

HATTERS

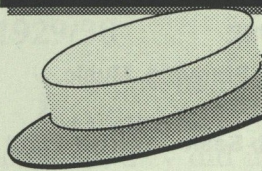
News

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Spring 1997

"VOICE OF THE FANS"

Issue No.29



TOP OF THE TABLE!!

This was the situation as this article was written and the Town had seen off Brentford 1-0 at home. Another good strike from Tony Thorpe, followed an intelligent pass from Showler giving him the opportunity to turn four players closely marking him, and strike a low shot into the far corner from the edge of the penalty box. However, this result has to lead to an improvement in recent form, as maintaining second place has very much been the result of other's poor form. Only Burnley show any signs of consistent form, propelling themselves into the promotion frame since Christmas, after they had started well at Kenilworth Road in August but then been let down by inconsistency. Opportunities have been wasted, for example the Millwall game and the first half at Wrexham. These have to be corrected particular for the visits of the other promotion hopefuls Bristol City, recently let down by a poor run themselves, Bury, the seasons surprise package and cup giant killers Stockport, although how much will their cup run have taken out of them now they face 2 games a week or the rest of the campaign. Together with the sides fighting for survival, Wycombe, Rotherham and Peterborough.

Injuries and suspensions to key personnel have not helped our plight, particularly in midfield, with Waddock, Hughes, McLaren, and Showler all missing key games. With 10 games left, 5 at home and away, a target of at least 20 points from these games should see the promotion ambition being achieved at the first attempt, a necessity to try and achieve financial stability for the club.

Home attendances have been improving and given the current position home sell outs should be attainable prior to the season's close, with the possibility of having to negotiate home use of some of the Oak Road end for the last few remaining games, subject to police co-operation and approval.

Could we see the position of the last promotion campaign achieved with the target clinched at home to Shrewsbury on a Tuesday evening in April? How many of you remember that 4-1 victory and the celebrations that followed. Perhaps with 3 games still remaining at that point this will be unrealistic.

An opportunity to celebrate will come on Sunday the 27th April at Kent's Social Club where we will hold the annual **"Player of the Year"** presentation, tickets are limited to 200 (approx), so please purchase early to

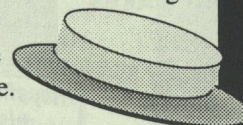
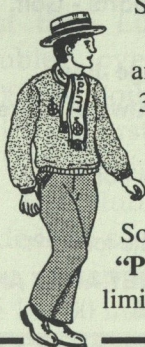
avoid disappointment. Who will win the awards? or the first time for a long period there are a large number of candidates. From last years winner, Ian Feuer who has been ever present in the league and consistent between the sticks, ably covered by the back four. Mitchell Thomas and Steve Davis showing good form and the ability to create and score chances up front, an area sorely missed from previous seasons' teams for too long. From the other end we have seen the emergence of a real opportunity striker in Tony Thorpe, fulfilling much of the previous inconsistent promise shown in the middle of the field, and from a position where he was not even guaranteed a place in the starting line up early season, still leading the division's scoring charts as we enter April. He has done this with primarily the support of Oldfield, again having a far better season than last term, and Grant along with Marshall, although both have missed a lot of games due to International calls and injury.

The support has come from midfield with Hughes on his day looking one of the best players in the division, only inconsistency and his renowned temper letting him down, but the supplier of goals has been Alexander, with his assists more than double the number of any other individual player, certainly the most improved player and a close run second to my personal choice of player of the year Waddock. Since taking over the Captain's armband in early September, he has lead the side admirably, and was sorely missed when out injured early in the new year, however you will all have our own opinions so please vote (*A slip enclosed*) and then come along in April to see the awards announced.

By then the promotion goal may be achieved. If we get behind the side this is well within reach.

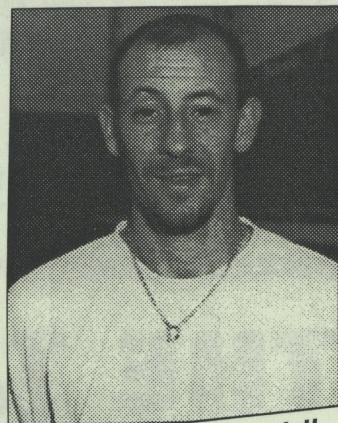
The close season will then hopefully see the verdict from the planning enquiry and the possible opportunities this will bring. And no doubt a lot of activity in the transfer market as there will be need to bring in monies before a strengthening of the squad can take place.

Get behind the Hatters!
- Yours Mark Chapman -
LTSC Committee Member.



Hatters Player Profiles

Continuing facts you didn't know about the players. This time we focus on three players, two of which are regular first teamers plus one who has so far had alot of unfortunate injuries.



Having a mixed first full season with the Hatters

FULL NAME: **PAUL SHOWLER**
DATE OF BIRTH: 10-10-66
HEIGHT: 5' 10" WEIGHT: 11st
PREVIOUS CLUBS: GOOLE TOWN, COLNE DYNAMOES, ALTRINCHAM, BARNET & BRADFORD CITY
MARRIED: NO - Girlfriend 'LISA'
CHILDREN: YES - JARE - 9 months
LIKES: GOOD FOOD & DRINK, GOLF AND GOOD COMPANY

DISLIKES: PEOPLE WHO ABUSE THE AUTHORITY
FAVOURITE OTHER PLAYER: **STEVE McMANAMAN**- Liverpool
MOST FEARED OPPONENT: **STUART PEARCE** -Notts Forest
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: **BRADFORD V Notts Forest**
WE WON AND I SCORED
FAVOURITE GROUND: **HIGHBURY** - Arsenal F.C.
If you were not a Footballer, what other job would you do?:
PRO GOLFER or PHYSIOTHERAPIST
FAVOURITE T.V. Show: **'FRIENDS' & E.R.**
FAVOURITE MUSIC: **CROWDED HOUSE**
HOBBIES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL: **Golf, Studying, Music, Babysitting with my Son**
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: **Fresh Seafood / Irish Stout or a Southern Comfort**
MOST ADMIRER PERSON: **MY MOTHER**
MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: **Being nutmegged TWICE in 5 Seconds by Sasa Curcic of Bolton now Aston Villa F.C.**
What would you do if you won the Jackpot on the lottery?:
CARRY ON PLAYING UNTIL AT LEAST 35, QUALIFY AS A PHYSIOTHERAPIST AND OPEN A PRACTICE - HAVE REGULAR HOLIDAYS WITH MY FAMILY.

FULL NAME: **KIM TYRONE GRANT**
DATE OF BIRTH: 25-9-72
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 12st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: **CHARLTON**
MARRIED: NO
LIKES: **ALL SORTS OF HOBBIES**
DISLIKES: **LONG TERM INJURIES**
FAVOURITE OTHER PLAYERS: **ROMARIO & RONALDO (Brazil)**
MOST FEARED OPPONENT: **I don't Fear Anyone!**
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: **CHARLTON v Liverpool F.A.Cup Quarter Final and I scored**



Attack by "Bumble Bees" while playing for Ghana earlier this year!

FULL NAME: **AARON MATTHEW SKELTON**
DATE OF BIRTH: 22-11-74
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 12st 6 lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: **NONE**
MARRIED: NO
LIKES: **ANYTHING THAT MAKES ME LAUGH**
DISLIKES: **BEING INJURED (Unable to Play)**
FAVOURITE OTHER PLAYERS: **Glenn Hoddle / Michel Platini**
MOST FEARED OPPONENT: **Terry Hurlock - Millwall, Portsmouth etc.**



Hopefully has seen the end to his long term injuries!

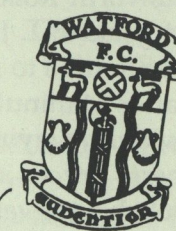
FAVOURITE GROUND: **ANFIELD** - Liverpool F.C.
If you were not a Footballer, what other job would you do?:
I do not Know
FAVOURITE T.V. Show: **Fresh Prince of "Bel-Air"**
FAVOURITE MUSIC: **SOUL AND SWING**
HOBBIES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL: **Computing, Golf, Tennis, Watching Films and going to the Flicks**
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: **Any Chinese Food / Any Drink**
MOST ADMIRER PERSON: **'PELE'**
MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: **Leaving my shirt in the changing Room when I was about to come on a Sub!**
What would you do if you won the Jackpot on the lottery?:
RETIRE AND ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: **Debut v WEST BROMWICH**
FAVOURITE GROUND: **HIGHBURY** - Arsenal F.C.
If you were not a Footballer, what other job would you do?:
Like to be a Sports Journalist
FAVOURITE T.V. Show: **Fresh Prince of 'Bel-Air'**
FAVOURITE MUSIC: **Anything but mainly Soul & Garage**
HOBBIES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL: **All sort of sports - Golf, Snooker, Tennis etc.**
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: **Pasta / Orange Juice**
MOST ADMIRER PERSON: **Bryan Robson - Always injured but still won everything in the game.**
MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: **Everytime someone thinks I am Ceri Hughes or Tony Thorpe**
What would you do if you won the Jackpot on the lottery?:
BUY A NICE HOUSE, CAR - PUT SOME MONEY AWAY AND SPEND THE REST ON FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A History of Luton Town v Watford

— The Second of a Five Part Series —

by Mick McConkey



—● THE 1930's ●— LUTON TURN THE TABLES...EVENTUALLY

1929/30

Luton had not won at Watford since 1915, but at long last they did it in the match played at Watford on September 14th, it also remains as their biggest win at Watford as they ran out winners 4-0. It would be The Towns only away success of the season. Andy Rennie scored a hatrick for Luton. He set up Jim Yardley for the opener after 38 minutes, and scored his first goal after 41 minutes. The second half was just 17 seconds old when Rennie made it 3-0, he completed his hatrick near the end. Despite the scoreline it was George Harford in the Luton goal who was the busier of the two goalkeepers during the second half, making some fine saves, notably two efforts from Bill Sheppard and another from Neil McBain.

Watford, Smith, Prior, Paton, Warner, McBain, Woodward, Holland, Bennett, McPherson, Sheppard, Daniels.

Luton, Harford, Kingham, Richards, Black, Fulton, Fraser, Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.

The return match at Luton on January 18th, was a dull affair by all accounts. But it resulted in a 2-0 win for Luton, and that was the first time Luton had done the double over Watford since 1908/09. Both of the goals came inside the first 20 minutes, the first by Wallace Birch with his first goal for the club, and Jim Yardley added the second. The attendance was dissappointing, well below the 10,000 mark.

Luton, Banes, Richards, Smith, Fulton, Clark, Fraser, Boylen, Birch, Yardley, Drinnan, McInnes.

Watford, Turner, Brown, Davison, Warner, McBain, Woodward, Chapman, Barnett, McPherson, Wooliscroft, Daniels.



Andy Rennie
A prolific goal scorer for the Hatters

1930/31

There would be three meetings between the clubs this season as they were drawn against each other in the F.A.Cup. The match at Watford on September 20th was settled by a single goal early in the second half by Watford's centre forward George James giving the home side a 1-0 victory. "Crusader" of The Luton News commented in his match report, "I doubt if there are two sets of supporters anywhere that get along so well together" Really!

Watford, Holland, Clement, Davison, Reynolds, McBain, Woodward, Chapman, Barnett, James, Wooliscroft, McWilliams.

Luton, Harford, Kingham, Richards, Hale, Clark, Fraser, McNestry, Yardley, Brown, Page, Slicer.

The two sides met again at

Vicarage Road on December 19th in the second round of The F.A.Cup. Watford recorded their first F.A. Cup win over The Town with 3-1 victory. George James put Watford in front after 4 minutes. The lead was increased after 23 minutes with a goal by Arthur Wooliscroft. When Jim Yardley pulled a goal back after 54 minutes Luton were right back in it. But Watford's victory was secured by an 83rd minute goal by Tommy Barnett, when he headed in following a free kick from Neil McBain. The match was watched by an estimated 17,000 crowd which included about 7,000 from Luton. Gate receipts totalled £1,087/10s. Watford would progress to the fifth round where they were eventually knocked out by the eventual beaten finalists, Birmingham.

Watford, Hewitt Brown, Davison, Smith, McBain, Woodward, Chapman, Barnett, James, Wooliscroft, Lindsay.

Luton, Banes, Kingham, Hodgson, Hale, McGinnigle, Fraser, McNestry, Yardley, Rennie, Dent, Bryce

Tom Hodgson

Went onto become a Luton Town Director and landlord of a local Public House



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Luton would exact revenge for those two defeats by winning at Kenilworth Road on January 24th by 4 goals to 1. Jim Yardley set up Andy Rennie to put The Town 1-0 up after 24 minutes. Rennie turned provider by laying on a chance for Robert Bryce after 43 minutes which he converted to make the half time score 2-0. Tom Holland in the Watford goal made a string of fine saves in the second half but was beaten for a third time after 68 minutes when George McNestry scored for The Town. Tommy Barnett pulled one back for Watford with a couple of minutes to go, but there was still time for a fourth Luton goal when Yardley headed in following a corner from Bryce. The attendance was estimated to be only around the 4,500 mark.

Luton, Harford; Kingham, Hodgson, Clark, McGinnigle, Fraser, Bryce, McNestry, Yardley, Rennie, Slicer.

Watford, Holland, Brown, Clement, Blake, McBain, Woodward, Lowe, Barnett, James, Miller, Pick.



George Harford

Another in the line of Great Goalkeepers to play for Luton

1931/32

The Watford jinx struck again as "The Blues"[as Watford were known in those days] took all four points. At Luton on October 17th a single goal by George James after 36 minutes proved to be the winner for the visitors. The Town looked to have equalised just on half time when a shot from Andy Rennie looked to have crossed the line before Tom Holland pulled

the ball back, but the referee waved away the Luton protests.

Luton, Imrie, Kingham, Hodgson, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, McNestry, Tait, Yardley, Rennie, Slicer.

Watford, Holland, Brown, Richards, Stokes, O'Brien, Ellis, Chapman, Barnett, James, Lowe, Barnes.

The return match at Watford took place towards the end of the season on April 13th, it was a midweek fixture which in those pre floodlights days would have started at about 6.00pm. Once again the Watford jinx struck. It looked good for Luton when Robert Bryce gave them an early lead. It looked as though The Town had increased their lead soon after when Harry Loasby netted. However the referee saw an infringement, though as "Crusader" said, nobody could see anything wrong but the referee did. The Town looked good value for their half time lead. Things then went against them after the interval, Jim Imrie looked to have been fouled as Jack Barnes equalised. As the light failed George James then put Watford in front. Luton's fate was sealed in almost complete darkness as Harry Lowe scored a third for Watford.

Watford, Holland; Brown, Richards; Stokes, Woodward, Ellis; Chapman, Barnett, James, Lowe, Barnes.

Luton, Imrie, Kingham, Wilson, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, Bryce, Tait, Loasby, Rennie, Slicer.

1932/33

In the first meeting at Vicarage Road on October 22nd, it was the same old story. The Town were well beaten by 4 goals to 1. Luton hardly had a worthwhile attempt at goal in the first half as goals by Billy Lane and Arthur Wooliscroft

gave Watford a 2-0 half time lead. Lane scored again early in the second half, before David Hutchison pulled one back for Luton when he headed in from an Arthur Mills corner. Luton's misery was completed when Harry Lowe scored a fourth for Watford.

Watford, Rutherford, Brown, Moran, Findlay, O'Brien, Woodward, Chapman, Wooliscroft, Lane, Lowe, Barnes.

Luton, Harford, Kingham, Mackay, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, Mills, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie, Whalley.

David Hutchison

Only spent a short while with the Hatters.



Luton had rather a hectic end to the season playing no fewer than 10 league matches in April due to their run in the F.A.Cup when they had reached the quater finals. One of those 10 matches was against Watford on April 26th. The retained list had been announced prior to this match. Not included on the list were David Hutchison, Douglas Rowe and Andy Rennie. Luton won what was described as a bright match, 3-2.

They lead 2-0 by half time with goals by Hutchison and Rowe. In the second half another goal by Rowe gave Luton a 3-0 lead, and the crowd small as it was were showing their disapproval towards the directors box at the decision to release the three players previously mentioned. Billy Lane and then Tommy Barnett pulled goals back for Watford. It would be 30 years

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before Watford enjoyed league success over Luton again. For the record Rowe joined Lincoln City in the close season, while Hutchison stayed on and knocked in 12 goals the following season before joining Airdrie. As for Rennie, he stayed for a further two seasons and was leading goalscorer in the 1933/34 season. He departed for Newport County in 1935.

Luton, Imrie, Kingham, Mackay, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, Mills, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie, Rowe.

Watford, Slater, Brown, Moran, Findlay, Inglis, Woodward, Chapman, Barnett, Lane, Lowe, Barnes.

1933/34

When Watford travelled to Kenilworth Road on October 21st, they were one place off the bottom, with just one win to their name. Luton for their part were well placed in the top half of the table. Although Luton had much the better of the early exchanges it was Watford went close to taking the lead when a shot from Tommy Barnett struck the upright with George Harford in The Town goal well beaten. Soon after that The Town went 1-0 in front, a move involving Charlie Fraser and Sam Anderson was finished off with a shot from close in by George Martin. Watford replied soon after when former Irish international Bob Irvine headed in a cross from Barnett. The goal which proved to be the winner for Luton came shortly before half time when Anderson scored direct from a free kick.

Luton, Harford, Kingham, Mackay, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, Pease, Martin, Tait, Rennie, Anderson

Watford, McHugh, Brown, Moran, Findlay, Armstrong, Woodward, Chapman, Barnett, Irvine, Lane, McPherson.

Luton completed the double over Watford with a 1-0 win at Vicarage Road on March 3rd. Former England international outside right Bill Pease scored the only goal in the first half with a fine piece of play. He beat four players in a mazy dribble before playing a one two with Tommy Bell and finishing with a shot from 12 yards. In the second half efforts from Bell and Andy Rennie both hit the woodwork

Watford, McLaren, Brown, Moran, Findlay, Armstrong, Woodward, Ritchie, Barnett, Irvine, Lane, W.Davies

Luton, Harford, Mackay, Reece, Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, Pease, Martin, T.Bell, Rennie, Hutchison



Thomas Andrew Barnett
Another major Player

1934/35

The points were shared in the 1934/35 season with two 2-2 draws, and both times The Town had to come from behind to salvage a point. In the first encounter at Kenilworth Road on November 10th the much travelled Jack Ball, playing in his third match in The Town's colours following his transfer from Huddersfield Town put Luton 1-0 up early in the match. Watford looked by far the better side however, and another recent Town signing, Joe Coen was in splendid form in the Luton goal, but he could not prevent Watford from taking a 2-1 half time lead through goals by Vic O'Brien and Billy Lane. George Stephenson levelled the scores in the second half. "Crusader" of The Luton News

described it as "A fair result and a great game"

Luton, Coen, Kingham, Mackay, Brown, Thayne, Fraser, Martin, S.Bell, Ball, Rennie, Stephenson

Watford, McLaren, Brown, Moran, Findlay, Armstrong, Woodward, Rattray, Barnett, Lane, O'Brien, Foxton

Both teams were in the top six when the return match was played at Vicarage Road on March 23rd, but neither team was in with any chance of promotion. A crowd of 10,600 including a good following from Luton was on hand to see a match in which Watford lead twice. Charlie Rattray set up Billy Lane to put Watford 1-0 up. On the stroke of half time Watford keeper Jim McLaren dropped a cross from Wilf Crompton, and Jack Ball forced the loose ball over the line. The Town were under a lot of pressure and eventually a second Watford goal arrived 20 minutes from time when Lane scored his second goal of the match. With less than a minute left The Town got an equaliser, again it was a cross by Wilf Crompton that caused problems in the Watford defence and once again it was that man Ball who scored to save Luton a point.

Watford, McLaren, Brown, D.Lewis, Findlay, Woodward, T.Davies, Rattray, Lowe, Lane, Devan, W.Davies

Luton, Coen, Kingham, Mackay, Colquhoun, Thayne, Smith, Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson

William 'Taffy' Davies
who gave Watford 20 years service



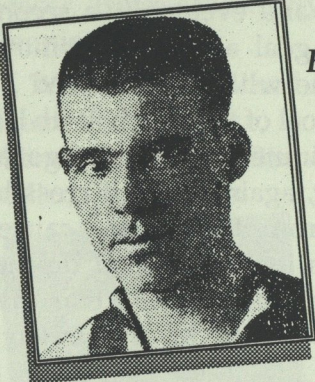
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1935/36

"Watford Humbled", that was how "Crusader" described the match at Vicarage Road on November 11th. A goal by Wilf Crompton after 6 minutes set The Town on the way to a 3-1 win. Though The Town were much the superior team throughout, it was not until the last 20 minutes that they finally made it count. Fred Roberts made it 2-0 after 70 minutes, and with 6 minutes left Jack Ball converted a cross from George Stephenson to make it 3-0. Billy Lane's last minute goal for Watford was a mere consolation.

Watford, McLaren, Brown, J.Lewis, Findlay, Woodward, T.Davies, Jones, W.Davies, Walters, Lane, Wright

Luton, Coen, Mackay, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson



Billy Lane
A Watford player who gave 10 years service to Hornets

By the time the two teams met at Kenilworth Road on February 29th Luton were top of the league and looking a fair bet for promotion, Watford were not too far behind so it was perhaps a little disappointing that no more than 12,890 turned up to see The Town come from behind to win 2-1. Bill Devan gave Watford the lead, but two goals either side of half time by George Stephenson kept The Town's promotion dream alive. Alas it was not to be, even though only two defeats were suffered between March 7th and the end of the season, they missed out by one point.

Luton, Coen, Booton, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Rich, Martin, Boyd, Roberts, Stephenson

Watford, Jones, O'Brien, D. Lewis, Morgan, Woodward, T. Davies, W. Davies, Barnett, Fletcher, Devan, McPherson.

1936/37

Kenilworth Road was bursting at the seams when Watford came to town on October 17th with a crowd of 20,569 packed in to see if Town's new goalscoring sensation Joe Payne could add to his total 25 goals in just 12 appearances since playing his first game in the forward line the previous April, and they were not to be disappointed. However it was a goal by Bill Devan that gave Watford an early lead. The Town were level by half time with a goal by Jack Ball. In the second half Payne ran riot, and scored a hat-trick. That was his third hat-trick of the season so far, and The Town ran out winners 4-1.

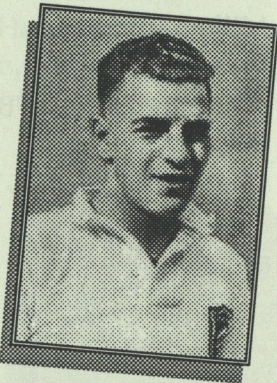
Luton, Dolman, Mackay, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Watford, McLaren, O'Brien, Woodward, Morgan, Armsrtong, Reed, W.Davies, Barnett, Walters, Devan, Tinkin.

The return match at Vicarage Road on February 20th attracted a crowd of 27,481, the biggest crowd ever to watch a match between the two clubs. Both teams had promotion aspirations, Luton were in second place, and Watford were in sixth. Luton went 1-0 up early on when Payne notched his 34th goal of the season, when he headed in a corner from George Stephenson. Within 60 seconds Watford were level thanks to a goal by Len Fletcher. By half

time The Town were 2-1 up after a fine move involving Stephenson, Payne and Eddie Hancock was finished off by Albert Dawes. A single second half strike by Fred Roberts insured two very valuable points for The Town with a 3-1 win. Watford's promotion hopes would disappear, but The Town would finish the season as Division 3 [South] champions and take their place in Division 2 for the first time in 37 years.

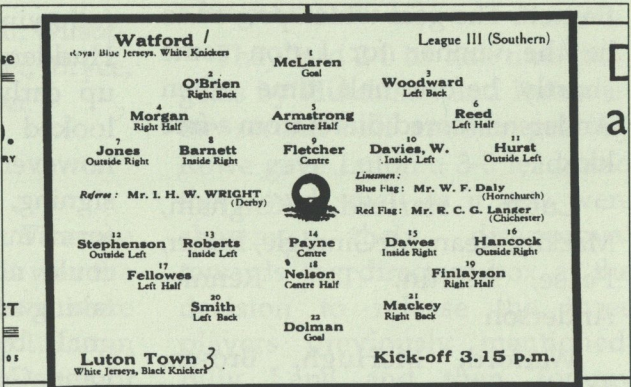
The 'legendary' Joe Payne who played in both games. He scored a 'Hat-trick' in the home game.



Watford, McLaren, O'Brien, Woodward, Morgan, Armstrong, Reed, Jones, Barnett, Fletcher, W.Davies, Hurst.

Luton, Dolman, Mackay, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Hancock, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

The two clubs would not meet again in the league for 26 years. During that time Luton would taste life at the very top, while Watford would finish up having a spell in Division 4. During this interlude the clubs would meet on several occasions in various unofficial matches.



The line-up for the 1936-37 match at Vicarage Rd; which marked the half-century meetings between the two clubs.

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Interlude

The Football League celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1938, and to celebrate this The Football League set up a Jubilee Benevolent Fund, to assist players in financial need. A target of £100,000 was set. In order to raise some of this money some pre-season friendlies were arranged with the gate money going into the fund. It must be remembered that pre-season friendlies were not the norm in those days. Matches were to be played on a home and away basis, with one match being played prior to the 1938/39 season and the return to be played prior to the 1939/40 season. "Local Derbies" were arranged in most cases, and that meant Luton would play Watford. The match at Luton took place on August 20th 1938. A new covered terrace at the Oak Road end of the ground was in use for the first time that day. Luton won the match 2-1.

Fred Roberts put Luton in front after 15 minutes. Five minutes before the interval Len Dunderdale equalised. The winner came with just 2 minutes remaining, when Ted Vinall scored for The Town. The attendance of 9,103 paid receipts of £507/10s towards the appeal. Twelve months later on August 19th 1939, with war clouds gathering a crowd of 3,500 turned up at Vicarage Road to watch a match which was played in the midst of a thunder storm and heavy rain. Watford won the match 3-1 thanks to goals by George Lewis, Tommy Barnett and William Davies. Reg Stockill scored Luton's only goal.

Two weeks later World War 2 broke out leading to The Football League to be suspended for the duration. Between 1939 and 1945 various war time competitions took place. The matches were often played with scratch teams, and it was not unknown for people in the crowd making up the numbers, as a consequence some strange results occurred, Luton were on at least four occasions beaten by double figure scores. As far as Luton v Watford matches were concerned there were 8 meetings during the hostilities, Luton winning 5, Watford 3 and there were 2 draws.

George Stephenson
A pacey wide player for the Town & scored some great goals



CHRISTMAS DAY 1940

A most unusual thing happened on Christmas Day 1940, when Luton played Watford twice on the same day in The Southern Regional League. At Watford in the morning with an 11.00am kick off, and at Luton in the afternoon starting at 3.00pm. What is more, of the 22 players that played in the morning, 18 turned out again in the afternoon, and it is said there are too many matches played over the Christmas period these days.

At Watford Bert Lutterloch put The Town in front, but Henry Lewis equalised before half time, Tom Jones missed a penalty for Watford. Horace Gager restored The Town's lead, only for Watford to be awarded a second penalty. This time Lewis made no mistake to make the final score 2-2. Luton were very upset with many of the referees decisions. He did come from Watford however.

Just over two hours later the action switched to Kenilworth Road, where Luton ran out winners 4-1 There was just 1 goal in the first half which came from Eddie Duggan. Early in the second half Tom Dunsmore scored a second for The Town from the penalty spot. Duggan scored his second, before Lewis scored from the penalty spot for the second time in the day to pull one back for the visitors. James Laing scored Luton's fourth.

Watford [at Watford] McHugh, Harris, J.Lewis, Giddins, Woodward, R.King, Jones, Barnett, H.Lewis, Williams, Brown

At Luton D.Lewis replaced J.Lewis, and Lowe replaced Woodward.

Luton, [at Watford] Coen, Gager, Dunsmore; Campbell, Hunt, Forsyth, Dowers, Laing, Duggan, Lutterloch, Perrins

At Luton Armes replaced Dowers and J.Smith replaced Perrins.

TO BE CONTINUED IN PART 3....

?? QUICK FUN QUIZ ??

Unscramble these letters below to find the names of various football teams. So have fun!!

1. TOUNWLNT0
2. HRXEWAM
3. YETIXECRTE
4. DEFSHINTIUFEELD
5. DCYNTREBOUY
6. DRTHESMAUNECNTIE
7. RPEUSNUTCTNHODEI
8. FADTWOR
9. CIOWNIYRCTH
10. HONBWRSEWUTSYR
11. EACLANXWRERDAE
12. EKARCOBVSBRLLNR

ANSWERS TO QUICK QUIZ ARE ON THE BACK PAGE

NEWSDESK ... SUPPORTERS CLUB ... NEWSDESK ...

LTSC Northern Branch Update

As we stated in our Autumn edition of the Hatters News, we were at the time formulating the start of our newest branch.

Our new Northern Branch co-ordinator, Mr. Danny Clubb of Blackpool, has stated that one of the main aims in the formation of this branch is to give all Luton Town Supporters that live *50 miles+ north* of Luton a closer link with each other and the football club.

Members will be able to exchange address details, points of view etc., and if possible arrange travel to home & away games to save on travel costs.

We MUST stipulate at this time, that it is totally your decision if you fall into this category and want to become a member of this branch at no extra cost.

It is hoped that with the 15 or so members Mr Clubb has already recruited as northern members that early next year he hopes to organise the first branch meeting at a suitably placed venue. We, as the main branch will inform you via Mr Clubb on all these details.

If you would like to know more about the new branch and it aims you can write to the main address as follows:

L.T.S.C. (Northern Branch), c/o Luton Town Football Club, The ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds. LU1 1DH. or write directly to Mr. D. Clubb, LTSC (Northern Branch), 96-98, Palatine Road, Blackpool, Lancs, FY1 4BY.

THE 'MAD HATTERS' LOOSE TO THE 'GOLDEN BOYS'

Last month we took up the invitation from Wycombe Wanderers F.C. S.C. to take part in their Quiz Night. On our arrival we notice that there were contingents from other S.Clubs including Watford F.C.

In the blush surroundings of Adams Park facilities we set about to be the top team out of thirteen that had entered. Each team consisted of no more than six players, and as the night progressed we felt we had a chance of at least the top three spot but to our shock there happen to be that team from Watford namely the "Golden Boys" - Funny name for a team that consisted of both genders?

Anyway, after 2 hours and 10 'brain taxing' rounds later we had to settle for fifth place with only 6 points separating the other teams above us, and to make the night complete that team from Watford won the first prize of £80.00.

OVERSEAS SUPPORT

We have just received our regular contact with the Chairman of the Luton Town S.C. of Scandinavia, were they are a well organised group and have a membership of well over 200+ who support the Hatters. They produce a bi-monthly newsletter which is well produced and arrange meetings from time-to-time, and have a Supporters Club Football team which is fully kitted out in the Town colours.

KOHLERDOME STADIUM PUBLIC ENQUIRY UPDATE

As you may have seen in the local / national press and Luton v Boreham Wood programme concerning the Local Labour challenger, Cllr. Margaret Moran attack on Sir Graham Bright M.P. for Luton South.

When Mr. Bright finally come off the fence prior to the first public opening saying that he was not in favour of the Kohlerdome Corporation proposals, but felt that if any proposals should get the green light, it should be the Wyncote Scheme. She alleges that Sir Graham had backed this scheme, and criticised him because of his financial connections with the Safeway supermarket chain, which have plans to build a development in conjunction with the Wyncote Development.

The re-opening of the public enquiry started again for a week or so on the Monday 9th December to discuss the Environmental impact the Kohlerdome plans would have.

As we have stated in our last article, the decision on the outcome would not be made until a least mid summer next year at the earliest.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

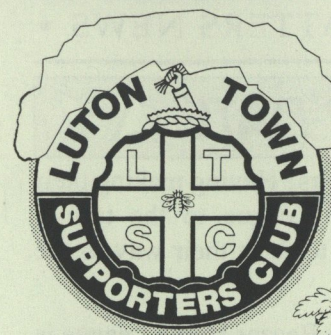
At the time of going to print, we haven't been able to confirm any dates for future events, BUT we intend to have a players Guest Evening by the end of January '97 which if accepted will be very popular choice for all you members and should be very well attended.

If you don't know already we have booked the venue for our **Annual Players Presentation Night** which this year is on **SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 1997** at the Kents Social Club, Tenby Drive, Luton.

We have other events in the pipeline (dates to be confirmed) i.e. Video Evening, Former Player Guest Speaker Evening and hopefully a football programme fair towards the end of the season.

They enter into competition tournament with other Scandinavian branch S.C.

If you feel you would like to make contact with any of their members to exchange LTFC items or just to write to you can contact their Chairman as follows: Mr. Iars Petterson-Ronnestad, c/o Luton T.S.C. of Scandinavia, 6076, Moldtustranda, Norway.



Winter 1996

"VOICE OF THE FANS"

Issue No.28

PROMOTION - a Reality or Forlorn Dream?

As the season enters December the Town are handily placed following a good run of results during October, leading to manager Lennie Lawrence receiving Manager of the Month award, these continued into November despite been knocked out of the Littlewoods cup by Wimbledon, in a game which brought the highest attendance of the season, so far, but ending in a disappointing result, this was after the Town had dominated the early exchanges, taking the lead from an own goal by Dean Blackwell after he attempted a back header towards his goalkeeper, only to find he had come out to meet the same cross, so it duly floated over him. The Town had other good chances notably to Alexander, Hughes and Thorpe, but they were all missed and later to be regretted, Thorpe in particular should have added a second just after the initial goal, but when given a comparatively free header in the box directed his header against the bar. The game was turned around by Wimbledon in the second half, but the Town defended above their station and it was not until way into injury time, with the crowd baying for a whistle, that Castledine scored of the post, then followed the inevitable winner scored by Fear past an unsighted Feuer.

However, there was a lot of promise in the display, particularly if chances are taken, a necessity at a higher level, then a run in the FA cup may bring some much needed financial revenue.



The FA cup run was started with a victory at Torquay, which was deserved after an initial period of pressure from the home side in the opening 20 minutes. The home game against the non league opposition of Boreham Wood was awaited as this report was written

The league saw the first defeat since September at Preston, but was immediately recovered by victory, somewhat fortuitously against Bristol Rovers, which heralded the return of Dwight Marshall to scoring ways. If the Town can maintain a top six place through to Easter then the crunch will come, and hopefully a final push will lead to the ultimate goal this year, promotion. A lot will depend on injuries, so far, these have severely restricted the availability of front players, with all of them been absent at some stage because of injury, however if this was to be repeated in the defence then the results may not hold up as well.

This assumes the financial pressures do no force the premature sale of players, if there is one thing we can learn from Wimbledon, is that you can be successful, despite player sales to balance the books, but the selling club needs to be in a position to dictate when the sales are made, this would enable the receipts to be maximised, and replacements to be planned and lined up, a necessity until a new ground can be developed thus hopefully bringing about a financial state where the Club at least can be run on at least a break even basis, without the need to sell your most valuable playing assets.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A SUCCESSFUL 1997
- Yours Mark Chapman -
LTSC Committee Member.

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO LENNIE ON BEING VOTED SECOND DIVISION MANAGER OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER



Who will be the Luton Town S.C. PLAYER OF THE SEASON??



One of the advantages you have of being a member of the Supporters Club - you have the sole right to vote for your 'Player of the Season'. With the success of the First and Youth teams this season there are many candidates you could choose from. Here are just a few:

- 1) **TONY THORPE** (Top Scorer for Luton and in Division Two (to date) who has done wonders since Lennie and Wayne had the belief for him to move from midfield to a more centre forward role where he has done the business
- 2) **STEVE DAVIS** (since passing the captain's armband over to Waddock he has gone on to improve his game by holding a solid back four formation and dominant in the air especially from set pieces.
- 3) **GARY WADDOCK** (A great captain & pro, with his never-say-die attitude and has gone on score to Two Goals so far this season!!)
- 4) **IAN FEUER** (Giant of a man in the Luton Town Goal) - He was last year's winner and has a great affinity with the Luton supporters)
- 5) **GRAHAM ALEXANDER** (The engine room in Luton's midfield with his great all round approach to the game and strength in midfield.)
- 6) **CERI HUGHES** (Having one of his best seasons for the Hatters and has approached the games with a more calmer outlook hence less bookings!!)
- 7) The rest of the team - the choice is yours.

So what is your choice?- Don't miss your chance to vote, please return the enclosed voting slip to the stated address by 22nd April 1997.

Apart from the main award there are three other categories for **Young Luton Town Player** - chosen by the LTFC management staff, **Players-Player** chosen by the players themselves and **Young LTSC member Player of the Season** chosen by our younger members.

This will be our 9th Annual presentation awards night and it should be another "great evening" for all Luton Town Supporters. Previous winners of this prestige award are as follows:



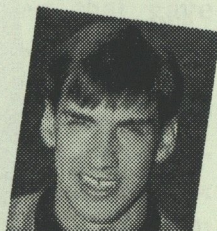
1988/89
Mick Harford



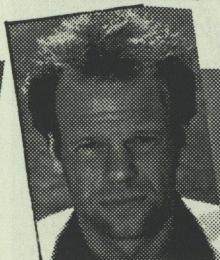
1889/90
Tim Breaker



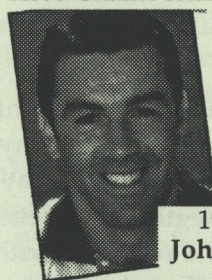
Double Winner
1991/92
& 1993/94
David Preece



1990/91
Alec Chamberlain



1994/95
Trevor Peake



1992/93
John Dreyer



Last Season
Ian Feuer

THIS
SEASON
?????????

QUICK COMPETITION ANSWERS:
1. LUTON TOWN 2. WREXHAM 3. EXETER CITY 4. SHEFFIELD UNITED
5. DERBY COUNTY 6. MANCHESTER UNITED 7. SCUNTHORPE UNITED
8. WATFORD 9. NORWICH CITY 10. SHREWSBURY TOWN
11. CREWE ALEXANDRA 12. BLACKBURN ROVERS Hope you had FUN!

The LITTLE & LARGE SHOW (An Evening with Dwight Marshall & Ian Feuer)

Back in February we held another of our **Guest Player Evenings** with two of the most popular First team players who have a great affinity with all the supporters.

The evening consisted of questions & answers, with an insight into the two players backgrounds. They started evening by saying that the opportunity to play for Luton was one they could not turn down as they had followed their progress over the years with the style of Football the way it should be played.

Ian had always wanted to be a goalkeeper ever since he took up playing sport back in the U.S., and was especially good at basketball (*I wonder why*). He now feels that the experience gained in playing in the Football League has made him want to go on to be the best in the Country.

One question **Dwight** was asked was about his horrific injury

he picked up at Sunderland last year and was it the reason why we were relegated. He felt it had affected the team's confidence and a it was a low time in his career but that was all behind him now and now all he wants is to be successful with the Hatters!



A Scene from the evening with Dwight & Feuer plus our Chairperson (Right) - Yvonne Fletcher who chaired the meeting. - We hope to have another before the end of the Season. *Many thanks to all those who attended.*