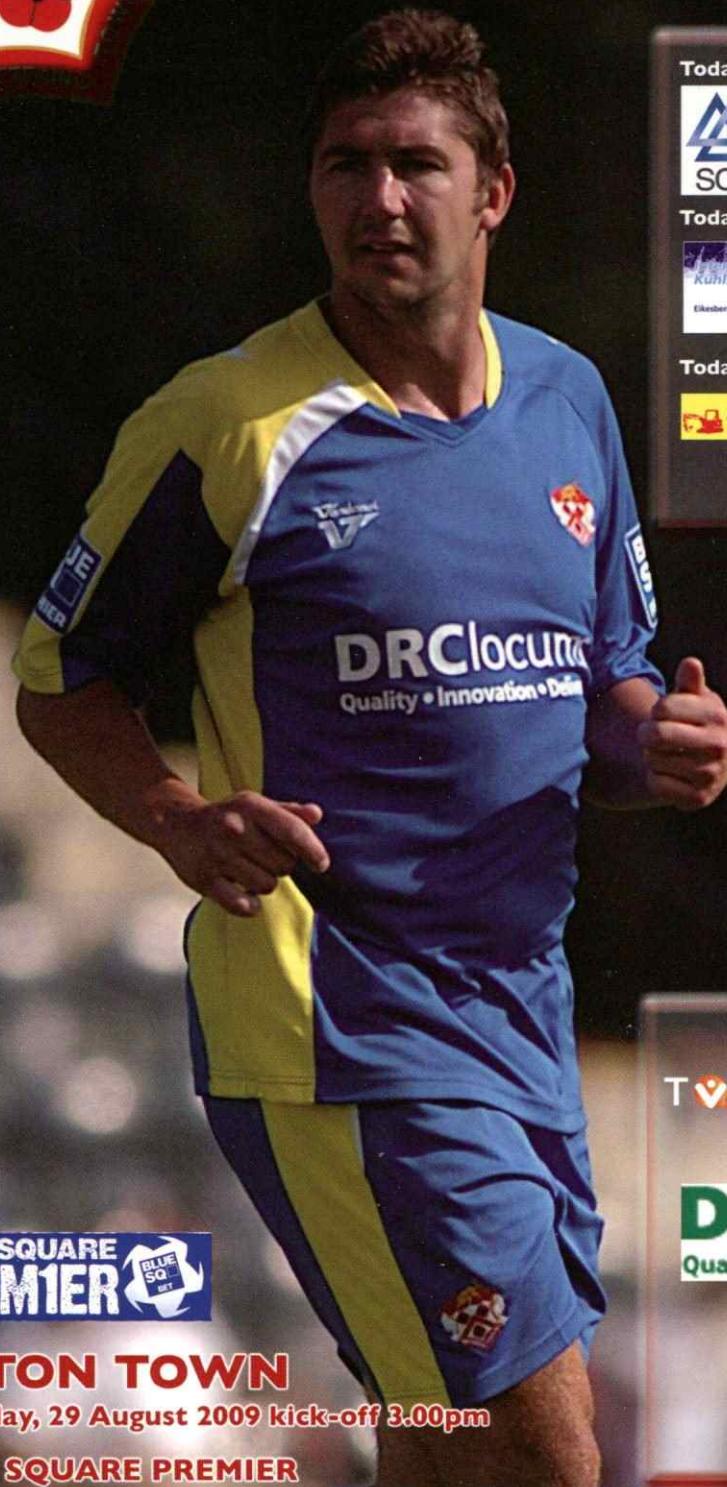


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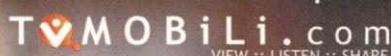
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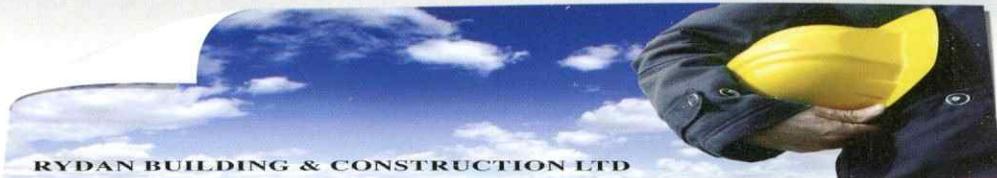
LUTON TOWN

Saturday, 29 August 2009 kick-off 3.00pm

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MARK COOPER

Firstly, a warm welcome to everyone connected with The Hatters, not least my adversary this afternoon Mick Harford. One of the clear title favourites in the BSP, it's a pleasure to welcome all associated with Luton Town to The Elgoods Brewery Arena, that includes what is sure to be a large and vocal away support. We hope you all enjoy your afternoon in Northamptonshire.

August always looked a tough opening for the club but I have been delighted with the work the squad have done so far. To find ourselves with maximum points from our travels is a real boost and the performance at Wrexham last weekend to maintain the record was really great. Across all areas of the park the players put in a real good shift and to score twice at The Racecourse was a real credit to our attacking performance. If I was going to be a little picky about things I would, of course, have liked to have seen the team keep a clean sheet.

As if the month so far has not been challenging enough, we now find ourselves with a bank holiday weekend that sees us take on The Hatters and Mansfield Town, making up two of the top three. These two fixtures are sure to test us to the full but I know that my boys will be more than capable of meeting that challenge.

After the home defeat against AFC Wimbledon, I know everyone will be looking to get the home record looking as good as the away one. That will certainly involve some hard

work this afternoon. Everyone is aware of the status of Luton and in every aspect whether it be their fans or their budget they are certainly a football league club. However, the task for Mick's squad this season is to go out and prove on the field that this is the case and I'm sure that he and his players are already realising the size of the task involved in getting out of this division. They should expect nothing less from ourselves this afternoon.

On Monday we visit Field Mill and have the opportunity to match ourselves up against one of the other fancied teams as far as the playoffs are concerned. Mansfield, under David Holdsworth, have had a good start to the season and their home form has been good. So we will have to be on our toes if we are to come back with anything let alone maintain a 100% away record.

Finally, I want to say how much all of us value the support we receive from you the fans whether it be home or away. The noise that you make at key moments can really drive the boys on and the description of a crowd as a twelfth man is no accident. Can I therefore urge as many of you as possible to get your mates to come down to The Elgoods Brewery Arena to watch what I hope is both a successful and entertaining group of footballers. We all have a dream of league football and we all need to do our bit to make it happen – that includes all of you!

The Gaffer





FROM THE BOARDROOM

A warm welcome to the Elgood's Brewery Arena for everyone connected with Luton Town. That a club of Luton's stature is here this afternoon for a league fixture is a sad reflection of their well documented off the field problems that have recently beset them, culminating in three separate points deductions last season. With those issues now finally behind them, it is good that they can at least look forward to a fresh start and with a new sense of optimism.

On the pitch last season, a record of P46 W13 D17 L16 would have secured 15th spot and there was the added prize of a Wembley win in the Johnstones Paint Trophy. Add the fact that they have managed to retain key players and strengthen further and you can see why Luton are rightly favourites to win the BSP. However, they would also provide the biggest scalp for every other club so I have no doubt that they will have to work very hard to achieve that goal.

I write these notes as one of the Club's newly appointed Associate Directors. As a lifelong supporter, I have progressed from season ticket holder to Executive Membership and I was delighted to accept the Club's offer to increase my level of contribution further. With my first game being on Boxing Day 1974 v Cambridge

City, it is fair to say that I have witnessed several of our own off the field problems, none more significant as the current one of securing a new, long term home to which end the Club continues to strive to reach. On the pitch, Coops, supported by the Chairman, has blessed us with two wonderful back to back seasons, the like of which I have not seen before. Thanks to this, we stand once more as a worthy force at Conference level. This season has also started well despite some early tricky fixtures and here comes another right now.

Another lifelong fan of his team is the new chairman of our visitors today, Nick Owen, a man best remembered for his time fronting breakfast tv. At the time of his consortium's rescue, he made some comments which struck a chord with me, especially as our Rockingham Road lease winds down. Followers of the Poppies need only substitute "Kettering" for "Luton" and "Wicksteed Park" for "airport":-

"When you have supported a club all of your life, it's part of who you are....the thought of Saturdays without Luton playing is intolerable. What is the town of Luton famous for?...it's the airport and Luton Town. It's the town's identity ...you might call me old fashioned but I think that the small town club is one of this country's great institutions. It is worth fighting to preserve"

Amen to that.

Gary Foreman
Associate Director

KETTERING TOWN 2009-10
CLUB OFFICIALS
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Fax: 01536 412273
info@ketteringtowntfc.co.uk
www.ketteringtowntfc.co.uk

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Development Director
Ken Samuel

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Amanda de Choisy

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Nicky Eaden

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Club Secretary
Justin Boyd-Navazo

Youth Development Officer
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Simon de Choisy

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Club Doctor

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Safety Officer

David Westley

Groundsman

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Club photographer
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COOKE REPORT

News Update with PAUL COOKE

Good afternoon to everyone from Luton Town, their first visit to the Elgoods Brewery Arena, since a friendly in July 1995, the Poppies winning that encounter 2-1 with goals from Tarkan Mustafa. In their squad that day were Mitchell Thomas, Gary Waddock, Scott Oakes and Dwight Marshall. One name that stands out in the squad listing that day is American goalkeeper Juergen Sommer, who was beginning to make a name for himself with Luton, having played for the Poppies in the 1992-93 season of administration. The popular custodian went on to make his USA debut against England at Wembley Stadium in

September 1994, England won though 2-0 with both goals coming from Alan Shearer. At this time the Kenilworth Road club had ambitious plans to build a 20,000 all seater stadium off Junction 10 of the M1, called the 'Kohler Dome' after their chairman David Kohler. Planning permission was turned down as the club fell into administration and the ground was never developed although I did see some impressive photo's of the futuristic design. The trials and tribulations for the Hatters continued throughout the years and even after last season's gargantuan points deduction that led to their enforced

relegation, the one shining light was winning the Johnson Paint Trophy at Wembley beating Scunthorpe United 3-2 after extra-time. Just a pity special dispensation could not have been approved by the governing bodies, so they could try and defend the trophy.

The game against Luton today is perhaps the biggest game of the season, a bold statement to make so early on, but the Hatters are the undoubtedly favourites to return to the Football League and no-one can really deny them that claim after their well published fall from grace. With the exception of this afternoon's match and the return at Kenilworth Road in December, if we don't get automatic promotion I hope they do. Already Luton have put down a placemat on the title thrashing Mansfield Town 4-1 in front of the 10th highest Conference attendance of all time 7,295, their first in the division. I am sure the games against Oxford United will challenge the U's record Conference attendance of 11,065. We have met Luton competitively before way back though in 1896-97 in the United league and our last



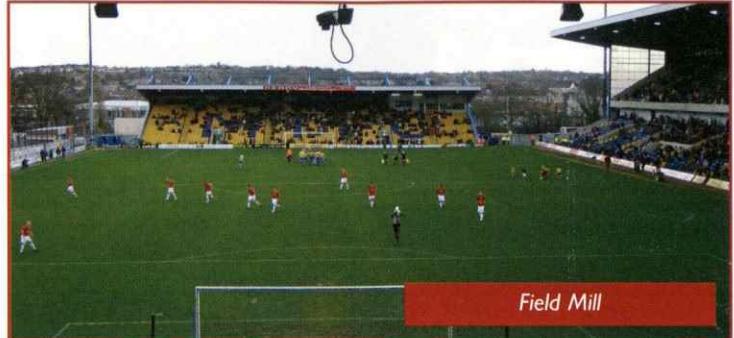
Lil Fuccillo



action against the Hatters in the Southern League during the 1903-04 season.

Our affiliation with Luton continues, last season young Ryan 'Rhino' Charles came to the Poppies on loan in March. He made 9 appearances scoring his only and winning goal, on the final Saturday of the season, as Kettering beat Dean Saunders Wrexham 1-0. This season see's former Hatters central defender Ian Roper up against his former team. 'Ropes' a former Walsall 'Player of the Year', joined Luton from the Saddlers in August 2008, where he soon became a fans favourite, but injury put paid to continuing his impressive start, as competition for places restricted the no-nonsense defender to 19 appearances, scoring 3 goals along the way.

Three other names that stand out as having played or been at both clubs are Lil Fuccillo, Andy Beadsley and mad cap Fred Barber. Full back Fuccillo was a Peter Morris signing from Cambridge United, he soon became the club captain adding that extra bit of class to Morris's side. One of the best dead ball takers the club has seen, it came as quite a shock after just 52 inspirational appearances he left the Poppies at the end of the 1989-90 season dropping a division to join the then up and coming Wivenhoe Town, what ever happened to them? Lil eventually returned to Luton to manage the club before doing the same at Peterborough United, he also was the chief scout at Everton and Leicester City, before becoming the chief scout at Newcastle United.



Field Mill

Goalkeeper Andy Beasley had two spells with the Poppies, both on loan from Mansfield Town. The former Luton Town, Gillingham, Scarborough and Peterborough United shot stopper came to the club in 1989 when loanee keeper Harvey Lim left the club to find fortune in the Orient (not Leyton) and Poppies number one goalie Kevin Shoemake (your in again Shoey) was recovering from injury.

Kevin Shoemake (your in again Shoey) was recovering from injury. His second spell was a brief one as he sustained a knee injury against Gillingham in the 1992-93 FA Cup 1st round clash at Priestfield Park, the Poppies lost 3-2 with former Gills player Ian Docker deputising between the sticks.

Goalkeeper Fred Barber, although he was signed by Luton in 1994, never made an appearance for them due to the upcoming talent of young Kelvin Davis. The former Darlington, Everton Walsall and Peterborough United keeper kept up his reputation of wearing a rubber mask during the warm before a game, he was quite a sight running out at Rockingham Road looking like Quasimodo! 'Take that mask off.. oh you have' was often the cry. On loan from the Posh the eccentric Barber made just 7 appearances for the Poppies

before loan spells at Chesterfield, Ipswich and Blackpool. He also played for Kidderminster Harriers and I believe is currently the goalkeeping coach at Bolton Wanderers.

August has been an interesting month, having played Oxford United, AFC Wimbledon (a surprise package) Kidderminster Harriers, Wrexham, and this afternoon against Luton. Three of these major title contenders and a good bench mark for 'Coops' to assess his squad for the rest of the season. Our result at the Racecourse Ground last Saturday was a superb effort from the lads in what can only be described as a cauldron of passionate intimidation, the fact that we only won 2-1 was lost on the locals, as we should of and deserved to have won by a far greater margin. On Monday we travel to Field Mill, Mansfield, who are already up in the mix and have York City away in September, two other big spending clubs and if we can compete with the likes of these with their tremendous support then to paraphrase Hughie Green (who's that, I can hear some of you saying), 'The Sky's the Limit'!

Come on you REDS



MATCH SPONSORS



If you would like to sponsor a match, matchball or programme please contact
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DATE	OPPOSITION	MATCH SPONSOR	MATCHBALL SPONSOR	PROGRAMME SPONSOR
Wednesday 29 July	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	T. James Electrical Limited	D. R. C Locums	D. R. C Locums
Tuesday 11 August	OXFORD UNITED	Excellent Accounting	G. R. P. Design	Balance Health Club
Saturday 15 August	AFC WIMBLEDON	DRC Locums	Skipping Workshops	Martin Bellamy
Saturday 29 August	LUTON TOWN	SCA Hygiene Products	RTS Roadrunner GmbH	Pino Plant
Saturday 5 September	ALTRINCHAM			
Tuesday 8 September	GATESHEAD			
Tuesday 22 September	BARROW			
Saturday 26 September	EBBSFLEET UNITED			
Saturday 10 October	WREXHAM			
Saturday 31 October	STEVENAGE BOROUGH			
Saturday 21 November	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS			
Tuesday 24 November	HAYES & YEADING UNITED			
Saturday 5 December	SALISBURY CITY			
Saturday 26 December	TAMWORTH			
Saturday 16 January	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS			
Tuesday 19 January	CAMBRIDGE UNITED			
Saturday 30 January	CRAWLEY TOWN			
Saturday 6 February	YORK CITY			
Saturday 20 February	GRAYS ATHLETIC			
Saturday 6 March	CHESTER CITY			
Saturday 20 March	FOREST GREEN ROVERS			
Saturday 27 March	MANSFIELD TOWN			
Monday 5 April	HISTON			
Saturday 17 April	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH			

POPPIES TRUST

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and a warm Poppies Supporters Trust welcome to you all for this eagerly awaited clash against our visitors today from Luton Town.

As expected, The Hatters have come out of the blocks flying in their first season in the Blue Square Premier, but with our own indifferent home form coming into this afternoon's clash the Poppies will certainly be looking to put a halt to any Luton thoughts of opening up a lead at the top of the division.

Despite teams relegated from the Football League usually being installed as pre season favourites by the bookmakers I cannot recall any in recent times that have bounced straight back up as champions since the early days of the promotion/relegation arrangement with Lincoln and Darlington making it back up at the first attempt (others such as Shrewsbury have done it, but via the play offs.)

It all makes for an intriguing prospect in store for us this afternoon and lets give Mark and the boys a great Elgood's Brewery Arena cheer as we hopefully gain our first home league victory of the season.

CLUB200 2009/10

We are delighted to announce that the Club200 has reached 118 members prior to this afternoon's game. This is just 10 shy of last season's total membership and represents a superb effort from all involved.

Today will be your last opportunity to join at a

discounted fee of £42 which will enter you into today's draw at half time and also into the remaining 20 draws to take place over the coming months.

Winners of the club200 so far have been (v. Oxford) number 103, Mr Paul Harris who won £115, and v. AFC Wimbledon number 8, Mr Pete Courtney (£118).

Once again, many thanks to everyone that has entered this season. 118 members gives the Trust income of over £2,700 and this is taken to over £3,000 for a season by the selling of the scratch card in the Tin Hat lounge prior to a home fixture. Many thanks to the regulars in the Tin Hat that have a flutter.

SPONSOR A GOAL 2009/10

The Poppies Trust is seeking to raise further funds for the Club by introducing a new

Competition for the 2009/10 season. We are seeking supporters who will pledge to pay a minimum of 50p per goal scored by the first team in all competitive matches. Supporters may, of course sponsor each goal for more than 50p!

Pledges received will be used by the Trust to continue assisting the football club in relocating to a brand new stadium and the ultimate aim of achieving promotion to the Football League.

10% of all monies pledged will be donated to the Cransley Hospice.

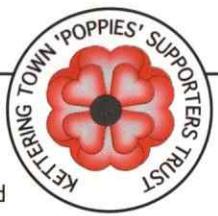
Pledges will be collected at intervals throughout the season, at the end of October, January and then at the end of the season.

We'll keep a running total as we go along and contact everyone at the appropriate time by email, text or phone.

If you would like a sponsor form please contact us at kfc_trust@hotmail.com or a form can be downloaded from our website www.poppiestrust.com

RELAUNCH OF KETTERING MARKET PLACE

The relaunch of the market-place, by Kettering Borough Council, takes place



POPPIES TRUST



over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Trust will have a stall in the Museum gardens on Sunday 30 August from midday to 5pm. There will be a chance to win a prize in the football skills competition as well as an opportunity to see some of the memorabilia archive on display. We are hoping that one or two players may be able to pop along for an hour and Champ the Lion should be making an appearance.

Please pop along to help celebrate our place in the history of Kettering Town.

DESIGN A SHIRT COMPETITION

The Trust ran this competition throughout the duration of the exhibition at the Manor House Museum and the three winners were as follows:

First Prize – Emily Spain – Junior Season Ticket:
Second Prize – Joe Friess – Replica Poppies

Shirt:
Third Prize – Tia Walters – Poppies

Scarf and Mug:

Well done to the three winners and a special mention to those who made the top 9 – Josh McGreavey, George Haycock, Rhianna Smith, Rebekah Bennett-Neild, Rhys Gavan and Sean Lenton.

Well done to everyone else who took part in the competition (over 90 entries!).

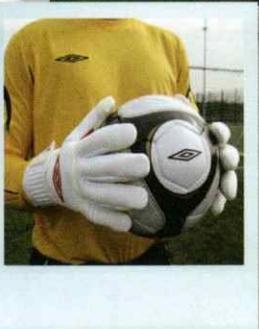
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COMMERCIALLY SPEAKING

A comment from the new Commercial Director,
LEE THORN

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to you all to the Elgoods Brewery Arena for today's Blue Square Premier match with Luton Town FC from the commercial team and myself.

After a great win at Wrexham on Saturday the players are settling in well and seem to be on a roll. With some tough ties behind us we undoubtedly face our toughest test today in the form of Luton Town FC the leagues big spenders and without reservation the leagues biggest club, this seasons strongly backed title challengers will surely be a thorough examination.

The sponsors lounge for today's game is full to the brim and with this in mind id like to extend the offer to all our supporters and poppies family to sample the pre-match hospitalities on offer here at the Elgoods a special offer price of £40 per person for the next 3 home games against Altrincham, Gateshead and Barrow will apply to try and entice new and old faces back into the lounge... For the price you will receive a full service 3 course meal... Match ticket and seating in the directors area... Matchday programme... Personal briefing by the manager and the chance to meet a player/s of your choice. If the offer is well backed the club will continue to offer it for the course of the season.

On to today's Match Sponsor. **SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

SCA Hygiene Products UK Ltd is a manufacturer of disposable hygiene products, employing nearly 1,000 people in the UK. It is a market leader in its field having brands such as Velvet, Plenty, Tena, Bodyform and Tork in its portfolio. SCA's high social and environmental standards have made them one of the 100 most sustainable companies in the world (Innovest Strategic Value Advisors 2008). SCA Hygiene Products UK Ltd is part of SCA AB a Swedish company: www.sca.com. We welcome Paul Bailey and his guests today and wish them a great afternoon.

And today's Ball Sponsor **RTS ROADRUNNER GMBH**

RTS ROADRUNNER GMBH is a specialist haulage company concentrating in the food and palletized transport sector. They offer a complete logistics solution ranging from chilled and frozen trailers to fresh and frozen cold storage facilities at their

new Osnabruck site offering a cross-docking and full pick and pack service. They truly offer a one-company one-solution service. Whilst working in partnership with RTS ROADRUNNER you will be drawing from over sixty years of experience in the haulage and logistics sector, ensuring your business is well supported from a professional workforce. RTS take pride in achieving performance levels not only expected by our customers, but by yours. For further information please contact Lee Thorn on 07969174044. www.rts-roadrunner.de

And today's Programme Sponsor **PINO PLANT**

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If you would like a quote, or more information about Pino Plant, please do not hesitate to get in touch Contact Pino on 07836382315 Once again a warm welcome is extended to Pino and his guests.

As with all of the clubs sponsors please support them as they continue to support us!

And finally I am pleased to announce the new look Poppies programme has arrived in the new B5 format offering you the supporter a quality product and better value for money the new format is here to stay in a bid to increase sales. I would like to say a huge thank you to Paul Cooke for all his hard work in putting the programme together; his enthusiasm never ceases to amaze me.

Enjoy the game

Lee Thorn
Commercial Director



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2 - Programme Sponsor - Martin Bellamy with Lee Thorn.
3 - Guess the gate winner - Martin Bellamy with Lee Thorn.
4 - Man of the Match - Exodus Geohaghon with Arefa and Lee.

COMMERCIALLY SPEAKING

MATCHDAY CATEGORIES

CATEGORY TEAMS

A	Oxford United, Wimbledon, Luton Town, Wrexham, Stevenage Borough, Kidderminster Harriers, Tamworth, Rushden & Diamonds, Cambridge United, York City, Chester City, Mansfield Town
B	Altrincham, Ebbsfleet United, Salisbury City, Crawley Town, Forest Green Rovers, Histon
C	Gateshead, Barrow, Hayes & Yeadling, Grays Athletic, Eastbourne Borough

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LOCATION	FRIENDLY	A	B	C	SEASON
MAIN STAND (ADULT)	£8	£18	£16	£10	£300
MAIN STAND (SENIOR CITIZEN)	£6	£14	£12	£8	£232
MAIN STAND (JUNIOR)	£3	£7	£6	£4	£67
TERRACE (ADULT)	£7	£16	£14	£9	£266
TERRACE (SENIOR CITIZEN)	£5	£12	£10	£6	£194
TERRACE (JUNIOR)	£2	£6	£5	£3	£56

These categories will also apply for any FA Cup/Trophy games unless otherwise communicated by the club.

**Students providing a valid 2009/10 NUS Card (available online from 3rd August 2009) along with another official form of Picture ID will be able to purchase a season ticket at the same price as a senior citizen.*

FIXTURES

DATE	TEAM	CATEGORY
Tuesday 11 August	Oxford United	A
Saturday 15 August	AFC Wimbledon	A
Saturday 29 August	Luton Town	A
Saturday 5 September	Altrincham	B
Tuesday 8 September	Gateshead	C
Tuesday 22 September	Barrow	C
Saturday 26 September	Ebbsfleet United	B
Saturday 10 October	Wrexham	A
Saturday 24 October	FA CUP 4th Qualifying Round	TBA
Saturday 31 October	Stevenage Borough	A
Saturday 7 November	FA CUP 1st Round Proper	TBA
Saturday 21 November	Kidderminster Harriers	A
Tuesday 24 November	Hayes & Yeadling United	C
Saturday 28 November	FA CUP 2nd Round Proper	TBA
Saturday 5 December	Salisbury City	B
Saturday 12 December	FA TROPHY 1st Round Proper	TBA
Saturday 26 December	Tamworth	A
Saturday 9 January	FA TROPHY 2nd Round Proper	TBA
Saturday 16 January	Rushden & Diamonds	A
Tuesday 19 January	Cambridge United	A
Saturday 30 January	Crawley Town	B
Saturday 6 February	York City	A
Saturday 20 February	Grays Athletic	C
Saturday 6 March	Chester City	A
Saturday 20 March	Forest Green Rovers	B
Saturday 27 March	Mansfield Town	A
Monday 5 April	Histon	B
Saturday 17 April	Eastbourne Borough	C



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Lee Harper

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Shorts	www.be-eco2.com
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Nicky Eaden

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The Ladies of the Lounge**James Jennings**

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Away Kit

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Shorts	all the best for the season
Socks	Malcolm & Aaron Lever of Grange United FC

Darren Wrack

Home Kit

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Shorts	Mick & Steve Eady
Socks	available please call 07591312758

Exodus Geogaghon

Home Kit

Away Kit

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Socks	available please call 07591312758

John Dempster

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Away Kit

Shirt	Louie & Lily Thorn
Shorts	Mark Severn
Socks	Andy Knight

Francis Green

Home Kit

Away Kit

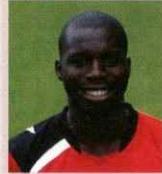
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Shorts	Bryony Gates
Socks	Hazel King

Lee Fowler

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Away Kit

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Home Kit

Away Kit

Shirt	Graham Windsor
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Socks	available please call 07591312758

Jean-Paul Marna

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07591312758**Jamie Yates**

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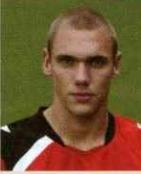
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Away socks £15

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Picture: Philip Hollobone MP wearing KTFC's tie in
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POPPIES STATS

APPEARANCES 2009/10

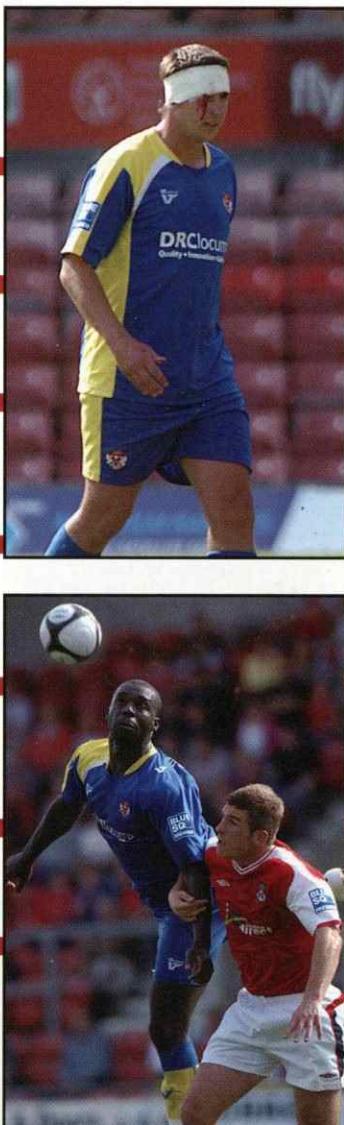
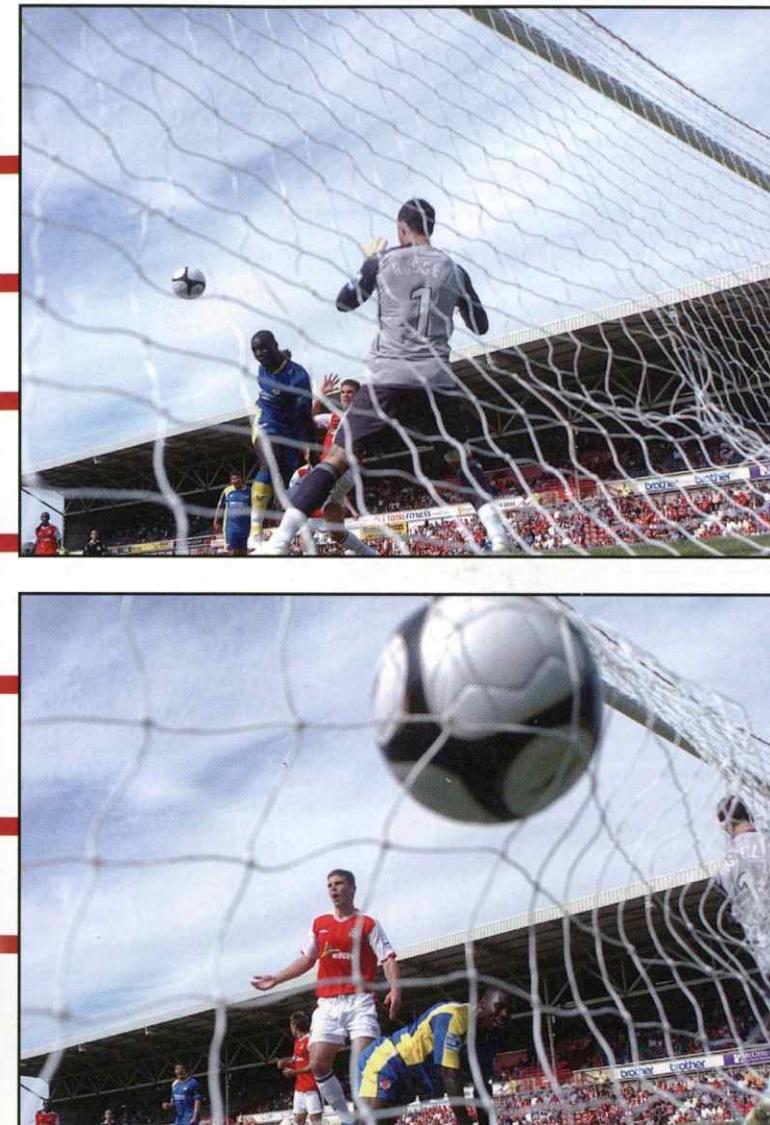
	BSP	FAC	FAT	P/OFFS	TOTAL APPS	BSP GLS	FAC GLS	FAT GLS	P/OFFS GLS	TOTAL GLS
Beswick					0					0
Boucaud	5				5					0
Cooper					0					0
Cooper N					0					0
Dempster	2 (3)				2 (3)					0
Eaden	5				5					0
Fowler	5				5					0
Geohaghon	5				5					0
Green	5				5					0
Harper	5				5					0
Jennings	5				5					0
Marna	2 (3)				2 (3)	4				4
McPike	0 (1)				0 (1)					0
Noubissie	4				4	1				1
Roper	4				4					0
Seddon	3 (1)				3 (1)					0
Spencer	4				4	1				1
Taylor					0					0
Thomas	1 (4)				1 (4)	1				1
Wrack	0 (3)				0 (3)					0
Yates					0					0
TOTALS	5				5	8				8

LEAGUE TABLE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Oxford Utd	5	3	0	0	8	2	1	1	0	5	4	7	13
2 Mansfield	5	3	0	0	11	1	1	0	1	2	4	8	12
3 Luton	5	2	1	0	6	2	1	1	0	2	1	5	11
4 AFC Wimbledon	5	1	1	0	5	1	2	0	1	3	2	5	10
5 Altrincham	5	1	1	1	3	3	2	0	0	5	1	4	10
6 Kettering	5	0	1	1	2	3	3	0	0	5	2	2	10
7 Crawley Town	5	2	0	1	5	5	1	0	1	1	4	-3	9
8 Rushden & D'monds	5	2	0	1	6	5	0	2	0	1	1	1	8
9 Histon	5	1	1	1	5	4	1	0	1	4	2	3	7
10 Cambridge Utd	5	0	0	2	0	3	2	1	0	7	3	1	7
11 Kidderminster	5	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	7
12 Eastbourne Borough	5	2	1	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	4	-2	7
13 Stevenage	5	1	1	0	4	1	0	2	1	2	3	2	6
14 Wrexham	4	2	0	1	5	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	6
15 Tamworth	4	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	2	1	6
16 Salisbury	5	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	6	-4	6
17 York	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	4	0	5
18 Gateshead	4	0	1	1	1	4	1	0	1	5	3	-1	4
19 Grays Athletic	4	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	1	-2	4
20 Barrow	5	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	2	4	6	-5	4
21 Hayes & Yeading	5	0	2	1	3	4	0	0	2	1	3	-3	2
22 Ebbsfleet United	5	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	2	1	7	-8	2
23 Forest Green	5	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	3	3	9	-8	0
24 Chester	3	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	4	-6	-24

FACTS & STATS 2009/10

Date	Comp	Opponents	F-A	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19
AUGUST																						
Sat 8		Forest Green Rovers	A	2-1	1074	Harper	Eaden	Jennings	Roper	Dempster	Green	Fowler	Spencer	Boucaud	Seddon	Geohaghon	Marna 2	Thomas	Wrack	Taylor	McPike	
Tue 11		OXFORD UNITED	H	1-1	2240	Harper	Eaden	Jennings	Roper	Green	Fowler	Spencer	Marna 1 p	Noublissie	Boucaud	Geohaghon	Thomas	Seddon	Dempster	Wrack	McPike	
Sat 15		AFC WIMBLEDON	H	1-2	1746	Harper	Eaden	Geohaghon	Roper	Jennings	Fowler	Noublissie	Boucaud	Green	Marna	Seddon	Dempster	Thomas 1	McPike	Wrack	Taylor	
Tue 18		Kidderminster Harriers	A	1-0	1368	Harper	Eaden	Jennings	Dempster	Noublissie	Geohaghon	Fowler	Boucaud	Green	Spencer	Seddon	Thomas	Wrack	Marna 1 p	McPike	Taylor	
Sat 22		Wrexham	A	2-1	3473	Harper	Eaden	Jennings	Roper	Green	Fowler	Spencer	I	Noublissie	Boucaud	Thomas	Geohaghon	Dempster	Marna	Wrack I	McPike	Seddon
Sat 29		LUTON TOWN	H																			
Mon 31		Mansfield Town	A																			
SEPTEMBER																						
Sat 5		ALTRINCHAM	H																			
Tue 8		GATESHEAD	H																			
Sat 12		York City	A																			
Sat 19		Crawley Town	A																			
Tue 22		BARROW	H																			
Sat 26		EBBSFLEET UNITED	H																			
Tue 29		Hayes & Yeading United	A																			
OCTOBER																						
Sat 3		Eastbourne Borough	A																			
Sat 10		WREXHAM	H																			
Sat 17		AFC Wimbledon	A																			
Sat 31		STEVENAGE BOROUGH	H																			
NOVEMBER																						
Sat 14		Cambridge United	A																			
Sat 21		KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	H																			
Tue 24		HAYES & YEADING UNITED	H																			
Sat 28		Altrincham	A																			
DECEMBER																						
Tue 1		Luton Town	A																			
Sat 5		SALISBURY CITY	H																			
Sat 19		Gateshead	A																			
Sat 26		TAMWORTH	H																			
Mon 28		Histon	A																			
JANUARY																						
Fri 1		Tamworth	A																			
Sat 16		RUSHDEN	H																			
Tue 19		CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H																			
Sat 23		Stevenage Borough	A																			
Sat 30		CRAWLEY TOWN	H																			
FEBRUARY																						
Sat 6		YORK CITY	H																			
Tue 9		Ebbesfleet United	A																			
Sat 13		Barrow	A																			
Sat 20		GRAYS ATHLETIC	H																			
Sat 27		Rushden & Diamonds	A																			
MARCH																						
Sat 6		CHESTER CITY	H																			
Sat 13		Oxford United	A																			
Sat 20		FOREST GREEN	H																			
Sat 27		MANSFIELD TOWN	H																			
APRIL																						
Sat 3		Grays Athletic	A																			
Mon 5		HISTON	H																			
Sat 10		Chester City	A																			
Sat 17		EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	H																			
Sat 24		Salisbury City	A																			



Action from our 2-1 home victory over AFC Wrexham
all photographs courtesy of www.kappasport.co.uk

IN OPPOSITION

LUTON TOWN FC

Nickname: The Hatters

Ground: KENILWORTH ROAD

Chairman: NICK OWEN

GOALKEEPERS

Mark Tyler

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United.

Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road and was rewarded for his loyalty with a testimonial against Liverpool in 2007.

After falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League 2 Bury where he made 11 appearances for the Shakers.

Shane Gore

He came through the ranks at Selhurst Park at a time when Mick Harford was a coach with the Dons but could only make one substitute appearance before leaving for Peterborough in 2003.

Shane has also had spells with Barnet and Stevenage and featured for Maidenhead United in 2008/10 prior to joining the Hatters.

DEFENDERS

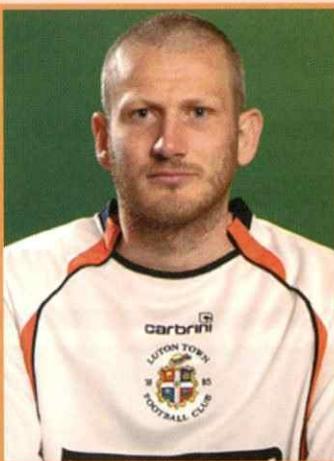
Claude Gnakpa

A defender capable of playing centre back or full back, who joined on a free transfer in August 2008. Having pried his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz, Claude moved to Swindon Town for a brief spell, before being taken on in July 2007 by Peterborough United and was a regular in the League 2 promotion winning side, starting 25 league games.

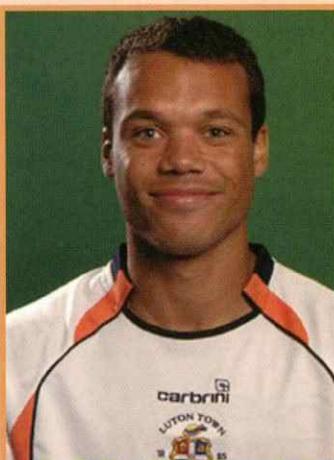
Keith Keane

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, Keith Keane went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured. Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level.

MICK HARFORD – MANAGER



Kevin Nicholls



Lewis Emanuel



Tom Craddock

IN OPPOSITION • LUTON TOWN

Youth Coach Marvin Johnson gave Ed a glowing reference to incoming boss Kevin Blackwell, who gave him a one-year contract.

Jake Howells

The young left back came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his full debut in the Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008.

After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 season, Adam was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May.

Alan White

Vastly experienced centre half who resigned for the Hatters nine years after leaving Kenilworth Road.

Alan jumped at the chance to sign for the Hatters in September 1997 for £40,000.

Shane Blackett

Luton-born Shane became Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009 after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road from Peterborough United.

Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003.

His form with the United Counties side alerted the attention of Dagenham & Redbridge who signed the 6ft 3in defender in May 2004.

His reputation as a pacy defender alerted the attention of Peterborough who snapped him with Dagenham team-mate Craig Mackail-Smith in January 2007 going on to make 38 appearances during his time with the London Road outfit.

Callum Reynolds

Young Luton-born defender who signed a six-month loan deal from Premier League side Portsmouth in July 2009.

Reynolds began his career with Rushden & Diamonds having been spotted playing for the Crawley Green club in Luton.

Despite not making a senior appearance at Nene Park, his promise playing for the Diamonds' youth team alerted the attention of visiting Portsmouth scouts and he subsequently signed for Pompey in the summer of 2007.

Also capable of playing in midfield, Reynolds also spent time on-loan at Basingstoke Town making eight appearances for Stoke during 2008/09.

Freddie Murray

Left-footed versatile defender who joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009.

Murray only signed for the Essex club in August before making his debut for the Town in the 4-1 victory over Mansfield Town just hours after putting pen to paper.

Previously with Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United Freddie began his career as a trainee with Blackburn Rovers.

MIDFIELDERS

Andy Burgess

Self-confessed Hatters fan, Andy signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2009 after being released by Rushden & Diamonds.

The Bedford-born, left-footed midfielder can play in any position across the middle of the park and was Mick Harford's first signing ahead of the Hatters' 2009/10 campaign.

Andy started his career at Nene Park, coming through the ranks to become a regular in the Diamonds' team and went onto win the Conference and League 2 titles in 2001 and 2003.

Burgess has also represented the England C side on six occasions prior to the start of the season.

Adam Newton

Ascot-born Adam became Mick Harford's second summer signing after agreeing a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road following his release from Brentford.

Predominantly used as a right-winger, the pacy wide man is equally as comfortable at right-back.

Adam started his career at West Ham United, coming through the Hammers' respected academy but could only

make three substitute appearances during his time at Upton Park before signing for Peterborough United in May 2002.

The former England Under 21 international went onto make a name for himself with the Posh making 249 appearances in six years at London Road going onto win promotion at the end of the 2007/08 campaign.

After leaving Peterborough at the end of the 2007/08 season, Adam was snapped by Andy Scott and Brentford where he helped the Bees to the League 2 title.

A St Kitts and Nevis international, he has spent time on-loan at Portsmouth, Notts County and Leyton Orient.

Rossi Jarvis

Adaptable player who can play on the left or right hand side of defence or midfield. Jarvis came through the Norwich City youth system, becoming the youngest player to appear for the reserve team at the tender age of 14. He went on to spend loan periods at Torquay United and Rotherham United and after finding first team opportunities hard to come by Jarvis joined Luton Town in August 2008 on a free transfer.

Asa Hall

Versatile player capable of playing in midfield or defence. Hall began his football career in Wolverhampton Wanderers youth system before signing his first professional contract with Birmingham City in 2004. While at the Blues he was a regular in the reserve team and was named young player of the year in the 2004/05 season. He also received caps for England at Under-19 and Under-20 levels and went on to have loan spells with Boston United, Ashford Town and Shrewsbury Town, starting 13 games for the latter.

Kevin Nicholls

Kevin Nicholls needs no introduction to most Hatters fans. The hard-working midfielder enjoyed six successful seasons at Kenilworth Road between 2001 and 2006, captaining the side to the League One title in the 2004-2005 season.

Reynolds began his career with Rushden & Diamonds having been spotted playing for the Crawley Green club in Luton.

Despite not making a senior appearance at Nene Park, his promise playing for the Diamonds' youth team alerted the attention of visiting Portsmouth scouts and he subsequently signed for Pompey in the summer of 2007.

Also capable of playing in midfield, Reynolds also spent time on-loan at Basingstoke Town making eight appearances for Stoke during 2008/09.

Following Luton's successful first-season in the Championship and the spirited FA-Cup performances, Nicholls was a player very much in demand. He moved to Leeds United for £70,000 in July 2006 and was made club captain by then boss Dennis Wise. However, his very public fall-out with Wise saw him fall down the pecking order at Elland Road, and the following summer he moved to Preston North End for a fee of £75,000.

His time at Preston began encouragingly, however a change in the management team saw his first-team opportunities limited. Kevin was delighted to re-sign for Luton, signing a three-year deal in August 2008 and being named as club captain.

FORWARDS

Ryan Charles

Born Enfield

An energetic striker who has made a huge impact at Kenilworth Road since making his debut in 2007. Charles, who has been at Kenilworth Road since the age of nine, had worked his way through the ranks at the Club before scoring 17 goals in his debut season for the Luton Town youth team. He followed that form up by scoring 12 goals for the youth team last season and his exploits during those two campaigns earned him his first team debut as a second half substitute at Southend in March. He was given his full team debut in the following game against Carlisle before scoring on his home debut against Oldham. Charles had turned down the chance to join local rivals Watford as a youngster.

Tom Craddock

Originally a defender, Tom developed into a promising forward who has done well at youth and Reserve team levels with Middlesbrough. He was the eighth member of Boro's 2004 FA Youth Cup-winning side to progress to first team level, following James Morrison, Tony McMahon, Andrew Taylor, David Wheater, Matthew Bates, Adam Johnson and Jason Kennedy. He joined the Hatters on-loan from the Riverside in October 2008 and scored twice on his debut in a 2-2 draw with

Grimsby Town. Two further goals followed in the games against Bury and Chesterfield and once his loan expired Mick



Harford moved quickly to snap up the striker on a permanent basis.

A £80,000 bid was accepted by Middlesbrough and Tom signed a two-and-a-half year contract in January 2009. He has previously spent spells on loan with Wrexham and Hartlepool United.

Jordan Patrick

Young attacker who became the youngest ever player to feature for the Hatters when appearing as a substitute at Grimsby Town in October 2008 aged 16 years and seven days.

Kevin Gallen

Born Hammersmith, Gallen established himself as something of a legend at QPR. He notched up over 400 appearances and hit 97 goals for the R's in two spells spanning nearly 14 years. Gallen joined Huddersfield 2000 and after 10 goals in 30 starts for the Terriers, Gallen moved across Yorkshire to join Barnsley the following summer, but the call of West London saw him return to QPR within a few months. He scored nine goals in 16 league starts for MK Dons before joining Luton on loan.

After a successful loan spell Gallen joined permanently in January 2009, signing until the end of the season before agreeing a one year contract extension with the club in May keeping him at Kenilworth Road until June 2010.

Liam Hatch

The 6ft 3in Striker signed for the Hatters on a season-long loan from Peterborough United in June 2009.

Hatch started his career with Herne Bay before a move to neighbours Gravesend & Northfleet in 2001.

A successful spell at Stonebridge Road saw him transferred to Barnet for £17,500 where he helped the Bees to promotion to the Football League with 11 league goals in the 2004/05 campaign.

His form at Underhill alerted the attention of Peterborough United who paid £150,000 for the striker's services.

Steve Basham

Experienced striker who joined the Hatters on a one-year deal in August 2009 following his release from Exeter City.

The forward began his career with home-town club Southampton but only made one start during his time at the Dell.

With first team opportunities limited on the South Coast, Basham was sent on loan to Wrexham and Preston North End and, following a second successful spell at Deepdale, he signed permanently for the Lancashire outfit for £200,000 in the summer of 1999.

However, after making 61 appearances – and winning a promotion with North End in 2000 – he signed for Oxford United August 2002.

Basham scored 43 goals in 139 league starts at the Kassam Stadium and was best remembered in Oxfordshire for his ability to link the play and create opportunities for his team-mates.

LUTON TOWN FC

HISTORY

2007 to date

Kevin Blackwell signed eight players during the summer of 2007 in preparation for a tilt at promotion back to the Championship.

During the first month of the season it seemed that the Hatters stood a decent chance of doing so, after four wins from their first five league and cup fixtures including a 3-0 victory over Premier League Sunderland at Kenilworth Road.

However form began to tail off and had yet to win away from home but worse news was to follow when the club were deducted 10 points for failing to administration in November.

From being in a comfortable mid-table position the Hatters found themselves deep in a relegation battle but the first match following the points deduction the team rallied themselves to beat Southend 1-0 at Kenilworth Road.

Results began to pick-up in December and a FA Cup second round replay victory over Nottingham Forest ensured the Hatters faced another cup clash with Liverpool at Kenilworth Road.

On Boxing Day the Hatters were involved in a highly-controversial match at Bristol Rovers where incredibly they held out to record a 1-1 draw despite having to play half the match with nine men and the last 13 minutes with only eight men on the pitch following three sending offs.

And in the last match of 2007 we saw the first away win of the campaign recorded courtesy of a last-minute strike from Matthew Spring.

With the administrator in charge however, the New Year saw the beginning of player sales which would go on to affect the team's performances later in the season.

But firstly the small matter of a game against Liverpool at Kenilworth Road in the third round of the FA Cup had to be settled and after going behind to a Peter Crouch goal, a John Arne Riise own goal 13 minutes from earned the Hatters a much needed money-spinning replay at Anfield.

At this point the administrator had been working on cutting the spiralling wage bill at the club and as a result club captain Chris Coyne was sold to Colchester United and midfielder David Edwards - only signed by Blackwell in the summer - was sold to Wolves.

Colossal Polish centre-half Jaroslaw Fojut returned to Bolton after his loan spell expired and would not return as the Hatters were unable to sign anybody while still in administration, which left the squad decimated, especially in defence.

Blackwell then decided to call it quits by saying he would quit the club following the replay at Liverpool.

Before the cup replay at Anfield it was announced that the administrator had chosen Luton Town 2020 Ltd as the preferred bidders to take over the club.

The consortium and was headed by famous Hatters fan and TV presenters Nick Owen and included former Hatters legends Steve Foster and Godfrey Ingram as well as other influential businessman all of which were Town supporters.

Buoyed by this news it made for an extra-special night at Anfield where almost 6,000 Luton fans out-sung the famous

Kop for long periods before, during and after the game.

The team held on until the final minute of added on time in the first half before Ryan Babel struck the opening goal of the game to break the Hatters' hearts.

A Steven Gerrard hat-trick and a goal from Sami Hyppia in the second half cumulated in a 5-0 defeat but despite the scoreline the Hatters performance was far from embarrassing.

That was to be manager Kevin Blackwell's last match in charge of the Town as the administrator moved quickly to install legend Mick Harford as his replacement but despite a spirited display the team lost 1-0 in his first game in charge away to Leyton Orient on 19th January.

With the team struggling to find any form and with young players low on confidence, the side failed to win again until a 3-0 home victory over Oldham Athletic on 15th March, by which time they were already 12 points from safety.

But after picking five points from the following three games to give them hope the Town went onto lose all of their final six matches and relegation to League 2 was confirmed following the 2-1 home defeat to Brighton on 12th April.

With the new owners set to take full control of the club in the summer the only problem the Hatters prepared themselves for would have been beginning their League 2 campaign with 15 points deducted for failure to agree to a CVA (Company Voluntary Agreement).

However the Football League decided that because the club had been in administration for the third time in nine years, they would punish them further by deducting a further five points.

But worse news followed.

The club were still being investigated by the Football Association for the past financial irregularities that had been made public during Mike Newell's time at the club two years previously.

As a result the club had a further 10 points docked by the FA which meant the club had to start the season with an incredible 30 point penalty.

Both Bournemouth and Rotherham suffered a similar fate for recent spells in administration and were hit with 17 point deductions by the Football League.

Once the club was officially taken over a week before the season started, the club only had six professionals on the books leading up to the home game with Port Vale.

Harford though pulled off one of the biggest transfer coups in the club's history when it was announced that former club captain Kevin Nicholls was resigning for the club.

Nicholls was joined by 10 other new faces either signed on a free transfer or brought in on-loan, as the manager pieced together a team fit for the campaign ahead.

Despite a slow and inconsistent beginning to the season the Hatters ended 2008 just one point away from wiping out the 30 point deficit and were only 15 points away from safety.

The season was also brought to life by the club's run in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy which was won in superb style at Wembley with a 3-2 victory over Scunthorpe United in April.

However, the burden of the points deductions proved too much to shoulder and relegation out of the Football League was confirmed following a goalless draw against Chesterfield on Easter Monday.

It means the club will start life in the Blue Square Premier in 2009/10 after 89 years in the Football League.

Compiled by Andrew Barringer

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PRESS BOX

JON DUNHAM



This was probably, after the obvious, one of the first fixtures supporters of Kettering Town and every other club in the Blue Square Premier looked for when their matches were confirmed before the start of the season.

You could, and people already have, debated long and hard about whether Luton Town should be playing at this level this season.

But they are here and it makes for a huge occasion for every club when the Hatters come to town.

It seems they have taken to life in non-league pretty well and they arrive here today still unbeaten.

That, of course, represents a tremendous opportunity for the Poppies to really make a name for themselves and become the first to beat them.

And Mark Cooper's men must be full of confidence after a highly impressive victory at Wrexham last weekend.

I found Cooper's post-match interview to be one the most interesting since he has been at the club.

Without really saying it out loud, he fired back at Kettering's critics after his team really showed what they are capable of against Dean Saunders' men. Wrexham are renowned for being a side that plays good (some would say pretty) football but the Poppies matched them in those stakes.

For too long now, Kettering are seen by many as an "over-physical" and "long ball" side. All complete and utter nonsense.

Yes, they do like to get in the faces of opposition and there's nothing wrong with that.

But, already this season, they have played some very good stuff and have been more than a match for every team they have face – including Oxford United.

The frustration of those comments levelled at his team are clearly getting to Cooper and he was quick to defend his team after their win at the Racecourse Ground.

It seems a real shame that a manager has to come out and do that – maybe it will have to take his team to get promoted to finally earn the respect I, and many others, feel they deserve.

Nonetheless, during last season and already this campaign Kettering have shown they can do most of their talking on the pitch.

They have made a habit of shoving words back down the throats of those who choose to speak out and long may it continue.

I have no doubt that Cooper will be showing great respect to Luton this afternoon and I am sure that seasoned professional like Mick Harford will do exactly the same.

You can follow the exploits of the Poppies six days a week in the Evening

Telegraph and also by logging onto our website www.northantsset.co.uk

We, as always, would love to hear your thoughts on the fortunes of Kettering and you can email us with your comments at yourshout@northantsnews.co.uk

Enjoy the game.

Jon Dunham

**EVENING
Telegraph**



X

speaks to PAUL COOKE

'The will he won't he' saga of last season regarding the future of central defender Exodus Geohaghon has already begun this season, with one of Mark Cooper's prize assets being scouted by a host of league clubs. Big 'X's status in the game has been greatly added to after scoring against Lincoln City in last seasons FA Cup, and England 'C' caps, making him the lastest Poppy to represent his country. Armed with one of the longest throws in the game, the towering defender, so cool on the ball is an integral part of the Poppies defensive unit, the best in the Blue Square Premier last season. I caught up with X after our disappointing defeat against AFC Wimbledon.

PC: 'X' second season with the Poppies, and a new centre-back in Ian Roper, its early days but how do you think the partnership is going?

EG: The partnership is going well, you look at Ropes and think 'what's he all about' but when he starts playing you can see how experienced he is, having many Football League games under his belt.

PC: Had you heard of Ropes before he joined the Poppies?

EG: Yes, especially when he was at Walsall, some people have said I could be the new Ian Roper, but he is here playing alongside me, so obviously I can look and learn.

PC: Obviously Ropes is a different character to Branno, he seems to read the game well and his encouragement is completely different.

EG: Ropes is a little bit more laid back, quite the opposite to Branno. His influence is calming especially when things are going wrong, unfortunately he was injured today, who knows what the outcome would have been if he'd played the full 90 minutes. There are able replacements though in John Dempster and Greg Taylor so it's not really a problem they can come in and do the job.

PC: We now have yourself, Digger and Ropes in the middle for set pieces giving us more of an aerial threat in front of goal.

EG: You can see there is more height and desire to win the ball, getting on the end of things. There was proof in the pudding last season where Demps scored a few goals, he came on today, did similar things and almost scored a couple. Ropes has been dangerous from the set pieces and was unlucky not to score on his debut at Forest Green. Those two will always go and attack the ball, and if not, there is always me.

PC: As you say in the second half you went up front against AFC Wimbledon, you have scored just the one goal for the Poppies, a classic in last seasons FA Cup against Lincoln City, is that one etched into your memory bank?

EG: It is one I will never forget, it was quite an achievement for me to score in the FA Cup in two successive years (one for Redditch United against the Poppies). I would like to score more, especially from set pieces, we shall have to wait and see what develops.

PC: We had a chat in pre-season at Kings Lynn, you told me that you couldn't wait for the season to get going, you felt you had already had a lot of match practice having played in the student games and for England. What are your thoughts about playing for your country?

EG: It is a different dimension to playing football. In the International matches you find you have more time on the ball, it is a whole different aspect to playing in the Conference. The Premier is more intense, a lot less time to make decisions, and the speed is a lot quicker. When I played in the games I had to deal with, the heat which made the matches slower and, as I said you have a lot more time on the ball, totally different.

PC: We had Adam Sinclair here today scouting for Paul Fairclough's England, are you over the age bracket to be selected or still in with a chance as an over aged player?

EG: I am over the age bracket where I can play in the International challenge trophy games but I am still eligible for friendly matches, but that depends on whether I am selected or not as friendly games are generally used to look at players for future trophy games. I would still love to play for England but again I will have to wait and see.

PC: You played against Italy and Belgium, it must have been fantastic to pull on the three lions and get your caps.

EG: It was, it is a whole different aspect and although it is England 'C', the Italian and Belgium 'C' sides are only two leagues out of their top divisions. Their players are coming from decent clubs with great history, it is quite a step up for our squad.

PC: We had a lot of scouts at the Elgoods today, also last season there was a lot of interest in your future, does or did that effect your game at all?

EG: I wasn't aware of today but it is just a case of trying to play your normal game. Today though was strange, everything seemed a bit dead, the pitch was slow, we all seemed slower than normal, for whatever reason it was difficult for all 22 players out there today. Maybe we didn't play with the intensity we did against Oxford United the other night, which was difficult especially playing with 10 men against one of the best sides in the division. I just try and concentrate on the job, sometimes it works for us and sometimes, like this afternoon, we couldn't quite nick the result.

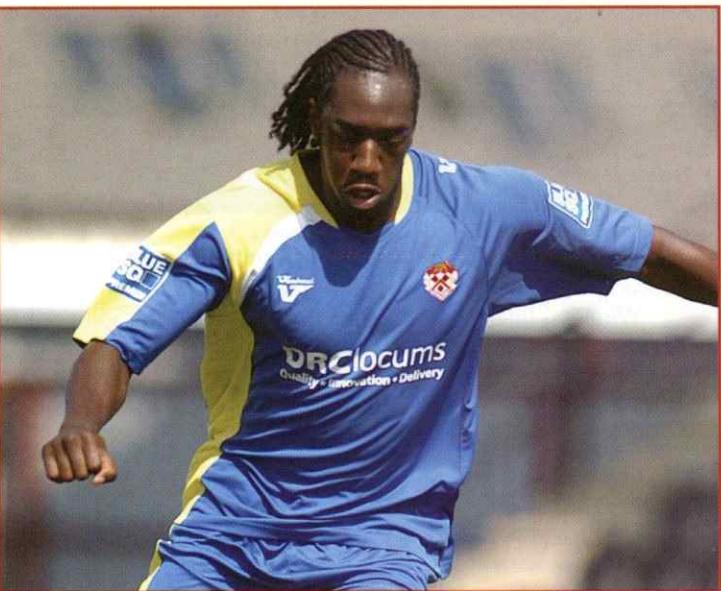
PC: You've still maintained your long throw although it seems to have changed slightly, it seems a little flatter. Is that something you have been working on to give different variations to your lethal weapon?

EG: I have been asked to get it flatter to try and pick someone out, but it's hard as everyone

knows what is going on with it. I try and change the style with the conditions, I can go high and loopy or now flat and long, but the flat ones tend to get intercepted if you don't pick someone out. It just depends on how the lads are set up really then I make my decision.

PC: You played in a successful Poppies side last season, and we had a good squad. We have a new squad this season, and it's early days but how do you think this squad will adapt to the rigors of Blue Square Premier football?

EG: It's strange in the pre-season friendlies everyone was clicking together but when the Conference season starts as I said earlier, it is a different intensity, you cannot really judge anything until about the 10 game mark. Last season we went unbeaten for the first 10 games but after the first 4 games for points, depending on how we played against Kidderminster, we could equal that or have at most 7 points at the same stage. By mid September we should get a better evaluation of our prospects.





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BE MY GUEST

MEL HOPKINS

Luton Town Football Club was formed in May, 1885, thirteen years after Kettering. In the history of Luton Town F.C it states that on December 13th, 1890, a minute sets out that the sum of 5s. (25p) per week was offered to Frank and Harry Whitby and Read. At least one of these (H. Whitby) accepted this offer, and was certainly paid this amount for the rest of the season. He was probably the first professional in the South, for it was not until the following season that Woolwich Arsenal went over to the professional ranks. On February 9th, 1891* there was an application from F. Whitby, who at the time was working out of the town, for a further sum to meet his travelling expenses and lost time.

But the committee evidently thought they had launched out far enough, for a resolution was passed that "The club could not see its way to spend any more money on professionalism as finances stood at present." It being recorded in the minutes of that date that an increase in this direction would undoubtedly prove disastrous to the club. At the general meeting during the ensuing close season, the question of paying the whole team was decided upon. At a meeting held on August 10th, 1891 it was resolved that players be allowed 2s. 6d. (12½p) per week, with an extra 6d. (2½p) for away matches. In September 1891, when the season commenced both Arsenal and Luton turned out a professional side.

Since then it has always been argued as to which club was the first to turn professional in the South of England—Luton or Arsenal? In fact it was neither. History was made when on February 7th, 1891,

Kettering decided to pay the whole team 5s (25p) a week so becoming the first club south of Birmingham to turn professional.* (On learning of this it is probably why F. Whitby made this application.) Kettering were also pioneers of the Charity Cup competitions in 1888, which they

set up to relieve the monotony of friendly matches. Luton followed with their own two years later in 1890. In the first year of this competition, four teams took part from Northants. They were Kettering

Hawks, Kettering Town, Irthlingborough, and Rushden. Kettering after having a bye in the first round dispatched Irthlingborough Revellers 10-0 in the second and beat Rushden 3-0 at home in the next round to reach the semi-final. The match was played on 28th March at Luton against Bedford and defeated that club by 6 goals to one. Over a thousand supporters travelled from Kettering on a special excursion train. In the final, played on the Dellar Lane Cricket Ground, Luton, before about 3,500 spectators—which was a record for Luton, Kettering won 5-1 against Windsor Phoenix.

The "Kettering Leader" reporting on the match, the date being Saturday, 18th April 1891, stated "A cheap

excursion was arranged to run from Kettering—it was a great day for Kettering football "fans,"

1,020 booked necessitating the running of two trains. It was also a good day for Luton straw hat makers, for practically every Kettering person who made the journey donned a straw hat. Windsor added to the record gate by three—two pressmen and the baggage man, who, of course went in on a free ticket. The rest of the spectators were from Luton.

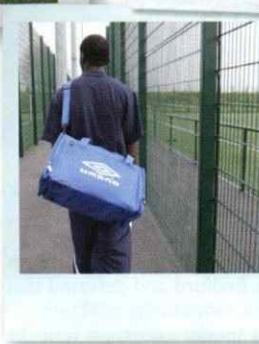
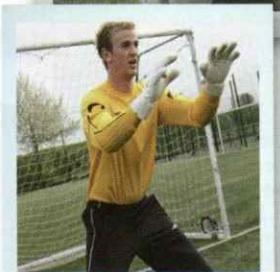
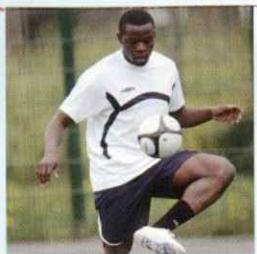
The arrival home of Kettering was awaited by a numerous crowd. Pollards' pair-horse wagonette was in waiting to convey the team through the town, and a procession being formed with the drag in the

centre, the whole concourse marched through the principal streets to the strains of the "Conquering Hero," played by the Rifle Band, while the Town Band, which had accompanied the players to Luton, brought up the rear. The cup was displayed en route on the knee of Captain 'Jummy' Panter." The cup was described as a figure representing 'Victory' surmounting the bowl, while on each side were figures of a lion and a greyhound, representing strength and fleetness. A representation of a football field covered one side of the cup, while on the other the name of the competition appeared. The medals bore the Luton Borough coat of arms, and also the beehive and straw plait, representing the industry of the place.

A meeting was held at the Midland Hotel, Luton. On 6th March 1896 to discuss the formation of a new football league composed of clubs between London and Leicester. Representatives were present from

Woolwich Arsenal, Millwall Athletic, Luton, Kettering and Loughborough. It was agreed to form a new mid-week league next season to be called the United League, composed of the clubs already named plus Rushden Town, Wellingborough Town and Tottenham Hotspur. The idea was for clubs

to fill their programme with matches other than those of a so-called friendly nature. The first match took place at Wellingborough on 29th August 1896, when the Town club drew 3-3 with Kettering. This league ran for three years until a mass withdrawal of clubs left only clubs from Northants with Kettering and Northampton playing their reserve sides. In the three seasons Luton finished 2nd 1st and bottom, while Kettering finished 6th 4th and 8th. In season 1899-00, Luton after finishing last but one in the Football League, dropped down to the Southern League. That same season Kettering won the Midland League and went up to the Southern League. In the four seasons that the two clubs met Kettering won just one match drew two and lost five. The last match for Kettering in this league was against Luton. Played at Rockingham Road 23rd April 1904, Kettering lost 1-0 before an attendance of 100. It has taken 105 years for the rivalry to continue. The attendance will be better than the last meeting and hopefully so will the result.



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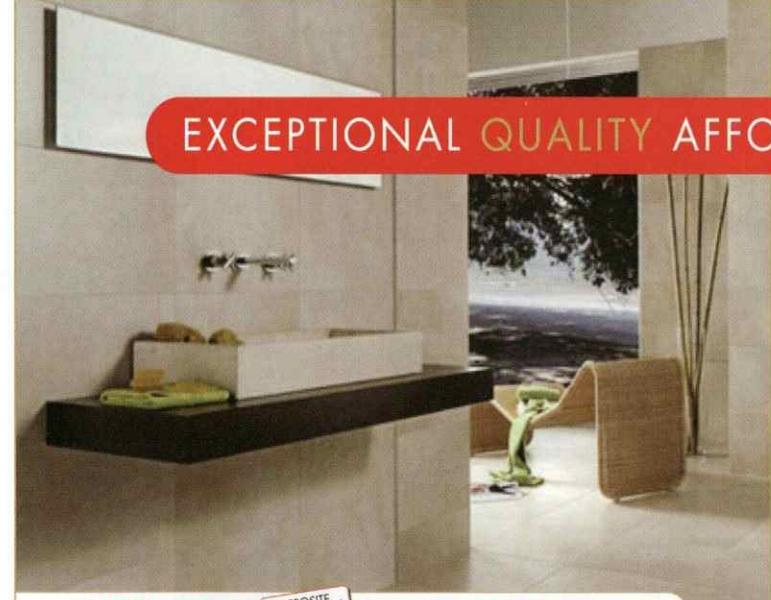
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Francis Green in action in our home 2-1 defeat against AFC Wimbledon

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To book please phone Martin 01536 520047. Please note that telephone bookings will only now be taken between the hours of 5pm and 9pm any night. You can also still book your seat on the coach on a previous trip or by seeing Martin at the ground on matchdays.



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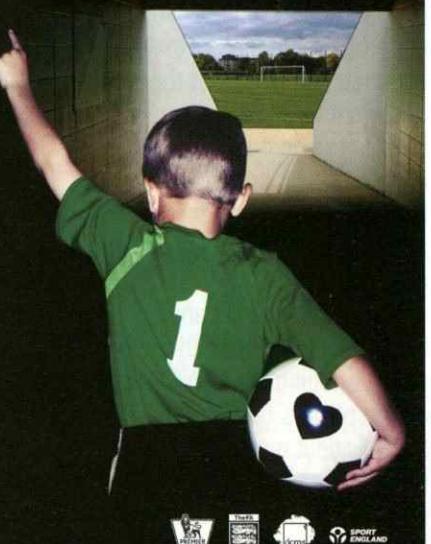
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TREATMENT ROOM

with Jimmy Davidson

Hello to you all, this section of the programme look at the comings and goings in the clubs treatment room. Here, you will be able to find out the information regarding all injuries to players as well as their progress and other injury related information.

So far this season and including pre-season and without putting the kiss of death on the players (and I'm not talking about my breath if any of them are reading this), on the whole we have been quite lucky on the injury front, especially when you look back to this time last season where we already had three long term injuries.

Personally, I would put this down to several factors, namely better preparation, better training and training facilities and so far a bit of luck.

I say a bit of luck because so far, the only injuries that we have had have been minor ones. Up

until now, there have only been injuries to Ryan Beswick (glutes), James McPike and Ian Roper (both knee injuries).

These injuries have meant that the respective players have only missed a small amount of playing time. Both Ryan and James came through their treatment and rehabilitation with minimal fuss and returned to action in little more than a week. At the time of writing Ian was ready for a return to action following almost a week of treatment and rehab following his injury during the AFC Wimbledon game. May I take this opportunity to say that following their time in the treatment room, all three players' attitude was fantastic.

During the pre-season period and including the first five games of the season, there have also been several blood injuries which have required stitches to messrs Fowler (AFC

Wimbledon), Dempster (QPR) and Seddon (Reading) and Ian Roper who required 4 stitches at Wrexham. In relation to last season, stitches were only used for blood injuries once (Nicky Eaden v Crawley Town, away).

As I said earlier, I hope that I have not put the kiss of death on the players but hopefully they will stay fit and without injury. Not to make life easier for me but in order to help the team achieve the best they can this season. Only time will tell on this matter but touch wood we'll get by with minimal casualties.

On a finishing note, you may or may not be aware that the club has now opened a fully commercial clinic specialising in body massage, sports injuries and rehabilitation, which is open to the general public. If you wish to book a session, or find out any further information regarding prices and opening times, please don't hesitate to either contact the club on 01536-483028 or myself on 07789501266.

All the best

Jimmy

TODAY'S MASCOT EMILY REBEKAH SPAIN

Age: ELEVEN

School: KETTERING BUCCLEUGH ACADEMY

Favourite Teams: KETTERING TOWN and LIVERPOOL

Favourite Players: JOHN DEMPSTER and LEE HARPER

Hobbies: TRAMPOLINING and SWIMMING

Emily plays in goal for Northampton Town Under 12s. She played four seasons for Kettering Town Girls previously.



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To book tickets to the match telephone 01323 766265, visit www.ebfc.co.uk or for accommodation at Premier Inn telephone 08701 977 089.

*accommodation for a family of four (2 adults and 2 children) overnight on Saturday 3 October in a family room with family ticket to the match.

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WRIGHT'S WORLD

Good afternoon to you all on this warm late summer's day, a day that is likely to witness our biggest home gate this side of Yuletide with Luton bringing about two thousand supporters, thus helping to generate a cauldron of noise and challenging the dulcet tones of our own 'Poppies choir'.

On this day in history British troops arrived in Korea to bolster the US presence there (1950), 220 fans were arrested at The Windsor Free Rock Festival (1974) and Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans with devastating results (2005). It makes you glad to be here in relative safety by comparison, assisted by friendly and helpful stewarding which I shall return to. Of more immediate relevance is that almost ten years to the day we experienced being well beaten at Yeovil 2-0, before 2,347 spectators on 28th August, followed by us being thumped 3-0 at Stevenage viewed by a passionate throng of 4,017 on 30th August. At that time Luton were plying their trade in The Nationwide League Division 2, finishing 13th at the end of the season.

Luton, geographically equidistant between Kettering and London, was known for its straw plaiting and hat making during the 17th century and as recently as the late 1970's five per cent of the town's industry was concerned with millinery, hence Luton Town being known as the 'Hatters'. Now it is better known for its airport, immortalised by a certain Lorraine Chase, and its Vauxhall vehicle plants.

In recent years Luton hit the headlines due to the allegations of their former manager, Mike Newell, about the 'bung culture' in football. The football authorities investigated matters, and although true to form the football ranks closed up and Newell was rewarded with his integrity by losing his employment, in 2008 it was decided to deduct 10 points from Luton for making irregular payments to agents. A further 20 points were deducted for failing to satisfy the Football League's insolvency rules and the 'Hatters' were doomed to relegation to the non-league scene despite a valiant effort by the team to beat the drop.

The 'bung' culture is not a new phenomenon and the role of prominent individuals and the authorities is best summed up by a comment made by Doug Ellis when he was Chairman of Aston Villa. Villa were fined £20,000 in 1993 for irregular dealings with agents over Mark Bosnich's arrival and Ellis, then sitting on the FA's finance committee stated, 'I only broke the rules slightly'!

Luton supporters have nevertheless suffered as a result of the fecklessness and greed of some people previously associated with the club and they must

wonder what more can they expect to experience. In the last 40 years they have witnessed playing in the top English Division, producing international players, winning the Littlewoods Cup by beating Arsenal 3-2 at the old Wembley, experimenting with a plastic grass pitch and seeing part of their ground destroyed by less than friendly Millwall supporters. Even last year their relegation was tempered by their amazing Johnstone's Trophy success at the new Wembley. They had one of our greatest comedians in Eric Morecombe as a director (1970-77) who in an episode of 'Morecombe & Wise' got Glenda Jackson to wear a banner that read 'Luton Town FC' before 20 million viewers.

Their current chairman Nick Ross is another TV personality, counting 'Crimewatch' amongst his credits and whose integrity seems assured. In conjunction with others and within the passionate, positive tribalism generated, the foundations are in place for the 'Hatters' to return to their rightful place, one day.

My mention of tribalism brings me back to stewarding. During our opening fixture at Forest Green some of us were amused at the very loud and clear message repeated over the New Lawn tannoy system, as a fairly sparse, benign and pleasantly behaved crowd enjoyed the football action amongst the soft rolling hills of the south west Cotswolds: "Will all the stewards go to their posts, the codeword is foxtrot". Overkill and hyperbole we thought, yet the marshalling exercise demonstrated planning for any eventualities. At Wrexham last week we were grateful for organised stewarding as a few hot headed and unsporting Wrexham supporters sought to be quite vile as the game ended. Needless to say they were ushered away calmly and efficiently. So it is with this in mind that I dedicate today's column to all stewards who, sometimes in the face of adversity, go about their business confidently, politely and effectively.

Enjoy the game and roar on the 'Poppies'

Adrian Wright



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- 6 JOHN DEMPSTER
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- 12 GREG TAYLOR
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- 15 PATRICK NOUBISSIE
- 16 JAMIE YATES
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- 19 GARETH SEDDON
- 20 DANNY THOMAS
- 23 EXODUS GEOHAGHON
- 25 MARK COOPER

LUTON TOWN

Colours: Orange Shirts
White Shorts
Orange Socks

Manager:
MICK HARFORD

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- 2 ED ASAFAU-ADJAYE
- 3 LEWIS EMANUEL
- 4 KEITH KEANE
- 5 ALAN WHITE
- 6 GEORGE PILKINGTON
- 7 ADAM NEWTON
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- 10 TOM CRADDOCK
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- 21 CALLUM REYNOLDS
- 23 FREDDIE MURRAY
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