

# HATTERS

ISSUE 64 • SPRING 2005

LUTON TOWN



SUPPORTERS CLUB

HATTERS

Dear Members!

## The Town are still marching on...

With the Town still sitting at the top of League One at the end of February, Town fans are starting to believe we could return to the Championship for the first time in its current format. This will hopefully come with news on the proposed ground in what could become one of the most historic seasons in the teams history.

But we have yet to be successful and it is this time of year when many fans become anoraks, carefully scrutinizing fixture lists, tables, form guides and news on their beloved clubs. But we are above this aren't we? Well for those who are not, the final games of the season for each club are summarised below.

	LUTON TOWN	Hull	Sheff Wed	Tranmere
Fri 25th Mar	BARNLEY	PORT VALE	TORQUAY	Chesterfield
Mon 28th Mar	Torquay	Oldham	Huddersfield	DONCASTER
Sat 2nd Apr	BLACKPOOL	BARNLEY	TRANMERE	Sheff Wed
Sat 9th Apr	Bournemouth	Bradford City	Oldham	STOCKPORT
Tues 12th April				Brentford
Sat 16th Apr	MK DONS	SWINDON	Hartlepool	BLACKPOOL
Sat 23rd Apr	Wrexham	Walsall	STOCKPORT	Swindon
Sat 30th Apr	BRENTFORD	SHEFF WED	Hull City	PORT VALE
Sat 7th May	Doncaster	Brentford	BRISTOL CITY	MK Dons

Dates based on Town games. Home fixtures in capitals.

The other date to look out for is the last Thursday in March which is transfer deadline day. We will hopefully see some new faces coming in to bolster the club, but this will inevitably be followed by one or two leaving though the exit door. Good news has come though in the form of signings from people already at the club. Midfielders Kevin Nicholls and Ahmet Brkovic have signed for another year and better news still, is that Mike Newell and Brian Stein have both committed themselves until June 2007.

Look out for Committee members from the Supporters Club on Saturday 16th April at our home game with the MK Dons. They will be selling raffle tickets for the Grand Prize Draw which will be drawn at this years Presentation Evening. Tickets are 50p each or you can buy a book of 5 tickets for £2. There are some fantastic prizes to be won including a 14" Colour Television and DVD player, a LTFC Season Ticket and car park pass for the 2005/2006 season, a Mini Hi-fi, a Barbecue and many other prizes so buy your tickets to be in with a chance of winning!

Tickets are also selling extremely well for the Presentation Evening on Sunday 2nd May, it should be a great promotion party, details for this event can be found on page 8 - so if you haven't already, get your ticket now, or miss out!

I would like to wish you all an enjoyable end to the season, we have a club to be proud of, so get behind the lads and cheer them all the way to promotion!

Until next time, Come on you Hatters!

Mark Chapman

LTSC Chairman



In this edition of Hatters Chatter:

Mike Newell  
The Saturday Interview

We need your help

[www.news-snippets.co.uk](http://www.news-snippets.co.uk)

Squad Birthdays

Crossword Fun!

Player Interview  
Curtis Davis

Unbeaten for half a season but no silverware

Was this the best Christmas ever?

Trust in Luton

Vene, Vidi, Vici

The Brains of the Bunch!

Hatters Travel

Huddersfield, the start of something new...

Player of the Season  
Presentation Evening

Photography supplied by  
Gareth Owen



## Mike Newell The Saturday Interview

Lessons learned at the knee of Bob Paisley and videos of Bill Shankly have driven the flying start to the League One season at Kenilworth Road

### Newell invokes the boot room ethos at Luton

Amid the cacophony about Wayne Rooney and the drooling over Arsenal's unbeaten run, another fine achievement has gone all but unnoticed. With 28 points from a possible 30, Luton began their League One season in a fashion that made Rooney seem a slow starter. As the club's manager Mike Newell speaks about how he studied videos of Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley as a youngster and dissected training and matches during his playing career, his success sounds no accident.

Though plenty of footballers drift into management, Newell has long been planning a life in the dugout. Even at nine he listened intently to Shankly's words. "I always wanted to be a manager," says the former Everton and Blackburn striker. "A player first, then a manager." A link a few months ago to the Blackburn job showed he has caught certain eyes.

Luton's form is all the more impressive given that they spent last season, Newell's first there, in administration. The game at second-placed Tranmere offered a stern test. If it is stretching the point to suggest Newell is trying to turn the club into the new Liverpool, he was hugely influenced by his six years at Anfield as a schoolboy when Paisley was in charge.

"I was there from 12 years old, training on Tuesday and Thursday nights and all week during school holidays," he says. "I stayed at school and took my A-levels because I was never a cert to be a player, and I got released at 18. But I was going and listening and watching then. That was how I believed football should be played, how training should be and how players, coaches and managers should be."

"I got all the videos of the club history and I could listen to Shankly and Paisley for ages because they never complicated the game. I watched those videos over and over again. I could listen to Shankly talk about anything, he was just so enthusiastic. Paisley was more dour but I still listened. He was really cute and clever. He kept everything simple."

"He would sit in the directors' box. He just let them play and, if he saw something, he would pop down to the dugout, let them know what he'd seen and then go back up. He never flinched or moved a muscle."

Newell, 39, favours a detached approach on the touchline. In his previous job at Hartlepool, where he secured promotion to the Second Division after taking over in mid-season with the team top, he was criticised by fans for not being animated enough. "As a player, if you're getting earache from the bench every two minutes you switch off," he says. "Pick the side and let them play."

Where he is happy to hear voices is on television, as he takes what leading managers have to offer. "It must drive my missus mad because sometimes I'm shouting at the telly," he says. "I listen to every word the top managers say and when they contradict themselves I shout at the telly. There are a lot of managers I just can't listen to because I think they're talking rubbish. People I like listening to, like Arsene Wenger and Alex Ferguson, don't complicate the game or suggest they've got some rocket science."

A keen eye and ear for management were plain during Newell's playing days, which peaked at Blackburn with a Premiership title. "At one stage I used to drive home from games or training and all I would think about was

what I would do differently from the manager or what I liked."

No one left a bigger impression than Kenny Dalglish, Newell's manager at Blackburn and someone schooled in the Liverpool way. Newell, like Dalglish then, addresses his players as a group only on match days and does not lead training, preferring to watch or join in. Coaching is left to Brian Stein, the former Luton and England striker.

"If the players have been listening to me day after day boring them, then when they do have to listen to me on a Saturday they switch off," he says. "I will speak to individuals during the week but not the squad generally."

"I don't want to be a coach or master tactician. I have very old-fashioned beliefs about being a manager. The people who are looked up to - like Shankly, Paisley, Brian Clough, Ferguson, Wenger - are managers. I don't think they see themselves as coaches and tacticians."

So would Luton be worse off without Newell? "I heard it so many times [at Blackburn] that Ray Harford is a great coach and takes all the training, so why not give him the job? I heard it as well [at Everton] with Howard Kendall and Colin Harvey, that Colin Harvey's a great coach and Everton's success is because they moved him from youth-team coach. They gave Colin Harvey the job when Kendall went to Spain when Kenny packed it in, [Blackburn] gave Ray Harford the job. It didn't work."

"I see my job as first selecting the side and also taking the shit that goes with it. The problems, players knocking on your door, the phone going, the physio ringing. That's what management is all about - taking responsibility."

Newell has had difficult moments. He clashed with Hartlepool's owners and says he was not upset to lose that job after less than a season despite promotion. Weeks after he arrived at Luton the club went into administration.

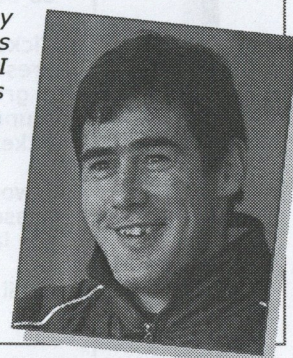
"It was turmoil when I came here. The bloke running the club, John Gurney, the supporters wanted out. They wouldn't buy season tickets until he'd gone. It could have been a three-week job if they'd got him out and brought back Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford [who had been controversially sacked]. There was talk of that because the season hadn't started. People were a bit wary of me and I think the reason I got a chance was because I was an ex-player here and I brought back Mick Harford, which was always my intention."

Mid-table last season despite a transfer embargo, Luton have prospered with the help of astute signings and fewer injuries. Newell hopes to end up with a Premiership job.

"I think it's more possible to work my way up as a manager than it was as a player," he says. "As a manager I don't have any restrictions in terms of physical ability." Luton's form suggests the years he spent preparing are paying off!

Many Thanks go to The Guardian for giving us permission to use this article. Article by Jon Brodtkin.

© Guardian Newspapers Limited 2004.



Steven Dove has recently taken over from Chris Rivett and is now producing the Luton Town matchday programmes and official website. It's a big job for one person, and Steve would like some of your input.

What would you like to see in the programme? Are you happy with how it is? Do you think it could be made better? And what about the website, can that be improved upon?

If you have any ideas, thoughts or comments, please contact Steven Dove by e-mail: webadmin@lutontown.co.uk or in writing to Steven Dove c/o Luton Town Football Club.

## We need your help

Got a story to tell, a memory that sticks in your mind or want to share your views on a Luton Town subject? Well what are you waiting for - write an article to be published in here!

Your articles will be greatly received by Newsletter Ed, Helen, and all will get printed. Your comments really do help as well, just like for the match day programme and website, we want to know your thoughts about your newsletter, so if you want to pass on your views, please get in contact with Helen either by e-mail: helen@gatward.co.uk by mobile on 07773 372823 or by writing to Helen Gatward c/o Luton Town Football Club.

## Squad Birthdays



Curtis Davies  
15-03-85



Michael Leary  
17-04-83



Paul Hughes  
19-04-76



Enoch Showunmi  
21-04-82



Steve Howard  
10-05-76



Russ Perrett  
18-05-73

## Luton Town Supporters Club

### April

#### Home Games

Saturday 2	Blackpool
Saturday 16	MK Dons
Saturday 30	Brentford

#### Away Games

Saturday 9	Bournemouth
Saturday 23	Wrexham

#### Don't Forget...

Saturday 23rd	Deadline for Voting Slips
---------------	---------------------------

### May

#### LTSC Events

Player of the Season Presentation Evening

Sunday 1 May 2005

More details on page 8

#### Away Games

Saturday 7	Doncaster
------------	-----------

#### Play-off Dates

Sat 14th, Sun 15th	Football League Play-off Semi Final
Wednesday 18th	Football League Play-off Semi Final 2
Sunday 29 @ 3pm	Football League One Play-off Final

### Nico gets Player of the Month

Influential midfielder Kevin Nicholls has been named as the Travel Extras Player of the Month for third consecutive month. After a close vote last month the Town's captain was a comfortable winner this time around, edging out the central defensive pair of Chris Coyne and Curtis Davies

Nicholls, claimed a third of the vote, with last month's runner up, Australian centre-half Coyne (22%), again pushing him for the award. He finished just ahead of his defensive colleague, Davies, who picked up 16% of the nominations. Well done Kev!

### Duo make top 50

Curtis Davis and Steve Howard have been voted in the top 50 as the best players outside the Premiership.

The poll, which was constructed by Football Magazine FourFourTwo, shows Davis and Howard amongst the top 25 players outside the Premiership, ahead of players such as Nick Barmby of Hull City, Sam Parkin of Swindon Town and Paul Ince of Wolves (who came in at 30th position).

Steve came into the poll in 21st place while Curis stormed in at 16th! Not bad eh! Congratulations lads.

### Midfielders here for another year

It has been confirmed that midfielders Kevin Nicholls and Ahmet Brkovic have signed new deals at Kenilworth Road. Both players have signed new one-year contracts to seal their immediate futures at the club.

Nicholls, who has been influential this season, has made 141 appearances for the Hatters since making the move from Wigan in August 2001. The current club captain has gone on to score 22 goals for the Hatters.

Brkovic has also been in inspirational form scoring 12 goals this season from midfield, including the vital winner against Hull City back in February.

Newell told the website: "We are obviously delighted to have tied both Kevin Nicholls and Ahmet Brkovic for another year and it's a reward for their hard work and efforts this season."

All of the above are taken from www.lutontown.co.uk  
© Luton Town Football Club.



# Crossword Fun!

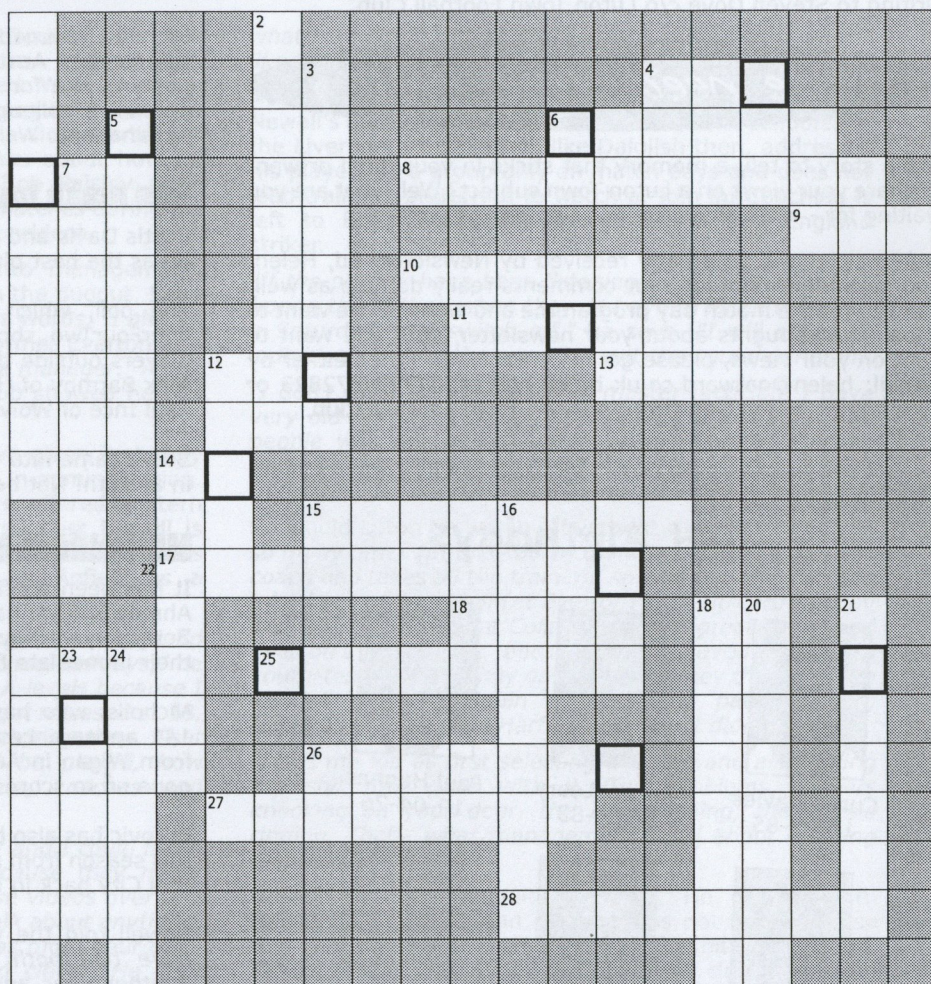
Fill in the answers to the crossword by using the clues listed for the numbers going across and down. Once you have completed the crossword take the letters in the bold edged squares and un-scramble them to reveal a current Luton Town player!

## DOWN

1. Aussie Defender (5,5)
2. Number 9 (5,4)
3. Big tall striker (8)
5. Luton beat them to win the FA Cup in 1988 (7)
7. Number 1 Goalkeeper (9)
12. Ex-Hatter now at Crystal Palace (5)
14. Takes corners (7)
16. Luton are hoping for this (9)
19. Irish midfielder (8)
20. Round object (8)
21. Nickname of LTFC (7)
22. Man in charge of the game (7)
23. Luton's Manager (6)
24. Brought down in the box (7)

## ACROSS

4. Fiery left back (3)
6. Winning brains at the Xmas Quiz (6)
8. To bring on another player (10)
9. You get sent \_\_\_\_ with a red card (3)
10. Not related to Roy (5)
11. Steve Howard is one (7)
13. Minutes in a match (6)
15. Used to protect legs (4,4)
17. Road where Luton play (10)
18. When it's in the back of the net (4)
25. Runs up and down with a flag (8)
26. Referee uses this (7)
27. Dino Seremet is from here (8)
28. Captain (8)



Unscrambled Word =

Answers on page 7.

## Luton Town Supporters Club

As always, we welcome any new members to the Luton Town Supporters Club. If you have any friends or family who would like to join, no problem! Tell them to pop by at our kiosk in Kenilworth Road before or after home matches. We will be happy to give them details of how to join.

Being a member, you get priority for tickets to events we hold including the annual end of season presentation evening, the Xmas fun quiz and many guest speaker evenings, and of course, at a discounted price! We give you the chance to ask players and managing staff the questions you want to ask - an opportunity we are proud to give you.

Our events usually prove very popular to many Luton Town fans, including non-members, and being held in the Eric Morecombe Suite at Kenilworth Road we have use of the Bar facility and stewarded car park in Maple Road.

### Up-Coming Events

Player of the Season Presentation Evening - See page 8 for details.

**If you have any queries regarding membership, how to join or would like to make a change to any of your membership details, like change of address, please call Vic Fussell on 01908 569339.**

## LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE • 2004/05

LTSC President • Nick Owen  
LTSC Lifetime Vice President • Brian Swain  
Chairperson • Mark Chapman  
Vice Chairman • John Pyper  
General Secretary • Trish Johnson  
Membership Secretary • Vic Fussell  
Treasurer • Ian Kelly  
Press Officer • Maureen Ingram  
LTFC Representative • Cherry Newbery  
T.O.T Co-ordinator • Christine Bray  
Newsletter Editor • Helen Gatward

Additional Committee Members:  
Yvonne Fletcher, Marilyn Fussell, Adrian Shotbolt, Audrey Bray, Caz Meers, Dave Baker, John Heley, Ray Lelliott, Peter Hosier, Maureen Barrett, Kevin Barrett, Tom Robinson, Ryan Canney.

We are always on the lookout for new committee members, especially to assist us with our 'Town on Tour' away travel service. If you have been a LTSC member for more than a year and are interested in helping out, visit our kiosk on first team games during the season and speak to one of our committee members. Or alternatively, leave a message on Town on Tour's mobile on 07960 567465.

FOR SUPPORTERS BY SUPPORTERS!

# Curtis Davies

Born • 15/03/1985

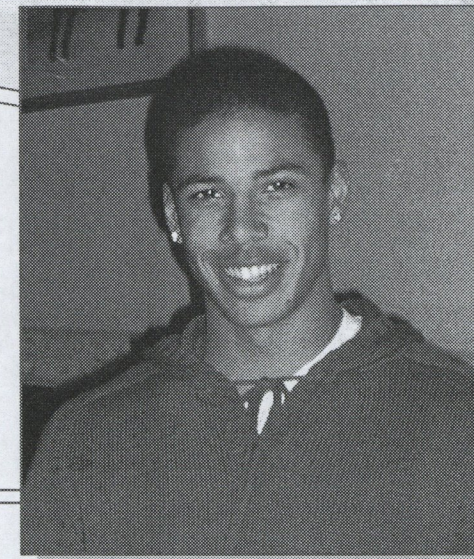
Height • 6'2"

Signed for Luton • 2002  
(trialist from Wimbledon)

Squad Number • 20

Position • Defender

Goals scored this season: 0



## Player Interview

**EARLY YEARS:** Football has always been part of life for Curtis. 'Football is all I ever used to do with my mates on the estate when I was little, just kicking the ball about and that, it's what everyone wants to do. I started off playing Sunday League from about 11, and District and County - once you got into County level it started to get a bit more serious and you started looking into clubs and that.' Has Curtis always played in defence though? 'I have played everywhere to be truthful, I started off up front like every kid - every kid wants to be a striker and be scoring the goals! But obviously as you get older different aspects of your game start to show through and eventually I just got pushed back in a game for my Sunday League team when I was about 14, it was just as cover and I did well so I ended up staying there!'

**WIMBLEDON:** Curtis got a trial at Wimbledon by his PE teacher from school! 'I was at Wimbledon - when it was Wimbledon for a year, but then I got injured and didn't really get in so I eventually got released.'

**LUTON TOWN:** Curtis decided to write a letter to Luton Town in the hope something would come of it. 'The day after I sent the letter, Dean Rastrick phoned me up and I got a trial at Luton before I signed YTS. I was really lucky- Luton were keen so I came straight down to see them.' In all Curtis sent about 20 letters to clubs in and around London and of those, only 3 of them got back to Curtis! 'Only Luton, Colchester and Southend got back to me with response to say come training, the others all said sorry but I'm happy here at the end of the day!' All in all, I think you will all agree that coming to Luton was the best decision Curtis could have made! With some solid performances in defence this season, Curtis shares his thoughts of the season so far. 'We've gotta be confident, we have been at the top for about 20 of the games this season so it's not luck! At first people might have thought oh yeah, they're on a roll, they won six games at the beginning of the season then as soon as we drew and lost at Boston, they all thought yeah, the wheel has come off now, that's it. But we are up there for a reason because we are that good and hopefully we can stay there till the end of the season and hopefully win it rather than just getting promoted - although just getting promoted would be good, it's promotion we want!' After time at the top, Luton then dropped down to second behind Hull. 'I didn't want to look at the table when Hull went above us, we had been there so long so I didn't look again until we went back to top so I've been looking again recently, as long as we stay there, we will be alright!'

Curtis is happy with the way he has played this season. 'I'm glad to be part of the team, at the beginning of the season I was signed by the Gaffer and I don't think he was expecting me to do as well as I have. I had confidence in myself that I could get in the team, it was just whether the Gaffer wanted me in it! Once I got in the team, it was more a case of me staying in the team rather than just thinking I have always got a place. Luckily I have cemented my place now I hope and I'm just enjoying it!' Curtis is still frustrated at being the only player to have not scored a goal yet this season. 'It's a mental thing now, had I scored earlier in the season, I don't think it would have been a problem and probably would have scored a few but Sol is getting to me and getting in my head about it! The keepers seem to have great games when I want to score but I will get one soon I hope!'



Playing against Ajax stands out as one of Curtis' best moments in his career so far. 'Playing against big players, playing against Ajax, even though it was just a friendly, it's just an experience to play against a full strength team like that. I played against Charlton, that was good and I played at Loftus Road last year against QPR, it was only my second or third start for Luton and it was such a big game. The way the game turned out - it was a good moment.' There have also been some bad memories Curtis would rather forget like Hartlepool last season. 'I gave away a penalty in the 90th minute in the 4-3 thriller so I want that bit to be wiped away from my memory! Other than that, so far, I have no other bad memories other than when we played Brentford and I slipped before they scored their first goal that led to them winning. I wasn't happy, I know I can't help slipping but I couldn't help getting frustrated with myself and obviously I could say I let the lads down, but hopefully it won't cost us going up, I learnt from it and just have to try and put things right and learn from mistakes.'

**INTERESTS:** Outside of football, Curtis keeps busy by playing on his Playstation 2. 'I spend alot of time playing ISS on PS2, I like my music, R&B, hip hop and all that. I avoid golf but when I get time I do enjoy playing basketball with my friends.' Only football matches that interest Curtis will convince him to watch them on TV! 'I only watch big games, like Man Utd and Arsenal or teams that affect us in the league. I follow Man Utd and also Orient as it was my local club when I was growing up, but I'm mainly a Man Utd fan - yes, I'm another one of those who supports them but isn't from Manchester! :)'

Many thanks go to Curtis for taking the time to talk to me.  
Interview by Helen Gatward, Newsletter Editor



## Unbeaten for half a season...

Luton's first promotion saw them go the whole of the second half of the 1913/14 season unbeaten.

Luton had the more difficult Christmas faced with the long trip to Newport County with a weakened team, they dropped two points. Croydon had a much easier trip to Brentford continuing their unbeaten run with a 1-0 win, followed by a 2-0 win over Abertillery to set them up amazingly twenty four hours later for a top of the table clash with Luton that ended in a 1-1 draw.

Poor weather saw Luton's first game of the year being called off, which turned out to be a relief for trainer Billy Lawson who had been trying to get several first team regulars back to full fitness. Croydon Common extended their run with a 3-0 win at Barry. Luton started the New Year without regular Goalkeeper Percy

Mitchell, while the experienced James Wilkie was preferred over the teenage prodigy Sid Hoar in the home game against Caerphilly; an easy 4-0 win. A week later in the return game, Mitchell returned along side his former Sheffield United team mate James Robinson, but it was the inclusion of young and old with Arthur Durrant coming in on the left with young Sid Hoar playing only his second ever game, Luton played their finest football of the season winning 9-0. Playing on an almost grassless pitch covered in Coal dust, both sides came off the field they looking as if they had spent a shift down a pit. The win established a line-up, which more or less stayed together for the remainder of the season. Luton's next game proved to be more of a stiffer test against Brentford. A 3-1 win emphasised the difference in class in the league that season. Luton were beginning

## Was this the best Christmas ever?

After my last article in this newsletter, concerning some of the memorable Christmas matches in the Hatters history, one long standing supporter reminded me of a remarkable game that I had completely ignored. He was referring to that holiday period in 1974 when the Town under Harry Haslam, were playing in the old first division.

The club had gained promotion earlier in the year under the captaincy of Bobby Thompson, the former England international, ably assisted by players like Faulkner, Garner, Anderson, John Ryan, Husband, Aston and Jimmy Ryan. They finished second in that season behind Middlesborough, the runaway leaders, and duly stepped up to the top flight with an opening game against the all conquering Liverpool. It was a tough assignment and although the Town played very well they lost a close contest by 2 goals to one. Harry Haslam later admitted that this initial game probably took much of the Town's confidence and enthusiasm away from them and by mid December Luton were firmly at the foot of the table with only one win from 21 games.

At the juncture, the manager, somewhat belatedly perhaps, introduced several promising young players into the Town's line up. Firstly he brought in Buckley for Thompson and Paul Futcher replaced Alan Garner, and in their first home game on 21st December, Luton sneaked only their second win of the season against Derby County. Buckley was the archetype full back; tough as an ox, strong in the tackle with a powerful left footed shot. Paul Futcher, on the other hand, was a tall, blond centre back with the skill of a seasoned professional; his pure footballing ability and unhurried style of play was as cultured as anyone had seen since the days of Bob Morton.

After the euphoria of this game had died down, the next fixture, which this piece is really all about, was against the

league leaders on Boxing Day at Portman Road. Ipswich had been playing superbly and their home record of 10 wins and 1 draw did not auger well for poor old Luton.

It was a freezing cold day down in Suffolk with not a great deal of support from Luton's famous away day fans, but it was nevertheless, a day when Haslam proved that he could get his tactics dead right. Firstly, he introduced Paul Futcher's brother, Ron at centre forward. Although Ron and Paul were twins, they were also quite dissimilar, for Ron was tough, fiery and uncompromising, which was probably what the Town needed against such a cultured side like Ipswich. But another aspect of Haslam's acute logistics that day was that the Town's defence of John Ryan, Faulkner, Futcher and Buckley played well upfield, almost on the half-way line, and denied Ipswich the creative space in midfield. It completely foxed Bobby Robson's high flyers and on the rare occasions that the opposing forwards did break through, the Luton rear-guard simply ran back and pushed the ball back to Home in the Luton goal. It was a ploy that denied Ipswich all but a couple of shots throughout the whole match.

The Hatters were no better, but in the last minute of the game, one chance arrived that made bitterly cold Boxing Day one of our warmest memories. Aston centred and Ron Futcher, the debutante, headed a superb goal to win the game.

Among all the irate Suffolk supporters outside the ground, we crept quietly down to the station and boarded the train for London. It was only when we were well beyond the bounds of Ipswich that we went crazy with the sheer delight of one of the most remarkable and memorable Christmas games we have ever seen.

Frank Batt - LTSC Member

to hit top form with a comfortable win over Aberdare Athletic, 5-1 away. Three consecutive home wins were recorded over Barry, Llanelli and Ton Pentre; the winning continued away at Swansea Town. While Luton were on this winning streak Croydon Common's unbeaten run continued with only a single point dropped to Luton's Christmas Day victors, Newport County. At this stage of the season for Luton any dropped point could cost the Championship; and on the 28th March in a run of the mill game against Mid Rhondra a 1-1 draw was forced out of the game.

In the last month of the season the task was for Luton to win every game and hope Croydon Common would start losing. Both teams started the month well. Croydon beat Pontypridd 2-1 while Luton won 5-0 at home to Swansea Town. Then in the next game Croydon crashed to their first defeat of the season losing 3-1 at Abertillery. A point spirited the two sides as Luton beat a strong Stoke side 2-1.

With two further games to be played over the three remaining days of the Easter holiday, Luton had their destiny in their own hands being a point behind Croydon Common. Luton had the hardest of the remaining games away to Brentford who had been chasing the top two all season, and Croydon having to take on an Aberdare Athletic side who were second from bottom. Croydon easily shook off their defeat with a 6-0 win. Luton faced Brentford and were held to a 0-0 draw, contemporary reports suggested Luton were lucky to gain a point. In an amazing fluke of the fixture list Croydon's next match was home to Brentford who proved their worth in holding them to a 0-0 draw. Luton had to visit fourth placed Stoke, making one change, George Dodd coming into the side in place of Edgar Stevens. Goals from Simms and Brewis gave Luton a 2-1 win. The last game of the season saw both Luton and Croydon clash at Kenilworth Road. The outcome of the match was of no consequence, as Croydon would have had to have lost 26-0 to lose their championship.

Luton had already beaten Croydon Common in the FA Cup at home in November and were in good form. Both sets of supporters turned out for the game. Supporters of Croydon paid a 5/- shilling excursion to come to Luton filling Kenilworth Road to its full capacity of around 7,000 for the first time in its eight and a half years existence. Luton took the game to Croydon right from the start putting their otherwise sound defence under a lot of pressure. Luton went in at half-time a goal up, thanks to Arthur Wileman who had already scored twenty six goals during the season. Wileman added a second during the second half, with Percy Page gaining a consolation goal for Croydon Common.

The table finished:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Croydon Common	30	23	5	2	76	14	51
Luton Town	30	24	3	3	92	22	51

Brian Ellis - LTSC Member

*but no silverware!*

## TRUST LUTON LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

Trust in Luton's first official link-up with the Luton Town Supporters Club occurred in March, with the jointly hosted Evening with Bill Tomlins. But since its inception, TiL has had a close working relationship with the supporters' clubs as well as the Bobbers Travel Club, the various fans' websites and the Mad As A Hatter! Fanzine.

All the different groups and fora have a role to play. The Trust is intended to be an umbrella organisation, bringing together fans around the world, however long they've supported the Town, however often they get to games. The fans' representative on the board is elected via TiL, and aims to put forward the thoughts and opinions of all supporters.

For anyone who still doubts the importance of Trusts and the power they can have - despite having seen TiL in action during 2003 - just look at Shareholders United up in Manchester, leading huge protests against the takeover of their club.

Or Exeter, where the club was saved by the Grecians Trust. Or Chesterfield, or Brentford, or Rotherham, or York - or any of the other scores of clubs where the trusts are in control or where they have board representation.

So if you haven't already signed up to TiL, please consider it for next season - renewals begin in the close season, and new membership forms for 2005-06 will be available shortly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail us and we will do our best to help answer your questions.

Board Rep:  
• Kelvin@trustinluton.com

Questions regarding membership:  
• membership@trustinluton.com

General query:  
• carrie@trustinluton.com

Caroline Dunn  
TiL - Communications Officer

[www.trustinluton.com](http://www.trustinluton.com)

## Vene, Vidi, Vici!

(We went, we saw, we won!)

Town on Tour took a reduced size coach with 30 people on board to Hartlepool on Tuesday 8th February. Yvonne and Ryan looked after us admirably and had us back in Luton at 2:40am on Wednesday!

The stats show that the away contingent only numbered 357 (which is still over 40 more than they bought to the Oak Road). With 5,542 in the ground why couldn't we hear them? (rhetorical question) I'm still smiling today (Friday) and my work colleagues darn well know why.

I was contacted on the way there; by a distant relative, working in the area. So we had our numbers boosted by a Colchester fan - who did applaud our goals. Although he asked if he could shout "Come on you U's" mid way through the game. I persuaded him that it might not be the best idea in the world! He enjoyed the game and might attend other matches in the area; contract and wife permitting.

Bradford looms tomorrow and the last 14 games of the season. Here's hoping you can continue to join us as we tour the highways and byways of England (+ a bit of Wales) for the remaining games.

Christine Bray - T.O.T Co-ordinator

## The brains of the bunch!

The 2004 Annual Xmas Fun Quiz - as ever - was a huge success! On a cold Thursday evening in December, around 70 Luton Town fans arrived at the Eric Morecombe Suite along with 10 Luton Town players including Kevin Foley, Stephen O'Leary, Curtis Davies, Keith Keane, Richard Mansell and a trio of goalkeepers consisting of Dino Seremet, Robert Beckwith and Dean Brill.

After each team was allocated a player, the night settled down for the first round which was general knowledge. To follow was a football round. At the half time break, everyone topped up on drinks and tucked into the delicious sandwiches and mince pies while pondering over the guess the faces round. How hard can it be to put a name to all the faces on the sheet of paper? Quite hard it would seem! Stephen O'Leary hit a hat-trick in the raffle draw - pulling three tickets out that belonged to people on his team - a little unfair some might say? Just the luck of the draw I think! Another general knowledge round hit after the break and to finish it all off was a true or false round. After lots of discussions, puzzled faces and players trying to get answers from their mates it was all over.

As all the scores were added up, everyone waited in anticipation, wanting to know who had won the ultimate prize. Unlucky for some, Dino Seremet and his team came in last leaving them the wooden spoon, whilst coming close but not close enough was Richard Mansell finishing in second place.

But the brains of the bunch was Curtis and his team coming in triumphant winners. It seemed Curtis was very proud of his achievement and gave a winners speech. "I'd like to say thank you for this award, hopefully it won't be the only one I get this season. As you can see, I'm not just a good footballer and a pretty face - I have brains too! Thank you very much." All in all, another great night was had by all.

Helen Gatward - LTSC Newsletter Editor

## Crossword Fun! Answers

**DOWN** 1. Chris Coyne 2. Rowan Vine 3. Showunmi 5. Arsenal 7. Beresford 12. Boyce 14. Brkovic 16. Promotion 19. Robinson 20. Football 21. Hatters 22. Referee 23. Newell 24. Penalty  
**ACROSS** 4. Sol 6. Curtis 8. Substitute 9. Off 10. Keane 11. Striker 13. Ninety 15. Shin pads 17. Kenilworth 18. Goal 25. Linesman 26. Whistle 27. Slovenia 28. Nicholls

Leary = Michael Leary



# HATTERS TRAVEL

The Hatters have five away games between March and the end of the season on 2nd May and the lads will need your support at every single game! So why not travel with us?

Town on Tour provides eats and drinks on board, along with a predict-a-score competition and videos, so your journey will be an enjoyable one! For your convenience, we pick up at Bletchley, Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis before picking up at Luton in the Maple Road car park where you can securely leave your car for only £4. All journeys going north on the M1 also feature a pick-up from the MK Coach Park. Prices have been kept as low as possible and it's even cheaper if you are a member of our Supporters Club!

Contact us now on **07960 567465** during the week for more information and to book places, or come and see us in our kiosk on matchdays.

<b>19.03.05</b>	<b>Oldham Athletic</b>	<b>10.00am*</b>
£17 Adult	£15 Cons	£19 Non
<b>28.03.05</b>	<b>Torquay Utd</b>	<b>08.30am</b>
£15 Adult	£13 Cons	£17 Non
<b>09.04.05</b>	<b>AFC Bournemouth</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
£15 Adult	£13 Cons	£17 Non
<b>23.04.05</b>	<b>Wrexham</b>	<b>10.00am*</b>
£16 Adult	£14 Cons	£18 Non
<b>07.05.05</b>	<b>Doncaster Rovers</b>	<b>10.30am*</b>
£15 Adult	£13 Cons	£17 Non

\* Denotes pick up from MK coachway approx. 30 mins. later

## Huddersfield, the start of something new...

The trip North saw us take a very full double decker coach and the introduction of a new steward for the journey.

Annette Crick has joined us very ably in the capacity of away coach steward and will be used more often in future. (As I write this up in February - we have booked double deckers for the remaining trips!)

Experience has led us to use 3 stewards for the 71 seaters. Especially useful for the links between the downstairs gallery and the person selling food and drink on the top deck. (Tom helped out on the stairs for this jaunt).

We enjoyed the away journey and the result very much. We also discovered that our driver Chris had taken part in a new reality TV show which is based on a coach travelling around Europe!

For me, going to Huddersfield was great. I won Huddersfield's highest ever Golden Gamble which was £1,100!

I decided to sponsor Alan Neilson's home shirt for the rest of the season - it seems only fair I put some towards to club. After all, if it weren't for Luton Town Football Club - I wouldn't have been there to win!

I'm gradually buying a round of drinks for my fellow away travellers and will catch up with you in the near future!

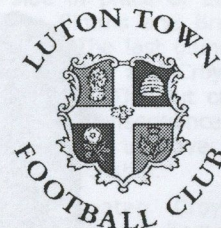
Christine Bray - T.O.T Co-ordinator

Luton Town Supporters Club and Luton Town Football Club are pleased to announce

## PLAYER OF THE SEASON - PRESENTATION EVENING



**Sunday 1st May 2005**  
**7.00pm till Late**  
**at The Riverside Suite**  
**Vauxhall Recreation Centre, Luton**



Special Guest Speaker - Steve Foster

Tickets - £14.00 - LTSC Members / £20.00 Non Members

Dress - Smart Casual, Grand Draw & Buffet

Do come and join us and meet the LTFC players, management and staff for what promises to be a most enjoyable evening. All you need to do is ring 01908 569339 to order your tickets.

PLEASE NOTE: TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE INITIALLY TO MEMBERS ONLY. ONE PER MEMBER ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS UNTIL SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2005. FOLLOWING THIS DATE ANY REMAINING TICKETS WILL GO ON GENERAL SALE.



Emmerson Boyce had a clean sweep last year

## WHO WILL WIN?

Last year, the main award went to Emmerson Boyce who was voted Player of the Season, but who will win it this season?

Do you think Brkovic has been a midfield maestro, has Curtis excelled at the back, or has Howard got what it takes to be your player of the season? It could be any one of the team.

**The decision is yours - so get voting!**

