



# Come on you HATTERS



Issue No.  
42

LUTON TOWN  
SUPPORTERS CLUB

Autumn  
1999

It's a New  
Start!



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

**T**his is my first column since taking over the chair from Yvonne Fletcher, who chose to stand down in the summer. Thanks Yvonne, for the sterling work you have put in over the last four years as chairperson. I appreciate that it has not been easy, particularly over the last 6 months.



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

- THE SEASON TO DATE
- HATTERS CLASSICS - Goals Galore! - 1948/49
- TOWN-ON-TOUR NEWS AND PRICES
- VOICE OF THE FANS LETTERS PAGE
- PREDICT-A-SCORE COMPETITION 1998/99 Final Placings
- Football Supporters Association/CoFS Info .... and much more!!



Exclusive

Without the commitment, dedication and long hours put in by Yvonne and the committee, and their passion for the Club, the supporters' club would not be what it is today.

I am delighted that Yvonne has chosen to stay on the committee, as her experience will be of great value as we move into the Millennium. Yvonne is still actively involved with FLAG and looking to improve supporter representation and community involvement within the Club-efforts, which deserve our unqualified support.

As Town fans look forward to the forthcoming season and the Club coming out of receivership (which has still not happened as these notes were written), we also have to consider the other issues affecting the club. I was disappointed at the arrests made during and after the Notts County, Reading and Cardiff City games. No act of violence can be condoned, and proven perpetrators deserve their punishment. However, I witnessed the scenes at Notts County and believe that the football authority needs to look at the role of stewards, particularly where they appear to incite the trouble they are there to prevent.

Once the receivership issue has been resolved, Cliff Bassett will become the majority shareholder. He is looking to bring in additional investors and capital, in order to reduce his financial involvement in the club, to diversify ownership and improve the financial standing.

This should be welcomed, particularly if incorporating the promised involvement of fans through FLAG.

FLAG has come a long way since it was formed, and whilst their bid was unsuccessful, it undoubtedly served to raise the profile of the club and will

continue to work within the best interests of the club. The group is still actively involved in discussions with regard to the future of LTFC, the potential planning application for Junction 10 and many other pertinent issues. Flag is made up from a group of fans taken from each supporter organisation; we have representation, as do the Loyal Luton S.C. the Bobbers Travel Club, the Internet website W.H.O.S.H. and Town on Tour. Despite the various interests, all members continue to work together with notable success for the continuing benefit of the club.

On the pitch the players have responded to the current situation very positively. Liam George and Matthew Taylor have excelled. Hopefully this bright start can lead to at least a play off spot in this campaign, and give us all something positive to shout about.

Please help to support our club. We have some wonderful young talent emerging; if we are to hold on to these potential stars it is essential that more people come to watch the team at Kenilworth Road. Our away following has been excellent, now lets try to raise the numbers at home. Come along, bring a friend or work colleague; encourage people to utilise one of the excellent advertising or entertainment packages on offer. Help the club to avoid the financial problems that have blighted us in the past. The future is in our hands.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of the forthcoming season, at matches or at the social events we will be arranging. Your contributions and ideas as to how we can improve as a supporters club are always welcome.

Enjoy the season - Mark Chapman - LTSC Chairman.

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



# TALK OF THE TOWN

## The day I conned a top referee

**THERE WAS** a brief item in the sports pages recently about a referee called Dermot Gallagher abandoning a match because the floodlights were not up to standard.

I expect you've heard of Dermot - he has been a FIFA ref for five years, and has already received the top honour available to any man in black in this country, taking charge of the 1996 FA Cup final.

I remember him for other reasons, notably the day I wound him up something rotten, soon after he got onto the Football League list of linesmen, a decade or so ago.

It was a time when new technology was sweeping through newspapers, as computerised printing replaced the old labour-intensive hot metal processes.

Even the dear old Luton News had to be dragged through the change, and when it finally got rid of its old-fashioned machinery to use the new methods, the company had to hire the requisite facilities. Reporters and sports editors tapped away on computer keyboards instead of typewriters, with their efforts then being transferred to disks which were transported to Bicester. There a more advanced printing company had the then very latest gear. Their operators took our disks, turned their contents into type on glossy paper, and those galleys of type were cut up with scalpels and pasted onto boards to become newspaper pages.

Young Dermot Gallagher was one of those keyboard operators, and he and I soon became firm friends through a shared passion for football. I had to go to Bicester two or three days a week, to oversee the production of the LN sports pages.

Dermot, being sport mad, made a point of grabbing my output, particularly the double-page spread of words and pictures on Luton Town matches.

We shared his joy when he graduated from the Southern League to become a linesman on the Football League, and the delight was all the greater the day Dermot received a list of appointments and discovered he was running the line at St. Andrew's - Birmingham City v Luton Town. It was in the old First Division, now the Premiership, in April 1986.

We won 2-0, with Mick Harford getting both our goals, against one of his former clubs.

In the previous week I had been warning Dermot at every opportunity that David Pleat was a real Tartar dealing with referees, and as for young linesmen, he had them two at a time for breakfast.

"Don't fancy you job, mate," was the line I drilled into him time and time again. "One little mistake, and he will tear you to pieces in his press conference. You'll probably be struck off the list."

Quite untrue, of course, but Dermot was not to know that. Nor did he know about a spot of collusion between me, the LN photographer Mark Richards, and Dermot's mates in the print shop.

For the record, Dermot did his job expertly. But, when he reported for work he was a little disgruntled to discover that the match report spread had already been allocated to another operator. He fumed quietly, but got on with his job. He pretended it was of no interest to him, but of course we knew differently.

Sure enough, some hours later, Dermot couldn't resist taking a stroll around the rows of pages just in case he happened to spot what had been written about the Birmingham v Luton match. There was the spread, in all its glory, in its appointed place. But

Dermot nearly collapsed when he saw it. Dominating the centre of the two pages was a huge picture of D. Gallagher, standing with flag raised to signal offside.

Beneath that was the report and the heading, in huge type, screamed something like: "Pleat rages at rookie linesman."

Dermot shook visibly, trembled briefly, and then saw the caption to the photograph. It recorded: "Linesman Gallagher - not even good enough to wave away the trains at New Street Station, says Pleat."

Dermot had by now turned pale, and almost fainted when he read the story. There was hardly a word about the match, but several hundred describing how furious David Pleat ripped into the awful linesman who had spoiled what might have been a good game.

It was a real diatribe - I had enjoyed myself immensely larding it on, fabricating quotes and hinting that there might be a Football League enquiry.

Poor old Dermot walked around in shock for several days. "I can't believe any manager could say things like that," he said. "It's not true. I had a good game. Why is he picking on me?"

You have probably guessed the rest: the genuine report, with not a mention of Dermot, had been put together in a quiet corner, well out of Dermot's way, carefully hidden from the man who was dreading the publication of that week's Luton News. We kept an eye on him in case he became suicidal, until the tension could be sustained no longer, and we let him into the secret.

If he had taken his linesman's flags to work, I have no doubt where he would have shoved them, not necessarily pointed ends first. But after brief anger came blessed relief that it was all a big con.

Dermot and I are still good friends, although we don't meet too often, and I had almost forgotten that wonderful week when I had a linesman on the run and almost ready to do violence to David Pleat.

Except that we went to Northampton in August for a pre-season game, and the man in charge was my old mate Dermot.

I went to the officials' dressing room after the game, and was well pleased when he opened the door and beamed with pleasure at seeing me again. He introduced me to his young linesmen, told them what an ace old boy I was, and then warned them - watch out if he's around when you're running the line at a Luton match!

And that fake page that caused Dermot so much heart-ache is now, he told me, a treasured part of his football scrapbook - the newspaper report that never was gives him a chuckle every time he reads it. Like most referees, he really is a good old boy.

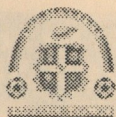
Mind you, there was one ref who nearly put me in prison many years ago. That wasn't funny at the time either, but I can laugh about it now. Watch this space for future revelations of how a young football-mad journalist got the only red card - and a cruel punishment - to end his not very illustrious playing career.



## Brian Swain

**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ From the players that were in the '88 Littlewoods Cup final squad v Arsenal only five are still playing at top level - A. Dibble (Hartlepool), T. Breacker (QPR), David Preece (Cambridge Utd), Kingley Black (Grimsby Town) and Mark Stein (AFC Bournemouth). Other are either Managers or coaching in some capacity.





## The Season to Date

# All pulling together!

**N**ever before in the history of Luton Town has the season begun on such a dramatic note. The events off the field during the close season left Lennie Lawrence in an impossible position; with no money available and no guarantee of league football this season, he was left to motivate the few players remaining on the books (at one time only 17 players on professional terms) and to try to plug the gaps in a depleted squad. Those of us able to attend pre-season friendlies saw a seemingly endless parade of trialists and some very mixed performances – the very creditable games against Crystal

Worthington Cup. A last minute injury to skipper Marvin Johnson meant a late call up for Emmerson Boyce, and injury to Alan White saw him replaced by Gary Doherty at half time; the somewhat rookie defence struggled to cope with the pace and power of Jason Roberts and the Hatters finished the game 0-2 down.

The following Saturday saw the first home league fixture of the season against Blackpool (what a pity this wasn't the away fixture as a sunny day at the Pleasure Beach is always an enjoyable prelude to the game). Lennie gambled on a new line-up, and the introduction of Andrew Fotiadis and Stuart Douglas as front runners with Liam George tucked into the hole behind them made all the difference. George relished his role and two goals from him plus one from Matthew Spring earned us a 3-2 victory and three well deserved points.



*New Kid on the Block - Matthew Taylor  
The look on his face after scoring- says it all!*

Palace and Q.P.R. contrasting sharply with dismal showings at Barnet at Northampton.

However, from out of the ashes a new team was gradually emerging; the 11th hour decision from the Football League to grant us permission to play out our fixtures this season and the long awaited departure of David Kohler brought a huge sigh of relief from Hatters fans, who turned out in droves to watch the first match at Notts County. Somehow, despite the difficult circumstances, Lennie had managed to motivate the squad, and a spirited team performance earned us a 0-0 draw and our first point of the season.

The optimism generated by the first match was somewhat dampened by a lack-lustre display against Bristol Rovers in the first leg of the

Full of confidence, the team travelled to the Madejski Stadium the following Saturday, determined to reverse the travesty of justice which was last season's 0-3 scoreline. An injury to Stuart Douglas meant that he was replaced by Phil Gray, but

Lennie kept faith with George and Fotiadis and they repaid him with a goal apiece to secure a 2-1 win and take us to 3rd in the league!

A midweek visit to Bristol Rovers saw us bow out of the Worthington Cup at the first hurdle despite earning a 2-2 draw on the night courtesy of goals from Tresor Kandol and Gary Doherty. Although disappointing, it was good to see TK's first goal in senior football (which was also the first scored against Rovers this season) and the emergence of Emmy Boyce as a promising left wing back.

The home fixture against Cardiff was full of passion both on and off the pitch. A late goal from Phil Gray was enough to earn all three points and put us second in the table, but a fine performance was spoilt by crowd trouble and a heavy Police presence



*Fans show their delight at the news that David Kohler is to leave the Club.*

which is never a welcome sight at Kenilworth Road.

A 0-1 defeat at Bournemouth (when did we ever go to Bournemouth and not lose!) saw us miss out on the opportunity to go top of the League. A disappointing crowd of only 4,633 saw us earn a point against a tough, disciplined Bury team, with another goal by Andrew Fotiadis cancelled out by a 69th minute equaliser.

Last Saturday's home tie against Wrexham saw three excellent goals scored before half time, the first a brilliant half volley from 17 year old Matthew Taylor, who is surely the most exciting young talent to emerge from Kenilworth Road for years. This was followed by a 20-yard drive from Matthew Spring and a fine solo effort from Liam George, his fourth of the season. The victory was marred by injuries to Paul McLaren, Marvin and a medial ligament injury to Fotiadis, who will join Gavin McGowan and Landry Zahana-Oni on the treatment table.

So, at the time of writing we occupy third position and have made an excellent start to the season. New signings Julian Watts and Efetobore Sodje look like valuable additions to the squad, and Tanny Abbey appears to be repaying Lennie Lawrence's trust with some creditable performances. If we can keep up this level of performance and stay relatively injury free, then a push for promotion looks a distinct possibility in a Division which appears to lack any real quality of opposition.

Here to a Great season!!

- Trish Johnson -

LTSC Committee Member

## DID YOU KNOW???

■ This season, Lennie Lawrence has put out a squad that consisted of 11 totally home grown players that have come up through the ranks, with an average age of 21 years. Matthew Taylor has gone from Youth Team straight through to first team.



# PREDICT-A-SCORE Competition

**FINAL PLACINGS  
1998/99 SEASON**



## AT LONG LAST!!!



Before I brighten up your day, or send you into utter despair, I must offer my sincere apologies for the delay in getting the results to you, which were due to unforeseen circumstances. So are you popping open a bottle of champagne, or drinking to drown your sorrows? The moment of truth has finally arrived, and there is no need to search any longer. Here are the results for the competition up until 8th May 1999.

For the first time in this competition we have an outright winner, who has taken the lead for 1st place in the Premiership all the way through the season, without relinquishing it to anyone. What an achievement for Golf City (David Crocker)!!! Congratulations go to Hereford United (Trevor Hayes) in giving a Golf City a close run for the title. What a great surprise for Linda's Likely Lads (Linda Garley), taking a swift jump from the Second Division into the Premiership and making 3rd place her own.

Marvin's golden boot has lived up to it's name, by making a massive leap away from the bottom of the Vauxhall Conference, straight into

the premiership by gaining the points towards the end of the season. PR's Prediction seems to be having problems forecasting, I do hope this is not a long term effect!!!!

Disappointment was received in the Grimsby Grumblers camp, as they lost their undefeated position for not scoring any points, by improving towards the end, so sad!! It was a fight to the bitter end between Mike Cullen Eleven (Vic Fussell) and Angina Athletic (John Gatward), I hadn't realized the extent some people will go to achieve relegation from the Beezer Home League. It was that close, that the winner won by one goal in the tie-breaker, so Mike Cullen Eleven take a bow. Commiserations go to a great challenger Angina Athletic, and better luck next time! Nice to see Vic is keeping up the family tradition!!!!

So Congratulations to our winners David Crocker, Trevor Hayes, Linda Garley, and not forgetting our loser Vic Fussell. Your prizes are on their way to you. A big thank you for everyone who took part and helped out, to make this competition the most successful.

### 98/99 LEAGUE TABLES Finished as follows:

#### PREMIERSHIP

Position	Name	Total points
1	<b>GOLF CITY</b>	<b>30</b>
2	<b>HEREFORD UNITED</b>	<b>27</b>
3	<b>LINDA'S LIKELY LADS</b>	<b>24</b>
4	SOUTHWOLD HATTERS	23
5	MARVIN'S GOLDEN BOOT	23
6	LUTON HARD MEN	23
7	NICE ONE HERVE	22
8	JUNCTION "10" FANS	22
9	"UNIVERSALLY SALVAGED"	22
10	HEARTBREAK HOTEL	21
11	THE LILLYWHITES	20
12	STEVO'S SUPERSTARS	20
13	RACHEL'S RANGERS	20
14	THE "HOOTING HATTER"	19
15	STEVO'S SUPREMOES	19
16	LONDON HATTERS	19
17	GRIM ABOUT TOWN	19
18	DAVE'S DYNAMOS	19
19	MC HATTERS	18
20	MARK CHAPMAN	18
21	MARIE'S BOYS HATTERS	18
22	HAWKHURST HATTERS SUPP.	18
23	HARPENDEN HATTERS	18
24	HAPPY HARRY'S HEROES	18

#### DIVISION TWO

25	THE BOYS OF THE HATTERS	17
26	SCARLET BOY	17
27	RANGI RANGERS	17
28	MUSSON'S HATTERS	17
29	MK HATTERS	17
30	MICKYS BARMY ARMY	17
31	DAVE'S KNEBWORTH LADS	17
32	205:LUTON MAD LAD	17
33	200 MILE ROUND TRIP'	17
34	THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE	16
35	GILL'S GIANTS	16
36	CARRICK HATTERS	16
37	ANDY JOLLY	16

38	SCUMMER BUMMER	15
39	RUISLIP HATTERS 98	15
40	HARDWAY HUSSARS	15
41	HAPPY ANDERON'S HATTERS	15
42	GARLEY'S GIANTS	15

#### VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

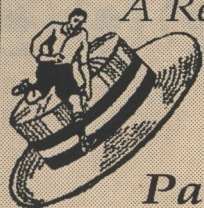
43	WAKEFIELD HATTER	14
44	STEVE TURNER	14
45	PAUL MCLAREN APPREC.SOC.	13
46	LTSC (CRANFIELD BRANCH)	13
47	JULIE'S JEWELS	13
48	PORTISHEAD HATTER	12
49	PATS AND HATTERS!	12
50	NOBBY NOHOPE	12
51	FISHGUARD FLYERS	12
52	CRAIG'S CANON'S	12
53	CAZETTES	12
54	ALEXANDER'S ARMY	12
55	YOU ALL SUPPORT ROCHDALE	11
56	WARRIORS III	11
57	LAUREN'S TEAM	11
58	KOHLERDOME KINGS	11
59	G. SMART	11
60	DROPPING HATTERS II	11

#### BEEZER HOME LEAGUE

61	W*TF*RD F.C.	10
62	TELETEXT FOOTBALL	10
63	PR'S PREDICTIONS	10
64	GROSVENOR GREATS	10
65	GRIMSBY GRUMBLERS	10
66	GREAT LUTON	10
67	GARY'S TIGERS	10
68	BLUE AND ORANGE ARMY	10
69	WEMBLEY MEMORIES	9
70	WE ATE WATFORD	9
71	GOAL'S R Us	9
72	"YOU MUST BE JOKING!"	9
73	"CUDDLY DUDLEY"	9
74	HAPPY HATTERS	8
75	ANGINA ATHLETIC	6
76	THE MIKE CULLEN ELEVEN	6

**SEE ATTACHED SHEET FOR THIS SEASON'S  
COMPETITION WHICH STARTS 2nd November**

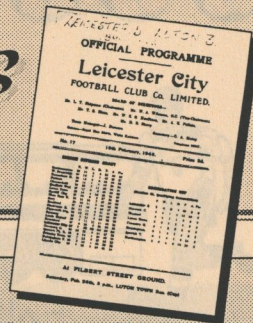




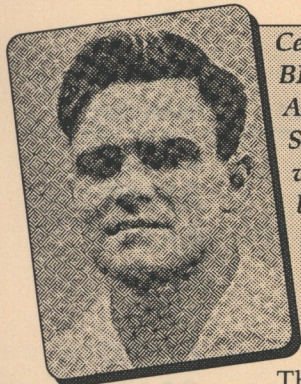
A Regular Feature on great Matches & Players from the past ...

# Hatters Classics

Part Four - GOALS GALORE!! - Season 48/49



In the golden days of 1948 Fanny Blankers Koen won four gold medals at the London Olympics, Bradman scored centuries at will, and for a 'bob' you could see Fred Astaire in Easter Parade; the only foreign meal you could get was a tin of spaghetti, the airlift to Berlin dominated newspapers and the favourite wireless programmes were Dick Barton and Just William. But the new programme that captivated soccer fans was Sports Report, with its slick accounts and bouncy brass band introduction.



**Centre-Forward BILLY ARNISON**  
South African who finished being top scorer with 19 league & Cup goals.

The excellent Town Band introduced the new season in similar vein before 24,000-passionate fans, many still feeling disgruntled at losing four of the Town's best players during the year (things haven't changed!) Billington, Gager, Soo and Hughes had departed, and in over 50 years, it is different to remember so much talent leaving in one go. But life went on. Duncan replaced them with Arnison, Taylor, Watkins, Kiernan and Aherne; a South African, a Georgie, two Scots and an Irishman respectively. All made valuable contributions to Luton over the years, although none of them was the star of the 1948/49 season. That accolade undoubtedly went to Bobby Brennan.

In the previous seasons as a winger or inside forward he scored 13 goals in 30 games but in 1948-49 he played every match and made a real impact nationally as well as

locally. He stood 5ft 9" weighed 101½ stone, had a quizzical, laconic look in his eye, enormous ability in both feet, the bravery of a lion, and the body-swerve of a rugby three-quarter. Throughout his career he was admired by professional contemporaries as a skillful tactician. Once established in the team, reports of his performances were studded with "Brilliant ....outstanding" week after week.

With Brennan pulling the strings Luton's league programme went well until centre forward Arnison was badly injured. By Christmas he had 16 goals, but after injury he managed only one more and the Town's chances of promotion went "poof". Arnison was adjudged fit enough for Luton's first cup tie when Charlie Watkins rattled the Hammers crossbar, then rattled their team, with a thumping goal on the way to a 3-1 win. In the next round Brennan at centre-forward, 'oozed class and notched a hat-trick in a 4-0 win over Walsall.

Brennan continued at centre-forward in the next round against Leicester City, in one of the most fantastic games ever seen at the old

*The Programme from the Replay at Filbert Street, Leicester City.*

then, minutes later, Brennan, with memorable bravery, moved like a thunderbolt to head in Waugh's centre and knocked himself out in the process. Brennan lay motionless in the mud whilst, paradoxically, the crowd leapt about in mad delirium. To this day the scene remains in the minds eye as a lasting tribute to the man's skill and courage.

**Inside-Forward BOBBY BRENNAN**  
Bargain of the season from Belfast Distillery.  
Cost Luton £2,000 !!



After 85 pulsating minutes the Town were grimly hanging onto a 5-4 advantage, but dreams of an F.A. Cup quarter final for only the second time in the Town history burst like a deflated balloon as Don Revie soared above the Town defence to clinch a 5-5 draw. It had been exciting stuff probably their best cup tie ever played at Kenilworth Road, but it was desperately disappointing.

In the losing replay, Brennan scored twice and had two disallowed. He became Luton's fifth international player when capped by Northern Ireland and the Town then sold him for the same king of fee that Lawson, Shakleton, Revie and Ramsey demanded that year. In the twilight of his career he came back to haunt us in Norwich City colours in the Semi-Final of 1959. He scored of course, and even in the heat of battle, it still brought a lump in the throat.

Yours - Frank Batt - LTSC Member.

LUTON TOWN				F.A. CUP - Round 5			
Proprietor: J. HARRIS	Stratton Goal	Cooke Left Back	Gardiner Left Half	For ART	CI	BI	So
8' en's	Morton Right Half	11 Waite	11 Waite	For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q
sser	Small Outside Right	12 Watkins Inside Left	12 Waugh Outside Left	For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q
FREEY	Reference: MR. H. JACKSON (Goalie)	13 Lees	13 Lees	For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q
4	Adam Outside Left	14 Plummer Centre Half	14 Plummer Centre Half	For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q
CB	King Left Half	15 Scott Left Back	15 Scott Left Back	For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q
1st Floor	LEICESTER CITY	McGraw Goal	McGraw Goal	For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q
	Goalkeepers: H. HARRIS			For Q	GI	COLLIE	For Q

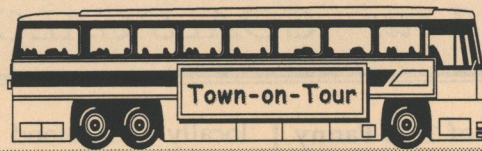
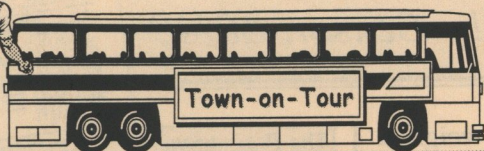
## The Line-up from the programme for the First match at Kenilworth Road

ground. Words simply fail to convey the energy, tension and changing fortunes that held the 26,000 breathless. Leicester, with tow England Internationals as striker, took an early lead, but two Town goals in five minutes brought the house down. Small equalised,





# Town-on-Tour



Following the Hatters away, throughout the U.K.

Welcome to our first T.O.T. article of the season and hope you had an enjoyable summer. With the season well under way, we have travelled to a few games with great success already. As with last season it is our intention to offer the best service possible to members and supporters travelling to away matches. Listed below are the forthcoming League games up until Christmas.

Finally, we would like to thank those members/supporters who took the time to fill out our questionnaire on the T.O.T. service, with the added incentive of entering our **FREE PRIZE DRAW** for a Home or Away LTFC Shirt. This draw was made just recently at one of our committee meetings and the lucky winner was a Mr. Donald Keen - your shirt is on it's way to you as we speak! Well Done!

## League Games Prices & departure Times till the end of the year.

Date:	Destination:	Departure Time	Adult Member	Cons Member	Non Member
Sat 2.10.99	Wigan Athletic	10.00*	£14.00	£11.00	£15.50
Sat 9.10.99	Oldham Athletic	10.00*	£14.00	£11.00	£15.50
Sat 23.10.99	Oxford United	12.30	£7.50	£6.00	£8.50
Tues 2.11.99	Millwall	16.45	£7.50	£6.00	£8.50
Sat 13.11.99	Cambridge Utd	12.30	£7.50	£6.00	£8.50
Sat 27.11.99	Bristol Rovers	11.00	£11.50	£9.50	£13.00
Fri 17.12.99	Colchester Utd	16.30	£8.00	£7.00	£9.00
Sat 28.12.99	Bristol City	16.00	£11.50	£9.50	£13.00

Coaches depart from Maple Road Car Park

(secure parking available through LTFC Ticket Office at £3.00 per car. **MUST** be booked by close of business the day before.)

# Denotes a Milton Keynes Coachway pick up approximately 20 minutes later

Boarding commences 15 minutes before departure

Service Station stops will be included on longer journeys

- To qualify for membership reduction a valid Luton Town Supporters Club membership card must be shown at time of booking
- To ensure a specific seat upon a coach payment **MUST** be made at the time of booking. A ticket will be issued to confirm your booking.
- Pay on the day clients cannot reserve specific seats and will not be issued with a ticket.

Book seats in the following ways:

- (1) Through the Club Shop at LTFC during the week and Saturday mornings. (In person or over the phone 01582 411622)
- (2) At the Supporters Club Kiosk at the Kenilworth Road end of the ground before and after home games.
- (3) On board Town-On-Tour coaches.

**DID YOU KNOW???** ■ The victory over Wrexham earlier this season, was the first for six season's. Another bogey which we have buried, all we need now is to beat the Bristol clubs & things are looking up !



## Voice of the Fans!!

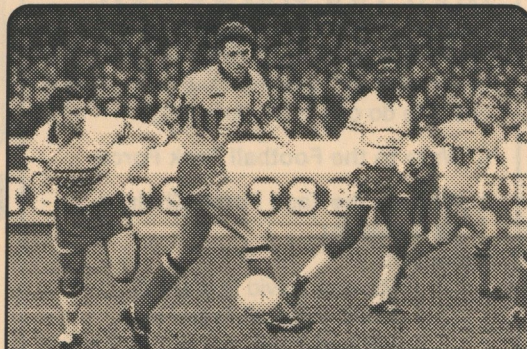
# LUTON'S FALLING ATTENDANCES

Every supporter knows the last ten years have been a disaster on the field, despite our F.A.Cup Semi-Final, Worthington League Cup Quarter Final and Play-Off appearances. Two relegations, constant battles with relegation has seen a haemorrhaging in average attendance (see table). More than half of the average attendances from 1990-91, when the away fan ban was still in operation of over 10,000 are no longer attending matches. Various non playing factors, such as the switch from terracing to seats in the Kenilworth Road during the early 1990's, ground safety measures have further reduced the capacity. The introduction of away fans seems to coincide with the fall, yet the lack of big name clubs is the real reason why many of these fair weather fans stay away.

The fluctuations from game to game in the number of away supporters accounts for the major

drop in 1991-92, as the big clubs filled the Oak Road with their following from 9,951 to 8,212 in 1992-93.

The further falls until 1995-96 are made up from disaffected home supporters. A further drop in 1996-97 further demonstrated the fall in away support. Despite success on the pitch that season, away support continued to fall, but the home support only marginally increased, falling off as the club failed to reach the same heights the following seasons.



Capacity Crowds at our local derbys versus Watford are not enough.

Finally, despite the introduction of pay on the day this season; early season attendances suggest the fall continues. The directors, the various supporters groups which were set up in the wake of the club going into receivership, press and media must get together urgently and look at ways of bringing back absent supporters before its too late.

*Shown below is the fall in the last 10 season's*

Season	Average Att.	League Position	Comments
1989/90	9,886	17th Division One	Away fans ban
1990/91	10,325	18th Division One	Away fans ban
1991/92	9,715	20th Division One	Away fans ban Relegated
1992/93	8,212	20th New Div One	
1993/94	7,878	20th New Div One	F.A.Cup semi-Final
1994/95	7,350	16th New Division	
1995/96	7,223	24th New Division	Relegated
1996/97	6,781	3rd New Division Two	Play-Off
1997/98	6,501	17th New Division Two	
1998/99	5,527	12th New Division Two	W.L.Cup Quarter Final

*Yours - Brian Ellis - LTSC Member.*

## THE NEW ELECTED LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE

**-Season 1999/2000 is as follows:**

<i>LTSC President</i>	- Nick Owen
<i>LTSC Vice-President</i>	- Brian Swain
<i>Chairperson</i>	- Mark Chapman
<i>Vice/Deputy Chair</i>	- John Pyper
<i>General Secretary</i>	- Cathie Crocker
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	- Vic Fussell
<i>Treasurer</i>	- Julie Parry
<i>Press Officer</i>	- Trish Johnson
<i>Luton Town F.C. Representative</i>	- Cherry Newbery

*Town-on-Tour Co-ordinator* - To be filled

*Additional Committee Members:*

Yvonne Fletcher(N/Letter Ed.), Marilyn Fussell, Adrian Shotbolt, Peter Tullio, Nicola Parsons, Terry Toone, Peter Hosier, Ray Lelliott, Wendi Arnold, Ian Kelly  
Andy Finch, Maureen Ingram and Anthony Smith

We still have spaces available on the committee, which if interested, can contact any LTSC committee member in our Kiosk in Kenilworth Road on matchdays and have a chat or phone Luton 571226 for details.

*PS - We are here to help you to help us.*



## FIGHTING

### FOR A BETTER DEAL ...

During the close-season, four LTSC committee members attended the annual Football Supporters Asso. (FSA) AGM, which this year was held at Leicester City F.C. (Filbert Street) ground. The plush facilities of the executive suite built in the new Filbert Street Stand, was lovely surroundings to debate our 'great game'. The purpose of the meeting was to pass various resolutions that had been put forward by sub-committee's and FSA branches and National committee, ranging from the redirection of TV revenue in the game to a fairer admission price structure for fans from all levels of football.

At this meeting, delegates gave unanimous backing for the support to form an umbrella organisation namely the Coalition of Football Supporters (CoFS), which would comprise of the Football Supporters Asso (FSA), the National Federation of Football Supporters Clubs and a large number of fans groups, ISA's and fanzines.

The inauguration of CoF's was launch at a conference the following day in Leicester, where a loosely structured committee, including FSA members, was formed to organise campaigning activities on which there is consensus. They focus around the following Fans Charter to which all the backing organisations are committed.

### FANS CHARTER

For the establishment of Independent regulation of football, to ensure the implementation of the following:

- the redistribution of wealth, including TV income, within football
- controls over the type of people who are allowed to own football clubs
- controls over the activities of PLC's running football clubs
- ticket prices to be pegged at levels which keep the game accessible to all fans
- the democratisation of football to give supporters a voice

The Football Task Force (FTF) was established by the Labour Government to look into a number of concerns in football and to make recommendations to the Minister for Sport about what action should be taken. It has been in existence for two years and has consulted widely, including with over 70 fans organisations. It has issued reports on racism, disabled access and football in the community. The remaining areas it has to consider are:

- encourage greater supporter involvement in the running of clubs
- encourage ticketing and pricing policies that are geared to reflect the needs of all, on an equitable basis, including for cup and international matches

- reconcile the potential conflict between the legitimate needs of shareholder, players and supporters where clubs have been floated on the Stock Exchange

- encourage merchandising policies that reflect the needs of supporters as well as commercial considerations.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

Every letter received by supporters and supporters groups will help us fight for a better deal for genuine fans. So, if you can help do one of the following:

**1. Write to the Football Task Force**

**2. Write to the Task Force Chair:**

**David Mellor**

Address is:

Rt. Hon David Mellor QC  
Chair, Football Task Force  
Football Trust  
1, Waterhouse Square  
138-142, Holborn  
London EC1N 2ST  
Fax No: 0171 832 0119

**3. Also sent a copy of the same letter to Minister for Sport, Kate Hoey MP,**

Put "cc: Kate Hoey MP, Minister for Sport" at the bottom of the letter and send a copy to her at: Kate Hoey MP

Minister for Sport  
Department of culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street, London  
Fax No. 0171 211 6249

**4. Or if you would like send a copy to your local MP**

Post it to them at  
(Name of your MP)  
House of Commons  
Westminster, London SW1A 1AA

### ACT NOW TO SAVE OUR GAME

For more information, contact CoFS  
website: [www.cofs.co.uk](http://www.cofs.co.uk)  
or Anamachine: 0113 237 4545

### The sad retirement of Julian James

It was with great sadness to hear of the news that long servant Hatters player, Julian James has announced his retirement from the professional game, after fighting a 17-month battle against injury. James or better known to all Hatters fans as "Jules" was playing his 11th season when a late challenge from then Bristol Rovers' Striker Barry Hayles left his leg shattered in two places. This took place back in April 1998, but has not played a game since, even though he was given an extension to his contract at Luton, and went to Aylesbury United in pre-season for training etc. He was informed by medical specialists, that his leg is not up to competitive football.

Julian has the distinction of belonging to a small group of players who have been sent off on their debut. This shock incident took place at Elland Road, Leeds back in November 1988. Julian

will always be remembered for his commitment and very physical game he played mostly at right-back.

The Tring-born right back, and one-club man (334 Luton first team appearances & 14 goals) which is a rarity these days, apart from a loan spell at Preston North End hopes to stay in the game in some capacity, and may from time-time help out Luton Town on the coaching side.

On behalf of the Supporters Club, thank you for the memories and the great entertainment you have given us over the years - We say all the best to what ever comes your way!

### STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### A date for your diary...

Our annual Christmas Fun Quiz will be taking place on Monday 6th December 1999, at the LTFC's Eric Morecambe Suite, Maple Rd, Luton. Kicking off time from 7.30pm. Price for entry £3.00 Members £4.00 Non-Members (As last year). We do intend to have the players in attendance which was great fun seeing them being tested on the football questions. This will be a TICKET ONLY event, so get your teams together or just bring yourself - Priority to members first. Tickets will go on sale approx 4 weeks before the date.

It is our intention to have another guest speaker evening before Christmas, so keep a look out in the local press and LTFC programme.

#### Launch of the New Away Kit..

"Come on you Lillywhites"... The new black'n'white kits should have been released by the club for fans to purchase by the end of September. The first team have already worn theirs at the Brentford away match and looks very smart. Why not take a visit to the club shop in Kenilworth Road to see what's available.

#### Nick Owen Bar OPEN NOW!!

Just a reminder to all our members that this facility is available AFTER any first team match for that post match chat with friends and other supporters or just to relax whilst watching the TV for those final scores around the country. We must stress that club cannot allow any LTSC members unless they are Season Ticket holder until AFTER the game.

#### Welcome New Committee

Since our Annual General Meeting back in July we have taken on two new committee members. They are **Maureen Ingram and Tony Smith...** We wish them well on the committee, and remember we are always looking to recruit new members onto the committee (See list of 1999/2000 committee for details).