

# TALK OF THE TOWN



v **DARLINGTON**

**SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

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## OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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# BRABS

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road to all supporters for this afternoon's Blue Square Bet Premier fixture with Darlington.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to Mark Cooper, his staff and players, plus the directors and supporters of Darlington to Bedfordshire.

Mark has done exceptionally well since taking over at the Darlington Arena which cumulated in last season's FA Trophy triumph at Wembley over Mansfield Town.

They have taken that success as a springboard into this season and have experienced a very good start to the campaign, achieving some impressive results in the process. It means we will face a tough test today, probably our toughest yet this season.

Since we were last at Kenilworth Road we have remained unbeaten but frustratingly we have only managed to pick up one victory in our previous three matches and that came here against Braintree Town.

That afternoon I thought we were first class, right the way through the team we were excellent and even though I was disappointed to allow Braintree to equalise I was confident that we would still have the ambition and quality to go on and win and so it proved.

Braintree showed why they have began the season so well. Alan Devonshire has got a young team playing some really good football and I think they will continue to surprise people this season.

It was a different story at Hayes & Yeading the following Tuesday where our inability to score from the penalty cost us dear.

Two miss two penalties is inexcusable as was the defending that led to both of their goals. In between those goals we scored two ourselves and looked menacing every time we went forward.

What disappointed me the most was that we let a winning position slip just before half-time and while we dominated long periods of the game we couldn't force a winner. I was unhappy at dropping two points as much as you were and made the players know this afterwards.

At Hayes we lost Jake Howells to injury and during the week running up to Friday's game at Stockport a virus ruled out Dean Beckwith and laid low a number of other senior players.

Considering the circumstances and, with almost an entire back four missing through injury and illness, a point was a good return but in the end we were distraught not to leave with all three points following a last-gasp equaliser.

Having defended well for 89 minutes it was galling to see a defensive error punished after we had worked so hard to get ourselves into a winning position.

At the moment silly mistakes are costing us. They need to be ironed out if we're to challenge for honours this season.

I'd like to formally welcome three new signings to Kenilworth Road. John Paul Kissock arrived on the Friday before the Braintree match whilst Stuart Fleetwood and Collin Samuel joined on deadline day.

The season is still in its infancy but we know we must start turning draws into victories if we're to make a significant impression on the league table.

Please keep up your magnificent support and get behind us once more this afternoon.



Gary Brabin is sponsored by Luton Town Supporters' Club and Country Properties



# FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DAVID WILKINSON

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Kenilworth Road.

Wow that is something I never expected to say all those years ago. I'm a bit like a kid in a sweet shop.

I first came to this magical place on Saturday 6th September 1958 to see us beat West Ham 4-1 in the old First Division in front of a crowd of 25,715, and was hooked from that moment on.

I used to come to the ground in the early days armed with an autograph book, thermos flask and sandwiches and stand outside the Kenny waiting for the players and hoping for an autograph (I got a few). They were like giants to me, gods even, and even now I am in awe of the players of those days. Last season I met Billy Bingham and Ron Baynham, for the first time - what a privilege! I wasn't disappointed because they were both lovely people with some fascinating stories.

I used to stand on a little wall in the bottom right hand corner of the Kenny (I guess it was demolished when the seats went in) and, rather spookily, a couple of other investors claim to have stood in the same place at the same time - it was obviously a popular wall, but I have to say I don't remember them and they don't remember me! What is even more strange is that both Nick Owen and Mick Pattinson's first games were in the same week as mine.

A lot has happened over those 53 years from eighth in the First Division equal with Manchester United to ninth in the Conference equal with York City and Braintree, via cup finals and promotions, relegations and administrations. What a ride!

During that time we have been all the way up and all the way down three times and, disappointing as that is for us all, we are still here and still fighting hard to regain our place in the Football League. It is all this history, our special individual memories and the injustices we have suffered that make us what we are. They make us want to come back for more. We have been down before, but we bounce back and we will again.

One of my most enduring memories will be meeting Gary Sweet and Stephen Browne and being invited to be part of the 2020 group. I was fortunate that I had the ability to invest in the Club and I am honoured to have been elected a Director of this wonderful institution. I still have to pinch myself to make sure I am not dreaming.

The players are still my heroes, the ground is still my home. First and foremost I am a fan as are all the other investors and Directors and that is what makes us different. We feel like any fan, but more so, because there is the added responsibility, expectation and money. It would sometimes be a lot easier to sit in the stands, have a moan and then switch off until the next 90 minutes comes along.

What matters to us as fans is that we watch a team on the pitch - not a bunch of talented individuals - a team, and to get that the investors must be a team, the directors and management must be a team and the fans must be a team. I will stand by everyone's right to an opinion, but I believe that support means boosting morale. We are all beset by similar frustrations, but how can negative comments or booing make us better?

Our Board is fully behind the management of the Club and the team and believes that



a quality squad is being assembled on both sides. We have brought in new names to help manage the Club and to strengthen the playing staff, and our philosophy is to continue to look for improvement on the field and off.

On the field we welcome all our new recruits and hope that they are successful whilst enjoying their time here. As a fan I am beginning to enjoy my football again and like the way Brabs is getting us to play.

When Brabs took over as manager I sent him a message which said "if your players enjoy playing we will enjoy watching", and I sincerely hope that all our squad old and new continue enjoying their football and playing for Luton Town.

So much of what goes on off the field, in the short term, is fighting battles to protect the Club, or trying to find new sources of income to help balance the books and, in the long term, devising strategies to ensure the survival and progress of Luton Town Football Club. We are confident that the finishing touches are being put in place to complete the core team to manage these processes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the back office newcomers. All of us at Board level deem it a privilege to be where we are and are determined that our great Club gets back to where it belongs and is sustainable as a business for the long term.

The end result of everything we do and have done culminates at 3pm on Saturday afternoon.

Come on you Hatters.

Onwards and upwards.



## HONOURS

### Littlewoods Challenge Cup:

Winners 1988  
Runners-up 1989

### F.A. Cup:

Runners-up 1959  
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

### Johnstone's Paint Trophy:

Winners 2009

### Simod Cup:

Runners-up 1988

### Football League Division Two:

Champions 1981/82  
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

### Football League Division Three (South):

Winners 1936/37  
Runners-up 1935/36

### Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 1969/70

### League One:

Champions 2004/05

### Football League Division Four:

Champions 1967/68

### Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 2001/02

### Blue Square Premier:

Runners-up 2009/10

### Southern League Division One:

Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

### Southern League Division Two:

Runners-up 1913/14

### United League:

Champions 1897/98  
Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

### Southern Alliance:

Runners-up 1913/14

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# PILKS

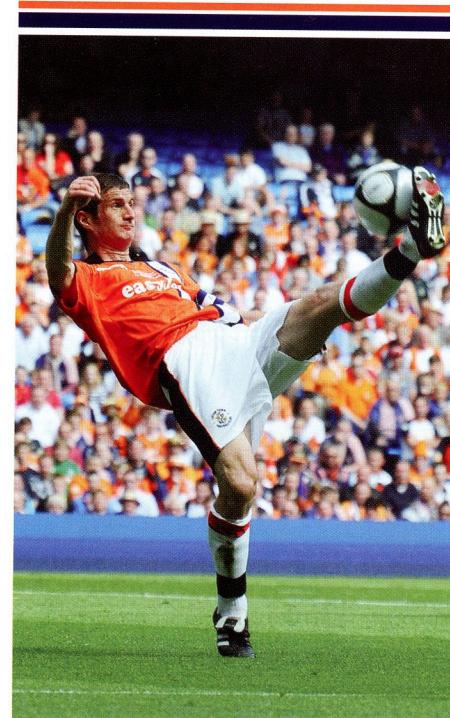
Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for today's match with Darlington. Over the years we have faced some difficult games with the Quakers.

Last season we drew 2-2 having trailed on a Tuesday night at their place before we won 4-0 at Kenilworth Road in the return with all four goals coming in the second half.

Darlington went onto the win the FA Trophy at the end of last season and in Mark Cooper they have one of the most respected and successful managers in this league so we know we're going to be in for our tough test this afternoon.

Having played with and against Liam Hatch I know that we need to be switched on today because he is capable of inflicting damage with his ability in the air.

Our last game here was excellent to watch. Admittedly I hate watching the lads play in the stands – I'm kicking and heading every ball – but I



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was really pleased with the way we played against a team that showed why they've achieved some very good results.

They beat Grimsby 5-0, won at Forest Green and then on Saturday beat a Lincoln side that were in the Football League last term.

Our delight at such a good result and performance was tempered slightly by the frustration of drawing the last two away fixtures from winning positions.

Against Hayes & Yeading we were disappointed to concede twice against the run of play having dominated the game for long spells in between their goals.

Our penalty misses were always going to be highlighted and it was unfortunate to miss twice with their goalkeeper seemingly an expert at keeping them out having already saved two in a game earlier in the season.

For all our pressure we could not find a winner in the second half which was frustrating for everybody concerned on the night.

At Stockport our frustration was of a different kind where a late equaliser denied us our first away win of the season. It summed up our luck recently that a shot takes a deflection to beat Mark Tyler to make it 1-1 before Stuart Fleetwood hits the inside of the post with the last kick of the game.

They say you make your own luck but at the minute but I don't know what we have to do to change it.

Whether it be injuries, illness, penalty misses or last-minute equalisers I think to have come through six games unbeaten is a great achievement. It's nothing to get carried away with, though, and we understand is plenty to improve on.

Your support has been excellent and on behalf of all the lads I'd like to thank you for the support against Hayes, where you made up 70 per cent of the crowd, and at Stockport where you travelled in your numbers again on a Friday night for a televised match.

Get behind us once more today. Enjoy the game.

# AROUND TOWN

## RIP MARK OVDENALE 1973-2011

Everyone at Kenilworth Road has been saddened to learn of the death of our former goalkeeper Mark Ovendale at the tragically young age of 37 after a brave fight against cancer.

Leicester-born Mark first caught the eye at Wisbech Town where his shot stopping abilities led to him joining Northampton Town in August 1994.

After failing to win a regular place at Sixfields he accepted a free transfer to Barry Town where he established a League of Wales record by going 1,072 minutes without conceding a goal in 1995/96.

Starring as his side won three consecutive titles, Mark was then subject to a £30,000 move to Bournemouth in 1998 before a big bid from Ricky Hill's Luton was accepted in August 2000.

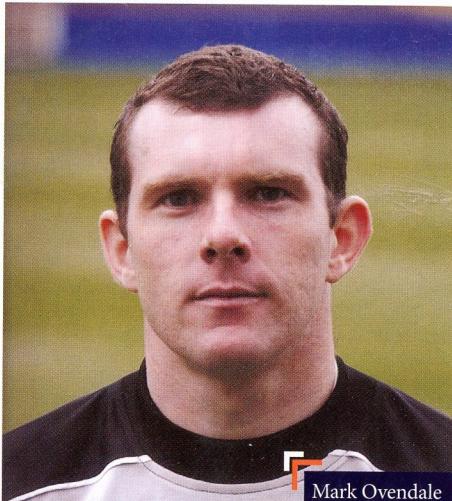
Mark helped the Hatters to promotion from Division Three in 2002 but was unable to claim the number one shirt as his own and was released in 2003 after 55 first team appearances for the Town.

After initially re-joining Barry Town, Mark signed for League 2 side York City for a season and then on to Tiverton Town and Newport County but was forced to retire from the game in June 2007 due to a hip injury. After retiring from playing, Mark took on a coaching role at Wimborne Town.

Everyone at Luton Town send their thoughts and condolences to Mark's family at this sad time.

As a mark of respect, there will be a minute's applause to recognise Mark's passing and celebrate his career at Kenilworth Road

Rest in Peace, Mark.



Mark Ovendale

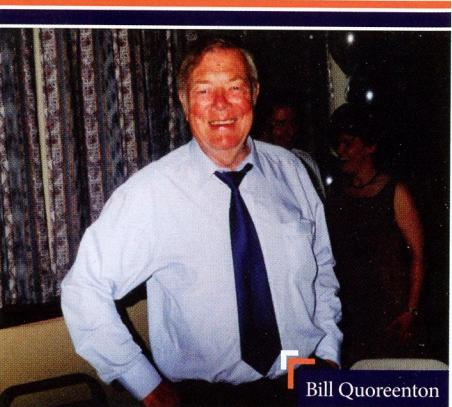
## BILL QUOREENTON

The club also received the sad news of the death of supporter Bill Quoreenton who passed away on 27th August aged 80.

Bill started watching the Hatters after the second world war and continued up to last season when illness prevented him from attending games.

He had been a season ticket holder from the early 1970s and in recent seasons has been watching the Town from the family executive box.

His influence (and a bit of arm twisting) has resulted in each of his sons and their children being life-long supporters.



Bill Quoreenton



## ITALIAN INVASION

Members of a new Luton Town supporters group of Italian fans will be making their debuts at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Claudio Mazzuoccolo started up the group on social networking site Facebook and now has 132 members with a number of those present here today. *Forza Hatters!*

## TRANSFER TALK

Since our last home programme, manager Gary Brabin has been busy in the transfer market, signing three players.

Midfielder John Paul Kissock signed a two-year deal on the eve of the game against Braintree, and made his debut as a substitute in the 3-1 win.

The 21-year-old has joined from Southport and was on the books as a trainee at Everton. On deadline day the Hatters secured the signings of strikers Collin Samuel and Stuart Fleetwood.

Trinidad & Tobago international Samuel, 30, has spent the last 10 years playing in the Scottish Premier League whilst 25-year-old Fleetwood joins from League 2 side Hereford United and has penned a two-year contract.

## NO GO FOR ENGLAND C

The planned England C International game against India Under-23s at Dagenham, which was scheduled for last Tuesday, was cancelled.

It means the Town's Adam Watkins, John Paul Kissock and Robbie Willmott, who were all called-up to Paul Fairclough's squad, will now all have to wait for the chance to represent their country.

## CARDEN JOINS COACHING STAFF

After a highly-successful trial Paul Carden has been appointed as first team coach by manager Gary Brabin.

The 32-year-old's enthusiasm and coaching style has not only been infectious around Kenilworth Road over the course of the summer, but also

key in the Hatters' preparation for the new campaign.

And following his release from Cambridge United June, Brabin was quick to utilise Carden's know-how.

Brabin told *Talk of the Town*: "Paul has been terrific since he's come in, just like he was last when he signed for the club last season.

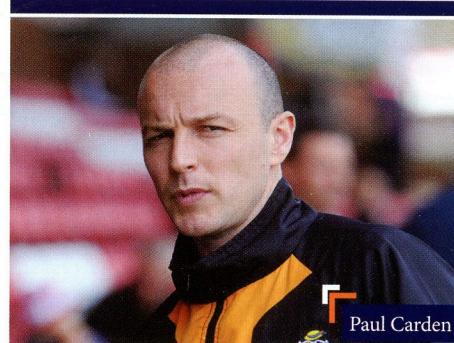
"The lads have really taken to his methods in training and his advice and experience has been extremely beneficial."

Carden originally arrived at Kenilworth Road last season from the Abbey Stadium, making 10 appearances whilst on-loan, and has rejected offers from several clubs offering a full playing contract to join the Hatters permanently.

The former Chester and Peterborough man will also help assistant manager Alan Neilson in the management of the development squad where he will be registered as a player and feature if required.

"I'm thrilled to get the opportunity to work at Luton Town," Carden said. "I've enjoyed every minute of my time at Kenilworth Road and I'm looking forward to working with Gary, Alan, Dmitri and the players in our push for promotion.

"It's a great opportunity and I'd like to thank everyone at the club for their support over the past few months."

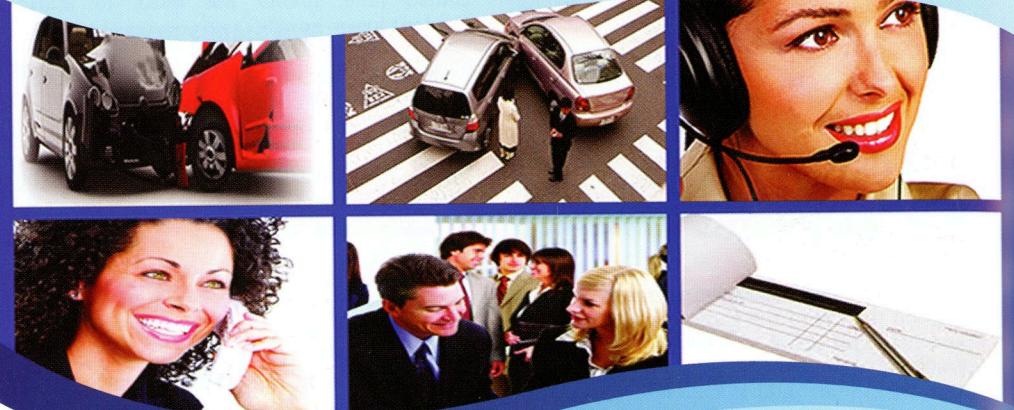


Paul Carden

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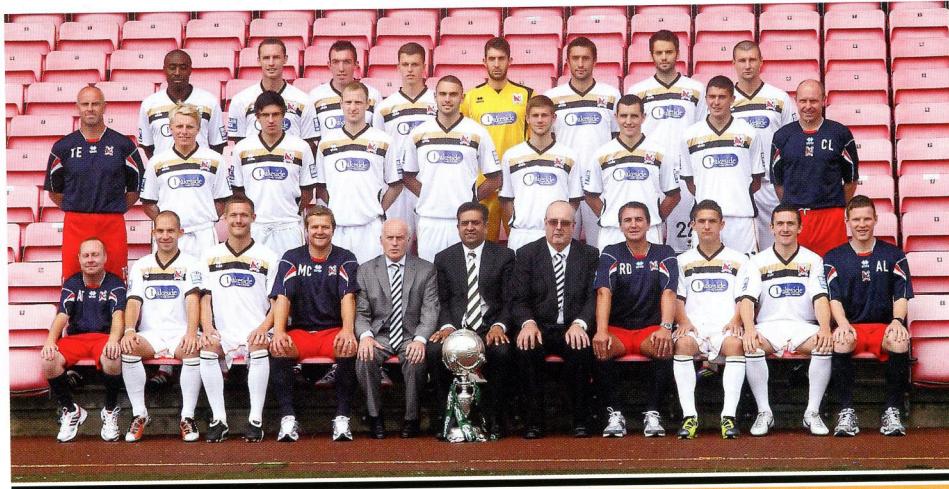
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# WELCOME DARLINGTON



It is our pleasure to welcome Mark Cooper's Darlington to Kenilworth Road today for our fourth home fixture of the season.

One of the pre-season favourites to challenge at the top of the Blue Square Bet Premier this term, the Quakers are currently sitting just outside a Play-Off spot after a steady start to the season. A disappointing 2-0 home defeat to Mansfield last week ended a run of good results that included impressive wins at home to Lincoln (3-1) and away at Grimsby (2-1).

Last summer, Darlo's first in the Conference, the Durham-based outfit faced early-season turmoil as manager Simon Davey and his successor Ryan Kidd both quit the club before a ball had been kicked. Cooper picked up the pieces, and after a rocky start the club went on a 20-match unbeaten run from January 2011 which culminated in a creditable seventh-placed finish in the league and a Wembley win over Mansfield in the FA Trophy final.

Cooper has reinforced his already strong squad this summer, with a mix of hungry players from

lower leagues – striker James Walshaw scored 32 goals for Guiseley in the Blue Square North last season – and players with Football League pedigree, like former Rochdale winger Adam Rundell, joining the ranks.

Giant Spanish midfielder Jonatan Sánchez-Muñoz, a graduate of La Liga side Málaga's academy, is an unusual signing, and one that Cooper says he is "confident will be a really quality addition to the squad".

Elsewhere in the team, former Hatters striker Liam Hatch will need no introduction to Town fans and will provide a physical threat up front, while ex-Manchester United youngster Kris Taylor is a danger with set-pieces.

Like the Hatters, Darlington have high hopes and expectations of a successful season, and this afternoon's match-up should make for an interesting early test for two of the division's heavyweights.

# THE VISITORS

## HISTORY

Darlington Football Club was formed in 1883. A number of representatives from the amateur and part-time teams met and decided to form one club to represent the town. Darlington were one of the original founder members of the Northern League in 1889.

The 1960's brought the highest ever attendance at Feethams against Bolton. Crystal Palace and West Ham had all suffered defeats at the hands of the Quakers and 21,023 packed Feethams hoping to see a similar result. Between the 1969/70 and the 1979/80 season Darlington had to apply for re-election to the Football League no less than five times. Every time the club was successful.

The Eighties saw the club in a financial mess; they were forced to raise £50,000 in just six weeks or face the possibility of being kicked out of the League.

The fans and people of the town rallied round and the money was raised to save the club. The 1988/89 season saw the club finish bottom of the Fourth Division and were relegated to the Conference. Brian Little led the club back into the League at the first attempt and the season after that the club was promoted again as champions. In 1996 Darlington rounded off a good year for North East clubs by making it to the Third Division Play-Off final, losing to Plymouth.

George Reynolds bought the club in 1999. He paid off the debts which were rumoured to in the region of £5 million pounds and started construction of a new 25,000 seater ground on the edge of the town. In the 1999/00 season Darlington were again in the Play-Offs, losing again 1-0. At the end of the 2002/03 season the club said goodbye to Feethams and moved into the new ground at Neasham Road in time for the start of the 2003/04 season.

The Arena's opening match saw Darlington take on Kidderminster Harriers and a large crowd of 11,600 people attended the game. The Quakers went down 2-0 on the day but got their first win there in the next home match against Leyton Orient.

Darlington's recent history is hardly enviable. After suffering a second period in administration and the 10 point deduction that went with it in 2009, relegation out of the Football League was the icing on a very bad cake at the end of 2009/10.

Three managers in two weeks last summer alone is a measure of the uncertainty that has shadowed Darlington in recent years but last season's FA Trophy success – beating Mansfield at Wembley – shows the Quakers are making progress.

## MEET THE MANAGER

MARK COOPER was appointed Darlington's new manager in June 2010 as the Quakers were preparing for life in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

His managerial career began when he joined Tamworth in May 2002 and was appointed player/assistant manager at the start of the 2003/04 season.

During his time as Tamworth manager, Cooper managed to get them into the third round of the FA Cup in two consecutive seasons.

The first time they played against Stoke at the Britannia Stadium and they managed to force a replay at their own ground. The following season they played against Norwich City and lost 4-1.

Cooper left Tamworth in January 2007 and two months later he took over at Kettering Town. He had a successful first season with the Poppies, winning the Conference North title with a margin of 17 points.

In the 2008/09 season, he guided Kettering to the FA Cup fourth round, a joint record for the furthest the club have been in the competition, where they faced Premier League team Fulham.

He also guided them to eighth in the Blue Square Premier, completing a successful return to the Conference.

Cooper was appointed Peterborough boss in November 2009 but it didn't work out and he left in February.

Already working his magic at the Darlington Arena, he masterminded the Quakers' FA Trophy triumph last season.

# IN OPPOSITION

Quakers boss Mark Cooper is hoping his side can bounce back from last Saturday's 2-0 home defeat against Mansfield Town this afternoon.

A Matt Green double – the man who also scored against the Town last month – did irreparable damage in the first half and Cooper hopes that hard work on the training ground this week will pay off.

"For the last hour we were the better team, but that doesn't win you a game," he said last week.

"I have to now make sure that the personnel I think are responsible don't play, or I make sure that they know if they do play again the same thing doesn't happen. It's going to be a massively tough week in training.

"At this level you have to constantly keep training players because they win two games and all of a sudden think they're Real Madrid.

"We didn't turn up for the first 20 minutes and gave Mansfield too much respect. We'd spoken about the game not being as easy as Lincoln. The message had been to get tight and let Mansfield know that they were in a game. But we didn't do it."

Cooper, whose side lifted the FA Trophy after beating the Stags at Wembley last May, was hugely disappointed with the performance at the Darlington Arena last Saturday.

"You watch any level of football, even in the Premier League or international football, you've got to compete," he said.

"You can play your pretty football like we do, but you also have to win the battle, which is something we didn't do for 20 minutes. We let Adam Murray get on the ball and play.

"Once we got that sorted out we looked a totally different team and had we scored in that spell just before half-time I believe we'd have had a totally different result.

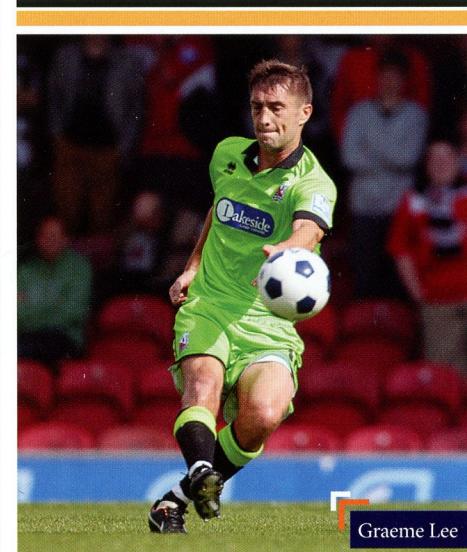
"We had them camped in their half and they were relying on Green's pace to try to get breaks."

Despite pinning back Mansfield in the second half, Cooper was disappointed that his side could not find a way through, made all the more frustrating after seeing a number of penalty appeals waved away.

"I don't really want to talk about referees because that seems to be all we're doing at the moment," said Cooper.

"Paul Arnison's was a blatant penalty, and then there were three handballs in their penalty area in the second half, ridiculous.

"But I'm not going to use that as an excuse because had we started the game properly we would have won, I'm convinced of that."



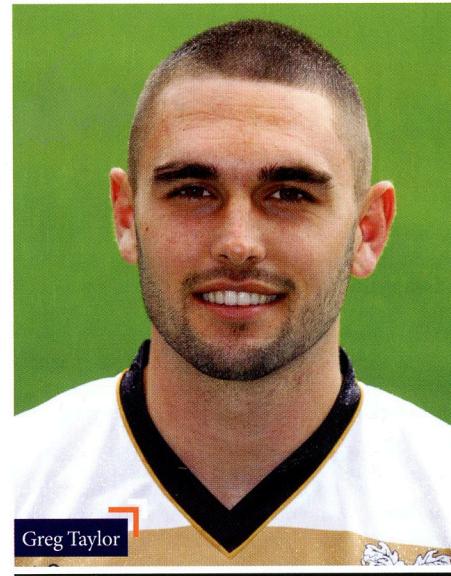
Graeme Lee

# IN TOWN

## ■ GOALKEEPERS

### SAM RUSSELL

Russell rejoined the Quakers in summer 2010 after spending the 2009/10 season with Wrexham, and ended the season with a clean sheet at Wembley in the FA Trophy final. The Middlesbrough-born stopper began his career with his hometown club and after a loan spell with Darlington in 2002/03 he joined the Quakers permanently in 2004, playing more than 100 games in three seasons at the Arena. He left for Rochdale in 2007, playing 46 games for Dale in two years, before moving on to Wrexham.



## ■ DEFENDERS

### PAUL ARNISON

Full-back Arnison started his career at Newcastle as a trainee before he moved to Hartlepool in March 2000, and finished on the losing side against Quakers in that season's Play-Off semi-finals. He was part of the Hartlepool squad that won promotion from League 2 in 2002/03 before he moved across country to Carlisle in November 2003 on loan.

### IAN MILLER

Miller became the first Darlington player to lift silverware at Wembley in May, after captaining the side to victory in the FA Trophy. The centre-back eventually completed his permanent move to Darlington in January 2008 after having two previous loan spells from Ipswich.

### GRAEME LEE

Experienced defender who signed for Darlington in June 2011 after being released by League 1 Notts County. The Middlesbrough-born centre-back began his career with Hartlepool before he then signed for Sheffield Wednesday where he spent three seasons at Hillsborough, playing 75 games for the Owls. He joined Doncaster in January 2006 and then Bradford in June 2008 and spent a season with City, before signing for Notts in summer 2009.

## ■ GREG TAYLOR

The versatile England C international defender joined Darlington in the January 2011 from Kettering. He made his Northampton debut as a substitute away to Bolton in the League Cup in August 2008 before signing for Kettering at the beginning of the 2009/10 season. He played 48 league and cup games for the Poppies before signing an 18-month deal at the Northern Echo Arena.

### BEN PURKISS

Full-back signed from on-loan from Oxford in August 2011. The right-back started his career as a trainee at Sheffield United in 2003. Following his release from the Blades, the defender returned to football on a part-time basis with non-league Gainsborough. He moved to York where he made more than 100 first team appearances, the last of which came against Oxford at Wembley in May 2010.

## ■ MIDFIELDERS

### JAMIE CHANDLER

Midfielder who agreed to join Darlington in May 2010 on a pre-contract arrangement after being released by Sunderland at the end of the 2009/10 season. He played 14 games on loan during a four-month spell in 2009 before returning to the Stadium of Light in November.

### KRIS TAYLOR

Midfielder who joined the Quakers after being released by League 2 side Port Vale at the end of the 2010/11 season. Originally from Cannock he

# DARLINGTON



began his career with Wolves as a youngster but was signed by Manchester United at the age of 14. His career at Old Trafford didn't materialise, though, and he joined Walsall in 2002. He then signed for Hereford in summer 2007 before joining Port Vale.

### MARC BRIDGE-WILKINSON

Darlington completed the permanent signing of Marc in January 2011, signing an 18-month deal, after initially joining the club on loan from Carlisle in October 2010. The Coventry-born, left-sided player began his career with Derby in 1997 and after a loan spell with Carlisle he joined Port Vale in 2000. He then signed for Stockport in 2004 and played 25 games for County before moving on to Bradford in February 2005.

### ADAM RUNDLE

Winger who became Mark Cooper's fourth summer signing of 2011. Rundle began his career as a trainee with Darlington but left for Carlisle in January 2003 before moving on to Dublin City, Mansfield, Rochdale, Rotherham and Chesterfield, joining Morecambe in summer 2010.

### CHRIS ATKINSON

Signed on a six-month loan deal from League 1 side Huddersfield Town in July 2011, the central midfielder was Mark Cooper's fifth summer signing. He played two games in League 1 last season, starting against Dagenham in February and Yeovil in March, as well as a substitute appearance against Macclesfield in the FA Cup.

### JONATAN SANCHEZ-MUNOZ

Darlington signed the former Malaga midfielder on transfer window deadline day in August 2011, with the defensive midfielder signing a one-year deal at the Northern Echo Arena, with an option to extend. Sanchez-Munoz, who prefers to go by the name 'Jhona', is a product of La Liga club Malaga's youth system.

## ■ STRIKERS

### LIAM HATCH

Hatch originally joined the Quakers on a six-month loan from Peterborough, and the big striker made the move permanent at the beginning of the January 2011 transfer window. He began his career with Ramsgate and signed for Gravesend and Northfleet in 2001. He joined Barnet in 2003 and helped them win the Conference in 2005, before Peterborough paid £150,000 for him in January

2008. He spent the 2009/10 here at Kenilworth Road, scoring four goals in 22 games.

### JAMES WALSHAW

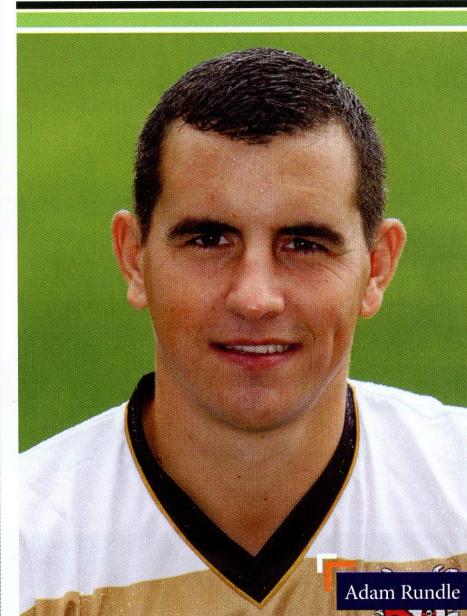
Highly-rated striker who signed from Guiseley in May 2011. The forward, who was the Lions' top scorer in the Conference North in the 2010/11 season, has also played for Ossett Town, Wakefield and Farsley Celtic.

### JOHN CAMPBELL

Young forward signed from Northern League side Newcastle Benfield just before the end of the January 2011 transfer window. Campbell scored 25 goals for Benfield in the first half of the 2010/11 season, making his debut at Kenilworth Road.

### RYAN BOWMAN

Former Carlisle frontman who signed in August 2011, penning an initial six-month contract after impressing in pre-season following his release at Brunton Park.





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# NAMES & GAMES

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS LOOKS AT DARLINGTON'S LEADING LIGHTS

## ■ CLASSIC CAMPAIGN

### 1984/85

Darlington won promotion with a record 85 points under Cyril Knowles in 1984/85. Newcomer Carl Airey scored twice as the Quakers beat Northampton 4-0, then John Hannah grabbed a hat-trick in a 4-3 win at Aldershot. The seven-match unbeaten start ended with a 1-0 defeat at home to Hartlepool but they soared to the top of the table with just two defeats in 23 matches and beat Middlesbrough 2-1 in an FA Cup third round replay. Garry Haire arrived from Bradford City in February and helped the Quakers regain pole position with five straight wins. They clinched promotion with a 2-2 draw at Crewe and finished third.

## ■ MANAGING TO SUCCEED

### BRIAN LITTLE

Ex-England international striker Brian Little managed Darlington to the Fourth Division title in 1990/91. Signing professional for Aston Villa in March 1971, he starred as they won the FA Youth Cup in 1972, promotion in 1974/75 and twice lifted the League Cup. His playing career was ended by injury and he coached at Villa, Wolves and Middlesbrough before becoming Darlington's manager in February 1989. He also plotted their 1989/90 Conference title triumph and remained in charge until leaving in May 1991 to manage Leicester City, since managing Villa, Stoke, West Brom, Hull City, Tranmere and Wrexham.

## ■ FAB FOUR

### JASON DE VOS

Canadian international central defender Jason De Vos gained a club record three caps while at Darlington. Moving to Feethams from Montreal Impact in November 1996, he quickly impressed alongside Andy Crosby and netted five goals in 44 Third Division games for the Quakers before being sold to Dundee United for a record £500,000 in October 1998. He played for his country in the 2000 Gold Cup and joined Wigan Athletic for £500,000 in August 2001. Captaining them to

the Second Division title in 2002/03 when voted Player of the Year, he moved to Ipswich Town in July 2004 and is now back in Canada.

### MARCO GABBIADINI

Former England B international striker Marco Gabbiadini was twice leading marksman and starred as Darlington reached the Third Division Play-Off final in 1999/00. Initially with York City, he joined Sunderland in September 1987 and was an influential figure in their 1989/90 promotion campaign. He moved to Crystal Palace for £1,800,000 in October 1991, then played for Derby County, helping win promotion in 1995/96. After spells at Stoke City and York, he joined Darlington in July 1998 and netted 47 goals in 82 League games before moving to Northampton Town in June 2000, then played for Hartlepool.

### FRANK GRAY

Former Scotland international left-back Frank Gray was an experienced figure as Darlington won the Conference title and Fourth Division title in consecutive seasons. Signing professional for Leeds United in November 1971, he starred alongside his brother Eddie as they were League Champions in 1973/74 and European Cup finalists in 1974/75. He joined Nottingham Forest in July 1979 and helped them win the European Cup in 1980, rejoining Leeds in May 1981. Moving via Sunderland to Darlington in July 1989, he netted eight goals in 85 League games. He has managed Farnborough, Grays, Woking and Basingstoke.

### DAVID SPEEDIE

Fiery, versatile striker David Speedie was capped 10 times by Scotland after leaving Darlington. Previously with Barnsley, he moved to Feethams in June 1980 and was Darlington's leading marksman in 1981/82. He netted 21 goals in 88 League games for the Quakers prior to joining Chelsea in June 1982 and starred in their 1983/84 Second Division title and 1986 Full Members Cup final triumphs. Sold to Coventry City for £780,000 in July 1987, he was twice Player of the Year and joined Liverpool in February 1991. He later played for Blackburn Rovers, Southampton and Leicester City and has become a players agent.



# COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH DAVID HOSKINS

As I have mentioned in my programme notes earlier this season we have been extremely busy in the commercial department taking bookings for corporate hospitality and I expect that to increase as the season continues.

Some of our high-profile fixtures have proved to be incredibly popular with match sponsor, ball sponsor and other commercial opportunities snapped up quickly and that is sure to be the case as the campaign progresses.

We have also had a lot of interest in our Business Breakfast Club which is held on a monthly basis in the newly refurbished Eric Morecambe Lounge. There are no limits on the places in these exciting business networking meetings so if you like the sound of it, please get in touch.

We're also in the midst of planning our Christmas celebration evening - where our current management team will be joined by David Moss who will be reminiscing about his time with the Town. The event will be held at the Luton Hoo and further information will be released over the next few weeks.

This afternoon we have the continued support of NICEIC, our back of shirt and shorts sponsors, as match sponsor this afternoon and I'd like to welcome their party and all our corporate guests today and I hope you have an enjoyable afternoon.

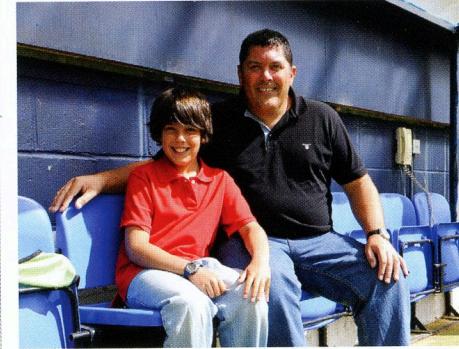
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# LOOK BACK



## TOWN 3 - 1 BRAINTREE NEW BOYS BEATEN



Boss Gary Brabin described his team's performance against Braintree as "first class" as the Town eased to a 3-1 victory to keep up their unbeaten start to the season.

Two goals from Amari Morgan-Smith and one from Jake Howells, all before the break, secured the Hatters' second win of the campaign to move them up to sixth in the table and earn praise from the gaffer.

"They way we applied ourselves was first class," he said afterwards. "There were a number of excellent individual displays and credit to Amari Morgan-Smith. He took his two goals really well and he's deserved his chance for performances in recent weeks.

"We started brightly, went 1-0 up and had chances to go two or three goals ahead - you'd normally back Danny Crow to tap one in - and then we're disappointed with their goal. We were frustrated with the decision that led to the goal but we switched off.

"However, the players worked hard and did the right things and I think 3-1 was a fair result and, in truth, it could have been a few more."

With new signing John Paul Kissack on the bench, the manager set his side out with a 442 formation for the first time this season - and the tactics paid dividends against the Iron.

"I don't want us to be one dimensional," Brabin said. "I like 442 and 433, they are the favoured formations but we knew Braintree would play a certain way and that suited us to go 442.

"As for JP, he's a match-winner, he's full of energy and enthusiasm but he had a long day yesterday and we wanted to wait to unleash him."



The scorer of two goals, Morgan-Smith was pleased with his contribution against Alan Devonshire's newly-promoted outfit.

"I was annoyed to miss the penalty and it was a relief to put the rebound in," he said. "We played well and dominated for long spells, we looked really dangerous going forward.

"The first goal was a great pass from James Dance. The manager said to me just feed of those kind of passes and use your pace to get past defenders and get a shot in.

"It gives me confidence, I am a confidence player and a result and performance like this can only help."

Fellow goalscorer Howells was also happy to get his name on the scoresheet after featuring in defence.

"I like getting forward from left-back," he said. "I enjoy linking-up with Robbie Willmott - we have a really good understanding down the left flank."



# TOWN 3

Morgan-Smith 12, 43, Howells 45

# BRAINTREE 1

Howells (og) 20

James Dance in an aerial battle



**TOWN:** Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells, Dance (sub Kissock 89) Lawless (sub Watkins 46), Keane, Willmott, Crow (sub O'Connor 82), Morgan-Smith. Subs not used: Asafu-Adjaye, K. Pilkington

**BRAINTREE:** McDonald, Peters, Thomas, Paine, Bailey-Dennis, Symons (sub O'Connor 73), Reason, Davis, Yiadom, Marks (sub Chilaka 61), Wright (sub Quinton 80). Subs not used: Jones, James-Lewis

ATTENDANCE: 5,703

POSSESSION	47
SHOTS ON TARGET	53
SHOTS OFF TARGET	6
CORNERS	8
FOULS	9
	8



Amari Morgan-Smith makes it 2-1



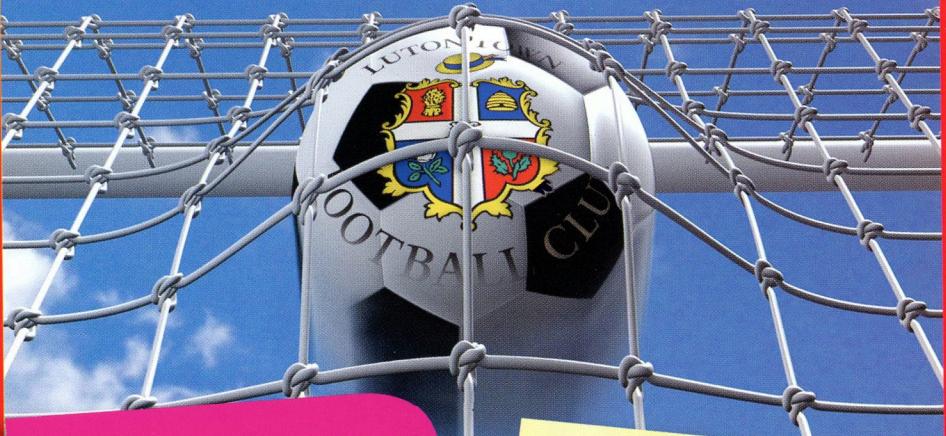
Jake Howells puts the Hatters further in front

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# LOOK BACK



## HAYES & YEADING 2-2 TOWN PAYING THE PENALTY



The Hatters were left to rue two missed penalties as they were held to a 2-2 draw at Hayes & Yeading United.

After falling behind to a fourth minute strike from Louie Soares, Danny Crow missed a penalty before Jake Howells suffered the same fate 10 minutes later, with both efforts being stopped by home stopper Steve Arnold.

Amari Morgan-Smith netted the rebound from Howells' effort to put them back on level terms and two minutes later Crow put the Town ahead, slotting home after rounding Arnold.

However, the hosts equalised in first half stoppage time when Soares punished indecisive Town defending.

The second half saw the Hatters push for a winner and came close with Keith Keane and Alex Lawless going close and substitute Adam Watkins having a shot cleared off the line.

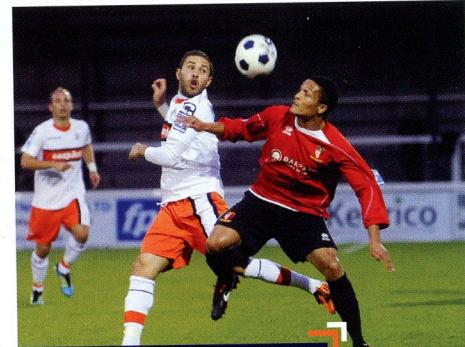
United could have stolen the points but Mark Tyler came to Town's rescue when keeping out Luke Williams' shot with three minutes left.

The manner of the Hatters' performance did not please the manager. "I'm really, really disappointed because we've done enough to win tonight and missed two penalties," Brabin said afterwards.

"We've created a lot of opportunities and could have been three or four goals up and then we switch off at the back and a mistake has cost us.

"It's not like we don't practise penalties, Danny and Jake are very good penalty takers. Ultimately those misses and the mistake have cost us and we're left with one point when we've done enough to win three."

Despite scoring Crow could not hide his disappointment at missing what turned out to be the crucial spot-kick.



Robbie Willmott battles for the ball

"I'm deflated, I just can't get over that penalty miss," the 25-year-old said. "I'm hugely disappointed. I'm happy I scored but words can't describe how gutted I feel about the penalty."

"Amari and I take penalties every day in training, and the thing is I always go the other way, so I have no idea why I went the way I did."

"I'll be lying awake thinking about it, I just can't believe it – and we've been punished."

"We've missed penalties and switched off at the back. The first goal we conceded was from our own corner."

"The fans deserved better from us - their support was fantastic."

"I've won two penalties this season and I'm always confident in taking one unless someone else wants it."

"But at the minute the dressing room feels as though we've lost."



# HAYES & YEADING 2

Soares 4, 45

## TOWN

Morgan-Smith 26, Crow 28

Alex Lawless keeps his eyes on the ball

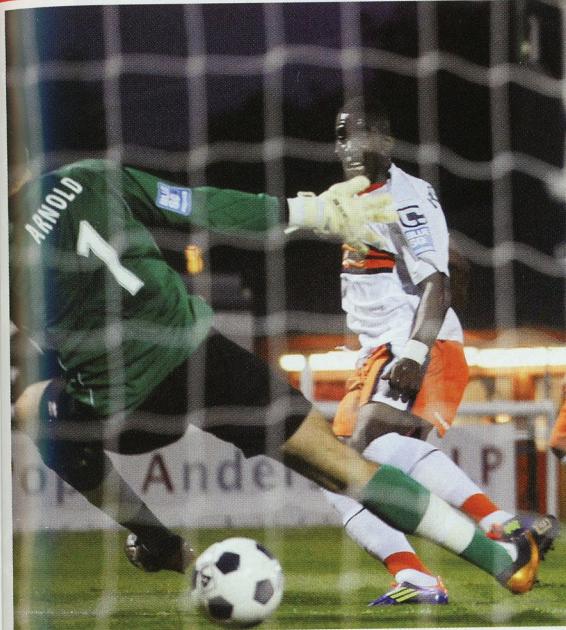


**HAYES & YEADING:** Arnold, Cadmore, Bayley, Bentley, John (sub Saville 44), Williams, Hand, Crockford (Mackie 74), Soares, Joseph-Dubois (sub Wishart 84), Pacquette. Subs not used: Elder, Freddie.

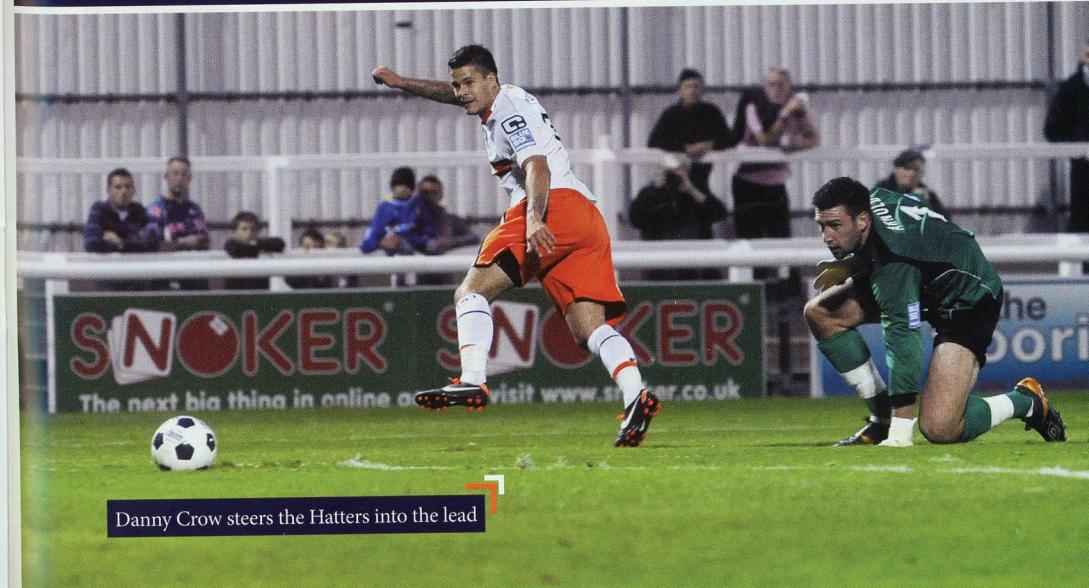
**TOWN:** Tyler, Osano, Osano, Antwi, Beckwith, Howells (sub Asafu-Adjaye 39), Dance (sub Watkins 61), Lawless, Keane, Willmott, Morgan-Smith, Crow (sub O'Connor 77). Subs not used: Kissock, K. Pilkington.

ATTENDANCE: 1,015

POSSESSION	
48%	52%
SHOTS ON TARGET	3
SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
CORNERS	10
FOULS	11
12	



Amari Morgan-Smith nets the Town's equaliser



Danny Crow steers the Hatters into the lead



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# LOOK BACK



## STOCKPORT 1-1 TOWN LAST MINUTE FRUSTRATION



Gary Brabin cut a frustrated figure following his side's fourth draw in six games after Stockport's injury time equaliser denied the Town a first away win and clean sheet of the season.

The manager could not believe his team - who took the lead through Alex Lawless's fantastic fifth-minute effort - only came away from Edgeley Park with just a point when County's Sean McConville's deflected shot beat Mark Tyler.

"We've switched off defensively again and we've drawn a game from a winning position which is hugely frustrating," Brabin said afterwards.

"I've let the players know how I feel. We keep drumming it into them not to concede these silly goals but it's not getting through.

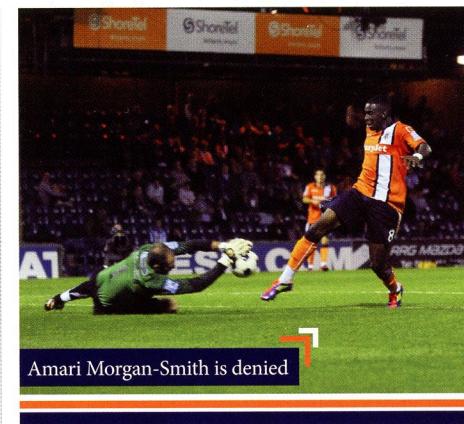
"At the moment we're conceding some very sloppy goals. We looked at the goals we've conceded so far this season before today and it showed that of all the goals we've let in only one hasn't come from a mistake.

"But tonight we've been punished again. We had to reshuffle our defence but tonight the back four is still full of good players. Will Antwi and Keith Keane were fantastic but we're missing Jake Howells, Dan Gleeson, Dean Beckwith, George Pilkington, Shane Blackett and Freddie Murray.

"I'm gutted we haven't won because for periods we looked really threatening going forward, Alex scored a great goal and we've had chances to go further ahead.

"It's frustrating to draw again but we know deep down that if it wasn't for our defending in the last two games we'd be four points better off."

New signing Stuart Fleetwood came within a whisker of hitting a debut goal but saw his effort in the sixth minute of injury time come off the inside of the post and into the arms of the goalkeeper.



Amari Morgan-Smith is denied

"I couldn't believe it, I thought it was in, I was about to start celebrating," the striker said. "It's disappointing not to win having been ahead for so long."

Midfielder John Paul Kissock was equally aggrieved following the home side's late leveller.

"I was devastated with the equaliser," he said. "To concede a goal like that was a bit of a nightmare."

"I felt as a team we did fantastically. We kept the ball but in the second half that was missing."

"We defended well and worked hard, but there's so much quality in the dressing room and so many fantastic footballers so we need to trust ourselves a little bit more."

"We tried to grind out the result but I thought, in the end, we deserved to nick it."



# STOCKPORT 1

McConville 90



# TOWN 1

Lawless 5

Stockport goalkeeper Matt Glennon punches clear as the Town press



**STOCKPORT:** Glennon, Blackburn, O'Donnell, Pierganni, Holden (sub Fraughan 67), McConville, Routledge, McCann (sub Nolan 77), Rowe, Chadwick (sub Elliott 67), German. Subs not used: Ormsen, Paton.

**TOWN:** Tyler, Osano, Antwi, Keane, Asafu-Adjaye, Kissock (sub Dance 69), Lawless, Watkins, Willmott, Crow (sub Fleetwood 83), Morgan-Smith. Subs not used: O'Connor, Carden, K. Pilkington.

ATTENDANCE: 3,389

POSSESSION	51%	49%
SHOTS ON TARGET	5	8
SHOTS OFF TARGET	7	4
CORNERS	8	8
FOULS	7	13



Robbie Willmott bursts down the wing



Ed Asafu-Adjaye clears under pressure

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Amari Morgan-Smith celebrates his goal against Braintree Town

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# HERE TO SCORE

## NEW SIGNING STUART FLEETWOOD TELLS TALK OF THE TOWN HE KNOWS THAT HE'S BEEN BOUGHT TO KENILWORTH ROAD TO FIRE THE HATTERS TO PROMOTION THIS SEASON

As the clock ticked past 11pm last Wednesday, Town fans around the world got their reward for the continual refreshing of the official site on deadline day when it was announced that Stuart Fleetwood had become Gary Brabin's second signing of a long and busy day.

For the Hatters' new striker and number 13 – "I don't mind that number," he says – it completed a hectic 24 hours. Brabin's long-time pursuit of the 25-year-old had stayed under the radar and paid off with minutes to spare as the manager's watch struck 11.

With 32 goals in one season at this level with Forest Green Rovers, Brabin believes he's got his man to score the goals to fire the Hatters to promotion. More importantly it's a view shared by the latest addition to the Kenilworth Road dressing room. No pressure then.



"I've always been brought to clubs to score goals," Fleetwood explained to Talk of the Town. "I've done that quite well for a lot of clubs and having trained with the lads I know we won't be struggling to create chances which is a huge plus."

"I know that I'm expected to hit the ground running but last season I didn't score at all for Hereford until October before I went on to score 18 goals."

"I set targets but I don't tell anyone them! That keeps the pressure off."

With Collin Samuel the other deadline day arrival, Brabin is flush with attacking options at the minute.

And with Amari Morgan-Smith and Danny Crow amongst the goals recently, Fleetwood knows that he's going to have to work hard for a starting place.

"It's healthy at any club to have plenty of competition," he says. "With so many games before Christmas with the cup and the Trophy you need a squad that can cope, especially if you're a team with ambitions of winning the league, so you do need to rotate the squad."

"We're going to be challenging for promotion which is a change for me, too. I've been at teams who have been in mid-table or battling relegation so it's a nice change which will bring different kind of pressures but I'm looking forward to it."

"I know Dean Beckwith from Herford, Alex Lawless from Forest Green and Freddie Murray from Exeter and they all told me how big this club is and the fan-base it has."

"It's a League club and that's what we're all striving to achieve this season – get this club back there."

The Wales Under-21 international's record at this level speaks for itself – 28 goals in one season in the Conference alone whilst with Forest Green is an enviable record.

In football word spreads quickly and when then Championship Charlton came calling, Fleetwood knew he had to further his career.

However, it didn't work out at the Valley – bizarrely playing just once for the Addicks – and he was farmed out on-loan before rejoining Hereford for a second spell.

"After I was released by Cardiff, I joined Hereford for the first time and won promotion to League 2 through the Play-Offs."

"I then joined Forest Green and played in this league for a year so I know what to expect. A lot of people have asked if this is a backward step for me, dropping down to Conference again but I certainly don't see it that way. Yes it's a drop down in division but it's a step up in club."

"At Charlton I always knew it was going to be difficult but Alan Pardew got sacked and I was sent out on loan and I thought I missed my chance but I don't regret going there it was a very good experience for me at the time."

Back at Hereford after leaving the Valley at the beginning of last season, the Town's new man certainly has a soft spot for the Bulls.

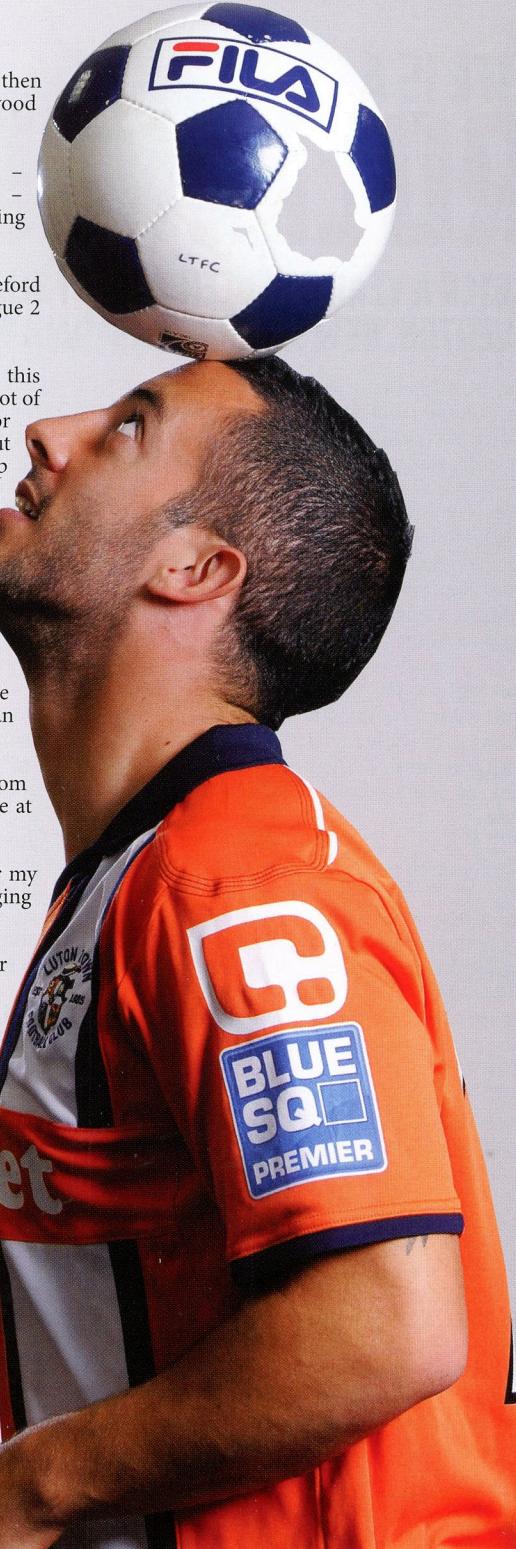
"I had great times there and my family are from that way and got on really well with everyone at Edgar Street."

"But this is a good move for me, it's good for my career and it's good to come to a club challenging at the other end of the table."

He might have only been on the pitch for seven (well 13 minutes, including injury time) at Stockport last Friday, but that was still enough time for striker to give the Hatters faithful at Edgeley Park and watching on Premier Sports a glimpse of what to expect from the 25-year-old when striking the post with what turned out to be the last kick of the game.

"I couldn't believe it," he said, cheeks puffed out at the end. "I was off celebrating, I thought it was in."

More chances are bound to fall his way as the a new chapter in the story of Stuart Fleetwood begins, but, as Hatters everywhere will tell you, efforts that hit the post in Manchester just don't go in...



# LIFE IS A ROLLERCOASTER

## AFTER A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE FROM EVERTON, NEW SIGNING JOHN PAUL KISSOCK IS ON THE UP

It's not very often we'll start a feature piece with an excerpt from a song from Ronan Keating but in the case of John Paul Kissock, life is a rollercoaster, you've just got to ride it.

They say a week is a long time in football. Try a year. Released as a 20-year-old from Premier League giants Everton, the Town's new signing from Southport feels as though he's had more rides in the last 12 months than he'd get if he'd gone to Alton Towers.

Talking to JP you immediately grasp his enthusiasm. It's infectious. The jack-in-the-box livewire has already proved that on the field with a sprightly display at Stockport last Friday and, of course against the Town already this term.

Cut loose by the Toffees last year, JP was stuck. Like all footballers released, the search is on for a new club but in Kissock's case it wasn't immediately forthcoming. A trial with Brighton, under the management of Gus Poyet, failed to materialise. So, undeterred the pocket dynamo returned to Merseyside...to join Newton of the Cheshire League and then Formby of the North West Counties League.

Lessons learned, he's on his way back. From Southport and then to Kenilworth Road, JP's a man on the up.

"Sometimes things just don't work out," the 5ft 6in forward tells Talk of the Town. "I loved my time at Everton. I was an unused sub many times in the Premier League but just didn't get the chance."

"I enjoyed every single minute of it, getting released was devastating but there's no use dwelling on it and looking back on it, you've got to move on."

"It certainly wasn't through a lack of trying. It's tough for young footballers, especially in the top division where there is so much money."

"There weren't many opportunities so I decided that I'd have to start at the bottom and work my way up again."

"I played at Formby under Gary Martindale and then Southport and now I'm at Luton. It's been a real rollercoaster and I feel I'm on my way back up at a massive club."

"You just have to keep working hard, stay focused and stay fit – it shows that if you put the work in you can get the rewards and there is nothing better than being rewarded with a contract at a club like Luton, it's absolutely fantastic."

His progress up the league ladder after dropping so far down is a credit to the Liverpudlian's attitude – something budding footballers can learn from.

"It's a privilege to play for a club with the history, tradition and supporter base like Luton," he continues.

"One minute I was getting on my kit to go training with Southport and the next minute Liam Watson, the Southport manager, rings me to tell me not to bother because Luton wanted me!"

Versatile enough to play anywhere across the midfield or in attack, Kissock can't wait to wow the Kenilworth Road crowd with similar performances that made him such a crowd favourite with Southport.

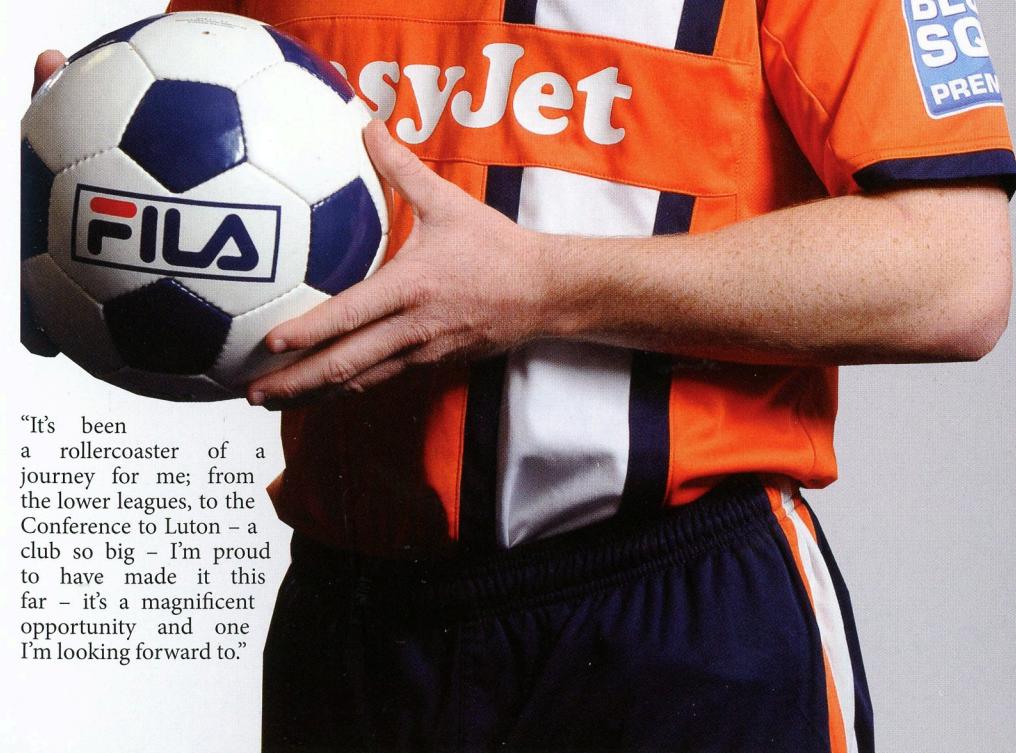
"Forwards are always judged on how many goals they score and create and hopefully I can do that," he says.

"More importantly it's about working hard, giving 100 per cent and doing the right things without the ball."

"I'm delighted to be playing on a bigger stage with Luton and I hope I can get forward, drop in the hole and be creative. I try to play creatively, offer something different and I hope the fans can take to that."

From a club battling relegation to one challenging from promotion, JP knows that there will be added pressure playing in front of 6,500 every week compared to the smaller crowds at Southport.

"You've got to embrace the pressure and believe in yourself," he says, refreshingly so. "As I've already said: do the right things, work 100 per cent and with the right mentality you can definitely live up to expectations."



"It's been a rollercoaster of a journey for me; from the lower leagues, to the Conference to Luton – a club so big – I'm proud to have made it this far – it's a magnificent opportunity and one I'm looking forward to."

PICTURE

# THE PAST

WITH CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH



The 1972/73 FA Cup campaign had started off with a relatively straightforward home pairing with Crewe from Division Four. A crowd of 9,411 saw Jim Ryan and Barry Butlin score second half goals to secure a plum fourth round tie with Newcastle at St James' Park.

The Magpies were riding high near the top of Division One (now the Premier League) while the Town were in Division Two.

The match had been given extra spice as Malcolm Macdonald, who had moved from Luton to Tyneside in the summer of 1971, was the darling

of the terraces and, never backward in coming forward in talking to the media, had turned the match into a personal crusade to put one over his old team mates.

If you believed the press corps in the days leading up to the game there appeared to be little point in the Hatters turning up!

A crowd of 42,170, which was the capacity in a three-sided St James' Park, greeted the Town players who turned out in an orange, black and white strip for the first time.

The Hatters had to endure the expected fierce onslaught in the opening minutes with Macdonald, skipper for the day, missing an early sitter.

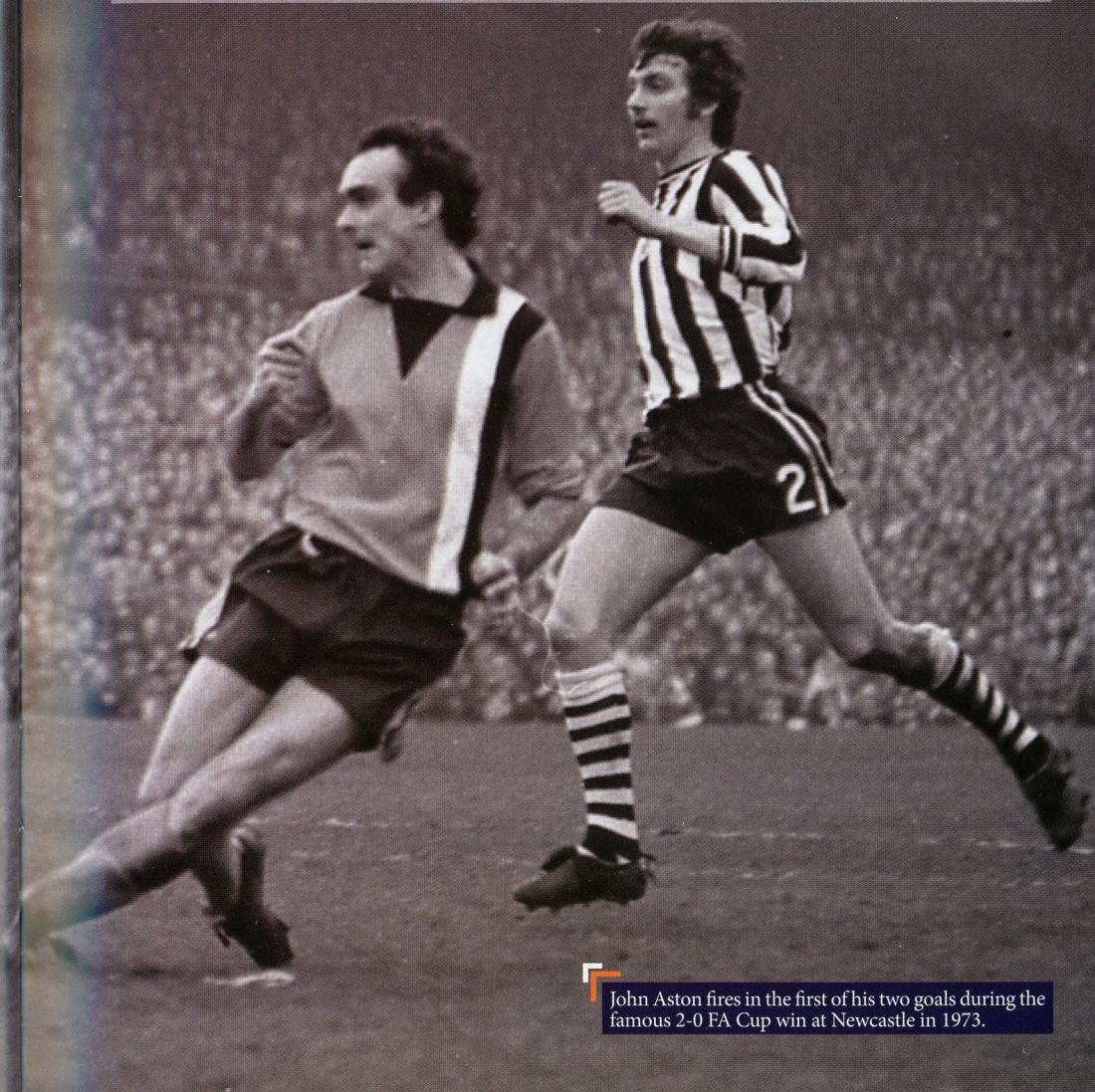
Gradually the Luton players increased in confidence and, out of the blue, took the lead in the 28th minute when the wily John Aston, taking a Jim Ryan pass in his stride, advanced on Newcastle goalkeeper Ian McPaul and calmly hit a left foot shot into the net.

Again Newcastle pressed, but it was the Town who increased their lead just before the interval when Alan Slough broke down the right before cutting the ball back to Aston who hit it into the top corner for a picture goal.

Not surprisingly it was backs to the wall stuff in the second half and John Moore recalls that it was one of his finest ever defensive performances even though the ball was sometimes blocked with unorthodox parts of his anatomy.

Stunned Newcastle manager Joe Harvey said afterwards: "I was banking on reaching Wembley, but we would not have scored if we had played until next week."

Hatters manager Harry Haslam, rubbing salt in the wound and also sticking two fingers up to the press 'experts' said: "I always thought we would win. We had more trouble beating Crewe in the last round."



John Aston fires in the first of his two goals during the famous 2-0 FA Cup win at Newcastle in 1973.

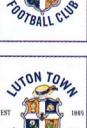
# THE HATTERS' BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB

## Membership includes:

- Monthly breakfast meeting held at Luton Town Football Club
- The opportunity to generate new business
- Encourage other members to learn about your business
- Network with local and likeminded businesses and their guests
- Business referrals
- Support local businesses
- Only one member per business sector

For further information, contact David Hoskins on: (01582) 411622 or email: [david.hoskins@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:david.hoskins@lutontown.co.uk)

## EXECUTIVE BOX HOLDERS

 <b>BOX 5</b> G.P QUOREENTON	 <b>BOX 7</b> EURO DRIVE	 <b>BOX 8</b> BILLINGTON & LAWRENCE	 <b>BOX 9</b> M&S WATER SERVICES
 <b>BOX 10</b> F&S PIPEWORKS	 <b>BOX 11</b> CES ELECTRICAL	 <b>BOX 13</b> EASYJET	 <b>BOX 14</b> T J ALDRIDGE
 <b>BOX 15</b> PICTONS SOLICITORS/ DOT GROUP INTERNATIONAL	 <b>BOX 16</b> PRESTIGE DESIGN	 <b>BOX 17</b> SHALLOWFORD UK LTD	 <b>BOX 18</b> CME HEATING
 <b>BOX 19</b> ADMIRAL	 <b>BOX 20</b> GILMARTINS	 <b>BOX 21</b> CLOUDBASE 9	 <b>BOX 23</b> LONDON ELECTRONICS
 <b>BOX 24</b> ROB & GREG HALL	 <b>BOX 25</b> MIDDLE EAST CHEMICALS	 <b>BOX 27</b> SKF	



The Hatters  
Business Breakfast Club



# THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

BY CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH



The winter of 1947 had been particularly harsh with snow lying on the ground for months and with the country still suffering from early post-war deprivations football took a back stage and no real attempts were made to re-schedule matches until the thaw finally came.

In those days before floodlights the season was extended until 14th June. The Town were lucky to finish two weeks before that, but this still represents their latest end to a campaign.

On 31st May the Town entertained already relegated Newport in an old Division Two (today's Championship) clash and cantered through 6-3 with Hugh Billington netting a hat-trick bringing his total up to 23 for the season.

A crowd of only 7,814 turned up, hence the ability of the supporters to sit on the

Kenilworth Road terraces at half-time to soak up the blazing summer sun.

It was seen as 'poor form' in those far off days for gentlemen to attend football matches without cap, jacket, collar and tie, and the majority are still wearing at least one of those items despite the obvious discomfort.

The famous knotted hanky is well in attendance and a few spectators seem to be wearing their wives' bloomers on their heads.

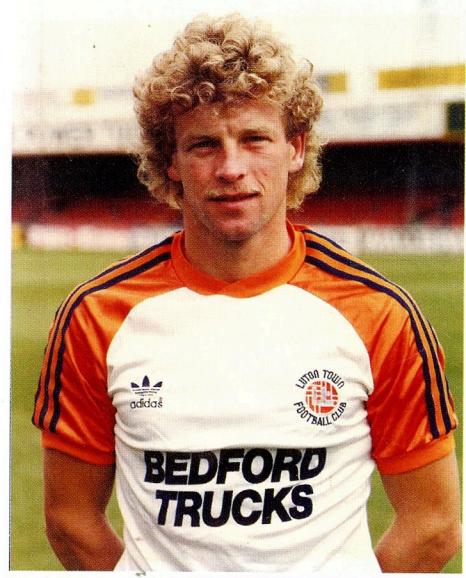
The final observation has to be the number of 'wartime utility' sunglasses on show, particularly the chap at the very bottom of the photo who seems to be sporting blacked-out swimming goggles!

# KIRK STEPHENS A PROMISE KEPT

## 'BASHER' RECALLS HOW HE HAS DAVID PLEAT TO THANK FOR HIS CAREER OF "FANTASTIC MEMORIES"

Kirk Stephens realised his "boyhood dream" of becoming a professional footballer relatively late, at the age of 23.

David Pleat kept a five-year-old promise to sign the full-back when he was appointed Town manager in 1978, and for the next six seasons the affectionately nicknamed "Basher" raced up and down the right flank with a tenacity and grit that made him a permanent fan-favourite with the Kenilworth Road faithful.



Released from his home-town club Coventry as a schoolboy in 1973, Stephens played part-time at Nuneaton, where he was under the tutelage of the young manager Pleat for a mere six months.

The teenager clearly made an impression on Pleat in that time though, as he recalls today.

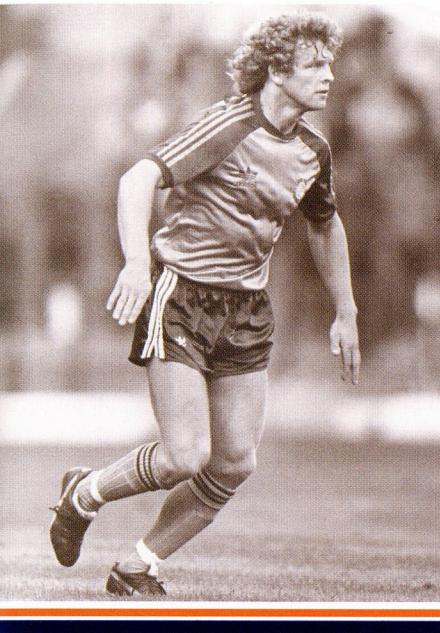
"I remember the day he left Nuneaton like it was just last week," Kirk says. "I saw him in the car park with a box of boots and papers in his arms and he said to me, 'Look, I've got some bad news. I'm leaving the club to go and coach at Luton Town. But it's been a pleasure having you in my squad and if I ever become manager of Luton I'll bring you to the club.'"

Pleat kept that promise several years later when, just days after being promoted to first team manager at the Hatters, he telephoned his old right-back to sign him for the Town. Thinking back to that vital moment in his career, Stephens still cherishes the feeling he experienced when he realised that it was Pleat on the phone that day in 1978.

"My wife passed the phone to me and said she didn't know who it was. Then David spoke and said 'do you still want to be a pro player?' It was such an emotional moment, to fulfil that ambition at the age of 23.

"And then I was part of that great team and I had a really special relationship with the supporters, the players and the manager who was like a father to me. I have so many fantastic memories – playing in goal at Liverpool, beating Shrewsbury 4-1 to win promotion, that incredible game at Manchester City [on the final day of the 1982/82 season] – you can't buy those memories and I owe them all to David Pleat."

It is memories such as those, as well as the special atmosphere at the Kenilworth Road club, that mark the years he spent in Bedfordshire as "the happiest" of his career, despite the fact that he later went on to play for his boyhood club Coventry City.



"I was with Coventry as a schoolboy and it broke my heart when they released me. I had one ambition from then on and that was to make them buy me back again one day," he explains.

"I read in the papers that they were interested in me, but I remember thinking, 'Why would I leave Luton Town?' I had one of the best relationships with fans that any player anywhere could have, I was so happy, and then David Pleat even offered me a 60% pay rise!

"But that lure of finally playing in a Coventry shirt, which I'd wanted to do all my life, was too strong. In hindsight it wasn't a good football move. I'd been part of a pure football family at Luton, and suddenly here I was playing long-ball, which I didn't enjoy."

Stephens also suffered a bad injury early in his time at Highfield Road, which meant that Coventry fans rarely saw the best of him, and he says that if he could go back to that "sad, sad day" when he departed from the Hatters and make the decision again, he would "never have left."

Now a board member at Nuneaton and the owner of a family construction business, Stephens is a regular visitor to Kenilworth Road, where he is proud to say he still has many friends.

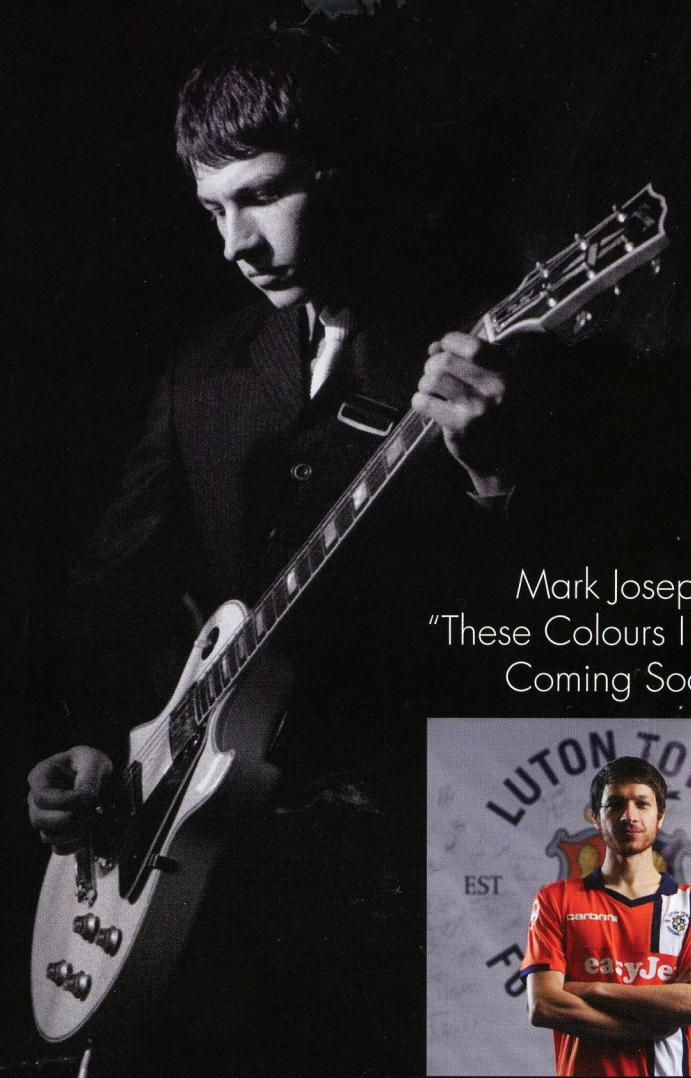
And one of the most popular players of the club's history, Stephens still maintains a great relationship with Hatters fans.

"I played with Ricky Hill and Brian Stein who played for England, Mal Donaghy who played about 90 times for Northern Ireland, Tony Greathouse who played 50 times for Ireland, but even though I never got to play for my country I lived the dream that they didn't – I scored the winning goal at Watford!"

Stephens played 248 times for the Hatters in total, and was an ever-present in the 1982 Division Two championship-winning side. There was only one club the Coventry-born defender would leave his adopted club for, but still when the Sky Blues came calling it was nevertheless a difficult decision to leave the Town.

Those thousands of Hatters supporters who used to sing Stephens' name, and who still remember him fondly to this day, have David Pleat to thank for keeping his promise to pluck 'Basher' from non-league obscurity to help the Town reach the big time.

# MARK JOSEPH



Mark Joseph  
"These Colours I Wear"  
Coming Soon

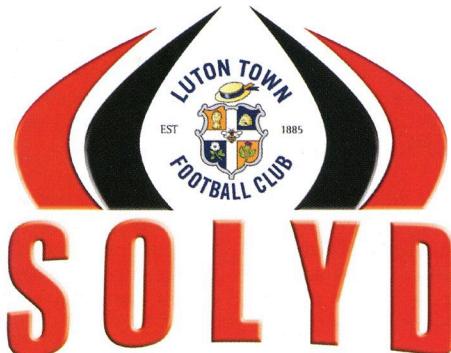


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## 2011/12 YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS



 <b>JOSH CARPENTER</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 <b>BRETT LONGDEN</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>JEROME JIBOOU</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>MUSTAFA MIRZAI</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 <b>JAMES FERGUSON</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 <b>NICK BURTENSHAW</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>COLBY McADAMS</b> HOME: Moira Spain AWAY: Available	 <b>JERRY NASH</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 <b>ALASAN ANN</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>MOSES KADOU</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>MASON BLAKE</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>BEN EKINS</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 <b>JORDAN DAVIS</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>JAKE WOOLLEY</b> HOME: Jan Gazeley AWAY: Available	 <b>IAN REES</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>CHISOLM AMADI</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available



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# DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

## ▼ FIXTURES

### TOTESPORT.COM COMBINATION 2011/12 NORTHERN SECTION

#### SEPTEMBER

TUE 6 - SOUTHEND UNITED W 1-0

#### NOVEMBER

TUE 22 - SOUTHEND UNITED H 2PM

WED 30 - STEVENAGE BOROUGH A 2PM

#### DECEMBER

TUE 13 - COLCHESTER UNITED A 2PM

#### JANUARY

TUE 10 - OXFORD UNITED H 2PM

TUE 17 - STEVENAGE BOROUGH H 2PM

WED 25 - OXFORD UNITED A 7PM

TUE 31 - COLCHESTER UNITED H 2PM

Home games to be played at Kenilworth Road

## ▼ MATCH DIGEST

■ FIXTURE Southend United (A)

■ COMPETITION Combination

■ RESULT 1-0

■ GOALSCORER Kissock

■ TEAM

Kidd, Jibodu, Asafu-Adjaye, Beckwith (sub Carney 65), Carden, Kissock, Stephens, Tavernier, McAdams, O'Connor (sub Henry 65), Samuel (sub Ann 80). Subs not used: Deeney, Nash.

■ REPORT

A goal from John Paul Kissock gave the Town's reserves a 1-0 victory over Southend in their opening match in the totesport.com Combination at Roots Hall.

The new signing from Southport struck with a 17th-minute free-kick after he'd been fouled just outside the box.

The game also marked the first appearance of

Charlie Henry in Luton colours. The winger played the final 25 minutes following his introduction as a second-half substitute.

New signing Collin Samuel also featured, playing 80 minutes before being withdrawn.

Assistant manager Alan Neilson was delighted with the team's performance against a strong home side.

"Both teams mixed experience with youth, and even if we hadn't won we would still have been delighted with the lads' work-rate and performance. We needed to give a number of first team players a run out, especially those like Dean Beckwith who had been laid low with a virus that kept him out of the Stockport match.

"JP, Aaron O'Connor and Collin Samuel needed time on the pitch and everyone was over the moon to see Charlie Henry come on and play the final 25 minutes of football.

"He's worked terrifically hard - mentally and physically - and he deserves all the credit for getting back to fitness. He's not quite there yet but we're thrilled to have him back - once he's fully up to speed it will be like having a new signing.

"We don't have another reserve game until we play Southend again in November but between now and then we'll be arranging behind closed doors action so Charlie and other first team players who need games can reacquaint themselves with matches."

## COMBINATION LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 LUTON TOWN	1	1	0	0	1	3
2 Colchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Oxford United	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Stevenage	0	0	0	0	3	0
5 Southend United	1	1	0	0	-1	0

# YOUNG HATTERS



## ■ UNDER-18S

### PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER-18 SOUTH-EAST DIVISION

#### AUGUST

6 - COLCHESTER UNITED (H) L 0-1  
13 - QUEENS PARK RANGERS (A)  
D 2-2

20 - BARNET (H) W 3-1

27 - WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2-1

#### SEPTEMBER

3 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN 2-0

10 - BRENTFORD (A)

17 - STEVENAGE BOROUGH (H)

19 - ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS (H)

FAYC

24 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED (H)

#### OCTOBER

8 - BARNET (H) PYC

15 - STEVENAGE (H) PYC

22 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN (A) PYC

29 - WYCOMBE WANDERERS (H)

PYC

#### NOVEMBER

5 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED (A) PYC

12 - WYCOMBE WANDERERS (H)

19 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN (A)

#### DECEMBER

10 - BRENTFORD (H)

17 - STEVENAGE (A)

#### JANUARY

7 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED (A)

28 - COLCHESTER UNITED (A)

#### FEBRUARY

4 - QUEENS PARK RANGERS (H)

11 - BARNET (A)

18 - MILLWALL (H)

25 - SOUTHEND UNITED (A)

#### MARCH

3 - BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION (H)

10 - ALDERSHOT TOWN (A)

17 - AFC WIMBLEDON (H)

24 - DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE (A)

31 - CRAWLEY TOWN (A)

#### APRIL

SAT - 14 LEYTON ORIENT (H)

SAT - 21 GILLINGHAM (H)

## ■ SHADOW SQUADS

### FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE CENTRAL DIVISION

#### SEPTEMBER

14 - ST ALBANS CITY (A)

28 - TAMWORTH (H)

#### OCTOBER

12 - CORBY TOWN (A)

26 - WATFORD HERTSWOOD (H)

#### NOVEMBER

2 - KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS (H)

9 - OXFORD CITY (A)

16 - BIRMINGHAM CITY WHITES (H)

23 - CHASETOWN (A)

30 - FOOTBALLCV REDS (H)

#### DECEMBER

7 - HITCHIN TOWN (A)

#### JANUARY

11 - KETTERING TOWN (H)

25 - KETTERING TOWN (A)

#### FEBRUARY

1 - ST ALBANS CITY (H)

8 - TAMWORTH (A)

22 - CORBY TOWN (H)

29 - WATFORD HERTSWOOD (A)

#### MARCH

14 - KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS (A)

21 - OXFORD CITY (H)

28 - BIRMINGHAM CITY WHITES (A)

#### APRIL

4 - CHASETOWN (H)

18 - FOOTBALLCV REDS (A)

25 - HITCHIN TOWN (H)

## ■ MATCH DIGEST

■ FIXTURE Northampton Town (H)

■ COMPETITION Youth Alliance

■ RESULT 2-0

■ GOALSCORERS Davis 2

#### ■ TEAM

Barnes, Longden, Jibodu, Burtenshaw, Ekins, Stephens, McAdams, Mirzai (sub Rees 87), Ann, Kadu (sub Nash 67) Davis. Subs not used: Woolley, Terry.

#### ■ COACH'S COMMENTS

"This was another decent performance where we have built again on recent games to extend the unbeaten run to four matches. I'm pleased that I feel able to use any combination of the players available both up front and in midfield, and we are still very competitive at this level. It was particularly good to get our first clean sheet, especially with the injury to Josh Carpenter meaning we had Ben Barnes from the Under-16s between the sticks. He'll now get an extended run in the side and, on the showing today, he'll be an excellent asset to the team".

## YOUTH ALLIANCE LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Gillingham	5	4		7	13	
2 Brighton & Hove Albion	5	4		11	12	
3 Southend United	4	3		10	10	
4 LUTON TOWN	5	3		4	10	
5 Queens Park Rangers	4	3		3	10	
6 Crawley Town FC	4	2		2	7	
7 Colchester United	4	2		1	6	
8 Leyton Orient	4	2		1	6	
9 Peterborough United	4	1		2	5	
10 Barnet	4	1		0	4	
11 Stevenage	4	1		1	4	
12 Wycombe Wanderers	4	1		1	4	
13 Northampton Town	4	1		2	4	
14 Dagenham & Redbridge	4	1		5	4	
15 Brentford	3	1		0	3	
16 Millwall	4	0		5	2	
17 Aldershot Town	4	0		6	0	
18 AFC Wimbledon	4	0		9	0	

# Sizzling Summer

We've got loads of bright ideas for things to see and do when out and about this summer and with our hot value fares you can really go to town. Visit our spanking new microsite for more amazing offers and ideas on where to go at [firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/summer](http://firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/summer)

LUTON  
TO LONDON  
RETURN FROM ONLY  
£9\*

\*Valid for Super Off-Peak tickets only. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details. There may be engineering works on Sundays throughout the summer, please check the website for full details.

First Capital Connect

## ACADEMY UPDATE

This afternoon we welcome our squad of Under-9s to Kenilworth Road. The team will be presented to the crowd at half-time so please give them a round of applause.

Coach Stuart Smith guides us through the team:

### JOSH B

Very brave goalkeeper; has settled quickly into the academy very quickly; he is noted for his agility and safe hands plus the fact he never leaves the session with the same kit he arrived with.

### MAX B

Goalkeeper who has exceptional distribution skill for a boy of his age; he has the ability to pick long range passes and even has a sidewinder in his repertoire. Can produce match winning saves.

### ALEX D

Athletic and composed player; who excels in one versus one situations. Technically good with the ball; and loves to try the tricks and turns he learns in sessions.

### ASHLEY H

A bundle of energy, who likes nothing better than getting on the ball and running at opponents. Is a good finisher and always looks likely to score whether he plays in midfield or up top.

### BEN W

Ben has hit the ground running in Academy Football and looks very comfortable at this level. Has shown a game understanding beyond his years and is always keen to learn new things.

### BEN S

Technically very good player; sees a clever pass and has the ability to open up teams and create goal scoring opportunities for team mates. Has loads of energy and gains more than his share of repossessions.

### BERTI F

Very bright midfield or forward player; whose movement to get himself on the ball for a player of his age is excellent. He has a terrific attitude to everything we do and shows an excellent attitude to his learning.

### CHARLIE P

Charlie is the youngster of the group who is tenacious and technically very good. Enjoys nothing better than

a battle against a bigger lad and to come away with the ball. Has an excellent range of pass for a lad of his size.

### COREE W

Coree is a natural goal scorer and is capable of scoring every type of goal. A real handful when faced up and running one versus one at an opponent. This season he has improved his defending from the front immeasurably.

### DANNY A

Left footed defender or midfield player; As well as being a talented footballer Danny is an exceptionally talented tennis player who is approaching National Standard. As a footballer he defends well one versus one, always looks to get on the ball and keeps possession well.

### ERNEST N

Ernest loves a trick and will try one anywhere on the pitch. Has really quick feet loves to run at opponents one versus one and has the trickery to get himself out of tight situations.

### JOSIAH R

Balotelli to all the boys after a pre season training bib malfunction. Josiah is a tremendous athlete who has a natural sense of timing with his tackling. Defends well one versus one and always plays with a massive smile on his face.

### LUKA K

Goalscoring midfield player who has shown early this season that he has the ability to arrive late and finish accurately from deeper areas. Has pace and can give the team an option with his ability to run in behind.

### OLIVER S

Naturally competitive player, who has an exceptional range of pass for a boy of his age. Loves to run at opponents and demonstrate the tricks he has learned in training. Also a very good header of the ball and gives us an edge in set plays at both ends of the field.

### KADE B

Kade is new to the group; in his first week he has shown the reason we bought him in. Strong in the tackle and difficult to knock off the ball in possession. Is a real attacking threat when running with the ball.

# TRADEline

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## Supporting the grass roots



## Football Foundation



[www.footballfoundation.org.uk](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk)

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

## 5 STEPS TO EXCELLENCE



SCHOOL & CLUB FOOTBALL



TIPs PERFORMANCE CENTRE



TIPs DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



ACADEMY /  
PROFESSIONAL  
FOOTBALL

coaching team.

With grass roots youth football leagues soon to get under way after the summer break our 10 Football Development Centres programme based in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire start up again from Monday 12th September.

The purpose of our Talent Identification Programme is to provide high quality coaching for up and coming young footballers whether they are ambitious players wanting to progress towards becoming a professional or a newcomer wanting to develop the basic skills.

The list of venues and term dates are all listed overleaf and each term cost £45, which includes nine practical sessions and a trial match.

All players receive an end-of-term report on their development, and for those players who the coaches feel have shown the right level of ability and attitude during the term, the opportunity to progress to the Performance Centre/Centre of Excellence or Academy. This is offered to players who display talent and can be moved through the programme after only a few weeks if appropriate.

Our successful TIPS Development programme is now in its sixth year of operation and the Club's youth section prides itself on the high calibre of its

Any youngster signing up to TIPS will receive the same standard of coaching that has helped produce players such as Kevin Foley, Curtis Davis, Matthew Upson, Matthew Taylor, Leon Barnett and Jack Wilshire.

No other football club in our region can claim the same level of success in terms of youth development - two England youth internationals in the last two seasons Dave Moli, now at Liverpool, and Cauley Woodrow, now at Fulham. In addition, over 65 players have been signed by our youth academy through our TIPS programme.

To enrol on our TIPS programme for this term is really easy: you can download our application form at [www.lytfc.co.uk](http://www.lytfc.co.uk), email us at [tips.lytfc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tips.lytfc@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01582 583618 for further information and to register a place.

Players need to be in at least school year 2 from September to be eligible for a place and up to school year 11.

We also run three specialist goalkeeping sessions in Luton, Hitchin and Dunstable and you can use the same application form for these centres.

[WWW.LUTONTOWN.CO.UK](http://WWW.LUTONTOWN.CO.UK)



# Luton Town FC

## Youth Development 2011-12

Football Development for 6 to 16 year olds

Soccer Centres in Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Flitwick, Leighton Buzzard, Harpenden, Hitchin, Luton and Shefford

## TIPS TIMETABLE

**Term 1**  
June 6th - July 22nd 2011\*

**Term 2**  
Sept 12th - Nov 18th 2011

**Term 3**  
Nov 21st 2011 - Feb 10th 2012

**Term 4**  
Feb 20th - May 4th 2012

**Term 5**  
May 7th - July 20 2012

Top five pro clubs in 2010/11 to have produced English players currently playing in Premier League:

Club	No of Players	Current League
Manchester United	22	Premier League
West Ham United	16	Premier League
Manchester City	11	Premier League
Everton	9	Premier League
Luton Town	8	Blue Square

### TRIAL MATCH DATES

**Term 1** Saturday 9th July      **Term 2** Saturday 5 November  
**Term 3** Saturday 28 January      **Term 4** Saturday 21 April  
**Term 5** Saturday 7 July

### LIST OF VENUES

#### Ampthill

Alameda Sports Hall, Woburn St  
Ampthill, Bedford MK45 2HX  
Wednesdays - 17:30 - 18:30

#### Bedford

Bedford Modern School  
Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NT  
Tuesdays - Yrs 2-5 18:00-19:00  
Yrs 6-11 19:00-20:00

#### Biggleswade

Biggleswade Town FC  
The Carlsberg Stadium, Langford Rd  
Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9JT  
Tuesdays - 18:00 - 19:00

#### Dunstable

Creasey Park Stadium, Creasey Park Drive,  
Dunstable LU6 1BB  
Thursdays - 17:30 - 18:30

#### Flitwick

Flitwick Leisure Centre  
Steppingly Road, Flitwick, Beds MK45 1TH  
Thursdays - 16:45 - 17:45

#### Leighton Buzzard

Vandyke Upper School  
Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard LU7 3DY  
Tuesdays - 18:00 - 19:00

**Luton**  
Playfootball.net, Stopsley High  
St Thomas's Rd, Luton LU2 7UX  
Mondays - Yrs 2-6 17:00 - 18:00  
Yrs 7-11 18:00 - 19:00

#### Harpenden

Sir John Lawes School  
Manland Way, Harpenden AL5 4QP  
Fridays - 18:00 - 19:00

#### Hitchin

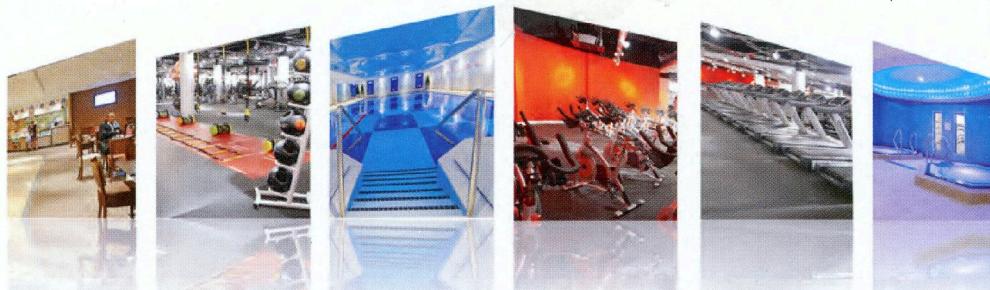
Hitchin Boys School  
Grammar School Walk, Hitchin SG5 1JB  
Wednesday's - 18:00 - 19:00

### PROFESSIONAL GOALKEEPER COACHING

We offer professional goalkeeper training by our top goalkeeper coach at the Luton, Hitchin and Dunstable venues. Please tick the box on the application form if you are a goalkeeper and wish to do the training.



# DWfitnessclubs.com



## PRICES FROM £28 PER MONTH

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- Superb swimming pool, relaxing steam room and spa pools
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- Extensive free weights area
- Personal programmes and advice
- High quality changing areas
- Members lounge with food and drinks served throughout the day
- Retail loyalty card offering members 10% discount in all DW stores\*\*
- Free car park\*
- Swimming lessons available
- 60+ locations nationwide
- Children welcome, please see website for childrens hours
- Massive sports store with massive savings on top brands\*

**White Lion Retail Park,  
Boscombe Road (near Sainsbury's),  
Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4WL  
0844 372 53 88**

\*\* Available on full priced products only. Not including replica, large equipment and garden games.

\* Please note facilities may vary between clubs. Prices vary between clubs.

# LUTON LADIES

Luton Town Ladies are delighted to announce that last season's leading goal scorer Candice Davies has earned herself a full four year scholarship with Texas WU Pioneers.

Candice has been with the club since she was 12 and graduated into the first team as a 16-year-old striker scoring some vital goals in the 2008 promotion campaign.

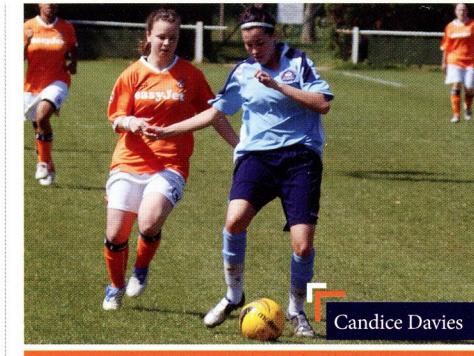
She was an ever present in the FA Womens' Premier League campaign and has an enviable collection of trophies from her very successful career with the club as both a youth and senior footballer. Those include a Combination champions medal as well as a treble of County Cup winners medals.

Manager Dave Baker said: "Candice has been a model footballer during her time with the club and is a very clever player especially in the final third where she is capable of unlocking defences in the blink of an eye.

"Everyone at the club is delighted for Floss in achieving her ambition of playing in the States. We will undoubtedly miss her craft and guile in front of goal but it is great to see one of our players earning a scholarship in the USA."

Candice is the only Brit in the Pioneers' squad and has been allocated the squad number 10 shirt.

The Town's winning start to the season came to a halt suffering a 3-1 home defeat to Ipswich Town. The opening 30 minutes



Candice Davies

match and created a series of goal scoring opportunities and Town striker Laura Day missed the target by no more than a foot on four occasions.

As often happens in this situation the visitors broke down the left flank and what appeared to be a harmless cross sailed into the far top corner of the net.

The second half saw Luton fall further behind from a 35-yard free kick but a swift counter attack down the right side by Jess McKay brought the Town back into the game as Day fired home to reduce arrears.

The recovery didn't last long though as a defensive error from a corner presented Ipswich with a gift of a third goal from which the Hatters were unable to recover.



# ON THIS DAY WITH SIMON PITTS

10

The number of games previously played on this date at Kenilworth Road. The Hatters have won six matches, drawn one and lost three occasions. The Town have netted 20 goals and conceded 11.

1

The first match was back in 1906 when local rivals Watford were the visitors for a United League match. Luton won 2-0 courtesy of goals from Alfred Gittens and Alexander McDonald.

2

For the second consecutive match on this date the result was 2-0, although unfortunately for Luton in 1913 it was visitors Croydon Common that won a Southern Alliance fixture.

4

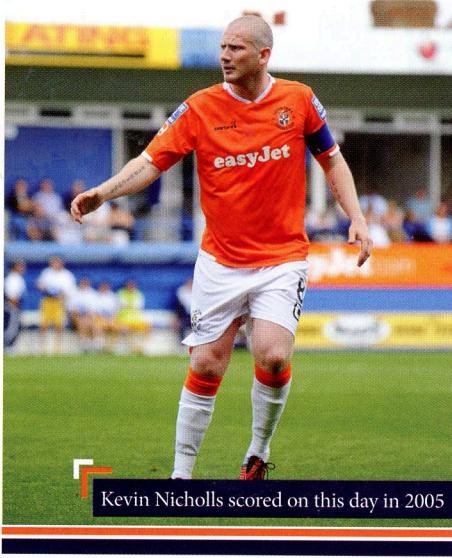
The biggest margin of victory was by four goals in 1921 when Newport County were beaten 4-0 in a Division Three (South) fixture. Allan Mathieson scored twice, with Harry Higginbotham and Ernie Simms also netting for the Hatters.

5

The total number of goals scored in a Division Three (South) match between Luton and Coventry City. The Hatters took maximum points with a 4-1 victory, courtesy of four different scorers. Andy Rennie, Doug Rowe, Charles Fraser and Tommy Tait all got their names on the scoresheet.

6

The most number of goals scored in a home fixture on this date in 1955, with Luton beating Newcastle



United 4-2 in the only top flight game of the 10 matches. Gordon Turner netted once again, with Peter MacEwan and Bob Morton joining him on the scoresheet. The other Luton goal came courtesy of Newcastle defender George Lackenby. Jackie Milburn scored both Newcastle goals that day in front of a record Kenilworth Road crowd for 10th September, with 25,814 in attendance.

0

The number of points taken from the fixtures against Norwich City and Burnley. The Hatters also failed to score in these two matches, as they were beaten 2-0 in 1960 and 1-0 in 1964 respectively.

15

The number of years since Luton won 2-1 against Gillingham in 1996. Bulgarian international Bontcho Guentchev opened the scoring with David Oldfield making it 2-0 into the second half, before the visitors netted a late consolation.

100

Luton were celebrating 100 years of football at Kenilworth Road when Wolverhampton Wanderers were the visitors in 2005. Carl Cort opened the scoring for the visitors before a late Kevin Nicholls strike levelled the scores and gave Luton a share of the points.

# MEMORY LANE

■ NAME: Roy Bacon

■ AGE: 69

■ LOCATION: Arlesey

## ■ FIRST MATCH:

A 6-0 home win over Notts County on 8th September 1951, 60 years and two days ago.

## ■ FIRST MEMORIES:

Great excitement before catching the bus from Letchworth with my grandad to watch the same game. One of my best memories was flying up to Liverpool in a club chartered plane with 130 other fans to watch us play Everton in a League Cup match in 1969. We lost 5-1!

## ■ BEST GOAL SEEN:

Barry Butlin's goal against West Bromwich Albion in 1974 which ensured the point we needed to gain promotion to the old Division 1.

## ■ BEST MATCH WITNESSED:

There are so many to choose from but our Littlewoods Cup win in 1988 means a lot, as it was our first trophy win at Wembley and it still gives me so much pleasure in reminding Arsenal fans even today. The JPT final in 2009 comes a very close second; it was a great day all round, and so special to me that I had my wife, my family and all of my grand-children there to enjoy the occasion.

## ■ WORST MATCH:

The 4-1 Simod Cup defeat against Reading. A good first 10 minutes, a shocking 80 minutes, I spent a packet, got stuck in traffic going home and upset my older brother for not attending his wedding anniversary do. Not the first family gathering I've missed supporting Luton, and probably not the last!

## ■ BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE:

Raddy Antic coming off the bench to score the winner at Maine Road and keep us up in 1983.

## ■ BEST KIT:

The current kit, but first time around in 1974/75, it was unusual for the time. I even managed to buy the kit, for my eldest son's junior football team, as its main sponsor. At least they looked good when they took to the field!

## ■ FAVOURITE PLAYER:

Les Sealy – passionate, committed and safe as houses.

## ■ FAVOURITE MANAGER:

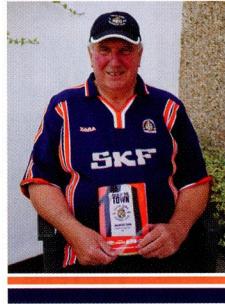
Harry Haslam – Always approachable, Harry always had a smile on his face and was also a generous man. He once gave me and my friends complimentary tickets at a Christmas away game against Bristol Rovers in 1975 when we were cheering them off the team bus upon their arrival.

## ■ ALL-TIME TOWN XI:

Les Sealy, Kirk Stephens, Mal Donaghy, Terry Branston, Alan West, John Aston, Andy Drury, Keith Keane, Claude Gnapka, Steve Howard, Malcolm McDonald.

Would you like to appear on this page in the future?

Email your Hatters memories to [andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk)



# HOME COMFORTS

## FOLLOW THE HATTERS AT KENILWORTH ROAD



### LUTON TOWN v LINCOLN CITY

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

**SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2011, KICK-OFF 3PM**

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



### LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

**TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2011, KICK-OFF 7.45PM**

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



### LUTON TOWN v BARROW

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

**SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2011, KICK-OFF 3PM**

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



#### ALL AREAS

Juniors (Under 10)	£5
Youth (Age 10-16)	£8
Young Adult (Age 17-21)	£13
Adult (Age 22-64)	£18
Senior (Age 65-75)	£13
Golden Senior (Over 75)	£10

#### UNCOVERED SEATING - MAIN ENCLOSURE BLOCKS A&B

Juniors (Under 10)	£5
Youth (Age 10-16)	£8
Young Adult (Age 17-21)	£13
Adult (Age 22-64)	£15
Senior (Age 65-75)	£13
Golden Senior (Over 75)	£10

#### BUY TICKETS...

##### IN PERSON:

At the ticket office, Kenilworth Road.

##### BY PHONE:

Call 01582 416976

##### ONLINE:

Visit [www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown](http://www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown)

#### SAFETY NOTICE

In the event of an emergency in the stadium, Luton Town Football Club and the emergency services have agreed on an evacuation procedure which is designed to ensure the safe and controlled evacuation of the crowd, and to ensure their safe dispersal from the area, to allow the emergency services to carry out their tasks. In the event of an evacuation from all or part of the stadium, you will receive instructions over the public address system on how you should leave the stadium. In an evacuation of the main stand you will be instructed to use the pitch. Stewards will direct you to your nearest exit. It may be that your normal exit route will not be available. On leaving the stadium you will find some roads closed to pedestrians to enable swift and unobstructed access for the emergency services. Please leave the area of the ground as quickly as possible by the route directed. Your co-operation will be most appreciated.

# ON THE ROAD

## SUPPORT THE TOWN ON OUR TRAVELS



### AFC TELFORD UNITED v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

**TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2011, KICK-OFF 7.45PM**

Vouchers and receipts previously purchased at the Luton Town ticket office will be accepted as tickets for this match. In addition, cash turnstiles will be open on the night at Telford. There will be no special police restrictions on Hatters fans on the day.

IF YOU PURCHASED A VOUCHER FOR THE ORIGINAL GAME BUT ARE NOW UNABLE TO ATTEND THE RESCHEDULED GAME YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE TICKET OFFICE.

PRICES: £13 adults, £10 Concessions, £5 14-18 year-olds, £1 Under 14s accompanied by an adult.



### BATH CITY v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

**TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011, KICK-OFF 7.45PM**

**Allocation:** We have received an allocation of 230 seats for this fixture. We will not be receiving any terrace tickets as these will be paid on the night only.

**Sales Plan:** Seating tickets are now on sale at two per Diamond Season ticket holder until close of business on Saturday 10th September. Tickets will then go on sale on Monday 12th September at two tickets per Season ticket holder until close of business on Thursday 15th September.

Any remaining seating tickets will go on general sale from Friday 16th September and will remain on sale until 1pm on Tuesday 20th September.

Anyone who wishes to stand will need to pay via a cash turnstile on the night of the game.

**PRICES:** Seating: Adult £15, over-65 and students (with valid id) £10, under-16s £5, accompanied under-16s with a full paying adult £3.

Terrace: Adult £14, over-65 and students (with valid id) £9, under-16s £4, accompanied under-16s with a full paying adult £2 (Accompanied under-16 tickets need to be purchased directly from Bath City's ticket office on the night of the game).



#### GETTING TO...AFC TELFORD UNITED - NEW BUCKS HEAD

**Bobbers Travel (01234 856542):** £17 adults, £14 concessions. Departure: 3pm.

**Town on Tour (07960 567465):** £20 adults, £18 concessions. Departure: TBC.

**Car:** Take the M1 north, M6 north leaving the M6 at Junction 10 and take the M54 towards Telford. Leave the M54 at Junction 6 and turn right at the roundabout above the slip road (SP A518 Telford West). Go past Tesco on your left and then over two roundabouts. At the third roundabout, where there are Ford and Kia Garages on one corner, turn left.

**For the sat-nav:** TF1 2TU

**By train:** The station nearest the ground is at Wellington which is just under one mile from the stadium. It is served by trains from Birmingham New Street. It is around a 25 minute walk to the New Bucks Head or you can catch a number 4 Arriva Bus, or services 44 and 55, from the nearby Wellington Bus Station. Buses run every 10 minutes on Saturdays and every 30 minutes on weekday evenings.

#### GETTING TO...BATH CITY - TWERTON PARK

**Bobbers Travel (01234 856542):** £18 adults, £15 concessions. Departure: 2.30pm.

**Town on Tour (07960 567465):** £20 adults, £18 concessions. Departure: 3.30pm.

**Car:** M1, M25, M4, leaving the M4 at Junction 19 and go onto the M32. At the end of the M32 head towards Bath (A4). On nearing Bath take the A36 Lower Bristol Road. After one mile turn right under a Railway Bridge (signposted Bath City FC) and into Twerton High Street. Take the second left for the ground entrance.

**For the sat-nav:** BA2 1DB

**By train:** The nearest railway station is Oldfield Park Station, which is located just under a mile away. It is served by trains from Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads. Bath Spa has a more regular service from London Paddington and Bristol Temple Meads and is located just under two miles away from the ground.

# FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS	
<b>■ August</b>										
Tue 16	19:45	H	Forest Green Rovers	1-1	6,061	60	16	K. Pilkington, Asafu-Adjaye, Beckwith 1, Antwi, Osano, Keane, Howells, Lawless, Ojor, Dance, Barnes-Homer*	Willmott*, Watkins, Morgan-Smith, Crow, Kidd	
Sat 20	15:00	H	Southport	5-1	5,681	64	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1, Howells, Keane, Watkins 1***, Lawless, Willmott 1*, O'Connor**	M-Smith 1*, Crow 1*, A-Adjaye**, Barnes-Homer, K. Pilkington	
Tue 23	19:45	A	Mansfield Town	1-1	2,592	437	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1, Asafu-Adjaye*, Dance, Watkins, Howells, Morgan-Smith, Ojor*, Crow*	Gleeson*, Walker**, Poku, Barnes-Homer, K. Pilkington	
Sat 27	15:00	H	Braintree Town	3-1	5,703	110	6	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells 1, Dance***, Lawless*, Keane, Willmott, Crow, M-Smith 2	Watkins*, O'Connor**, Kissoc*, A-Adjaye, K. Pilkington	
Tue 30	19:45	A	Hayes & Yeading United	2-2	1,015	727	8	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells*, Dance**, Lawless, Keane, Willmott, Crow 1***, Mj 1	Watkins**, A-Adjaye*, O'Connor**, Kissoc, K. Pilkington	
<b>■ September</b>										
Fri 2	19:45	A	Stockport County	TV	1-1	3,389	321	6	Tyler, Osano, Keane, Antwi, A-Adjaye, Lawless 1, Kissoc*, Watkins, Willmott, M-Smith, G	Dance*, Fleetwood**, O'Connor, Carden, K. Pilkington
Sat 10	15:00	H	Darlington							
Tue 13	19:45	A	AFC Telford United							
Sat 17	15:00	H	Lincoln City							
Tue 20	19:45	A	Bath City							
Sat 24	15:00	A	York City							
Tue 27	19:45	H	Cambridge United							
<b>■ October</b>										
Sat 1	15:00	H	Barrow							
Sat 8	15:00	A	Kidderminster Harriers							
Tue 11	19:45	A	Ebbsfleet United							
Sat 15	15:00	H	Gateshead							
Tue 18	19:45	H	Wrexham							
Fri 21	19:45	A	Grimsby Town	TV						
<b>■ November</b>										
Sat 5	15:00	H	Fleetwood Town							
Sat 19	15:00	A	Cambridge United							
Sat 26	15:00	A	Newport County							
Tue 29	19:45	H	AFC Telford United							
<b>■ December</b>										
Sat 3	15:00	H	Stockport County							
Tue 6	19:45	A	Lincoln City							
Sat 17	15:00	A	Tamworth							
Mon 26	15:00	H	Kettering Town							
<b>■ January</b>										
Sun 1	15:00	A	Kettering Town							
Sat 7	15:00	H	Newport County							
Sat 21	15:00	A	Southport							
Tue 24	19:45	H	Mansfield Town							
Sat 28	15:00	H	Alfreton Town							
<b>■ February</b>										
Sat 4	15:00	A	Barrow							
Sat 11	15:00	A	Forest Green Rovers							
Sat 18	15:00	H	Tamworth							
Sat 25	15:00	A	Darlington							
<b>■ March</b>										
Sat 3	15:00	H	Bath City							
Tue 6	19:45	A	Wrexham							
Sat 10	15:00	H	Ebbsfleet United							
Sat 17	15:00	A	Gateshead							
Sat 24	15:00	H	Grimsby Town							
Sat 31	15:00	H	York City							
<b>■ April</b>										
Sat 7	15:00	A	Braintree Town							
Mon 9	15:00	H	Hayes & Yeading United							
Sat 14	15:00	A	Alfreton Town							
Sat 21	15:00	A	Kidderminster Harriers							
Sat 28	15:00	A	Fleetwood Town							

The players celebrate Amari Morgan-Smith's goal against Braintree

## LEAGUE TABLE 2011/12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wrexham	7	6	1	0	16	3	13	19
2 Gateshead	7	6	1	0	15	5	10	19
3 Kidderminster Harriers	7	4	1	2	11	8	3	13
4 Mansfield Town	7	3	3	1	9	6	3	12
5 Cambridge United	7	3	2	2	7	6	1	11
6 Darlington	7	3	2	2	7	6	1	11
7 Tamworth	7	3	2	2	7	7	0	11
8 Fleetwood Town	7	3	2	2	6	8	-2	11
9 LUTON TOWN	6	2	4	0	13	7	6	10
10 York City	6	3	1	2	10	5	5	10
11 Braintree Town	7	3	1	3	12	8	4	10
12 Barrow	7	3	1	3	11	9	2	10
13 Forest Green Rovers	7	2	3	2	12	7	5	9
14 Stockport County	7	1	5	1	6	6	0	8
15 Hayes & Yeading	7	2	2	3	8	11	-3	8
16 Southport	7	2	2	3	9	15	-6	8
17 AFC Telford United	6	2	1	3	8	9	-1	7
18 Grimsby Town	7	2	1	4	4	11	-7	7
19 Ebbsfleet United	7	1	3	3	8	10	-2	6
20 Newport County	7	1	2	4	9	10	-1	5
21 Lincoln City	7	1	2	4	7	11	-4	5
22 Kettering Town	7	1	2	4	7	15	-8	5
23 Alfreton Town	7	1	2	4	5	16	-11	5
24 Bath City	6	0	2	4	2	10	-8	2

## PLAYER STATS 2011/12

	THIS SEASON						CAREER			
	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL		DISCIP	TOTAL	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Will ANTWI	6 (0)	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6	2
Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE	3 (2)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (2)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	74	1
Matthew BARNES-HOMER	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	81	23
Dean BECKWITH	5 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	5	1
Shane BLACKETT	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	39	1
Danny CROW	4 (1)	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (1)	2 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	40	10
James DANCE	5 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6	0
Stuart FLEETWOOD	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1	0
Dan GLEESON	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	43	0
Jake HOWELLS	5 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	136	10
Keith KEANE	5 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	248	6
John-Paul KISSOCK	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2	0
Alex LAWLESS	5 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	34	6
Amari MORGAN-SMITH	4 (1)	4	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (1)	4 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	32	12
Freddie MURRAY	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	79	1
Aaron O'CONNOR	3 (2)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5	0
Curtis OSANO	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	6	0
George PILKINGTON	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	131	10
Kevin PILKINGTON	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	19	0
Godfrey POKU	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	19	0
Mark TYLER	5 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	99	0
Dan WALKER	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	20	1
Adam WATKINS	3 (2)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11	3
Robbie WILLMOTT	4 (1)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	23	7

# LAST WORD

BY LOCAL JOURNALIST AND BROADCASTER BILL COLE

Let's face it; clichés form a big part of football chat. Whether they occur in a discussion over a pint, a pundit's opinion or a manager's comments under questioning, they are all part and parcel (oops) of the game.

Never are they more prevalent than at this time of the season.

We get: "nowt's won early doors", "it's not how you start, it's how you finish", and the daddy of them all: "it's a marathon not a sprint".

Maybe that sentiment is right, maybe not. When I was a lad, you knew if your team had started well or not of course, but league tables were not published at all until they had a little relevance six or so games into a new season. Now teams are lined up in alphabetical order before a ball has been kicked.

If the current standings are to be believed, the Hatters, York and Fleetwood will struggle just getting into the play-offs with Gateshead and Wrexham deciding the title on goal difference. Those two have started like a house on fire (there I go again), but I find it hard to believe that they will both be up there come Christmas.

There or thereabouts by then is the benchmark that Gary Brabin has set for his men to push for a promotion surge. With tricky injuries to so many key players, especially affecting last season's regular defenders, Luton's progress has been hampered by defensive howlers that have cost six points already this season. However, that problem may well be resolved as the treatment room empties. And the delayed start hasn't helped our position in the embryonic league table either.

Reasons to be cheerful:

The Town are producing outstanding one and two touch football at times. The midfield has impressive depth and drive this term and even

the difficulties in the quest for a quality finisher have hopefully been successfully overcome with the signing of Stuart Fleetwood - if that explosive start at Stockport is any guide.

The turn of the year therefore may be about the right timescale to evaluate this squad's real potential. But as we stand, frustratingly we have to play catch-up once again.

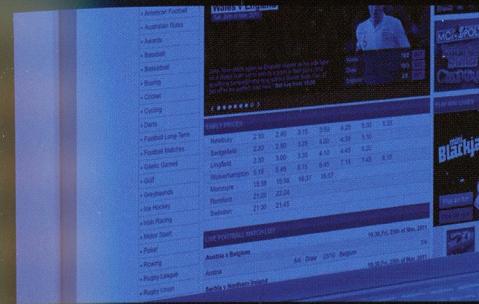
My mind goes back to August 2000. Ricky Hill, the best player ever to pull on a Luton shirt in my experience, was appointed manager and triumphantly paraded round the ground before the first game of the season by Chairman Mike Watson-Challis. Early on, Matthew Spring rattled the bar with a missle of a 30 yarder but Notts County broke away to win 1-0. 20 games later Hill was sacked with his charges rock bottom.

I often wonder, if that strike had been just six inches lower, whether the Town would have gone from strength to strength that term instead of suffering relegation.

Be warned, sometimes the start that you get can set the tone for the whole season - and beyond.



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# TODAY'S TEAMS



## LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Gleeson	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freddie Murray	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keith Keane	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean Beckwith	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Pilkington	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Lawless	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amari Morgan-Smith	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Crow	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robbie Willmott	11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shane Blackett	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stuart Fleetwood	13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aaron O'Connor	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jake Howells	15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Asafu-Adjaye	16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will Antwi	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curtis Osano	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Dance	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Paul Kissock	20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie Henry	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collin Samuel	23	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Watkins	28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Pilkington	30	<input type="checkbox"/>

## DARLINGTON

2	Paul Arnison
3	Aaron Brown
4	Jamie Chandler
5	Greg Taylor
6	Ian Miller
7	Liam Hatch
8	Kris Taylor
10	James Walshaw
11	John Campbell
12	Ryan Bowman
14	Chris Atkinson
16	John McReady
18	Graeme Lee
20	Adam Rundle
22	Ben Purkiss
23	Sam Russell
24	Scott Pocklington
25	Jonatan Sanchez-Munoz
26	Phil Gray
28	Adam Quinn
31	Marc Bridge-Wilkinson

## MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W. Atkin  
Assistant: D. Cook  
Assistant: K. Kirkbride  
Fourth official: S. Pawley

## UP NEXT

vs LINCOLN CITY

Saturday 17th September 2011, 3pm  
Blue Square Bet Premier

