



HATTERS

News

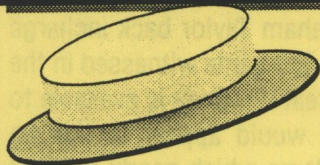
Membership Prices
held for another season

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Summer 1997

"VOICE OF THE FANS"

Issue No.30



DIVISION TWO AGAIN!

Dear Members,

This is the prospect facing the Town following defeat by Crewe in the division play off semi - final, who then proceeded to beat Brentford in the final and became the second side in 2 years to gain promotion after finishing the league programme in sixth position .

This has inevitably led to discussions over the benefits of the Play Off system, as before automatic promotion would have been secured prior to the last game of the season.

However, this will only gloss over the fact that the Town were not good enough to secure one of the two automatic places , losing out to Bury , very disciplined and organised but with little flair and one wonders how they will cope with their second upgrade in 2 years and Stockport arguably equipped with the strongest squad , this was stretched to it's fullest with the league and cup programmes undertaken, and they still had the ability to score victories whilst closing the season at 4 games a week.

The play off games both started in promising fashion . In the first Oldfield finished a cross from Fotiades which the keeper had failed to hold , the Town then proceeded to dominate until half time with Hughes deputy McLaren outstanding, but their were 2 distinct turning points Firstly the early loss of Waddock with a badly gashed shin, he was to be badly missed when the defence came under pressure in the second half, and then Thorpe putting wide a chance when clean through on goal, an opportunity he would have buried in the earlier part of the season. In the second half Crewe noticably stepped up the pace causing constant problems down the Town's right , with James notably coming under pressure . He obtained his first booking with a clumsy challenge and his dismissal followed a similar poor effort In between Crewe had equalised when the left winger Smith was given more room in the box than he should have been allowed and finished inside Feuer's near post. The second goal then duly followed but surprisingly this was not increased, with Adebola in particular guilty of missing a clear cut chance when been placed 15



yards out with only Feuer to beat

So the second game was to commence with the Town in optimistic mood, they only required a 1-0 victory to ensure a final place and had previously beaten their opponents 6-0 in a very one sided game . The script appeared to be followed with Oldfield giving the Town a 2 goal lead , although this was not a one sided start and the lead if anything was unjustified at this stage, but Crewe failed to lie down, and immediately pulled one goal back, from that point on there was only going to be one winner, they showed far more commitment and enterprise than the Town and their victory over 2 legs was fully justified.

This was another game the Town had failed to win after they had been in front at one stage, a feat they never accomplished in the league , and only once all season in all competitions, at home to Borehamwood in the FA cup ! What factors led to the inability to convert the promising position arrived at by Boxing Day into one where another season of long ball, strong armed tactic football has to be endured. Certainly the depth of squad was a factor , to frequently results were not obtained when more than 1 change was made and also that the squad inherited by Lennie Lawrence was so unbalanced, with only 2 left footers, 1 injured all season , no genuine target man or options with anyone able to play in a wide position and having the ability to get to the by-line and consistently provide a service to the strikers , Showler accepted.

The lack of transfer monies available has not hepled Lawrence rebuild the squad , whilst the recent sale of Upson should cover the losses for the season, the accounts for the year ending April 96 , show culmalative knowledge of over £2 Million, so no monies are likely to be available in the transfer kity from this source, but it should mean any further monies released from sales can be reploughed into the squad. Some further turnover must be expected and welcomed.

A player which will attract the attention of higher placed clubs will is Thorpe , but he only has a one season track record and



CONT:-

the majority of clubs will be put off by any fee the club would demand. If a transfer was to go through where would the goals come from? He does have 2 years remaining on a contract so a Bosman situation cannot occur, unlike James , Patterson, and Waddock, whose present contracts have expired , but are all being offered new deals , if only to try and remove the threat of free transfers.

Guentchev, Harvey and Skelton have all been released, if only to bring in some younger players and reduce the wage bill, particularly in the case of Guentchev, who was understood to be one of the highest earners on the books.

The highlights of the season were undoubtedly the Coca - Cola cup performances against Derby and Wimbledon where the Town put a mockery to their league position and showed the determination and skill required to perform at a higher level, but those performances have to be transferred into league results and Hughes for one showed a very inconsistent level of performance across the season , although it was pleasing to see Lawrence has managed to curb some of his temper , with far fewer games missed as a result of suspension

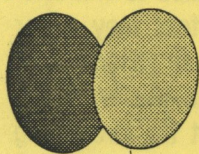
How will we fare next season, a lot will depend on the emergence of players from the succesful youth side , who showed maturity beyond their years winning the South East Counties Division 2 title and winning through to the Semi Final of the Youth Cup , eventually losing out to winners

Leeds United over 2 legs, elsewhere Darren Patterson at long last showed he may be able to provide competition for places in defence, and Fotiadis looks to have the potential up front.

No side was relegated who has any spending power, but there could be the emergence of sides from Division 3 who could have an effect in the higher division next season, with Fulham and Wigan both having monies available to strengthen existng squads. From within the division I expect to see strong performances again from Brentford and Bristol City, but Watford with Graham Taylor back incharge are likely to be back into the long ball game witnessed in the early Eighties and may pose a threat if money is available to strengthen the squad. Millwall would appear to still be suffering from the financial problems which nearly brought their downfall, whilst strong performances can also be expected from the northern contenders Burnley and Blackpool.

I would expect the Town to at least make the play off's again, whether they can push themselves into one of the automatic spots we will have to wait and see , if not the break up of a squad which is starting to see some promise, will start, with the potential losses of Feuer, Davis , Hughes and Thorpe almost inevitable

Have a good summer break (Very Short)
Mark Chapman - LTSC Committee Member



BANG WENT THE PLAY-OFF's

Dear Members,

Before you all rush off on your holidays to recover from one of the longest Luton seasons in living memory, I'd like to thank you all for your support this season. A big thank you especially to The Supporters Club Committee who have done a sterling job and also helped to make the Crewe and Peterborough away matches even more colourful than usual (yes, that's where all the balloons came from).

I hope you've enjoyed reading the newsletters that we have sent you throughout the season, and if you've any comments please drop us a line - we'd love to hear from you. We'd also welcome any suggestions for future guest speakers at the Supporters Club meetings or for those of you further afield and unable to attend, any new ideas for the

newsletter. It's YOUR club so why not get in touch?

If you can come along to the AGM, I look forward to seeing you there. If not, enjoy the summer and see you all for the promotion battle once again next season.

Your Chairperson - *Yvonne Fletcher*



"PREDICT THE SCORE" COMPETITION FINAL TABLES

The season is at a close and the results have arrived for the Predict the Score Competition. The question everyone is asking 'Who is the winner?' Well unfortunately Jackyl & Hyde have fallen from top spot into second place. So the winner is P.R's Predictions who came from second place to clinch the title and the voucher by one point. Second place was madly fought between Jackyl & Hyde and Beano Beaters, and it had to be decided by the tie breaker. So CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THREE WINNERS!!! Your prizes will be with you shortly.

Down at the bottom of the Beazer Home League has been vacated by Nadine Keating, who in our last few matches actually scored some points, Sorry! Well the fight for being bottom was between Iron-on-Loan and Robin Jolly. Again this was decided by one point

only. So commiseration to Robin, and the bonus prize will be on it's way to you, and good luck in your new found career!!

I must give a special mention to Maria Constantinou who has remained in the Premier League throughout the whole competition. What a superb late tactic move from Rob and Elaine Carter moving from the Vauxhall Conference straight into the Premier, how did you do it?

All joint result positions were worked by using the tie breaker system. I would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who entered and made the competition a success.

We are hoping to run a similar type of competition next season! ALL THE BEST - Cathie Crocker

THE LEAGUE TABLES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PREMIER LEAGUE

Position	Previous Position	Name	Total points
1	2	P.R's Predictions	34
2	1	The Jackyl & Hyde	33
3	5	Beano Beaters	33
4	6	The Lively Lumpers	32
5	14	David Squire	31
6	19	Where's Walsall?	30
7	16	Grimsby Grumblers	30
8	10	Herman's Hatters	30
9	3	The Winners	30
10	34	Winner United	29
11	36	Rob and Elaine Carter	29
12	9	Maria Constantinou	29
13	18	Andy's Birthday	29
14	4	The Pulloxhill Hatters	28
15	23	Phil Gurney	28
16	11	Flitwick Army	28
17	17	David Lawrence	28

DIVISION ONE

Position	Previous Position	Name	Total points
18	8	Nationwide Div 2	27
19	26	Mad Hatters	27
20	33	Homework Hopeful	27
21	13	Hardway Hussars	27
22	29	A. Worsdale	27
23	12	Yvonne Fletcher	26
24	20	The Road to Promotion	26
25	21	The Bulgarian	26
26	45	Red Star Slapheadovic	26
27	41	Close Encounter of 'Universal Kind	26
28	22	The Flower Arrangers	25
29	7	Sue Miller	25
30	37	Mighty McLarens	25
31	55	Golf City	25

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Position	Previous Position	Name	Total points
32	30	Town's Total	24
33	31	The Trojan's	24
34	52	The Ghanian	24
35	24	Pamela Spoerry	24
36	15	'P' Heads	23
37	39	John Maxfield	23
38	25	Marvellous Marvin	22
39	49	Karen Maxfield	22
40	54	Nationwide	21
41	47	marvin for England	21
42	42	Boro Babe	21
43	61	Andrew Jolly	21
44	43	The Joe Payne Stadium FC	20
45	27	Lennies Barmy Army	20
46	28	Hatters Galore	20

BEAZER HOME LEAGUE

47	56	Stroughton Strikers	19
48	35	Say we are top of the League	19
49	32	P.N.E. Goin'Down1	19
50	48	Luton Town f.C.	19
51	38	Les Miller	19
52	57	Runners Up	18
53	53	Roy's Nationwide	18
54	58	Mad Hat	18
55	40	Hats Off	18
56	50	Harlow Hatters	18
57	46	Nick Kipling	17
58	63	Ellie Kitchin	17
59	64	Nadine Keating	16
60	51	Champions	16
61	44	The American	15
62	62	Lillywhites	14
63	60	Iron-on-Loan	13
64	59	Robin Jolly	12

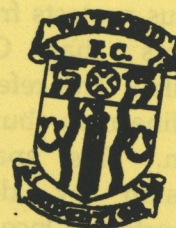
But a council planner pointed out homes would not be built on all of the Kenilworth Road site. Part of it would become public open space.

A History of Luton Town v Watford

— The Third of a Five Part Series —

by Mick McConkey

— • The 1960's, 70's and • — on to Promotion to Div 1 in 1982



The 1960's

Last day dramas, and the age of the hooligan both on and off the field

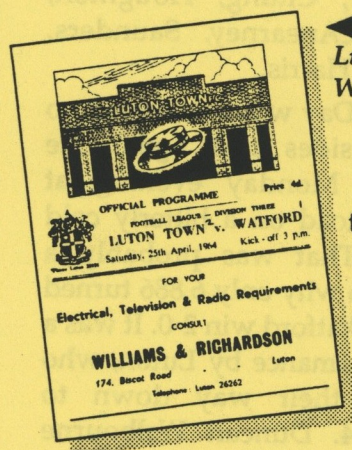
1963/64

Luton were in freefall on their way from Division 1 to Division 4 in five years when they came across Watford in Division 3 for the 1963/64 season. Watford were enjoying a little bit of an upsurge having been promoted from Division 4 in 1960. The Town had been relegated from Division 2 in 1962/63 and for most of this season looked as though they would drop into Division 4. By the time the two sides met for the first time on October 19th at Vicarage Road. The Town were struggling, and were in the bottom four with just 3 wins from 14 matches. Watford for their part were comfortably placed in the top half. Scoring goals was The Town's main problem and it proved to be the case as Watford won the match 2-0. In the first half Luton looked much the better footballing side, but rarely troubled a young Pat Jennings in the Watford goal. Watford for their part had just two worthwhile attempts, the first saw Ron Baynham make a spectacular one handed save from Charlie Livesey. The second came on 41 minutes when a shot from Bobby Howfield came through a crowd of players and past an unsighted Baynham to put Watford 1-0 up. On the stroke of half time The Town had a piece of bad luck when a goal bound header from Gareth Salisbury was cleared off

the line by Terry Mancini. Watford went 2-0 up on 57 minutes when George Harris netted from close range, had he not of scored the referee may well have awarded a penalty as Baynham had bundled Livesey to the ground in the build up. It could have got worse for The Town as Harris had a shot which rattled the crossbar soon after. The attendance was 13,250.

Watford, Jennings; Bell, Nicholas, Crisp, Mancini, Gregory, Howfield, Fraser, Livesey, Oliver, Harris.

Luton, Baynham, Morton, Bramwell, Pacey, Fincham, Lownds, Walden, Smith, McKechnie, Salisbury, Weir.



1963/64 Luton v Watford Prog

last Saturday of the season, The Town had more or less completed an act of escapology. They had been in the bottom four nearly all season, but a brilliant run of results over the last few weeks had seen The Town climb out of the relegation positions, but they would still have to beat Watford to make certain of survival. Watford for their part could still win promotion to Division 2 if they could win the

match by something in the region of a three goal margin, and that second place Crystal Palace lost. With so much at stake it was little wonder that a crowd of 19,997 [the biggest attendance for a league match at Kenilworth Road for four years] turned up to witness a day of drama. Both teams seemed a little anxious in the first half, with Watford being the more positive. Half time came with no score, scores form elsewhere favoured Luton, Barnsley and Millwall who both had to win to send Luton down were drawing and losing their matches respectively. The news for Watford was not so good, Crystal Palace were winning. Watford came out looking the more positive in the second half as they had to be, and it was no surprise when George Harris gave them the lead after 54 minutes when he converted a cross from Ron Spelman, There was no further scoring until ten minutes from time. Then, The Town were awarded a free kick just inside the Watford half, Gordon Fincham lofted the ball into the Watford penalty area, where it was touched on by Dave Pacey and John O'Rourke alert as ever nipped in between two defenders to blast the ball past Pat Jennings in the Watford goal. Watford were now looking edgy and soon after O'Rourke had another chance, but Jennings just managed to scramble the ball away to safety. There was just 3 minutes left when Luton launched another attack, the ball fell invitingly for Gordon Turner,

Continues ...

but his shot was blocked, it ran loose to O'Rourke who lashed the ball into the net. There were furious protests from the Watford players that O'Rourke had handled. The referee did consult the linesman, but the goal was given. This sparked a pitch invasion by delirious Town supporters. Once the pitch was cleared The Town nearly scored again, but then the final whistle sounded. The Town were safe, even if they had lost they would not have gone down as Barnsley and Millwall both failed to win. It must have been a major disappointment to Watford as Crystal Palace had lost 3-1 at home to Oldham. With that result a 3-0 Watford win would have seen them promoted on goal average. They would have to wait another five years to fulfil their dream.

Luton, Baynham, McBain, Bramwell, Pacey, Fincham, Lownds, Turner, Smith, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.

Watford, Jennings, Nicholas, Jones; Crisp, Chung, Owen, Spelman, McAnearney, Livesey, Oliver, Harris.

1964/65

By Boxing Day 1964 The Town were in the middle of their annual battle against relegation, while Watford were in mid table. The two sides met on a frosty Boxing Day afternoon at Kenilworth Road, but despite the difficult conditions the 11,020 crowd were kept well entertained, especially in the first half. George Harris gave Watford a 1-0 lead after 3 minutes. It could have been 2-0 soon after, but Ron Baynham pulled off a good save to deny Ron Saunders. Harris scored again after 14 minutes, and it appeared as though The Town were in for a long afternoon. But they then showed some of the fighting spirit which was so often missing during these difficult times. After 28 minutes

Gordon Riddick pulled a goal back with a long range shot. The Town pulled themselves level with a goal by Ray Whittaker after 41 minutes, but any hopes they had of going in at half time on level terms at least were dashed as Harris completed his hat trick on 44 minutes. Watford restored their two goal advantage after 54 minutes when Baynham failed to cut out a cross from Saunders, and Jimmy McAnearney slid the ball in from close range. The Town tried valiantly to stage another comeback, but they were out of luck. Dave Pacey and Riddick both had shots which hit the woodwork and Gordon Fincham forced Peter Goy into making a fine save. Watford it must be said looked the better side, but The Town would have felt disappointed not to have got anything from the game.

Luton, Baynham; McBain, Jardine, Pacey, Fincham, Reid, Pleat, Riddick, McKechnie, Rioch, Whittaker

Watford, Goy, Burgess, Furphy, Welbourne, Chung, Houghton, Owen, McAnearney, Saunders, Anderson, Harris.

Boxing Day was a Saturday, so the two sides met again the following Monday evening at Vicarage Road on a bitterly cold evening. That was probably a factor as to why only 6,886 turned up to see Watford win 2-0. It was a poor performance by Luton, who were on their way down to Division 4. Duncan Welbourne after 28 minutes and Ron Saunders on 85 minutes were the scorers

Watford, were unchanged from the match played on Boxing Day

Luton, Baynham, McBain, Barton, Pacey, Caleb, Lownds, Pleat, Riddick, McKechnie, Reid, Rioch.

The Town were to spend three years in Division 4, but "battle" would recommence in the 1968/69 season.

1968/69

This was the age of the hooligan and hooliganism would rear its ugly head on more than one occasion, both on and off the field during a season of high tension between the two clubs. It must be said that the local press did much to whip everybody up into frenzy. The two local Hemel Hempstead based sister evening papers, The Evening Post which served the Luton area and The Evening Echo the Watford area certainly knew how to stir things up. The two sides were drawn against each other in the First Round of the League Cup. It would be good test for the newly promoted Luton side. They had already dispatched Oldham Athletic 4-0 on the opening day of



John O'Rourke



Ray Whittaker

the season. Wednesday August 14th was the day when "battle" commenced, in front of a crowd of 20,167. The Town won a bone jarring match 3-0, the foul count as recorded by The Evening Post reporter was, 23 against Luton and 22 against Watford, that it is a foul every 2 minutes, how much time did he actually spend watching the match?. Crucially two of the fouls committed by Watford led to goals for Luton. After 9 minutes Brian Lewis was brought down inside the Watford penalty area by Bill Slater. Mike Harrison scored from the spot. When the game was allowed to flow for a few minutes Luton looked by far the better side. They had to wait until 3 minutes into the second half to extend their lead when Harrison

Continues ...

headed in a cross from the right. Late in the game Harrison was involved again, as his free kick was flicked on by Lewis to make the final score 3-0. Watford manager Ken Furphy was quoted in the following evenings paper as saying "you cannot play football on a ground as small as this." This was really the calm before the storm.

Luton, Read, Dougan, Jardine, Allen, Branston, Slough, J.O.Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Harrison [Sub McDerment]

Watford, Slater; Welbourne, Williams, Hale, Garvey, Eddy, Scullion, Dyson, Garbett, Walley, Lewis [Sub Owen]

The first league encounter took place at Vicarage Road on October 5th. A crowd of 22,176 were on hand to see league leaders Luton beaten 1-0 thanks to a goal by Roy Low after just 2 minutes. Watford were much the sharper of the two teams and deserved to take both points. Unfortunately the hooligan element caused a few problems, so much so that the first aid post at Vicarage Road was overcrowded, and the dressing rooms were used as an overflow area, during the first half of the match it was reported that it looked more like a hospital casualty unit. Worse was to follow. The match was televised by London Weekend Television for their Big Match programme, Luton's 1930's hero Joe Payne was interviewed on the programme which was shown the following day.

Watford, Walker; Welbourne, Williams, Eddy, Garvey, Walley, Scullion, Hale, Garbett, Dyson, Low. [Sub Owen]

Luton, Read, Dougan, Jardine, Slough, Branston, McDerment, J.O.Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Harrison. [Sub Allen]

The return match at Kenilworth Road was scheduled for Boxing Day, unfortunately it fell victim to

the weather. It was rescheduled to take place on Wednesday February 20th. The home match scheduled for the previous Saturday against Stockport County had been postponed due to snow and frost. However a thaw had set in although it was still very cold, but by the afternoon of the match it was definitely on, and the banner headline in the Evening Post announced, "Only Snow Can Stop



It Now" By early evening it had turned really cold once again. About 10 minutes before kick off a few flakes of snow started to fall.

*Graham French
A Fast & Skillfull
Winger*

This very quickly turned into heavy snow, and with the stiff breeze that was blowing it soon turned into a blizzard as the match kicked off. Conditions for football were fast becoming impossible but the game went on. Barry Endean put Watford 1-0 up after 32 minutes. The Town forced their way back into the game over the next 10 minutes or so and it was no surprise that they got an equaliser on 44 minutes. A corner on the right from Graham French found its way to the far post, where Fred Jardine rose to head the ball past Mike Walker. The ground staff worked frantically during the interval to clear the snow from the lines, but as they did so the snow just obliterated them again. The teams came back out and tried to play football, but it was becoming farcical and after 62 minutes the referee decided that enough was enough and abandoned the match, as I recall he had no alternative. Despite the bitter cold 21,473 hardy souls had

turned out to watch the match, thankfully there was no crowd trouble to speak of on this occasion.

The match was replayed on Wednesday April 30th, and apart from a notorious evening some sixteen years later when a team called Millwall came to town this must go down as the worst night of violence and crowd disorder that has ever been witnessed at Kenilworth Road, even the players got involved in their own battle on the pitch. This was the last match of the season for both teams and there was a lot at stake. Watford had already gained promotion to Division 2, but they needed to win to clinch the championship. Luton had an outside chance of joining Watford in Division 2, but they had to win this match, and hope that Swindon Town failed to collect any points from their last two matches, if Swindon collected maximum points they would be champions if Luton were to beat Watford. A crowd of 25,254 packed into Kenilworth Road [hard to imagine how they did it, but they did] Luton as I said needed to win, and they took the lead on 29 minutes with a goal from Ian Buxton in what transpired to be his last match for The Town. The police and St. John Ambulance were working overtime as a combination of the crush and mass crowd disorder. There were over 100 casualties, of which 20 or so needed hospital treatment. In the second half the players got stuck in as well, it was discribed by Roger Duckworth of The Evening Post thus "The second half was one of frenzied hacking, of angry scenes and wild players doing things they surely regret now. Some of the Watford tackling was the worst I have ever seen" Luton manager Alec Stock was appalled by what he saw both on and off the field, he said "I thought the crowds behaviour matched that of the

Continues ...

players - it was brutal". Watford manager Ken Furphy made no comment. The major flashpoint on the field came early in the second half when Luton's player of the year Alan Slough and Watford forward Barry Endean got involved in an off the ball incident, which finished up in what was described as a wrestling match. Once the other players separated them the referee had no hesitation in sending them both off. The next player to get himself into trouble was Watford's Tom Walley. He seemed to lose his composure completely, first he committed a serious foul on Bruce Rioch and shortly after that he was guilty of a reckless challenge on Max Dougan. Five minutes from time he kicked out at Brian Lewis, the referee had enough by now and he was left with no choice but to send Tom Walley off. Meanwhile there was a game of football being played, or at least I think there was. The Town went 2-0 up after 70 minutes when Keith Allen headed in a corner from Brian Lewis. Watford pulled a goal back just after Walley had been dismissed when Stewart Scullion netted after a shot from Dixie Hale had struck the upright. The Town then held on to their 2-1 lead. The result left both teams to sweat it out. Swindon took 3 points from their matches, so they went up along with Watford who took the championship on goal average. The Town would have to wait another year.

Luton, Read, Dougan, Bannister, Keen, Slough, Moore, French, Lewis, Buxton, Allen, Rioch [Sub Branston]

Watford, Walker, Welbourne, Williams, Eddy, Lees, Walley, Scullion, Hale, Sinclair, Endean, Owen [Garbett]

Luton Town Line-up ➤
1970/71 Season

1970'S LITTLE ACTION AND LITTLE PASSION

1970/71

Following The Town's promotion at the end of the 1969/70 they joined Watford in Division 2, thus the two teams met at this level for the first time. The match at Vicarage Road was played on December 12th. The match was televised by L.W.T. for their Big Match programme the following day, but it did not make compulsive viewing. A healthy crowd of 24,456 were on hand to watch what I can only describe as a total bore. The Town won 1-0, thanks to a goal by Mike Keen after 28 minutes, when he headed in following a corner from Jim Ryan. After that Luton were content to hold an insipid Watford attack at arms length. Ken Furphy as sporting as normal said after the game that Keen had not known anything about the goal, he said "The ball just bounced off his head and went in" The win kept Luton's dream of promotion to Division 1 very much alive

Watford, Walker, Butler, Packer, Garbett, Lees, Eddy, Scullion, Wigg, Lugg, [Welbourne] Walley, Woods

Luton, Read, John Ryan, Bannister, Hoy, [Collins] Nicholl, Slough, Jim Ryan, Court, MacDonald, Keen, Givens

By the time the return match was played at Kenilworth Road on February 13th The Town were in fourth place in the table, while Watford were having to fight to avoid the drop, they were fifth from bottom. A decision was made to make it an all ticket match, so that the crowd would be segregated as much as possible, the events of two years previous were fresh in the memory. As a result the crowd of 20,139 was lower than it might of been. Like the match earlier in the season it was decided by a single Luton goal. Malcolm MacDonald was the scorer after ten minutes. It was not a match to arouse any passion. This match marked the debut of Peter Anderson, he still held amateur status at the time, which during the early 1970's must have been very rare indeed. Anderson would play a major part in the clubs history some five years later during the financial crisis of 1975/76 when he was transferred to Belgian side Royal Antwerp. It was said at the time that the money raised from that transfer kept Luton alive.

Luton, Read, John Ryan, Slough, Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, Jim Ryan, Givens, MacDonald, Keen, Anderson [Sub Bannister]

Watford, Edmunds, Butler, Williams, Garbett, Lees, Walley, Welbourne, Wigg, Jennings, Sinclair, Farley [Scullion]



Continues ...

1971/72

As far as Watford are concerned the 1971/72 season is best forgotten, it was their worst season ever. They won just five matches, and inevitably they were relegated as they finished some 15 points adrift at the bottom of Division 2, and remember it was only 2 points for a win in those days.

One of those five wins came on November 13th when Luton were the visitors to Vicarage Road. Both teams were having a horrid time, Watford were bottom with just two wins, the last of those coming in early October and Luton who had not won since September were just above the relegation zone. It looked good for Luton when they took the lead after 12 minutes. Vic Halom was the scorer with a well placed shot into the corner of the net. Soon after an effort from Don Givens was cleared off the line. It was all Luton, on the half hour Luton looked to have increased their lead when Peter Anderson netted, but it was disallowed. Five minutes later Watford drew level with a well taken goal by Keith Eddy, he headed in a well flighted free kick from Tom Walley. That goal changed the game around, and from then on it was all Watford. Watford scored a deserved winner on 68 minutes, though Luton felt that the goal should not have been allowed. A through ball from Walley found Colin Franks in what looked like an offside position, however there was no flag from the linesman and Franks went through and calmly slotted the ball past Tony Read. The match was watched by a crowd of 14,000

Watford, Walker; Butler, Williams; Eddy, Baxter, Walley; Lees, Wigg, Franks, Lindsay, Farley. [Sub Lugg]

Luton, Read; John Ryan, Slough; Keen, Nicholl, Moore; Anderson, Busby, [Court] Givens, Hindson

By the time the two sides met at Luton on March 4th Watford's position was desperate, while Luton were not exactly in the clear, but they were some 8 points clear of the relegation zone. When two of the lowest scoring teams in the division get together a 0-0 draw would be a fair bet, and that is how it turned out. Both teams did create chances in this match, but were unable to convert, it really was the story of both teams season. Luton looked to have scored a last minute winner when Peter Anderson put the ball in the net following a goalmouth scramble, but the referee Mr. Taylor spotted an infringement, and who would argue with one of the best refs around at the time. He would go on to referee the 1974 World Cup Final. The attendance was 10,816.

Luton, Barber; John Ryan, Shanks; Keen, Nicholl, Slough; Jim Ryan, Court, Halom, Givens, [Anderson] Hindson

Watford, Walker; Butler, Williams; Lugg, Franks, Eddy; McGettigan, Wigg, Morrissey, Lindsay, Welbourne. [Sub Rowan]

The two teams would go their separate ways at the end of the season. Watford were relegated and would eventually finish up in Division 4, for their part Luton would win promotion to Division 1 in 1974, albeit for just one season.

1979 To 1982

Sharing The Good Times

Acquaintances were renewed in 1979. Watford were on the up, following promotion in consecutive seasons they were back in Division 2. There was a new era at both clubs. At Luton David Pleat was building a side with a reputation for being one of the best footballing sides in the division, while Graham Taylor at Watford was, well doing things his way. There was certainly a contrast

in styles, but for both teams the good times were just around the corner.



Scorer Kirk Stephens & Mike Saxby Celebrating our 1-0 Win

1979/80

It was with eager anticipation that the crowd of 20,227 gathered at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day 1979 to see the first "derby" match for seven years. Like many local derbies it ran very much to par-a lot of hard work, resulting in very few enterprising moments. Watford debutant Martin Patching looked very promising, spraying accurate passes all over the pitch, as Watford enjoyed the lions share of possession. Luther Blissett came close to giving Watford the lead on 20 minutes, but he missed the target. At the other end Bob Hatton went close with a shot on the turn. In the second half Watford continued to have most of the ball but neither side looked as though they were going to score, until 10 minutes from time when a shot from Brian Stein rattled the Watford crossbar. With 90 minutes on the clock Eric Steele made a superb save to keep out a shot from Stein. The game was 2 minutes into stoppage time when Hatton swung over a hopeful cross into the Watford box from the left, it eluded everybody except for The Town's right back Kirk Stephens who arrived on the far post to head the ball into the net for his first ever goal in The Football League. That was about the last act of the match, and

Luton had stolen the points. This goal by Kirk Stephens set a trend. Over the next few years several vital goals in matches against Watford would come from unlikely sources as we shall see.

Watford, Steele; Henderson, Harrison; Patching, Sims, Bolton; Downes, Blissett, Mercer, Train, Rostron. [Sub Pollard]

Luton, Findlay; Stephens, Donaghy; Grealish, Saxby, Price; Hill, West, Stein, Hatton, Moss [Sub White]

The match at Kenilworth Road took place on April 5th. [Easter Saturday] Both teams needed the points for different reasons. Luton still had promotion aspirations, and were in third place. Watford meanwhile were fourth from bottom, however they were 5 points clear of the relegation zone. The game was settled by a single goal, scored by Bob Hatton after 14 minutes. He scored after Tony Grealish's goalbound shot had been blocked by Steve Harrison, and he shot the rebound past Eric Steele. Watford launched a brave fightback in the second half, and The Town could have been punished for some missed chances, notably from David Moss and Ricky Hill, had it not been for Jake Findlay. He rescued The Town with a brilliant save to deny Malcolm Poskett late in the game. The match was watched by a crowd of 12,738. As history shows Watford survived comfortably in the end, as they lost only 1 of their last 6 matches, Luton's hopes were dashed as they only won once in their last 5 matches.

Luton, Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, West, Stein, Hatton, Moss [Aizlewood]

Watford, Steele, Henderson, [Jackett] Harrison, Patching, Sims, Bolton, Booth, Blissett, Poskett, Train, Rostron

1980/81

An early season encounter saw Watford visit Kenilworth Road for a midweek fixture on August 19th. Both sides had got their seasons off to a fine start the previous Saturday, The Town had won at F.A. Cup holders West Ham United 2-1, David Moss scored the winner in the last minute, while Watford had beaten Swansea City at home 2-1, Malcolm Poskett scoring both goals for The Hornets. The Town won this match 1-0, but Watford could count themselves very unlucky indeed not to get something from this match. The Town took the lead with a goal by Steve White [his first for the club] after 25 minutes, when he headed in a cross from David Moss. In a pulsating second half Watford did everything but score, Jake Findlay made several brilliant saves, notably from Luther Blissett, Malcolm Poskett and Ian Bolton. Poskett did have the ball in the net after 65 minutes, but the referee brought play back to give Watford a free kick after Mike Saxby had fouled Blissett in the build up, this was about the only mistake that referee Mr. Seville made all night, but that was of little consolation to Watford. The attendance was 13,887

Luton, Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, Stein, White, Antic [West], Moss

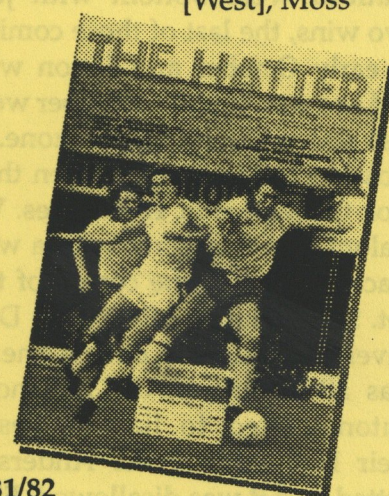
Watford, Steele, Henderson, Jackett, Patching, Sims, Bolton, Blissett, Poskett, Jenkins, Train, Rostron [sub Cassells]

The return game at Vicarage Road on November 11th was another mid week affair. The result was the same as at Kenilworth Road, a 1-0 win for The Town, and once again Steve White was the scorer with a goal in the eleventh minute. The crowd of 16,939 witnessed a very mediocre game. One bright spot for Watford was

an encouraging debut from new signing Les Taylor, he would go on to write himself a page in the history of the club, when he captained The Hornets in the F.A. Cup Final in 1984, though not in the circumstances he would have wished for as we shall see later.

Watford, Steele, Henderson, Harrison, Blissett, Sims, Jackett, Callaghan [Taylor], Poskett, Jenkins, Train, Rostron

Luton, Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, Stein, White, Aizlewood [West], Moss



1981/82

When the two sides met at Kenilworth Road on September 26th, both were in the top four. Watford were second, while The Town were in fourth spot. The Town had lost two of their first three home matches, while Watford had obtained maximum points from their three away matches to date. Watford included two young wide players in John Barnes and Nigel Callaghan, but the occasion would prove a little bit too much for them. Luton were dominant from the start, Steve Sherwood pulled off three fine saves to deny first Ricky Hill and then Lil Fuccillo and Brian Horton. The breakthrough came after 34 minutes when the referee awarded a penalty when Gerry Armstrong pulled David Moss down. Moss as calm as ever dispatched the resulting spot kick. Three minutes later the referee awarded another

penalty to Luton, this time it was Ian Bolton who brought down Brian Stein as he made a penetrating run into the area, again Moss gave Sherwood no chance from the spot. Worse was to come for Watford 6 minutes later, when a defence splitting pass from Hill put Stein through, and he rifled the ball past Sherwood to give The Town a 3-0 lead. Just before the break a shot from Kirk Stephens was just inches too high.

The Town went 4-0 up 6 minutes into the second half when Stein headed in a cross from Moss. Bolton's goal from a well worked free kick after 66 minutes was scant consolation. Both teams could have scored again, Stephens headed an effort from Steve Sims off the line, while at the other end Steve White should have done better when he was through one on one with only Sherwood to beat, however the keeper managed to make a fine block. As for those two young wide men in

the Watford line up, both would have better days, that Barnes fellow, what became of him? The attendance was 12,839

Luton, Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Fuccillo, Moss, Sub Antic

Watford, Sherwood, Rice, Jackett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Jenkins [Poskett], Armstrong, Blissett, Barnes

By the time the two side met at Vicarage Road on February 20th Luton were top of the league with Watford hot on their heels. A crowd of 22,580 were on hand to watch a thrilling contest, as were B.B.C. Match Of The Day cameras. The game was played at a hectic pace from the start, and it was Watford who got off to best possible start with a goal after 8 minutes, scored by Wilf Rostron with a superb 25 yard effort which gave Jake Findlay no chance. The Town gradually forced their way

back into the match, and an equaliser came on 33 minutes, when Brian Stein latched on to a pass from Kirk Stephens, and he scored with a shot on the turn. Ricky Hill struck the crossbar with a header shortly after. The second half was played in much the same way as the first, but there was no further scoring, though Jan Lohman came close near the end. "See You In Division 1" was the newspaper headline. By seasons end that would become a reality as The Town were promoted as Champions, with Watford finishing as Runners Up.

Watford, Sherwood, Rice, Rostron, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett [Armstrong], Jenkins, Lohman, Barnes.

Luton, Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Fuccillo, Moss [Sub Antic]

.....To be continued in Part Four

...STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

PRE-SEASON TOUR DATES

Luton Town have announced their dates for the forthcoming pre-season set of friendlies:

First team ONLY

Monday 21st July

v **Hartlepool** (Away)

Wednesday 23rd July

v **Darlington** (Away)

Friday 25th July

v **Cambridge Utd** (Away)

Wednesday 30th July

v **Southampton HOME** (First team inc Le Tissier)

Saturday 2nd August v **Colchester United** (Away)

That's it as we go to press, but keep a look out for any additional games which may come up.

That will teach them to beat us!

As a thank you for getting to the Play-off's the Board of Director of Brentford F.C. had an all-expenses paid break for their season efforts. On their arrival in Magaluf they had nasty shock on their arrival when they came across the victorious Crewe Alexandra Team that had beaten them days earlier at Wembley!! - That will teach you.

YOU CAN NOW HEAR OUR CLUB PRESIDENT ON THE RADIO AS WELL.

Nick Owen our President has just landed a job at the BBC Local Radio station "Three Counties". Nick swapped places with Luton -

-based Lunchtime presenter Stephen Rhodes, who is hosting ITV's This Morning Show with his wife Alison.

you can listen to Nick between 11.00am and 2.00pm.

Get Your Kit-on.

The winner of our membership draw for all members that joined before Christmas last year were put into a hat and the name that was pulled out for a either an evening at the football club for the Kit Sponsor dinner or a cheque for the price of a new LTFC Kit.

The winner was:

Mr. David Lawrence
of Luton. -- WELL DONE !