



# Come on you HATTERS



Issue No.  
41

LUTON TOWN  
SUPPORTERS CLUB

Summer  
1999

**CRISIS  
ISSUE**

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

**S**o it's the end of an era. No not the dug-outs being moved to the other side of the ground. Or Mitchell Thomas moving from Kenilworth Road. This is the last View from the Chair that I will be writing as I step down as Chairperson of LTSC at the AGM next month *\*(See inside for details).*

### *Inside this edition of the LTSC Newsletter...*

- **PLAYER OF THE SEASON** Evening Report
- **HATTERS CLASSICS** - Christmas Cheers v Leeds United in 1947
- **TOWN-ON-TOUR** End of Season Report
- **The 40th Anniversary Celebrations** 1959-1999
- **SEASON REVIEWED** Summary of the season
- **Luton Town F.C. Statistic's** 1998-99
- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DETAILS**  
*...and much more...*

Don't Forget  
the LTSC  
A.G.M.  
12th July  
at  
LTFC 7.30pm

**Exclusive**

It's been a rewarding four years. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with a great committee, meeting our members and doing my best to move LTSC forward. Town on Tour has been launched successfully, we re-designed the newsletter and there have been many entertaining and sold-out guest speaker evenings. However, it's time for a change, time for new leadership and time for me to move to the backbench.

I won't be disappearing from view altogether (sorry). As some of you may know, I've been heavily involved with FLAG (Fans of Luton Action Group) from its inception. FLAG is a group of united Luton Town fans with the aim of securing the future of our football club through the partnership of a supporters' trust and investors.

As I said in my last column, we went to AFC Bournemouth and found what we thought was a good role model for Luton Town. So two days after the club went into receivership, FLAG was formed and then launched at a public meeting three weeks later in front of over 2,000 supporters.

Since then it's been a rollercoaster ride of emotions - from the adrenaline of a successful election night after the public meeting to the feeling of running quicksand trying to put together a viable financial business package to save the club.

We're making progress but we need to move quickly if we're not all to be doomed to a future of Saturday afternoon shopping. Support for FLAG from all areas - fans, businesses, politicians, even players - has been tremendous. Yes, some are

sceptical about 'a bunch of fans' trying to take over the club. To them I'd say, businessmen have had their way with football clubs up and down the country for too long and look what a mess most of them have made of it. Mark Goldberg must rue the day he ever put his personal fortune into the bottomless pit that's Selhurst Park.

Supporters can be accountants, marketing experts, political strategists or professionals of any kind as well as football fans but they will always bring something to the boardroom that 'businessmen' can't: a love of the game; knowledge of what the 'customer' wants and how they should be treated; and a life-long commitment to one football club. And that's something that money can't buy.

Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported me during my stint as Chairperson and good luck to the new person at the helm for next season - it looks like being an interesting one.

All the best - Yvonne Fletcher - LTSC Chairperson.



Myself & '59 FA Cup Final Goalkeeper - Ron Baynham presenting Kelvin Davis with the LTSC Player of the Season Award on the pitch.

Read our Vice-President **BRIAN SWAIN'S** Column  
**"TALK OF THE TOWN"**



# TALK OF THE TOWN

## IT'S AN ACTION REPLAY!

**THE TROUBLE** with supporting Luton Town for a long time is that for all the twists and turns of the unpredictable lovely game, you get to a point where every new crisis and highspot sends the memory spinning.

Relegation? Seen it, suffered it, sniffled over it too many times already. Promotion? Enjoyed it immensely not enough times.

Players sold for lack of boardroom ambition? So when didn't we? Going bust? Oh yeah, seen that too... and seen it off, thank goodness, as we will do once more. And then, as now, the ordinary supporters were galvanised into action by the threat of little Luton vanishing down the financial plughole.

It might well be a more difficult trick to pull off this time, but put your money on FLAG as well as into it.

Let me tell you about Luton Town in the middle seventies. Allan Brown had done the groundwork to enable the club to rise from the depths of the old Fourth Division before he was cruelly sacked. Alec Stock took us on and upwards and Happy Harry Haslam gave us huge delight when he built a team to win promotion to the old First Division for the first time in 14 years. We were runners-up to Jack Charlton's all-conquering Middlesbrough.

It was fleeting glory: the 1974/75 season was disaster in the first half of the campaign, and heartbreak in the second. And far worse was to follow after relegation.

By late September 1974, we were struggling, despite the wonderful talents of players like Alan West, John Aston and Jim Ryan. And, surprise, surprise, we were getting short of money. So we flogged leading scorer Barry Butlin. We had paid £50,000 to Derby two years earlier, and the £120,000 we received from Nottingham Forest was good business so far as the bank manager was concerned. It didn't look so clever from the terraces.

But results on the field were awful and by Christmas we were bottom of the table, and you could get any odds you liked on the chances of avoiding relegation. But the odds dropped dramatically as Paul Futcher established himself in central defence, twin brother Ron was given his head, and Steve Buckley came to fill the problem left back spot.

Christmas '74 was wonderful: I will never forget the sight of Bobby Robson almost in tears with anger and frustration at Ipswich on Boxing Day after Ron Futcher headed the only goal in the last minute of his debut to give us our first away win of the season. It was bottom club beating top. Happy Harry was wreathed in smiles, but had a lot of sympathy for Robson: the two had been long-time pals, and in management together at Fulham before both were sacked on the same day.

Two days later, Ron Futcher made a stunning home debut, netting all three in a 3-2 home victory over Wolves. It was the start of an incredible revival, and by the end of the season we were close to escaping. The trouble was that Tottenham were our companions in distress. Our season ended on Saturday April 26 with a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester City with Jim Ryan lobbing man mountain Joe Corrigan. Spurs were at home to Leeds on the Monday. Tottenham had to get one point to send us down, but we kidded ourselves that Leeds would do the business. They didn't, and a 4-2 home win at White Hart Lane ensured that we were relegated with Chelsea and Carlisle. The laws of libel prevent me repeating all the questions many of us asked about

that Tottenham result. The sick joke was that Billy Bremner and Don Revie went home in a Securicor van.

Relegation was a major financial blow: there were no TV millions at stake, but in those days away teams collected a percentage of the attendance money, and that was important to clubs like Luton. The change later, home team takes all, was in my view the start of the slope that has led to the rich getting richer at the expense of the poorer.

By November 1975, with the Town no more than a decent Second Division side, the unpaid bills were mounting. Rumours were rife, and the bombshell burst when it was announced we had 28 days to raise cash, or we would go into liquidation.

Harry Haslam did his bit on and off the field: leading scorer Peter Anderson was sold to Antwerp for a knock-down fee of £53,000, and in his last game scored twice as we won 5-1 at The Valley.

Then Haslam mobilised the real troops, and the fans of Luton Town really got stuck in. He found a printer prepared to knock out raffle tickets at no charge. So we sold them at a penny each (honest) with season tickets the prizes which would be worthless if the problems were not solved in a month.

Phil Laycock came in with an offer of free lottery tickets, and we made thousands as fans responded to the "Save Our Club" appeals.

We also brought professional boxing back to Luton, hiring Caesar's Palace, and by happy co-incidence helping Henry Rhiney from Connaught Road, trained by Jack Lindsay, to start his march to the British and Commonwealth middleweight championships. Yes, title fights staged in Luton... Today, of course, Lindsay is still rearing champions - he looks after Billy Schwer. Same again, please Billy!

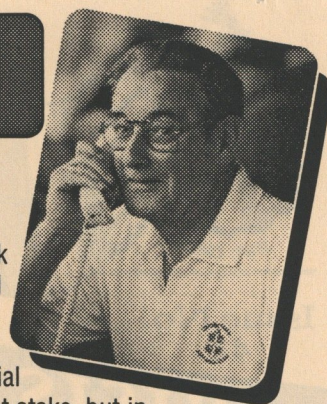
We came up with every imaginable money-raising scheme, and all were enthusiastically supported. So far as I can recall we had to find about £100,000, with water, electricity, gas and the taxman demanding payment in full. We weren't clever enough to call ourselves FLAG. Instead we asked people to be generous to a FOLT - the Friends of Luton Town. They were.

So were my mates on the Luton News, who covered for me to enable me to be Secretary of FOLT, which for several months was an almost full-time job.

But I don't kid myself that for all the enthusiasm and generosity, we did anything more than demonstrate the real depth of feeling people had for their local club. Creditors still had to be persuaded to take a percentage of the money owed to them, and Denis Mortimer, the then Chairman, ploughed in huge amounts of money to keep us afloat. A share issue was floated, and I still remember my two young sons that Christmas wondering why the train sets had not turned up, and instead they got these strange pieces of paper making them shareholders of Luton Town FC.

We all did our bit, but without the seriously wealthy backing of men like Mortimer, we would have gone under. There is a lesson there for 1999.

**Brian Swain**



**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ The attendance of 4,021 for the match against Notts County on February 23rd was the lowest gate for a league match at Kenilworth Road since the last match of the 1964/65 season, when the visit of Workington attracted just 2,915.





A Regular Feature on great Matches & Players from the past ...

# Hatters Classics

Part Three - Christmas Cheer(s)!! in Xmas 1947



The old Christmas programme, providing the same opponents twice in consecutive days, often produced the most exciting and unpredictable matches of the year. In 1947 they were tastes than turkey and keener than a Christmas frost.

Dally Duncan was Luton's new player-manager and he started well. He brought in several newcomers including Billy Hughes, the Welsh International, Bobby Brennan, the mercurial Irishman, and a rangy left-half with an enormous throw-in named Syd Owen. The season opened brightly, three wins out of four, but injuries and loss of form precipitated a slump and only two victories followed in the subsequent fifteen games.

Basically the defence was sound. Horace Gager, the imperious skipper, strolled around like a blond Adonis, displaying exquisite control and excellent temperament. He was well supported by the equally adapt Frankie Soo, hardworking Owen, and two tough backs in Cooke and Hughes.



Front cover of the **SPORT Weekly Magazine**. Issued at the same time as the two Xmas Matches

Behind them all was the emerging brilliance of Bernard Streten, worth the admission money alone for his amazing gymnastic agility. But in spite of the defensive ability, the problem lay, among the forwards.

Duncan himself was sadly finished by October and only the superb Billington and Billy Waugh were performing consistently as forwards, and both of them had been crocked! By the end of November Duncan was desperate.



Luton Town FC Skipper - **Horace Gager**. Great Leadership qualities at the heart of the defence.

On December the 6th he selected two untried players, O'Brien and Ottewell on the left wing, and Brennan, with six games behind him, playing on the right. It was a gamble, but it paid off! Luton beat Doncaster Rovers 2-1, and Brennan scored his first Town goal. The following Saturday Duncan introduced another novice, Peter Small, and Luton won again, securing only their second away victory of the season at Notts Forest. The proverbial corner had been turned, but as Christmas approached, two games against Leeds was not exactly Duncan's idea of a Happy Christmas. Elland Road's "Goodwill to all men" on Boxing Day would certainly exclude anything in a Luton shirt.

Against all predictions Luton won, due mainly to the determination and ability of Billington. Badly injured in creating O'Brien first goal, he went off; returned heavily bandaged, and scored a cracker. After that, Gager marshalled his defence against an

The Programme from the home win v Leeds United (Division 2) December 27th 1947

almighty onslaught and Bernard Streten left the field to a rare Yorkshire ovation.

For the return match at Luton the following day the forward lines was raw indeed. Billington was replaced by Duggan and the other attackers had only two dozen games between them. Experienced old fans forecast a typical Christmas time reversal perhaps a drubbing, and Leeds obviously scented blood.

They started at a cracking pace, played the better football, yet by half time they were two goals down thanks to Duggan's head and Soo's penalty. It was a lead the Town barley deserved. But attacking the favoured Oak Road end in the second half Luton turned on the style and gave Leeds a real roasting. Moving the ball briskly over the mud and sprinting like reindeer they had Leeds on the run. O'Brien thumped one over the goalie's head after a fine dribble by Brennan. Minutes later Ottewell scored his first for the Town with a flashing drive. Leeds groaned and Soo took control his deft footwork and passing perfection offering a cameo of bygone international days. Twice he supplied identical opportunities for Brennan who accepted both with an air of nonchalant similarity. It finished the perfect day, for six-one, represented the best league victory for ten years.

As the happy crowd faded into the mists of the evening they knew they'd seen a game to remember.

Yours - Frank Batt - LTSC Member.

**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ The 1998/99 season saw a club record nine players sent-off in all competitions. The guilty parties were Gavin McGowan (twice), Marvin Johnson, Graham Alexander, Kelvin Davis, Phil Gray, Alan White, Paul McLaren and Mitchell Thomas



# Thanks for the Memories

## THE 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The sun shone bright and high in the sky as the gallant team of '59 were generously and warmly welcomed back to Kenilworth Road. It was the last day of the 1998/99 season and the Town were entertaining lowly Macclesfield Town. The greeting which the two teams received at 2.55pm was just a murmur in comparison to the roar of approval and delight which proceeded each member of the '59 side as they entered the arena, all at a sprightly march, when they were introduced to the crowd at half time. Applause and cheers reverberated around the ground as the Football Club and fans united harmoniously to remember Luton's only appearance in an FA Cup Final some 40 years before. On recognition, parents and grandparents could be seen pointing out their former favourites to their young offspring and brushing away a tear from the corner of their eye. It was at that point that my personal memories came flooding back of the Final which I attended, as young girl, with my dad. A cherished day, when our heroes, dressed in black and white unfortunately lost to Nottingham forest 2-1 and the tears which I shed then because we had come so near, yet so far.



*All 10 players on the pitch for that famous photocall (from L to R) Brown, Cummins, Hawkes, Morton, Gregory, Baynham, Bingham, Groves, Pacey & McNally*

The reunion was the culmination of an idea which I had some 12 months before hand. During those months copious phone calls were made, letters written and networks set up to track down and gather together the 10 remaining players who appeared at Wembley in 1959. It was an enthralling and emotional journey which involved talking to friends, fellow supporters, L.T.F.C. administration staff, the local press and radio, and other Nationwide Football League Clubs.

Bob Morton, Ken Hawkes, Dave Pacey, and Brendan McNally, all of whom remained locally based, were fairly easy to track down. Bob had kept in close touch with John Groves over the years. An invitation dispatched to him at his Derbyshire home brought an acceptance by return of post. John has still remained very much involved in the football scene, though only as a spectator now. You will find him at every Derby County home game, but insists that he



*The 1959 Squad as they were*

always looks for the Town's score on a Saturday night. It was thanks to Roger Wash, our Club historian, that contact was made with George Cummins (my dad's favourite player) and Tony Gregory at their North West of England homes. Ron Baynham was eventually located via his brother in Birmingham, as a result of a letter printed in the Luton News. Through a telephone call to Blackpool F.C.



*The players, wives, friends & family relaxing after the match in the Club's Century Club*

I obtained an address for Billy Bingham. What a thrill to pick up the phone one morning, on my way out to work, to hear Billy (surely one of Luton's greatest players) saying he would be delighted to attend!

It was with devastation and disbelief during the preparations that the news that **Syd Owen**, the Town's Captain at the Final, has sadly passed away. This colossus of a player and a man will never be forgotten. His spirit was with us all on the Anniversary and fond memories were shared by all. Thank you **Syd**.



*The players lap of honour after the presentation to the fans at Kenilworth Road.*

There then only remained one player to contact, Allan Brown (another one of Luton's greatest players and perhaps their best manager). An article by Brian Swain which appeared in the Blackpool local paper and a phonecall to Lancashire Radio finally did the trick. Allan accepted and made the trip down on the day with Luton

**CONT:-**



supporters Danny and Elsie Clubb also from Blackpool.

So they came together, the Team of '59, for the first time in 40 years. The laughter, the stories and the memories flowed as they and their guests reminisced about old times and the years in-between. They enjoyed a meal together, a slice of Anniversary cake and drank a champagne toast. Champagne which was donated by an ordinary supporter because he couldn't be with us on May 1st. The squad relived the Wembley campaign through the memorabilia on the walls of Executive Box 28. Then they donned straw boaters, which were made in Luton, and black and white scarves, manufactured and donated by a Hatters fan, posed for photographs and then went to meet the adoring crowd.

Following the Celebration, I have been overwhelmed

with letters of thanks and good wishes from the '59 squad and fans. All the Team to a man enjoyed the day so much. They were anxious to convey their thanks to all concerned for their glorious welcome home. It was a day that they will always treasure, another significant milestone in the proud history of Luton Town Football Club.

THANKS FOR THE FOND MEMORIES TO THE TEAM OF '59.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE STAFF AT LUTON TOWN F.C. WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE DAY POSSIBLE.

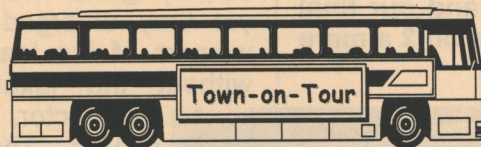
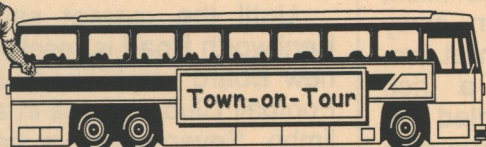
BUT MOST OF ALL SINCERE THANKS TO YOU THE FANS FOR YOUR WELCOME AND TAKING THE TEAM OF '59 TO YOUR HEARTS WHEN THEY CAME BACK HOME.

*Merilyn Fussell*

*L.T.S.C Committee Member.*



## Town-on-Tour



Following the Hatters away, throughout the U.K.

**F**or the first time in about 15 years supporters have been given a alternative choice of coach travel to away games.

Town On Tour commenced it's service at the beginning of last season and has been very successful. Our client base grew steadily throughout the season and by the end of it over 550 separate supporters had utilised the service. Total bookings for the season was in the region of 1,200 throughout the 25 trips made. Many loyal away supporters became Town On Tour regulars and thoroughly enjoyed the style of service provided. Some 50 passengers liked the service so much that they chose to use it frequently with each travelling, on average, on 45% of the trips. Our most valued clients were rewarded with loyalty bonuses such as goody bags and club shop merchandise. In addition we acknowledged our most frequent clients with club shop

vouchers, a video and a signed away shirt.

The objective of Town On Tour at the beginning of the season was that of service provision over profit making. However in proving an excellent service, which has been well rewarded by regular clients, a profit has been made.

The questionnaire included with this newsletter has been completed by many of our regulars and the feedback has been very encouraging. Our emphasis on making the journey part of the day out, not just a way of getting from A to B, has proved successful. Our clients like the Eats and Drinks that are served on board, especially the hot drinks on cold winter days. The football style competitions and videos make the travelling time pass quickly. And the old blockbuster movies on the long journey home takes your mind of the miles to go. The professional way the bookings are handled and the

way the stewards take time out to welcome people on board and keep passengers informed as to what is going on is appreciated.

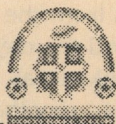
Considering the vast majority of away supporters have become used to travelling by car to the town's away games the success of Town On Tour in it's inaugural year should not be underestimated. The committee has worked tremendously hard to provide, maintain and improve the service and our reward is to see people booking up for the second, third, fourth, etc times. We know then that they enjoyed themselves. There is still room for improvement in certain areas and the committee will endeavour to progress the service.

If you have travelled with Town On Tour this season we thank you. If you have not, then try us out next season. Travelling by coach is not as bad at it used to be!

Andy Finch - TOT Co-ordinator

**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ Tony Thorpe's brace in the game at Notts County was the first scored by a Luton Town player in a league match for over a year. The last player to achieve this feat was Tony Thorpe himself with his hat-trick in the game against Blackpool at Kenilworth Road on January 17th 1998, in his first spell with the club.





# Relegation or Bust

## Season Reviewed...

**A**s the season raced to a close, Town fans were contemplating two fears which at the start of the season would have seemed unthinkable: after a succession of poor results, life in Division 3 was beginning to look like a distinct possibility for next season, whilst on a more sinister note the presence of the receiver meant that unless the Town attracted new investors, football at Kenilworth Road could become a memory and our final position within Division 2 a mere formality.



*On-loan Tony Thorpe in action at Boundary Park  
Oldham on Good Friday.*

Fortunately, the question of relegation was answered by some fine team performances, enhanced by the return of Tony Thorpe whose 4 goals against Notts County, Chesterfield and Millwall enabled us to finish a comfortable 12th in the League. The latter part of the season also saw the emergence of Chris Willmott as a quality defender, and the league debut of Tresor Kandol, who went onto win the Young Player of the Year award at our presentation evening in April. Another of our award winners, Matthew Spring, made the most appearances in a Luton Town shirt, playing in 45 out of 46 league games, despite being in his first season as a senior player. Tanny Abbey, covering for an injured Kelvin Davis in the last match of the

season at Millwall was also playing his last match in a Town shirt prior to his departure to Belgium. During the course of the season, a total of 33 players were used (in all competitions) with ten players occupying the number 7 shirt and no less than thirteen players wearing the number 11 shirt!

The season began on a positive note, with a victory in the first game and a run of results which brought hopes of a play-off place; we were the only team to win at Fulham, outplaying them from start to finish, yet they emerged as run away winners of the league whilst we, without the luxury of a rich benefactor, struggled to survive. The Cup run also brought some welcome relief from Division 2 football, despite its disappointing conclusion at the Stadium of Light.

On a low note, our disciplinary record showed how we struggled during the season with a record 9 sendings off in all competitions; we didn't win a game by a greater margin than 2 goals, and turned in our worst performance against such lowly opposition as Macclesfield, Lincoln and Hull City. It is hardly surprising that home attendances dropped to an average of 5527, with only 4 home games attracting a crowd of over 6000 all season.

Having earned the right to stay in Division 2, there remains the daunting prospect of convincing the FA that Luton Town can fulfil its fixtures for the coming season. The continuing presence of the receivers at Kenilworth Road makes the treat of expulsion from the League a frightening reality; it is to be hoped that the efforts of FLAG to raise the profile of Luton Town will attract sufficient interest to ensure the future of OUR Club through the partnership of a



*Rep. of Ireland Un-21 International Gary Doherty  
getting in a header v Stoke City earlier in the season*

Supporters Trust and individual investors.

Until the current situation at Kenilworth Road is resolved, and a new Board established, life at the Football Club remains in a state of limbo. Several players have been released, and youngsters who under different circumstances would have surely been offered professional terms have had their careers at Luton prematurely terminated. The current management team are unable to take advantage of any attractive Bosman players to strengthen the squad; Lennie Lawrence has made no secret of the players he would like to bring in, yet without the necessary go ahead his hands are tied and opportunities are certainly being lost. There are currently only about twenty players on professional contracts for next season; the full back position in particular looks very vulnerable following the departure of Mitchell Thomas and Julian James, and with Tanny also gone we have no senior keeper to act as cover.

Whilst we all aspire to watching attractive, successful football at Luton next season, unless a substantial injection of money is received in the near future we may have to be patient with a young squad whose on remit may be to survive in Division 2 until fortunes at Luton Improve.

Enjoy the rest of the close season

- Mark Chapman -

LTSC Committee Member

**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ Over the years the 24th April has proved to be a great day for Luton Town Football Club. Things to have happened on this day include the club's finest hour - the Littlewoods Cup Final win over Arsenal, and the 4-0 thrashing of Crewe Alexandra at Kenilworth Road to secure promotion from the old fourth division in 1968. This year the run continued with the 2-1 away win at Notts County.





# Luton Town F.C. Statistics - Season 1998-99

Complied by LTSC Member - Patrick Johnson



## LEAGUE STATISTICS 1998/99

Biggest Home Win	3-1 v Wycombe (9-Jan)
Biggest Home Defeat	0-4 v Wigan (23-Jan), Fulham (9-Mar)
Biggest Away Win	3-1 v Fulham (3-Oct), Wigan (31-Aug)
Biggest Away Defeat	0-3 v Reading (22-Aug)

Highest Home Attendance	9,070 v Man. City (28-Nov)
Lowest Home Attendance	4,021 v Notts County (23-Feb)
Average Home Attendance	5,527

Highest Away Attendance	26,130 v Manchester City (14-Apr)
Lowest Away Attendance	2,902 v Macclesfield (12-Dec)
Average Away Attendance	7,803

Highest Away Following	2,020 v Fulham (3-Oct)
Lowest Away Following	290 v Wrexham (8-Sep)
Average Away Following	905

Highest League Position	2nd (5-Sep)
Lowest League Position	14th (30-Jan)
Final League Position	12th

Longest Consecutive Winning Run	3 (Colchester H, Wigan A, Burnley H)
Longest Consecutive Drawing Run	3 (Lincoln A, Man City H, Macclesfield A)
Longest Consecutive Losing Run	4 (Walsall A, Fulham H, Stoke H, Chesterfield A)
Longest Unbeaten Run	5 (29-Aug - 12-Sep)
Longest Run Without Winning	8 (24-Oct - 2-Jan)
Scored First And Lost	2 (Preston A, Wrexham H)
Conceded First And Won	2 (Burnley A, York H)

Average goals FOR (both H + A)	1.11
Average goals FOR (Home)	1.09
Average goals FOR (Away)	1.13
Average goals AGAINST (H + A)	1.3
Average goals AGAINST (Home)	1.13
Average goals AGAINST (Away)	1.48

Average points per home game	1.48
Average points per away game	1.04
Average points per game	1.26

Games when no substitution made	0
Games when one substitution made	6
Games when two substitutions made	21
Games when three substitutions made	19
Average no. of subs.	2.28 per game

Earliest goal scored (home)	6 minutes (McKinnon v Bournemouth)
Earliest goal scored (away)	3 minutes (Douglas v Macclesfield)
Latest goal scored (home)	90 minutes (Scarlett v Oldham)
Latest goal scored (away)	90 minutes (Gray v Macclesfield)
Earliest goal conceded (home)	11 minutes (Kavanagh v Stoke)
Earliest goal conceded (away)	1 minute (Cresswell v York)
Latest goal conceded (home)	89 minutes (Carroll v Wycombe)
Latest goal conceded (away)	90 minutes (Harris v Preston)





# Luton Town F.C. Statistics - Season 1998-99

Complied by LTSC Member - Patrick Johnson

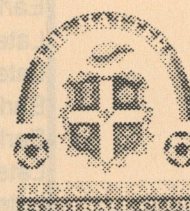


PLAYERS NATIONWIDE LEAGUE STATISTICS								LTFC Career	
NAME	Appr (M)	Appr (S)	Sub Off	Booked	Sent Off	Assists	Goals	Apps	Goals
N. Abbey	2							4	0
G. Alexander	28	1		4	1	3	4	183	17
H. Bacque	2	5	2					11	0
E. Boyce	1							2	0
J. Cox	3	5	1					10	0
S. Davies	2		2					29	1
K. Davis	44			1	1			107	0
S. Davis	20			5		3	6	173	27
G. Doherty	5	15		1		2	6	35	6
S. Douglas	42		19	3		6	9	91	14
S. Dyche	14			1			1	15	1
S. Evers	27			1		6	3	69	7
A. Fotiadis	8	13	2			1	2	64	7
S. Fraser	5	3		1				10	0
L. George	6	6	2	2				18	0
P. Gray	32	3	4	3	1	7	8	129	41
G. Harrison	14		3	1		2		15	0
J. James								334	14
M. Johnson	42							356	9
T. Kandal	2	2						5	0
D. Marshall	3	1	2				1	155	38
G. McGowan	27	4	6	10	2	2		50	0
M. McIndoe	17	5	4	3		1		28	0
R. McKinnon	29	1	7	4		5	2	37	2
P. McLaren	14	9	1	5	1	1		124	2
K. Nyamah								2	0
A. Scarlett	2	4		1			1	8	1
P. Showler	2	1	2					37	6
M. Spring	45		4	2		9	3	67	3
M. Thomas	26	6	1	3		2		341	6
T. Thorpe	7	1		1			4	152	64
A. White	18	15		3	1		1	71	2
C. Willmott	13	1		1		1		14	0
L. Zahana-Oni	4	4	2					8	0

OCCUPANTS OF SHIRTS			
Shirt Number	Leading Occupant	No. Of Occupants	
1	K. Davis	44	2
2	G. Alexander	27	5
3	M. Thomas	26	5
4	M. Spring	45	2
5	S. Davis	20	4
6	M. Johnson	42	2
7	R. McKinnon	14	10
8	S. Evers	18	7
9	S. Douglas	42	4
10	P. Gray	28	5
11	G. McGowan	10	13



RESULTS IN FIRST AND SECOND HALF OF GAMES						
	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>
1st Half Home	23	6	9	8	7	11
1st Half Away	23	7	11	5	14	14
1st Half Total	46	13	20	13	21	25
2nd Half Home	23	11	4	8	18	15
2nd Half Away	23	3	12	8	12	20
2nd Half Total	46	14	16	16	30	35





## EVENTS REPORT...

# The Presentation Evening Player of the Season

Our 11th End-of-the Season Presentation Evening took place once again at the Kent Athletic Club on 25th April. As in previous years, with the help of LTFC all the first team and fringe team players attended. For the first time in some years, our LTSC President, Nick Owen was in attendance, and with the assistance of our Vice-President Brian Swain helped compère the evening with great success. After the players arrived and were swamped for autographs and photo calls, the evening kicked-off with LTSC Chairperson, Yvonne Fletcher welcoming everyone to the Kent Athletic Club. Her introduction covered a summing up of the season of two halves, and how the club needs to go forward with the launch of FLAG (Fans of Luton Action Group) and their intention of making the Football Club become a Community owned club, run by fans and businessmen for the Community, like the new setup at AFC Bournemouth.



The players photocall for LTSC members & supporters to take their exclusive photograph. Thanks Lads!!

Nick Owen gave his resumé of the season, and the present state of the club, with a few jokes thrown-in for good measure. After the Grand Raffle Draw, with ten fantastic prizes, it was down to the main business of the evening. This was orchestrated by Brian Swain, and presentation made by Yvonne Fletcher. The first award 'Young Player of the Season' went to a up-and-coming forward, Tresor Kandol, who was

promoted from the Youth team to the reserves this season, and was given his first team debut by Lennie Lawrence at the Manchester City away match. Second award was the Players choice for their player of the season, this went to the man between the sticks 'Kelvin Davis'. A very surprised Kelvin came up to collect his award, and felt he didn't deserve this award but thanked the players anyway. The third prize of the night was for our young members choice which went to midfield player with the most first team appearances 'Matthew Spring'.

The main award of the evening chosen by all our LTSC members, and of which there were five front runners for this trophy, former skipper - Steve Davis, Graham Alexander, Marvin Johnson, Matthew Spring, but with very close voting the prize went to first team goalkeeper Kelvin Davis, who's name will be added to the former winners - Mick Hartford, David Preece, Tim Breacker, John Dreyer to name but a few.

Following the formalities including a resumé of the season by Lennie Lawrence and official photographs, we had dancing till late with none other than Lennie Lawrence and Cherry Newbery getting to the floor for a donation to the FLAG appeal. Added to this was the appearance of Martin Turney, one of the most loyal Luton Town supporters around, doing his interpretation of the "Full Monty". Finally we would like to thank the Kent Athletic Club staff for their help on the night, and a very special thankyou to Jim Carway our regular DJ, who donated 50% of his earning for the night towards the FLAG appeal.

*Many thanks members for making it another night to remember.*

PS - If you are interested, there was a 45 minutes Video produced of the night. If you would like a copy they are £5.00 each with the all the monies going to the FLAG Appeal - please telephone: (01582) 571226 for further details.

## PREDICT-A-SCORE Competition

We would like to apologise for the delay in giving you the final details and league positions for those people who took part in this season's **PREDICT-A-SCORE COMPETITION**.

Due circumstances beyond our control we have not been able to get our calculations from the computer, but we have been promised by our LTSC committee member who devised the competition that she would have copies of the winners and final placings by our AGM in July. Confirmation will follow in the next LTSC Newsletter.

**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ The 1998/99 season saw a club record nine players sent-off in all competitions. The guilty parties were Gavin McGowan (twice), Marvin Johnson, Graham Alexander, Kelvin Davis, Phil Gray, Alan White, Paul McLaren and Mitchell Thomas.



**LTSC ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
Monday 12th July 1999 at  
Luton Town FC  
Eric Morecambe Suite,  
Maple Road, Luton.  
(Maple Rd Entrance)**

This is a meeting for all Luton Town Supporters Club members to re-elect the committee for your Supporters Club. Your presence would be very much appreciated, and with the situation at the Football Club being the main topic on the agenda after the formalities, we are anticipating a very lively meeting.

If you have any questions which you would like to have included in the formal part of the meeting, please send them in written form A.S.A.P. to our Membership Secretary, Mr. Vic Fussell, c/o LTSC, Luton Town Football Club, The Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds LU1 1DH. And marked the envelope LTSC AGM material.

*Refreshment bar facility will also be available on the night.*

*Hope to see you there!*

**New Club sponsorship  
deal signed with  
SKF(UK)**

In the last few weeks there has been some 'Bad' and 'Good' news coming from Kenilworth Road.

The Good news in recent weeks was the announcement of the new club sponsorship deal with SKF (UK) Limited, who are a world-leader in the manufacturing of Rolling Bearings for all sections of industry.

SKF have been involved commercially with LTFC for many years, but this two year deal with an extension for a further year, could not have come at a better time for the club.

John McCormack, managing director of SKF and a life-long supporter of the Hatters, sees this as a good deal for both SKF and LTFC, and stressed the importance of local businesses showing their support for the club.

The SKF logo will appear on the new designed shirt (as shown below) this coming season, with the Hatters playing in Orange shirts and Blue shorts at home games.

This new kit will be launched at the Football Club on 10th July were you will be able to have your photograph taken with your favourite player. (See local press for further details).



New away colours will be Black & White with a touch of Orange, which are due out in September.

**So take a  
visit to the  
LTFC Club  
Shop soon!**



**FLAG Merchandise**

We have had contact with the **Fans of Luton Action Group**, and they have informed us that they are raising funds for their FLAG appeal, and one is selling merchandise in the form of T-Shirts **£11 & £8**, Baseball Caps **£6**, Cricket Hats **£6**, Key-Rings **£2**, Badges **£0.50p**, Mouse Mats (to order) **£9.50**, Umbrella (to order) **£20 plus many other items**. If you would like more information on how to obtain these products telephone: **(01582) 400200** or they are available by post from: **FLAG**, 83a George Street, Luton, Beds. LU1 2AT.

**STOP PRESS...**

**NEW Committee  
Members required...**

As with most committees in clubs, we are always on the lookout for new committee members who can bring fresh ideas to your Supporters Club. We are looking for approx three to four new members who would like to take on a small role within the committee structure. If you feel you fit the bill and can give a little time to help the SC and in the long run the Football Club, just drop us a line, or come along on the 12th July for the AGM and have a word with any LTSC committee member.

**Pre-Season Friendlies  
announced for 99/2000**

With the season nearly upon us once again, the club have announced the following fixtures, which are correct as we go to press.

- July 20th **Arlesey Town** (a)  
- reserves
- July 21st **St. Albans City** (a)  
- first team
- July 23rd **Barnet** (a)  
- first team
- July 24th **Baldock Town** (a)  
reserves
- July 26th **Crystal Palace** (h)  
- first team
- July 27th **Boreham Wood** (a)  
- reserves
- July 28th **Northampton Town**  
(a) - first team
- July 31st **Queens Park Ran**  
(h) - first team
- August 2nd **Bromley** (a)  
- first team
- August 4th **Tonbridge** (a)  
- reserves

**LTSC Football Team  
Players wanted...**

We are on the lookout for any players, 17 and over who would like to play in our intended Supporters Club Football team, which will play other Supporters club sides prior to home and perhaps away games next season. Interested? .. If so, please give our committee member - **Peter Tullio** a phone on **LUTON 619213** for further details.