opened the scoring from a cross by McKinnon. St Albans equalised on 37 minutes before Phil Gray chipped the home keeper from 20 yards on the stroke of half-time. Ray McKinnon extended the Hatters lead on the hour, firing home from McIndoe's pass. On 77 minutes Town were awarded a penalty when Douglas was hauled down and Chris Willmott scored from the spot. St Albans snatched a consolation goal on 82 minutes. Town team: Abbey, McGowan (van Meerlin 54), Fraser, McKinnon, White, Willmott, Spring (Lough 69), Douglas, Gray (Cox 63), Griumard, McIndoe (Sweeney 69).

25/07/98 Arsenal H 1-1 Att: 5,119

Arsenal fielded a strong side for this match, although inevitably missing all of their World Cup players. They took the lead through Nicholas Anelka when Kelvin Davis fumbled his angled shot after making a string of excellent saves, but the Town equalised through another Frenchman, 22 year-old Herve Bactuet, in the 89th minute after an excellent through ball by McKinnon released Camara to pass. Town team: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, Thomas (Teresilinas 46, White 65), Spring (McGowan 61), Steve Davis, Johnson, Evers (Camara 61), Bactuet, Gray (Fotiadis 61), Griumard (McKinnon 46), Marshall (Simon Davies 71).

27/07/98 Ely City A

Details to follow.

28/07/98 Hull City A 1-0 Att: 1,709

A poor match, in which Steve Davis scored after good work by Michael McIndoe to give the Town victory.

Final Tables - Reserve and Youth Teams 1997/98

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>GD</u>
*Charlton Athletic	33	25	5	3	81	19	80	+62
Tottenham Hotspur	34	22	7	5	75	29	73	+46
Arsenal	34	20	9	5	71	26	69	+45
Southampton	34	13	13	8	54	42	52	+12
Millwall	34	15	6	13	39	41	51	-2
Crystal Palace	33	16	2	15	45	39	50	+6
Norwich City	34	12	13	9	42	44	49	-2
Watford	34	11	11	12	37	50	44	-13
Portsmouth	34	12	7	15	45	51	43	-6
Ipswich Town	34	11	10	13	48	60	43	-12
LUTONTOWN	32	11	9	12	48	47	42	+1
Wimbledon	34	11	9	14	42	42	42	0
Oxford United	34	11	8	15	41	63	41	-63
Q.P.R.	32	9	10	13	45	44	37	+1
Chelsea	34	8	12	14	45	61	36	-16
Swindon Town	34	9	3	22	48	74	30	-26
*West Ham United	30	6	9	15	33	54	27	-21
Brighton & H.A.	34	3	9	22	28	81	18	-53

* Charlton Athletic and West Ham United failed to complete their fixtures for the season. It would appear that Luton Town, Q.P.R. and Crystal Palace were the unwitting victims of this.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>GD</u>
LUTONTOWN	28	18	7	3	71	24	61	+47
Bristol City	28	17	6	5	54	35	57	+19
Brentford	28	15	9	4	49	31	54	+18
Wycombe Wanderers	28	11	10	7	42	30	43	+12
Colchester United	28	11	8	9	49	42	41	+7
Swindon Town	28	13	2	13	46	46	41	0
Wimbledon	28	11	5	12	46	50	38	-4
Oxford United	28	11	5	12	50	59	38	-9
Southampton	28	10	5	13	53	56	35	-3
Bristol Rovers	28	9	7	12	53	49	34	+4
AFC Bournemouth	28	8	8	12	43	58	32	-15
Reading	28	8	6	14	37	49	30	-12
Tottenham Hotspur	28	8	6	14	36	49	30	-13
Barnet	28	7	7	14	47	61	28	-14
Brighton & H.A.	28	4	7	17	32	69	19	-37

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A		26	READING	H	(12.00)
	11	OXFORD UNITED	H	WC1/1	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H		Jan 2 *	Colchester United	A	FAC3
	18	Oxford United	A	WC1/2	9	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	
	22	Reading	A		16	Preston North End	A	
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	FAC4
	31	Wigan Athletic	A		30	AFC Bournemouth	A	
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H		Feb 6	Burnley	A	
	8	Wrexham	A		13	WREXHAM	H	FAC5
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H		20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	15	WC 2/1			27	BLACKPOOL	H	
	19	Blackpool	A		Mar 6	Walsall	A	FAC6
	22	WC 2/2			9	FULHAM	H	
	26	WALSALL	H		13	STOKE CITY	H	
Oct	3	Fulham	A		20	Chesterfield	A	
	10	York City	A		27	GILLINGHAM	H	
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H		Apr 2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H		6	YORK CITY	H	
	24	Gillingham	A		10	Northampton Town	A	FAC s/f
	31	CHESTERFIELD	H		14	Manchester City	A	
Nov	7	Stoke City	A		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	10	NOTTS COUNTY	H		24	Notts County	A	
	14	FA Cup 1			May 1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	21	Lincoln City	A		8	Millwall	A	
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H					
Dec	5	FA Cup 2						
	8	AWS 1						
	12	Macclesfield	A					
	19	MILLWALL	H					

* Colchester have requested that the January 2nd match be switched to New Year's Day, January 1st.