



Come on you HATTERS



Issue No.
45

LUTON TOWN
SUPPORTERS CLUB

Summer
2000

Stability
at Last?



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

On Tuesday, May 23rd it was announced that Mike Watson-Challis had purchased Cliff Bassett's majority shareholding in Luton Town Football Club to become the new club chairman.

Cliff is to stay on the board; others invited to make up the new Board of Directors include former Fulham player John Mitchell, who was born in Luton and has been instrumental in brokering the completed deal, Eric Hood, a prominent businessman from St

Albans and Yvonne Fletcher, a current LTSC committee member who was elected to represent FLAG.

On behalf of the supporters' club I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new board members and to wish them and the club success for the forthcoming season. The board is likely to appoint additional members in the near future; a press announcement was due on June 6th after this article was written.

The long running ownership issue has now been resolved. It is encouraging to see that Cliff Bassett has been retained as a director; he has proved his commitment to the club and his experience and enthusiasm will be invaluable.

The club now needs to move forward both on and off the pitch. The priority of the new board will be to raise the profile of the club, thus attracting new investment from the business sector, increasing attendances by winning back disenchanted fans and establishing a better rapport with the local community and council.

A major factor in the future success of Luton Town is the development of the new stadium. Hopefully a new planning application for the junction 10 site

will be submitted shortly to ensure that we can move forward into the 21st century with the necessary facilities to achieve greater financial security.

As you are aware FLAG have campaigned tirelessly to achieve supporter representation on the board; the invitation to be part of the new era at the club should be warmly welcomed as a positive step forward in terms of enhancing communication between the club and the fan base. The channel of communication works both ways; issues affecting supporters can be taken to the board for discussion, and fans can be made aware of the reasons behind any decisions that are taken at board level. Hopefully this will lead to a greater understanding on both sides of any issues affecting the club in the future.

Inside this edition of the LTSC Newsletter...

- **PLAYER PRESENTATION EVENING REPORT**
- **HATTERS CLASSICS** - A Christmas Silver Lining
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.... and
much more!!

Exclusive



Read our Vice-President BRIAN SWAIN'S Column

"TALK OF THE TOWN"



**Mr. Mike
Watson
-Challis**
*The New
Luton Town
Chairman
and major
shareholder*

**NEW ERA
for the Hatters!**

Continues over....

**Stability
at Last?**



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR cont:-

Obviously, the new ownership structure of the club will raise many questions in the minds of supporters, not the least of which will be the future aspirations of the club in terms of team building and promotion. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to raise all these issues at a Supporters Club evening at the start of next season which we have invited Mr Watson-Challis and other board members to attend. We will

announce more details at a later date but this will obviously be a very popular event and priority will be given to LTSC members – so get those renewal forms in as soon as possible to be sure of a seat!

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the **Supporters Club AGM to be held on Monday, July 17th at 7.30pm in the Eric Morecambe suite.** We welcome your views on how LTSC should develop and our role within the

football club. We are always keen to involve more people at committee level and welcome any suggestions for future events and issues to be considered within the group. If you think you might like to join us please do not hesitate to contact myself or one of the other committee members for more information.

Have a good summer -see you on the 17th July or next season!

Mark Chapman -
LTSC Chairman.



Close Encounter with the stars of the past!!



I have been a supporter of Luton Town Football Club for over fifty years. Despite the fact that, for the past thirty years, I have been "exiled" in deepest Wiltshire, the Hatters remain very close to my heart. Although I rarely have the opportunity to visit Kenilworth road these days, my Saturday afternoons are normally spent glued to teletext or anxiously awaiting the Town's result from some other source.

One of my earliest boyhood memories was attending a match with my father in the 1947/48 season between Luton and Tottenham Hotspur. Together with several other small boys, I was lifted over the wooden fence in front of the old Bobbers Stand in order to avoid the crush and to get a better view. We sat on the red shale track with our backs to the fence and were we to have stood up, let alone run on the pitch, we would have had our ears clipped and been promptly bundled back into the crowd.

Sitting there on a chilly October day with our knees tucked underneath our chins was not the most comfortable way of watching a football match. But that did not matter, for we were, at times, within touching distance of our heroes. Players such as the elegant wing-half, Frank Soo, the legendary Dally Duncan and on the opposite wing the scuttling Scot, Billy Waugh, affectionately known to the fans as "Rabbit". The Town's right full-back was Billy "Killer" Cooke, whose sliding tackles had to seem to be believed. "Killer" was the Town's penalty taker in those days and such was the role of a full-back in that era that when he was called upon to take a spot kick it was

virtually the only time in the game he ventured into the opponents' half of the field. The Spurs has their legendary figures on duty that day, too. Billy Nicholson at left-half, the dependable Ted Ditchburn in goal, and the Channel Islander, Len Duquemin leading the attack. But this prolific goal-scorer met his match that day in Luton's blond-headed Horace Gager. The game finished as a 0-0 draw but, reunited with our dads, we boys went home thrilled to have had such a close encounter of our heroes.

Billy Cooke was to figure in another memory of that season and in another 0-0 draw. It was a Good Friday game in the April of 1947. Manchester City were the visitors and on this occasion I was standing with my Grandfather behind the Kenilworth Road goal only a few steps from the front. In goal for City was the massive figure of Frank Swift, a wonderful "keeper who took up journalism on his retirement and who was so tragically killed in the Munich air disaster of 1958. Luton were awarded a penalty when "Swiftly" brought down Luton's Alan Driver when he looked certain to score. Frank writhed on the ground, his face contorted with pain, and the attention he received from the trainer took an eternity. "Killer" was pacing up and down impatiently waiting to take the kick. Eventually Swift walked slowly back to his goal to face the kick which cooke pulled wide of the 'keeper's right-hand post. I will never forget the broad grin on "Swiftly's" face as he retrieved the ball, picking it up one-handed with his massive fist!

I was greatly moved by the articles in the Spring 2000 newsletter following the

deaths of Bud Aherne and Stanley Matthews. The football world will never see the like again of either of these fine players. Many of the older supporters of the Town will, I am sure, remember the epic battles between these two players in the 3rd round of the F.A. Cup in January 1954, the year after Blackpool's famous triumph at Wembley. As a second division side we went to Bloomfield Road as under-dogs. Bud had the unenviable task of marking Matthews but it turned out to be one of the finest games of Aherne's career for he virtually played Stan out of the game. Not once was he tempted to go into the tackle but, time after time, patiently jockeyed the Great Man into the area of the corner flag reducing the winger's ability to cross the ball. We came away with a highly creditable 1-1 draw but, following a goal-less draw in a quagmire at Kenilworth Road the following Wednesday, went out in the second replay.

Another hero of the Bloomfield Road match was the goalkeeper, Bernard Streten, who played a "blinder" that day. The Luton players were on the supporters' train on the long journey back that night. Bernard was walking down the corridor and one of my companions said to him, "You had a great game today, Bernard. You're a great favourite with the fans, you know!"

With a wry grin, Streten replied, "Yes, until I let the next goal in!"

Some things never change, do they?

Mike Sharp - LTSC Member

Editor's reply

Many thanks for this interesting letter Mike, it's great to hear your views from the past.

TALK OF THE TOWN

We're all going on our Summer Holidays !

MUCH as I like my summer holidays, the old withdrawal pains always start to set in long before the new league season kicks off, which is why I have for many years been a sucker for pre-season trips to watch matches which are often fairly meaningless.

But if you are lucky they offer the chance to meet old friends who might not otherwise be on the season's circuit. So, for instance, I hope Kingsley Black will still be in the Grimsby team when we go there in late July.

I first saw Kingsley Black in our youth team, but not as a YTS boy. He was studying at Luton Sixth Form College, determined to complete a decent education before trying his luck at the precarious prospects offered by professional football.

It was pretty obvious from his early career that he had a special talent, not least a sweet left foot, and it was no surprise when Brian Clough snapped him up for Nottingham Forest. I expected Kingsley to become a super-star with Forest, but it never quite happened. Brian Roy was bought to take the role best suited to Kingsley, and after loans to Sheffield United and Millwall Forest took a loss of well over £1million when Kingsley went to Grimsby four years ago. I have met him a couple of times since then, and he is still a smashing guy, a credit to himself, his family, and his profession.

Above all, he always knew how lucky he was to be able to earn good money for playing football, when so many others have to accept working lifetimes which are a lot less pleasant. Better a middling league footballer than a top man down a coal mine. Harry Haslam used to ensure young players knew that. When the summer's intake of apprentices came in, Harry organised tours of Vauxhall Motors for them. Car and lorry production in those days was not the automated robotic business it has become. It was hard gruelling work for men on the track. The message Harry drummed into his lads was that they would never have to work that hard if they were lucky enough to be employed in football. I confess I have met a few footballers since then who never realised just how lucky they were.

Thinking of Kingsley led me on to consider a lot of others who have left Luton Town, and not all of whom made as much progress as some of us expected.

So, just for a bit of fun, see if you can put a name to, for instance, the young defender grabbed by Everton before he really learned his trade at Luton and was off-loaded after five years without really making it big-time in the Premiership. If they stay with their present clubs he and Kingsley Black could play against each other next season. **JACKSON**

Some did better than we might have expected - a midfielder, for instance, picked up from Oxford schoolboy football and an occasional member of our first team for three years in the eighties before being sold to Hull City for £72,000. He eventually made it to the Premiership, where he was a popular and consistent performer for two clubs. **FRANKIE BUNN?**

We have had the occasional misfit as well, with two Scots coming to mind. One was a David Pleat signing in 1980. Pleat was looking for a replacement for Bob Hatton, and this guy, from Raith Rovers, never looked like filling the vacancy. Miraculously, Pleat got his money back when the lad went back to Scotland 16 months later. **HARROW**

John Moore was the manager who signed another Scottish forward who was a real enigma - scored on his debut to set off our

great 1988 Littlewoods Cup victory, but never fitted in at Kenilworth Road. He also lasted just 16 months before Ray Harford recouped the transfer fee and the lad returned to Edinburgh. He never scored a league goal for us. **WEIR.**

You have to go back to Harry Haslam's days for memories of the most outlandish Scottish character I have known at Kenilworth Road. He was nearing the end of a brilliant career, but still a hell of a player and an amazing extrovert. He could conjure up goals out of nothing, but stop them as well - he once played a stormer as an emergency keeper at Meadow Lane. He only stayed a year, which was bad news for local publicans. King of the jokers, one of his best japes was in a hotel in the North of England. I think Jimmy Husband was the victim: as the team booked out after an overnight stay, Haslam checked the bill and was horrified to discover that the no-drink on Friday rule had been flouted by Husband - the bill showed that every item in the mini-bar in Husband's room had been consumed. Jim protested his innocence, and the hotel manager declared that the gadgetry did not make mistakes. The booze had been taken, and that was that. Eventually, our little Scottish friend was seen to be beside himself with mirth, and Jim's protests began to have a ring of truth about them. The room was checked, and sure enough dozens of miniature spirits bottles were carefully spread around it, balanced in all kinds of unlikely places, including precariously on the seat of the WC. Our joker had nipped into the room after Husband left it, and done the deed for a laugh. Jim took a long time to think it was funny. The Glaswegian striker, incidentally, effectively ended his career with his brief spell at Kenilworth Road. He was with us for nearly six months before going on to Carlisle and then Partick Thistle, both times on loan, before retiring.

By contrast others have left us at a much earlier stage in their careers, including one who made his Luton debut in the autumn of 1990 and is now in the Premiership. He only just missed that pleasure with us: we were relegated from the old First Division in 1992 and he was flogged off that summer to Derby. Pleat sold him, and later bought him, and the midfielder has just enjoyed another decent season at top level. **PEMBRIDGE**

If only we had been able to keep all our best players, we might be there ourselves! But, just to show that precious little changes over the years, try and guess who is my last on today's list of mystery men. It was, I regret to admit, just about 40 years ago when Luton Town first dropped broad hints to innocents like me - OK, I was past 20 - that finance might be more important than results so far as the boardroom was concerned. We had a brilliant international winger, but had just been relegated. At a time when talent was at a premium, the Town let him go to Everton, without even haggling for a huge fee. They took two Everton cast-offs as payment, and I for one could scarcely believe that the club was capable of such short-sightedness. The two from Goodison were decent men, but the loss of a man who was to become internationally famous in the game was a bitter blow. And I promise that he has been seen on the Kenilworth Road pitch since then, in fact not so very long ago. If you can't guess who he is, ask Marilyn Fussell! **BILLY BINGHAM**

Brian Swain



DID YOU KNOW?

Luton Town have yet to visit Scarborough in the Football League, yet ironically their visit in 1938 in the FA Cup still stands as Seamer Road's biggest attendance.



FUN for ALL the FAMILY at the TOWN'S OPEN DAY



On Sunday 14th May families, fans, players and Club officials came together in jubilant mood at the Club's Open Day. The event, which was a joint venture between the Football and Supporters' Clubs marked the end of a creditable season for the Hatters. In a carnival atmosphere, midst soaring temperatures, supporters and football club personnel intermingled, in perfect harmony, participating in the fun finale of the season. It was in stark contrast to how the season had dawned with the uncertainties and gloom as to what the future would hold.

Helpers arrived early in the morning to set out the activities and bedeck Kenilworth Road in a sea of orange, blue and white balloons. Queues began forming outside long before 12noon. Harry the Hatter greeted fans with a cheery wave as the gates opened and the children received their free goody bags. Heavy queues soon formed at the booking tables as young and old signed up for fun sports, penalty shoot-outs, community coaching, tours of the ground and the operations room, plus messages on the scoreboard.

The speed cage and the football bouncy proved huge successes drawing long queues throughout the afternoon. Refreshments were served from the Nick Owen lounge and the food kiosk under the new stand. Face painting also proved to be one of the most popular attractions. The facial artists were kept busy continuously throughout the afternoon. The club shop did a roaring trade as well. Vince the juggler/mime artist mesmerised his audience as

he strolled around the pitch spinning balls and plates whilst empowering youngsters to do the same without uttering a single word. It was just like magic as awe struck young faces proved.

The players once again worked tirelessly and willingly on the pitch signing autographs, having snapshots taken by adoring fans and reliving the season's exploits. Players kindly captained the eight fun sports teams and turned out to be far more competitive than the children. But the youngsters in turn were great, joined in the fun, were brilliantly behaved and kept their heroes in order! Manager Lennie Lawrence drew out the

winners of the prize draw which included a season ticket, a first team shirt and a signed football. He then kindly presented the medals to the winning fun sports team. This was the White team, captained by Liam George and children, Lewis Burgess, Annas Haimoni, Peter Bulkeley, Jodi Punter, Laura Gibson and Vikki Usher.

A successful and enjoyable day was had by everyone. It was great to see so many young fans wearing Hatters colours. The mass of orange and

white shirts was great to see. Lets hope those same fans will be following the Town for many years to come.

It was a superb team effort by Football Club and Supporters Club alike. Well done to

everyone who made the event possible. A big thank you to all those who attended and made the day such an overwhelming success. Have a great summer and see you all for the big kick-off in August.

Merilyn and Vic Fussell, LTSC Committee Members



1. Bouncy castle & ball - very popular
2. Happy Harry joins in the fun with kids
3. Community in School Coaching

Presentation Evening Report ...

Kents Social Club, 30th April 2000

Like the Oscars, it was that time of year again... the annual LTSC Player of the Year presentation awards evening.

The season was really one of two halves, with the team setting such a high standard in the early months and showing signs of struggling in the New Year. Individual performances varied greatly, with players peaking at different points of the season, and this was reflected in the pattern of members' votes with many contenders vying for the ultimate accolade of Player of the Year.

In recent years we have witnessed a trend emerging whereby the winner of our Player of the Year award is subsequently transferred fairly quickly, but this year a "first" occurred in that our winner, Gary Doherty, had already left the Club and was actually

during the season. We all know the extent of the loss his departure will represent, but our very best wishes go with Gary for every success in his future career.



The winning players with their respective awards

This time a new trophy was up for grabs, the Luton Town Goal of the Season award, dedicated as a tribute to the late Barbara and Stamford Tripp, who were lifelong Hatters supporters. During the campaign we were fortunate to witness some cracking goals, but the award for the most outstanding goal went to Matthew Spring for his 35 yard scorcher against Kingstonian in the F.A. Cup.

The other awards presented on the night were:-

Players' Player

Gary Doherty

Young Player

Matthew Taylor

Young Members' Player

Stuart Douglas

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!

Luton manager Lennie Lawrence gave his customary summing up of the season's events; he stated that we may not have played at all had it not been for the efforts of Cliff Bassett, who stepped

in as saviour at the 11th hour to come up with a

financial package to suit the Football League and David Kohler.

Further speeches and presentations took place including one to committee member Julie Parry who was standing down after many years of loyal service. The evening continued until after midnight with those present socialising with friends and players, collecting autographs and that exclusive photo; unfortunately the event ended on a very noisy note when the internal fire-alarm was triggered - not the best cure for a hang-over!



The Barbara & Stamford Tripp memorial award Trophy.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the evening and made it a night to remember in more ways than one! Next season we hope to bring you news of a new-style Presentation Awards evening, which we are aiming to develop in conjunction with the Club.

Also thanks to all staff at Kents
John Pyper - LTSC Vice-Chairman



All the players line-up for that exclusive photograph

already playing for Tottenham Hotspur! Despite these unusual circumstances, Gary was anxious to attend the evening and receive his award, and all credit to him for continuing to display the professionalism that has helped him make such dramatic progress



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

Hatters Classics

Part Seven - A Christmas Silver Lining -
Season 50/51



The "Legendary"
SID OWEN
with the Footballer of the Year Award
which he picked up later in his Luton
Town career (1958/59 season).

The high black storm clouds gathering over Kenilworth Road in December 1950 were indicative of the mood below. Luton Town, having completed half their allocated programme of 21 matches had won only three games and had sunk right to the bottom of the second division.

Dally Duncan, a name synonymous with success in the fifties, was probably three or four games away from the dreaded

under adversity that he was rewarded with four Welsh international caps. He was then promptly sold to Cardiff City and Streten took his place, but it was hardly the defence of a struggling team.

The forward line however was a different kettle of fish. The most incisive attacker, Billy Waugh, whom some considered could walk on water and had frequently demonstrated the art on Luton's flooded pitch had been sold to QPR, and Arnison was never able to play again after two bad operations. Those that remained, Glover, Stobbart, Taylor and Havenga were good players, but there wasn't a regular marksman amongst them and consequently the Town found themselves at Christmas 1950 under those huge storm clouds of relegation.

At that moment Duncan pulled off a master-stroke when he signed Willy Davie from St. Mirren, a forward of genuine talent who, almost single-handed, lifted Luton out of the gloom. His ability to hold the ball, his artistry and astute passing relieved both the hard-pressed defence and at the same time, posed constant threats to opponents. He endeared himself to everyone by scoring an equaliser on his home debut and followed this by virtually controlling the match at Vetch Field on Christmas Day when the Hatters won their first away match of the season despite being reduced to ten men.

The atmosphere for the return match on Boxing day was bubbling with excitement. After months of gloom and despondency the result in Wales

had given the freezing 17,000 crowd a scent of victory, tinged with brandy, before a ball had been kicked. The deep roar that rumbled down over the terraces in puffs of misty breath was almost worth a goal start.

Hatters Player
BILLY COOKE
Consistent
defender.
Born in
Chesterfield,
and turned
pro whilst at
Bournemouth



The crowd erupted after fifteen minutes when Havenga scored, but it was Swansea who ran the show. Prompted by the magnificent Ivor Allchurch they hit the woodwork twice, brought three breath-taking saves from Streten and were denied a penalty.

After the interval, Morton, displaying his enormous potential, contained the mighty Allchurch, Aherne and Owen played masterfully and Willie Davie moved across the mud patch like a skater on ice. Havenga completed a thrilling encounter by jubilantly thumping in his third goal. Naturally he became the hero of the hour, but it was Davie who caught the eye. After all the storm clouds of doom, here was the real silver lining!

COME ON YOU HATTERS!

Yours - Frank Batt - LTSC Member.

One of the
Luton Great's
BUD

AHERNE

One of the
greatest full-
back to put on
a Luton Town
shirt.



vote of confidence as he tried every combination of forward line the Town could muster. At the beginning of the season he had selected Owen as his new skipper and, in spite of his wonderful leadership and superb personal performances the storm clouds would simply not disperse.

It was strange that the Hatters should find themselves facing relegation when they had so many competent players. Watkins, Shanks and young Morton, who all vied for the half-back positions, always gave 100%, whilst Bud Aherne was quite brilliant. In the other full-back berth Billy Cooke was equally effective. He still lurked with magnificent malevolence waiting for any wayward winger daft enough to wander upfield; and behind them all goalkeeper Iorworth Hughes, showed such outstanding form



The Player Profile



This is the third in a series of interviews with the Luton Town players. This time we have chosen our "never say die Forward" from the first team squad.....

Stuart Douglas

is a great ambassador for Luton Town Football Club.
He epitomises all that is positive about the Club.

The Early Years: Stuart started playing football at Brooklands Infant School and Cheshunt FC Juniors, and later played for Lea Valley District and Herts County, alongside Sean Evers, Andrew Fotiadis and several others now playing in the League and Premiership.

Aged eleven, he was spotted by Colin Cardines, then a Scout for Luton Town, and for a while he played for Cheshunt and Luton, as well as for his school Turnford Senior.

Stuart's parents had always said, "You can play as much football as you like as long as you study as well, but if your grades go down, the football stops!"

"So I had a lot of incentive to do well at school, and I did!. Turnfords wanted me to go to Sixth Form and be Head Boy, but.....

Luton:

At sixteen I was offered an apprenticeship at Luton, and was pleased to accept. Chelsea and Norwich City offered me trials, but I said 'NO' because I knew Luton had a good style of play, and good training was given."

Ambitions:

Not yet having signed for Luton, Stuart, at seventeen, made his debut at Oldham Athletic (Dwight Marshall having called in sick that day) where he scored, and was voted 'Man of the Match'. He became a professional that season.

Congratulations:

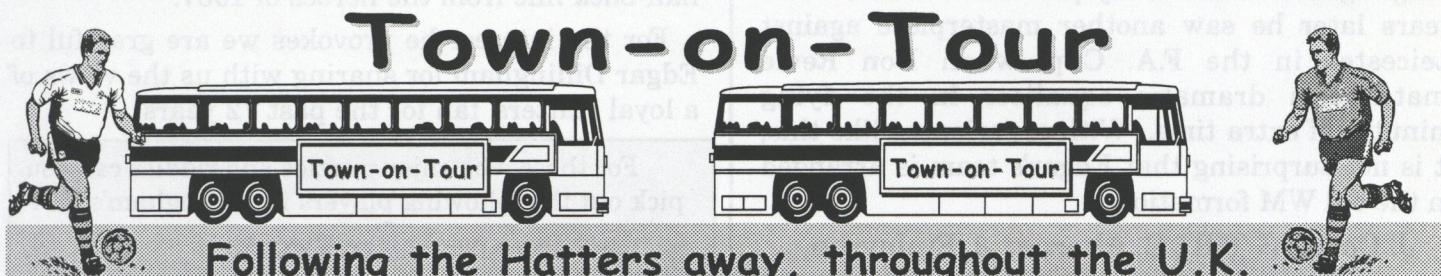
"I have two ambitions - first, that I score more goals, and I have set myself a target of more than the twelve that I scored in the 1998/99 season. But my big ambition is for the Club to progress to the First Division in a new stadium. This stadium is not big enough for the staff and players to be ambitious in. I want the staff, players and fans to have a club that we can feel comfortable in, and feel proud of. I'm only twenty-two, and anything can happen in the future, but my aim is to progress with Luton."

Throughout the interview Stuart's love for Luton Town shone through, and it is not surprising that he won the 'YOUNG SUPPORTERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR' trophy this season.

CONGRATULATIONS STUART!

Thank you Stuart for taking the time to be interviewed.

Maureen Ingram - LTSC Committee Member



Following the Hatters away, throughout the U.K.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER SEASON ON THE ROAD

Town On Tour finalised its second year of operation with the short trip to Adams Park for the away game against Wycombe Wanderers.

Like last season we wanted to reward our most loyal passengers with prizes to thank them for their custom.

Five of our extremely regular clients were contenders for the top prize, a fully autographed and framed away shirt, with the other four runners up all receiving signed and framed team photos.

The top prize this season went to John Heley, (as pictured below) who was presented with his reward at the Supporters Club Annual Presentation Evening along with Darryl Milton one of the runners up. The other recipients of prizes were Dave Bird, Bob Hatcher and Chris Hood.

We at Town On Tour are very grateful to ALL our regular travellers and we are looking forward

to seeing you all again next season. We would also like to thank everyone who used the service last season and hope that if you liked it you will become our regulars of the future.

**Have a good Summer, see you in August -
The Town On Tour Committee**

*Pictured Right -
LTSC
Chairman
presenting
John Heley
with his
LTFC Signed
Shirt.*

**Well Done
John !**



My Favourite Luton Town Team - Dillingham's XI



George Stephenson
Scorer of 69 in 200 games

In this the final issue of the LTSC newsletter for the current season, we feature the favourite team of one of the Hatters' most longstanding and dedicated supporters, Edgar Dillingham of Dunstable Close, Luton, who first watched the Town in the late nineteen-twenties.

Edgar is a Lutonian through and through for he was born in the town and attended Beech Hill School as a lad. One of his first loves was always football and as a youngster he joined Electrolux Juniors and later in life, he was one of the founder members and players of the Luton North End team. During the 1940s he served in the Artillery and suffered the terrible ordeals of a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. After that agony, watching football in peacetime England was like a breath of fresh air, and in 1947 Edgar witnessed the best game he has ever seen at Kenilworth Road, when Luton overturned a three goal half-time deficit to beat Newcastle 4-3 (highlighted in one of my previous articles). Two years later he saw another masterpiece against Leicester in the F.A. Cup, when Don Revie snatched a dramatic equaliser in the dying minutes of extra time. With experiences like this, it is not surprising that Edgar's team is arranged in the old WM formation:

J. Coen, J. Till, B. Aherne, J. Finlayson,
J. Nelson, W. Fellowes, R. Davies, R. Hill,
J. Payne, G. Cummings, G. Stephenson.

From the first team he ever saw Edgar selected J. Till at right full back but, the majority of his team come from the promotion side of 1937. Joe Coen, tipped as the next Scottish international goalie before being tragically killed on captive service with the R.A.F. in 1941, was his number one. Coen's team-mates formed the entire half-back line of Finlayson, Nelson and Fellowes, which, Edgar maintains, was "the best half-back line in the country" and few disagreed with him in the

late thirties. The only post-war player to find a place in this defence was Bud Aherne, the brilliant Irish full-back who died a few months ago.

The forward line also contained two players from the 1936 side; Joe Payne the legendary ten goal centre-forward (who else?) and George Stephenson, a tenacious left winger who scored 69 goals in just over 200 games. The other winner is the tricky Roy Davies of the 1955 promotion side who played alongside George Cummings, another maestro, who could land the ball on a sixpence on his day. And the final piece of Edgar's jig-saw goes to the only player chosen from the last forty years, but a real gem of a fella, Ricky Hill.

Edgar selected the Littlewoods Cup win as the greatest day in the

Town's history and Bob Morton as Luton's finest player, although even his sporting attitude and all round ability couldn't break up Edgar's favourite half-back line from the heroes of 1937.

For the interest he provokes we are grateful to Edgar Dillingham for sharing with us the views of a loyal Hatters' fan for the past 72 years.

For those who enjoy puzzles and riddles can you pick out the following players in Dillingham's XI ?

- One South African *Roy Davies*
- A former Biggleswade player
- The player who scored most goals for Luton
- The Hatter who played least games for the Town
- One who played over 500 games for Luton
- A regular captain
- Four internationals
- One who went like a rocket
- Two who came from Clapton Orient
- One whose real name was Tom *Bud Aherne*

Up the Hatters ! - Frank Batt - LTSC Member



Captain Nelson leading out his Luton Town team at Kenilworth Road... Notice the Police Officer by the tunnel and not steward in sight!

DID YOU KNOW?

In September 1982 Liverpool scored against 3 different Luton Keepers. Injured Jake Findlay was replaced first by Kirk Stephens, then Mal Donaghy

LTSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 17th July 2000

from 7.30pm (prompt)
at Luton Town F.C. Eric
Morecambe Suite, Maple Road,
Luton.

(Maple Road Entrance)

As members of the LTSC we strongly advise you not to miss this forthcoming AGM. With new owners in place and the formation of a new board in recent weeks, this should be, a very informative meeting. As you may have read in the Chairman's column, the board has invited a supporters' representative to be part of the new board and our former chairperson, Yvonne Fletcher has accepted this position after being nominated to represent FLAG. Its a new era for all concerned at the club.

If you have any questions which you may like to have included in the formal part of the meeting, please send them in written form ASAP to our membership secretary, Mr. V. Fussell, c/o LTSC, Luton Town Football Club, The Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds LU1 1DH. Please mark the envelope LTSC AGM material.

Refreshment bar facility will also be available on the night. - See you there!

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

Saturday nights just won't be the same.

The recent news that BBC TV is to lose it's rights to broadcast the Premiership highlights from the start of the season after next (August 2001) has put Englands' Euro 2000 news in the shade, with the end of Saturday night's " Match of the Day".

These highlights will now be shown by ITV Sport, who won the rights by

out-bidding their opponents with a sum that the public service authority could not justify spending on football alone. Hopefully ITV will show the highlights at a reasonable time, unlike the present showing of Nationwide Extra highlights programme at 12.30-1.15am approx on a Monday Night!

The blow was softened the following day when BBC and BSkyB won the rights to show F.A.Cup matches "LIVE", instead of stretching these games over to Monday evenings as with Sky TV's previous schedule. BBC's intention is to bring back the 'sparkle' that has gone out of the FA Cup format in recent seasons with satellite TV dictating when matches should be played.

Also the Beeb and BskyB will show England International matches LIVE in a 17 match package throughout the season.

Editor - Please write to us or the local press with your feelings on this subject.

Do you think supporters should have a bigger say in when football should be shown??

Luton Town Pre-Season Friendlies 2000/01

(First Team)

All Away games

July

Saturday 22nd	Bromley	3.00pm
Monday 24th	Welling Utd	7.45pm
Wed 22nd	St Albans City	7.45pm

Pre-Season Tour

Monday 31st Grimsby Town
K.O. 7.45pm

Wed 2nd August Hull City
K.O. 7.45pm

Fri 4th August
Rushden & Diamonds K.O. 7.45pm



(Reserve Team)

Tues 1st August Letchworth A
K.O. 7.30pm

Tues 8th August St. Neots Town A
K.O. 7.45pm

You may have heard via the press that the first team friendly at home to Wimbledon has been cancelled due to the 'Dons' being relegated to Div One, and their season having to start one week earlier than expected. Hopefully an alternative game will be organised. *Keep a look out in the local and national press for details.*



Pre-Season Tour Mini-Coach Travel Offer for ONLY £30.00

Monday 31st July to Friday 4th
August 2000

*Do you have plans to watch the
Hatters on their tour in North
Yorkshire/Humberside?*

Well if you are interested in a 4-day break with fellow Luton fans, and don't wish to drive there, you can get in touch with Martin Turney, who has spaces available on a mini-coach. It will be on a first-come, first served basis. He has stated that the three night stay will be in Cleethorpes (which you will have to book) with travel to & from Hull and back to Cleethorpes on Wednesday, returning to Luton on Thursday. Also, included in the price will be travel to Rushden & Diamond match on Friday evening.

If response is good he hopes to organise Mini-coach travel to the Rushden & Diamonds Match on Friday for **ONLY £5.00** per head. Great value!!

So, if you are interested, further details etc are available from Martin on (0778) 899 1429 after 6.00pm.

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE - 1999/2000 as follows:

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

Town-on-Tour Co-ordinator - various members as below

Additional Committee Members:

Yvonne Fletcher, Marilyn Fussell, Adrian Shotbolt, Peter Tullio, Nicola Parsons, Peter Hosier, Ray Lelliott, Wendi Arnold, Ian Kelly, Andy Finch, Maureen Ingram

Positions for the new committee are up for re-election for the coming season, and will be finalised at our Annual General Meeting. If you are interested, and could add some great ideas for the new era for us and the football club, come along on the Monday 17th July and speak to one of our committee.

Run by supporters for supporters!