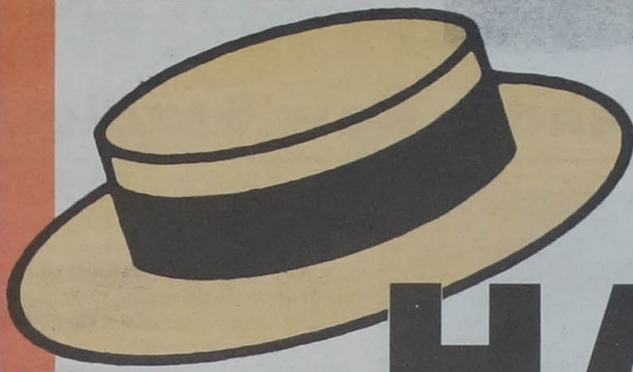


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APRIL/MAY
1994



HATTERS



David Preece in action at Wembley

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THE LIFE
OF DAVID
PLEAT

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INSIDE



WHAT'S
STEVE
FOSTER
DOING
HERE?

Find out on
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Message from David Kohler

LOOKING FORWARD

To more support and a New Stadium

It's been a season of ups and downs but there's a lot we can look back on with satisfaction. For instance our semi-final appearance was our third in 10 years - not a bad record.

We took our time to get the rhythm and pattern of play right, but we ended up with a system that has enabled us to compete with the best and, indeed, to beat the best.

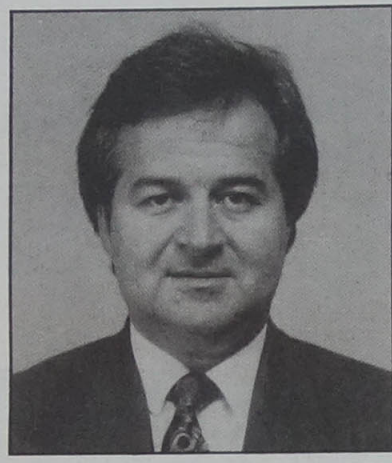
To do this we used our own resources in terms of managerial experience and finally blended a team that can perform at a level well in excess of what our size as a club would suggest.

That Cup run boosted everyone's morale here at the club, from the youngest to the oldest, and the team collected some deserved praise.

In order for there to be a successful team on the pitch there has to be an equally good one off it, so I would like to thank everyone at the club for their efforts - the tea ladies, the ticket ladies, the team who answer the 'phone, the entire backroom staff. They may not get the glory on the sports pages but I'd like them all to know that their efforts don't go unnoticed.

When one looks at what makes really successful clubs you don't have to be a genius to work out that they have consistent, hardcore support from many thousands of fans, whose gate money allows the clubs to spend freely.

Luton have an average gate of 8,000 which doesn't allow us to compete in any way with the Manchester Uniteds, Liverpools and Arsenal's whose average



gates are four or five times the size of ours.

That means they have four or five times as much income to spend on wages and transfers. For us to try and compete at that level would be a certain recipe for bankruptcy. That's why we have had to sell to survive.

The man who earns £10,000 a year but spends £20,000 is very quickly in deep trouble!

What we need now, and certainly next season, is a continuance of the support we had against Chelsea. More than three times our average Kenilworth-Rd gate were at Wembley, from the Luton area alone. If we could increase our home gates by 50 per

cent next season we, and our bank manager, would be very happy people.

A question always being asked is where our next stadium will be, and when it will be built. We are inching slowly, but ever nearer, to our goal of a new ground and once again Luton will be pioneers, both in stadium design and use.

It is my view that by the end of the century most soccer games will be played indoors. Someone has to be the first to offer this sort of facility - why not Luton?

In order to compete at the highest level, which is what our fans demand and deserve, we have to be innovative in the matter of raising money. The old concept of a stadium comprising four stands and a green pitch, to be used 24 times a year, is a total waste of resources. The two major obstructions to increased use of football stadia are the weather and preservation of the hallowed turf.

My dream is of an indoor, multi-purpose stadium which has a moveable pitch. Properly equipped, such a stadium could fulfil all our aspirations and provide something of tangible benefit, not only to the club but also to the town.

There'll be more news about this later.....

Finally, on behalf of all members of the club I would like to thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you all (and a few more!) at our games next season.

David Kohler,
Chairman and Managing Director

How does a football manager spend his time? In this article 'adopted Lutonian' David Pleat runs through a typical day that for him starts at 7 am and often doesn't finish until close to midnight.

Hectic? Yes, but I'd not change my life

I get up at seven-o'clock sharp before the phone starts ringing. I glance through the Daily Mail and listen to the Today programme on Radio 4.

I eat a small breakfast and then may make a couple of early morning phone calls, to fellow managers maybe, or to a player who, for some reason may be excused training. Calls may come from a manager from another club, a scout or even a journalist who has tracked me down!

I'm always on my way to Kenilworth Rd by 8.50 at the latest. As I drive in I make a mental note of things that must be given priority. There may be a player to talk to about his performance, or his contract, and I work out the various squads for training.

In my first hour at the office I strive to clear my desk, talk to other managers and coaches whose teams may be playing that day, to decide whether to send a scout to watch a particular player. If I'm really interested I'll go myself.

When things are going well for us (like the Cup run) I may take three calls from reporters. In 'ordinary' times journalists may call, say, three times a week. There's an official press conference every Friday, attended by local press and radio and, very often, local television crews.

I try to snatch a few minutes to read the Telegraph and

Express. Sometimes I read stories that are patently untrue, but I don't let those bother me. I'm experienced enough to have a fair idea of how newspapers work.

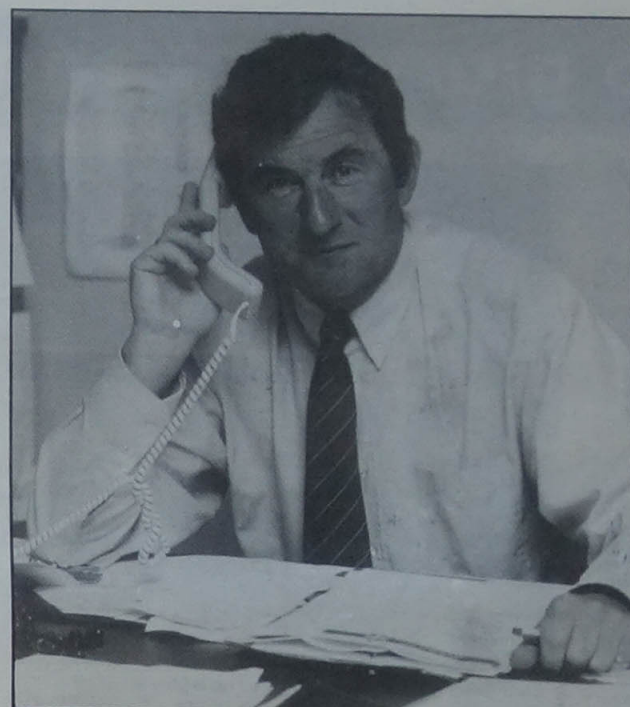
I'll always find time to discuss the evening's soccer programme with Les Shannon, our scouting co-ordinator, but when 10.30 comes it's training time. I enjoy this immensely. No phone calls, no interruptions and when the weather's good and the vibes are good it's great. We practice tactics and work hard.

Back at 12.30 for an hour I like to call 'my time'. I'll take a bath, maybe read the newspapers or a League bulletin while I'm soaking.

By 1.30 I'm back in my office. There may be some private discussions with individual players, especially if someone has been disciplined in a game and had points awarded against him. I don't tolerate ungentlemanly conduct or stupid things players sometimes do in the heat of the moment like kicking the ball away when a free kick has been awarded.

We have some young players who sometimes need a "father figure" to discuss personal problems with.

By four-o'clock I'm away from the office but the day is far from over. There are things like my notes in the programme to think about, and the column I write for a local paper.



Apart from these "editorial duties" I sometimes do a little bit of writing for a national paper - particularly if I feel strongly about something. For instance, although it was a great experience to play at Wembley in the Cup semi-final I'm convinced it was the wrong venue. I believe Wembley should be reserved for the actual final and I would have been far happier had the tie been played on a neutral ground somewhere else.

At home I'll have a quick snack and, very often, set off to watch a game that might throw up a player who would fit in at Luton. I drive if the match is a reasonable distance, otherwise I'll go by train. When I went to Scotland recently to watch a player I was flown there in a private plane belonging to Cliff Bassett, one of our directors.

Sometimes I'll go to a game because I've been asked to help with the commentary. I do quite a lot for ITV and some for Sky TV. I'm also on the rota for Radio 5. I love doing it but my one fear is that I'll commit some boob when I'm talking. Easily done unless you keep your wits about you.

I've been asked to do some radio commentaries from the States during the World Cup. That will be exciting.

I never tire of watching football. Last Christmas I set a personal record by attending three games on one day. I saw Mansfield play in the morning, Notts County in the afternoon and Coventry in the evening. And I enjoyed every minute of it!

I usually watch two games a week, apart from the Luton matches.

I try to be home by 11.15 and it's straight to bed. I don't like upsetting the "body-clock" so I keep to a reasonable routine.

Weekends are, naturally, hectic. If we are at home I'll probably have a light meal with the players well before the kick-off. It really is light - maybe spaghetti, poached eggs or even beans on toast, followed by a little fruit salad.

I'M A GREAT WORRIER

If we are playing away we travel in the morning if the venue isn't a long way off. When it is we'll travel the day before. The

hotel bookings will have been organised earlier in the week.

On Sunday mornings we organise a series of friendly junior games, either on the Electrolux sports ground or Luton Rugby Club's pitch. I sometimes look in there although I'm able to leave the organisation to my coaching staff, John Moore, Wayne Turner and Terry Westley.

I'm told I usually look and sound calm when I'm interviewed but actually I'm a great worrier. I'm glad it doesn't show!

The time I have to myself is precious so most of it is spent at home, in the armchair. I watch a little television though I'm not an addict, and I read a lot.

I find provincial sports pages of very great interest. I get them from Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Sheffield. Often you will see reports of a player who is a star in his own non-league world and I might decide to have him watched. My chief scout and I agree that while it is important to discover good players it's just as important to keep bad players away!

ADOPTED LUTONIAN

I live in Luton. I arrived here before I was 20. My wife, Maureen, is Luton born and bred and apart from a couple of years in Exeter soon after we were married we've always kept a base here. I'm an adopted Lutonian and have great affection for the town. I don't want to leave it. It's always treated me and my family well.

I've never regretted devoting my life to football. When I was at school I thought seriously about becoming a PE teacher. But then I started to do well on the football field and that was that!

If I wasn't a football manager I think I'd like to be a serious sports journalist, but as far as I'm concerned at the moment I'm a manager and that's what I intend to be.

It has its downsides as well as the good times but what job hasn't? All in all it's a job I thoroughly enjoy.

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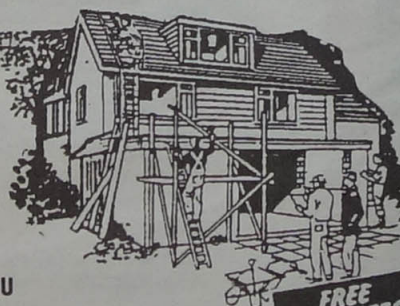


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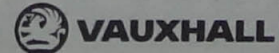
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Road to glory that ended at Wembley

HATTERS' MAJOR ROLE IN 'YEAR OF THE UNDERDOG'

When Luton set out on their FA Cup campaign against Southend United in January, no one could have foreseen the drama that was to follow over the next four months.

The postponed meeting with the "Shrimpers" did not look likely to affect the destiny of this year's FA Cup competition, but the re-arranged game saw Luton run out 1-0 winners and the unlikely road to Wembley had started.

Captain Trevor Peake summed up the mood before that game stating that he would be delighted to get past the fourth round. "I have only been past the fourth round on one occasion in my career and that was in 1987," recalls the 1987 Cup winner when Coventry defeated Spurs 3-2 in a classic Wembley final. "I see no reason why we cannot progress in the Cup this year."

"What you really need is luck with the



Scott Oakes celebrates his goal against the mighty Magpies.

draw and luck to play well on the day. From what I have seen we are capable of beating anyone on our day and providing we avoid Manchester United at Old Trafford I think we can go a long way!"

Those words seem ironic now as the fourth round signalled the start of the run that earned Luton publicity from all corners of the country. Paul Telfer scored the winning goal at the Oak Road End in front of 7,953 freezing fans to send Luton on their way to a confrontation with Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United at St. James Park in round four.

The expensively arranged Magpies included the likes of Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley in front of a sell-out 32,216 fanatical Geordies. The pre-match build up labelled the game, 'The Princes v The Paupers' with few giving Town any chance

of recording a shock victory. In the end Newcastle couldn't find a way past Luton's young side and the expected demolition never took place. The Town side included 20-year old Tony Thorpe for his first start and it was his name that was catapulted into the headlines.

Thorpe scored the goal - a 25 yard strike - that put Luton into a shock half-time lead. As the second-half wilted away, it appeared that a shock victory was a possibility. Those hopes were dashed as a late Peter Beardsley penalty denied Luton what would have been a famous win.

David Pleat's men came away with a draw that few believed was possible and brought Newcastle back to Kenilworth Road for a game that Sky TV were to broadcast live to the nation.

The manager summed up the

achievements of his young side at Newcastle. "The challenge at St. James Park was considerable. We probably only survived because of the early goal young Tony Thorpe gave us and the superb way in which we defended," he said.

The game on Wednesday 9th February will live long in the memory of Town supporters, as Newcastle succumbed to Luton pressure and in the end were no match for the home side who ran out 2-0 winners.

It was another chapter in a period that David Pleat aptly summed up as "the year of the underdog."

John Hartson, replacing the injured Kerry Dixon, and Scott Oakes scored the goals that secured the victory. For Hartson, and Ceri Hughes, the victory meant a return to their native Wales as Luton saw a chance to reach the FA Cup quarter finals for the first time since 1988.

Even manager Pleat had fleeting thoughts of Wembley after such a great victory saying: "If my players want to dream about getting to Wembley they can. I thought the gap between the Premier League and the First Division was widening, but the results in this season's Cup would suggest otherwise."

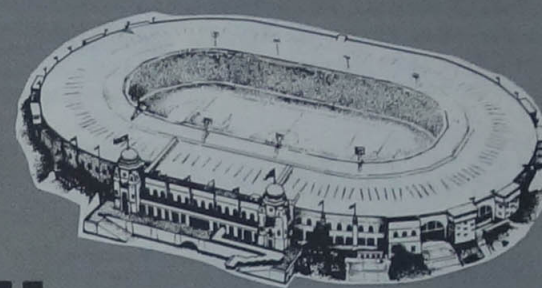
Pleat had a point. After all, on that same night Oxford had gone to Leeds and recorded a sensational victory, and Bolton had gone to Highbury and disposed of Cup holders Arsenal. The competition was proving as unpredictable as ever.

The tie at Ninian Park, Cardiff, will be remembered as much for its controversy off the pitch as for the victory achieved by the Hatters. The passing game David Pleat employed so successfully against Newcastle the round before was too good for Second Division Cardiff in a fierce encounter.

Continued over page ➤

Cup run captures country's imagination

The dream that didn't come true...



Continued from previous page

The match took place on a Sunday to avoid a clash with a Rugby international played in the city the day before. The credit for Luton's victory was diluted by the trouble after the game and the nature of David Preece's winning goal.

The lack of an offside flag sent Cardiff fans into a rage that spilled over into ugly scenes after the final whistle.

Scott Oakes had given Luton a first-half lead, with Phil Stant's 67th minute equaliser giving the home side fresh hope. That hope was dashed when Preece ran clear of the defence to slot home despite protests that Ceri Hughes was offside. The linesman, Brian Rice, kept his flag down and referee Roger Dilkes explained his decision after the game. "The player was deemed not to be interfering with play, and the linesman's decision was quite correct" said Dilkes.

Rival chairmen Kohler and Wright clashed verbally, with legal threats and complaints coming from both parties, but all of that was forgotten as Pleat's men moved on to West Ham and another Sky TV appearance.

Luton's quarter-final tie was moved to a Monday night and the game at Upton Park proved to be another triumph for Town's young side. Before the game it had been announced that the winners would play Chelsea at Wembley Stadium, opening the door for both teams to win a place at Wembley a round early which added extra incentive to what was already a massive game for both clubs. Kerry Dixon had his eye on a meeting with his old club under the twin towers....

The 0-0 draw obtained at West Ham, with David Greene making his first appearance of the season in place of the injured Trevor Peake, meant Dixon's dreams were still a possibility and Luton took great heart from holding another Premiership side.

The closest the Hammers came to a goal was when a Mike Marsh shot beat Juergen Sommer only to thud off a post and away to safety, while Luton could have stolen the tie if Des Linton's header had not been cleared off the line by a Mike Marsh header that kept the Londoner's in the Cup.

David Pleat was keen to play down talk of Wembley as Luton's odds to win the FA

Cup were slashed from 40-1 down to 14-1. "I am more aware than anyone that nothing has been achieved yet - and that in the replay we will be flying the flag for the First Division," he said.

The replay at Kenilworth Road was again covered by Sky TV and was regarded by many as 'the tie of the year' as Luton reached Wembley with a 3-2 victory. Scott Oakes grabbed the headlines with the first hat-trick of his career to finally give Kerry Dixon a match against his old Stamford Bridge team-mates under the Twin Towers. He was keen to point out he would not worry about knocking his old team out of the Cup.

It was Oakes who grabbed all the attention though, as he scored in the first-half to cancel out Martin Allen's goal, then twice in the second-half with a Bishop reply sandwiched between the Oakes' treble. The Luton section of the 13,166 crowd - Town's biggest gate of the season - could plan their trips to Wembley with only Chelsea blocking their way to the FA Cup Final.

With their year's semi-finals taking place at Wembley, the build up was reminiscent of many Wembley finals in the

past and the atmosphere began to build up as soon as the West Ham game ended. Town sold their allocation of 25,000 tickets but were dwarfed by the large contingent of Chelsea fans who were to enjoy a memorable day. The game saw the end of the Luton dreams and the end of a run that had captured the imagination of the entire country.

Gavin Peacock scored twice in front of almost 60,000 fans to send Chelsea into their first FA Cup final since 1970. The first 10 minutes belonged to Luton, but Chelsea broke away and scored a goal against the run of play, when a long free kick was flicked on by Tony Casciaro, then John Spencer, before Peacock fired past the helpless Juergen Sommer after 13 minutes.

At half-time Pleat's team were confident that they could turn it around, but another Peacock goal just two minutes into the second period killed off Luton and secured Chelsea a return trip to the Twin Towers.

Luton only managed one shot on target all afternoon and David Pleat could not hide his disappointment after the defeat. "We produced very near as good as we could have done, but we have played better this season. We are all very disappointed," admitted Pleat.

Kerry Dixon took consolation from the fact that the team he had so many great years playing for, had reached the final. "I wouldn't want to go out to any other club but Chelsea and I hope they go on to win the final now. Their fans were so great to me that they deserve a Cup final."

So a Luton dream died at Wembley, but the fact that they were at Wembley at all highlights the achievements of David Pleat's team of so much promise.

For a few in this team, it would be their last trip to Wembley as active players, but for the youngsters who emerged from this run with so much credit there could be even better things in store.



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THE QUESTIONS

1. Which Luton manager served his managerial 'apprenticeship' at Nuneaton Borough?
2. A Luton star was dramatically transferred to Antwerp of Belgium in 1975. The fee received helped the club stave off liquidation. Who was he?
3. Who were the twin brothers who played for Luton during the '70's?
4. Luton's ground attendance record is 30,069. Who were they playing and when?
5. Who scored Luton's only goal in their FA Cup defeat at Wembley in 1959?

6. Which of Luton Town's managers had the shortest 'reign'?

7. A popular Luton player in the 80's always wore a headband when he played. Who was he?

8. In the 1950's Luton had two England international goalkeepers on their books. Who were they?

9. Denis Law, famed Scottish international, once scored seven goals against Luton but still finished on the losing side. How?

10. In what year was Luton Town FC formed?

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SOMMER FLIES FLAG FOR THE USA

Juergen Sommer has achieved one ambition - to win a regular place in an English League side. Now he nurtures another, to play for his country, the United States of America, at the very highest level.

That would be the icing on the cake for the 25-year old goalkeeper who has come up the hard way, serving his "apprenticeship" with spells at Kettering, Swindon, Ipswich and Brighton before finally breaking into regular first-team service at Luton.

He knows competition for a place in his national team is intense. One of his best buddies is fellow American Kasey Keller, who keeps goal for Millwall, and Kasey is also hopeful that the US selectors will name him. But both Kasey and Juergen are aware that US team manager Bora Milutinovic favours two other accomplished 'keepers, former Watford player Tony Meola and Brad Friedl, who are based in America.

Juergen reckons that while his form has improved immeasurably by playing in a quality English League the manager may be inclined to pick men currently playing in the States. "Playing in England is great for me but it may not be good for my World Cup hopes" he says.

On the other side of the coin he admits that this season has been better for him than he expected. His chance to win a regular first team place with the Town followed Alec Chamberlain's move to Sunderland.

Born in New York, Juergen moved to Florida with his family when he was only four and he graduated in economics and German at the University of Indiana. It was not entirely surprising that he did well in studying the German language for his father, Willi, was born in Germany and was an amateur on the books of Hamburg



Sommer in action. A typical courageous clearance.

before he decided to emigrate to the States.

Juergen has played so far for the US national team at youth, university and 'B' and 'A' levels and now aches to go just one stage further. He says that soccer is becoming really popular with young Americans. "It's the biggest youth sport in the country, bigger than American football and basketball combined" he says, and with the World Cup being staged in the States its popularity can only increase even more.

He has adapted nicely to the English way of life (although he notices the huge difference between Bedfordshire weather

and the Florida climate!) and, like so many Americans, he is mightily impressed by our heritage and culture.

In between training and playing he does what most tourists do, visits British cultural and historical landmarks and learns as much as he can about them. In the close season he usually returns to America to help at the youth coaching camp at Indiana University. More than 800 youngsters attend the courses and take it extremely seriously.

In the late Sixties a concerted attempt to introduce soccer to the States did not catch

on as far as the general public and the media were concerned. All that is changed now. The game is really taking off there and men like Sommer are providing the best possible advertisement for it.

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The future looks bright for:
**The player they
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Scott Oakes learned a lot from Gary Lineker

It was inevitable after his glorious FA Cup hat-trick against West Ham. Scott Oakes, only 21, was dubbed "The two million pound man" by some national newspaper writers for whom hype is as necessary to their lives as the air they breathe.

This time though, bearing in mind the prices asked for, and paid, today, there was more than an element of truth in their headlines for Scott's three goals were stamped with class, and his potential is without question.

It was inevitable, too, that those same writers should make good use of the fact that Scott's dad is a member of the evergreen pop band Showaddywaddy. Thus, his

three goals were described as "three steps to heaven" - borrowing the title of one of Showaddywaddy's biggest hits.

This was all part of the fun and glamour that attaches itself to the FA Cup - the competition that captures the imagination of the supporter on the terraces more than any other domestic football contest.

But there is much more than that to young Scott Oakes, whose arrival at Kenilworth Rd was just one more instance of manager David Pleat's shrewdness in the transfer market.

The young man, signed from Leicester City along with Des Linton in part-exchange for Steve Tompson, is an England under-21

international. His skills have been honed, are still being honed, by the astute Pleat who says of both Scott and Des "they have acquired the self-belief and manliness that is required at the top in this game."

GARY LINEKER
In fact, Scott polished his skills by watching Gary Lineker when the much capped England star was playing for Leicester City. Scott used to be a ball boy at the Filbert street ground, and studied the way Lineker played, moved and positioned himself. There's a great deal to be said for modelling oneself on a master!

Another man who has helped him considerably is Luton colleague Kerry Dixon,

an older, more experienced player who has struck up a rewarding understanding with him. "It was Kerry who set up two of my three goals against West Ham, and he is always encouraging me to try things. He deserves a lot of the credit" says the young man who made his Football league debut for Leicester when he was only 18.

To date he has made around 100 League appearances. With average luck with injuries Scott can look forward to a fruitful next 10 years. No-one in the fickle world of football can predict with any certainty what the future might bring... but all the omens are that for Scott Oakes the future is going to be very bright indeed.

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This picture of Scott with his father was taken on the Kenilworth Rd pitch by SUN newspaper photographer Roger Parker.

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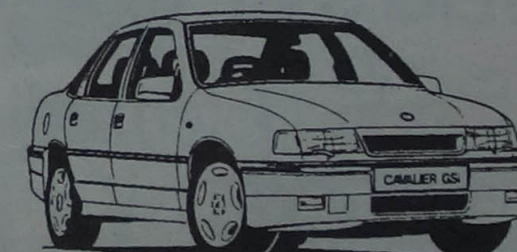
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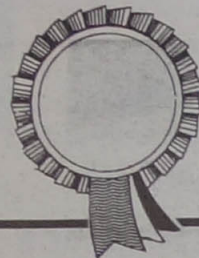
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When Luton Town F.C.'s playing squad lined up for the start of the 1993/94 season they did not know what the following weeks and months held in store for them. They were optimistic, of course, and they had their dreams - but few of them realised that in April 1994 they would be appearing at Wembley, albeit in the semi-final rather than the final of the F.A. Cup.

After a satisfying win against old rivals Watford in the first match of the season they suffered a string of narrow defeats that meant the rest of the League season would be an uphill struggle. However, their confidence never wavered; their team spirit remained high and morale was boosted by that excellent Cup run.

Players and staff in this picture are, Back row, left to right: Tony Thorpe, Jamie Campbell, Juergen Sommer, Andy Petterson, Des Linton, Paul Telfer.

Centre row: John Moore (First team coach), Andy McDade (Club physiotherapist), Scott Oakes, Ceri Hughes, Marvyn Johnson, David Greene, John Dreyer, Julian James, Terry Westley (Youth team coach), Wayne Turner (Reserve team coach).

Front row: Jason Rees, Ian Benjamin (Now Brentford), Trevor Peake (Captain), David Pleat (Manager), David Preece, Martin Williams, Richard Harcey.

Missing from this squad picture: Kerry Dixon, Alan Harper and Mitchell Thomas.



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MEMORIES TO SAVOUR

The Hatter who made 10 - goal history

Over the years Luton Town FC has produced some prolific goal scorers. Ask Hatters' fans who was the best - then stand back and wait for the arguments to start!

Was it Gordon Turner a veritable scoring machine in the 50's especially when prompted by the great Jesse Pye? Was it Bruce Rioch, possessor of one of the fiercest left-foot shots in the game and now controlling team matters at Bolton? Or Ron Davies, who made his mark at Luton then went on to win a bag full of Welsh caps with Norwich and Southampton?

And high on anyone's list would be Malcolm Macdonald, who made his name at Kenilworth-Rd and subsequently became the toast of Newcastle.

That's just a few to be going on with. For many Hatter supporters some of them are only names - players they have heard about, or read about, but never had the pleasure of seeing in action.

And there's no more than a handful of today's Kenilworth-Rd faithful who can recall seeing Luton's most famous goal scorer of all.

The player? Joe Payne of course. Reason for his fame? The 10 goals he scored against Bristol Rovers in a hectic 90 minutes on a cold, wet Easter Monday nearly 60 years ago.

LUCKY 13!

To be precise it was on April 13, 1936, that Joe, a former coalminer from Bolsover, established an English League record that isn't likely to be beaten. And for his little bit of football history he received a £2 bonus to add to his £4 a week wages. Compared to the earnings of soccer professionals today that figure is laughable, but for the average working Englishman in 1936 it was about twice what they found in their weekly pay packets.

Joe Payne's exploits on that bleak Bank Holiday were all the more remarkable as he was picked only as a last resort.

He was a reserve wing-half at the time and had made no great impact. He was as surprised as anyone, therefore, when told he would be leading the attack against Bristol Rovers, at that time not faring particularly well in the then Division 111 South. The

PAYNE'S AMAZING FIRST APPEARANCE AS CENTRE

Luton Run Into Double Figures Against Bristol Rovers

What the local paper said.

Hatters (or Lilywhites as they were then known) on the other hand, were challenging for promotion to Division 11.

Payne's chance came only because two first-team regulars, Ball and Boyd, were languishing on the injured list.

As the teams trotted out, some 13,900 spectators turned up their coat collars as thin, stinging rain fell from a leaden sky.

The new attack leader did little to distinguish himself in the opening spell, but as Luton took command he gained in confidence and began a sequence that was to demolish Rovers and give their hapless goalkeeper, Ellis, nightmares for months afterwards. It also won Joe a place in soccer's record books.

In all, Ellis picked the ball out of the net 12 times, and on 10 occasions it had been put there by Payne. Joe's 10 goals beat the existing record of nine, scored by Tranmere Rovers' Bob Bell in a fantastic 13-4 victory over Oldham Athletic the previous Boxing Day, and turned him into a star overnight.

With the confidence gained from that memorable game Joe carried on scoring and the following season he netted 55 times, including the goals against Torquay that earned the Hatters the promotion they had narrowly missed the previous year.

In 1938 Payne was transferred to Chelsea (the fee: £2,000! Can you imagine what it might have been at today's prices?) but war was declared in 1939, League football was abandoned and Joe's career was interrupted.

He broke his right ankle twice while playing in exhibition games in 1942 and never quite regained his old spark in later spells with West Ham and Millwall. He was, however, selected to play for his

country.

Despite his moves he was always loyal to the town that had given him his first major chance and continued to live locally.

ALL-ROUNDER

Joe was also a swashbuckling cricketer who hit many a boundary for the town cricket club and he was also a keen (and very good) golfer. "I would have loved to have concentrated on golf and maybe made a bit of a name for myself at that" he used to say after he finally hung up his boots.

He didn't wholly approve of the huge salaries he saw being paid to players once the days of maximum wages were over. Heaven knows what he would think today when the Premiership elite can earn as much in a week as a player could expect to earn in his professional lifetime when Joe started!

The record-maker died in 1975. He was only 61.

How would he have fared against today's disciplined defences? Would he have scored so easily and so often? Hypothetical questions that can never be answered accurately. But one thing that can be betted on with every confidence is that Joe's record, achieved when he was just 22, will not be beaten in the professional game in this country unless they change the rules!

The teams in that historic match which Luton won 12-0 (the other goals came from Roberts and Martin) were:

Luton Town: Dolman; Mackey; Smith; Finlayson; Nelson; Godfrey; Rich; Martin; Payne; Roberts; Stephenson.

Bristol Rovers: Ellis; Pickering; Preece; Wallington; Murray; Young; Barley; Hartill; Harris; Houghton; Crisp.

MEMORIES TO SAVOUR

SUPER TEAMS - BUT ALL IN THE MIND

On the opposite page several former Luton favourites are named - fine players all, but mentioned for their goal-scoring abilities, and we all know that a successful team has to be as strong at the back as it is dangerous at the front!

So many celebrated players have turned out in Luton's colours since the war that it is impossible to arrange an 'order of merit'. Some of them will be remembered for their scoring feats, the strength of their shooting, their positional play, their ball control or their ability to 'make' goals rather than score them.

Defenders will be remembered for the ferocity of their tackles, their coolness under pressure, their organisational ability or their qualities of leadership. And in the last line of defence goalkeepers will be recalled for their athleticism, their courage and, in some cases, their acrobatic skill.

Then there are players who won a deserved place in spectators' hearts not necessarily for outstanding brilliance, but for all-important consistency, sportsmanship and team spirit .. the sort of man who could always be depended on to give 110 percent and never let the side down.

Others will be best remembered for one or two moments of match-winning excellence - like Raddy Antic's goal against Manchester City that kept the Town in the First Division eleven years ago.

In the 1960's, when Luton had an evening paper, the Evening Post, it ran a competition to pick players who would comprise the 'best' Hatters team since the war, notwithstanding the fact that styles and formations have changed enormously in the last 40 years.

Fans with long memories might recall that the winning team then was: Baynham, Dunne, Aherne, Morton, Owen, Pearce, Bingham, Turner, Pye, Cummins, Mitchell.

Few of these stars played for long after 1960, and those who did had passed their peak. If a similar 'best' team was chosen today how many changes would it contain? Almost every player in that post war team would have strong challengers. Brian Stein, Bruce Rioch, John Aston, Malcolm Macdonald, Ricky Hill, Mick Harford, Kirk Stephens, Mal Donaghy and Paul Fletcher are just some among a host of names that spring to mind.

Even Syd Owen, regarded by many older fans as the greatest centre-half the club has had - he was on their books from 1947 to 1959 - would have stern competition from Terry Branston, Chris Nichol and Steve Foster.

In fact, in a team selected by a man who watched his first game in 1924 and who is still a season-ticket holder, Owen is edged out by Foster "because Foster was a better captain; better at rallying his men when things weren't going well."

Interestingly, this man's selection also includes several stalwarts from the Fifties and Sixties, but there is a place for David Preece from the present squad while Bruce Rioch, best known as a forward, is chosen to play in what used to be the number six shirt.

Our veteran fan's team would be: Streten, Dunne, Aherne, Morton, Foster, Rioch, Bingham, Turner, Macdonald, Preece, and Aston with Owen and Cummins as substitutes.

For younger fans who never had the pleasure of watching Bernard Streten in action, he was a former amateur international, and a great showman, who joined the Town from Shrewsbury, still as an amateur in 1947. He was only five foot nine inches tall, but made up for his lack of inches with brilliant anticipation and agility. As a professional he went on to win a full England cap (against Ireland) and was tremendously popular with the fans. In all he made 276 League appearances, often competing for the first team place with Ron Baynham, who also represented his country. For several seasons Luton enjoyed the unusual luxury of having two England international goalkeepers on their books.

Club historian Timothy Collings, who wrote the comprehensive "The Luton Town Story, 1885-1985" also names Steve Foster as the best centre-half and selects Mick Harford, a player still fresh in the memory, as attack leader, preferring him narrowly to Ron Davies and Malcolm Macdonald.

Somewhat surprisingly Collings names the mercurial Graham French on the left wing. "On his day he was magical; strong, skilful, fast and with a scoring shot in either foot" he says. Few who saw him will argue with that.

Paul Fletcher "a phenomenal talent", Ricky Hill "enough skill to walk into any team" and Peter Nicholas "he deserved to win the highest honours" are also included in the Collings Eleven which is: Baynham, McNally, Donaghy, Nicholas, Foster, Paul Fletcher, Hill, Turner, Harford, Rioch, French. His subs are Jake Findlay, Chris Nicholl and Malcolm Macdonald.

Any one of those teams would hold its own with the best in the land. Sadly they are sides that can only play in the imagination of fans who saw them in action, but picking them provides a lot of fun.

Every successful team needs a strong manager, and Luton have had some good 'uns. Dally Duncan, brilliant winger in his day who sat in the manager's chair for more than 10 years in the Forties and Fifties, Allan Brown, like Duncan a former class player from Scotland; Alec Stock and Harry Haslam, great publicists with a contagious sense of humour and currently David Pleat, a man who, with restricted resources, has constructed a team that is so full of promise.

Each of the men mentioned had his own great strengths; each tackled a difficult job in a different way. All of them brought lustre to the Town but adapting slightly the old adage "Possession is nine parts of the law" this writer's vote goes..... to the man in possession!

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Lutonian returns to his roots



KERRY DIXON AN OLD HEAD IN THE FORWARD LINE

There's no need to ask Kerry Dixon which team he wants to succeed in the Cup Final. Now that Luton are out of the competition he says it has to be Chelsea - the team responsible for Luton's eviction.

Kerry, of course, did his darndest to try to beat them in the Wembley semi-final, but he will be cheering them on as loudly as their most fanatic supporter on Cup Final day. The reason is obvious. For nine successful and happy years Kerry wore a Chelsea shirt and was a firm favourite with the Stamford Bridge crowds. "Other than that semi-final I always want Chelsea to win everything there is going. Their fans stuck by their team, and me, through all the bad times and now they deserve a big break.

"I have some great memories of my time at the Bridge and the crowds were always good to me." Not surprising

considering he scored nearly 200 goals for them as well as earning eight England international caps while playing for the London club.

At 32 he is the old head in Luton's attack and that old head, full of tactical wisdom, has helped his forward colleagues a great deal in recent matches. Scott Oakes, who won so much deserved praise for his hat-trick against West Ham, was the first to give a share of the credit to Dixon "for setting up two of the goals for me."

APPROPRIATE

It's appropriate that Dixon is spending what might be called the twilight years of his playing career at Kenilworth Road, for he is Luton born and bred, although he made his League debut for Reading nearly 15 years ago and cracked in 51 goals for them in 116 appearances. Before that he had been with Tottenham as a junior but emerged as a player of promise with

Dunstable Town, just a few miles up the road from Luton.

However it was with Chelsea that he really flourished. He joined them in 1983 for a £175,000 fee and quickly became one of their most popular players. In fact, the Premiership club has promised to arrange a testimonial game for him. His latest club was Southampton but he didn't really settle there - "Their style didn't suit mine" - and he was more happy to join Luton, at first on loan.

No player can go on for ever and Kerry's aim when he finally hangs up his boots is to move into management. If he succeeds in that ambition there is little doubt whom he will model his methods on. "I consider David Pleat to be a master tactician. He has always preached the gospel of attacking football and has also shown that he knows how to blend youth with experience" he says.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mitchell Thomas, back with Luton again, was the club's first YTS trainee, joining them direct from school in 1981. He'd had successful spells at Tottenham and West Ham and combined transfer fees for those moves were three-quarters of a million pounds.

Geoff Aunger, who started his professional career with Vancouver 86ers, is a Canadian international.

Club captain Trevor Peake started his League career with Lincoln City.

Greg Riach's father, Bruce, was transferred to Aston Villa from Luton in season 1968/69 for a then record fee for the Town of £100,000.

Another son of a famous father is Neil Ryan. Neil's dad is Jim Ryan, former Luton player and manager. If Greg and Neil do as well as their respective fathers they will become formidable players.

The club's current first and second choice goalkeepers, Juergen Sommer and Andy Petterson were born in America and Australia respectively.

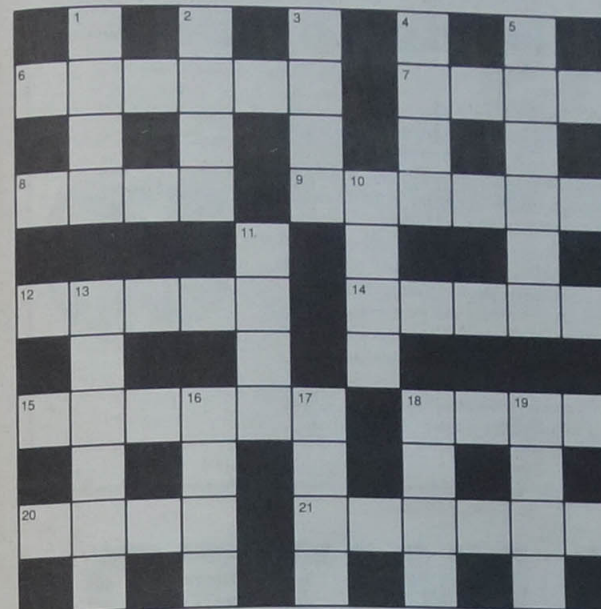
LOOKING BACK

In Luton Town F.C.'s first seasons, towards the end of the 19th century, their playing colours were pink and blue (half and half) shirts.

In 1889 they changed to all-red shirts. These were later changed to red, white and black stripes and at the turn of the century they wore dark blue shirts.

The following year these were changed to a lighter blue and in 1920 the club decided on all-white shirts... the Lilywhites, as they were then known, were born! The strip remained white shirts and black shorts, with only minor modifications, until 1973 when the shirts became basically orange, with a white and blue perpendicular strip.

In 1979 they became mainly white again, with minor changes being made along the way until the present strip emerged.



ACROSS

- 6 Long-serving Luton favourite (6)
- 7 When it's a draw the scores are this (4)
- 8 There should be one on each corner of a car (4)
- 9 Six across is one of these when he's playing! (6)
- 12 He's in charge! (5)
- 14 A lick of this smartens things up (5)
- 15 A holy team on the south coast!! (6)
- 18 Brilliant goalscorer who sounds as if he's in a hurry (4)
- 20 Exciting Manchester United forward who lived up to his name! (4)
- 21 Super stand-in for Trevor Peake (6)

DOWN

- 1 Injured players sometimes have one of these (4)
- 2 This is exactly where you are! (4)
- 3 Score first and this is what you take (4)
- 4 Dixie ----, a football legend who played for Everton (4)
- 5 Beckenbauer is one (6)
- 10 A little dog does this (4)
- 11 It means 'leave it' if you are a printer (4)
- 13 A team at the top of the table is this (6)
- 16 A posh school spelled backwards (4)
- 17 A very long story (4)
- 18 Plant that grows in marshy areas (4)
- 19 At the seaside you can play football on it (4)

JUNIOR HATTERS • JUNIOR HATTERS • JUNIOR

Looking after the youngsters



Luton Town FC have a great deal to offer their younger supporters.

The Junior Hatters Saturday Club operates before all Saturday home first team games, from 11.30 am to 5 pm and there is always something for every member to do. No-one is left out.

There's five-a-side football, penalty competitions, snooker, table tennis, video games, lunch and tickets for the game. The cost is a reasonable £5 or £3 for season ticket holders.

The Juniors also entertain members of equivalent clubs from visiting teams. Members from Nottingham Forest,

Charlton Athletic, Bolton and Notts County have all enjoyed the hospitality and fun provided by the Luton youngsters. It keeps youngsters off the roads, out of mischief, out of parents' hair and provides a wonderful opportunity for football-crazy children to meet, talk and play in safety.

Junior members have already benefitted from Luton's share of a £600,000 cash injection from Pizza

Hut which has meant substantial discounts and the use of the local branch for a number of events, including the always popular "Meet the Players" nights.

When there is sufficient demand Junior Hatters also run coaches to away games.

If it all sounds like a good idea, bookings can be made at the Hatters' booking office during normal office hours.

Another very

popular scheme for youngsters is the birthday party plan. Two adults and six children are accommodated in a club box at a home game. There's hamburgers and chips and chocolate drinks for all, plus a presentation of a

full-size football, signed by all the players. Youngsters really do get the VIP treatment and are provided with an afternoon they'll remember for a very long time.

The cost: £150.

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This summer the club are organising holiday coaching courses for young players between the ages of eight to fourteen.

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Courses start at 10 am and finish at 2.30 pm.

Dates available are:

July 25,26,27,28,29 Lea Manor £30 including football
August 2,3,4 Stopsley Sports Centre £20
August 15,16,17,18 Stockwood Park £25
August 22,23,24,25,26 Lea Manor £30 including football
August 30,31, Sept 1 Bells Close £20
October 24,25,26 Lea Manor £20

All these venues are in Luton

If you are interested in a course that young footballers will certainly enjoy, contact Gary Hooper on 0582 411622 during office hours.

X WORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 6 Preece; 7 Even; 8 Tyre; 9 Dynamo; 12 Peat; 14 Paint; 15 Saints; 18 Rush; 20 Best; 21 Greene
DOWN: 1 X-ray; 2 Here; 3 Lead; 4 Dean; 5 German; 10 Yaps; 11 Step; 13 Leader; 16 Note; 17 Sagar; 18 Reed; 19 Sand

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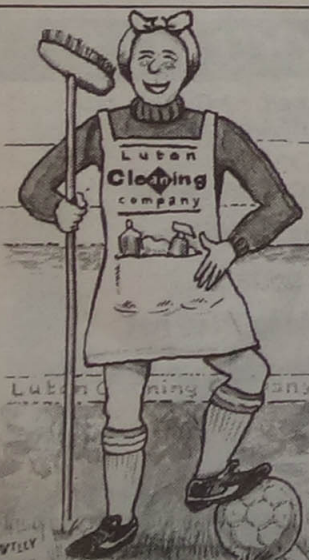
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USA.....famous initials in more ways than one.

At Luton they stand for **Universal Salvage Auctions**, major sponsors of Luton Town FC now for three consecutive seasons, and the club and the company are both very happy with the association.

Universal Salvage Auctions' chairman, Cliff Bassett, is also a director of the club so there really is a very strong bond existing. Both sides have benefitted. Mr Bassett says: "We are a nationwide organisation and our association with the Luton club has allowed our name to reach a very wide audience, as well as raising our own public profile considerably."

"This is our third year of association with Luton Town and we have been delighted with the results so far."

"Luton are a friendly, family club who are well liked, and any association with that sort of reputation must be beneficial. Like the Luton players we, too, are professionals. We believe that there will be more success for the club in the future and that will be good for all concerned."

Luton's Managing Director, David Kohler, is very happy about the partnership with USA. "I believe that together we can forge ahead with progressive plans that will benefit both the club and Universal Salvage" he says, and those remarks are

endorsed by David Pleat.

Mr Bassett stresses that the arrangement with the club is not merely a matter of putting the Universal Salvage Auctions name on the team shirts. "By integrating the two organisations Luton Town and USA will be able to help many charitable causes and local promotions" he added.

USA is the largest motor and commercial vehicle salvage company in the United Kingdom and is generally considered to be leader in the field of auctions.

They have bases all over Britain but their headquarters are at Wootton in Bedfordshire.



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We don't know what David Preece was praying for - but we hope his prayer was answered!



All eyes on the ball.....Paul Telfer makes it look easy to beat a defender.

LETTER BOX

"Fixture congestion is unfair to players and fans"

I LOVE watching football - especially when the Town win - but I must say that I think, at times, there is too much of it, what with all the Cup competitions on top of the normal League programme.

When a team has a good Cup run, with maybe a replay or two, and has a couple of games postponed because of bad weather it results in a muddy pile-up of fixtures towards the end of the season. Just look at how many games the Town had to play in March and April.

This isn't fair to the players, who don't have a chance to recover from slight injuries, and it isn't fair on fans' pockets as watching football isn't cheap any more.

I think there should be a complete break in January when the weather is usually bad and the pitches are not in good condition. Then the season should go on right through May, preferably with just one game a week. The January break would allow players to regain full fitness.

A.S.F. (LUTON)

MY friends and I are concerned about where Luton will play when they eventually vacate Kenilworth Road, the scene of so many marvellous matches in the past. (Personally I like it there).

We are worried that when they leave, the new ground won't be ready and they'll be forced to share a ground with another club. After all, it must take a long time to get the pitch perfect, apart from actually building the place. I would also like to see the new ground no more than two miles away from Luton. I was very unhappy a few years ago when it was suggested that the club should move to Milton Keynes.

NAME AND ADDRESS RECEIVED

The club is well aware of the situation, and concern of the fans. See chairman David Kohler's comments on page 2.



SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WITH A FOOTBALL FLAVOUR

THINK of Kenilworth Road and you think of football. That goes without saying. But there is also an active commercial side to the club that offers first class facilities for all sorts of social and business functions.

Executive boxes, which line one side of the pitch, offer spectators the chance to watch a game in absolute comfort. They are available by the match or by the season.

Away from the pitch there are well-appointed lounges that are just right for wedding receptions, celebratory parties, business meetings, quiz nights and so on.

Commercial manager Kathy Leather will be happy to provide full details and she and her team are always ready to discuss ideas from people interested in using the facilities.

Some people regard a football club merely as a pitch, stands, dressing rooms, director's room and a couple of snack bars. That is far from the case at Luton. There's an awful lot going on behind the scenes and their function facilities compare well with the best. **Kathy Leather is contactable on 0582 411622.**

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Since its
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season, the Town's
Football in the

Community scheme
has proved to be a
resounding success.
This season, further

projects were
undertaken to take
football beyond the
bounds of the Club.

The first in a
number of
initiatives by the
Club was to create
a course to help
members of
Bedfordshire Police
gain FA
Preliminary badges.
Run in conjunction
with the Football
Association at Lea
Manor in Luton,
the objective was to
provide officers
with the skills to

coach football in
schools and youth
clubs.

The Club's
involvement with
schoolchildren has
grown this season
and now stretches
across a 20 mile
radius of
Kenilworth Road.
Boys and girls take
part in training
sessions to improve
skills on the ball,
and with passing,
dribbling and
heading.

A new slant on
learning has been

given to
schoolchildren who
have been invited
to the Club as part
of the "Learning
through Football"
project. At
Kenilworth Road
they have been
taught maths,
English, history,
science and
geography from a
football-related
angle! By Easter
over 1,000
schoolchildren had
taken part in the
project with a very
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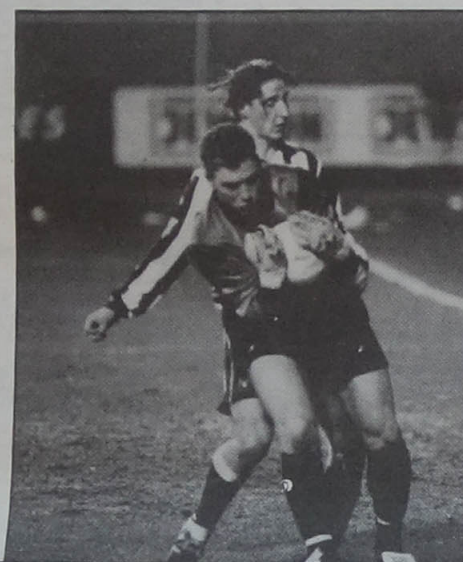
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Centre: Well saved!
Top right: Ceri Hughes in determined mood - as usual



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| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Aug 14 | Watford | 2-1 |
| Aug 17 | Cambridge United (CCC1/1) | 0-1 |
| Aug 21 | Portsmouth | 0-1 |
| Aug 24 | Cambridge United (CCC1/2) | 0-1 |
| Aug 28 | Nottingham Forest | 1-2 |
| Aug 31 | Watford (A/C) | 1-2 |
| Sept 7 | Southend United (A/C) | 1-1 |
| Sept 11 | Bolton Wanderers | 0-2 |
| Sept 14 | Tranmere Rovers | 1-4 |
| Sept 18 | Middlesbrough | 0-0 |
| Sept 25 | Birmingham City | 1-1 |
| Oct 2 | Barnsley | 5-0 |
| Oct 5 | Bristol City | 0-2 |
| Oct 9 | Derby County | 1-2 |
| Oct 16 | Notts County | 1-0 |
| Oct 20 | Sunderland | 0-2 |
| Oct 23 | Oxford United | 1-0 |
| Oct 30 | Leicester City | 0-2 |
| Nov 2 | Crystal Palace | 2-3 |
| Nov 7 | Charlton Athletic | 1-0 |
| Nov 13 | Southend United | 1-2 |
| Nov 27 | Stoke City | 6-2 |
| Dec 4 | Charlton Athletic | 0-1 |
| Dec 11 | Tranmere Rovers | 0-1 |
| Dec 19 | Watford | 2-2 |
| Dec 27 | Peterborough United | 0-0 |
| Dec 29 | Grimsby Town | 2-1 |
| Jan 1 | West Bromwich Albion | 1-1 |
| Jan 15 | Notts County | 2-1 |
| Jan 18 | Southend United (FAC3) | 1-0 |
| Jan 22 | Derby County | 2-1 |
| Jan 29 | Newcastle United (FAC4) | 1-1 |
| Feb 5 | Oxford United | 3-0 |
| Feb 9 | Newcastle United (FAC4R) | 2-0 |
| Feb 15 | Leicester City | 1-2 |
| Feb 20 | Cardiff City (FAC5) | 2-1 |
| Feb 22 | Portsmouth | 4-1 |
| Feb 26 | Sunderland | 2-1 |
| Mar 5 | Nottingham Forest | 0-2 |
| Mar 8 | Middlesbrough | 1-1 |
| Mar 14 | West Ham United (FAC6) | 0-0 |
| Mar 19 | Birmingham City | 1-1 |
| Mar 23 | West Ham United (FAC6R) | 3-2 |
| Mar 26 | Barnsley | 0-1 |
| Mar 30 | Millwall | 2-2 |
| Apr 2 | Peterborough United | 2-0 |
| Apr 4 | Grimsby Town | 0-2 |
| Apr 9 | Chelsea (FACS/F) at Wembley | 0-2 |
| Apr 12 | Wolverhampton Wanderers | 0-2 |
| Apr 16 | Crystal Palace | 0-1 |
| Apr 19 | Bristol City | 0-1 |
| Apr 23 | Wolverhampton Wanderers | |
| Apr 26 | Millwall | |
| Apr 30 | Southend United | |
| May 3 | West Bromwich Albion | |
| May 5 | Bolton Wanderers | |
| May 8 | Stoke City | |

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