



HATTERS

News

Merry Christmas & Prosperous New Year

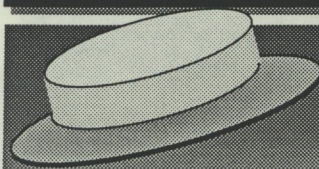


LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Christmas 1997

"VOICE OF THE FANS"

Issue No.32



TESTING TIMES

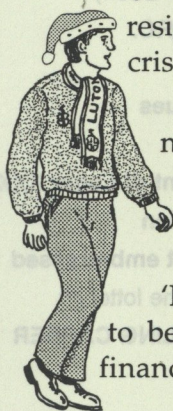
Dear Members

"Even when I was at Charlton where we had 15 players, no ground and no money, it wasn't as bad as this" was Lennie Lawrence's observation after Luton's 1-0 defeat by Walsall left them bottom but one of the Second Division. Results never tell the whole story and the team's performance, certainly in the first half, would have won them a rousing reception had it come during the promotion chase last season rather than as the fourth home defeat in a row.

Clive Goodyear's treatment room continues to resemble Piccadilly Circus in rush hour but fans inevitably become impatient with a losing team, regardless of extenuating circumstances. Disappointment and frustration will be vented during matches - after all not everyone has a cat to kick when they get home!

The LTSC Committee was asked by the local press to comment on the club's situation after the cup defeat by Torquay and issued the following statement:

'After an encouraging run of five games unbeaten, the last three home results have been hugely disappointing. However, the overwhelming majority of the LTSC Committee feel that it is still far too early for fans to call for Lennie Lawrence's resignation and for paper talk of a 'club in crisis'.



'Undoubtedly there are problems that need to be addressed by the manager and coaching staff. In particular the midfield is poorer for the loss of Ceri Hughes and the lack of a creative play-maker.

'Evidently it will be difficult for changes to be made to the team given the parlous financial state of the club unless some

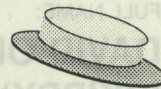
members of the current squad are sold. However, we are hopeful that once Lennie Lawrence is able to field a settled side from an injury free squad, that results will improve enormously.

'One dissenting voice on the Committee feels that Lennie Lawrence and Wayne Turner should both leave the club. Given the recent problems 'big' clubs have had trying to find suitable managerial replacements, which managers with better credentials than Lennie Lawrence do fans think are likely to be queuing up at Kenilworth Road for their major career move?'

John Moore has stepped in to help with first team coaching matters although at the time of writing it is unclear whether this is a permanent position and whether Wayne Turner will choose to stay at the club in a different role. Maybe a change of coaching personnel will be the fillip the players need to restore confidence and put them back to winning ways. A large slice of luck and some swiftly healed limbs would certainly do the trick.

They say season doesn't really start until after Christmas, so remember when you're writing your Christmas wish list... Dear Santa, I would like three points for Luton Town....

"Enjoy the festive season."



John Moore & Lennie Lawrence - will they together get us moving up the table?

For he's a jolly good fellow...

Having heard the news towards the end of last season that **Brian "Mr Luton Town" Swain** could and later, was to stand down as Sport Editors for the Luton News after **20+ years** of reporting on Luton Town Home & Away games. In that time he has not missed a single competitive Luton match home or away which shows the dedication of the man.

So, to commemorate this occasion the LTSC Committee on behalf of their members presented two mementoes in the form of a "Whisky Hip Flask" and a "Framed copy of the 1959 F.A.Cup Final programme and original Match Ticket". This was to make up for the disappointment of missing out on a ticket for the '59 Final due to National Service call-up.

Having been overcome by the surprise presentation, he later sent us a 'Big Thank you' letter for all LTSC members and committee - due to space we cannot reproduce in full, but went on to say ...'The framed prog and ticket is pride of place in my den and that the Hip Flask is now setting out to join the '92' club!!

As you may well have guess you can't keep a good man down as he will be seen just as much as normal around



Brian Swain(Centre)
with LTFC Players David Oldfield & Gary Waddock, Yvonne Fletcher (Chairperson) & John Pyper (Vice-Chairman) on the evening of his presentation.

Kenilworth Road and away games working as a freelance reporter.

Anyway, all the best for the future and hopefully Brian you will be able to make that trip to see the Hatters in the F.A.Cup Final at Wembley!!

The LTSC Committee

Hatters Player Profiles

FULL NAME: **STUART DOUGLAS**

DATE OF BIRTH: **9-4-78**

HEIGHT: **5' 10"**

WEIGHT: **11ST 3/4LBS**

PREVIOUS CLUBS: **NONE**

MARRIED: **NO**

LIKES: **Playing most Sports**

FAVOURITE OTHER PLAYER:

Ian Wright (Arsenal & England)

An All-round striker

MOST FEARED OPPONENT: **None what-so-ever**

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: **MY HOME DEBUT V OLDHAM**
Last Season



An up & coming forward who has just broken into the First Team

FAVOURITE GROUND: **Highbury- Arsenal F.C.**

If you were not a Footballer, what other job would you do?:

SPORTS PHYSIOTHERAPIST

FAVOURITE T.V. Show: **None in particular**

FAVOURITE MUSIC: **Street Soul / House & Garage**

HOBBIES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL: **Playing and watching Tennis & listening to Music**

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: **Chicken, Bastmati Rice & Carrot Juice**

MOST ADMIRER PERSONS: **My Mum**

What would you do if you won the Jackpot on the lottery?:

Take the whole of my family & friends on a holiday to remember anywhere they would like to go! - and if there is anything left after that buy a house & car.

FULL NAME:

DAVID OLDFIELD (SKIPPY)

DATE OF BIRTH: **30-5-68**

HEIGHT: **6' 1"**

WEIGHT: **13st 4 lbs**

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Manchester City, Leicester City, Millwall (On Loan)

MARRIED: **NO**

LIKES: **FAMILY**

DISLIKES: **People that Smoke**

FAVOURITE OTHER PLAYER:

Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal & Netherlands)



In his third season at Luton since returning on his travels

MOST FEARED OPPONENT: **JAN - when trying to get a FREE Lunch)**

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: **First Team match for Manchester City v Manchester Utd (City won 5-1!!!)**

FAVOURITE GROUND: **ANFIELD - Liverpool F.C.**

FAVOURITE T.V. Show: **Frasier**

FAVOURITE MUSIC: **Rock Music and The Blues**

HOBBIES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL: **Having Fun**

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: **Pasta & a pint of Lager XXXX**

MOST ADMIRER PERSON: **To many to mention**

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: **I don't get embarrassed**

What would you do if you won the Jackpot on the lottery?:

TRAVEL AFTER THE END OF MY FOOTBALLING CAREER

FAN FACT FILE

*Far Flung
from Aussie!!*

NEW FEATURE ON LTSC Members

LTSC MEMBER NO. 22

Tom McGarry, squeezed in a trip to Kenilworth Road on his recent European business trip and not only saw the Hatters 3-0 victory over Plymouth Argyle but scooped the half time Golden Gamble prize to boot. We nabbed him for a few words and a celebratory pint after the match...

Tom was born in Dunstable on 26th January 1966 and started supporting Luton aged 4 in the 1970/71 Season. He now follows Luton's fortunes from slightly further afield in Sydney, Australia.

The first Luton match that Tom was taken to see was Luton v Bradford. He doesn't remember if he was 7 or 8 years old when his dad took him but he does remember that Luton won 3-0!

The most memorable match for Tom (along with thousands of other fans) was the Littlewoods Cup Final in 1988 when we beat Arsenal 3-2, difference is that he was watching it in the sunshine on Australia's Gold Coast.

Tom's all-time favourite Luton player ... A tricky one this and with too many to choose from he narrowed it down to Bob Hatton, Brain Stein and Ricky Hill.

And favourite current player? Although Tom hasn't seen the current team play much, Dwight Marshall gets the nod for being the friendliest player he met after the Plymouth match.




Tom with Yvonne Fletcher (Chairperson) & Julie Parry (Committee member) after the Plymouth match in 1

Tom's not just a football fan he also plays for Melchester Rovers a team based in Balmain, Sydney. He's a goalkeeper which helps explain his choice of Mark Bosnich as his favourite Australian footballer.

With his Golden gamble winnings, bulging bag of souvenirs from the club shop and a very large grin, tom headed off with his brothers to watch the Italy v England game - not a bad day all round for one of our furthest flung members.

If you would like to be featured in the LTSC Fan Fact File, all you have to do is send us a mug-shot personal details and your best/worst Luton memories, favourite player(s), 1st match attended, worst ever Luton player, and anything else we should know about your devotion to the Hatters.

Forthcoming Events...



Christmas
FUN QUIZ NIGHT
Thursday 11th December
1997
from 7.45pm.
at the LTFC's Eric Morecambe Suite,
Maple Road, Luton

Prizes for the Winning Teams

If you would like to enter a team please contact
any LTSC Committee member on a matchday in our
kiosk

Ticket £2.00 Members - £3.00 Non-members

BAR FACILITY AVAILABLE
Secure Car Parking in Maple Rd Car Park



LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
*Christmas
Carol Service*
with Directors, Players, Staff and families
St. Mary's Church,
Church Street, Luton.
on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30p.m.
All donations for tickets will go to St. Mary's Church
and Luton and South Beds Hospice
**TICKETS MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE
LUTON TOWN F.C. TICKET OFFICE**
A donation for this ticket would be appreciated
ADMITTANCE BY TICKET ONLY



"PREDICT THE SCORE" COMPETITION UPDATE



STOP, LOOK AND PANIC!!!

The latest results have arrived for the competition up until 4th November 1997. So are you an Alex Ferguson or a David Pleat?

Happy Harry Heroes and Peakes Practice are at the top of the league, is there a conspiracy going on!!

Robin Jolly has made a tremendous recovery from last season, and has jumped into the Premiership, so how does it feel to be all the way up there? It's very tight in the Second Division, but Veri Opty-Mystic is predicting her future well. With A.J's Aces playing their trump card, to take the Second Division by storm. Super Sub is obviously in need of some urgent training, so they can race up the league!!

Lennie's Lions have battled fiercely for their 1 point, and are hoping to roar their way up the league. Looks like P.N.E Going Down have gone down, and can't go any further!!! A surprise tactic move by Ellie Veggie had lead her into the Premiership, must be all them carrots!!!

A special well done to the Grimsby Grumblers who earned himself 4 bonus points by getting the Watford score correct. Is there a closet Watford Supporter among our midst?

So stand by your mail box and attack the postman for your next exciting, riveting and entertaining update! *SO MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.*

97/98 LEAGUE TABLES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PREMIERSHIP

Position	Name	Total points
1	Happy Harry's Heroes	11
2	Peakes Practice	8
3	The Grimsby Grumblers	8
4	P.R's Predictions	7
5	Dropping Hatters	6
6	Ellie Veggie	6
7	Not so close Encounters of the Universal Kind	6
8	W**ford's Going Down	6
9	10 pints a match - Pat	5
10	Fred	5
11	Golf City	5
12	Grosvenor Greats	5
13	Mad Hatter	5
14	Matthew Janes	5
15	Michael Forstyth	5
16	R.P.C.	5
17	Robin Jolly	5

DIVISION TWO

Position	Name	Total points
18	A.J's Aces	4
19	Going Up	4
20	Going Up!	4
21	Lucy's injury free Hatters	4
22	S***te United	4
23	Stenhousemuir 3	4
24	Trent Hatters	4
25	Veri Opty-Mystic	4
26	Bob's Boaters	3
27	Buckingham Drivers	3
28	Buffalo Travel	3
29	Les Millar	3
30	LTSC (Burnley Branch)	3
31	Sue Millar	3
32	Tameton Tigers	3
33	You all support Roodale	3
34	You must be joking	3

BEAZER HOME LEAGUE

Position	Name	Total points
35	A Hatter Goes Mad F.C	2
36	Barton Hatters	2
37	Harpenden Hatters	2
38	Mullins Magic	2
39	The Lilleywhites	2
40	Abingdon Athletic	1
41	Come on the Hatters	1
42	Hardway Hussars	1
43	Hatter's United II	1
44	Hatters Bond '007	1
45	Lennie's Lions	1
46	Ruislip Hatter	1
47	The Trojans	1
48	Boro Babe	0
49	P.N.E. Going Down	0
50	Super Sub	0

A Book for all Ardent Luton Town fans The ideal Christmas Present!!! **A HATTER GOES MAD!**

by female Hatter fan
Kristina Howells

It's a collection of Luton Town memories compiled by past and present players, officials and supporters - as told by Kristina
On Sale now at most local bookstore including Bookcastle (Dunstable), WHSmiths - Hammicks Bookshop - in the Arndale Centre, and Luton Town Club Souvenir Shop (Kenilworth Road & Asda's in Wigmore Lane, Luton.)



**ONLY
£7.99**

STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1997

	PLYD	WON	DRWN	LOST	PNTS	GF	GA	GD
HOME	7	3	1	3	10	9	12	-3
AWAY	7	1	3	3	6	3	7	-4
TOTAL	14	4	4	6	16	12	19	-7

Greatest win at home	3	0	Plymouth Argyle F.C.	11-Oct
Heaviest defeat at home	0	4	Watford F. C.	4-Oct
Greatest win away	0	1	Carlisle Utd. F.C.	21-Oct
Heaviest defeat away	3	0	Bristol City F.C.	27-Sep

Highest Home Attendance	9,041
Lowest Home Attendance	4,931
Total Home Attendance	41,510
Average Home Attendance	5,930
Total Away Attendance	43,812
Average Away Attendance	6,259

Highest league position	12
Lowest league position	23

Average points per home game	1.43
Average points per away game	0.86
Average points per game	1.14

Longest consecutive winning run	2
Longest consecutive drawing run	2
Longest consecutive losing run	3
Longest unbeaten run	5
Longest run without winning	8

Average Goals FOR (both H + A)	0.86
Average Goals FOR (at home)	1.29
Average Goals FOR (away)	0.43
Average Goals AGST (both H + A)	1.36
Average Goals AGAINST (at home)	1.71
Average Goals AGAINST (away)	1.00

Scored first and lost the game	0
Scored first and won game (ex1:0)	0
Conceded first and lost g'me(ex1:0)	1
Conceded first and won the game	0
Scored last to win game	0
Taken the lead only to loose	0

Ahead at half time only to loose game	0
Level at half time only to loose game	1
Behind at half time and full time	5
Ahead at half time and full time	2
level at half time and won game	2
Behind at half time and won game	0

Most goals scored in league game	3
Most goals conceded in league game	5
Clean sheets kept in league games	5
Failed to score in league games	6

Times when no substitutions made	0
Times when only one substation made	1
Times when two substitutions made	9
Times when maximum substitutions made	4

Players used in league games	28
In Keeping position	3
In Defending positions	10
In Midfield positions	9
In Striking positions	6
Debutants: Davies, Doherty, George, Small Spring, White, Kean(sub)	
Players booked in league games	11
Total bookings in league games	17
Average per game	1.21

Players named as subs in league	17
Used in games	16
Substitutions made in league	31
Average per game	2.21
Enforced substitutions	8
Tactical substitutions	23
Most popular substitution (players)	
Douglas ON/Davies OFF	3
Most popular substitiuon (position)	
Striker ON/Midfielder OFF	9

CUP STATISTICS	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Leading Scorers
Coca Cola Cup 1st round	1	1	0	2	1	Thorpe 3 goals
Coca Cola Cup 2nd round	0	1	1	3	5	S. Davis 1 goal
Number of players used in cup competitions	20			Subs used	6	Douglas 1 goal
Leading Apperances	S. Davis, McLaren, Oldfield, Waddock				4 each	

STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1997

PLAYERS NATIONWIDE LEAGUE STATISTICS

NAME	Appr(M)	Appr(S)	Sub Off	Booked	Assists	Goals
G. Alexander	8		2		1	1
S. Davies	7	3	5	1		1
K. Davis	11					
S. Davis	11			3		1
A. Dibble	1					
G. Doherty	1	3			1	
S. Douglas	4	5	2	1	1	1
S. Evers	2	4	1			
I. Feuer	2					
A. Fotiadis	1		1			
L. George	1		1			
P. Gray	5		2	1	1	1
R. Harvey	3	1	1		1	
J. James	8	1	3			
M. Johnson	7	1				
R. Kean		1				
D. Marshall	7	3	4	1		1
G. McGowan	6	2	1	3		
P. McLaren	12	2		2	1	
D. Oldfield	13			1	1	1
T. Peake		1				
P. Showler		1				
B. Small	9					
M. Spring	3	1	2			
M. Thomas	4			1		
T. Thorpe	10	1	2	1	3	4
G. Waddock	12	1	2	2	1	
A. White	6					1

OCCUPANT OF SHIRTS

Shirt No	Occup'ts
1	3
2	4
3	4
4	2
5	3
6	3
7	4
8	3
9	2
10	2
11	5

LEADING OCCUPANTS

Shirt No	Player
1	K. Davis 11
2	J. James 7
3	B. Small 6
4	Wadd'k 12
5	S. Davis 11
6	Johnson 7
7	Davies / Gray 5
8	McLaren 9
9	Oldfield 13
10	Thorpe 10
11	Marshall 7

Appr (M) = Starting appearances. Appr (S) = substitution appearances

FACTS AND FIGURES OF DEFENCE

Different line ups used	9	Goals provided	Home	1	Away	1
Most consecutive line up	3 games	James, Thomas, Davis, Johnson				
	3 games	James, Small, Davis, White				
Substitutions	5	Most popular No2 (4 times)				
Sending Offs	1	No 2 G. McGowan (Northampton Away 9/9/97)				

FACTS AND FIGURES OF MIDFIELD

Different line ups used	11	Goals provided	Home	2	Away	2
Most consecutive line up	2 games	Waddock, Davies, Alexander, Marshall				
	2 games	Spring, McLaren, Oldfield, Alexander				
Substitutions	15	Most popular No11 (5 times)				
Sending Offs	1	No 7 M. Spring (Plymouth Argyle Home 11/10/97)				

FACTS AND FIGURES OF ATTACK

Striking partnerships used	9	Goals provided	Home	6	Away	0
Most consecutive partnership	3 games	Gray, Thorpe				
Most used partnership	4 games	Oldfield/Thorpe, Gray/Thorpe				
Substitutions	9	Most popular No10 (5 times)				
Sending Offs	0					

A History of Luton Town v Watford

— The Final Part of a Five Part Series —

by Mick McConkey

— • The 1990's • — The Lean Years



Both teams shared some good times back in the 1980's, and now they would both have to endure some difficult times.

1992/93

Following relegation from the old First Division at the end of the 1991/92 season Luton renewed their old rivalry with Watford. Before any meaningful league matches were played the two sides met in The Anglo Italian Cup, a crowd of 5,197 watched a 0-0 draw at Vicarage Road on September 15th. By the time the two clubs met in the league for the first time that season on November 29th, The Town were second from bottom in the table, and so far had not won at home. A dark cloud hung over Kenilworth Road that Sunday afternoon, as five days earlier a car crash in which Paul Telfer and Darren Salton were involved in had left Telfer injured and possibly out for several weeks. But more seriously Darren Salton was left in a coma and was fighting for his life. He did recover eventually, but the injuries that he sustained in the crash meant that he never played football again. A tragic loss, and the end of what



looked like a promising career. One should not forget the occupant of the other car involved a
Scott Oakes

Mrs. Phillimore from Ampthill who was killed. As for the match which took place on a real quagmire of a pitch The Town broke their duck and won their first home match of the season by winning 2-0 in front of a crowd of 8,341 and a live TV audience. The goals came late in the match, and cracking goals they were too. The first on 71 minutes was a diving header from Ian Benjamin, from John Dreyer's cross. Three minutes later a defence splitting pass from Phil Gray sent Scott Oakes through for a well taken shot following a storming run through the mud.

Luton, Chamberlain; Dreyer, James; Johnson, Hughes, Peake; Oakes [Williams], Benjamin, Rees, Gray, Preece [Sub not used Skelton]

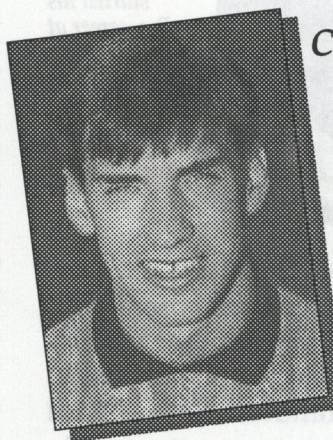
Watford, Suckling; Putney, Drysdale; Dublin, Holdsworth, Ashby; Hessenthaler, Willis, Charlery, Porter, Lavin [Bazely] [Sub not used Nogan]

The return match on April 3rd was one of the poorest seen for many years, the crowd of 10,656 had little to shout about, and no goals. The last time a derby match had finished goalless at Vicarage Road was way back in season 1923/24. Some poor refereeing did not help either, as five players, received yellow cards in the first 30 minutes, 3 of which seemed very harsh. A point gained in this match eased The Town's relegation fears just a little.

Watford, Waugh; Soloman, Ashby; Dublin, Holdsworth, Lavin

[Bazely]; Hessenthaler, Willis, Furlong, Nogan, Porter [Sub not used Putney]

Luton, Chamberlain; Dreyer, Telfer; Johnson, Rees, Peake; Hughes [Oakes], Kamara, Dixon, Gray, Preece [Sub not used Williams]



Alec Chamberlain

A reliable & competent goalkeeper for the Hatters who spent three seasons with us before moving onto Sunderland and is now playing in goal for Watford!!

1993/94

For the first time ever the fixtures came up with a derby match on the opening day of the season. August 14th was the date, and typically the season started in glorious weather. Neither club started the match with any new signings, though Luton new boy Scott Houghton was on the subs bench. It was a rip roaring derby with plenty of commitment, perhaps just a little too much from Watford's point of view, as they had two players sent off, Barry Ashby after 37 minutes for a knee high tackle on David Preece, and Jason Drysdale for elbowing Jason Rees in the face after 63 minutes. There was plenty of good action, with both goalkeepers earning their corn on more than one occasion. The Town took the lead

.....Continues ...

after 51 minutes when Paul Telfer turned in a cross from Scott Oakes. There was a flurry of incidents in the last ten minutes. Firstly Luton goalkeeper Jurgen Sommer had to go off with a badly gashed head after 81 minutes following a collision with Ken Charlery, fortunately for Luton this was the first time that teams had the option of having a substitute goalkeeper, so Andy Petterson came on.



Kerry Dixon

A great striker for Luton who started his Pro-career at Reading via Chelsea and later signed for Watford for a short time

Within a minute of that The Town went 2-0 up when Kerry Dixon scored with a shot from the edge of the penalty area. Watford hit back with a goal after 87 minutes from Paul Furlong, but it was not enough. The crowd of 9,149 saw Luton win their opening day fixture for the first time since 1984

Luton, Sommer[Petterson], Johnson, James; Williams, Peake, Dreyer; Telfer, Oakes, Dixon, Rees[Houghton], Preece. [Sub not used Campbell]

Watford, Sheppard, Lavin, Drysdale;Johnson[Dublin],Holdsworth, Ashby; Bazeley[Nogan], Charlery, Furlong, Porter, Soloman[Sub not used Wilkenson]

The two sides met yet again in a meaningless Anglo Italian Cup match at Vicarage Road on August 31st. Watford won this low key contest 2-1 in front of a paltry 2,854 crowd. Bruce Dyer put Watford 1-0 up after 12 minutes. David Preece equalised after 40 minutes. Alex Inglethorpe scored what proved to be the winner 9 minutes from time.

The return league match at Vicarage Road was played on December 19th, and there were some pre Christmas gifts for both teams as both defences were guilty of giving away some bad goals. The Town should be the more grateful as they came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2. Luton were playing some good passing football in the early stages without actually getting anywhere, but the defence was getting caught square too often, once too often as it happens. After 10 minutes a long ball [sounds familiar] from Paul Furlong put Bruce Dyer in the clear and he drove his shot past Jurgen Sommer to put Watford 1-0 up. The Town tried to hit back but Perry Digweed saved well from Paul Telfer. Digweed was then involved in a bizarre incident, when he nearly conceded an own goal by throwing the ball into his own net, but he managed to rectify the situation. Watford went 2-0 up after 27 minutes, another long ball was played into the Luton penalty area, which Sommer should have easily dealt with, but he somehow allowed the ball to bounce past him, and Dyer was on hand to lash the ball into the net.



John Dreyer

A very strong defender and fans favourite. Played in many important local derbies. Is now playing for Bradford City in Division 1.

A couple of minutes later Dyer should have scored again, but shot wide with the goal at his mercy. Two minutes into the second half Luton got themselves back into the game when David Preece shot home after Kerry Dixon had set him up. The equaliser came on 85 minutes

when Alan McCarthy was adjudged to have handled in the penalty area. It seemed a bit harsh, but John Dreyer scored from the spot to earn The Town a point, which seemed unlikely earlier.

Watford, Digweed; Lavin, McCarthy; Hessenthaler, Holdsworth, Watson; Porter, Dyer, Furlong, Nogan, Johnson [Subs not used Soloman, Alsford, Sheppard]

Luton, Sommer; Linton, Thomas; Harper, Peake, Dreyer; Telfer [Dickov], Oakes[Houghton], Dixon, Hughes, Preece [Sub not used Petterson]

1994/95

It was a case of high noon when the first meeting of the 1995/96 season took place at Vicarage Road on September 17th. An unusual kick off time of 12 noon was ordered by The Police, and the first half turned into a shoot out as the goals flew in at both ends to give the 8,800 crowd some real entertainment. For Watford's Gary Fitzgerald making his debut in the centre of the defence it would be real baptism of fire. However Watford started brightly, Jurgen Sommer had to make a couple of early saves from Craig Ramage and Jamie Moralee. Watford took the lead after 20 minutes when Moralee latched on to Tommy Mooney's defence splitting pass and coolly slipped the ball past Jurgen Sommer. Eight minutes later The Town were level, a poor clearance from Andy Hessenthaler found Scott Oakes some 25 yards out, and his first time shot gave Perry Digweed no chance. Three minutes later another poor piece of defending by Hessenthaler allowed Kerry Dixon to score with a shot from just inside the penalty area. If The Town's first two goals were down to poor defending, that cannot be said about the third goal which came on 41 minutes. A pass

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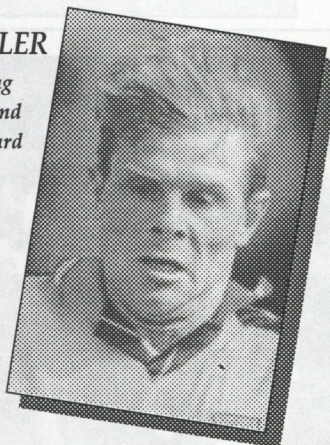
from David Preece found Paul Telfer wide on the right, he cut inside, beating a couple of defenders before lashing the ball into the net past Digweed. Two minutes later Watford grabbed themselves a lifeline when Mooney scored after good work by Hessenthaler. Ten minutes after the interval The Town went 4-2 up when Paul Telfer converted a near post cross by Dwight Marshall. That killed the match as a contest, the Luton fans who travelled down the M1 some 1,500 must have enjoyed it, especially in the last 10 minutes or so when The Town were just knocking the ball around at will, and no Watford player was able to get a touch, reminiscent of Leeds United during the 1970's. Watford debutant Fitzgerald was substituted at half-time, and never played for Watford again

Watford, Digweed; Bazeley, Johnson; Fitzgerald [Soloman], Holdsworth, Ramage; Hessenthaler, Payne, Moralee, Porter, Mooney [Subs not used Wilkenson]

Luton, Sommer; James, Johnson; Waddock, Thomas, Peake; Telfer, Oakes, Dixon, Preece, Marshall [Subs not used Linton, Hartson, Barber]

ANDY HESSENTHALER

*Very hard working
midfield player and
likes to get forward
as much as
possible.
Has captained
Watford
and now
plays and
captains for
Gillingham.*



A live T.V. audience and 7,984 at the ground saw a 1-1 draw in the return match at Kenilworth Road on March 26th. Both teams could have done with all three

points to boost their outside chance of reaching the promotion play offs. The Town included 18 year old goalkeeper Kelvin Davis, who was making his home debut, as it turned out he played centre stage in what was an entertaining match. John Taylor made his debut for The Town following his transfer from Bradford City, and he looked like a useful acquisition on the evidence of his display, a false dawn as it turned out.

Luton got off to a dream start after 4 minutes when Paul Telfer got his head to a Richard Harvey cross, the ball dropped kindly for him and he volleyed the ball into the net. Luton had further chances to increase their lead but failed to do so. Kevin Miller made one superb save to keep out an effort from Harvey. Davis in the Luton goal was rarely troubled in the first half. Things changed after the interval, and Davis became the busier of the two keepers. An equaliser for Watford came after 63 minutes, and a well taken goal it was too, Kevin Phillips burst through, beating the offside trap before slipping the ball past Davis. A couple of minutes later Watford's Peter Beadle burst through into the Luton penalty area, and was brought down by Davis. The referee rightly so had no hesitation in awarding Watford a penalty. However Davis was only shown a yellow card, when red would not have been unjust. Gary Porter took the kick, but Davis made a brilliant save, justice from Watford's point of view was clearly not seen to be done. They were out of luck again a few minutes later when a Colin Foster header was cleared off the line by Gary Waddock. Luton nearly had the final say in the last minute when Telfer forced Miller into a fine save when he tipped a 20 yard round the post. A pulsating match, with the two goalkeepers the stars of the show.

Luton, K.Davis; James, Johnson; Waddock, Harvey, Peake; Telfer, Matthews [Thorpe], Taylor, Preece, Marshall [Subs not used Adcock, Margetson]

Watford, Miller; Lavin, Johnson; Foster, Millen, Ramage; Hessenthaler, Payne, Quinn [Beadle], Porter, Phillips [Subs not used Mooney, Digweed]

1995/96

For both clubs the 1995/96 was a disaster, as they were relegated to Division 2 or in the old days it would have been Division 3, a far cry from the heady days of 1981/82. The first meeting was at Vicarage Road on November 21st, and already things were looking grim for Luton who were second from bottom, Watford were not much better off, just two places above them. Luton took the lead after 25 minutes when Steve Davis headed in a corner by Richard Harvey.



STEVE DAVIS

*Scored the
all-important
goal from a
Corner in
95/96 before
Peake gifted
Watford their
equaliser.*

Watford had a great chance to level things before half time when they were awarded a penalty, but Craig Ramage saw his spot kick saved by the then on loan keeper Ian Feuer. Watford equalised after 84 minutes following an uncharacteristic error by Trevor Peake, his under hit back pass was latched onto by Kevin Phillips who raced through to score. The attendance was 10,042.

Watford, Miller; Lavin, Caskey; Millen, Holdsworth, Ramage;

Continues ...

Hessenthaler, Palmer, Mooney, Penrice[Moralee], Phillips [Subs not used Johnson, Bazeley]

Luton, Feuer; Peake, Johnson; S.Davis[Douglas], Hughes, McLaren; James[Thorpe], Oakes, Riseth, Marshall [Patterson], Harvey.

By the time the return match was played at Kenilworth Road on April 20th the last rites had more or less been read. Both clubs were some 7 points behind the teams just above the relegation zone and they occupied the bottom two places. Both teams therefore needed all three points, but all that happened was a 0-0 draw, which just about hammered the last nails into each others coffins. The best chance either side had to score came in the second half when Kim Grant shot wide after a good run with the goal at his mercy. The attendance was 9,454

Luton, Feuer, Alexander, Thomas; Johnson, S.Davis, Patterson; Guentchev, Thorpe[Harvey], Oldfield[Tomlinson], Grant, Oakes [Sub not used James]

Watford, Miller; Bazeley, Ludden; Hessenthaler, Ward, Connolly[Moralee]; Porter [Payne], Palmer, Ramage, Mooney, White[Sub not used Rooney]

1996/97

To bring the story right up to date, the 1996/97 season saw both clubs attempting to return to Division 1 at the first attempt. Alas it was not to be, both clubs looked good in the early part of the season, but Watford dropped away despite an unbeaten run of 22 league matches, however 15 of those ended in draws. Two of those draws came in the derby matches against Luton, who themselves saw their promotion hopes dashed with seven home matches drawn in the second half of the season. The first meeting was at Vicarage Road on October 29th. It looked as though Luton

would take all three points when Paul Showler scored after 75 minutes. However Watford scored an injury time equaliser when Darran Bazeley forced the ball in following a goalmouth scramble. Approximately 5,000+ Luton supporters helped swell the attendance to 14,109



Paul Showler

Scored a lovely Luton goal cutting in from the left wing to sent the 5,000+ Luton fans mad!

Watford, Miller; Gibbs, Ludden [Penrice]; Johnson, Millen, Page; Bazeley, Andrews[Noel-Williams], White, Palmer, Mooney [Sub not used Robinson]

Luton, Feuer, James, Thomas; Waddock, S.Davis, Johnson; Hughes, Alexander, Oldfield[Douglas], Thorpe, Showler [Subs not used Guentchev, McLaren]

The match at Kenilworth Road was originally scheduled for January 25th, but it was put back two days for the purposes of live T.V. For the second season

running at Kenilworth Road both teams drew a blank, and the match finished as a 0-0 draw in front of a crowd of 7,428.

Luton, Feuer; James, Thomas; Linton, S.Davis, Johnson; Hughes, Alexander, Showler, Thorpe, Marshall [Oldfield] [Subs not used Grant, Patterson]

Watford, Miller; Bazeley, Gibbs; Palmer, Ward, Page; Slater, Connolly [Andrews], White, Johnson, Armstrong [Subs not used Noel-Williams, Robinson]

This concludes the story of Luton Town v Watford, it has been a mammoth task but one that I have enjoyed doing over the past year or so. It totals some 20,500 words or there about, and I will say that if anybody hears me thinking about doing something on a similar line again either shoot me or have me certified

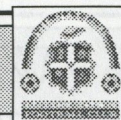
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This article was finished prior to the first meeting between the two clubs in the 1997/98 season. That match was played at Kenilworth Road on October 4th, and Watford won their first league match against Luton since 1987 by winning 4-0. This result meant the record books would have to be re-written. It was their biggest ever win over Luton, and it equalled the biggest away win in the series. Luton won by a similar score line at Watford back in 1929.



Phil Gray & a young Marvin Johnson in action in the 1992/93 Away derby which finished a sorry 0-0 scoreline.

Luton Town v Watford Results at a Glance



V



LEAGUE MATCHES

Season	Home	Away	Division
1900/01	W 2-0	L 0-2	S.L. 1
1901/02	W 1-0	L 0-2	S.L. 1
1902/03	W 4-1	W 1-0	S.L. 1
1904/05	W 2-1	L 0-3	S.L. 1
1905/06	W 2-0	D 1-1	S.L. 1
1906/07	W 2-0	D 2-2	S.L. 1
1907/08	D 1-1	L 1-2	S.L. 1
1908/09	W 1-0	W 3-0	S.L. 1
1909/10	W 4-2	D 1-1	S.L. 1
1910/11	W 3-1	L 0-1	S.L. 1
1911/12	D 1-1	W 1-0	S.L. 1
1914/15	L 0-2	W 4-2	S.L. 1
1919/20	L 1-2	L 2-4	S.L. 1
1920/21	W 1-0	L 0-1	DIV 3
1921/22	D 1-1	L 1-4	DIV 3S
1922/23	L 0-1	L 1-2	DIV 3S
1923/24	D 0-0	D 0-0	DIV 3S
1924/25	L 0-3	D 1-1	DIV 3S
1925/26	W 5-0	L 0-2	DIV 3S
1926/27	D 2-2	L 0-1	DIV 3S
1927/28	W 3-2	L 0-1	DIV 3S
1928/29	D 2-2	L 2-3	DIV 3S
1929/30	W 2-0	W 4-0	DIV 3S
1930/31	W 4-1	L 0-1	DIV 3S
1931/32	L 0-1	L 1-3	DIV 3S
1932/33	W 3-2	L 1-4	DIV 3S
1933/34	W 2-1	W 1-0	DIV 3S
1934/35	D 2-2	D 2-2	DIV 3S
1935/36	W 2-1	W 3-1	DIV 3S
1936/37	W 4-1	W 3-1	DIV 3S
1963/64	W 2-1	L 0-2	DIV 3
1964/65	L 2-4	L 0-2	DIV 3
1968/69	W 2-1	L 0-1	DIV 3
1970/71	W 1-0	W 1-0	DIV 2
1971/72	D 0-0	L 1-2	DIV 2
1979/80	W 1-0	W 1-0	DIV 2
1980/81	W 1-0	W 1-0	DIV 2
1981/82	W 4-1	D 1-1	DIV 2
1982/83	W 1-0	L 2-5	DIV 1
1983/84	L 1-2	W 2-1	DIV 1
1984/85	W 3-2	L 0-3	DIV 1
1985/86	W 3-2	W 2-1	DIV 1
1986/87	L 0-2	L 0-2	DIV 1
1987/88	W 2-1	W 1-0	DIV 1
1992/93	W 2-0	D 0-0	DIV 2
1993/94	W 2-1	D 2-2	DIV 2
1994/95	D 1-1	W 4-2	DIV 2
1995/96	D 0-0	D 1-1	DIV 2
1996/97	D 0-0	D 1-1	DIV 3

OTHER COMPETITIONS

F.A. CUP

Season	Home	Away	Round
1898/99	D 2-2	W 1-0	3 [Q]
1899/1900	W 3-2		4 [Q]
1901/02		W 2-1	4 [Q]
1903/04	W 4-1		4 [Q]
1930/31		L 1-3	R 2
1983/84	D 2-2	L 3-4	R 3
1984/85	D 0-0	D 2-2	R 5
""	W 1-0		

LEAGUE CUP

Season	Home	Away	Round
1968/69	W 3-0		R 1

SOUTHERN FLOODLIGHT CUP

Season	Home	Away	Round
1956/57	W 4-3		R 2

ANGLO ITALIAN CUP

Season	Home	Away	Round
1992/93		D 0-0	Eng. Group
1993/94		L 1-2	Eng. Group

KENT CUP

Season	Home	Away	Round
1973/74		W 1-0	Group

WARTIME LEAGUE

Season	Home	Away	Division
1915/16	W 3-1	L 1-2	Supp. Lge.
1916/17	W 3-2	D 0-0	Lge. South
""	W 3-0	W 7-4	
1940/41	W 4-1	D 2-2	Sth. Reg.
""	W 1-0	W 6-2	
1942/43	L 0-2	W 2-1	F.L. South
1943/44	L 2-3	W 2-1	F.L. South
1944/45	L 2-3	D 1-1	F.L. South

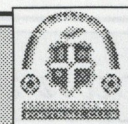
THE RIGBY TAYLOR CUP

Season	Home	Away
1953/54	W 4-1	D 1-1
1954/55		W 2-0
1955/56		W 2-0
1956/57		W 4-3
1960/61		L 1-2
1961/62		L 0-2
1982/83		L 0-4

For the purposes of this chart, the divisions shown are under the old pre-Premier Division format

Luton Town v Watford Results

COMPLETE RECORD TOTALS



V



	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
Football League	35	21	8	6	61	38	35	11	7	17	40	53
Southern League	13	9	2	2	24	11	13	4	3	6	16	20
F.A. Cup	6	3	3	0	12	7	5	2	1	2	9	10
League Cup	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anglo Italian Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2
Sth. F/light Cup	1	1	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Rigby Taylor Cup	1	1	0	0	4	1	7	3	1	3	10	12
Wartime League	8	5	0	3	18	12	8	4	3	1	21	13
TOTALS	65	41	13	11	136	72	71	25	16	30	98	110

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Overall Total	136	66	38	41	234	182



Luton Town v Watford Records Book

PLAYERS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE BOOKS OF BOTH CLUBS FROM 1898 ONWARDS



Pre 1914

William Brown, Cecil Bulling [No 1st team appearances at Luton], Walter Catlin [No 1st team appearances at Watford], A.G. Cox, Sam Eaton, Bill Lindsay, Bob Parkinson, Fred Robins [No 1st team appearances at Luton], Albert Sharpe, Tom Tierney, Peter Turner, John Wilson [No 1st team appearances at Luton], Gaylor Woods.

Between 1919 and 1939

Edward Bassett, Tom Davies [No 1st team appearances at Luton], Joe Johnson, Harry Mingay, Dave Richards, Joe Roberts, Charles Tracey [No 1st team appearances at Luton]

Since 1945

Derrick Allen, Bill Bates, Alec Chamberlain, Billy Cooke, Malcolm Dalrymple [No 1st team appearances at Luton], Kerry Dixon, Graham French, Alan Garner, Ken Goodeve, Rodney Green, Tony Gregory, Sid High [No 1st team appearances at Luton], Billy Jennings, Mike Keen, Peter Nicholas, Alan Rivers, Ken Stockley [No 1st team appearances at Luton]

Other Known Connections

Neil McBain, he is the only man to have been manager of both Luton Town and Watford.

He was manager of Luton Town for just one season, that being 1938/39. He had two spells as Watford manager, between 1929 and 1937, and after the war between 1956

and 1959.

Mike Keen, as well as playing for both clubs, he had a spell as Watford manager between 1973 and 1977

Brian Owen, played for Watford between 1963 and 1970. Later had a spell as physiotherapist at Luton between 1991 and 1993

Billy Hails, played one season for Luton, that being 1964/65. He has been physiotherapist at Watford since the early 1980's.

War Time Guest Players

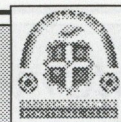
Under the conditions in which the war time leagues and competitions were held, it was quite permissible for clubs to field guest players.

There is no known record of any Watford player guesting for Luton, however some Luton players guested for Watford.

During The First World War three Luton players turned out for Watford, namely R.W.Frith, J.Johnson and H.P.Roberts. During World War 2 the following Luton players guested for Watford. Gordon Dreyer, Tom Dunsmore, R.Edwards and Fred Roberts.

Another war time connection between the clubs involved the England captain during the 1930's, Eddie Hapgood. Hapgood played for Luton as a guest player from Arsenal and later became Watford manager between 1948 and 1950.

Luton Town v Watford Fact File



V



[Correct up to the end of the 1996/97 season]

AGGREGATE RESULTS

Southern League

Played 26

Luton Won 13 Watford Won 8

Drawn 5 Luton Goals 40

Watford Goals 31

Football League

Played 70 Luton Won 32

Watford Won 23 Drawn 15

Luton Goals 101

Watford Goals 91

F.A. Cup

Played 11 Luton Won 5

Watford Won 2 Drawn 4

Luton Goals 21

Watford Goals 17

League Cup

Played 1 Luton Won 1

Watford Won 0 Drawn 0

Luton Goals 3

Watford Goals 0

Highest Individual Team

Scores

Luton 5 At Kenilworth Road on 25-1-26

Watford 5 At Vicarage Road on 4-4-83

Widest Victory Margin

Luton Town 5 Watford 0 on 25-1-26

Watford have never beaten Luton Town by more than a three goal margin.

They have done this on five occasions, the most recent being

Watford 3 Luton Town 0 on 19-3-85

Highest Aggregate Score

Watford 5 Luton Town 2 on 4-4-83 and

Watford 4 Luton Town 3

[F.A. Cup] on 11-1-84

Largest Home Win

Luton Town 5 Watford 0 on 25-1-26

Watford have never beaten Luton by more than three goals, the most recent being Watford 3 Luton Town 0 on 19-3-85

Largest Away Win

Watford 0 Luton Town 4 on 14-9-29

Longest Sequence Without A Win

Luton Town 9 games between

1-4-21 and 12-9-25 inclusive

Watford 12 games between

12-12-87 and 27-1-97 inclusive

Longest Sequence Without Scoring

Luton Town 2 games on three occasions the most recent being both games in the 1986/87 season

Watford 5 games between 4-3-72 and 11-11-80.

First Football League Derby goal

Frank Hoddinott for Watford on 25-3-21, the result Watford 1 Luton Town 0.

First Substitute used in a Derby

Terry Garbett for Watford, he replaced Brian Owen during the match at Luton on 30-4-69.

First Floodlight Derby

The first league derby match to be played entirely under floodlights was at Vicarage Road on 28-12-64, the result Watford 2 Luton Town 0

The First Televised Derby

The first derby to be shown on TV was the match played at Watford on 5-10-68. Highlights were shown on LWT the following day, the result Watford 1 Luton Town 0

The First "Live" Televised Derby

The first derby to be shown live on TV was the match played at Luton on 29-11-92. The match was shown on LWT and Anglia TV. The result Luton Town 2 Watford 0

One Hundred Up

The 100th goal in derby Football League contests was scored by Luton's Fred Roberts. It was their 3rd goal in their 3-1 win at Vicarage Road on 20-2-37

The 100th goal in all League and Cup derby contests was scored by Watford's Fred Pagnam. It was the only goal of the match played at Luton on 25-11-22

Luton's 100th goal in derby Football League contests was scored by Steve Davis. It was Luton's only goal in a 1-1 draw at Watford on 21-11-95

Watford have not yet scored 100

Football League goals against Luton

The 100th Luton goal in all League and cup derby contests was scored by Jack Ball. It was Luton's first goal in their 4-1 home win on 17-10-36

The 100th Watford goal in all League and Cup derby contests was scored by Ian Bolton. It was their only goal in a 4-1 defeat at Luton on 26-9-81

Derby Doubles

While Watford have managed to win both League games the clubs have played in a season only five times, Luton have pulled off this feat eleven times

Luton doubles

1902/03, 1908/09, 1929/30, 1933/34, 1935/36, 1936/37, 1970/71, 1979/80, 1980/81, 1985/86, 1987/88

Watford doubles

1919/20, 1922/23,

1931/32, 1964/65, 1986/87

Sendings Off

There have been eight players sent off in Football League derby contests, they are:

Barry Endean [Watford] 30-4-69

Alan Slough [Luton] 30-4-69

Tom Walley [Watford] 30-4-69

Raddy Antic [Luton] 4-4-83

Wilf Rostron [Watford] 28-4-84

Paul Elliott [Luton] 28-4-84

Barry Ashby [Watford] 14-8-93

Jason Drysdale [Watford] 14-8-9

Record Attendances

The record attendance for a Football League derby contest at Kenilworth Road is 25,254 on 30-4-69. The result Luton Town 2 Watford 1

The record attendance for a Football League derby contest at Vicarage Road is

27,481 on 20-2-37. The result

Watford 1 Luton Town 3

Hat-trick Hero's

There have been four hat-tricks scored in Football League derby contests, they are

Andy Rennie [Luton] 14-9-29

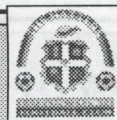
Joe Payne [Luton] 17-10-36

George Harris [Watford] 26-12-64

Mick Harford [Luton] 26-4-86

Both Rennie and Harris scored their hat-tricks in away matches

The History of Luton Town Football Club



Luton Town Football Club was formed in 1885 by the fusion of the two strongest local sides, Wanderers and Excelsior. Early games were played on a friendly basis apart from the annual excursion into the F A Cup and gradually better players were attracted to the Town because of the growth of industry in the area.

In order to retain better players it was decided, in 1890, to pay the sum of five shillings to the three best performers, with the following year heralding payments to the whole team, plus an additional allowance for working time lost, travelling to away games. With this Luton Town became the first professional club in the South of England.

The Town became founder members of the Southern League in 1894, finishing runners-up to Millwall in its first two seasons. Anxious to better itself still further, the club resigned from the Southern League in 1896 and put up for election to the Football League - which failed.

Undeterred, a further attempt was made the following year which proved successful and the club entered the Second Division, which consisted mainly of Northern based clubs. The first season was reasonable, but by 1900, with poor results on the field and debts mounting because of the high cost of travel, it was decided not to stand for re-election, but to rejoin the Southern League, which was now much stronger than when the Town had left it five years before.

The club stayed in the Southern League until 1920, when that section became Division Three of the Football League and was renamed Division Three South the following year.

No real concerted effort was made on the promotion front until 1935-36 when the Town narrowly missed out during a season which saw Joe Payne, in his first game at centre forward, score 10 goals in the 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers - a Football League record never likely to be beaten. No mistake was made the following season with Luton winning the Championship in style, Payne creating another record with 55 league goals.

The Town then settled well into the Second Division and potentially one of their best ever teams was destroyed by the Second World War, with many players lost in action and the remainder past their best at the end of the hostilities.

After the War the team plumped for mid-table respectability for the most part until 1955, when promotion to Division One was the reward for a hard fought season with goal average settling the final positions.

The next landmark came in 1958-59 with the first visit to Wembley in the F.A. Cup Final. The same team was chosen in each game en route to the 'Twin Towers' with the Kenilworth Road

attendance record of 30,069 being set at the 6th Round Replay against Blackpool on March 4th 1959. The Final against Nottingham Forest itself was a disappointment, with the Town losing 2-1 in a game which probably marked a turning point in the clubs fortunes.

The team was now an elderly one and within twelve months Luton experienced relegation for the first time, and then suffered demotion again, to Division Three at the end of 1962-63.

Worse was to come with the final indignity of relegation to Division Four coming two years later. The Town had therefore tumbled from F A Cup finalists to footballs basement in six short seasons.

After a real fear of an application for re-election to Division Four in 1966-67, the fightback to the top began with the Division Four Championship in 1967-68 with a record points haul.

With a new Board of Directors, not afraid to spend money, and with success starved crowds returning to Kenilworth Road, further promotion was narrowly missed in 1968-69, but was achieved the following year when a Malcolm MacDonald inspired team finished runners-up to Orient.

In fact the Town almost went straight through the Second, but a disastrous Easter in 1971, when all three games were lost, halted an amazing climb through the Divisions.

Promotion back to Towns rightful place in Division One eventually came in 1974, but an abysmal start to 1974-75 could not be put right by a storming finish to the campaign and the team was relegated straight back down again.

Luton then settled down to Second Division fare once more and after narrowly avoiding relegation in 1978-79, during Manager David Pleats first full season in charge, concerted efforts were made to bring top flight football back to Kenilworth Road.

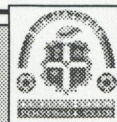
After two near misses, the Division Two title was won in 1981 82 and with only four defeats suffered over the course of the season.

The Town struggled in their first year back in Division One and it was only an unforgettable 86th minute goal from Raddy Antic, which secured victory at Maine Road, that saved the club from another short lived stay, and sent the defeated Manchester City down Instead.

Relegation was also a worry two years later, but an enlightened Board made money available for David Pleat to make some brave purchases, which not only saved the Division One status, but also enabled the club to reach the F A Cup semi-final for only the second time. The team unluckily lost 2-1 to the all conquering Everton after extra-time.

Continues:-

The History of Luton Town Football Club



The club celebrated its centenary by installing an artificial surface at Kenilworth Road in 1985 which enabled the local community to make use of the facilities for different sports. Hockey Internationals, American Football and a McGuigan title fight were examples of the use the ground was put to, opening up its facilities for 365 days of the year. The stadium had a complete facelift in 1986 together with the start of a 'members only' scheme following the near riot the previous season during a cup-tie with Millwall. The stance on 'members only' saw the Town barred from entering the Littlewoods Cup in 1986-87, but as if with a grim resolution to avenge the injustice, a highest ever league placing of 7th was achieved that season with the Cup being won the following season after 'fairytale' 3-2 win in the Final against Arsenal, with Brian Stein scoring the winning goal in the last minute.

The clubs success in the Littlewoods Cup competition continued the next year with another Wembley appearance, but a different result, this time Town bowed to Nottingham Forest 3-1.

During the 1989-90 season there were plenty of changes both on and off the field. There were three different Chairmen and Managers. The task of seeing that the club retained its First Division status finally fell to Jim Ryan. Again it all came down to the final game. At Derby County it had all looked beyond them. Sheffield Wednesday needed a point in their last game to relegate Luton - they lost and Town survived as Tim Breakers free kick goal set them on their way to a 3-2 victory at the Baseball ground. The following season a final day 1-0 home victory over Norwich City ensured that Sunderland could not deny Luton Town another season in the top flight.

Town entered season 1991-92 with fresh hope under David Pleat, who had re-joined the club during the summer. However they struggled all season and were finally relegated to the new First Division on the final day of the season at Notts County.

It proved to be a struggle for Pleats young side as they came to terms with their new surroundings, but after finishing in 20th place they had the platform for greater heights and in 1993-94 enjoyed a memorable F A Cup run which took them to a Wembley semi-final against Chelsea. In 1994-95 they peaked at fifth place in late November, and after slipping out of play off contention, without ever being in relegation danger, they slipped to 16th with just one win in the final 10 games, after a season which also marked the clubs record transfer when John Hartson was sold to Arsenal for £2.5 million.

Terry Westley was appointed manager of Luton Town in July 1995 following the departure of David Pleat to Sheffield Wednesday.

But despite large investment in new players the team struggled, and Westley left in December with the team bottom of the league. Lennie Lawrence replaced Westley and the team embarked on an unbeaten run of eight matches to move out of the relegation zone. But just two wins from their final 17 games condemned the Hatters to Division Two - the first time they had been out of the top two divisions since the early 1970s.

After a poor start to the 1996-97 campaign they maintained a promotion challenge from Christmas through to the end of the season, but missed out on a top two place and went into the play-offs. The Hatters were beaten by Crewe (4-3 on aggregate) at the semi-final stage.

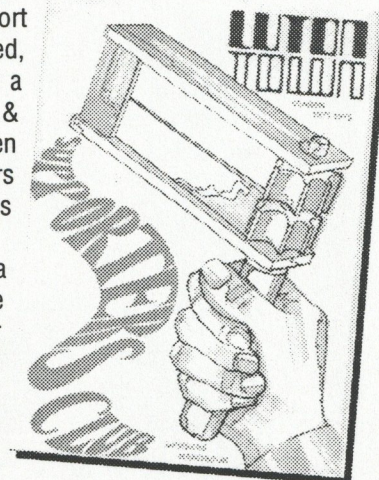
Luton Town F.C. 1997/98

Most of the events took place in the Hatters Club (now known as the Eric Morecambe Suite) with Hatter full back John Ryan organising the D.J. at the regularly held Disco's.

Unfortunately the Supporters Club was to finish after a short time but as I got more interested, in watching Luton, I became a member the Bobbers Stand & Supporters Club which was then based under the old Bobbers stand where the Executive Boxes are now built.

Finally, we may produce a publication as shown which we hope would be popular with our members - Watch this space.

Keep supporting the Hatters!!
- John Pyper -



NOSTALGIA CORNER

As you may not have known, prior to us reforming the official Luton Town Supporters Club back in September 1988, there was a Supporters Club running for a short time with the assistance of the F.C. back in the early 1970's.

I joined as a junior member of the club at the start of 1971/72 season and in return received a members handbook (as shown) plus a membership card and badge which was the basis of the badge design today.

The handbook was a very well produced booklet, with interviews from backroom staff and players, plus players pin pics and a complete review of the previous season match by match with reports taken from the Evening Post/Sport Post. The S.C chairman was a Mr. Colin Ball, a long associated with the club, who later worked for them. He and his wife Catherine later took up the running of the Century Club which is still here today but now run by the Football Club.

The S.C. organised many social events for both young and senior members, and run coaches and trains to away games.

"VOICE OF THE FANS" Members Letters page



WHERE NOW?

Four successive home defeats during November heaped pressure on Lennie Lawrence, his coaching staff, players and the club in general, this poor run followed the problems caused by the injury crisis. This meant that only Mitchell Thomas, Phil Gray, Dwight Marshall and Paul Showler of the first team squad were still absent at the beginning of December. but also a run of five games without defeat, including wins at Carlisle and at home to Plymouth and Brentford. Although, anyone who had been present at the home games would have been under no false illusions, as the Town had struggled for long periods of the game and if it was not for poor finishing by the visitors victory would surely have been denied.

This prompted changes behind the scenes, with Wayne Turner being demoted from first team coach, with John Moore been promoted from the youth role to fill the vacancy. Moore is well accustomed to the role having filled it and the managers chair with success in the past. For how long we can only speculate as David Kohler has confirmed this is only on a trial basis, because John Moore was not seeking a front line role and has had considerable success with the youth development programme, which must be the bedrock of any future side the Town puts out, so leaves a significant vacancy to be filled.

Is this the answer or will more changes have to be made to answer the club's critics, only results will provide the ultimate answer. But is this change just playing around the edge or are greater changes needed, a lot of fans have been calling for a change of management, but who could come in?

David Pleat, for a third stint, after the acrimonious way in which he departed, with the team already in deep relegation trouble, unlikely!

Brian Horton, had a successful spell in his first managerial appointment at Hull, but has struggled in subsequent appointments with Oxford, Man City (although given their current troubles this may be seen as some success) and Huddersfield, where he left them bottom of the table.

Others, such as Mickey Harford and Bruce Rioch and others have been rumoured, but in Harford's case although still an idol amongst the Town following, he has little coaching let alone managerial experience, with the salary likely to be demanded by Rioch probably ruling him out, though he does still live locally and has had success in the past whilst playing in Luton colours.

Whatever may be said Lennie Lawrence's past track record does still stand up to scrutiny. Particularly in the Town's situation of needing results whilst on the other hand having to balance the books. With the Town's losses still mounting up. It will surely not be much longer before player sales are inevitable to meet the ever growing wage bill, particularly given the early cup exits and poor league position., so his expertise could be much called upon in the forthcoming month's

I believe a number of other factors are at the route of the current problems in addition to managerial and coaching,

- firstly the injuries, which have been the worst I have ever known in 20 years of supporting the Town, which with players then returning from injury have hit a crisis of confidence.
- the physiological effect of losing

the play off game last year, there is a large number of examples where sides have reached the play off's then struggled next time round. Brentford being a prime example, they to have struggled this time round despite also reaching the play off's last time round, and this followed a very similar tact 2 years ago.

- The attitude of several senior players has not helped with the lack of players on the squad who are capable of beating a player with the ball, Phil Gray been one prime culprit who has not been fit since being signed and now niggling injuries keep him out of the squad.

Consequently Chris Allen was brought in on loan and had immediate effect, whilst his performance was not world beating, he did give the Town an outlet ball and this was much used to good effect in his first outing at York and led to the best result to date with a 2-1 victory

Hopefully this is the start of things better, if not changes will have to be made, but for the extreme optimists the play off's are only 10 points off, with Crewe gaining promotion last time round losing 18 games in the Season, including one 6-0 hammering!

Lets hope the New Year brings more success but above all else let the fans get behind the Players.

from
Mark
Chapman

**WAYNE
TURNER**
*a Luton Man
Through &
Through*



OUT?
Wayne Turner