

# HATTERS

LUTON TOWN



SUPPORTERS CLUB

HATTERS CHATTER

Dear Members!

ONE step closer to promotion and yet still as far away as ever. That sums up Luton's 2010/11 season.

It was billed by some as the biggest game in our history - I am not sure about that, but it may have been the most important. As it turned out it was probably the most disappointing and upsetting moment in our history.

We finally got to our first ever play-off final this year at the third time of asking, yet failed to turn this into the promotion we all wanted so much, and in the cruellest of fashions - the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Losing in a cup final is one thing, but when the prize of the final is not just a trophy or cup, but a place in the Football League, losing is truly devastating.

At the beginning of this season I wanted Luton Town to get automatic promotion and then AFC Wimbledon to take the prize of the promotion through the play-offs. Little did I think that Wimbledon would be the ones to walk away with the big prize at our expense.

However, after the deep sadness that a true football fan feels (it is difficult to describe to a non-football fan why we get so emotional - I certainly have had comments of 'it's only a game!'), we have to pick ourselves back up, brush ourselves down and start all over again, and I believe that is what we Luton fans will do.

I suppose the big question will be who will be in the team next term. We will all have our individual thoughts on that, and I am sure there will be changes in the squad both through managerial choice and also enforced through other teams cherry-picking our stars.

Whether the team were just not good enough or whether it was

**The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Luton Town SC**

the loss of direction under Richard Money, we will never truly know.

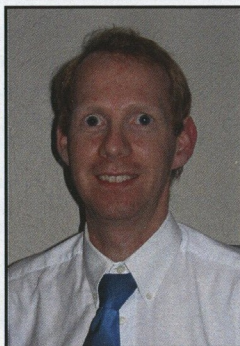
Anyway, that is all I am going to say in terms of dwelling on the on-the-field events, because I have asked David Mosque, who regularly blogs on the events at Luton Town (which I avidly read on the web), to write a review of the season, and you will find this inside, starting on Page 4. Having seen a preview of this article, I think that yet again he has hit the nail right on the head.

I'd like to concentrate on a review of what the Luton Town Supporters Club has achieved during the past season.

Life has not been easy as Chair of the Supporters Club these past few years. I took over just as LTFC started its downward spiral through the leagues and into the Conference. However, I have been blessed with the support of a great team of committee members who all work hard for their fellow Luton fans to ensure that we get the best we can. All of the supporters club committee members carry out their work voluntarily and for many of us alongside full-time careers.

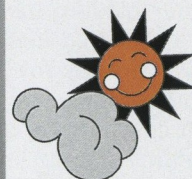
We have continued to organise events such as the 'Meet the Players' evenings, our Xmas Quiz and of course the End-of-Season Presentation Evening. I must thank the football club, and in particular David Hoskins, for their work in helping us make these events

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Kevin Barrett

LTSC  
Chairman



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Photography supplied by  
Gareth Owen



# Painful play-off prices

happen and be a success. At times it has been difficult to arrange both the timing and availability of people for events, and sometimes circumstances get in the way. We strive to continue to work with the football club to lay on these sort of activities which I know many of you enjoy so much.

A number of us have worked hard on running supporters coaches through the Town on Tour service. This has been extremely tough this season with many fans being unable to afford to travel to away games and the re-arrangement of fixtures due to the winter weather playing havoc with planning.

I would like to pay particular tribute to John Heley, who has for many years organised the Town on Tour coaches by taking bookings, liaising with the coach company and making sure stocks of refreshments are in place for each journey. I hope that we will be able to continue to run our service but obviously this is so reliant upon people travelling with us. We work on the basis of 30 people travelling on each journey to break even, however this year on many occasions we have had half that number. This is clearly not sustainable.

Of course I mustn't forget the newsletter. This is put together with the help of a number of committee members together with Rob Hadgraft (our editor). I have stated before that this is your newsletter and we would appreciate your news and views. A copy of each newsletter is sent to the Luton Town manager and the Directors although whether they read it or not I couldn't say (maybe I will find out after this comment!).

We may not be the most vociferous or loud of the supporters' groups, but we continue to work hard on behalf of our members and Hatters fans in general and I have regular contact with the Board of Luton Town FC, and have always been happy to take up the cause of fans.

I'd like to highlight two particular issues which have arisen during the season: The first of these is the bad name which Luton fans seem to have in some areas. I admit that this is not helped by the actions of a very small minority but the kneejerk reaction of certain police forces and football clubs when Luton

are visiting is atrocious. As an example, the police presence when we played Mansfield Town in the first leg of the FA Trophy Semi-Final was out of all proportion. I honestly think that there were more police there than Luton fans (who says there are police cut-backs?!).

I have asked the club to do all they can to promote the good name of most Luton supporters who do not wish to be tarred with the same brush by other clubs eager for a bit of media coverage.

The second point is much more recent and concerns the play-off final. I will accept the argument that a venue for the final was committed to by the board of the Conference long before it was known that it would be Luton and AFC Wimbledon contesting the event, and for this reason alone it easy with hindsight to be critical.

However, what was unacceptable was the pricing structure. If one were to be kind you could argue it was naive, however I think greed had some part in it. I have heard most of the arguments put forward to support the pricing structure but I still believe that asking a non-league supporter to part with a minimum £36 for a ticket, plus £3 booking fee, plus £5.25 for postage, is a scandal. Obviously the timescale between publication of the prices and the final itself meant that real lobbying was limited and I praise Gary Sweet for at least attempting to get some further concessions for hard pressed fans. I think it shows in the suppressed demand for tickets how much impact the prices had.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the supporters' club members. You are only supporters who show your dedication to both a supporters club and the football club by paying a membership each year and I am truly grateful for your continued support. I hope you will all join again for the 2011/12 year, during which surely it must be our time for some good luck!

See you again soon. Enjoy the summer break.

**Best Wishes,  
KEVIN BARRETT (Chairman)**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL... MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL... MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL... MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL...

As the new season approaches, we ask you all to renew your annual membership with the Supporters Club for the 2011/2012 season. There is a membership renewal form enclosed. We look forward to you joining us again for next season!

## LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE • 2010/11

**LTSC President** • Nick Owen  
**LTSC Lifetime Vice President** • Brian Swain  
**Chairman** • Kevin Barrett  
**Vice Chairman** • Mark Chapman  
**General Secretary** • Maureen Barrett  
**Membership Secretary** • Helen Gatward  
**Treasurer** • Ian Kelly  
**Press Officer** • Maureen Ingram  
**T.O.T Co-ordinator** • John Heley  
**Newsletter Editor** • Rob Hadgraft  
**Newsletter Co-ordinator** • Helen Gatward

### Additional Committee Members:

Yvonne Fletcher, John Pyper, Janice Giddins, Brian Giddins, Emma Gale, Gareth Lemin.

We are always on the lookout for members to assist us with our 'Town on Tour' away travel service. If you have been a LTSC member for over a year and are interested in helping, visit our kiosk on first team games speak to one of our committee members. Alternatively, call Town on Tour's mobile: 07960 567465.

**If you have any queries regarding membership, or would like to make a change to any of your membership details, like change of address, please call Helen on 07506 320522 or email [ltsc.members@btinternet.com](mailto:ltsc.members@btinternet.com). If you wish to supply an article for future publication, please email [r.hadgraft@btinternet.com](mailto:r.hadgraft@btinternet.com).**

**FOR SUPPORTERS BY SUPPORTERS!**



# Dan's the Man!

## LTSC receive Dan Gleeson's shirt at kit sponsor's dinner

As some of you may be aware, the Luton Town Supporters Club sponsored the home kit for Dan Gleeson this season. Sponsoring a player's kit has been something that we have done for many, many years now, and this year I was extremely grateful to be able to go along to the kit sponsor's dinner with Mark Chapman on behalf of LTSC to collect Dan's shirt.

The Kit Sponsor's Dinner was held in The Riverside Suite at Vauxhall Recreation Centre on Thursday 12th May. I managed to leave work early so I could get home and get myself ready as being shirt sponsors, we had to arrive by 6.15pm to be able to collect our shirt. Upon arrival we were greeted at the door and came in to champagne and bucks fizz and told we were sitting on Table 10 with our sponsored player. We also saw lots of familiar faces from within the football club, and also recognised many supporters who were also kit sponsors and, of course, all of the Luton squad were present and talking amongst themselves, all looking dapper in suits! (Mark Tyler seemed to be the only player missing and we are not sure why!) Also in attendance for the evening was the management team along with 1959 Cup Final players Ron Baynham, Billy Bingham, Ken Hawkes and John Groves, who all looked really well, along with old Hatters favourites Mark Aizlewood, Marlon Beresford, marvellous Marvin Johnson and super Kevin Nicholls.

It was our turn for official photographs soon after we arrived, and as you can see in the picture to the right, myself and Mark received the 125th Anniversary shirt from Dan. We spoke to him for a while after the photograph, and he is a really lovely down-to-earth guy who values his football and was really looking forward to the play-off final. As the evening was held only 2 days after we qualified for the play-off final, spirits were high among all the players and everyone seemed happy!

Everyone was seated and host for the evening, Kirk Stephens, was in fine form! He had everyone laughing and kept confusing everyone as he was referring to the play-off final being on Saturday, when in fact it was a week Saturday! The older players were introduced by Roger Wash and they all stood up and acknowledged everyone.

The evening seemed to go very quickly and before we knew it, it was time for the dinner to be served, which I must add was really delicious! I did notice that Dan seemed to be on his best behaviour, sticking to a soft drink and not eating his chocolate cake, where as other players were washing dinner down with wine and eagerly tucking into the cake with added cream!

After the dinner, it was time for a question and answer session with Gary Brabin, Dmitri Kharine and Alan Nielsen. It was very humorous with Kirk taking the mickey out of Gary and pretending to translate what he was saying because of his Scouse accent! Dimi also got a translation from Kirk then it was Gary who needed a translation as he didn't understand what Kirk said! Dimi was very funny, and didn't like to talk about the past - to him, the past is in the past and he doesn't need to talk about that - he concentrates on the future. Gary Brabin also admitted he doesn't join in too much with the players on the training ground as he doesn't want to show them up!

An auction was also on the agenda for the night with Simon 'Statto' Pitts hosting this part of the night. He did a fantastic job of auctioning off some brilliant items and raising a massive amount of money.



Myself and Mark Chapman receiving our sponsored shirt from Dan Gleeson

Some of the items up for auction included a 12-seater executive box for half a season, a framed signed shirt by the current squad, a framed shirt by the legends, an original 1959 Cup Final programme signed by the 4 players who were there that evening and a signed England C team programme, match ball and picture of Jake Howells, Matthew Barnes-Homer and Amari Morgan-Smith from the international game that was held at Kenilworth Road.

All of the current players plus the former players were called upon to come onto the stage and sign the big LTFC logo banner which already has a whole host of signatures on from the Anniversary Dinner. Kirk also spoke to a few of the players, the more notable ones were Keith Keane who said he wanted the play-off final match to be tomorrow as he was so eager to get out there and just get on with it and play it, and Claude's speech, telling everyone how they all looked lovely tonight! (a little too much wine maybe?!)

The given consensus from a few of the players I spoke to that evening was that the management style of Gary Brabin was much more relaxed than Richard Money's style as he tended to give specific instruction where as Gary get's them to go out and enjoy themselves on the pitch and is seeming to give them all more responsibility. It seems Brabin has also brought the squad together more, getting them to socialise together and has brought some of the quieter players out of their shells.

All in all, this was a very entertaining, interesting and worthwhile evening to attend. If you haven't been to one before, it is something you should save your pennies up for and do as it is a great experience and a great night out with fellow supporters, players and management.

Luton Town Football Club has something about it, there is something to love and that is why I support them, probably much like you. I'm not sure how many other clubs allow you to be part of things like this but to see everyone in one room for an evening, including the likes of Nico and Marvin happily chatting with old friends and us the supporters, it makes me realise why I love the club and why so many of us support them.

*Helen Gatward  
LTSC Committee Member*



# PAROLE DENIED

**Luton Town's 2010/11 season  
reviewed by guest writer**

**DAVID MOSQUE**

(Visit Mr Mosque's blog at:  
<http://davidmosque.blog.co.uk>)

MY thanks to LTSC chairman Kevin Barrett and editor Rob Hadgraft for inviting me to pen my thoughts on the season just ended.

I only wish it was in happier circumstances, for Saturday 21st May was going to be the celebration of our redemption, our re-admittance to the Football League. But, instead, parole was denied, our open-ended sentence to dwell in the prison of non-league extended. The footballing anachronism has been perpetuated. The ludicrous position of having a team that should be two divisions above -and could be three - continues. Having Luton Town in non-league is like having a big, hulking, 16-year-old lad sitting in a class full of 11-year-olds, held back for remedial work, year on year. Brutally funny for some, but painful for those enduring it.

## Sufficient punishment?

Haven't we been punished enough? I was rather hoping that this piece was going to mark and end to the whole sorry episode in tier five. And it would have been so fitting too - the final game in the Blue Square Premier League against the same opponents as the first. It wasn't to be. It will be ironic for Wimbledon too: their last game in non-league was against a team probably much better than the majority of teams waiting for them in League Two.

The season had started so promisingly. Pre-season thumpings of Newcastle and Liverpool XIs suggested that the side had real promise and an ability to play bright football. Richard Money, given the pre-season he yearned for and armed with a selection of promising new players, would surely repeat, or at least allude to the excellent form shown at the end of the previous season. Surely the tenacity and passing of Adam Murray, the quality of Andy Drury coupled with the fire-power of Craddock, backed up with the talents of Crow, Gallen and MBH would be the dream ticket back to the Promised Land?

In truth, the league season never quite clicked. We never quite hit our straps. We never quite got back into the same unencumbered attacking belief in ourselves which we had demonstrated in March 2010. The early season was promising, without being entirely convincing, but it didn't build to anything. From January onwards, we didn't record more than two consecutive league wins, and for any side hoping to be promoted that is not good enough - for a club of our size in non-league it is very poor.

While some fans had always had lingering doubts about Richard Money's managerial style, alarm bells began to ring in earnest for the rest of us when

Tom Craddock left the club in August. Tom maintained he didn't want to go. It was Richard Money's deliberately flippant treatment of him which forced him out. Craddock, the previous campaign's top scorer was actively sidelined by Money, in some sort of contrived mind-game. He had clearly promised first team berths to Crow and MBH and hadn't figured a way of keeping all of his strikers happy. Sure, no one was guaranteed a start, but a bit of respect, common sense and communication would surely have diffused the situation.

Instead, when Craddock questioned why he had been sidelined, Money questioned his loyalty to the cause - this riled TC further into an outburst which resulted in the manager telling him that he wasn't bigger than the team and could "get stuffed" or words to that effect. Tommy did, thinking that there wasn't a future for him, and Money's bluff was called, Craddock hot-footing it to Oxford in the blink of an eye. The losers were Luton Town, yet again. A spectacular, foolish and unnecessary own-goal.

Along with Drury, Murray and Crow, the close season saw Dan Walker signed after playing well against us for Bedford, and Czechs Zdenek Kroca and Pavel Besta. While Kroca adjusted quickly and soon became a reliable and enormous rock at the heart of the defence, his compatriot, seemingly signed on the back of one huff-and-puff display against Newcastle, was never up to the required standard. Besta was quietly released in January. The reaction to his (and the team's) performance away to Tamworth led to an undignified incident between Richard Money and those in the crowd behind him. Another alarm bell.



**\* MBH after netting the winner at Barrow.**

# ONCE AGAIN . . .

We had started the season with five 'defensive' midfielders, but after Kevin Nicholls' quiet and dignified retirement in August, Adam Murray left for Mansfield after only two months and once Besta was released we were down to the ever-reliable and committed Keith Keane and Godfrey 'On Fire' Poku. Thank the Lord Keane stayed fit. Paul Carden joined to 'bolster' the midfield in February - but fortunately was only limited to eight starts, and while he was able to read the game well, his fitness and speed often sold him short.

The season saw pleasing progress for a number of existing squad members: Freddie Murray, though he missed a chunk of the season with injury made real progress at left-back. Jake Howells, picked for England C, often covered for Murray, but also played left wing (where once again he excelled), in the centre of midfield alongside Keano, and on the left of a middle three. I truly hope we can hold on to him this summer.

## Sound as a pound

A late entry into the pleasing progress category is a certain Mr Edward Asafu-Adjaye. Three years ago, after an encouraging loan spell at Salisbury we appeared to have an excellent prospect on our hands. Ed's game was seemingly on the up, he was first choice right-back in the division above where we are now and he put in a strong performance against Scunthorpe in the JP Trophy final. Then, for whatever reason, Mr Money took a dislike to him, and just left him out. Once Gary Brabin was in charge, he was rushed back from loan at Histon and did well enough out of position covering at left back to win the place on merit for the Wrexham games, and the play off final, and picked up a better player than where he left off.

Of the more established players, captain George Pilkington was as sound as a pound. Apart from a short mixed period mid-way through the season, was at his imperious best for the remainder. In the final against Wimbledon his display was nigh on flawless.

Matthew Barnes-Homer was leading scorer, but didn't go on a hot streak after his initial burst. He attracts mixed support among the fans. His style gives off the appearance of not trying when we know he does. He was leading scorer of course, but without sounding too cruel he missed so many chances through the season that you've got to wonder whether other players, given the same opportunity would have had thirty or more goals. I'm not being unfair. The kid has got an eye for goal (remember the winner against Stevenage?) but just scores a lower percentage of his opportunities. As soon as Brabin took over, Money's favourites MBH and Owusu were relegated to the bench and beyond.

Keith Keane is an immense player at our club. His desire to rise out of the mire of non-league was truly apparent and almost tangible in the semi-final and final. He worked hard in the centre of midfield all season, tackling hard, closing down, breaking up attacks and distributing the ball well. Towards the end of April he was looking tired, which was hardly surprising. Fortunately after a game off, his batteries

were recharged for the Wrexham games, and the ten days off between the second leg and the final gave him time to recover too. He needs a rest in the summer. Of all of our players I am most sorry for him that we didn't go up. He's done nothing wrong, just given his all, all season and deserved the ultimate prize.

Claude Gnaka was, well, Claude. He treated us to moments of brilliance, but also some side splittingly lovable but dozy clumsiness. He bagged 15 goals too which is outstanding - but Claude, oh Claude - please remember to track back: poor Dan Gleeson is so exposed when you stay up the pitch.

Last but not least was Mark Tyler. Time, time and time again he saved us with saves unbecoming of a keeper at this level. A great shot stopper - he has fantastic positional sense and, when permitted, a keenness to distribute to the defenders. The only weak point in his game is that the direction on his kicking is sometimes awry. But if it was perfect he'd be playing two or three divisions above. So our loss, is our gain, if you see what I mean. Well done MT - deserved player of the season.

Richard Money was a manager whose squad was never quite big enough. Despite a plethora of strikers, in addition to attacking players such as Dan Walker and JJ O'Donnell (who would both walk into most teams in the division) he needed more. And more. And more. Taiwo Atieno signed at the start of September scored seven and was gone by February. Amari Morgan-Smith was brought in at the end of September, only to be played out of position. Despite this, before his injury he was very lively and showed us why he had been scoring goals for fun at Ilkeston Town. Jason Walker arrived in November, and at

*(Continues on Page 6)*



**\* Jason Walker and Robbie Wilmott celebrate JW's 90th-minute goal in the 3-3 draw at Kidderminster.**



# So frustrating...

(Continued from Page 5)

that point in time was the league's leading goalscorer. He was soon made to warm the bench.

The final forward signed this season was Lloyd Owusu in January who was signed as a 'target man'. And he did a job to a certain extent (a record of seven goals in 15 games is not to be sneezed at) but his presence in the team made it too easy for us to play the long ball. A team full of footballers was soon reduced to lumping it towards the big man and our confidence, style and form evaporated; mirroring the evaporation of the adherence to fast-paced attacking, passing football.

It is too easy to get the keeper to lump it up the middle. It is the poor man's game - the last refuge of the scoundrel. When all else fails revert to whacking it up the middle because we can all do that and it is easy. By picking and playing up to Owusu in this way showed that Richard Money had run out of ideas. His bold words and good intentions were dashed into the fire.

## Unfathomable

It was unfathomable. Money had shown us he knew how we should be playing at the tail end of the previous campaign when Simon Heslop had shot a bolt of passion and ability into the midfield and team. But that was never quite replicated this term, apart from occasional sporadic bouts such as the away performance at Fleetwood and home games against Forest Green, York, Darlington and Histon and the excellent spirited cup display against Charlton.

Sorry to hark back again, but hindsight would suggest that that golden month of March 2010 was in spite of - rather than because of - Money's influence and more down to Mr Heslop's presence.

That glimpse of how it could be only served to heap additional pressure onto the team this season. We'd done it once, so why were we so ham-fisted in our attempts to replicate that form this season?

Though we had plenty of wins in the season overall, indifferent performances at home led to unacceptable bouts of booing from a handful of fans. Games where we should have strolled to victory we either stumbled to a narrow win or drew against woefully weak opposition.

Andy Drury leaving for Ipswich at the end of January was ultimately a big blow, as he was a genuinely class player. We had brought in Alex Lawless and Robbie Willmott. Both are good players demonstrating plenty of potential, but we can only speculate as to how a full season with likes of Drury, Murray and Craddock would have turned out. Kevin Gallen had bowed out quietly at the end of January having been poorly treated, his intelligent link-up play seemingly unwanted this season.

This campaign saw Luton record only two wins in 12 games between March 13 and April 19. For 13 games from February 4 we scored more than one goal in only one game. By the time we reached the end of

March the rot had most definitely set in. The players were flat, listless, uninspired and seemingly overburdened with tactics: the memory cache was full - they needed a reboot. And shortly after a woefully poor performance at Southport on the Saturday, Money had gone by the Monday lunchtime.

He was replaced by the heir presumptive Gary Brabin, who had ten games to stamp his personality on the team and install belief and momentum into the team's performance. He didn't quite manage that in his run-up to the semis (though the 6-0 win against Southport and comfortable wins against Eastbourne and Histon showed promise), but the team truly responded in the semi-final against Wrexham.

An unfettered, unburdened first half saw the Hatters take a 3-0 lead, which could so easily have been five or six. Suddenly we had clicked. A nervy but entertaining second-leg saw the rarity of coming from a goal down to secure a 5-1 aggregate victory, player of the season Mark Tyler once again demonstrating his heroic and game-changing abilities with a penalty save which proved the turning point.

This set up the game at Eastlands on May 21, where both sides largely cancelled each other out - but nevertheless we carved out enough chances to win. But alas it wasn't to be. If only we had been awarded a penalty . . . or if Jason Walker's header had gone an inch further to the right . . . or for that matter if he'd decided to actually blast his penalty in the shoot out . . . Wimbledon had failed to score a goal against us in 300 minutes of football - yet they won the prize of promotion.

So what of the future? If he wants, Brabin will surely get the opportunity to lead the team next year and to demonstrate that the Wrexham away performance was the norm and not a blip.

How many of our better players will keep patience with us in non-league I'm not sure. The attraction of playing in front of 6,500 fans each week as opposed to half as many, two divisions above, can only last for so long. If good players leave and are replaced by non-league journeymen rather than Football League aspirants then there is a danger that we might meld into the batch of former League clubs eking out their existence in non-league.

We absolutely must remain the big club in this division, actively vying for top spot. I know the board and Gary Brabin will have that ambition - it is finding an effective way to put that ambition into practice that is the key. It will have to be third-time lucky.

The final at Manchester was a microcosm of our season. Glimpses of brilliance, frustrating at times, but ultimately the inability to stick the ball in the net costing us dearly.

Come on you Hatters!

**DAVID MOSQUE**

\* Check out DM's blog 'For God's Sake What Now?', regularly updated with views on the latest LTFC news. Find it at: <http://davidmosque.blog.co.uk>

# THE TROPHY IS IN SAFE HANDS!

## LTSC 2010/2011 PLAYER OF THE SEASON PRESENTATION EVENING ROUND-UP

This year was my third attempt at organising the Player of the Season Presentation Evening. So was it third time lucky? Kind of! It was easier than last year but with a few problems along the way to stall us, myself and my working committee got there eventually!

Our preparation again started very early on when we secured the date with the Riverside Suite back in October. Once the date was chosen and a deposit was paid, I got organised and had updated the invite/voting letters plus leaflet by December so they were ready to post in February.

This year, we decided to use the help of the football club to secure a guest speaker. As we were unsuccessful last year, we knew that we didn't have time to waste trying to contact ex-players ourselves, so with the help of David Hoskins, we had Kirk Stephens booked as the guest speaker in early March.

We organised the disco with Jim Carway of Diverse FM, and sent letters out to local companies to see if any would be generous to donate prizes for the raffle. By April we had some great prizes coming from easyJet with return flights to any destination from Luton Airport, 2 tickets to watch England against Holland at Wembley kindly donated by Vauxhall. We also had a season ticket, signed shirt and signed football donated by the football club, a meal for 2 from the Balcony Bar, a £50 voucher for MOTest Autocare and a return Limousine trip from AJS Limousines amongst other prizes. Without the generosity from these people, we would not have such fantastic prizes available to win, so we thank all those who kindly donated prizes to us.

Three weeks before the event, I received a phone call from Kirk Stephens, he was now unable to make it as our Guest Speaker and couldn't apologise enough for letting us down. That's when my panic kicked in! We finally secured a guest speaker 5 days before the big night! Wayne Turner was so lovely and kindly agreed to come along at such short notice, hoping we didn't mind if he didn't turn up till the interval as he had a family party that day. Of course we didn't mind, we were so grateful he was coming along that the time he arrived didn't matter!

Towards the end of April, ticket sales were going well and all votes had been received and counted, replica trophies were ordered and the main trophies were collected from the club and sent off for engraving. The AV presentation was put together, winners cards were made, table cards were sent off to print and balloons and table confetti had been ordered!

One big change to the format of the evening was the host after Ian Pearce had sadly passed away. He had been a big part of the presentation evening for many years and did a fantastic job of hosting the evenings, so there was no question about it when after hearing the sad news, we introduced a new trophy - the Ian Pearce Memorial Trophy. With this trophy in place, a part of Ian will be part of the Presentation Evenings for many years to come.

The big day arrived and at 1pm the working committee met at Vauxhall to set up. The room was very unorganised much to our disappointment, so we ended up getting out tables and chairs ourselves before we could even start decorating tables with



The 2010/2011 Presentation Evening Winners

football confetti, balloons and table cards! With everything in place, we allocated the players to tables and went home to get ourselves ready!

The doors opened at 7pm and supporters flocked in and spent time chatting to players, with some collecting autographs and having photos taken. At 8pm, host for the evening Simon Pitts got everyone to be seated with each table then finding out which player they had joining them. The evening got under way with a welcome from Kevin Barrett, Supporters Club chairman, as Nick Owen was sadly not very well and unable to make it. We then went into a fitting tribute to Ian Pearce before announcing the winner of the very first Ian Pearce Memorial Trophy, which was to the current LTFC player who had won the man of the match award the most times this season. George Pilkington was the recipient and seemed very humble at winning the award. The next award was Goal of the Season, which proved to be very interesting... I received votes for 19 different goals in total, ranging from Andy Drury's goal at Charlton, Robbie Willmott's goal against Kidderminster and Jake Howells' goal against Kettering to Freddie Murray's first ever goal! But the trophy was taken by Dan Walker for the one and only goal he scored for Luton this season at home to Forest Green in October! A stunned Dan looked a little embarrassed at winning the award and told us he thought Robbie's goal was better than his and in fact, a goal he scored while out on loan was better than the winning goal! So more of the goals to come please Dan!

Young Luton Town Player of the Season was next, and it was no surprise that the trophy was once again presented to Jake Howells for the 3rd year running! We try to collect the main trophies at the end of the night so we can return them to the trophy cabinet. This year he remembered and brought his trophy to me, and jokingly said, maybe I should just keep it seeing as it's only me that's winning it! The next award was for the Players' Player of the season. This award is voted for by the players and was pretty close to be fair. With only 4 votes in it, captain George Pilkington won it for the second consecutive season!

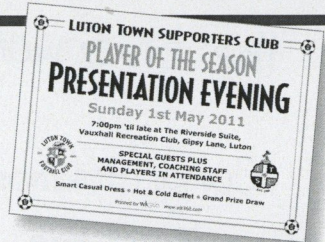
The interval came next, and everyone tucked into the delicious hot and cold buffet while stocking up on drinks and chatting amongst fellow supporters. After the interval, the grand prize draw took place which sent some very lucky and happy supporters home with their prizes. New for this year was a one-off auction to raise money for SOLYD. Simon did a fantastic job in raising £400 in total as we had 2 items to auction off in the end. The first was a meal for two at the Houses of Parliament courtesy of Lord MacKenzie and there was also a signed Luton shirt from youngster Cauley Woodrow who has now signed for Fulham.

Moving back onto the awards and it was time for the SOLYD Youth Development Player of the Season. Alex Lacey was the proud winner and collected his trophy and spoke to Simon very confidently, definitely one to look out for in the future! With the help of Andrew Barringer, I collected the votes for Internet Player of the Season. There was a very clear winner when Andrew sent me the results and he said that this year, he had received the biggest number of votes in total than any other year! Mark Tyler was the player who stormed the leader board. The young LTSC members get a chance to vote for their player of the season too, and this year it was Matthew Barnes-Homer who won the kids' vote! Top goal scorer at the club this season obviously went down well with the youngsters! The main trophy for the night was the LTSC Player of the Season as voted for by you, and again, there was a clear winner for this one and I think everyone in the room that night agreed that he was the deserved winner... Mark Tyler! The 2 trophies he won are certainly in safe hands!

To finish off the evening, we had some words from Gary Sweet as Gary Brabin was also not able to make the evening, and then guest speaker Wayne Turner did a great job of entertaining everyone with his chat to club historian Roger Wash.

This finished off what was a great night that was (hopefully) enjoyed by all! To finish, I'd like to pass my thanks to the rest of my working committee Maureen, Jan, Brian, Emma and Gareth. And also to everyone else who helped me along the way.

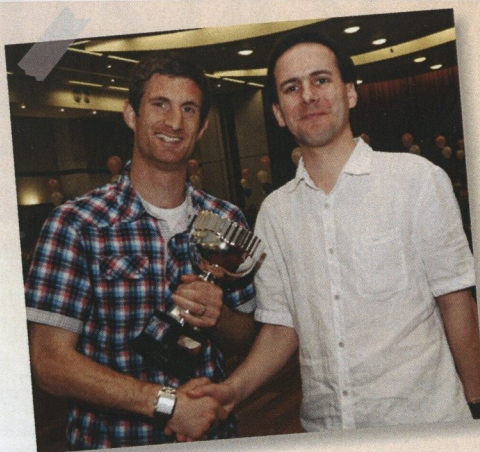
Helen Gatward - LTSC Committee Member





Showing off  
the silverware...

Congratulations  
to all the  
winners!



George Pilkington  
The Ian Pearce Memorial Trophy  
presented by Simon Pitts



Dan Walker vs Forest Green (H)  
Goal of the Season  
presented by Luton Major Tom Shaw



Jake Howells  
Young Player of the Season  
presented by Alan Neilson and  
trophy sponsor Mark Dille



George Pilkington  
Players' Player of the Season  
presented by Stephen Browne and  
trophy sponsor Mark Dille



Alex Lacey  
SOLYD Player of the Season  
presented by Mandy and Derek of  
The Century Club and Yvonne of SOLYD



Mark Tyler  
Internet Player of the Season  
presented by Wayne Turner



Matthew Barnes-Homer  
Young Members' Player of the Season  
presented by Elizabeth Gatward  
and Lord Mackenzie



Mark Tyler  
LTSC Player of the Season,  
presented by Chairman Kevin Barrett

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