

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 40 — August 1998

38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
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The season is off to a pretty good start, but consider this. By the end of August the Town have twice won 3-1 away from home. I was unable to be at either match. So, you may see it as good news that I will not be going to Wrexham or Ipswich.

Transfers/Contracts

It has been confirmed that Simon Davies will be staying with the Hatters, but is still available for transfer.

French striker Herve Bacque (note corrected spelling of surname) has signed a two year contract for the Hatters after scoring two goals in the pre-season friendly with Coventry.

Scottish midfielder Ray McKinnon, 27, has signed after turning down a move to Hearts, who would not guarantee first team football. He is believed to have signed for one year.

Former Stoke City midfielder Kofi Nyamah has signed for Luton on a short term contract.

Injuries

Paul Showler hopes to be in contention for the first team by mid-September. (We've heard that one before!)

Julian James is expected to be out until after Christmas.

Mitchell Thomas missed games against Preston and at Oxford after being knocked out in the home tie against Oxford.

Dwight Marshall pulled a hamstring in the Reading match and could be out of action for 3 or 4 weeks.

Paul McLaren suffered medial ligament damage in the Reading game, and is likely to be sidelined for two months.

Liam George will be out for about a month after breaking a bone in his foot during the match at Wigan.

Other News

After the victory over Oxford United, Luton have been drawn against Ipswich in the Worthington Cup.

Another new book is on the market with Luton Town as its main subject. *Kenilworth Sunset?* has been written by Tim Kingston, and is a diary of the 1996/97 season, with many flashbacks to memorable matches of past years. It retails at £8.99 and is published by The Book Castle, 12 Church Street, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4RU. Telephone (01582) 605670.

Match Reports

08/08/98 WYCOMBE WDRS A 1-0

Att: 5,252

Ref: Tony Bates, Stoke.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Bacque (George 72), Gray, Marshall (McGowan 82). Sub not used: White.

On a very hot day, the Town turned in a display of open and attacking football, and secured the points when Steve Davis hit a blistering free kick into the top right corner of the net on 36 minutes, after Matthew Spring had been bundled to the ground. The Town defence were rarely troubled by the home side, and the win was well deserved.

Booked: Liam George, on the pitch under a minute, for fouling the home keeper. Ryan, of Wycombe, also saw yellow.

11/08/98 OXFORD UNITED H 2-3

Worthington Cup, round one, first leg.

Att: 3,165

Ref: Barry Knight, Orpington.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas (McLaren 28), Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McGowan, Evers, Bacque, Gray (McIndoe), Marshall (George).

A match in which Town went behind when allowing Murphy a free header on 43 minutes, and two minutes later the same player rifled a frim volley past Kelvin Davis. In the second half Evers had a clear penalty appeal rejected on 58 minutes, but were awarded one a minute later when Gray went over in the area, which Alexander converted. He had another four minutes later when Bacque was pushed and the ref pointed to the spot again. Oxford stole a victory on 88 minutes when Simon Weatherstone headed in an inswinging corner.

Booked: Paul McLaren, after less than a minute.

15/08/98 PRESTON NTH END H 1-1

Att: 5,392

Ref: Steve Bennett, Orpington.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan (White 86), Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (McLaren 70), Evers, Bacque (George 70), Gray, Marshall.

A tough encounter against a professional and organised Preston side. In the first half Town struggled to gain and retain possession, and eventually paid the price when Jonathon Macken exchanged passes with Michael Appleton before sidefooting past Kelvin Davis. Town were much improved in the second half and on 54 minutes Dwight Marshall turned in the ball after Evers knocked down Davis's cross from a free kick. Preston were reduced to 10 men on 74 minutes when Appleton was sent-off for an awful challenge on Marshall, but Town were unable to capitalise on their numerical advantage, and a draw was, in the end, a fair result.

Booked: For Luton, Johnson, Steve Davis, McGowan and McKinnon.

Sent-off: Appleton.

18/08/98 OXFORD UNITED A 3-1

Worthington Cup, round one, second leg.

Luton Town win 5-4 on aggregate

Att: 5,099 (incl 478 from Luton).

Ref: Clive Wilkes, Gloucester.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McLaren, Evers, Douglas (George 85), Gray, Marshall (McKinnon 90).

A great fightback by Town after being behind from the first leg. The home side took a lead on 24 minutes when Phil Whelan headed home from close range from a corner, but on 37

minutes Phil Gray equalised, sweeping Sean Evers cross past the home keeper. Only three minutes into the second half, Sean Evers extended the Town lead when he slammed the ball home from 18 yards from Gavin McGowan's pull back. On 70 minutes Paul McLaren was on hand to put away a loose ball after the home keeper had punched away Alexander's cross under pressure from Douglas. Town then held on under immense Oxford pressure to secure a passage into Round 2. Booked: Marvin Johnson for a foul and Les Robinson and Nicky Banger of Oxford.

22/08/98 READING A 0-3

Att: 18,108 (It was later announced that the true figure was over 22,000, but not recorded due to a fault in a turnstile counter mechanism). Including 1,758 from Luton.

Ref: Robert Styles, Waterlooville.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, White, McLaren (George 16), Evers, Douglas (Thomas 63), Gray, Marshall (McKinnon 10).

After the game started 15 minutes late, the first blow to be suffered by the Town was on 8 minutes when Dwight Marshall pulled a hamstring and left the field to be replaced by McKinnon. The second blow was Grant Brebner's 10th minute goal, slamming the ball in after it had arrived in front of him from a deflected corner. 7 minutes later Paul McLaren had to go off after damaging knee ligaments in a 50-50 challenge with Brebner. In spite of these setbacks the Town played reasonably well, especially in midfield, but were unable to convert the chances they created. For Reading it was a different story, and just seconds into the second half Liberian striker Mass Saar made an excellent run to set up Jim McIntyre who sidefooted past Kelvin Davis. For the last 20 minutes the Town strikeforce of George and Steve Davis were a constant threat to Reading, but the home side completed victory on 84 minutes when Robert Fleck had the easy job of knocking the ball into the net whilst the Hatters defence vainly appealed for an offside flag.

Booked: Gray, Evers, McGowan and George, for fouls, and Elroy Kromheer of Reading for shirt pulling.

29/08/98 COLCHESTER UTD H 2-0

Att: 5,005

Ref: Roger Fumandiz, Doncaster.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 72), Gray (Thomas 56), George (Bacque 79).

A thoroughly entertaining match, in which the Town had started with what appeared to be a shoot on sight policy, and created plenty of chances. All the real action was in the 2nd half though, and on 53 minutes Johnson was shown a red card after a clumsy challenge on Neil Gregory. From this point, Town played even better, and after 60 minutes Stuart Douglas found the net with a low drive after an exchange of passes with Evers. The victory was secured by a fine Steve Davis header from Ray McKinnon's corner on 84 minutes — a fine example of the art of striking.

Sent-off: Marvin Johnson, for a professional foul on 53 minutes. There were no bookings.

31/08/98 WIGAN ATHLETIC A 1-3

Att: 3,778

Ref: Bill Burns, Scarborough.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Bacque 73), Gray, George (McIndoe 46). Sub not used: Thomas.

Hatters took the lead in this game late in the first half when Steve Davis knocked home Graham Alexander's corner from about 8 yards after 41 minutes. The second half started badly with Liam George leaving the field on a stretcher with a broken bone in his foot after a bad challenge by Scott Green. In the 63rd minute Graham Barlow equalised, flicking the ball past Kelvin Davis with the outside of his right foot from a hopeful free kick. 15 minutes later Phil Gray threaded an exquisite pass into the path of Sean Evers who burst into the penalty box and drove the ball into the top corner. Three minutes later, Gray ran onto a probing Ray McKinnon through ball, exchanged passes with Michael McIndoe and squeezed the ball inside the home keeper's near post to round off an excellent bank holiday programme for the Town.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	
Tue	Sep	8	Wrexham	A (7.30)	Pay on the day. Seats £12 adult, £7 cons, terrace £9, £5.
Sat	Sep	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	
Tue	Sep	15	Ipswich Town (WC2/1)	A (7.45)	Pay on the day. Seats £12 adult, £9 snr citizen, £4 junior.
Sat	Sep	19	Blackpool	A	No details available yet. Likely to be pay on the day.
Tue	Sep	22	IPSWICH TN (WC2/1)	H (7.45)	
Sat	Sep	26	WALSALL	H	
Sat	Oct	3	Fulham	A	No details yet.

Reserves & Youth

Reserves

Wed	Sep	16	Reading	H (2.00)
Wed	Sep	23	Swindon Town	A
Wed	Sep	30	Charlton Athletic	H (2.00)
Wed	Oct	7	Millwall	H (2.00)

Youth

Sat	Sep	5	Oxford United	A
Sat	Sep	15	Reading	H
Sat	Sep	19	Wycombe Wanderers	A
Sat	Sep	26	Gillingham	H
Sat	Oct	3	Leyton Orient	A

Reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road until December. Youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches

The reserve season got off to a good start on Wednesday 12th August when Brighton succumbed to a 4-1 defeat, with Andrew Fotiadis scoring twice and Stuart Douglas and Andre Scarlett once each. Two trialists in the Town side were Robert Camara and Kofi Nyamah (formerly at Stoke) who filled the full back positions. As there was no Combination fixture the following week, the Town entertained a Kuwait National XI on Wednesday 19th, a game which ended in a 1-1 draw. The Town goal came from a stunning own goal, when a Kuwaiti defender met a cross from Emmerson Boyce and headed it into the top corner. Alongside Nyamah, a trial was given in this match to central defender Ouandie Lowe, who was in Jamaica's World Cup squad, however, with an asking price of £500,000 he will not be joining Town. On Wednesday 26th there was an eventful match at Cambridge United where Simon Davies was sent off for violent conduct and was joined in the proverbial early bath by Lee Lough, dismissed for two bookable offences. The 9 man Hatters team still secured a 2-2 draw thanks to goals from teenagers Stuart Fraser and Andre Scarlett. On Wednesday 2nd September a visit to Portsmouth led to a happy return after a 3-1 victory.

In addition to the matches listed above, the youth team played a number of away friendly matches. Unfortunately I do not have dates for these, but can report a 1-1 draw with Charlton Athletic, Tresor Kandol scoring the Town goal. West Bromwich Albion beat the young Hatters 2-1, in spite of Clifford Akurang's best effort. Then Aston Villa were trounced 4-1 with Kandol (2), Akurang, and Howe scoring. The same result was achieved against Spurs, this time with goals from Alex Minton (2), Thomas and Akurang. They started the season proper on August 8th, going down to a rare defeat at Brentford, by 4-2 with Kandol heading both Town goals. The first visitors to Luton, on 15th, were AFC Bournemouth, who were beaten 4-2 with Kandol grabbing two goals and Joe Harrington and Akurang one each. The 22nd saw a trip to the seaside to take on Brighton & Hove Albion, and secured a 0-0 draw in an uneventful match. On 29th Bristol Rovers were the visitors to Luton, and Jude Stirling, Nathan Tyson and Jerome Thomas scored the Town goals in a 3-1 win.

A number of 16 year-olds have joined the club on YTS terms. They are Alex Minton, a central midfielder from Grendon Underwood, Bucks. Joe Harrington, from Biggleswade, is another midfielder who has represented Bedfordshire Schools. Jude Stirling is from Highgate in London and Ryan Moran, from Hatfield in Hertfordshire, plays at right back or in central defence.

Pre-Season friendly reports

27/07/98 Ely City A 3-0

Apparently the highlight of the match was the moment after the kick-off when the referee blew for an indirect free-kick, because the Ely player taking the kick-off had touched the ball twice. This presumably means that the other 5,398 seconds were not very good. However, the goals were scored by Andre Scarlett and 16 year-old Tresor Kandol, who grabbed a brace.

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

A poor match with few goal chances and little entertainment, in which Steve Davis scored after good work by Michael McIndoe to give the Town victory. Davis had been pushed up for most of the second half after a Town side with only one striker had caused little danger to the home defence. Town team: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, Thomas (Fraser 64), Griumard (Tisdale 58), Steve Davis, White (Johnson 58), McGowan (Evers 61), McKinnon, Gray (Spring 72), Marshall, Simon Davies (McIndoe 72). Paul Tisdale was a trialist, formerly of Bristol City.

30/07/98 Hendon A 1-1

Luton goalscorer was Andre Scarlett.

31/07/98 Coventry City H 2-1 Att: 3,747

A superbly entertaining match, particularly for a pre-season game, and an excellent performance by the Town side. Luton went ahead after 15 minutes when Herve Bacque drifted between two defenders to head in McGowan's cross at the near post. Four minutes after half-time Andrew Ducros equalised, lashing a curling left foot shot past a helpless Kelvin Davis. Bacque regained the lead for the Town on 75 minutes when, at the near post, he swept in Liam George's low cross. Sean Evers chipped shot brought a marvellous save from the visiting keeper shortly afterwards. Town team: Kelvin Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Johnson, Steve Davis, Evers, Spring, Marshall (McIndoe 55), McGowan, Gray (George 72), Bacque.

01/08/98 Hitchin Town A 1-1

The Town scorer was Michael McIndoe, who converted a penalty after Andrew Fotiadis was felled in the hosts' area.

04/08/98 Boreham Wood A 6-1

This was a reserve team match, and the goalscorers were Andrew Fotiadis (2) and Michael McIndoe, with the Boreham Wood side weighing in with three own goals!

New Stadium

At the end of July, it was announced that widening of the M1 motorway between junctions 10 and 14 had been withdrawn from the national Trunk Roads programme. In some quarters this is thought to have killed off the KohlerDome. Opponents of the scheme said that if the 'Dome is turned down, along with the M1 widening, "Luton as a whole will have gained".

As a follow-up to this, we have at long last had an announcement on the KohlerDome application. It is not, however, a straight yes or know. The Wyncote application for retail development with provision for a football stadium has been turned down. As far as the KohlerDome is concerned, the inspector recommended that approval be given, subject to the M1 being widened first. As a result of this the Minister's decision is that he "is minded to refuse planning permission". This is not clear cut though. The minister has given three weeks for the applicants to make further submissions — presumably to attempt to change his mind.

LTFC Chairman David Kohler has stated that he believes that approval will still be given, but capacity of the stadium could be limited to 12,000 to start with, and increased year by year, to find how many could be accommodated without causing traffic chaos on the M1.

You may not be surprised to hear that the local press here in Luton has been full of correspondence and reports from opponents and supporters of the scheme, all of whom are claiming victory!

When the final decision will actually be made is unclear, but David Kohler reckons that the result will be known by Christmas (this year).

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	26	READING	H	(12.00)
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1	Jan	2 *	Colchester United	A FAC3
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)	9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	
	22	Reading	A	0-3	16	Preston North End	A	
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0	23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	FAC4
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1	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.

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The good news about me staying at home continued during September, until I started travelling. I guess I owe you an apology! Improved news service this season is largely due to Luton's improved match programmes, thanks to editor Brian Swain.

Transfers/Contracts

Burnley have had an enquiry about Steve Davis rejected. Robert Kean, whose only first team appearance away to Bristol City last season, has joined Stevenage on a free. Goalkeeper Nick Webb has also left Kenilworth Road. Dwight Marshall is training with Plymouth Argyle with a view to joining them on a free transfer. Terry Sweeney is also having trials at Home Park.

Injuries

The injury suffered by Liam George is worse than first thought and will keep him out of action for the rest of the year. No details of the injury have been given.

Paul Showler has been playing reserve matches, but has picked up a thigh strain, delaying his return by 2 weeks.

Ray McKinnon suffered a sprained ankle against Bristol Rovers and missed the matches at Ipswich and Blackpool.

Phil Gray jarred an ankle and received a blow to the other foot during the Blackpool match.

Paul McLaren's knee ligament is taking longer than expected to clear up and he is not likely to start training until the second week of October.

Julian James has been working on general fitness, and is due a scan to see how well the broken bone in his leg is healing.

Other News

The charge of the youngsters into the first team has continued with Michael McIndoe and Jimmy Cox making their debuts. At Ipswich, the Town midfield featured three 18 year-olds and one 20 year-old. Cox's debut may not have happened had Simon Davies not been serving a 3 match ban after being sent off in a reserve match.

Marvin Johnson missed the Bristol Rovers home match after being sent-off against Colchester United.

Stuart Fraser received a call up to the Scottish under-18 squad.

The Hatters are to receive an unexpected windfall after Norwegian World Cup striker Vidar Riseth joined Celtic from Austrian club LASK Linz in a deal said to be worth £1.5 million. When Riseth left Luton, joining Linz for £100,000, there was a sell-on clause, which is expected to net the club in excess of £50,000.

The Hatters have been drawn at home to Coventry City in round 3 of the Worthington Cup. The match will be played in the week commencing October 26th. Matches in between the two-legged rounds (ie. rounds 3, 4, 5) are decided on the night with extra time and penalties, so there is no question of a replay.

Gavin McGowan will miss league games at York and at home to Oldham, serving a 2 match ban after being sent-off against Walsall. The first of the two booking was his fifth of the season which would have got him a one match ban anyway.

Match Reports

Further to HM40, the unused substitutes in the Worthington Cup matches against Oxford were Abbey and White in both matches and Bacque in the second leg.

31/08/98 WIGAN ATHLETIC A 1-3

Att: 3,778

Ref: Bill Burns, Scarborough.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Bacque 73), Gray, George (McIndoe 46). Sub not used: Thomas.

Hatters took the lead in this game late in the first half when Steve Davis knocked home Graham Alexander's corner from about 8 yards after 41 minutes. The second half started badly with Liam George leaving the field on a stretcher with a broken bone in his foot after a bad challenge by Scott Green. In the 63rd minute Graham Barlow equalised, flicking the ball past Kelvin Davis with the outside of his right foot from a hopeful free kick. 15 minutes later Phil Gray threaded an exquisite pass into the path of Sean Evers who burst into the penalty box and drove the ball into the top corner. Three minutes later, Gray ran onto a probing Ray McKinnon through ball, exchanged passes with Michael McIndoe and squeezed the ball inside the home keeper's near post to round off an excellent bank holiday programme for the Town.

05/09/98 BURNLEY H 1-0

Att: 5,554

Ref: Mick Pierce, Portsmouth.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 73), Gray, McIndoe (Thomas 81). Unused sub: Bacque.

The first half of this match was full of entertainment as the Hatters attacked from the start, and did so with some style. There was plenty of good passing and movement off the ball, and although no goals resulted, the crossbar was hit twice, by Douglas and Spring. A 46th minute goal for Douglas got the second half off to a good start. McIndoe won a corner, and McKinnon's cross from the short corner was headed powerfully by Steve Davis but blocked by the keeper, Douglas got to it first, and knocked it home from chest high. Burnley were a better side in the 2nd half having changed their tactics, and increasingly it was attrition that won the match, along with a superb save late in the game by Kelvin Davis.

Booked: Marvin Johnson and Gavin McGowan.

League position: 2nd.

08/09/98 WREXHAM A 1-1

Att: 2,951

Ref: Andrew Hall, Birmingham.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Evers, Douglas (Bacque 73), Gray, McIndoe. Unused subs: Thomas, Cox.

A largely uninspiring match, lacking in goalmouth action but nonetheless a good result for the Town. After 36 minutes Stuart Douglas scuffed a shot into the path of Ray McKinnon who carefully lobbed the ball over the home keeper across the face of the goal hitting the far side of the net. Only six minutes later Kelvin Davis failed to hold a Dave Brammer through ball and Craig Skinner rolled the loose ball into the empty net. The most significant action of the second half was on 71 minutes when Steve Davis felled Brammer on the edge of the Town penalty area. The offence was judged to be outside the box, Davis was booked and the free kick was blasted straight into the Town wall.

Booked: Gavin McGowan and Steve Davis.

League position: 3rd.

12/09/98 BRISTOL ROVERS H 2-0

Att: 5,558

Ref: B. Coddington, Sheffield.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, White, McKinnon (Thomas 89), Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 62), Gray, McIndoe. Unused sub: Marshall.

Another match which featured attacking football from the start, with Town taking the lead in the 7th minutes when Stuart Douglas' cross was left (or missed?) by Phil Gray and coolly stroked home from 6 yards by Steve Davis. Two minutes later Graham Alexander set off with the ball from his own half, exchanged passes with Phil Gray, and in spite of the misplaced return, managed to drag it from behind and fire an unstoppable shot into the net. Douglas and Gray both failed to convert efforts in the same half, with Spring and Alexander also going close. The second half was more even and Rovers searched for a goal but were denied by some excellent defending and goalkeeping.

Booked: Matthew Spring for Town, Trees and Roberts for Rovers.

League position: 3rd.

15/09/98 IPSWICH TOWN A 1-2
Worthington Cup, round 2, 1st leg.

Att: 9,032 (inc 570 from Luton)

Ref: Andrew D'Urso, Billericay.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Cox (Bacque 82), Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 79), Gray, McIndoe. Unused subs: Abbey, Thomas, White.

Ipswich went ahead 3 minutes into the second half when Jamie Scowcroft volleyed into the bottom corner from David Johnson's pass. The equaliser was scored by Stuart Douglas, who swooped onto a ball from Matthew Spring which Manuel Thetis had kindly stopped for him, and slid it into an empty net. The winner, on the night, was scored by Thetis who was in the right place when Gavin McGowan's headed clearance of a long throw hit Ipswich skipper Matt Holland on the head and rebounded into the path of the Frenchman.

19/09/98 BLACKPOOL A 0-1

Att: 5,695 (inc 1,088 from Luton)

Ref: George Cain, Bootle.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Cox, Evers, Douglas (Marshall 69), Gray (Bacque 82), McIndoe (Thomas 78).

The poorest Town performance of the season, with their passing insufficient to trouble Blackpool with their solid workrate-based style. A few openings were made in the first half, but could not be converted and, in the second half, the game looked destined to end 0-0 until Chris Malkin robbed Alexander of the ball inside the penalty area in the 88th minute and passed to 17 year-old Adam Nowland who comprehensively beat Kelvin Davis from 10 yards out. This was described in the press as an undeserved victory, which was probably fair comment.

Booked: Michael McIndoe and Blackpool's Clark Carlisle, both for fouls.

League position: 5th.

22/09/98 IPSWICH TOWN H 4-2

Worthington Cup, round 2, 2nd leg.

After extra time, 2-1 at 90 mins. Luton win 5-4 on agg.

Att: 5,655

Ref: Paul Taylor, Waltham Cross.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (White 77), Evers, Douglas, Fotiadis (Bacque 74), Marshall (Cox 67). Unused subs: Abbey, McIndoe.

Booked: Stuart Douglas for diving, Alan White and Jimmy Cox for fouls, along with Ipswich defender Manuel Thetis for a foul on Douglas.

This was thrilling night of football at Kenilworth Road which ended in high drama with goals at each end in the last two minutes. The Town started the game by going a goal down after 35 minutes when David Johnson hit a low drive into the net after a lay off by Jamie Scowcroft. The scores were levelled by Andrew Fotiadis seven minutes after half time when he knocked Thetis of the ball, and cut in from the side of the penalty area to get into a central position and shot past the advancing keeper. The aggregate score became level on 84 minutes as Stuart Douglas took Steve Davis' pass and hit a shot from 20 yards which went in with the benefit of a deflection off Thetis. Eight minutes into extra time, Steve Davis powerfully headed home a Graham Alexander corner, and then returned to his defensive duties where, twenty minutes later he met Sonner's cross and headed his first own goal since joining Luton. As all seemed lost, and the game went into stoppage time, Matthew Spring swung in a corner which Ipswich keeper Richard Wright flapped at and could not hold, but Marvin Johnson was on hand to head the ball home.

26/09/98 WALSALL H 0-1

Att: 5,530

Ref: Phil Richards, Preston.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring (White 87), S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Gray 60), Fotiadis, Cox (McIndoe 68).

Quite a poor overall performance by the Town, with insufficient chances created to claim a win was deserved. Walsall had failed to make the most of their own chances for most of the match, but in the 86th minute Andy Rammell was on hand to stroke home Darren Wrack's inch perfect pass to clinch what was a barely deserved win. Walsall, in the process, became the first visiting side to win a league match at Kenilworth Road since last January.

Sent off: Gavin McGowan, for two bookable offences - both fouls.

Booked: Dean Keates of Walsall.

League position: 7th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Oct	3	Fulham	A	Pay on day. Terrace only, £10 adults, £5.00 jnrs/snr cits.
Sat	Oct	10	York City	A	Pay on day. Seats £9 adult, £6 cons. Terrace £8, £5 cons.
Sat	Oct	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	
Tues	Oct	20	NORTHAMPTON TN	H	
Sat	Oct	24	Gillingham	A	No details yet.
Tue	Oct	27	COVENTRY CITY	H (WC3)	Normal match prices. Not all ticket.
Sat	Oct	31	CHESTERFIELD	H	

Reserves & Youth

Reserves

Wed	Oct	7	Millwall	H (2.00)
Wed	Oct	14	Gillingham	A
Wed	Oct	28	Brentford	A
Wed	Nov	4	Crystal Palace	H

Youth

Sat	Oct	3	Leyton Orient	A
Sat	Oct	10	Portsmouth	H
Sat	Oct	17	Cambridge United	A
Sat	Oct	24	Colchester United	H
Sat	Oct	31	Southend United	H
		TBA	Northampton Town	H * (SJFC2)

* at Kenilworth Road

Reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road until December. Youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches

On Wednesday 2nd September a visit to Portsmouth led to a happy return after a 3-2 victory. Andrew Fotiadis scored two of the goals with Alan White heading the other. Jimmy Cox produced a performance that elevated him to the bench for the first team match at Wrexham and Simon Davies was also promoted as a result of his positive reaction to his sending off the previous week. In the absence of a scheduled Combination fixture on Wednesday 9th, Trevor Hartley arranged a reserve friendly match away to Bristol Rovers. The match was an under-21 game, with the exception of Paul Showler on the Town side, who played a full 90 minutes. The Town reserves ran out 5-1 winners with Fotiadis getting a hat-trick and being joined on the scoresheet by Terry Sweeney and Chris Willmott. On 16th the Town entertained Reading at Kenilworth Road, and enjoyed a 3-0 victory with Tresor Kandol scoring once in each half and Herve Bacque putting away a second half penalty, awarded after he had been tripped. The Town went top of the Combination with a 1-0 win at Swindon on 23rd, with Kofi Nyamah scoring the goal before being sent off for an innocuous challenge.

Tresor Kandol scored a hat-trick in the juniors' 3-0 victory at Oxford United on September 5th. Two days later Swindon Town were beaten 2-0 at Kenilworth Road in the first round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, with goals from Alex Minton and Delroy McKoy. On Saturday 12th, Reading visited Newlands Road and held Town to a 2-2 draw, with the Luton goals coming from Matthew Taylor and skipper James Ayres, the first Town goals for both players. The following Saturday Tresor Kandol scored his eighth goal in eight matches, on this occasion the only goal of the game in the youngsters' win away to Wycombe Wanderers. The month was rounded off with Gillingham visiting Newlands Road and holding the Town to a 2-2 draw. Both Town goals were scored by Gavin Crane.

New Stadium

Further to the last issue, the three weeks for further submissions was extended to four weeks, after Bedfordshire County Council requested the extension. It is understood that submissions made by David Kohler feature a reduced capacity, although it is unclear whether this is on a permanent or temporary basis. Some opponents of the scheme suggest that this means that a completely new planning application should be submitted.

It has been reported in the *Luton News* that the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police is strongly in favour of the siting of the KohlerDome stadium at the proposed junction 10 site. His comments state that he does not believe that siting the stadium there would cause significant traffic congestion, as the adjacent roads could easily handle the extra traffic. These, and other comments supporting the new site, were made in a letter to Luton Council. Whether this will have any effect on the final decision of the Department of the Environment is not known.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2 *	Colchester United	A	FAC3
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	AWS 2		
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	FAC4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		27	WC SF1		
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0	Feb	6	Burnley	A	
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		13	WREXHAM	H	FAC5
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		17	WC SF2 or AWS 3		
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1		27	BLACKPOOL	H	
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)	Mar	6	Walsall	A	FAC6
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		9	FULHAM	H	AW SF1
Oct	3	Fulham	A			13	STOKE CITY	H	
	10	York City	A			16	AW SF2		
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H			20	Chesterfield	A	
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H			21	WC Final		
	24	Gillingham	A			27	GILLINGHAM	H	
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H		Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)
	31	CHESTERFIELD	H			6	YORK CITY	H	
Nov	7	Stoke City	A			10	Northampton Town	A	FAC SF
	10	NOTTS COUNTY	H	WC4		14	Manchester City	A	
	14	FA Cup 1				17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	21	Lincoln City	A			18	AW Final		
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H			24	Notts County	A	
Dec	1	WC 5			May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	5	FA Cup 2				8	Millwall	A	
	8	AWS 1				22	FAC Final		
	12	Macclesfield	A						
	19	MILLWALL	H						
	26	READING	H	(12.00)					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A						

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

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 42 — October 1998

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

(01582) 573485

The weather has caused a stutter in the league campaign, but the cup exploits continue. This issue has been delayed to bring you news of the FA Cup First round. The next issue will be timed according to the need for ticket information on future cup matches.

Transfers/Contracts

Tresor Kandol, the 17 year old youth team striker, has signed a two year professional contract.

Dwight Marshall has rejoined his former club Plymouth on a one month deal. His contract at Luton was terminated at the same time.

Terry Sweeney had a two game reserve trial at Plymouth with a view to securing a loan move.

Injuries

Paul McLaren is now back to fitness, and in contention for a first team place almost immediately. Paul Showler is again fit, but will have to play several reserve games to prove it.

Julian James has suffered a setback in his recovery from a broken leg, needing to have an operation to insert a second metal plate in his leg. As a result he is unlikely to see first team action this season.

Stuart Fraser is out of action for a month or so after an operation to repair cartilage damage in his knee.

Liam George is now out of plaster and the pin in his leg has been removed, and he has started a programme of strengthening and mobilising exercises. However, having suffered ankle ligament damage as well as a fractured fibula his recovery will take some time.

Other News

Lennie Lawrence is looking to strengthen his squad, and had Latvian international Andrius Tereselinas on trial. However, work permit and contract complications blocked any chance of a transfer. Two Australians have also been on trial, but an Icelandic player was rejected due to a six figure transfer fee.

Lawrence has also criticised some senior players for failing to pressurise for first team places. Dwight Marshall has gone, and his comments can be seen as warning others like Simon Davies and Paul Showler. Lawrence said: "I can't have people plodding away in the reserves unless they are under 20 or coming back from injury. With our wage bill, I can't afford to have people on decent money sitting around. With the exception of Paul McLaren and maybe Alan White our back up is insufficient."

Lennie Lawrence took part in the Great North Run on Sunday October 4th, completing the 13-mile course in 1 hr 55 mins.

The draw for the first round of the Auto Windscreens Shield has seen Town given a bye. The second round draw will take place after the first round ties in the week beginning December 7th.

It is reported that Luton are still keeping tabs on Spurs striker Rory Allen, with a view to a loan or permanent signing. Meanwhile, Lennie Lawrence is still looking to bring in a wide left player on loan.

Match Reports

03/10/98 FULHAM

A 3-1

Att: 11,856 (inc 2,020 from Luton)

Ref: John Kirkby, Sheffield.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 88), Gray, McGowan (Cox 85). Unused sub: White.

A stunning victory, in which the Town comprehensively outplayed the home side. The first goal after only four minutes when Davis passed to Evers who delivered a tremendous cross which Phil Gray stooped to head home. A mere three minutes into the second half Gavin McGowan crossed a ball which Stuart Douglas got under to loop a header past the keeper. Steve Davis scored the Town's third when he rose to outjump Brevett and head McKinnon's long free kick into the net for his sixth goal of the season. Fulham's consolation arrived after 86 minutes when Alan Nielsen, unmarked, headed Peter Beardsley's corner past Kelvin Davis. This was Fulham's first on target effort of the match. The Town had spent virtually all of the 90 minutes in control, and manager Lennie Lawrence described it as "the best league performance since I've been here". Fulham boss Kevin Keegan was complimentary, saying "That's the best display I've seen against us since I've been at Fulham. Luton were strong at the back, inventive and full of running in midfield and had a field day up front as well."

League position: 7th.

10/10/98

YORK CITY

A 3-3

Att: 3,780

Ref: T. Jones, Barrow-in-Furness.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (White 76), Evers, Douglas (Cox 87), Gray, McIndoe. Unused sub: Fotiadis.

A disastrous start saw York score after 24 seconds when Gordon Connelly drilled home the rebound after Kelvin Davis had blocked Richard Cresswell's 30 yard volley. Town were 2 down 10 minutes later as Cresswell sprung the offside trap on the right wing, cut in and fired a left foot effort into the top corner. Town replied with Douglas's near post diving header from Gray's right wing cross after 22 minutes, and then equalised on 43 when Gray's pass released Evers to slot the ball between the legs of the advancing Mimms.

The Hatters started the second half strongly, and on 55 minutes Evers fed Douglas for a clear run on goal, Mimms blocked, and Gray was on hand to side foot into the roof of the empty net. This seemed to awaken York, who had the better of the late stages, equalising on 65 minutes when Cresswell was released, looking offside, to deftly flick the ball over Kelvin Davis. Davis was injured in the process, but after having his ankle strapped, enjoyed an inspirational last 20 minutes, making a string of spectacular saves to save a point.

League position: 4th.

17/10/98 OLDHAM ATHLETIC H 2-0

Att: 5,447

Ref: Raymond Olivier, Sutton Coldfield.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (White 71), Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 74), Gray, McIndoe (Scarlett 68).

This was a frustrating afternoon, during which the Town struggled to break down stubborn opponents who appeared to have been happy to come for a draw. The match was changed when Lennie Lawrence brought on sub Andre Scarlett for his debut. Within moments, Scott McNiven had been sent off for a rash challenge on Scarlett, although not the worst foul of the game. With chances limited it took 82 minutes for the deadlock to be broken, when Alexander sent in a deep cross and found an unmarked Phil Gray with time to bury his header into the bottom corner. Five minutes into injury time Evers picked up a loose ball in his own half, hared off towards the Oldham goal pursued by Scarlett, and fired in a shot that was blocked by the Oldham 'keeper, but Scarlett netted the rebound.

Sent off: Scott McNiven, of Oldham.

League position: 4th.

20/10/98 NORTHAMPTON TN H 1-0

Att: 6,087

Ref: Mick Fletcher, Warley.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring (White 81), S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis 81), Gray, McIndoe. Unused sub: Scarlett.

With Northampton playing their normal tough, uncompromising style, this was not the prettiest of games to watch. The only goal came from a free kick on 19 minutes, awarded after a foul on Phil Gray. With the ball placed close to the corner of the penalty box, McIndoe rolled the ball across to Alexander whose low, hard drive from 25 yards took a deflection to beat the visiting 'keeper Woodman. There were other chances in the game, and in the end the scoreline flattered Northampton.

Booked: Ian Sampson for a foul on Phil Gray and Carl Heggs for elbowing Graham Alexander.

League position: 3rd.

24/10/98 GILLINGHAM A 0-1

Att: 5,602 (inc 690 from Luton).

Ref: John Brandwood, Lichfield.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Evers, McKinnon (White 75), Douglas, Gray, McGowan (Fotiadis 70). Unused sub: McLaren.

The first half of the game was played in awful conditions with torrential rain soaking the pitch and the visiting Luton supporters, and play very difficult with the ball holding up on

the pitch. Both sides had first half chances, Matthew Spring having the best for the Town. With so many players sliding across the pitch it was surprising that Luton did not concede a foul until the 39th minute. Gillingham scored the only goal on 61 minutes. A long ball out of the home defence into the Luton half was being chased by Carl Asaba and watched carefully by Steve Davis, when Kelvin Davis steamed out of his goal to clear the ball. In a morass of mud and water out by the touchline Asaba blocked Kelvin's attempted clearance, got to his feet first and hit the ball first time into the empty net from 45 yards. Steve Davis was pushed up for the dying stages of the match, but Town were unable to create any significant chances.

League position: 4th.

27/10/98 COVENTRY CITY H 2-0

Worthington Cup, round three.

Att: 9,051

Ref: Clive Wilkes, Gloucester.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Evers, McKinnon, Douglas (Fotiadis 90), Gray, McGowan. Unused subs: White, Abbey, McIndoe, McLaren.

Glorious victory? Perhaps not as much as we might like, as Coventry were a very poor side, but the history books will show that Town beat a Premiership side — and became the last surviving side from the bottom two divisions in the Worthington Cup.

Although Coventry started brightly, this petered out after as little as 5 minutes, when Town had their first serious effort on goal. The Town offside trap was very effective and contained the visitors while the attack gradually wore down their defence. It was in the second half that the goals came, and after 50 minutes Steve Davis released Sean Evers who took the ball into the 18 yard box and passed superbly for Phil Gray to beat 'keeper Magnus Hedman and Gary Breen to the ball from six yards out. With the Town's pace causing plenty of problems for Coventry, it was on 78 minutes that Graham Alexander sent across a corner from the right which Steve Davis headed powerfully into the net via a deflection of Richard Shaw's head. It was a sign of Luton's dominance that Kelvin Davis did not have a serious save to make in the whole 90 minutes.

31/10/98 CHESTERFIELD H PP

Ref: Tony Leake, Darwen.

The match was postponed by the referee about 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time due to the heavy rain having caused pools of water to form on the pitch. Both managers agreed with the decision.

The Pools Panel gave the result as a home win at both half-time and full time.

League position: 5th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Nov	7	Stoke City	A	Pay on the day. Seats £14 adult, £8 concessions. See below for parking information.
Tue	Nov	10	BARNSELY	H (WC4)	
Sun	Nov	15	Boreham Wood	A (FAC1)	No details yet — phone LTFC ticket office for details.
Sat	Nov	21	Lincoln City	A	Pay on day. Terrace only, £13.
Sat	Nov	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	
Sat	Dec	5	FA Cup 2		

Car parking for the match at Stoke is only available in the official car parks, and there is no street parking near the stadium. For visiting supporters, parking is at the south car park, and car park tickets MUST be bought in advance, at £3 each, via the Kenilworth Road ticket office.

Reserves & Youth

Reserves

Wed	Nov	4	Crystal Palace	H	(2.00)
Thu	Nov	19	Norwich City	A	
Wed	Nov	25	Ipswich Town	H	(2.00)
Tue	Dec	1	West Ham United	A	
	TBA		Arlesey	A	(BPC)

Youth

Sat	Oct	31	Southend United	H
Sat	Nov	7	Swindon Town	A
Sat	Nov	14	Barnet	H
Sat	Nov	21	AFC Bournemouth	A
Sat	Nov	28	Brighton & Hove Albion	H
Sat	Dec	5	Barnet	A
	TBA		Northampton Town	H * (SJFC2)

* at Kenilworth Road

Reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road until December. Youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches

September 30th saw the Town's second string entertain Charlton Athletic, and go down to a 3-1 defeat after Alan White scored the opening goal of the match with a 25 yard free kick. White evidently likes free kicks from this range against south London teams as he repeated the trick when Millwall visited Kenilworth Road for a 1-1 draw seven days later. To show scoring is getting to be a habit, he did it again at Gillingham on 14th, joining Chris Willmott in securing a 2-1 win. There was no Combination fixture the following week, but a reserve team visited Brache Sparta in the Bedfordshire Premier Cup on Wednesday 24th, winning 8-0. Andrew Fotiadis scored a hat-trick, with Gary Doherty (2), Kofi Nyamah and Herve Bacque joining him on the scoresheet along with an own goal by an unfortunate Brache defender. Luton will be away to Arlesey in the next round of the competition. The month was rounded off with a visit to Brentford on 28th which ended in a 2-2 draw. Getting on to the scoresheet yet again was goal scoring sensation Alan White, along with Gary Doherty.

The youngsters visited Leyton Orient on October 3rd, and secured a 3-0 victory with a brace of goals from Tresor Kandol and one from Clifford Akurang. Whilst the first team were at York, Portsmouth visited Luton and one of their own players helped the Town to a 3-0 victory, with Delroy McKoy also scoring twice. This excellent form continued seven days later as the youngsters romped to a 4-0 victory away to Cambridge with Dwaine Clarke (2), Nathan Tyson and Clifford Akurang all on target. On Wednesday 21st the Town made a sharp exit from the FA Youth Cup losing 1-0 to Colchester United at Kenilworth Road, but Saturday 24th saw the Town playing host to Colchester again, this time in the South East Counties League, and revenge was gained with a 2-0 victory, thanks to goalscorers Matthew Taylor and Dwaine Clarke, who tapped in from very close range after Town keeper Daniel Tate had hit the bar with a long, wind assisted, clearance.

New Stadium

The morning after the defeat of Coventry City, David Kohler was on BBC Three Counties Radio and made an emotional appeal (it sounded like he was in tears) for an urgent resolution of the KohlerDome, stating that the delays are causing financial damage to the club, both in the long and short term, and forcing the club to continue selling players. On the same programme, Luton South MP Margaret Moran bravely suggested that there could be an announcement in the next couple of weeks.

Further to this, Mr Kohler had taken steps to organise a protest by supporters against the delay before the start of the Chesterfield match, but was thwarted by the weather. The idea of the protest was that supporters would hold up a number '4' for about 30 seconds to show some solidarity and frustration at the 4 years that the stadium has been in the planning process.

New Book

Yet another new book has hit the streets. *Luton Town: The Modern Era* by Roger Wash, was launched on Thursday October 15th. The book retails at £16.99, and tracks the club's progress from 1967 to 1998, with comprehensive details, and a brief report, of every match during that period. Available from the LTFC Club shop, and other outlets.

Hatters Matters Matters

Some of you may have noticed that in the latest issue of *Mad as a Hatter!* the subscription fee for HM has been increased to £6.50. Unfortunately, this has proved necessary due to increased costs, and takes place for renewals with immediate effect.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2 *	Colchester United	A	FAC3
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	AWS 2		
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGANATHLETIC	H	FAC4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		27	WC SF1		
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0	Feb	6	Burnley	A	
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		13	WREXHAM	H	FAC5
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		17	WC SF2 or AWS 3		
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1		27	BLACKPOOL	H	
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)	Mar	6	Walsall	A	FAC6
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		9	FULHAM	H	AW SF1
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	
	10	York City	A	3-3		16	AW SF2		
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		20	Chesterfield	A	
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0		21	WC Final		
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		27	GILLINGHAM	H	
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)
Nov	7	Stoke City	A			6	YORK CITY	H	
	10	BARNLEY (WC 4)	H			10	Northampton Town	A	FAC SF
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	(1.00)		14	Manchester City	A	
	21	Lincoln City	A			17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H			18	AW Final		
Dec	1	WC 5				24	Notts County	A	
	5	FA Cup 2			May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	12	Macclesfield	A			8	Millwall	A	
	19	MILLWALL	H			22	FAC Final		
	26	READING	H	(12.00)					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A						
TBA		NOTTS COUNTY	H						
TBA		CHESTERFIELD	H						

* Still listed as Jan 2nd, so assumed that this will not be changed.

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

Stop Press

The FA Cup first round draw on Saturday 31 October, paired Luton Town with Boreham Wood for the second time in three years. Boreham Wood play in the Ryman League Premier Division, and currently lie 14th, having won 3 and drawn 7 of their 13 games, scoring 17 goals and conceding 15 in the process.

The match will be played on Sunday 15th November, with a 1.00 pm kick-off, and will be broadcast live on Sky TV. The match is taking place at Boreham Wood's Meadow Park ground and it is highly likely (but not yet announced) that it will be all ticket. Tickets are likely to be very restricted in availability as the ground holds only around 4,000 (or less?). You should telephone the LTFC ticket office on (01582) 416976 for details of ticketing arrangements. I am sorry it is not possible to be more specific at this stage, but details are not likely to be available before Wednesday 4th or Thursday 5th November.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 43 — November 1998
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

Ironically, ticket information for the Boreham Wood match was announced on the radio within a couple of hours of my posting the last issue of HM. I can only apologise for forcing those interested to try and phone the LTFC ticket office, which was almost impossible to get through to. Sorry.

Transfers/Contracts

Kettering Town turned down a bid by Lennie Lawrence to take their highly rated midfielder Matt Fisher on a week long trial stating that they are only interested in firm bids for the player.

Injuries

Mitchell Thomas suffered a bad cut across the bridge of his nose in a clash of heads at Stoke, which required 5 stitches. As a result he was out of action for the match against Barnsley.

Julian James has had a further operation, this time to graft a piece of bone onto his fractured fibula, and a plate has been added to aid the healing process. He will be in plaster for six weeks, and the plate will be in for up to six months.

Liam George is doing well with rehabilitation, and could play again before the end of the season.

Other News

Luton Town won their second Scottish Mutual Performance of

the Week award for the victory over Coventry City. The award is decided by a panel selected from the League Managers Association and had previously been awarded for the win against Fulham at Craven Cottage. The Coventry match also resulted in Town winning the Worthington Award for the best performance of the round, an accolade bestowed by a poll of PFA reps at all 92 clubs.

Gordon Turner, Luton Town's record goalscorer with 276 to his name between 1950 and 1963, has been voted the club's Local Hero — part of a Football League campaign to have every club find its greatest ever player. The poll was conducted by the Luton News, BBC Three Counties Radio and the club programme. Turner, who died in 1976, finished ahead of Mick Harford, Malcolm MacDonald and Ricky Hill, who were 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively.

Graham Alexander and Steve Davis both missed the trip to Lincoln due to suspension.

Phil Gray received a call up to the Northern Ireland squad for the match with Moldova on November 18th. At the same time, Gary Doherty was called up for the Republic of Ireland under-18 squad.

Match Reports

31/10/98 CHESTERFIELD

H PP

Ref: Tony Leake, Darwen.

The match was postponed by the referee about 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time due to the heavy rain having caused pools of water to form on the pitch. Both managers agreed with the decision.

The Pools Panel gave the result as a home win at both half-time and full time.

League position: 5th.

07/11/98 STOKE CITY

A 1-3

Att: 12,964 (inc 1,584 from Luton)

Ref: Mike Jones, Chester.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas (McLaren 44), Spring (Doherty 69), S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas, Gray, McGowan. Unused sub: White.

An ill disciplined performance by the Town. Things looked bad when David Oldfield opened the scoring — ironically his first goal since moving to the Potteries — after 5 minutes, receiving Kevin Keen's pass and drilling the ball home, unopposed. The lead was doubled on 38 minutes, Richard Forsyth firing home from 15 yards after the Town failed to clear a corner. With 8 minutes left Stuart Douglas fired the ball into the net on the turn from Doherty's header. Kyle Lightbourne finished the job, heading home with virtually the last touch of the match, and completely unchallenged.

Sent off: Graham Alexander, for two bookable offences.

Booked: Steve Davis, McLaren, Gray.

League position: 6th.

10/11/98 BARNSELEY

H 1-0

Worthington Cup, Round 4.

Att: 8,435

Ref: Steve Bennett, Orpington.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Evers, McKinnon (McLaren 57), Douglas (White 83), Gray, McIndoe (Nyamah 57).

This was a tense encounter, but not the best performance by the Town, and the highlights shown later on TV were rather thin on action. On the day Barnsley were probably the better team, but were unable to breach the Town defence. The Hatters chances were limited, but the crucial moment was after 81 minutes when Gray accepted a through ball from McLaren and, from an angle, fired in a shot that was deflected past his own keeper by Barnsley defender Morgan. Holding out for the remaining 9 minutes could have been tricky, but the visitors had insufficient ideas.

Booked: McGowan, kicking the ball away, Douglas for diving, and Steve Davis for a foul.

15/11/98 BOREHAM WOOD

A 3-2

FA Challenge Cup, Round 1.

Att: 1,766

Ref: Paul Alcock

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, McLaren, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (Spring 90), Evers, Douglas (Doherty 67), Gray, Nyamah (McIndoe 62).

Hardly the performance that the fans were looking for, but the Town were professional and completed the task successfully, in spite of a couple of defensive errors. The opening goal,

Hardly the performance that the fans were looking for, but the Town were professional and completed the task successfully, in spite of a couple of defensive errors. The opening goal, after 34 minutes, came while the hosts were reduced to 10 men following an injury, unmarked Phil Gray nodding an Alexander corner into the bottom corner. 20 minutes later Gray struck again, this time firing high into an empty net after Douglas squared the ball to him. Minutes later the home side pulled one back through Garry Nisbet who drilled home a flick from Kerry Dixon. On 76 minutes Phil Gray received the ball from a corner and flicked it back across the six yard box where Steve Davis powerfully headed home. The closing stages were a little nervy after Wood pulled another goal back through Mark Xavier, when the ball landed in front of him off McKinnon's head.

Booked: McLaren, for a foul.

21/11/98 LINCOLN CITY A 2-2

Att: 4,893 (inc 1,021 from Luton)

Ref:

Team: K. Davis, McGowan, Thomas, Spring (McLaren 70), White, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas, Gray, Simon Davies (Doherty 63). Unused sub: McIndoe.

Lincoln opened the scoring on 40 minutes when Alan White failed to clear a cross and Paul Smith hit an unstoppable drive from 15 yards. Three minutes later Ray McKinnon's corner was flicked on by Mitchell Thomas and, while White held off the Lincoln defenders, Gray shot high into the goal. The home side made a strong start to the second half, and this was rewarded when Smith sent in a low centre and Gavin McGowan, under pressure from Lee Thorpe, slotted firmly past his own keeper. The equaliser came after 76 minutes, with Gary Doherty meeting McKinnon's corner and glancing the header inside the near post.

No bookings for Town players.

League position: 6th

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Nov	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	
Tue	Dec	1	Sunderland	A (WC5)	Tickets now on sale. Seats, £10, concessions £5. Pay on day available, but at £17.
Sat	Dec	5	HULL CITY	H (FAC2)	Normal ticket arrangements apply.
Sat	Dec	12	Macclesfield	A	Pay on the day. Terrace only, £10 adults, £6 concessions.
Sat	Dec	19	MILLWALL	H	
Sat	Dec	26	READING	H	
Mon	Dec	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	No ticket details yet.
Sat	Jan	2	Colchester United	A or FAC 3	

Reserves & Youth

Reserves

Tue	Dec	1	West Ham United	A
Mon	Dec	7	Arsenal	A
Mon	Dec	14	Colchester United	H (7.00)
Mon	Dec	21	Tottenham Hotspur	H (7.00)
Mon	Jan	4	Chelsea	A

Youth

Sat	Nov	28	Brighton & Hove Albion	H
Sat	Dec	5	Barnet	A
Sat	Dec	12	Brentford	H
Sat	Jan	2	Bristol Rovers	A

Reserve matches played at Hitchin Town FC. Youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches

The match with Crystal Palace on November 4th was switched from waterlogged Kenilworth Road to Palace's training ground, but the Town then lost the match 3-1. Paul McLaren scored the Town goal with a left foot drive, but the coaching staff were left wondering how they created many chances and still lost. Watford were the hosts on November 11th, a match rearranged from March 31st which ended in a goalless draw, and in which the goalkeepers were reported to have been kept busy at both ends of the pitch. More cup success for a Hatters team on Monday November 16th, this time in the Beds Premier Cup quarter final, when a mixed junior and reserve team visited Kempston Rovers and won by a 3-0 margin. The goalscorers were Tresor Kandol, Lee Lough and Jimmy Cox. The trip to Norwich on November 19th ended with the Town going down to a rare heavy defeat, being beaten 6-0 in a match which saw Kofi Nyamah sent off.

Lee Mansell and Delroy McKoy were both on target in the Juniors 3-1 home victory over Southend. An own goal completed the scoring on October 31st. On 7th November, Tresor Kandol, heading his tenth of the season, scored the only goal of the game in the 1-0 victory at Swindon Town. Northampton visited Kenilworth Road on November 11th in the 2nd round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, a match which the Hatters won 3-1, with goals scored by Clifford Akurang and a brace from Kandol. The following Saturday Barnet made the short trip to Luton and were beaten 2-0 with Kandol and Akurang on target. While the first teamers were at Lincoln, the youngsters went to the seaside and were rewarded with a 2-1 victory over AFC Bournemouth, Moses Jerry and schoolboy Matt Taylor scoring the goals.

New Stadium

The final decision of the Department of the Environment came, at last, on Thursday 19 November. The news is bad. The planning application has been turned down. The reasons, as broadcast on local radio, are that there would be problems with car parking, and that the DoE does not believe that a 12,000 seat stadium would be financially viable. David Kohler's reaction was that the matter of financial viability was dealt with at the Public Inquiry, and the non-viable 12,000 seat stadium was that which was part of the Wyncote proposal — a football only stadium — rather than the multi-purpose KohlerDome. David Kohler has stated that he will now pursue the matter through the High Court, emphasising that the decision appears to have been made without properly addressing the evidence of the Public Inquiry. In addition, the Secretary of State's decision indicates that a new application for a stadium of 12,000 capacity would be likely to receive planning consent. As David Kohler argues, he was invited to submit revised plans for exactly this at the time of the interim decision, and did so. These have now been turned down, with the indication that they may be acceptable if submitted as a new application. It is easy to understand Mr Kohler's frustration.

New Product

The LTFC club shop now has in stock a video of the 1988 Littlewoods Cup Final. The specially produced video is selling at £14.99, and should fill a gap in many people's collections.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2 *	Colchester United	A	FAC3
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	AWS 2		
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	FAC4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		27	WC SF1		
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0	Feb	6	Burnley	A	
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		13	WREXHAM	H	FAC5
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		17	WC SF2 or AWS 3		
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1		27	BLACKPOOL	H	
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)	Mar	6	Walsall	A	FAC6
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		9	FULHAM	H	AW SF1
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	
	10	York City	A	3-3		16	AW SF2		
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		20	Chesterfield	A	
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0		21	WC Final		
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		27	GILLINGHAM	H	
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	1-3		6	YORK CITY	H	
	10	BARNSELY (WC 4)	H	1-0		10	Northampton Town	A	FAC SF
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2		14	Manchester City	A	
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H			18	AW Final		
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A			24	Notts County	A	
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H		May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	12	Macclesfield	A			8	Millwall	A	
	19	MILLWALL	H			22	FAC Final		
	26	READING	H	(12.00)					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A						

* Still listed as Jan 2nd, so assumed that this will not be changed.

TBA NOTTS COUNTY H
TBA CHESTERFIELD H

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 44 — December 1998
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

Good news, an issue of HM comes out in the right month! Bad News, most of you are due to pay your subscription renewals next month (so start saving!).

Transfers/Contracts

Simon Davies has joined Macclesfield Town on a free transfer. Perhaps surprisingly, Davies made 29 appearances for the Town, but he would have been due a free transfer at the end of this season under the Bosman ruling.

Kofi Nyamah has left the club after his short term contract was not renewed. Being sent-off twice in a dozen reserve appearances did not help his cause.

Injuries

Stuart Fraser has made a return to the first team after his cartilage problems.

Hamstring injuries have been the order of the month with Ray McKinnon, Graham Alexander and Sean Evers all missing matches.

Liam George is gradually getting back into training and is already running and kicking a ball, although not yet at full pace.

Julian James is out of plaster and can now drive and walk unaided.

Other News

Sean Evers was part of the Nationwide League side which drew 1-1 with the Italian Serie B side in Terni on 24th November. He actually scored the goal for the side, made up of England under-21 qualified players, having given up the opportunity to play for the Republic of Ireland at under-21 level.

Gavin McGowan missed the Macclesfield match through a one match suspension after receiving his tenth booking of the season.

Mitchell Thomas missed the home match against Millwall, serving a suspension after his sending-off at Sunderland.

Graham Alexander misses the home match against Reading after getting his fifth booking of the season at Macclesfield.

The Colchester away match has been made all ticket by the home club.

Ticket Office opening hours over Christmas are as follows: Thur 24 Dec 10 - 4, Sat 26 Dec "from 9 am", Wed 30 Dec 10 - 4, Thur 31 Dec 10 - 4. On all other dates the ticket office is closed. From Monday 4th January normal hours apply.

Match Reports

Additional Information:

10/11/98 BARNSELEY H 1-0

Unused subs: White, Abbey, Scarlett.

Booked: McGowan and Douglas, but not Steve Davis.

15/11/98 BOREHAM WOOD A 3-2

Att: 1,772 (inc 789 away fans)

Ref: Paul Alcock, Halstead.

Unused subs: Abbey, White.

21/11/98 LINCOLN CITY A 2-2

Att: 4,893 (inc 1,021 from Luton)

Ref: Mark Cowburn, Blackpool.

Team: K. Davis, McGowan, Thomas, Spring (McLaren 70), White, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas, Gray, Simon Davies (Doherty 63). Unused sub: McIndoe.

Lincoln opened the scoring on 40 minutes when Alan White failed to clear a cross and Paul Smith hit an unstoppable drive from 15 yards. Three minutes later Ray McKinnon's corner was flicked on by Mitchell Thomas and, while White held off the Lincoln defenders, Gray shot high into the goal. The home side made a strong start to the second half, and this was rewarded on the hour when Smith sent in a low centre and Gavin McGowan, under pressure from Lee Thorpe, slotted firmly past his own keeper. The equaliser came after 76 minutes, with Gary Doherty meeting McKinnon's corner and glancing the header inside the near post.

No bookings for Town players, but Gavin Gordon and Paul Miller of Lincoln were booked for fouls on Town players.

League position: 6th

28/11/98 MANCHESTER CITY H 1-1

Att: 9,070 (inc nearly 2,000 City fans)

Ref: Tony Bates, Stoke.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan (White 84), Spring, Steve Davis, Johnson, Evers, McKinnon, Douglas (Doherty 64), Gray, Simon Davies (McLaren 54).

This was a match in the quality of football was some way from outstanding. City's goal came from their first corner of the match in the 29th minute. Taken by Craig Russell on the left, it was powerfully headed home by City captain Andy Morrison. The City defence had successfully bottled up the Town strikers, but Morrison did not emerge for the second half after sustaining an injury, and his sides ambition vanished. This benefitted the Town but it still took changes to the team to break through. After 76 minutes Gary Doherty headed home Ray McKinnon's left wing corner after being left unmarked. City keeper Nicky Weaver did well to keep out an effort by Sean Evers, and Steve Davis sent a strong header just wide. In the end the draw was a fair result.

Booked: Graham Alexander for a foul and Gavin McGowan for dissent, and City's Vaughan and Brown.

01/12/98 SUNDERLAND A 0-3

Worthington Cup, round 6.

Att: 35,742 (inc 1,829 from Luton)

Ref: Eddie Lomas, Manchester

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, McKinnon (McLaren 71), Evers, Douglas (Doherty 63), Gray, McGowan (White 75). Unused subs: McIndoe, Abbey.

A very flattering result for the home team at the magnificent Sunderland Stadium of Light, but not entirely undeserved. The shots on target count of 20-1 in the home side's favour said much about the nature of the match. However, Town worked hard to restrict Sunderland and, whilst unable to create their own chances, defended well and tried to take the game to the home side. The sending off of Thomas was certainly a major turning point in the game and six minutes later Luton went behind. Allan Johnston's left wing cross found Andy Melville whose glancing header was going wide until Marvin Johnson got his head to it and glanced it wide of Kelvin Davis into his own net. The second half was always going to be an uphill battle for the Town, but the ten men worked hard to overcome the numerical disadvantage without really producing the fluency required in midfield. Sunderland had a string of good chances which were kept out by stout defending and quality goalkeeping. Late in the half, Luton forced a couple of corners, but while pushing for an equaliser Michael Bridges scored the second with a curling right foot effort from 20 yards which went into Davis's bottom corner. Just after this Paul McLaren had a superb effort with a 35 yard volley which forced the home keeper Sorensen to make his only serious save of the evening. In the 92nd minute Niall Quinn made up for his earlier profligacy with a delightful angled lob over Davis to give the result a thoroughly unexpected gloss.

Sent off: Mitchell Thomas, after 35 minutes, for two bookable offences. The first for shoving Kevin Ball in retaliation, the second for tripping Niall Quinn.

Booked: Ray McKinnon for dissent over Thomas' sending off, Graham Alexander, for a foul and Phil Gray, also for dissent. For Sunderland, Kevin Ball and Niall Quinn.

05/12/98 HULL CITY H 1-2

F.A. Challenge Cup, round two.

Att: 5,021

Ref: Christopher Foy, St Helens.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S. Davis, White, McKinnon (McIndoe 61), Evers, Doherty (Douglas 64), Gray, McLaren (Scarlett 80). Unused subs: Abbey, Thomas.

This was an inept performance by a Town side who were probably tired from their exertions at Sunderland a few days earlier. The Hull City side played far better than their league position suggests and fully deserved their win. They opened the scoring after 29 minutes with 17 year-old Ben Morley striking sharply from David Brown's cross. The equaliser was the highlight of the match, with Steve Davis making a great run from 60 yards out, slicing through the Hull midfield and playing a short one-two with Phil Gray before rounding the visiting keeper and rolling the ball into the empty net. Just

past the hour Hull settled the result when Rob Dewhurst was left unmarked and scored from his free header from David D'Auria's free kick.

Booked: McGowan, for a foul, and Hull's David D'Auria and Justin Whittle, also for fouls.

12/12/98 MACCLESFIELD TN A 2-2

Att: 2,902 (with 580 from Luton)

Ref: Mark Warren, Walsall.

Team: K. Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring (White 82), S. Davis, Johnson, McLaren, Evers, Douglas (Doherty 67), Gray, McIndoe (Showler 63).

On a very poor pitch the Town took an early lead after only 3 minutes with Stuart Douglas meeting Phil Gray's right wing cross. Macclesfield fought back strongly, and drew level on 36 minutes. John Askey pirced the Town's left flank and Neil Sorvel was on hand to meet his cross. A minute into the second period Graeme Tomlinson, a former Town loan player, headed the home side in front after being left unmarked to deal with Stuart Whittaker's cross from the right. The Town efforts to salvage something from the game did not pay off until very late, when Steve Davis flicked a ball on through the defence to allow Phil Gray to knock the ball over the home keeper for a scarcely deserved equaliser.

Booked: Graham Alexander and Macc's John Askey, both for fouls.

League position: 7th

19/12/98 MILLWALL H 1-2

Att: 5,939

Ref: Eddie Lomas, Manchester.

Team: K. Davis, McGowan, Fraser, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Scarlett, McLaren, Douglas, Gray (White 77), Showler (Fotiadis 63). Unused sub: McIndoe.

After giving a first start to Andre Scarlett, and a second to Stuart Fraser, Luton dominated the first half of this game but Millwall goalie Nigel Spink pulled off a couple of excellent saves to keep his side in the game, and then launched the ball forward in the move that saw his team take the lead. Steve Davis made a hash of heading away Spink's punt, and Neil Harris found himself clean through in the inside left channel, and ran on to beat Kelvin Davis with an excellent low strike. Steve Davos equalised after 69 minutes bundling the ball into the net at the far post from Spring's corner. As Town looked for a winner a Millwall break saw Paul Shaw take the ball into the Town penalty area before being muscled off by Lucas Neill who thumped his shot home.

Booked: Gavin McGowan and Alan White, both for fouls..

League position: 11th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Dec	26	READING	H
Mon	Dec	28	AFC Bournemouth	A

Sat	Jan	2	Colchester United	A
Tue	Jan	5	WALSALL	H (AWS2)
Sat	Jan	9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H
Sat	Jan	16	Preston North End	A
Sat	Jan	23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H
Sat	Jan	30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H

Pay on day. Terrace £9.50/£5.00 (cons). Seats (very limited and for families only) £11.50/£8.50.

ALL TICKET. Terrace £7.00/£4.50. Seats £9.00/ £6.00.
Pay on turnstiles. Adults £10, juniors and OAPs £1.

Pay on day. Seats £13.00, concessions £8.00.

Prices quoted above refer to adults (in the first instance) and "concessions", which should be taken to refer to those under 16 and over 65. This is not a hard and fast rule, but is how it is generally stated by the LTFC ticket office.

Reserves & Youth

Reserves

Mon	Dec	21	Tottenham Hotspur	H	(2.00)
Mon	Jan	4	Chelsea	A	
Mon	Jan	11	Wimbledon	H	(7.00)
Wed	Jan	20	Southampton	A	
Mon	Feb	1	AFC Bournemouth	H	

Youth

Sat	Jan	9	Oxford United	H
Sat	Jan	16	Reading	A
Sat	Jan	23	Wycombe Wanderers	H
Sat	Jan	30	Gillingham	A

Home reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road or at Hitchin Town FC. Home youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches.

Also, check with home club whether changes have been made to this information, as frequently happens.

Of late, it seems that reserve matches are frequently being re-arranged at short notice. The match against West Ham on December 1st was called off for unstated reasons, and the match at Bournemouth (see below) was brought forward from its original February date. In addition, the home matches against Colchester and Tottenham, which had been scheduled to be played at Hitchin, were returned to Kenilworth Road with the consequent change to kick-off times. I apologise if anyone has been inconvenienced by these changes, and stress that you should always check with the home club before travelling for a reserve game.

A "diabolical" penalty decision settled the Combination game at Kenilworth Road on November 25th, allowing Ipswich Town to win 3-2, after goals by Michael McIndoe and Andrew Fotiadis had given Town a 2-0 first half lead. On December 9th a game at Bournemouth was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. Colchester United were 2-0 winners at Kenilworth Road on December 14th, playing against a very young Town side with only four players with any sort of first team experience.

Tresor Kandol took his tally for the season to 15 goals when he scored both against Brighton at Newlands Road on November 28th in a 2-0 victory. On December 5th the youth team suffered a rare defeat, going down 2-0 at Barnet after a poor performance. The final youth match before Christmas was the visit of Brentford on December 12th, which the Town won 2-1 with goals from Delroy McKoy and Kandol, who scored from a penalty awarded rather fortuitously after he had fallen over the keeper.

New Stadium

LTFC Chairman David Kohler has made it very clear, through the pages of the match programme, that he will be going to the High Court to seek a judicial review of the refusal of planning permission for the KohlerDome. It has been said (although I can't find it now) that if that fails Kohler will submit a new planning application for a 12,000 capacity stadium on the same site..

*A very Merry Christmas
and
happy and prosperous New Year
to
all Hatters Matters subscribers.*

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)
	22	Reading	A	0-3
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1
	10	York City	A	3-3
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	1-3
	10	BARNSELY (WC 4)	H	1-0
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-1
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A	0-3
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H	1-2
	12	Macclesfield	A	2-2
	19	MILLWALL	H	1-2
	26	READING	H	(12.00)
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	

Jan	2 *	Colchester United	A	
	5	AWS 2		
	9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	
	16	Preston North End	A	
	23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	
	30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Feb	6	Burnley	A	
	13	WREXHAM	H	
	17	AWS 3		
	20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	27	BLACKPOOL	H	
Mar	6	Walsall	A	
	9	FULHAM	H	AW SF1
	13	STOKE CITY	H	
	16	AW SF2		
	20	Chesterfield	A	
	27	GILLINGHAM	H	
Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)*
	6	YORK CITY	H	
	10	Northampton Town	A	
	14	Manchester City	A	
	17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	18	AW Final		
	24	Notts County	A	
May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	8	Millwall	A	

* Kick-off time for this fixture is listed (in the LTFC match programme) as 3.00 pm.

TBA	NOTTS COUNTY	H	
TBA	CHESTERFIELD	H	

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 45 — January 1999
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

Another issue of HM appears in the right month! If I'm not careful this could get to be a habit!

Transfers/Contracts

Sunderland's Gerry Harrison was signed on a month's loan on December 23rd, which has been extended for a second month. He had been a transfer target for Luton earlier in 1998.

Steve Davis has been sold to Burnley for £800,000. It was widely reported at the time of the sale that Davis wanted to return to his former club.

Another loan signing, from January 4th, is Sean Dyche of Bristol City. The central defender was previously with Chesterfield, leaving in the summer of 1997. It is hoped that this will be extended by a further two months.

Town have splashed out a "nominal" fee (£25,000) to sign Frenchman L'Andry Zahana-Oni, a left sided forward, from Bromley FC.

Lennie Lawrence is keen to make the signings of both the above loan players permanent. Harrison would be available on a free, but Dyche could cost around £100,000.

After failing to make an impact following the pre-season friendlies, Herve Bacquet has left after his contract was cancelled by mutual consent.

Injuries

Paul Showler is back on the list after 2 first team games. This time it is a stomach muscle strain, although it was first thought of be a hernia, likely to keep him out for a month.

Ray McKinnon (hamstring) and Mitchell Thomas (groin strain) have continued to struggle with injuries as has Graham Alexander (bruised ankle with ligament damage).

Liam George continues his recovery and is now back in full training, and likely to be able to play in the reserves in the next month. The other broken leg victim, Julian James, is now jogging gently.

Phil Gray missed the game at Preston suffering from an infected and bruised toe.

Other News

After the departure of Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson was appointed club captain.

The postponed matches against Notts County and Reading have been re-arranged for Tuesdays 23rd February and 23rd March respectively.

It has been reported that Lennie Lawrence has signed an extension to his existing contract, meaning he will be in charge at Kenilworth Road until the summer of 2000.

The Town home game against Gillingham on March 27th, will kick off at 11.30am. This is due to the England v Poland international match taking place at 3pm that afternoon.

Phil Gray received a 3 match suspension for his sending off against Wycombe. The FA rejected an appeal against the ban for violent conduct. Happily however, the ban coincided with an injury.

Paul McLaren missed the Wigan match through a one match ban for receiving 5 cautions this season.

Andrew Barr, a youth team player released last summer, is currently taking a degree course at Salford University to become a qualified physiotherapist.

Luton Town's league record for the calendar year of 1998 was as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	19	9	6	4	28	16	33
Away	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>28</u>
Total	43	16	13	14	60	51	61

In the event that Wrexham win their FA Cup replay against Huddersfield, the home match against Chesterfield could be re-arranged for Saturday 13 February, when LTFC are due to be at home to Wrexham. This is because Chesterfield are due to be playing Bristol Rovers, who are already through to the 5th round.

Match Reports

26/12/98 READING

H PP

Ref: Lee Cable, Woking.

Match postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

28/12/98 AFC BOURNEMOUTH A 0-1

Att: 8,863 (with just over 800 from Luton)

Ref: David Crick, Worcester Park, Surrey.

Team: K. Davis, White, Thomas, Spring, S. Davis, Johnson, Harrison (Bacque 74), Evers, Fotiadis, Gray, Showler (Scarlett 60). Unused sub: McIndoe.

A very poor Town performance which probably deserved greater punishment than Bournemouth could manage. Town managed no more than three goal attempts in 90 minutes, and failed to exert any concerted pressure until the dying minutes of the match. The only goal of the game came after 53 minutes. A free kick was awarded after what looked a perfectly good tackle by Alan White, and it was swung over to the far

post where Fletcher's header was parried by Kelvin Davis, and Ian Cox slammed in the rebound from close range.

Booked: Steve Davis, foul.

League position: 14th.

02/01/99 COLCHESTER UNITED A 2-2

Att: 4,694 (incl 1200 away fans)

Ref: Barry Knight, Orpington.

Team: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, White, Johnson, McLaren, Harrison, Douglas (Doherty 65), Gray, Evers. Unused subs: McIndoe, Fraser.

Town had made an encouraging start to the match with Spring and Gray both having efforts on target before Sean Evers was bundled over for a Town penalty and Alexander converted the 7th minute spot kick. Town had more attempts before Mark Sale won a penalty for the home side after 20 minutes, falling over Marvin Johnson's leg. David Gregory's spot kick was

almost saved by Davis, but it squeezed in off the post. The second half was played rather more robustly than the first, although the referee seemed not to notice. A 72nd minute Matthew Spring corner found its way to the back post where Alan White volleyed home. With the Hatters looking to turn in a long awaited win, Abrahams received the ball on the edge of the Town penalty area, turned and drilled a low shot past Davis. With only six minutes remaining, that was enough to secure the draw.

Booked: Paul McLaren, Marvin Johnson and Graham Alexander, all for fouls. Simon Betts and Mark Sale also saw the yellow card for the same reason.

Sent-off: No-one actually, but John Moore was ordered to leave the dug-out after comments made to a linesman.

League position: 14th.

05/01/99 WALSALL H 0-3

Auto Windscreens Shield, round 2.

Att: 1,870

Ref: Paul Taylor, Waltham Cross.

Team: Abbey, Boyce, Fraser, Evers, White, Dyche, McLaren (Scarlett 72), Harrison, Bacque (Kandol 58), McIndoe, Fotiadis (Doherty 58).

Walsall took the lead on 6 minutes when Jason Brissett sped past Emmerson Boyce on the left flank and crossed for Andy Watson to fire into an empty net from two yards. Luton created the better opportunities in the rest of the first half, but to no avail. A minute into the second period Darren Wrack worked a one-two with Andy Rammell and drilled the ball low past Nathan Abbey to extend the lead. On 57 minutes, debutant Sean Dyche was hauled down in a scramble and Town were awarded a penalty, but Herve Bacque's spot kick was saved. Walsall wrapped up the win with a third goal when Dean Keates slammed home a low drive from 12 yards from Wrack's cross.

Booked: Michael McIndoe for a foul, and Arian Viveash and Dean Keates of Walsall, also for fouls.

09/01/99 WYCOMBE WDRS H 3-1

Att: 5,063

Ref: Matt Messias, York.

Team: Davis, Harrison, White, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Zahana-Oni (Doherty h/t), McLaren, Douglas (Scarlett 81), Gray, Evers. Unused sub: Fraser.

This was an entertaining match, with plenty of incident to discuss afterwards. Referee Matt Messias made a generous contribution to this through the use of his yellow and red cards and some odd decisions. The scoring was opened after 16 minutes by Matthew Spring who blasted home a lay off from a free kick to open his league account. Things got really interesting when Phil Gray and Wycombe's Paul McCarthy were sent off on the half hour after a foul by and assault on Gray. Luton had begun to discover some confidence during the opening half, and this increased five minutes into the second spell when Keith Ryan hauled down Douglas. On the hour there could have been a fourth sending-off, when Wycombe striker Jermaine McSpornan lifted the ball over Kelvin Davis and then clattered into the committed keeper, but this time Messias showed the yellow card. Sean Evers increased the lead on 69 minutes when Harrison's cross was directed into his path by Dave Carroll, and Evers emphatically drilled the ball into the goal. Six minutes later, in acres of space on the right flank, Evers played an excellent pass behind the defence and into the

path of Douglas who fired home from 15 yards without breaking his stride. Wycombe's consolation came when Sean Dyche knocked Keith Scott to the ground two yards in front of goal, and Dave Carroll sent Davis the wrong way to put the penalty kick away.

Booked: Gerry Harrison and Paul McLaren for dissent, Kelvin Davis and Sean Dyche for fouls, and Wycombe's Jason Cousins for dissent and Michael Simpson for encroaching at a free kick.

Sent-off: Phil Gray, for violent conduct along with Wycombe's Paul McCarthy (violent conduct) and Keith Ryan ("professional" foul).

League position: 13th.

16/01/99 PRESTON NTH END A 1-2

Att: 11,034 (inc 462 from Luton)

Ref: Frazer Stretton, Nottingham.

Team: Davis, Harrison, White, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Evers, McLaren, Douglas (Doherty 83), Fotiadis, McGowan (Fraser 89). Unused sub: Zahana-Oni.

A pretty good performance by the Town, who took the lead after 15 minutes when Andrew Fotiadis, unmarked, headed home an excellent free kick from Matthew Spring. In response, Preston applied immense pressure missing a host of chances in the first half. However, their pressure paid off on 56 minutes when Kelvin Davis made a stunning save from McKenna but could not hold the ball and was beaten to the rebound by Kurt Nogan. Although Preston continued to search for a winner, it looked like the Town would survive, but Jason Harris headed home on 90 minutes to secure the points, albeit after Luton were unable to equalise from chances in the 7 minutes of injury time.

Booked: Paul McLaren (dissent) and Stuart Douglas (foul).

League position: 12th.

23/01/99 WIGAN ATHLETIC H 0-4

Att: 4,934, lowest home league gate of the season.

Ref: Gurnam Singh, Wolverhampton.

Team: Davis, Harrison, White, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, McGowan, Evers, Douglas, Fotiadis (Doherty 48), Zahana-Oni (McIndoe 64). Unused sub: Scarlett.

Any hope of a victory probably disappeared when Kelvin Davis was sent off in the 24th minute, with the Town already a goal behind. The 15th minute lead had been gained when Pat McGibbon headed in Michael O'Neill's corner. After the sending off, when Davis rushed out of his area to stop Graeme Jones' run on goal and handled the ball, Gerry Harrison took over between the posts. 6 minutes later Harrison was picking the ball out of the net after Andy Liddell received the ball from Kevin Sharp in acres of space and coolly slotted home past the advancing Harrison. Wigan survived a good effort by Fotiadis late in the first half and efforts from Zahana-Oni and Doherty (twice) early in the second, but against the run of play Sharp got the ball to Jones who scored Wigan's third. With 13 minutes left sub Simon Haworth hit a superb fourth to wrap the result up.

Booked: Michael McIndoe for a foul and Wigan's McGibbon, Sharp, Rogers and O'Neill.

Sent-off: Kelvin Davis, for handling the ball outside the penalty area.

League position: 13th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Jan	30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Sat	Feb	6	Burnley	A	Pay on the day. Seats only £12 adults, £6 cons.
Sat	Feb	13	WREXHAM	H	Subject to FA Cup replay result. Wrexham could be replaced by Chesterfield.
Sat	Feb	20	Bristol Rovers	A	All ticket. Terrace only, £10 adults, £6 concessions.
Tue	Feb	23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	
Sat	Feb	27	BLACKPOOL	H	

Prices quoted above refer to adults (in the first instance) and "concessions", which should be taken to refer to those under 16 and over 65. This is not a hard and fast rule, but is how it is generally stated by the LTFC ticket office.

Reserves & Youth

<u>Reserves</u>				<u>Youth</u>					
Mon	Feb	1	AFC Bournemouth	H (LT 7.00)	Sat	Jan	30	Gillingham	A
Mon	Feb	8	Fulham	A	Sat	Feb	6	Leyton Orient	H
Mon	Feb	15	Chelsea	A* (7.00)	Sat	Feb	13	Portsmouth	A
Mon	Feb	22	Barnet	H (LT 7.00)	Sat	Feb	20	Cambridge United	H
Wed	Mar	10	Queen's Park Rangers	A	Sat	Feb	27	Colchester United	A
TBA [†]			Biggleswade Town	A BPC	Sat	Mar	6	Southend United	A

* To be played at Kingstonian FC.

† To be played by February 10.

Home reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road (KR) or at Leighton Town FC(LT). Home youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches.

Also, check with home club whether changes have been made to this information, as frequently happens.

The final reserve match of 1998 was at home to Tottenham Hotspur on Monday December 21st, and saw the Town side secure a resounding 3-0 victory. The goalscorers were Herve Bacque, French triallist Landry Zahani-Oni and Mitchell Thomas. The opening fixture of 1999, an away match at Chelsea on Monday 4th January, was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. The New Year programme finally got underway on Monday 11th January with Wimbledon visiting the new reserve team temporary home at Bell Close, home of Leighton Town FC. The match ended in a 1-1 draw, with Andrew Fotiadis scoring for the Town. On Wednesday 20th, Southampton emerged 1-0 victors in a game played on the south coast.

The first two youth matches of 1999 (at home to Oxford on January 9th and away to Reading a week later) went down to the weather, both being called off due to waterlogged pitches. The 1999 programme finally got underway on January 23rd, when Wycombe Wanderers visited, and held the Luton team to a 0-0 draw.

New Stadium

David Kohler revealed on New Year's Day that the appeal to the High Court against the refusal of planning permission had been submitted. It has been reported that no date has been set for the court case.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2	Colchester United	A	2-2
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	H	0-3
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	3-1
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	1-2
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	0-4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1	Feb	6	Burnley	A	
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0		13	WREXHAM	H	
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		20	Bristol Rovers	A	
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		27	BLACKPOOL	H	
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1	Mar	6	Walsall	A	
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)		9	FULHAM	H	
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1		20	Chesterfield	A	
	10	York City	A	3-3		23	READING	H	
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		27	GILLINGHAM	H	(11.30)
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)*
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		6	YORK CITY	H	
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0		10	Northampton Town	A	
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	1-3		14	Manchester City	A	
	10	BARNSELEY (WC 4)	H	1-0		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2		24	Notts County	A	
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2	May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-1		8	Millwall	A	
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A	0-3					
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H	1-2	TBA		CHESTERFIELD	H	
	12	Macclesfield	A	2-2					
	19	MILLWALL	H	1-2					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-1					

* Kick-off time for this fixture is listed (in the LTFC match programme) as 3.00 pm.

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 46 — February 1999
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
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HEADLINE NEWS

David Kohler has announced his intention to sever all ties with Luton Town FC, following an attack on his home. The Kohler's were not at home when an unlit petrol bomb and a box of matches were placed through the letterbox of their Hertfordshire home. The Metropolitan Police are reported as believing that the action should be regarded as a warning. Mr Kohler announced on Friday (19th Feb) afternoon that "irrespective of the result of the High Court proceedings on Monday it is my intention, as soon as my business affairs in relation to the club can be put in order, to step down as chairman and leave the club."

The reaction of the remaining three directors of the club was to call for Mr Kohler to dispose of his interest in the club as swiftly as possible.

Coupled with the refusal of the planning appeal on Monday, this obviously creates an air of uncertainty about the club at the time of writing. Further news will follow in future issues.

Transfers/Contracts

Tony Thorpe trained with Luton for the first week of February, with a view to signing on loan. However, as the signing of Gerry Harrison could not be finalised in time, this fell through when Thorpe joined Reading for a one month spell.

Graham Alexander has rejected terms offered for a new contract, and may be sold before the March transfer deadline. If not, he will be able to leave the club on a 'Bosman' free transfer in the summer.

Ray McKinnon has been offered an extension to his one year contract, but has chosen to wait until the summer and see what options are available to him under the Bosman ruling. Also able to leave in the summer are Paul Showler and Julian James. Youngster Matthew Taylor is now under contract until June 2001, and James Ayres, Moses Jerry and Daniel Tate until June 2000. Richard Clarke and Russell Lawes have had their contracts extended to the end of this season, while reserve midfielder has been offered another month.

It is reported that a transfer fee for Sean Dyche is likely to be around £200,000, double that previously thought likely. Bristol City have made it clear that they will not allow the loan to continue for more than two months.

Gerry Harrison's loan from Sunderland has been extended for a third month.

Lennie Lawrence is to open discussions with Chris Willmott's agent over a new contract.

Injuries

Liam George is now back in full training and played in the reserve match against Chelsea on February 15th.

Paul Showler is still a couple of weeks away from regaining fitness after suffering a stomach muscle strain.

The latest news on Julian James is that X-rays have shown that the broken bones in his leg have healed well, and he is now able to step up his training routine.

Andrew Fotiadis, after showing better first team form recently, incurred an ankle ligament injury in the Wrexham match. He is not expected back until late March.

Sean Evers has had an operation to a stomach muscle tear, and could be out of action for six weeks.

Phil Gray, Matthew Spring and Gerry Harrison have all missed matches with lesser injuries.

Other News

In a poll organised by the club shop, 79.5% voted for the club's home kit to be mainly orange in future, with 17% voting for white shirts and royal blue shorts. However, the choice of the coaching and playing staff was much less clear cut, so there is no certainty what colours the Town will be wearing next season.

Another French player has been on trial. Maxine Agueh, a 20 year-old goalkeeper, impressed after one week, and had his spell extended by a fortnight. However, his hopes of a deal were hit by Nathan Abbey's performance at Burnley.

Stuart Douglas served a one match ban on February 13th after his fifth booking of the season.

Gavin McGowan faced an FA disciplinary hearing after receiving his 11th booking of the season, and received a two match ban and a fine. The suspension was in effect for the matches against Wrexham and Bristol Rovers. If he receives three more bookings he will be required to face the FA again.

The outstanding league match at home to Chesterfield has now been rearranged for Tuesday April 27th.

A much publicised meeting of Sports Minister Tony Banks with Luton Town supporters, scheduled for February 16th, was cancelled at short notice as it was felt "inappropriate" due to the imminent High Court hearing on the KohlerDome planning application. Instead, the Minister met a small delegation of supporters representatives (including me, as fanzine editor) for what was described as a private, off-the-record meeting. Be assured that although the meeting was off the record, you really didn't miss anything, as the minister spoke about his views on football and the part Government can play in football.

Another triallist has been Andy Turner, a left sided midfielder formerly with Spurs and Portsmouth.

Gary Doherty will be suspended for the Blackpool match. He will also miss the matches against Walsall and Fulham after being called up for the Republic of Ireland under-18 squad. The FA of Ireland have invoked FIFA's 'five day rule' to ensure Doherty's availability.

It is understood that David Kohler has had two unsatisfactory offers for his shareholding since tendering his resignation. Mr Kohler is thought to want between one and two million pounds for the shares.

Match Reports

30/01/99 AFC BOURNEMOUTH H 2-2

Att: 5,426

Ref: Kevin Lynch, Kirk Hammerton, Yorkshire.

Team: Davis, Harrison (White 79), McGowan, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Evers, McLaren, Douglas (Zahana-Oni 74), Doherty, McKinnon. Unused sub: Scarlett.

The game opened with Ray McKinnon, returning from injury, scoring at Kenilworth Road for the first time when he volleyed home Gerry Harrison's cross after only 5 minutes. Eight minutes into the second half Gary Doherty poked the ball home in a goalmouth scramble to give the Town a 2-0 lead. Bournemouth pulled one back after 62 minutes through Steve Robinson and equalised six minutes later when Jamie Vincent's 20 yard free kick was deflected off Gavin McGowan to beat Davis, who had given away the free kick by tripping Mark Stein.

Booked: Douglas, McGowan and McKinnon, all for fouls and Bournemouth's O'Neill and Young, also for fouls.

League position: 14th.

06/02/99 BURNLEY A 1-2

Att: 10,285 (inc 406 from Luton)

Ref: Peter Walton, Winwick.

Team: Abbey, Harrison, McGowan (White 88), Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Evers, McLaren, Douglas (Doherty 72), Fotiadis, McKinnon (Alexander 77).

A good performance by the Town side, who made several early chances before Burnley opened the scoring through Micky Mellon after 28 minutes, when his 30-yard strike gave debutant keeper Nathan Abbey no chance. The equaliser came five minutes later when Mellon lost possession on the edge of his own penalty area and Andrew Fotiadis took it on and side footed past Crichton into the Burnley goal. Burnley were reduced to ten men when Neil Moore's foul on Stuart Douglas earned him a second yellow card, but this seemed to be the cue for Hatters to drop a gear. However, the home side started pushing for a second goal late in the game and left gaps, Fotiadis and Spring exchanged passes, and the latter fed Doherty in space and he ran on to emphatically fire the ball into the far top corner of the goal on 87 minutes. Nathan Abbey made the points secure with two brilliant late saves from Cooke and Swan.

Booked: Ray McKinnon for a foul, and Burnley's Neil Moore (foul on Douglas), Graham Branch (dissent) and Micky Mellon (foul).

Sent-off: Burnley's Neil Moore, for a second bookable offence — another foul on Douglas

League position: 12th.

13/02/99 WREXHAM H 1-2

Att: 4,759

Ref: Alan Wiley, Burntwood, Staffs.

Team: Davis, Harrison (White 74), Alexander, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Evers, McLaren, Fotiadis (Gray 25), Doherty, McKinnon (Cox 66).

A dreadful first half in a match lacking atmosphere. The second was better, with Gary Doherty opening the scoring after 52 minutes with a very good solo effort. He won a battle for the ball with a Wrexham defender and, from close to the goal line, fired home from an acute angle. Shortly after this he hit the underside of the crossbar, but this seemed to awake Wrexham who then hit back. Jake Edwards scored with a good solo effort on 52 minutes and then headed across goal for Carl Griffiths to hit the winner 10 minutes later. Sadly, for the remainder of the

match Town tried to pull level but never looked like succeeding.

Booked: Gary Doherty for a foul. Spink, Whitley and Brammer were booked for Wrexham.

League position: 13th.

20/02/99 BRISTOL ROVERS A 0-1

Att: 6,361

Ref: George Cain, Bootle.

Team: Davis, Alexander, White, McIndoe (Kandol 77), Dyche, Johnson, Scarlett (Zahana-Oni 74), McLaren, Douglas, Doherty, McKinnon. Unused sub: Fraser.

The Town fielded a very young side, and paid the price for it. The scoreline was a reasonable reflection of the match with the Town side creating few chances in the whole 90 minutes. The only goal of the game came from a free-kick, taken by player manager Ian Holloway and converted by captain Andy Tillson, who was given an excessive amount of space by some very poor defending.

Booked: Andre Scarlett.

League position: 13th.

23/02/99 NOTTS COUNTY H 0-1

Att: 4,021

Ref: Rob Styles, Waterlooville.

Team: Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Dyche, Johnson White h/t), Cox (Scarlett), McLaren, Douglas (Gray 67), Doherty, McKinnon.

A truly dire performance by the Town team in what Lennie Lawrence had built up as the most important match of the season. The first period had very little worth mentioning, save for a deflected shot by Spring, and prospects for the second period did not look any better when Marvin Johnson failed to reappear. Five minutes into the half Cox had a shot which hit the post, but on 72 minutes a corner for the visitors was flicked on by Beadle for on loan debutant Rapley to bundle in at the far post. Several Town players made strong protests about the goal, but it was not clear whether they were appealing for an offside decision or handball (TV replays make this no clearer). For the remaining period Town chased the game but looked ineffective for the most part, although Scarlett did net after Gray's vicious shot had rattled off both posts, only to find it disallowed for offside.

League position: 13th.

27/02/99 BLACKPOOL H 1-0

Att: 4,646

Ref: Roger Furnandiz, Doncaster.

Team: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring (McGowan 75), Willmott, White, Harrison (McLaren 90), McKinnon, Douglas, Gray, George (Cox 83).

A first half in which the Town made plenty of chances but were unable to convert any, often because of the heroics of Blackpool keeper Steve Banks. Nine minutes into the second half, Blackpool were passing the ball around when Stuart Douglas pounced to win possession at the halfway line, and after a fine solo run held off defenders to slot the ball home from an angle. Blackpool only offered any threat in the last ten minutes when they were pushing for an equaliser.

There were no bookings.

League position: 12th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Mar	6	Walsall	A	Pay on the day. Seats only, £12 adults, £8 concessions.
Tue	Mar	9	FULHAM	H	
Sat	Mar	13	STOKE CITY	H	
Sat	Mar	20	Chesterfield	A	Pay on the day. Terrace £8.50 adults, £4 cons, limited seating £9.50 adults, £5 cons.
Sat	Mar	27	GILLINGHAM	H (11.30)	
Fri	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	No details yet.
Tue	Apr	6	YORK CITY	H	

Prices quoted above refer to adults (in the first instance) and "concessions", which should be taken to refer to those under 16 and over 65. This is not a hard and fast rule, but is how it is generally stated by the LTFC ticket office.

Reserves & Youth

<u>Reserves</u>				<u>Youth</u>			
Wed	Mar	3	Biggleswade Town (BPC) A (7.30)	Sat	Mar	6	Southend United A
Wed	Mar	10	Queen's Park Rangers A	Sat	Mar	13	Swindon Town H
Wed	Mar	17	Wycombe Wanderers H	Sat	Mar	20	Bristol Rovers A
Wed	Apr	7	Oxford United H	Sat	Mar	27	Reading A
				Sat	Apr	10	Oxford United H
				Sat	Apr	17	Gillingham A

Home reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road (KR). Home youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches.

Also, check with home club whether changes have been made to this information, as frequently happens at short notice.

Two days after the Bournemouth first team achieved a draw at Kenilworth Road, their reserve team came to Bedfordshire. This time the result was a 1-0 win for the Town side at Leighton Town FC, with Tresor Kandol scoring the goal. On Monday February 8th, Fulham secured a 3-2 home victory over the Hatters second string, who had Landry Zahana-Oni and Emerson Boyce on the score sheet. The 15th saw the second string go down to a 1-0 defeat by Chelsea at Kingstonian FC's ground, but the good news was that the match saw Liam George return to action. Also playing in the game were triallists Maxine Agueh and midfielder Andy Turner. A week later Barnet were the visitors to Leighton Town for a match which ended 1-1, with Liam George scoring the Town goal, before going off after 75 minutes.

For the youth team, the January 30th match at Gillingham was yet another victim of bad weather, this time due to a waterlogged pitch. On February 6th, the Hatters were knocked off the top spot in the South East Counties League when they were surprisingly beaten 3-1 at home by Leyton Orient, Clifford Akurang's goal being no more than a consolation. Town remained in second place seven days later when they secured a 1-1 draw on their trip to Portsmouth, with Akurang again on the scoresheet. There was a return to winning ways on 20th when Darren Howe and Dwayne Clarke were on target in the 2-1 home victory over Cambridge but another defeat followed on 27th when Colchester United were 2-0 victors in Essex.

New Stadium

So, no High Court hearing in January..... but it finally took place on Wednesday 16th February. David Kohler had petitioned the High Court a week earlier to expedite the case, and been given this date. The hearing was adjourned with the judge saying that he would consider the matter over the weekend and deliver his verdict on Monday 22nd.

Interestingly, it was reported that the DETR, in opposing the appeal, stated that they would also oppose any application for a stadium of a smaller capacity on the same site, again because of the cancellation of the M1 widening.

When Justice Dyson delivered his verdict on the Monday, refusing the appeal, he is reported as saying that the KohlerDome Corporation were open to submit a more detailed application for the smaller capacity stadium.

Luton Borough Council leader has also recommended that the club should submit a new application, and has been joined in this by Margaret Moran MP. It is not, however, exactly clear what type of stadium they are talking about. More on this in due course.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2	Colchester United	A	2-2
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	H	0-3
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	3-1
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	1-2
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	0-4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	2-2
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1	Feb	6	Burnley	A	2-1
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0		13	WREXHAM	H	1-2
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		20	Bristol Rovers	A	0-1
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		27	BLACKPOOL	H	1-0
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1	Mar	6	Walsall	A	
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)		9	FULHAM	H	
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1		20	Chesterfield	A	
	10	York City	A	3-3		23	READING	H	
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		27	GILLINGHAM	H	(11.30)
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		6	YORK CITY	H	
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0		10	Northampton Town	A	
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	1-3		14	Manchester City	A	
	10	BARNSELEY (WC 4)	H	1-0		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2		24	Notts County	A	
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2		27	CHESTERFIELD	H	
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-1	May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A	0-3		8	Millwall	A	
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H	1-2					
	12	Macclesfield	A	2-2					
	19	MILLWALL	H	1-2					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-1					

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 47 — March 1999
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
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HEADLINE NEWS

On Tuesday 23rd March, Luton Town Football Club was placed in the hands of receivers with debts in the region of £3 million, on the instruction of director and major creditor Cliff Bassett. As a result, the club is now up for sale. Although insolvent, there is no immediate danger of the club being placed in liquidation and the sale of Sean Evers (see below) has raised enough money to enable the club to operate until the end of the summer. David Kohler was made redundant from his position of Managing Director two days later.

Transfers/Contracts

Sean Dyche returned to Bristol City after being injured for the last 3 matches of his (first) loan spell. The Town board blocked an extension for financial reasons. He was unlikely to be fit for first team football for a further two weeks.

Darren Howe has been told that he will not be offered professional terms when his second YTS year end in the summer. He has, however, had a trial with Cambridge United. Crystal Palace winger Andy Turner has returned to Selhurst Park after a two match trial.

Transfer deadline day was a busy one at LTFC. Graham Alexander completed a move to Preston North End for a fee of £50,000, rejecting a possible move to Burnley, and Sean Evers was sold to Reading for £500,000 plus "add-ons". Gerry Harrison also left, his loan spell being terminated a couple of days early, and he joined Hull City on loan from Sunderland. Coming in were Sean Dyche, for his second loan spell from Bristol City and Bristol City club-mate Tony Thorpe, both for one month spells. A number of offers were understood to have been received for other players, but rejected.

Injuries

Paul Showler could be back in action by Easter, but Andrew Fotiadis should be the first of the injured duo to return.

Other News

Eight months after it was first mentioned in the *Luton News* and HM, LTFC have finally admitted that the Good Friday match at Oldham will kick-off at 3.30, a time fixed after discussions with the local police force.

Alan White missed the trip to Chesterfield through suspension after collecting a fifth booking against Walsall, and the Reading match after being sent-off against Fulham.

Gary Doherty scored for and captained the Republic of Ireland under-18s in their 2-1 win over Northern Ireland on March 9th. Doherty has now been called up for the Republic's under-20 World Cup squad, and will be unavailable from the end of March to the end of April while competing in the tournament in Nigeria. He is joined in that squad by Liam George.

French goalkeeper Maxime Agueh is still at Kenilworth Road. Marvin Johnson received his fifth booking against Gillingham and will now serve a one match ban.

Match Reports

06/03/99 WALSALL

A 0-1

Att: 4,508 (inc 821 from Luton)

Ref: Mark Cowburn, Blackpool.

Team: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, White, Johnson, Harrison (McLaren 76), McKinnon, Douglas, Gray, George (McGowan 67). Unused sub: Willmott.

Walsall achieved their third victory of the season against the Town, thanks to a second half goal from Darren Wrack. The match was played in difficult conditions, but Luton hardly produced any threat to the home side. Spring missed an easy chance after only five minutes and wasted a chance to equalise with only five minutes remaining. In between, the Town side played reasonably well, but to little effect. The 69th minute winner came when Dean Keates rode two challenges, passed to Colin Cramb who put a good ball inside Thomas for Wrack to run on to and score.

Booked: Phil Gray and Alan White, both for fouls, along with Chris Marsh of Walsall, for a foul on Liam George.

League position: 13th

09/03/99 FULHAM

H 0-4

Att: 7,424

Ref: Michael Dean, Wirral.

Team: Davis, Alexander, Thomas (McGowan 72), Spring, White, Johnson, Harrison, McKinnon, Douglas (Cox 63), Gray, George (McLaren 63).

The game started as a fairly even contest, and promised an excitement, but White was sent off for a foul on Hayles after 32 minutes, and the complexion of the game altered. The resulting penalty was saved, but three minutes later Geoff Horsfield mazily dribbled through the defence before scoring at the near post. Davis made an excellent save from Hayward to prevent Fulham increasing the lead before half time. Fulham's passing game wore down the Town side until, a minute after a double Luton substitution, Paul Trollope drove the ball into the bottom corner from Horsfield's flick-on. Fulham upped the pace, and Horsfield swept the ball into the top corner from Finnan's cross on 73 minutes and 12 minutes later Hayles received the ball in his own half and outpaced the Hatters back line before firing home.

Sent-off: White, professional foul.

League position: 13th.

13/03/99 STOKES CITY H 1-2
 Att: 5,221
 Ref: Andy D'Urso, Billericay, Essex.
 Team: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, White (Willmott 79), Johnson, Harrison (McLaren 84), McKinnon, Douglas, Gray, George (Doherty 57).
 The Town were 2-0 down by half time after two mistakes by Mitchell Thomas helped to provide the visitor's goal. Thomas tripped Chris Short in the 17th minute and Graham Kavanagh converted the resulting penalty. Only 7 minutes later, Thomas' poorly headed clearance fell to the feet of the grateful Kavanagh who struck a 15 yard volley that squeezed under Kelvin Davis' body. An excellent save by Davis, from Oldfield, on the stroke of half time kept the score down, but it was not to be enough. Although Graham Alexander converted another penalty two minutes into the second half, after a handling offence, stoke remained the better side. Alan White did net the ball, but the goal was ruled out for a push on the visiting keeper by Thomas.
 Booked: Mitchell Thomas and Alan White, both for fouls, along with Stoke's Short, Robinson and Woods.
 League position: 14th

20/03/99 CHESTERFIELD A 1-3
 Att: 3,921 (inc 490 from Luton)
 Ref: Roy Pearson, Peterlee, Co Durham.
 Team: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, Willmott, Johnson, Harrison (Doherty 66), McKinnon (McLaren 75), Douglas (George 86), Gray, McGowan.
 The first half was a dire affair between two sides who seemed to lack penetration, and at the interval there was nothing unfair about the goalless score line. Chesterfield were quicker to change, and went ahead on 52 minutes when sub Jason Lee pulled the ball into the path of Steve Wilkinson who struck it beautifully into the corner of the net from the edge of the area. The second came from a move starting with a Luton corner. The ball was played back to McGowan who lost it in his own half to Wilkinson, one of four attackers taking on Luton's back three. Wilkinson took the ball on and struck a cracker past Davis. The third home goal, on 66 minutes, was hit by David Reeves, following a run and shot after being fed the ball by Wilkinson. Gray pulled a goal back on 82 minutes when Doherty took advantage of a slip by Beaumont and Gray struck home from close range. Gray almost laid on a second goal for Douglas, but the score line failed to reflect the game, as two remarkable misses by Lee helped the score look respectable.
 Booked: Mitchell Thomas for a foul, and Chesterfield's Tom Curtis for a foul on Stuart Douglas.
 League position: 14th.

23/03/99 READING H 1-1
 Att: 5,572
 Ref: Lee Cable, Woking.
 Team: Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Willmott, Johnson, Harrison (McIndoe 85), McLaren, Douglas (Zahana-Oni 89), Gray, Doherty (Thomas 90).
 Town comprehensively outplayed Reading for the first half with the 4-3-3 formation causing Reading plenty of problems. Graham Alexander placed his sixth minute penalty wide, the kick being awarded after Doherty had been brought down. The lead was taken in the 13th minute, when Matthew Spring slid in to net the ball from close range after Harrison and Douglas had put the Reading goal under pressure. Reading escaped several close calls, but came back into the game late in the second half and equalised after 84 minutes when Tony Barras headed home a cross from Ray Houghton after Harrison had lost possession.
 Sent-off: Paul McLaren for two bookable offences, after 7 minutes for a foul and 90 minutes for time wasting.
 Booked: McGowan for time wasting, and Reading's Chris Casper for a foul on Phil Gray.
 League position: 14th.

27/03/99 GILLINGHAM H 1-0
 Att: 6,705
 Ref: Steve Baines, Chesterfield.
 Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Gray, McLaren, Douglas, Thorpe (White 81). Unused subs: Kandol and Boyce.
 Another new formation for the Town, this time 5-2-3 (or is it 3-4-3?), and another fairly good performance. David was outstanding, and McGowan provided good attacking power down the right wing. It was, however, and end to end game and the Town's two in midfield was sometimes overrun and outnumbered. The only goal came 3 minutes before half time when a Matthew Spring corner was bundled in. Dyche was credited with the goal, but it looked to have gone in off the goalkeeper. Gillingham tried to get back into the game in the second half, but failed to convert their threat into chances and when they finally did, Davis pulled off a brilliant save to keep the ball out.
 League position: 13th.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Fri	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A (3.30)	Pay on the day. Seats only, £12 adults, £5 concessions.
Tue	Apr	6	YORK CITY	H	
Sat	Apr	10	Northampton Town	A	All ticket. Seats only, £10.50 adults, £7.50 concessions.
Wed	Apr	14	Manchester City	A	All ticket. Seats only, £10 adults, £7 concessions.
Sat	Apr	17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
Sat	Apr	24	Notts County	A	Pay on the day. Seats only, £11 adults, £6 concessions.
Tue	Apr	27	CHESTERFIELD	H	
Sat	May	1	MACCLESFIELD TN	H	
Sat	May	8	Milwall	A	No details yet.

Ticket office Easter opening hours: Good Friday and Easter Sunday: closed. Saturday 10 am to 1 pm, Monday 10 am to 2 pm.

Prices quoted above refer to adults (in the first instance) and "concessions", which should be taken to refer to those under 16 and over 65. This is not a hard and fast rule, but is how it is generally stated by the LTFC ticket office.

Reserves & Youth

<u>Reserves</u>					<u>Youth</u>				
Mon	Mar	29	Arsenal	A (Boreham)	Sat	Apr	10	Oxford United	H
Wed	Apr	7	Oxford United	H	Sat	Apr	17	Gillingham	A
Thu	Apr	15	Northampton Town	A					
Wed	Apr	21	Stotfold	Arlesey BPC					
Wed	May	5	Peterborough United	H					
TBA			West Ham United	A					

Home reserve matches played at Kenilworth Road (KR). Home youth matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, (behind Stockwood Park), kick-off 11 am. Contact home clubs for details/venue of away matches.

Also, check with home club whether changes have been made to this information, as frequently happens at short notice.

The reserve side advanced to the final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup when they won 2-1 at Biggleswade Town in the semi-final on March 3rd. Michael McIndoe scored in the first half and James Ayres hit a late winner after the home side had equalised. The final will be against Stotfold on April 27th, and will be played at Lamb Meadow, home of Arlesey Town. March 10th saw Tresor Kandol score the only Town goal as they went down 3-1 at Queen's Park Rangers. A week later Kandol was again on the scoresheet, accompanied by Michael McIndoe and Stuart Fraser, as Wycombe Wanderers were beaten 3-1 at Kenilworth Road.

Tresor Kandol netted in the juniors 1-0 win at Southend on March 6th. A week later, at home to Swindon a squad including three trialists ran out deserved 3-0 winners, with Clifford Akurang scoring twice and being joined on the scoresheet by Joe Harrington. On March 20th, a 0-0 draw resulted from the long trip to Bristol Rovers. The following week, a 1-0 win away to Reading was secured and left the Town top of the table once more, needing to win only one of their last two games to be champions for the third year in a row.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

As a result of the club going into liquidation, a meeting of representatives of the various supporters groups ha agreed to form a group with a view to staging a buy-out of the club. FLAG (Fans of Luton Action Group) has in mind to form a partnership with investors to complete a purchase based on the model of AFC Bournemouth. This would see a community/supporters trust own 51% of the shareholding, with investors holding the balance, to ensure that the club could never again be contolled by a single individual. As this will depend very heavily on the support of fans, expect to hear more soon. The first leaflet handed out by FLAG is enclosed.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2	Colchester United	A	2-2
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	H	0-3
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	3-1
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	1-2
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	0-4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	2-2
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1	Feb	6	Burnley	A	2-1
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0		13	WREXHAM	H	1-2
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		20	Bristol Rovers	A	0-1
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		27	BLACKPOOL	H	1-0
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1	Mar	6	Walsall	A	0-1
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)		9	FULHAM	H	0-4
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	1-2
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1		20	Chesterfield	A	1-3
	10	York City	A	3-3		23	READING	H	1-1
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		27	GILLINGHAM	H	1-0
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	(3.30)
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		6	YORK CITY	H	
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0		10	Northampton Town	A	
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	1-3		14	Manchester City	A	
	10	BARNSELY (WC 4)	H	1-0		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2		24	Notts County	A	
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2		27	CHESTERFIELD	H	
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-1	May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A	0-3		8	Millwall	A	
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H	1-2					
	12	Macclesfield	A	2-2					
	19	MILLWALL	H	1-2					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-1					

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 48 — April 1999
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
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HEADLINE NEWS

The official receiver has continued to control the club, and attempt to sell the business. The club was advertised for sale in the Financial Times, and no further expressions of interest were being taken after April 30th. Although there have been suggestions in some sources that the club would be sold by the end of the season, this is likely to be the extended version of the season which includes play-offs.

Transfers/Contracts

No news on this subject at present.

Injuries

Paul McLaren rejoined the list when he suffered cartilage and ligament damage against Oldham. He has had an operation, but should be fit for pre-season training.

Andre Scarlett is undergoing treatment after also suffering medial ligament damage.

Julian James has now had the pin removed in the final operation on his injured leg, and it is hoped he will be back to full training speed by late summer.

Paul Showler is to have a scan on his knee to determine what needs to be done to clear up his latest injury.

Other News

Gavin McGowan received a four match ban after being sent-off at Oldham, and will be making a second appearance before the FA after receiving another booking in the same match.

The ten surviving members of the 1959 FA Cup Final side were presented to the crowd during half time of the Macclesfield match.

The 1999/2000 season, which opens on August 7th, sees the return of squad numbers and names on shirts to the Nationwide League. Clubs will also be using a choice of three from five substitutes.

Season ticket prices for 1999/2000 have not yet been announced, as the receiver does not wish to commit the prospective new owners of the club to prices yet.

Match Reports

27/03/99 GILLINGHAM H 1-0

Att: 6,705

Ref: Steve Baines, Chesterfield.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Gray, McLaren, Douglas, Thorpe (White 80), McGowan.
Unused subs: Boyce, Kandol.

With the receivers having moved in to Kenilworth Road there was a much better atmosphere for this match than had been the case recently. Gillingham put the Town under plenty of pressure and made four excellent saves in the first half hour to keep the Gills at bay. Luton's 4-3-3 formation looked a little fragile in midfield but also offered a lot of options in attack. The only goal of the game came from a Matthew Spring corner in the 42nd minute, when the Gills keeper got into a tangle with his defence and failed to collect the ball. It ended in the net, with Sean Dyche claiming the goal, although it was far from clear whose touch put it there. During the second half Gillingham pushed hard for an equaliser, but when they did create a good chance the Town defence and Davis were equal to it.

Booked: No-one.

League position: 13th.

02/06/99 OLDHAM ATHLETIC A 1-1

Att: 4,948 (497 from Luton)

Ref: Paul Danson, Leicester.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Gray, McLaren (McIndoe 10), Douglas (White 76), Thorpe (Fotiadis 72), McGowan.

A poor display of refereeing went a long way to determine the result of this match, with Paul Danson's eyes being rather selective about what they saw. Enough for 6 yellow cards and a red, but not sufficient to award two or three penalties that were claimed. Town took the lead on 5 minutes when Phil Gray was on hand to put the ball away after Thomas had headed back Spring's far post right wing cross. Six minutes later Thorpe was brought down and it looked like a penalty for Luton, but the ref waved play on, and this seemed to revive Oldham. Even so, it took them until the 61st minute to equalise, when Shaun Garnett, with a header, was the first to a long throw from Andrew Holt. Town came close to grabbing a winner, but it was not to be, in spite of Thomas and Gray both hitting the crossbar.

Sent-off: Gavin McGowan, in the 90th minute for violent conduct.

Booked: Tony Thorpe for time wasting, Matthew Spring and Gavin McGowan for fouls. Oldham's Mardon, Garnett and Allott were all booked for fouls.

06/06/99 YORK CITY H 2-1

Att: 4,667

Ref: Chris Foy, St Helens.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Gray, McIndoe, Douglas, Fotiadis (Kandol 68), McGowan. Unused subs: White, Scarlett.

York opened the scoring with a definite goal of the season contender when Player/manager Neil Thompson hit a superb free kick from 30 yards into the top corner, an effort which gave Davis no chance. Luton were able to battle back and early in the second half Matthew Spring saw York keeper Bobby Mimms off his line and placed a delightful chip into the net. As Town sought the win, there were several chances, with some at the other end, but it was not until the last minute when Stuart Douglas bravely dived in to net a last minute winner.

Booked: Only Alan Poulton of York, for a foul on Spring.

League position: 12th.

10/04/99 NORTHAMPTON TN A 0-1

Att: 6,856 (1,200 from Luton)

Ref: Trevor Jones, Cumbria.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, White, Kandol (Zahana-Oni 73), Fotiadis, Douglas, McIndoe, McGowan. Unused subs: Fraser, Boyce.

The only highlight of the first half was the 33rd minute goal by Carlo Corrazin, whose attempted diagonal cross towards the far post sailed into the net when Davis went to save an attempted header at the ball by Hunt. The second half was a great improvement, and the Town had the home side under a lot of pressure but were unable to convert the pressure into goals. Zahana-Oni had the best chance, but home keeper Billy Turley denied him in a one on one.

Booked: No-one.

League position: 12th.

17/04/99 MANCHESTER CITY A 0-2

Att: 26,130 (645 from Luton)

Ref: Phil Richards, Merseyside.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Kandol (Thorpe 67), Zahana-Oni (Fraser 73), Douglas, McIndoe, McGowan. Unused sub: White.

If the game plan was to hold City for the the first half hour, it failed miserably as the Town were 2-0 down within 10 minutes of the start. Paul Dickov opened the scoring after just 4 minutes when he collected a flick on from Shaun Goater and was left free by the defence who thought he was offside. Five minutes later Tony Vaughan headed home from a corner which had been inadvertently been headed on to him by Tresor Kandol. Although the Town improved after this City had far the better of the game, and Town did not have a serious shot until Matthew Spring's 20 yard effort was tipped over in the 82nd minute.

There were no bookings.

League position:

17/04/99 LINCOLN CITY H 0-1

Att: 5,122

Ref: Phillip Dowd, Stoke.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Thorpe, Zahana-Oni (Doherty h/t), Douglas, McIndoe, Boyce (Fraser 66). Unused sub: White.

A dismal game with an almost complete lack of entertainment.

The 61st minute goal was a Lee Thorpe shot from the edge of the area after Tony Battersby got down the left wing and pulled the ball back from the by line.

Booked: No Luton players, but Jason Barnett of Lincoln for a foul and team mate Lee Philpott for time wasting.

League position: 14th

24/04/99 NOTTS COUNTY A 2-1

Att: 5,583 (inc 945 from Luton)

Ref: David Laws, Whitley Bay.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, White, Johnson, Thorpe (Doherty 83), McKinnon, Douglas (Fotiadis 89), McIndoe, Fraser. Unused sub: Abbey.

A match in which County were big, strong and direct, but second best in terms of class. The Town opener was scored by Tony Thorpe on 32 minutes, his shot from just inside the box being deflected past the home keeper. County scrambled an equaliser on 55 minutes, Matt Redmile knocking the ball home after a scramble at the far post. Ten minutes later Thorpe scored a goal of sheer class to wrap up the game, with a classic curled drive across and beyond the goalkeeper, after being set up by Stuart Douglas' pass. County had enough pressure after that to think they might nick an equaliser, but were denied by good defence and poor finishing.

Booked: No-one.

League position: 12th

27/04/99 CHESTERFIELD H 1-0

Att: 4,287

Ref: Matt Messias, York.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, White, Johnson, Thorpe, McKinnon, Douglas (Fotiadis 83), McIndoe, Fraser. Unused subs: Doherty, George.

A match in which Chesterfield were solid in defence but unadventurous, and, perhaps predictably, failed to make the game much of a spectacle. The only goal of the game came from Tony Thorpe on 63 minutes, when he netted from close range after Stuart Douglas' effort from Matthew Spring's cross had been parried by the keeper.

Booked: Stuart Fraser for a foul.

League position: 12th

01/05/99 MACCLESFIELD H 1-2

Att: 5,738

Ref: Alan Butler, Sutton-in -Ashfield, Notts.

Team: Davis, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, White, Johnson, Thorpe, McKinnon (Fotiadis 56), Douglas (Doherty 56), McIndoe, Fraser (George 71).

Town made a sparkling start to the match and, if chances had been taken, could have had two or three early goals. Sadly, they were not, and Macclesfield came back into the match with a goal on 26 minutes by Neil Sorvel, who shot home from the edge of the penalty area after the Town defence failed to clear a loose ball. Returnee Simon Davies added the second ten minutes later with a good solo effort.

Luton did not seriously threaten until the late stages of the second half, and Gary Doherty's 89th minute conversion of Fotiadis' cross was too little too late.

Booked: Matthew Spring, for a wild late lunge, and Macc's Kieron Durkan.

League position: 12th.

Forthcoming Fixture

Sat May 8 Millwall

A

Pay on the day. Seats only, £11 adults, £6 concessions.

Reserves & Youth

Reserves

Wed	May 5	Peterborough United	H
TBA		West Ham United	A
TBA		Northampton Town	A

The reserves lost to Arsenal on Monday 29th March, Michael McIndoe scoring the only Luton goal in a 3-1 defeat at Boreham Wood FC. They bounced back after the Easter break by beating Oxford United 4-0 at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday 7th April, with Andre Scarlett, Clifford Akurang, Jimmy Cox and Landry Zahana-Oni scoring the goals. The next match was the final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup at Arlesey on April 21st, but Stotfold were too good for the very young Luton side and won by a 2-1 margin. The Town goal was a cracking free kick from Matthew Taylor.

The youth side visited Bognor Regis on 30th March for a 2nd round Southern Junior Floodlit Cup tie against Brighton & Hove Albion. With goals from Kandol and Taylor they ran out 2-1 winners. On April 10th, Oxford United visited Luton and lost 2-1, Jude Stirling and Anthony Hudson being the goalscorers. Three days later, Wolverhampton Wanderers were at Kenilworth Road for the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup semi-final, and held the Town youngsters to a 0-0 draw. On Saturday 17th, a trip to Gillingham saw the Town secure the season's 20th win, and third successive South East Counties League championship. The win was by a margin of 7-1, and saw Kandol score twice, one a penalty, as did Clifford Akurang, with Ryan Moran, James Ayres and trialist Shaun Carr netting one each. The season ended in disappointment at Molineux, when Wolves were 3-2 winners in the cup replay, despite goals from Kandol and Taylor.

There will be major changes to the shape of reserve and youth team football next season. The likely shape of reserve team football is not yet known, but Premiership sides are taking their reserve team into a new Premiership reserve league, which will deplete the membership of the Combination, which this season had 29 teams playing each other once. However, the changes could mean the competition losing between 5 and 9 teams, so the reserve season could feature as many as 46 matches next year. In youth football, the South East Counties League will be no more, being replaced by a new FA Youth Alliance next season. Nothing further is known of the shape of this competition as yet.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2	Colchester United	A	2-2
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	H	0-3
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	3-1
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	1-2
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	0-4
	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0		30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	2-2
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1	Feb	6	Burnley	A	2-1
Sep	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0		13	WREXHAM	H	1-2
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		20	Bristol Rovers	A	0-1
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1
	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2		27	BLACKPOOL	H	1-0
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1	Mar	6	Walsall	A	0-1
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)		9	FULHAM	H	0-4
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	1-2
Oct	3	Fulham	A	3-1		20	Chesterfield	A	1-3
	10	York City	A	3-3		23	READING	H	1-1
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		27	GILLINGHAM	H	1-0
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0	Apr	2	Oldham Athletic	A	1-1
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		6	YORK CITY	H	2-1
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0		10	Northampton Town	A	0-1
Nov	7	Stoke City	A	1-3		14	Manchester City	A	0-3
	10	BARNSELY (WC 4)	H	1-0		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	0-1
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2		24	Notts County	A	2-1
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2		27	CHESTERFIELD	H	1-0
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-1	May	1	MACCLESFIELD	H	1-2
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A	0-3		8	Millwall	A	
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H	1-2					
	12	Macclesfield	A	2-2					
	19	MILLWALL	H	1-2					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-1					

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.



Fans of Luton Action Group

In the last issue of HM, you were advised of the formation of FLAG (Fans of Luton Action Group). Since then a public meeting has taken place, on April 18th, attracting an encouraging attendance of around 2,000 and raising over £10,000 on the night towards the FLAG fighting fund.

The group has been involved in a series of meetings with the receiver and others, as well as further fundraising, and is making encouraging progress.

There are believed to be others interested in buying the club, but very little has been revealed. There have been rumours that Victor Green, currently chairman of Stevenage Borough, is amongst them.

FLAG is aiming to buy the club, in partnership with investors, and turn it into a community club, with the fans (through a trust) owning a controlling interest. This would protect the future of the club, ensuring that it could never again be owned by a single individual, and ensure that it would be more accountable to the genuine supporter. It would also be more involved with the community locally, and more responsive to their needs. It is a formula which has worked well at Bournemouth, which became a community club about two years ago.

To achieve this aim, fundraising continues. Much more money is required, and donations will be more than welcome. These can be sent by post (cheques payable to FLAG) to: FLAG Appeal, c/o The Luton News, 60 Church Street, Luton, LU1 3QJ. Alternatively, donations can be paid directly into the FLAG bank account at any branch of Nat West, quoting sort code 60-13-28, account number 78503299 and account name 'FLAG'.

More information about the activities of FLAG can be found on the internet at www.whosh.net or may be found by postal request to the above address. Membership of FLAG is available at £10. Members will receive a regular newsletter

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 49 — May 1999
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
(01582) 573485

HEADLINE NEWS

The latest on the receivership situation is that the Football League have set a deadline for matters to be resolved. In a letter to Luton Town, and other troubled clubs Crystal Palace, Portsmouth and Chester City, the League have said that the clubs must be out of receivership or administration by July 31 or they will not be allowed to start the new season. Whilst there are said to be a number of parties interested in buying the club, none have shown their hand other than FLAG, whose initial bid was rejected by the receiver. FLAG continues to work on putting together a consortium to make an acceptable bid, and is in discussion with a number of parties.

Transfers/Contracts

Paul Showler, Jimmy Cox and Julian James have been released. They are joined by first year pros Russell Lawes and Richard Clarke. James may be offered a three month deal when the receivership of the club is resolved.

Andrew Fotiadis and Mitchell Thomas have been offered new deals, but Thomas is having talks with Burnley. Fotiadis, meanwhile, wants to consider his situation over the summer before making a decision.

Chris Willmott has been offered a new contract but looks certain to leave for a Premiership club, with both Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon said to be interested in signing him. If no fee were agreed the matter would go to a tribunal.

Nathan Abbey has signed a three year contract with Belgian club Germinal Beerschot Antwerp. No fee was involved as Abbey was entitled to move abroad under the Bosman ruling.

Ray McKinnon has been training with relegated French club Toulouse with a view to a move.

Injuries

Kelvin Davis missed the final match of the season with a dead leg.

Other News

One of the most noticeable changes at Kenilworth Road during the close season will be the relocation of the dug-outs. They needed to be extended due to the increase in the number of substitutes next season, but instead new ones are being constructed in front of the executive boxes opposite the main stand.

A number of pre-season friendlies have been arranged. First team matches will be: Wed 21 July: St Albans City (a), Fri 23 July: Barnet (a), Mon 26 July: Crystal Palace (h), Wed 28 July: Northampton (a), Sat 31 July: Queens Park Rangers (h), Mon 2 Aug: Bromley (a). Reserve team matches have been arranged at Arlesey (Tues 20 July), Baldock (Sat 24 July), Boreham Wood (Tues 27 July) and Tonbridge Angels (Weds 4 Aug).

Match Reports

08/05/99 **MILLWALL** A 1 - 0

Att: 8,494.

Ref: P. Robinson, Hull.

Team: Abbey, Willmott, Thomas, Spring, White, Johnson, Thorpe (Fotiadis 57), Gray (Doherty 78), Douglas (George 83), McIndoe, Fraser.

In the final match of the season, Town looked to attack and secure the victory, and were rewarded after 13 minutes when

Tony Thorpe received Spring's short free kick just inside the penalty area, turned and fired past Ben Roberts in the Millwall goal. Although there were few other clear cut chances at either end, the Town had the better of the match and deserved their win, to beat last season's points tally.

Booked: No bookings.

Final League position: 12th.

Reserves & Youth

The reserves concluded their home season on May 5th with the visit of Peterborough United. The Town side were 4-2 winners, with Andrew Fotiadis and Liam George scoring two apiece. The away game against Northampton Town was played on Monday 10th May, but was abandoned due to heavy rain with the score at 0-0. The match will not be replayed. The final match of the season for any Town team was on Wednesday 12th May when the reserves visited Upton Park for the outstanding fixture with West Ham, and left with a 2-1 win under their belts. James Ayres and Tresor Kandol scored the goals.

The 1999/2000 Combination fixture list will comprise the same number of fixtures as have been played in 1998/99, although there is likely to be a different format for the competition.

1998/99 Fixture List

Aug	8	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	Jan	2	Colchester United	A	2-2
	11	OXFORD UTD (WC 1/1)	H	2-3		5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	H	0-3
	15	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1		9	WYCOMBE WDRS	H	3-1
	18	Oxford United (WC 1/2)	A	3-1 (5-4)		16	Preston North End	A	1-2
	22	Reading	A	0-3		23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	0-4
Sep	29	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	2-0	Feb	30	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	2-2
	31	Wigan Athletic	A	3-1		6	Burnley	A	2-1
	5	BURNLEY	H	1-0		13	WREXHAM	H	1-2
	8	Wrexham	A	1-1		20	Bristol Rovers	A	0-1
	12	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	2-0		23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1
Oct	15	Ipswich Town (WC 2/1)	A	1-2	Mar	27	BLACKPOOL	H	1-0
	19	Blackpool	A	0-1		6	Walsall	A	0-1
	22	IPSWICH TOWN (WC 2/2)	H	4-2 (5-4)		9	FULHAM	H	0-4
	26	WALSALL	H	0-1		13	STOKE CITY	H	1-2
	3	Fulham	A	3-1		20	Chesterfield	A	1-3
Nov	10	York City	A	3-3	Apr	23	READING	H	1-1
	17	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	2-0		27	GILLINGHAM	H	1-0
	20	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	H	1-0		2	Oldham Athletic	A	1-1
	24	Gillingham	A	0-1		6	YORK CITY	H	2-1
	27	COVENTRY CITY (WC 3)	H	2-0		10	Northampton Town	A	0-1
Dec	7	Stoke City	A	1-3	May	14	Manchester City	A	0-3
	10	BARNSELY (WC 4)	H	1-0		17	LINCOLN CITY	H	0-1
	15	Boreham Wood (FAC 1)	A	3-2		24	Notts County	A	2-1
	21	Lincoln City	A	2-2		27	CHESTERFIELD	H	1-0
	28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-1		1	MACCLESFIELD	H	1-2
Dec	1	Sunderland (WC 5)	A	0-3	May	8	Millwall	A	1-0
	5	HULL CITY (FAC 2)	H	1-2					
	12	Macclesfield	A	2-2					
	19	MILLWALL	H	1-2					
	28	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-1					

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

Friends of FLAG

Would you like to be kept informed about current FLAG Issues and forthcoming events ?

Join Friends of **FLAG** and receive the following :-

- ❖ 10% Discount on FLAG merchandise
- ❖ Regular newsletters
- ❖ Diary updates
- ❖ Membership cards
- ❖ Pin badges

Membership fee £10.00

Name.....

Address

.....

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Postcode

Telephone



FLAG has continued to progress its bid since the last issue of HM and has now issued a Briefing Paper to prospective investors. A Grand Dinner and Auction was held on May 23rd, and a total of almost £5,000 was raised. In the auction, the top selling item was, perhaps surprisingly, a day training with the Luton Town first team squad, which went for £500. Close behind was a signed and framed Michael Owen Liverpool shirt, which realised £470. Full details of this event, and others, are in the latest FLAG newsletter.

Latest news is the launch of the Friends of FLAG membership scheme. A membership form is reproduced below. To join, and receive the regular updates on what FLAG is doing and how the bid is progressing, simply complete the form and send it, with a cheque for £10.00, to:

FLAG, 83a George Street, Luton, Beds, LU1 2AT.

HATTERS MATTERS

ISSUE 50 — July 1999
38 TWIGDEN COURT, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, LUTON, LU3 2RL.
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HEADLINE NEWS

The receivership has still not been resolved, although it is hoped that there will be an announcement in the next week. It seems that the contest has come down to being a battle between David Kohler and Cliff Bassett once again, although there are other bidders. One of these is rumoured to be Mike Peden, formerly chairman at Darlington. Mr Kohler announced his involvement in a bid in a live radio interview. He said that he is making a bid with a Luton businessman, Derek Farr, which is worth £1.6 million. Mr Bassett has not made a formal bid at the time of writing but is expected to do so, subject to Football League approval. FLAG has been in talks with a consortium of local businessmen led by Derek Ludlow, but the reluctance of that group to become involved has created difficulties for the community group. The Football League will be holding a board meeting on August 2nd at which the future of the club will be considered.

Transfers/Contracts

Chris Willmott has been sold to Wimbledon for a fee reported to be £300,000. He was followed a few days later by goalkeeper Kelvin Davis, who went for £600,000, with further money to follow subject to appearances.

Mitchell Thomas has signed for Burnley, leaving Luton on a 'Bosman'. It was reported that he was offered "far more" money than Luton could have afforded to pay him.

Andrew Fotiadis has signed a new one year contract. Similar deals have been signed by Emmerson Boyce, Andre Scarlett and Jude Stirling.

Ray McKinnon's trial with Toulouse was unsuccessful, and he has since been with Dunfermline.

Julian James is currently training with Aylesbury United. He has not yet been offered a deal at Luton.

Nathan Abbey is back in England and available on a free transfer having left Belgian club Germinal Beerschot Antwerp after a disagreement.

On Trial....

Goalkeeper Mark Cartwright is on trial as Lennie Lawrence looks to fill some gaps in his squad. The 26 year old number two keeper at Wrexham is available at a small fee. Also at Kenilworth Road is former Bristol City player Adam Locke, who made 30 appearances for the Ashton Gate side last season.

Others include Efetobore Sodge (Macclesfield), Dave Pearson (Coventry), Andy Futchter (Wimbledon), Ryan Davis (Sheffield Weds) and Scotsman Graham McKay.

Friendly Reports

The first pre-season friendly was at Arlesey on Tuesday July 20th. The Town 'reserve' side ran out 5-1 winners. The goals were all scored by triallists: Pearson (2), McKay, Futchter and Davis.

The following evening, a senior squad visited St Albans City, and came away with a 3-0 victory. Matthew Spring opened the scoring and the result was secured with late goals from Andrew Fotiadis and triallist Pearson.

Injuries

As usual, a number of players have picked up minor injuries during pre-season training, but none are serious.

Other News

A new shirt sponsorship deal has been signed with ball bearing manufacturer SKF, whose name is carried on the newly launched kit from OS.

The new shape of the reserve team competition, the Avon Insurance Combination, has been revealed. It will now consist of 22 teams playing each other once, and having the choice of entering a cup competition. Southend United, Leyton Orient and the two Bristol teams have joined the competition, which is now devoid of Premiership reserve teams. The opening fixture is on Wednesday August 18, when Bristol City visit Kenilworth Road.

The Town have been drawn against Bristol Rovers in the first round of the Worthington Cup, with the first leg to be played at Luton.

The friendly at Bromley on August 2nd has been cancelled. Lennie Lawrence's interest in signing Tony Thorpe has cooled. It had been expected that he may be available for as little as £150,000, but Bristol City manager Tony Pulis advised that he would want 'considerably more'.

Sean Dyche, who was on loan at Luton late last season, has joined Millwall for £150,000.

Gary Doherty has been away in Finland where he is captain of the Republic of Ireland side in the European Under-18 Championship. He becomes the first player to represent his country in three European Under-18 tournaments.

Town fan Norman Gray is undertaking a sponsored bike ride from Luton to Reading on August 21 to raise funds for FLAG and Leukaemia Research. He is being joined by Supporters Club president Yvonne Fletcher and fanzine editor Keith Hayward, and a number of others. Norman is looking for more people to join him on the journey, and for sponsors. The Vauxhall Off Road Club are providing transport to get the bikes back to Luton. If interested, ring Norman on 01582 721924.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Sat	Aug 7	Notts County	A	Pay on the day. Seats only, £12 adults, £7 concessions.
Tue	Aug 10	BRISTOL ROVERS	H (7.45)	Pay on the day, adults £10, concessions £5.
Sat	Aug 14	BLACKPOOL	H	
Sat	Aug 21	Reading	A	Pay on the day.

1999/2000 Fixture List

Aug	7	Notts County	A	Jan	3	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	H	Monday
	10	BRISTOL RVRS (WC 1/1)	H 7.45		6	AWS		
	14	BLACKPOOL	H		8	Stoke City	A	(FAC 4)
	21	Reading	A		15	Blackpool	A	
	24	Bristol Rovers (WC 1/2)	A		22	READING	H	
	28	CARDIFF CITY	H		29	Cardiff City	A	(FAC 5)
	31	Bournemouth	A 7.45	Feb	5	BOURNEMOUTH	H	
Sep	4	BURY	H		12	Bury	A	
	11	WREXHAM	H		19	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	(FAC 6)
	18	Brentford	A		26	BRENTFORD	H	
	25	OXFORD UNITED	H	Mar	4	Wrexham	A	
Oct	2	Wigan Athletic	A		7	Burnley	A	Tuesday
	9	Oldham Athletic	A		11	MILLWALL	H	
	16	GILLINGHAM	H		18	Preston North End	A	
	19	WYCOMBE WDRS	H 7.45		21	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H	Tuesday
	23	Oxford United	A		25	Chesterfield	A	
	30	FAC 1		Apr	1	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	
Nov	2	Millwall	A		8	Scunthorpe United	A	(FAC SF)
	6	BURNLEY	H		15	BRISTOL CITY	H	
	13	Cambridge United	A		22	Gillingham	A	
	20	FAC 2			24	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	Monday
	23	PRESTON NORTH END	H 7.45		29	Wycombe Wanderers	A	
	27	Bristol Rovers	A	May	6	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	
Dec	4	NOTTS COUNTY	H		20	FA Cup Final		
	11	STOKE CITY	H (FAC 3)					
	17	Colchester United	A 7.45					
	26	CHESTERFIELD	H					
	28	Bristol City	A					

AW = Auto Windscreens Shield. WC = Worthington Cup.
FAC = FA Challenge Cup.

All matches above are Saturday afternoon 3 pm kick-offs unless otherwise stated. Midweek matches where the kick-off time is not yet known will be amended by the next issue of HM.

It has been confirmed that the April 24th match against Wigan Athletic will be played on the date scheduled, which is Easter Monday.

Stop Press

Not anything exciting, unfortunately, just the fact that Town teams lost 1-0 at Barnet on Friday 23rd July, and won 2-0 at Baldock on Saturday 24th. A good number of triallists featured for the Town in both matches.

And Finally.

My apologies for this issue of HM being so late. I blame pressure of work.... The next issue will be coming to you as soon as there is something clearer to report on the future of the club. This will, I hope, be long before the end of August.