

HATTERS

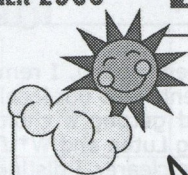
ISSUE 69 • SUMMER 2006

LUTON TOWN



SUPPORTERS CLUB

HATTERS CHATTER



Dear Members!

The Town are Back!

At the start of the current season I suspect most Town fans would have grabbed our eventual finishing position in the top half of the table. We have now been seen to firmly establish ourselves back in the Championship and in a season, which saw Mike Newell's side play with a lot of flair and commitment. We now need to move on and need to further strengthen the side showing we have the ambition to make a challenge to get into the Premiership. We also need to make progress towards a new stadium and I have included details of a press release recently sent to the Luton News.

A new stadium is imperative for the Club and Town

A new stadium is needed to secure the long term survival of the Hatters if we are to maintain our current league status and certainly if we are to improve on it. MK Dons have managed to secure a brand new stadium for Division 2 Football, it will hold up to 30,000 and is state of the art. If our club does not move forward quickly we will no longer be the Premier club in our region. Many options have been discussed over a period of some 50 years, with the most recent project at Junction 10 scuppered because of the proposals for airport development.

The Supporters Club's main aim is to achieve the relocation of the club as quickly as possible, thus giving the fans the facilities they deserve and also the club the ability to compete at the highest level. The stadium should be located within easy reach of the Town (it must be in South Bedfordshire, and not MK or any other distant location) with a preference for this to be in Luton's boundaries. We have discussed at length with interested parties, including the local council, various site options.

Kenilworth Road, much loved and current home of the Hatters, is not a viable alternative for the long term. It offers limited parking facilities, poor access to public transport and most importantly is owned by the Borough Council who have bought the ground to bring urban regeneration to an area, where it is desperately needed. Current poor facilities will be further decimated by the Translink project.

The Junction 10 site, seen as ideal for many years, has been hit by various delays over the past 5 years and now the Airport have confirmed they will oppose any plans for this site because of the traffic impact this will have on the main access to the airport. Assuming that these objections are confirmed, let's move on.

We only see 2 potential alternatives, either some of the land adjacent to the proposed Junction 11a or Junction 12. The government policy for housing will see a growth in the population north of Luton, effectively bringing both J11a and J12 within the Town's boundaries. So I urge the board to make progress on the key question to the clubs long term future.

Fighting J12 will be a mistake as we may end up with nothing, this is the greatest threat to the club. We want to see a planning application as soon as possible, if it has to be J12 so be it. We want our club to prosper and that requires facilities that can hold 25,000 crowds not doomed in an antiquated stadium and to lower division football. A new stadium requires enabling development and the facilities to draw crowds to enable the team to compete. We are currently punching above our weight, but this will not last without the foundations to support it.

Anyway, moving on, the Town are looking to entertain Premiership side Fulham on Friday 20th July, giving fans an early opportunity to see the Club's brand new playing surface, which incorporates a mesh to ensure that the pitch can remain in optimum condition for as much of the season as possible. Can I please urge you all to renew season tickets and supporters club membership as soon as possible to ensure you do not miss out in the forthcoming season.

And finally, this is my last column as Chairman, as I will standing down at the AGM to enable someone else to take the reigns. I take this opportunity of thanking my all fellow committee members for all their support over the past few years and to wish my successor Kevin Barrett all success for the future. Have a lovely Summer.

Mark Chapman

LTSC Chairman



In this edition of Hatters Chatter:

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TOT - Help us to Help You!

The Supporters Club Overseas

A Date for your Diary AGM Info

Photography supplied by Gareth Owen

Trust in Luton

are delighted to announce that the week commencing Monday 5th June will be Trust in Luton Week.

Communications Officer Carrie Dunn said: "We're calling on all our members and all Luton fans, wherever they are in the world, to join in the celebrations by organising or participating in a TIL fundraising event."

The TIL committee are doing their bit with their latest quiz night on Tuesday 6th June. Once again, it's at the Bricklayers' Arms with BBC 3CR's Ian Pearce hosting the evening, and entry is £10 for a team of four.

Trust in Luton hold a 10% stake in Luton Town FC and have an elected fans' representative on the board. In addition, Luton legend John Moore has this year taken up the honorary position of Trust president, with Joan Bartholomew, aka Mrs Eric Morecambe, continuing her work as president.

However, three years ago, Luton Town FC was taken over by a consortium fronted by John Gurney. This tenure - which saw the sackings of Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford, the non-payment of staff, midnight messages on the club's website announcing plans for the club including a manager phone-vote and a stadium on stilts - prompted uproar among all Luton fans. The newly-formed Trust in Luton, which attracted the biggest-ever attendance of a public meeting in the history of supporters' trusts, launched a pledge scheme which withheld money from the club, and then worked behind the scenes to acquire shares in the club's major creditor, subsequently putting it into administrative receivership and curtailing Gurney's reign.

TIL's many achievements over the past three years include sponsorship of Luton Town FC's Football in the Community department, a partnership with the club to run the Supporters' Lottery (where all proceeds go to the youth development scheme), a sign to hang at Luton station welcoming visitors to the Home of the Hatters, a fundraising game between a Luton All-Stars team and a Celebrity XI, the launch of the Golden Hatter beer, and the ever-popular Goalscorers' Lottery.

Most recently, TIL is spearheading the drive to relocate Luton Town FC to a suitable new stadium, running a petition and liaising with local and national officials to encourage co-operation between all parties.

For further details about the Trust, please contact Carrie, the Trust's communications officer, by e-mailing carrie@trustinluton.com or calling her on 07963 304275.

Join Trust in Luton 2006/2007

Get involved and have a say in the future of your football club!

TRUST LUTON LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS TRUST trustinluton.com

Memories of my First Game



By Cliff Saunders, LTSC Member, Milton Keynes

You know when someone in the office comes in and says "I've got a World Cup Final ticket here, corporate hospitality thing but I don't really like football and the wife wants me to go to Homebase at the weekend. Does anyone want it?" You don't? No, me neither but a similar thing happened to me on a lesser scale when I was fifteen and at school in Hemel Hempstead.

I had a friend who was a Luton Town fan and he arrived one day looking for a person to attend the forthcoming league match against Ipswich Town in order to gain an extra voucher for an FA Cup quarter-final ticket against Millwall. Yes, it was that cup-tie and I hope the bloke who used my voucher appreciated it!

As a youngster, I was never indoctrinated into a particular club. My father said the old players were better, of course, but he had no particular allegiance despite watching a bit of Arsenal and Fulham as a kid.

My dad's enthusiasm as a youngster in the fifties was for speedway (which was as popular as football back then) but this interest had long passed by the time I came along. I discovered much later that a number of my Mum's family had been Brentford fans, living as they did in Acton and Hanwell but I don't think they were regulars in the seventies and certainly never took me along.

So I was a football fan without a cause and was restricted to TV-football only. In the late seventies this included the FA Cup Final (or Arsenal v this year's opponents as it was then), the World Cup Finals tournament (or Scotland being embarrassing in England's absence) and the European Cup (otherwise known as England wonderfully thrashing Johnny Foreigner every year). I remember watching Arsenal v Ipswich in 1978, Liverpool v Bruges a few days later and filling in my wall chart for the Argentina World Cup tournament over the summer. This was followed by Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup, Nottingham Forest in Europe and at last England, in World Cup action in Spain with the commensurate sticker album of course.

Along with most kids at the time I would claim to be a Liverpool fan despite never having been to the city let alone the Anfield football ground.

Even then though, I remember asking my parents who our local football team was and getting a choice of answers including Luton and W*tf*rd - so I was none the clearer. I distinctly remember seeing the end of season table in 1982 and feeling proud that both my local teams were carrying all before them so I stopped claiming to be a Red and started saying "no-one really" when interrogated about my allegiances. They do say that most fans follow the team they are first taken to see so when I attended Kenilworth Road on that spring day in 1985 a passion was inevitably roused.

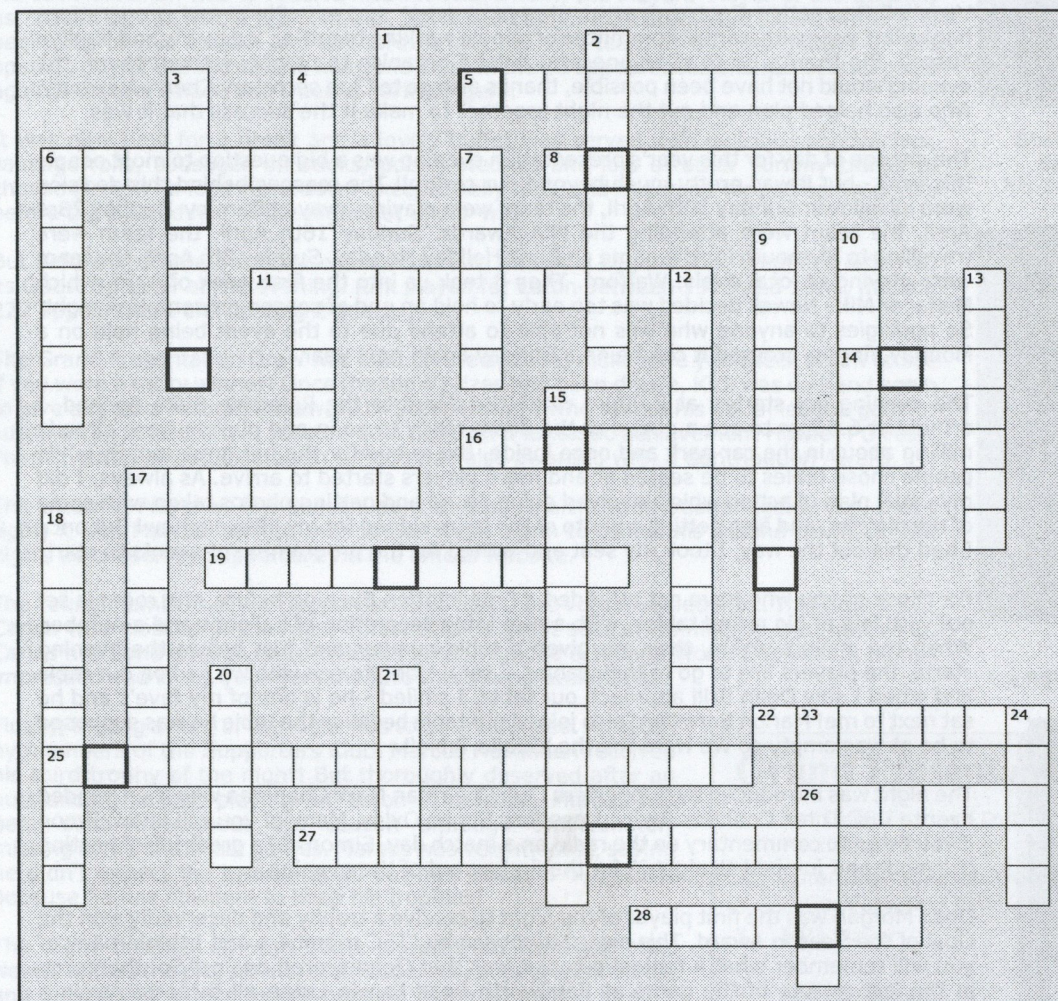
The deal was this: I had to get to my mate's house and then he, his uncle, his cousin, his brother-in-law and so on would take me to Luton. They would pay for my admission and in return collect the voucher to enable them to purchase a cup ticket for their absent friend. Prior to this I got some time in the pub with coke and crisps, a bag of chips on the way to the ground and a 3-1 victory with a young Tim Breacker running rampant down the right wing. Strangely, I was supposed to be doing them a favour!

The game was great entertainment and the view from the top of the then open Kenilworth terrace was perfect. I scored a couple of points myself when the Hatters got a penalty. Ipswich had Paul Cooper in goal who was famous for saving penalties and whom I knew from watching Football Focus on Saturday mornings. "He'll save this" I declared confidently as Mick Harford (I think) lined up the spot kick. The raised eyebrows from my companions were followed by slightly annoyed and very bemused looks when Cooper did save the kick, and I was quite glad that it made no difference to the final result!

So I was hooked and have my old friend Richard Marshall to thank; though Tim Breacker also did his bit. Attendance was limited over the next four years as I attempted to forge an amateur playing career but I gave that up deciding that I was a better spectator than performer. I have never regretted this decision and only wish I had gone more often over the 1985-1989 period as this is arguably the best in Luton's history. My main hope for the future is that I am not priced out of the game as the current tariff for the Kenilworth end is over four times the rate for my first match!

Crossword Challenge!

Use the clues given to complete the crossword. Some answers can be the whole answer or part of it, ie. a players name could be first and second name (with no space) or it could just be the surname or even the first name! Once completed, the boxes that are highlighted can be unscrambled to reveal a Luton Town player. Good luck & have fun! Answers can be found on page 7.

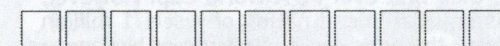


ACROSS

- 5 They knocked us out of the FA Cup this season
- 6 Number 9
- 8 Curtis Davies joined this team
- 11 The cup luton won in 1988
- 14 Luton scored this many goals at home against both Norwich City and Crewe this season
- 16 100 goals up
- 17 Sol Davis played for before he joined Luton Town
- 19 Young player of the season
- 22 Croatian sensation
- 25 Carlos will be playing for this team in the World Cup
- 26 Irish striker
- 27 Luton played against them in the first game of the season
- 28 Lutons nickname

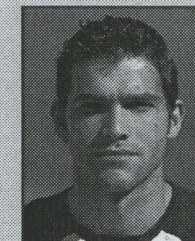
DOWN

- 1 This Kevin is an U21 International
- 2 Number 1 stopper
- 3 Nickname of David Bell's former club
- 4 Player of the Season
- 6 Championship Champions
- 7 The Gaffer
- 9 Luton play at this Road
- 10 Local rivals
- 12 Dean Morgan got 'Goal of the Season' against them
- 13 Young defender
- 15 Captain
- 17 Big tall striker
- 18 Coach travel service run by the Supporters Club
- 20 Which Dean wears squad number 33
- 21 This midfield player was onloan to Walsall
- 23 Looks after the match
- 24 Aussie who plays in this position



Hidden Player is

Squad Birthdays



Dino Seremet
16.08.80



Paul Underwood
16.08.73

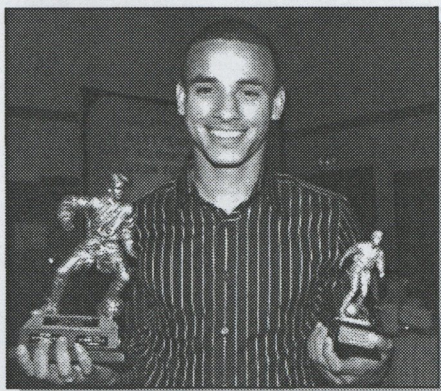


Heikkinen Cleans Up

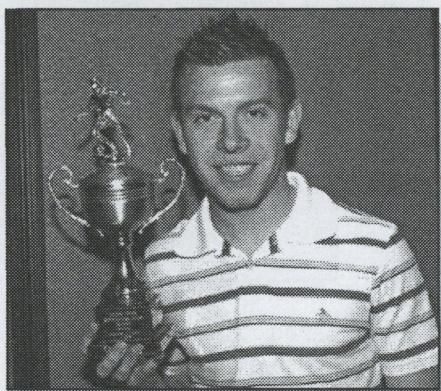
at the Player of the Seas on Presentation Evening



Marcus Heikkinen - Top Man!
Player's Player, Internet Player and
Player of the Season



Dean Morgan
Goal of the Season against Southampton



Keith Keane
Young Player of the Season

This year's Player of the Season Presentation Evening, held on Monday 24th April at Vauxhall Recreation Centre, was as always, a great success. Plans and preparations began last year with a small committee of people working together, led by Vic and Marilyn Fussell. Big thanks go to everyone who helped organise the night, without them, the evening would not have been possible, thanks also go to Club secretary Cherry Newbury, who also helped plan and put the night together to make it the success that it was.

The change of day for this year's presentation evening was a big question to most people this year - but it was pretty much beyond our control! The reasons behind this decision were as follows: Sunday 30th April, the team were playing away at Burnley. Sunday 23rd April, the team were attending the PFA Awards. Sunday 16th April, the team were travelling to Plymouth for the game on Bank Holiday Monday. Sunday 9th April, the team were playing at local rivals, Watford. Then it took us into the first week of April, which Manager Mike Newell decided was too early to hold an end of season presentation night! So apologies to anyone who was not able to attend due to the event being held on a Monday, fingers crossed it can be on a Sunday again next year.

The evening got started at 7.00pm when the doors to the Riverside Suite opened. I arrived at 6.55pm to see a queue at the doors ready to go in and players were already milling about in the car park and once inside, the queue for the bar grew rapidly while people chose tables to be seated at and more players started to arrive. As always, I did my usual plan of action which involved going round and getting photos taken with some of the players, and also getting a photo of the team signed for my little nephew! But once I had this out the way, I took my seat and waited for the programme of events to start.

For those of you who have not attended a Presentation Evening before, the room is set out with lots of big round tables, with a nice table decoration of balloons and a number. When the players arrive, they are given a table number and just before the evening starts, the players are to go to their tables. I sat waiting to see who we had on our table and when I saw Dean Brill approach our table, I smiled - he is one of my fave's and he sat next to me! Marlon Beresford also joined our table because the table he was supposed to be at was empty so we were the 'Goalie Table'!

The night was introduced by Supporters Club Chairman Mark Chapman who then handed over to BBC Three Counties Radio presenter, Simon Oxley. Many of you will know Simon if you listen to commentary on the radio on a match day. Simon did a great job of hosting the night and jumped straight in for the first award of the evening.

Dean Morgan was the first player of the night to receive a trophy and deservedly won the Goal of the Season Award. This award is chosen by LTSC members and I think many of you will remember what a fantastic goal it was that Dean scored against Southampton in the last minute of the game at Kenilworth Road to win Luton all three points in a thrilling 3-2 victory. Congratulations Dean!

Next up was the Young Luton Town Player of the Season chosen by the Luton Town manager and coaching staff. This award went to the Under 21 Republic of Ireland International, Keith Keane. At the age of only 19, Keane has made 5 starts for Luton this season, been on 5 times as a substitute and has scored 1 goal along with being called up to play for his Country. Keith has a bright future ahead of him, well done!

Marcus Heikkinen was to receive his first award next, the Players' Player of the Season, as chosen by his fellow team mates. Since Marcus joined Luton from Aberdeen at the beginning of this season and got thrown into the first team at the last minute on the opening day of the season, he has gone on to make 40 appearances and has scored goals against Crystal Palace and Queens Park Rangers.

It was now time for a break and a lovely buffet was served with delicious sandwiches, sausage rolls, sausages on sticks, potato wedges and lots of other yummy things to choose from! The food went down exceptionally well, and everyone topped up on drinks before the second half of the night got under-way.

But before anymore awards were handed out, ex Luton Legend Kirk Stephens returned as Guest Speaker of the evening. Kirk played for Luton between 1978 and 1984, making 227 appearances and scoring 2 goals.

The Grand Presentation Draw was next on the agenda, make sure you check below to see if you were a lucky winner! Once the top 4 prizes had been drawn, Kirk was on hand again to give a special recognition award to Steve Howard who scored his 100th league goal for Luton away at Leeds this season. Well done on a fantastic achievement Howie! PC Peter Palmer, Luton's Football Liaison Officer, was also awarded with a Contribution Award.

The Internet Player of the Season went to that Finnish International again, yep, that's right, it was Marcus' turn to take to the stage again to collect his second trophy of the night, as chosen by supporters via the official website.

The Young Members of the Supporters Club had their vote revealed next. This time it was Carlos who clocked in the most votes. After a great season running up the right wing, Carlos has done enough to be included in the Trinidad & Tobago World Cup squad, he has impressed and is the younger fans favourite! Congratulations.

Finally, the big award of the night was to be announced. As voted by members of the Supporters Club, Marcus Heikkinen received his third trophy of the night! But thoroughly deserved after an outstanding season playing for Luton in defence, Marcus has been solid throughout the season although unfortunately missing some of the last games. Marcus was very modest, saying he didn't expect the awards at all but now needs a bigger flat because he has nowhere to keep his trophies!

The night finished off with some words from Manager, Mike Newell and as the players and staff dispersed, supporters chatted and finished off drinks before heading home so and all in all, I think a good night was had by all.

I'm sure everyone will join me in saying well done to Marcus, and to all the other players who received awards and in fact, the whole team, because they have all played a great part in our first season in the Championship. Bring on next season!

Helen Gatward - LTSC Newsletter Editor



Steve Howard & Kirk Stephens
Special Recognition Award for
his 100 league goals for Luton Town



Carlos Edwards
Young Supporters Player of the Season

Grand Presentation Draw Winners...

1	14" Colour TV and DVD Recorder	04062	Mr R B O'Rourke
2	Luton Town Season Ticket & Car Park Pass (2006/07)	07194	Carol Kennard
3	MP3 Player	00835	Mrs Clatcher from Dorchester
4	Digital Camera	06006	Barry
5	Lacoste Watch	08566	Bob Hatcher
6	Book Basket	06352	Adrian McCorkell
7	Town on Tour Trip for 2	05395	K Shanley
8	Signed LTFC Shirt	08626	Mr Sean Griffin
9	Thorntons Delights	03308	Hey
10	Signed LTFC Football	00657	John Heley
11	CDs	03609	Mr Ingram
12	Town on Tour Trip for 2	00661	Mr Clive Bailey
13	LTFC Training Top	04566	T Toone
14	Signed copy of Roger Wash's latest book	04156	Graham Denton
15	Gift Voucher	05950	Ron Poulton
16	Wine	06355	Adrian McCorkell
17	Prize from Coca-Cola	01884	M Passmore
18	LTFC Club Shop Voucher	08206	Mr Follett
19	CDs	01692	Mr R Taylor
20	Book, 'Wembley the Greatest Stage' by Tom Watt	01534	Darren Bellamy

Thank you to all of you who bought prize draw tickets and congratulations to all those who were lucky winners. If you have won a prize and have not yet claimed it, please contact Vic or Marilyn Fussell on 01908 569339.

Trinidad & Tobago head to Germany



The Town have their first representative at World Cup level this year in Carlos Edwards, since Mal Donaghy, who so well represented Ireland back in 1982.

The attacking midfielder player was a major force in our surge to the top of the Championship early this season. Edwards' pacy runs offer a threat that others will need to be aware of and on these performances, has earned a place to represent his nation in the World Cup.

Despite most of the Trinidad & Tobago squad playing their trade in England, the only Premiership 'star' is Shaka Hislop. Ex-Manchester United treble winner Dwight Yorke, now playing his football in Australia with Sydney FC, will be the most familiar face on show but his deeper role means he's not their most

likely goalscorer. That tag belongs to Coventry striker Stern John who netted 10 goals in qualifying, including both in the vital 2-1 win over Mexico which got them into their CONCACAF-Asia play-off against Bahrain. With the guidance of veteran coach Leo Beenhakker, Trinidad & Tobago should acquit themselves well but with three tough group opponents - England, Sweden and Paraguay, just scoring a goal will be enough to spark massive celebrations back home.

The betting odds are stacked against them but the playing staff and country are determined to enjoy the World Cup. They have insisted that Trinidad and Tobago are not just going to World Cup in Germany just to make up the numbers.

Just a few short months ago, you would have been hard pushed to find anybody willing to gamble on Trinidad and Tobago making it through to their first ever FIFA World Cup. However, that did not stop this tiny Caribbean nation of just 1.1 million people from overcoming the odds and the weight of history to earn a well-deserved place at football's high table.

Trinidad and Tobago will go to Germany with nothing to lose. Although they will struggle to compete, Trinidad and Tobago will fight until each match concludes so good luck Carlos!



The Honour Plaque

As English hopes build towards the forthcoming World Cup, the most prolific individual scoring feat in Football League history was commemorated by the unveiling of a plaque in Chesterfield.

Joe Payne, born in Brimington Common, Chesterfield in 1914, set a record that is unlikely ever to be matched when he scored ten goals for Luton Town in their Division Three (South) 12-0 victory over Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday, April 13th 1936.

On the 70th anniversary of that great feat, a memorial plaque was unveiled on a public house a few yards from his birthplace.

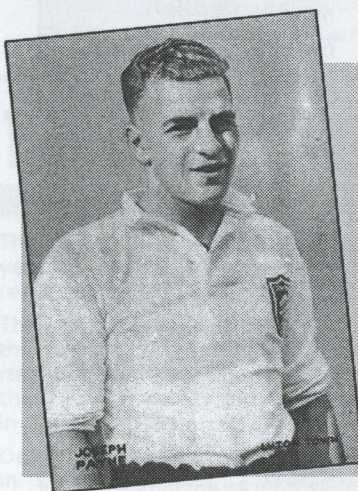
It has been erected by Chesterfield Borough Council's Brimington and Tapton Community Forum on the wall of the Miners Arms at Manor Road, Brimington Common.

The location was chosen because Joe Payne was brought up in a house a few yards away, which has since been demolished to make way for the pub car park, and because it overlooks the local park where he played some of his first football.



Members of Joe "10 Goal" Payne's family were present alongside local councillors and Forum members to watch the unveiling of the honourary plaque.

Geoff Thompson, Chairman of The Football Association pictured above centre, revealed the plaque alongside Joe's nephews, Tony and Trevor Payne.



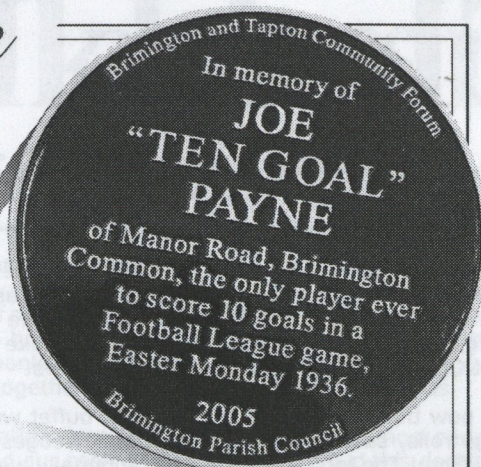
The Community Forum was approached by a relative of Joe Payne suggesting that a memorial should be commissioned to mark his unequalled feat of scoring 10 goals in a League game.

Brimington Parish Council agreed to work with the Forum and share the cost, to which Mr. Payne's relatives also contributed. The brewery and landlord of the Miners Arms agreed to the plaque being fixed to their premises, which was a focus for celebrations in 1936 after Joe's record score.

It is a community's tribute to a local hero.

Cllr Ian Openshaw, Forum Chairman

Joe '10 Goal' Payne



Joe Payne played once for his local team Chesterfield - as a guest player during wartime soccer. He scored a hat-trick as Chesterfield beat Notts County 8-0 at Saltergate on December 23, 1944.

Joe joined Luton in 1934 after being spotted playing for Bolsover Colliery, for whom he had scored in a 4-1 defeat against Chesterfield "A" team at Saltergate on September 13, 1933.

He was being groomed as a wing half until that fateful day against Bristol Rovers when, because of an injury crisis, he was pressed into service as an emergency attacker!

He marked his debut as a centre forward with 10 goals - and proved it was no flash in the pan by scoring 55 goals the following season, as Luton rattled in 103 goals on their way to winning the Division Three (South) Championship.

Joe won an England cap against Finland in 1937 (scoring twice in an 8-0 win) and scored 82 goals in 72 matches for Luton before being transferred to Chelsea in March 1938 for a big fee. He scored 21 goals in 37 appearances for them.

World War II took six years out of his career and after post-war spells at West Ham and Millwall he retired from the game in 1948 at the age of 34. Sadly, Joe died in 1975 aged 71.

The honourary plaque does Joe Payne proud. As the years have gone by, we have seen how remarkable Joe was as his goal scoring record of 10 goals in one game has not been matched.

**Joe "10 Goal" Payne
your a Luton Town Legend!**



As the one hundred seasons at Kenilworth Road comes to an end it's an appropriate time to look back to the first season starting in 1905 and recreate the games, goals and players.

The Directors at the start of the season were looking at a big improvement on the previous season when 'The Straw Plaiters', finished second from bottom. Nine players had been added to the team. These new men had either played in the Football League or with other Southern League teams all of them had been attracted by a good wage packet and a job to supplement their earnings from football. Southern League players at this time officially earned more money than their Football League counterpart that was constricted by a maximum wage.

In order to make the maximum profit the Directors entered Luton into three different leagues, the Southern which was the main League, the South Eastern and United. In all, the players were expected to play and did play over seventy matches, often playing two games a week, Saturday and Monday usually at six o'clock in the summer and three o'clock in the winter. With so many games the average supporter hardly ever travelled away. There were no official attendances given but local papers often quoted figures in their thousands.

The new ground which had not quite been fully built opened its doors for a trial match on 26th August when the Blues took on the Whites. Contemporary reports said 'several thousand supporters stood on three sides of the ground that is situated at the top of Ivy Road'. The Blues were a mixture of two of the previous season's first team, seven new signings, one of the previous seasons reserves while the Goal keeper along with two of the Whites came from local team Clarence. A third local player was used. McDonald, one of the new men who joined from Wellingborough, was joined by Jeakings and Woods who had joined from Hitchin. The rest of the team were made up from the previous season's reserves.

The Blues won 3-0 with John Pickering who had joined from Tottenham scoring the first. The other two goals came from the biggest signing of the close season, Sandy 'The Glenbuckgoalgetter' Brown. The first competitive league game took place in the South Eastern League against Watford who beat Luton 2-1. Kenilworth Road was officially opened on 4th September 1905 when Plymouth Argyle were the visitors in a lively 0-0 draw. Plymouth were one of eight clubs along with Brighton & Hove Albion, Millwall, Norwich City, QPR, Reading, Southampton and Watford who were to feature on the fixture list a hundred years later.

The first victory at Kenilworth Road came on the 9th September 1905 when Brighton were beaten 4-1. Brown inevitably scored two of the goals with fellow new boys Pickering and Gallagher completing the scoring. The winning run continued the following week with a win at West Ham United. Fulham who were to go on and win the Championship and dominate the league until they were elected to the Football League ended the winning run. The defeat spurred Luton on to their best run of the season going on a six game unbeaten run which included wins over QPR and Portsmouth - both 3-2, while the previous seasons champions Bristol Rovers were humbled 7-1. This game brought the first Kenilworth Road hat trick for Alf Warner. Two weeks later Millwall were on the receiving end of a 6-1 defeat. Then suddenly their form deserted them, going four games without a win; including a 1-0 defeat in the FA Cup to the recently formed Crystal Palace. Christmas came with three consecutive home wins - Reading 3-0 on Christmas Day, two days later rivals Watford were beaten 2-0 and the year ended with a 1-0 win over Northampton Town.

1906 began with a 2-1 defeat at Brighton. A whole month was to pass before another home win was recorded with a 3-2 double over QPR. For the rest of the season no points were dropped at home but away from home only a 2-1 win over Millwall was all that could be managed. The return game with Watford and the last game of the season against Brighton were drawn 1-1. In that last game several players were rested after playing nearly seventy games.



Luton finished in fourth place in the Southern league the best finish since 1897. There was a fourth place finish in the United League and a seventh place finish in the South Eastern League.

The full list was:
Southern League
P W D L F A PTS
34 17 7 10 64 40 41

South Eastern League
P W D L F A PTS
24 11 2 11 56 54 24

United League
P W D L F A PTS
18 7 4 7 47 27 18

Brian Ellis - LTSC Member

Crossword Challenge Answers

CROSSWORD ANSWERS - ACROSS: 5. Liverpool 6. Rowan Vine 8. West Brom 11. Littlewoods 14. Four 16. Steve Howard 17. Swindon 19. Keith Keane 22. Brkovic 25. Trinidad and Tobago 26. Feehey 27. Crystal Palace 28. Hatters **DOWN:** 1. Foley 2. Beresford 3. Diamonds 4. Heikinen 6. Reading 7. Newell 9. Kenilworth 10. Watford 12. Southampton 13. Barnett 15. Kevin Nicholls 17. Showunmi 18. Town on Tour 20. Brill 21. Leary 23. Referee 24. Coyne **HIDDEN PLAYER:** Peter Holmes

A 'Good Season' Review

Luton Town have done well this year, although I must point out that this is purely a personal opinion, because I cannot recall a season when other assessments have been so divided and opinions have varied so greatly. The one aspect of this season, that everyone seems to agree upon, was the brilliant start made by The Town. On the fresh green lawns of late summer, the short passing had an electric quality and the games flowed with fast, accurate and exciting football. It made us forget momentarily, that the Hatters were competing with clubs twice, or even three times as big, and at the end of the season it is quite noticeable that the only clubs comparable in size to Luton are the three teams that have been relegated. Which could be considered as one good reason why Luton Town have done well this year.

Because Luton Town are no longer as big a club as they used to be, they have to operate on a tighter budget and a wafer thin squad, compared with the other clubs in The Championship. Last year the Town performed admirably with a small number of players and were fortunate to avoid many long-term injuries. This year, however, it has not been the same. Sol Davis, who was such a powerful force last season, was missing from the word go. Coyne, who was virtually invincible last year, has struggled with injury all season and with his quick-silver partner, Curtis Davies, sold to W.B.A., the defence has had little chance to build up the sort of cohesion that they enjoyed last year. In view of these difficulties, the acquisition and subsequent performances of Heikkinen have been a welcome revelation. And those players who have filled in during the absence of those regular defenders, men like, Underwood and Carlos Edwards coming back from midfield, Perrett, Barnett and Keane drafted in from the reserves, have all played with an excellent team ethos. Another point to bear in mind is that the latter two players are still very much at the learning stage and show plenty of initiative, spirit and determination. Surmounting these difficulties in defence this year would indicate another reason why the Town have had a good season.

In midfield, The Hatters had a neat, well-balanced look until injury again deprived the team. Robinson, and more latterly Nicholls, who has been inspirational in his leadership, have both been badly missed and at the same time some of their colleagues have not performed as well in their absence. The drop down the table after such a wonderful start was disappointing, but probably had more to do with injuries than pure loss of form. Games against, Southampton, Preston, Norwich, Brighton, Liverpool and Reading showed just how well the Town could play and it is strange to discover that from the 22nd October to the 11th March we won only six games out twenty-five. But it certainly didn't feel like that kind of season.

In the attacking positions, Steve Howard comes in for a great deal of totally unwarranted abuse, simply for not being fast and missing goals. If Henry can miss 'em from three yards and Sheringham who can't run can last till he is forty, Howard is certainly not alone in bad company. His achievement in reaching 100 goals was a fine reward for a man who is a first class professional and whose record now stands proudly between Brian Stein and David Moss, and that is some testament after the difficult start he had at Kenilworth Road. Perhaps Vine and Feeney are learning at his shoulder. And that is just one more reason that I feel that Luton Town have had a good season. The moaners and groaners are entitled to their views, but I for one have thoroughly enjoyed this year's entertainment.

Frank Batt - LTSC Member

ToT - Help us to Help You!

During the season 2005/06, it has been noted that there have been a number of occasions when people who have wished to travel to away games with Town on Tour have been disappointed due to lack of availability of seats on our coaches.

One of the reasons for this is because some prospective passengers leave their booking until 1 or 2 days before time of departure. We realise that not everyone can plan well in advance, but this applies in booking coaches. Our problem is, when does one draw a line between closing booking or adding extra coaches.

Considering the cost of hiring a coach can be between £270 and £880, depending on the length of journey, we find that a minimum of 30 people need to book to make hiring an extra coach viable virtually impossible in that one or two day window.

Another reason is because the coach company we use also cater for Wycombe Wanderers and Oxford City. Therefore, the coaches we require may not always be available on the days we need them. Also thrown into the equation are stewards. Each single decker needs 2 stewards, and a double decker needs 3 stewards. If stewards cannot be found then obviously extra coaches cannot be run, as happened with the Millwall trip.

In conclusion, we would like to be able to take you on all the away trips you wish to travel on, so help yourselves by helping us and book early to avoid disappointment! We look forward to you travelling with us next season.

John Heley - Town on Tour

The Supporters Club Overseas

Plans are in place to look at formally establishing Luton Town Supporter Club branches in both Canada & North America, along with Down under in Australia.

Tony Hull is coordinating the branch in North America. A life long Hatter's fan having been brought up in the area, Tony moved to Canada, but he maintains his interest in the Club, getting over to see games on a regular basis. He is looking to pass on his enthusiasm for the Club in wider fields and has started by enrolling nearly 20 members. Noel Ford is looking to do a similar job in Australia, where he resides in Sydney. We wish them success in their quest in spreading Town News far & wide!

We are also looking at ways of getting newsletters to these members in electronic format, to avoid the delays and costs associated with the postal service. This will be supported by giving fans the opportunity of paying by Credit card for the first time. Should you know anyone who wants further details, or if they are looking to establish branches elsewhere, please let us know.

A Date for your Diary...

Annual General Meeting

Our annual AGM will take place on Monday 10th July 2006 and is scheduled to start at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Eric Morecombe Suite at Kenilworth Road and stewarded car parking will be available in the Maple Road car park. Your agenda for the evening is included and everyone is welcome to come along so we look forward to seeing you there.

The LTSC Committee would like to wish you all a lovely Summer and we look forward to seeing you again next season!