

Season 2011/12 - Blue Square Bet Premier

Fleet

Tuesday 11 October 2011
Kick-off 7.45pm

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Good evening everyone and welcome to tonight's match against our visitors Luton Town. I'd like to welcome Gary Brabin, his staff and players to Stonebridge Road.

I will start by giving a brief verdict on Saturday's game against Gateshead where we were on the wrong side of a 0-1 result.

Basically we conceded a poor goal from a corner which we defended badly leading up to the set play, and although we worked hard to try and get back on level terms we didn't produce enough quality to do so. We had chances to go ahead before we conceded but either missed the target or squandered opportunities when they arose. I feel it as simple as that and pardon me if it sounds brief and over simplistic but I can't really elaborate on it. I could go into more technical jargon on why but it really all boils down to the same thing.

We have played first and second in the league in the last week and have lost both games narrowly by the one goal. We have been in both games until the final whistle, competed in both games and had chances to score, yet we have failed to do so. We really need to find that bit extra within ourselves to start getting results, because at the moment it's not enough for this league. What we do in both penalty boxes has to

improve quickly, that is where the money is.

We knew it was going to be tough this year but I expect players to up their performance accordingly and prove they can hack it in all departments. Getting better results will have to come within the current squad unless something changes and I get the go ahead to bring in new faces.

I am currently watching numerous games to keep tabs on what is available if for instance loan funds do become available. I know we need to improve on personnel. It would be good to see maybe Clint Easton and Liam Enver-Marum available for selection sooner rather than later, and also Ricky Shakes will hopefully return back into the fold from his excursion with the Guyana team.

Congratulations to the youth lads who progressed in the FA Youth Cup last week against Tooting & Mitcham.

Tonight we need to be bold and brave against our opponents and remember to enjoy every minute.

GET BEHIND THE LADS TONIGHT.

Thanks for your support as always.

Believe,
Liam

liam daish





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SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS // peter danzey



Good evening everyone and welcome to Stonebridge Road. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the officials, players and supporters of Luton Town and hope they enjoy their visit to North Kent, and I wish them a safe journey home back up the M1.

When the fixtures came it in July I am sure that everyone, like myself, looked to see when we were playing tonight's opponents. With all due respect to the other clubs in the Blue Square Premier this is the "Big One". It is partly a shame the game is not on a Saturday in terms of a large attendance, as traditionally crowds are down on Tuesday nights but you can't have everything.

It seemed ironic that on an evening when I handed out booklets from the FA for the players regarding betting on football matches, that the next day on the front of the Sun was the news about Wayne Rooney's family being arrested for allegedly having involvement in a betting scandal. Although this apparently involved strange betting patterns on a game in Scotland, the rules on this seem very complex as in theory we cannot have a bet on any games in any competition the club plays in. Taking it to the extreme, I, nor anyone else officially at the club – including players, management and club officials – can have a bet on a certain team winning the FA Cup for example because it is a competition we play in. It seems like taking things a bit far but rules are rules... so if anyone can place a bet for me on Ebbsfleet United or Ipswich Town winning the cup please let me know!

I am sure it has been mentioned elsewhere in this programme but the last two games have proved that there is a thin line between being near the summit of the BSP

and down where we are at the moment. Two 1-0 defeats to teams that have been top of the league during the week is proof of this if ever we needed it. Certainly at Wrexham we deserved to bring at least a point home with us, only losing thanks to a very dubious penalty late in the game. I also read in the Non League Paper the following morning that the Wrexham 'keeper was in the team of the day and was voted "Man of the Match" on the Welsh club's forum. Then from the Gateshead game the stats showed we had the lion's share of the possession on Saturday but couldn't get that elusive goal or goals to get some points. Perhaps tonight it is our turn to get what we deserve.

By the time we play at home again we will know whom our opponents will be in the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, as the 3rd Qualifying Round is this coming Saturday with the draw being made the following Monday. I am sure like myself you are looking forward to a good run in this competition, financially it will be good for the club and there is the prospect of playing a Football League club should we progress into the 1st Round Proper and then who knows what could happen if we got through another couple of rounds... a Premiership club? But let's see how it goes on October 29th first.

Lastly, the Kent Senior Cup 2nd Round game at home to Chatham Town has been arranged for Tuesday 22nd November.

Hope you enjoy the game this evening.

Up the Fleet
Peter D

Roaring on the Fleet!



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WE'VE MET BEFORE // with paul harrison

With just two meetings to choose from we have a double memory match again tonight, although our reserves met Luton A for several seasons in the mid-50s in the Metropolitan League.

30 January 2010

Luton Town 2-3 Ebbsfleet United

This game at last gave the club belief that relegation could be avoided after a nightmare first half of the season. Watched by a crowd of 6,658 it was hard to believe nearly the whole length of the Blue Square Premier separated the two sides as Ricky Shakes soon tested Kevin Pilkington in the home goal. Soon afterwards a rasping shot from Peter Holmes saw Pilkington make another fine save despite getting injured when saving from Shakes earlier. This time it was obvious he was struggling and deputy Shane Gore replaced him between the posts. Chances after this were at a premium until the 28th minute when on loan Liam Hatch, a former Fleet favourite, slipped past both Leon Crooks and Darius Charles to score a fine goal.

The Hatters appeared to be getting on top and Lance Cronin was forced to make good saves from Hatch and Jake Howells before Fleet stunned them with a double whammy from Magno Vieira just before the interval scoring on 42 and 45 minutes.

Luton applied plenty of pressure after the restart and on 65 minutes a long throw was glanced to the back post by Asa Hall for Tom Craddock to head in but within minutes Fleet restored their lead when Darius Charles won the ball in the air to

put Moses Ashikodi through to rifle home what proved to be the winner, although Hatch did find the net again only for it to be ruled out for offside. This win provided Fleet with one of their best ever away results.

Team: Cronin, Salmon, Easton, Crooks, Charles, Stavrinou, Bailey, Holmes, Shakes, Vieira (West 81), Ashikodi.

20 March 2010

Ebbsfleet United 1-6 Luton Town

This was a game of the proverbial two halves watched by Fleet's second largest crowd of the season of 1,923. A crazy own goal by Jan Kovacs on 23 minutes gave Fleet a gift lead when he failed to notice that goalkeeper Mark Tyler wasn't where he thought he was, as he passed back and into an empty net. The second half saw Fleet collapse like a pack of cards once Claude Gnappka rose unchallenged to head in a 51st minute corner, and before the PA announced could announce the goal scorer Lance Cronin was picking the ball out of the net again as veteran Kevin Gallen burst through a static defence.

On 66 minutes Tom Craddock made it 3-1 finishing off a Jake Howells cross and Gnappka then completed a hat-trick with quick fire goals on 76 and 77 minutes before substitute Matthew Barnes-Homer got in on the act to complete the rout in the last minute of injury time.

Team: Cronin, Heeroo, Collins, Crooks, Charles, Stavrinou (Welsh 79), Bailey, Holmes, Shakes, Vieira (Ginty 79), Ashikodi.

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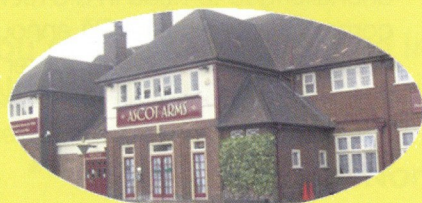


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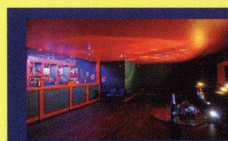
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YOUTH UPDATE // tony giles

Hayes Lane, Wednesday 5th October 2011
Tooting & Mitcham United 0-2 Ebbsfleet Utd
FA Youth Cup, 2nd Qualifying Round

The Fleet made it through to the final qualifying round berth in the FA Youth Cup, but it needed an injury time goal from Tunde Adewunmi to clam the nerves. Had Adewunmi showed more assurance in front of goal, the Fleet's passage might have been significantly smoother. In the end a moment of indiscipline from Tooting's Hassan Ibrahim weakened the home side's chances when he received a straight red card for abusing the referee.

The early exchanges of the game were fairly even, but the Fleet took the lead in the 25th minute when Liam Byrne-Stevens' free kick eluded all but Adewunmi. He checked and created space to hit a shot on the turn, which went under the body of Tooting keeper Bobby Aspinall.

But Tooting almost levelled the score 9 minutes before half time when Mikey Daley's stunning free kick shook the cross bar.

Adewunmi then had two chances to extend the lead but failed to find the target.

The cross bar was tested again early in the second half, this time it was the Fleet's winger Kane Phillip who showed great skill to fashion a shooting chance from 25 yards.

Two more chances then fell to Adewunmi but the Fleet striker's sense of direction was still wide of the mark, but to his credit his high work rate as the central striker did not diminish.

Tooting were then reduced to 10 men with 20 minutes to go, and after that the Fleet back four of Okay Oniah, Liam Byrne-Stevens, Billy French and captain Reece Lyons were in control.

Any tension amongst the Fleet followers was finally lifted in second half injury time, after Byrne-Stevens' deep cross to the back post was collected by Adewunmi, and he atoned for his earlier misses by forcing the ball home from short range.

The Fleet will visit Epsom and Ewell in the next round in a tie scheduled to be played week beginning 17th October 2011.

TEAM: Rob Fry, Okay Oniah, Liam Byrne Stevens, Jamie Kendall, Reece Lyons, Billy French, Femi Kaffo (Dan Sewell 80), Reece Antoine, Tunde Adewunmi, Oscar Saxton (Ryan Wade 66), Kane Phillip.

Subs not used: Alex Chapman, George Cox.

Goals: Adewunmi 25, 90+2

The academy played their second game in Football Conference Youth Alliance season the previous Wednesday (28/09/2011) but have still to register their first points of the season after suffering a 5-2 defeat at the hands of Weston-super-Mare. Tunde Adewunmi scored twice to give the Fleet an early advantage, but Weston-Super-Mare pulled a goal back before scoring four times in the second half.

Elsewhere, the Kent Youth League team have been busy. A disappointing 2-1 defeat at Lordswood in the Under 18 South Division was soon forgotten after the Fleet progressed to the 2nd round of the John Ullman Memorial Cup with a midweek victory at Whitstable Town. Joseph Ikediashi, Mitchell Muchendje and Femi Kaffo were the Fleet's scorers. They travel to Three Bridges in the 2nd Round in November.

The Fleet then travelled to VCD Athletic and came back from 1-0 down to win 3-1. Dan Sewell scored twice and Femi Kaffo once to move the Fleet to 2nd in the table.

The Fleet youngsters were in action again on Sunday just gone (09/10/11) when they travelled to Real 60 in the Kent Youth League U18 South Division, picking up a hard earned 2-2 draw to return to top of the league with 10 points from 5 games.

Please note, the reserve game against Hornchurch, due to be played this coming Thursday evening, has been postponed.

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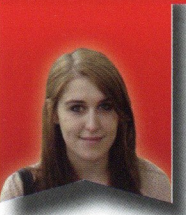
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**For more information please contact the club:
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COMMERCIAL CORNER // hannah saunders



Good evening everyone and welcome to Stonebridge Road.

club bar or you can pay £7 on the night.

Today's edition of the programme marks its 3rd edition as the larger version. I'm sure you'll agree that Ian Dickety has done a great job. With more pages comes more space to advertise your business! Ian is rather creative and can also help design your advert if you don't already have a design. St George's Flowers have seized the opportunity to advertise in the programme so welcome to them, they have the largest selection of freshly cut flowers and plants in the area and they provide a free local delivery service throughout Gravesend and surrounding locations.

And how about having your business advertised as a banner across the top of our website homepage? For every month of 2011 the website has had from 12,000 to 26,000 unique visitors, so it's a perfect opportunity to promote your business. Give the club a ring and ask to speak to myself or Maria to find out more.

There is a Zumba Fitness party night at the Fleet Social Club. Zumba is Spanish slang for "to move fast and have fun" so come and join in the fun on Friday 21st October between 7pm and 11pm! Tickets are just £5 in advance, which are available in the

We would love to host more nights like these, so are you looking for a venue to hold a party or event? We are keen at the Fleet to make more use of the Fleet Social Club so enquire at the club for further information about hiring it out. If you would like to hire it for a reception or a party, we can supply bar staff and a buffet.

You may have noticed on Saturday that the new tea hut is now open. The hut will sell hot and cold drinks as well as chocolate bars and crisps. Special thanks to Chris, Tony, Colin and Graham who have all helped to make the new tea hut possible. There has been a lot of hard work and effort to get it up and running including getting all the appliances fitted; every time I looked over in that direction there was always someone sawing away! Also many thanks to Carpet Time who provided us with a 50% discount for the floor covering, it is much appreciated by everyone at the club for the support.

Feel free to email commercial.marketing@eufc.co.uk for any information regarding commercial opportunities here at the Fleet.

**Come on the Fleet!
Hannah**



A warm welcome back to Stonebridge Road for the second time in four days as we play our 15th league game of the season, and a special Fleet Lounge welcome to our match sponsors this evening, DCS Construction Products Ltd.

You can imagine my delight on Saturday when Oddie handed me three sheets of A4 with his 'programme notes', saving me the trouble of filling these pages. So here they are, the Ode of Oddie...

My good self, Nigel Odd, Managing Director of DCS Construction Products Ltd. and lifelong Fleet fan is proud to sponsor this evening's game against Luton Town.

I am joined tonight by my stalwart stablemates Mark Colechin and Paul Bevis, or as we're more commonly known, the 'Three Amigos'. I am a long-standing corporate sponsor of Ebbsfleet United and I'm also joined this evening by some of DCS' clients and suppliers.

The collective that is Nigel, Paul & Mark are also Fleet Lounge members, and we sponsor the Gaffer, Liam Daish, under our alias of MC, Furry & Sneakes.

DCS Construction Products Ltd. was formed in 1982 as Danny Collins Supply Co. Ltd. I joined the company in 1983, becoming Sales Director in 1993 and acquired controlling

interest in December 2002. The company changed it's name in March last year.

DCS is widely recognised as the area's leading independent specialist fixing and fastening distributor, based opposite the Fleet at Unit 6, Ebbsfleet Business Park. Our core products are mechanical fixings, screws, fasteners, nuts and bolts.

I'm joined at most home games by my 8 year old son Bobby, although not tonight as it's a school night. Bobby really looks forward to following the Fleet and has been matchday mascot on several occasions, most notably at Farnborough for last season's play-off final. Bobby cites Michael West as his favourite player, and Westy regards Bobby as his 'Lucky Mascot'.

Bobby plays for Longfield Tigers Under 9s Blue Team and takes plenty of stick from his teammates at training by sporting his favoured colours of the Fleet, running the gauntlet of the other lads bedecked in their Arsenal, Chelsea or Man Utd kits.

No More A Sinking Feeling

DCS sponsored the match the last time Luton were in Town, or should I say had that dubious honour/distinction. There we were buoyed by a 1-0 HT lead only to totally capitulate in the 2nd half by conceding six goals, a real low point. On the back of a scoreline like that,

or in truth any defeat, there is 'No More A Sinking Feeling' when faced with the prospect of nominating a Man of the Match award. I think on days such as those, we should have a 'Rollover' week! Let's hope that's not the case this evening.

I must take the time to mention the sterling work done by Phil Moss, Jo, Maria and Ryan who, week in, week out, make the experience of the Fleet Lounge a very welcome one indeed.

On the football side, I think we are very fortunate to have a manager of such knowledge of the game we all love. To have gone from having to start from scratch for two seasons on the spin, to regroup and recover from the obvious disappointment of relegation and then promotion back to the Conference Premier at the first attempt is, I feel, more noteworthy than the fantastic experience of Wembley 2008.

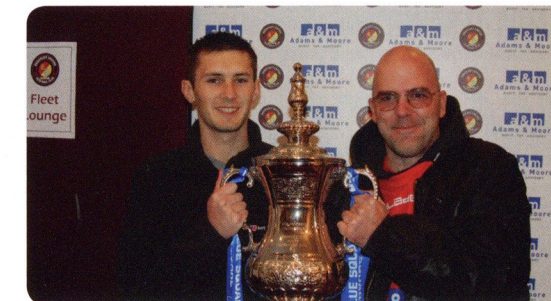
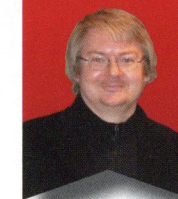
To compete in a league of predominantly full time opposition, to venture to far flung Northern outposts on our demanding budget, is indeed testament to a very passionate man. Mr Daish - to you, your staff and your players, I, along with my friends, guests and true supporters of this Club, applaud you.

Nigel Odd

Trophy Tour

The tour of the play-off final trophy to local pubs begins tomorrow evening when we'll be at the Ascot Arms, Central Avenue, Gravesend, as guests of Rob Ballantyne and his regulars. Please pop down from 8pm to have a pint and have your photo taken with the trophy. Rob is a long-term sponsor of the Fleet so there's no better reason or excuse to get down to the pub for a couple of hours!

One of our long-distance supporters has already got his hands on the Trophy. Rick Nunan is currently over from West Chester, Pennsylvania and here he is with Gravesend's very own Kevin Glover after Saturday's game.



As Nigel said, those of us in the Fleet Lounge on Saturday had that 'Sinking Feeling' as it was the members who were tasked with selecting the Man of the Match. There were a few contenders, but the majority choice went to Craig Stone, seen receiving his award from Peter Price & Brad Wilmot.



Here's hoping Oddie and his guests don't have that 'Sinking Feeling' this evening.

Enjoy the game!

Phil

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MYFOOTBALLCLUB UPDATE // keith handley



Welcome to the fans of Luton Town who have made the journey down to watch the game this evening. I must admit that the last time we played you here, it was a game to remember for the wrong reasons from a Fleet point of view. In my opinion, Luton Town are the big team of the league and any points gained from them are always hard earned. I know they have had a rough few years for well documented reasons, but where all teams who come down into the Conference think they will bounce back, I believe with Luton Town it's just a matter of time. A club of that stature, it wouldn't surprise me to see them quickly up into League 1 and planning for greater things. On a personal level, Luton Town was the first away game I ever attended back in the late 1970's when still living in the Midlands.

It was concerning to see in the news midweek about the major cut backs that will be facing the BBC in the coming years with sport being a major target. I know MyFC members really appreciate the coverage of Fleet games by Charles Webster on BBC Radio Kent and would not want that coverage reduced. It's a lifeline to fans who do not live close to the ground. I often think back to that first dramatic radio commentary from Oxford United in late 2007. Many also listen to The Non League show on BBC Radio London on a Monday evening. That show is under threat of closure next season and a campaign has been started on Twitter to try and save it. @nonleagueshow I await developments locally with interest.

The next game for the Fleet is at AFC Telford who are fully owned by a Supporters Trust. They share with us having been promoted as play-off winners. It was great to see the Fleet progress to the 3rd qualifying round of the FA Youth club with a win at Tooting and Mitcham United. Congratulations to all involved



for your hard work. It won't be long before the first team are involved in the FA Cup on the 29th of this month. Whilst cup ties are always exciting (who can forget AFC Wimbledon?!), it's a very important game for the club financially as a win gets us in the first round proper and a guaranteed cut from the FA Replays pool which is good income for the club. The added spice of playing who knows who in the next round just adds to its appeal.

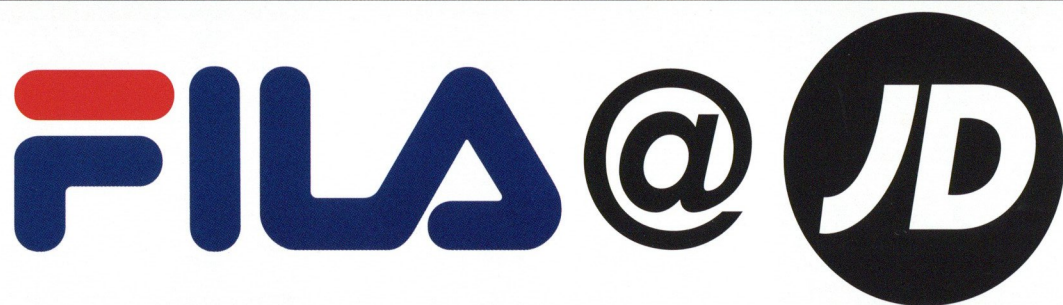
The Society is constantly looking for measures to cut the running costs of the Society. As technology advances, there are opportunities to make savings which in the long run will work their way back to the football club. We have reduced the cost of our email system vastly and are now looking at other areas to reduce costs. One area we are happy to pay for is the videoing of the games as this removes a cost from the Football Club. The videoing is a Conference requirement, but it also lets our members away from the Kent area to follow the games and provides useful content to try and promote club and society via Facebook, Twitter etc. The Society members continue to support the club on a regular monthly basis by PayPal (Sponsor Our Squad, Friends of The Fleet etc.) and these funds are passed to the club as needed.

If you are a member of the Society and wish to get involved further, please contact us. As with the club, the Society is dependent on volunteers now for its running in many areas and extra pairs of hands will share the work load. There are many ideas of what can be done, but without people to implement them, they will stay only as ideas. There are only so many hours in the day for those who are doing the work, so help is always appreciated.

Good luck to the team tonight and at AFC Telford on Saturday.

Keith Handley

Myfootballclub Society Board Chairman
keith.handley@myfootballclub.co.uk
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KEEPER WATCH // thomas dixon

Looking back over my time as a Fleet fan there appears to be one position that has been consistently well stocked, a position which in my mind has only thrown up a few duff players. This is arguably the most difficult position to fill on the field, and looking back, we haven't done too badly with our keepers. We've had three exceptional goalkeepers in my time, which I will go into a bit more detail on below, but first we must not forget the valuable contributions of a few others who deputised so well.

Those who didn't quite make it into my top three, by differing margins, were Craig Holloway, Scott Tynan, Luke McShane, Aaron Kerr and the one and only Alex O'Reilly, who I am sure many fans only remember because of the less than welcoming song that was sung to him on his return to Stonebridge Road with Dagenham a few months after his departure. Out of those 5 the performances of Scott Tynan and Luke McShane deserve much praise while they were covering for Lance Cronin when injured, who himself was initially only here due to an injury to then number one Craig Holloway.

Paul Wilkerson

The first goalie I truly remember was the colossal Wilko, a great shot stopper who was instrumental in keeping us up in our first season. One anecdote that highlighted the ability of Wilko was the away trip to Doncaster in 2002/03 where we had been hammered 4-1. However, on leaving the ground one of the home fans commented to our travelling contingent how the man of the match was clearly our keeper, and without him we would of probably conceded 4 more.



Wilko made 91 appearances spanning between August 2002 and May 2005.

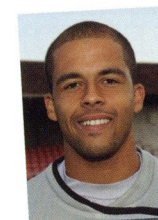
Lance Cronin

Lance was another brilliant shop stopper who, when called upon, was repeatedly able to take the stand. An integral part of Liam's teams for four years, he formed part of the backbone of the team that went all the way to Wembley to win the FA Trophy. It would have been unfair of anybody to hold it against him when he moved up a division to Gillingham, but when he returned in that pre-season for the Gills the applause that greeted his entrance to the field showed that this certainly wasn't the case. Lance made 176 appearances between August 2006 and July 2010.



Preston Edwards

Preston had some big shoes to step into, and with new keepers it's always a worry, though we needn't have worried at all. It became apparent pretty early on last season that Preston was more than capable of filling the void left between the posts and one of my personal favourite moments was the FA Cup replay at home to AFC Wimbledon. During extra time the ball falls to the feet of ex-Fleet player Luke Moore, unmarked at the back post about 10 yards out, and you'd put your house on him scoring. The point blank save that Preston pulled off showed the reflexes of a cat, getting down low and miraculously getting a hand on it. For me, it was one of the finest saves made by a Fleet keeper, just a shame about the final score! Preston joined us in August 2010 and to date has made 62 appearances.



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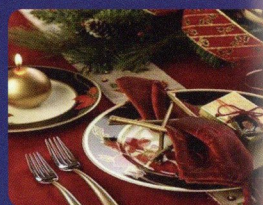
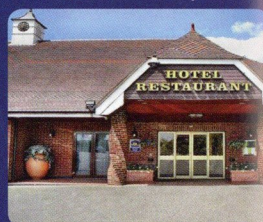
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THOUGHTS OF A SILHOUETTE

Crazy!

No, not me, although I guess I probably am, and not even Mr W Rooney in Podgorica, although that was crazy! No, I'm referring to the fixture schedule in this league. Tonight is the Fleet's 15th game and the season is barely 9 weeks old! A third of the season shoved into the first 67 days. Now that is crazy!

We started a week later than the Football League, and finish a week earlier. And we have four Saturdays blanked out for cup fixtures. Obviously we're guaranteed two of those matches, and of course we'd like the other two, but there's little scope to move a future midweek game into one of those Saturday slots should we fail to progress into the FA Cup 1st Round proper or the 2nd Round of the Trophy.

This front-loading of the fixture calendar places huge demands on the part-time clubs such as ourselves, and makes it more difficult for managers and coaches to work with the players if training can only take place once a week as the other training slot is taken up with yet another matchday. How can Liam be expected to coach the best from his players if he only sees them for one 2 hour training session each week, with matches Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday? How can you possibly cover all that's required when you only get the players together for 120 minutes training per week?

Our opponents this evening will have travelled home from Kidderminster on Saturday, buoyed of course by their 2-1 victory, and the players will probably have been in on the Sunday for a warm-down or treatment and had the chance to discuss what went well and what, if anything, didn't up at Aggborough. Then training yesterday and the chance to talk tactics, and possibly a light session this morning before making the short trip from Bedfordshire to Kent. We don't get that luxury.

Of course, we knew that it would be tough in this league by remaining part-time, and with our relatively low playing budget, but I do think the Conference should be sympathetic and stretch the season to give clubs such as the Fleet more preparation time in order to try and level the playing field between the full-time and part-time

teams. I'm not asking for preferential treatment, just an understanding of the difficulties some of their member clubs face.

More Crazy!

And yes, this time, I am talking Mr Wayne Mark Rooney of Liverpool. The guy is unbelievably talented, as a footballer, but as a human being, allegedly with a brain somewhere inside his thick, non-hair-producing skull, he is an utterly crazy person!

Your country is 2-1 up away from home in the pouring rain, but the team is coming under pressure from the hosts who need a point to secure their play-off berth for Euro 2012. Your place at the Euros themselves is guaranteed with just a point, but you currently have all three. Lovely, job done. And then you decide to help your teammates out by losing the ball, getting frustrated and hacking your opponent's shin. Job very nearly undone.

Of course, we shouldn't have been surprised as Mr Rooney has a habit of crazy when wearing the Three Lions. His previous red for England came when he tried to surgically remove Ricardo Carvalho's dingly-dangly bits in the World Cup 2006, and he endeared himself to the travelling fans at World Cup 2010 by growling into the camera "Nice to see your home fans boo you, that's loyalty, FFS!".

Instead of getting the title of the Stereophonics album 'Just Enough Education to Perform', tattooed on his right arm, Wayne should probably have had 'Just Enough Scouse Nouse to be Crazy' inked onto him instead. Crazy person indeed.

CHALLENGE CHAS:

As a nod to this evening's opponents, I'm looking forward to hearing Lord Chas utter the phrase... **straw boaters are cool**



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FLEET TWEETS // trending topics

The messages keep on coming from our favourite Tweepers. If you want to feature in Fleet Tweets, you need to be on Twitter. So get logged on and get Tweeting...



Tom Phipp @TomPhipp Sunday 9 October 2011
Off to see *The Lion King* in Theatre in London today :-)



Dominic Clifford @Ebbsfleet_Dom Saturday 8 October 2011
Bad day for the FLEET we need to pick ourselves up for the Luton game but im sure we can do it #eufc



Colin Munford @colinmunford Saturday 8 October 2011
Bad news for Luton for Tuesday RT @LTFC_Official: Keane in the book, fifth of the season and will miss Tuesday at Ebbsfleet #eufc



Stuart Phazey @StuPhazey Saturday 8 October 2011
Thinking that Tetley may be a winner #CatNames



Scott Ginty @Gint_ST Friday 7 October 2011
Any chance of a decent pundit alongside Jamie Redknapp. @GNev2 should have been there. Or Sky should get @LeeDixon2, he is a great pundit!



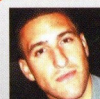
Preston Edwards @Preston_Eddy Thursday 6 October 2011
@Yads_M15 I'm your 1000 follower. Does that mean I get a signed Mambo shirt?



Peter Price @thephantomssheep Wednesday 5 October 2011
It's finally happened! A tweet by @liamenver_marum that doesn't contain the "F" word. Put it in Fleet Tweets!



Liam Enver-Marum @liamenver_marum Wednesday 5 October 2011
Gym 2nite to work with Olympic runner Tim Benjamin to keep my fitness up while I'm injured. Guna be using seated elliptical trainer #triffic



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FLEET FAN FILE // david homewood

Name: David Homewood
Age: 22
From: Northfleet
Years following The Fleet: 15ish

Can you remember your first game? Who was it against and what was the score?

It was Gloucester City at home in 1997 and we lost 3-2. I can't remember for the life of me who scored but I do remember being covered in whitewash from the wall at the front of the Swanscombe End. It's the little memories like those that make supporting this club so good, little did I know back then what we would go on to achieve. I think there must have been about 500 at that game, not in our wildest dreams would we have thought that in just over 10 years from then we would be running out in front of 24,000 Fleet fans at Wembley.

How did you first become attracted to watching the Fleet? What was the 'hook' for you?

My Dad took me to my first game and that was the hook. Loved it ever since. In those early years we were a steady mid-table team in the Dr Martens League as it was and I remember those days as being highly enjoyable. As I grew up and I introduced some friends to The Fleet we started getting more adventurous and we would go to away games more often. This has culminated in following the team at home and away as much as possible. People ask why we bother following the team all the way to Wrexham or York to see them lose, but it's the hope that we may just nick a late winner that spurs us on, and when we do it makes all those motorway hours worth it.

Who is your all-time favourite player? Why him?

Jimmy Jackson, the man is a legend, simple as that. I've never seen one player give more in a Fleet shirt. He was there the very first time I watched The Fleet and if there is one player who stands out from all my Fleet memories it's him.

If you had to select your favourite three Fleet games ever what would they be? What was so special about them?

1. Aldershot in the trophy semi-final. Amazing atmosphere and Bostwick slotting home at the end topped off a great day. I don't remember

much of the game itself just the 90 minute wall of noise from the travelling Fleet support, it showed what a passionate bunch we are. The celebrations at the end were incredible. A lot of people say the trophy final was their favourite game but for me it doesn't even come close on that day in Hampshire.

2. Luton away when we won 3-2. To go to Luton and get the win considering where we were in the league and given our situation was a great achievement. We'd been on the end of so much bad luck that season we deserved that result just for our pure determination.

3. Farnborough in the play-off final. The game topped off a very enjoyable season, and we thoroughly deserved to win the play-offs. Similar to the Aldershot trophy semi we as fans showed how much this club means to us. Outnumbering and outsing the home support definitely helped us win.

Run us through where and how the best goal you have seen in a Fleet shirt was scored.

Probably not a very common one but for me it was one of, if not the best goal I've seen a Fleet player score. It was Mark DeBolla who scored a 30 yard screamer on the opening day of the season against Aldershot, in a thriller we would eventually lose 3-2 a few years back. There must have been only about 150 or so Fleet fans there but it stunned the home crowd for a while at least.

What is your Fleet dream team selected from players you have seen play?

M: Liam Daish
GK: Lance Cronin
LB: Justin Skinner
CB: Francis "The Fridge" Duku
CB: Paul McCarthy
RB: Matt Lee
RM: Moussa Sidibe
CM: Steve McKimm
CM: Ram Marwa
LM: Jimmy Jackson
CF: Steve Portway
CF: Charlie MacDonald

What are your best memories supporting the Fleet? Feel free to get involved, answer these questions and email them to ian@eufc.co.uk to have your very own page of Fleet nostalgia!

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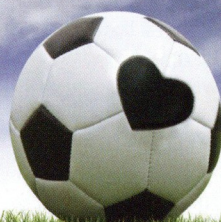
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LEAGUE INTRIGUE // bsbp action, thomas dixon



Bath City picked up their first win of the season with a surprise win at home to Darlington. Goals from Marc Canham and Lee Philips in two second half minutes were enough to give the bottom side the three points. This heaped more pressure on luckless Newport who went down by three goals to nil at home to Southport. The visitors struck first on the half hour mark with Grand opening the scoring, and in the space of 14 minutes that lead was trebled as Ledsham and Gray tucked away two quick fire goals just before halftime. The second half saw no change to the score as Newport are looking like surprise favourites for the drop.

In what must have felt like an early season 6 pointers for both sets of fans, fellow relegation strugglers Alfreton threw away a 1-0 advantage to draw at home to Kettering. Brown gave Alfreton the lead in the 24th minute, but a penalty converted by Cunningham in the 72nd minute gave The Poppies a share of the spoils. Mid-table Tamworth maintained their impressive 8th place with an excellent result over Lincoln. Although it took them only 12 minutes to open the scoring, Keiran St Amie netting, Tamworth were to wait until the 61st minute before getting a second, this time Christie getting on the score sheet. The wait for the third goal wasn't nearly as long as 3 minutes later Francis gave Tamworth an unassailable advantage. If Lincoln weren't already feeling dead and buried then St Amie's second of the game certainly finished them off.

Stockport travelled to Cambridge with the most consistent away record in league, having previously drawn all 6 of their last outings. Saturday was to be no different,

twice throwing away a one goal lead to draw 2-2. At the top end of the table Mansfield continued to put pressure on the other play-off hopefuls racking up a 2-1 win at home to Grimsby. Grimsby took the lead on the half hour mark, but during the second half and in the space of six minutes Mansfield stole all 3 points.

In the battle of the mid-table outsiders Barrow hosted AFC Telford, and it was the Cambrian's who were to strike first with Boyes tucking away a penalty midway through the first half. Telford levelled through Farrell on the hour mark, but it wasn't to be and a late winner for Barrow sent Telford fans home disappointed. The biggest result of the day came at York's Bootham Crescent where surprise package Braintree were dismantled. 5 different scorers helped themselves to goals as York put 6 past the visitors from Essex. Braintree did manage two goals of their own in what must have been one of the performances of the season for York fans. York now move comfortably into fourth place and must be considered one of the favourites for promotion this year.

Kidderminster could have had the fourth spot for themselves but went down 2-1 to a Luton side that are also competing strongly for a play-off spot. Luton killed off any hopes of Kiddy getting back into the game after putting goal number 2 past them, rendering Sharpe's 87th minute goal as nothing more than a consolation goal. The final game of the weekend saw Forest Green Rovers face Fleetwood at the Highbury, providing the only 0-0 draw of the day.




















DATE	COMP.	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT.																			
Sat 13 Aug	BSBP	York City	H	1-2	1,522	Welch	Stone	Simpemba	Easton	Herd	Phipp	Fakinos	Marwa	West	Shakes	E-Marum	Edwards	Willock	Howe	Azeez	Stavrinou		
Tue 16 Aug	BSBP	Tamworth	A	1-0	921	Welch	Stone	Simpemba	Easton	Herd	Shakes	Stavrinou	Marwa	West	Willock	E-Marum	Edwards	Fakinos	Howe	Azeez	Williams		
Sat 20 Aug	BSBP	Stockport County	A	1-1	3,674	Edwards	Stone	Simpemba	Easton	Herd	Fakinos	Stavrinou	Marwa	West	Willock	E-Marum	Shakes	Ginty	Howe	Welch	Azeez		
Tue 23 Aug	BSBP	Newport County	H	1-1	992	Edwards	Stone	Simpemba	Easton	Herd	Fakinos	Stavrinou	Marwa	West	Willock	E-Marum	Shakes	Ginty	Howe	Welch	Azeez		
Sat 27 Aug	BSBP	Forest Green Rovers	H	1-1	889	Edwards	Howe	Simpemba	Easton	Herd	Phipp	Fakinos	Marwa	West	Willock	E-Marum	Stone	Shakes	Ginty	Welch	Stavrinou		
Mon 29 Aug	BSBP	Braintree Town	A	2-3	697	Edwards	Stone	Simpemba	Easton	Herd	Phipp	Howe	Marwa	Shakes	Willock	E-Marum	Fakinos	Ginty	Welch	Azeez	Stavrinou		
Sat 3 Sep	BSBP	Barrow	H	1-2	983	Edwards	Howe	Simpemba	Stone	Herd	Phipp	Azeez	Marwa	Shakes	Willock	E-Marum	Fakinos	Ginty	Welch	Stavrinou	McCarthy		
Sat 10 Sep	BSBP	Kidderminster Harriers	A	2-2	1,788	Edwards	Howe	Simpemba	Stone	Herd	Phipp	Stavrinou	Marwa	Shakes	Willock	E-Marum	Fakinos	Ginty	Welch	Azeez	McCarthy		
Sat 17 Sep	BSBP	Fleetwood Town	H	1-3	974	Edwards	Stone	Simpemba	Mambo	Herd	Phipp	Stavrinou	Marwa	West	Willock	E-Marum	Fakinos	Shakes	Ginty	Howe	Welch		
Tue 20 Sep	BSBP	Cambridge United	A	2-0	1,911	Edwards	Stone	Simpemba	Mambo	Herd	Phipp	Howe	Marwa	Shakes	Willock	E-Marum	Fakinos	Ginty	Welch	Azeez	Stavrinou		
Sat 24 Sep	BSBP	Alfreton Town	A	2-2	661	Edwards	Stone	Simpemba	Mambo	Herd	Phipp	Azeez	Marwa	Shakes	Willock	E-Marum	Fakinos	Lorraine	Ginty	Welch	Stavrinou		
Tue 27 Sep	BSBP	Bath City	H	3-0	816	Edwards	Lorraine	Simpemba	Mambo	Howe	Phipp	Fakinos	Marwa	Stone	Willock	West	Herd	Shakes	Ginty	Welch	Azeez		
Sat 1 Oct	BSBP	Wrexham	A	1-0	2,849	Edwards	Lorraine	Simpemba	Mambo	Howe	Phipp	Fakinos	Marwa	Stone	Willock	West	Herd	Shakes	Ginty	Welch	Azeez		
Sat 8 Oct	BSBP	Gateshead	H	0-1	947	Edwards	Lorraine	Simpemba	Mambo	Herd	Phipp	Howe	Marwa	Stone	Willock	West	Fakinos	Ginty	Welch	Azeez	Stavrinou		
Tue 11 Oct	BSBP	Luton Town	H																				
Sat 15 Oct	BSBP	AFC Telford United	A																				
Tue 18 Oct	BSBP	Grimsby Town	H																				
Sat 22 Oct	BSBP	Kettering Town	A																				
Sat 29 Oct	FAC4Q	TBA																					
Sat 5 Nov	BSBP	Newport County	A																				
Sat 12 Nov	FAC1	TBA																					
Sat 19 Nov	BSBP	Darlington	H																				
Sat 26 Nov	BSBP	Lincoln City	A																				
Tue 29 Nov	BSBP	Kidderminster Harriers	H																				
Sat 3 Dec	BSBP	Barrow	A																				
Tue 6 Dec	BSBP	Cambridge United	H																				
Sat 10 Dec	FAT1	TBA																					
Sat 17 Dec	BSBP	Grimsby Town	A																				
Mon 26 Dec	BSBP	Hayes & Yeading United	H																				
Sun 1 Jan	BSBP	Hayes & Yeading United	A																				
Sat 7 Jan	BSBP	Wrexham	H																				
Sat 14 Jan	FAT2	TBA																					
Sat 21 Jan	BSBP	York City	A																				
Tue 24 Jan	BSBP	Tamworth	H																				
Sat 28 Jan	BSBP	Mansfield Town	H																				
Sat 4 Feb	BSBP	Fleetwood Town	A																				
Sat 11 Feb	BSBP	Alfreton Town	H																				
Sat 18 Feb	BSBP	Bath City	A																				
Sat 25 Feb	BSBP	Southport	H																				
Sat 3 Mar	BSBP	Gateshead	A																				
Tue 6 Mar	BSBP	Stockport County	H																				
Sat 10 Mar	BSBP	Luton Town	A																				
Sat 17 Mar	BSBP	Darlington	A																				
Sat 24 Mar	BSBP	Kettering Town	H																				
Sat 31 Mar	BSBP	Mansfield Town	A																				
Sat 7 Apr	BSBP	Forest Green Rovers	A																				
Mon 9 Apr	BSBP	Braintree Town	H																				
Sat 14 Apr	BSBP	AFC Telford United	H																				
Sat 21 Apr	BSBP	Southport	A																				
Sat 28 Apr	BSBP	Lincoln City	H																				

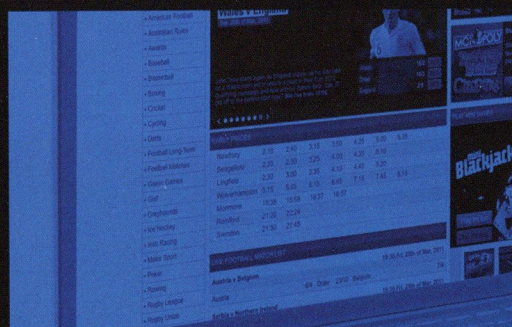
Table correct as at 10/10/11

		Played	Home					Away					GD	Points
			W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1	Wrexham	15	4	1	2	10	7	6	1	1	18	7	14	32
2	Gateshead	15	4	3	1	13	9	5	0	2	13	10	7	30
3	Fleetwood Town	14	3	4	0	11	5	5	0	2	14	12	8	28
4	York City	14	4	1	2	15	7	4	1	2	15	8	15	26
5	Luton Town	14	5	1	1	17	5	2	4	1	9	9	12	26
6	Mansfield Town	14	3	3	1	13	7	4	2	1	11	8	9	26
7	Braintree Town	14	4	1	2	14	7	4	0	3	12	11	8	25
8	Kidderminster Harriers	14	2	3	2	12	10	5	0	2	12	9	5	24
9	Southport	14	3	2	2	9	12	4	1	2	12	10	-1	24
10	Cambridge United	14	4	2	1	11	6	2	3	2	5	5	5	23
11	Tamworth	14	4	2	1	11	5	2	2	3	7	9	4	22
12	Barrow	14	4	1	2	14	8	2	1	4	9	15	0	20
13	Forest Green Rovers	14	1	3	3	8	9	2	5	0	11	5	5	17
14	AFC Telford United	14	3	2	2	8	8	1	3	3	9	11	-2	17
15	Grimsby Town	14	4	0	3	14	11	1	2	4	3	11	-5	17
16	Darlington	14	3	2	2	8	8	1	2	4	4	10	-6	16
17	Stockport County	14	2	2	3	8	9	0	7	0	8	8	-1	15
18	Hayes & Yeading United	14	2	2	3	10	11	1	2	4	8	15	-8	13
19	Lincoln City	14	2	2	3	6	7	1	1	5	5	13	-9	12
20	Kettering Town	14	1	1	5	9	18	2	2	3	6	8	-11	12
21	Ebbsfleet United	14	1	2	4	8	10	1	3	3	8	11	-5	11
22	Alfreton Town	14	1	3	3	7	15	1	1	5	6	15	-17	10
23	Newport County	14	1	3	3	8	10	0	2	5	5	15	-12	8
24	Bath City	14	1	1	5	4	9	0	2	5	3	13	-15	6

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THE HALF WAY POINT // ian dickety, editor

Good evening everyone and welcome to Stonebridge Road for our game against Luton.

an interesting stat (so I better issue a spoiler alert...)

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this edition on numerous occasions every time someone mentions tonight's opposition all I can think about is that day last year at Kenilworth Road. OK they got revenge in style a few months later but that 3-2 win is a footballing moment that will live long in the memory because of so many factors. I remember hearing on the local radio after the game a fan who called in saying something along the lines of he'd never even heard of Ebbsfleet so how on Earth is it possible they are losing to them? That made me smile. Being the underdog most definitely can have its advantages sometimes.

After tonight's game we will have played 15 games, a mammoth 10 of them against top half opposition. Let me refer you back to the point I made in my notes against Gateshead on Saturday regarding the perhaps false position Bolton find themselves in at the moment in the Premier League. Now obviously this is all relative, the fact of the matter is we now need to pick up the points against teams lower in the table in the games approaching us, but in my mind this fact gives me a lot of hope and enthusiasm for at least the next third of the season (when I can re-evaluate!). These combined with that we may, just may get a bit more breathing space between games (well noted by the Silhouette tonight, by the way) can surely be a good thing.

Anyway, enough of reminiscing, and into the present. Luton as expected have had a good start to the season and are our third game in 11 days against top 4 opposition. Thanks once again go the good people at the conference who do the fixtures...! Perhaps that is a little harsh as obviously they don't know how the table is going to look as time goes on but Paul Jarvis asks in interesting question in his half time teasers today which brings me to

As Pete mentioned in his notes the FA Cup draw is now only 6 days away which I wait eagerly, I am secretly hoping for an away draw so I can have a week off from this programme lark but don't tell the chairman!

Up the Fleet
Ian

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Ian Docker/Mick Chatwin
Youth Section Chairman:
Ray Tuffield

*acting



Name: Andrew Barringer

Age: 28

Role and length of affiliation with Luton:

Press officer for past three years, supporter since I was six.

Q: This will be Luton's third season in the fifth tier of English football. After suffering play-off heart ache in the previous two seasons are you still optimistic you could return to the Football League at the end of this campaign?

A: Of course. We're always optimistic and this season is no different. The past two seasons have seen us defeated in the play-offs so expectation is to make it third time lucky and go one better. Obviously, like everyone else in the hunt for promotion, we'd like to go up as Champions, but given the frustration of the last few years we'll take any means of promotion – although I think the heart's of our supporters could do without another appearance in the play-off lottery!

Q: Since your play-off final defeat on penalties to AFC Wimbledon, was there much player movement during the summer? Do you think the squad Gary Brabin has put together is stronger than last seasons? You've obviously had a decent enough start to the season.

A: There was a fair bit. Gary inherited the nucleus of a very good side and has added to it substantially since he's taken control. There have been some high-profile departures in Claude Gnaka, Zdenek Kroca and Jason Walker but Brabin has been smart bringing new faces in. With an injury crisis in defence Dean Beckwith, Will Antwi and Curtis Osano have joined; whilst in midfield we have creativity in James Dance and John Paul Kissock and steel in Jamie Hand. Up front, Stuart Fleetwood has started his time at Kenilworth Road well. The new signings compliment a squad rich in quality and the manager will have a welcome but challenging selection headache when he has a fully-fit squad to pick from.

Q: Talking of Gary Brabin, he seems to be doing well after succeeding Richard Money in March of this year. Did you agree with the dismissal of Money and do you think Brabin's the right man for the job?

A: Richard had done a great job during his time at Kenilworth Road. Not only did he bring in a number of talented players but he got the team playing in a way which worked hard for results. Gary Brabin's ethos is different in that he wants players to enjoy themselves but at the same time they know should they fall beyond a certain standard they will be out of the team. There is absolutely no doubt that he is the right man for the job – his record speaks for itself.

Q: Who is currently your form player, someone who has impressed you since the start of the season and is likely to cause us problems tonight?

A: Amari Morgan-Smith has been a revelation so far this season. His performance against Barrow 10 days ago was as good a performance as you'll see from a striker leading the line on his own. His goal that day was his eighth in 10 starts and his overall contribution to the team has been telling too – in that game alone he was involved in three of the four other goals. Pace, power and an eye for goal, Amari also has the ability to play on either flank too. Still only 22, he was signed this time last year, immediately impressing – a hat-trick in the FA Cup fourth qualifying round against St Albans was his highlight before injury and illness curtailed his campaign but he's certainly made up for lost time this time around.

Q: What were your best and worst moments of last season? What games stood out for you? It must have been a crushing feeling missing out on promotion again.

A: The 3-0 play-off semi-final at Wrexham was one of the best performances of the season. Three-up inside half-an-hour was a start we'd only dreamed of. The 2-2 draw at Charlton in the FA Cup second round was a fantastic spectacle, and another game that stands out.

I'm sure you know the worst moment of last season, naturally the penalty shootout defeat in the play-off final against AFC Wimbledon. It was genuinely gut-wrenching stuff from the first whistle. I've never felt nerves like it. Once the final kick went in, 61 league and cup matches had flashed before me before the realisation on missing out on promotion by the smallest of margins hit me. It was a real blow but that's in the past now, we can't do anything about it and, as I've already said, we're focussed on going one better this season.

Q: Going back a couple of seasons to when the Fleet were relegated, we played you in a couple of surreal games. We firstly came away from Kenilworth Road with an unexpected 3-2 win before you gave us a 6-1 demolishing here on our own turf. Can you remember these games and what are your thoughts on them?

A: I remember interviewing Richard Money after the 3-2 home defeat and he was speechless. It was the lowest point in his career, an "unacceptable performance" he said, made even more frustrating having taken the lead. At Stonebridge Road we all thought a similar performance was on the cards having trailed at the break but what an absolutely sensational second half. Whatever the manager said at half-time it had the desired affect and really kick-started a sequence of victories that led us finishing runners-up. A can't see a repeat performance tonight but stranger things have happened!

Q: What are you most looking forward to this season?

A: Fingers crossed, a successful season. We have suffered the heartache of losing in the play-offs two years running and ideally we'd like to avoid that for a third time.

Q: Who do you think will be in the mix at both ends of the table come the end of the season? I'm guessing you'd put yourselves in the frame for automatic promotion?

A: Well we'd like to think so. We have the players and infrastructure in place for a successful season but from what we seen already this season we know it's going to be tough. The division does seem wide open this year with a number of sides capable of sustaining a challenge. Fleetwood have invested heavily, as have York, whilst Wrexham, Mansfield, Gateshead, Kidderminster and Cambridge will be there or thereabouts come the end of the season. It's tough to tell who will be involved at the other end: for example Bath are bottom of the table but put in a great performance against us with only 10 men, holding us to a draw. Newport have struggled after being tipped to do well and Lincoln are better than their league position so at this early stage it's difficult to pin-point who will finish where.

Q: What's your prediction for today?

A: I'd love to say 6-1 Luton after being a goal-down at the break but as I've said I can't see that happening again. Expectation is always on us to win, regardless of the opposition, but teams always raise their game against us as we're seen as the big fish in the league. Taking those factors into consideration, I'll plump for a 2-1 win for Luton.



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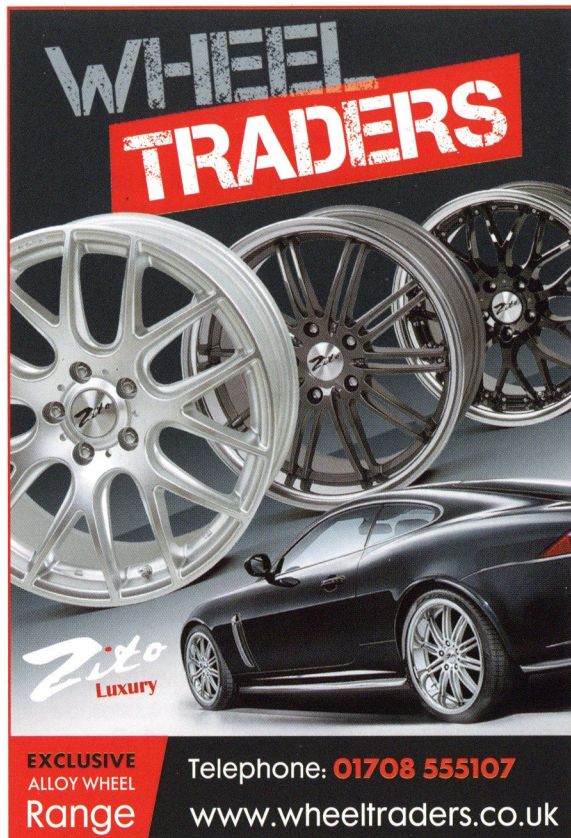
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HALF TIME TEASERS // by paul jarvis



1. How did **Luton Town** get their nickname, the Hatters?
2. What did **Luton Town** win in 2009 that they were not allowed to defend?
3. **Luton Town's** Chairman is famous for what?
4. How many points were **Luton Town** deducted at the start of the 2008-2009 season?
5. Who did **Luton Town** beat in 1987-1988 League Cup Final?
6. After tonight's game how many of the top twelve teams would the **Fleet** have played this season?
7. Which former Fleet player scored two goals for the **Fleet** when they won at Kenilworth Road in January 2010?
8. Apart from that season when would Luton Town have last played a **Fleet** team at Stonebridge Road?
9. How many different nationalities make up the **Fleet's** squad?
10. Which former goalkeeper played for Northfleet United before moving on to play for Spurs and England?
11. On Friday evening Ricky Shakes played a full ninety minutes for Guyana, which country had Shakes previously played for?
12. Ricky joins an elite list of players to play for two countries, which player played for three?
13. Before Friday evening when was the last time Wayne Rooney got sent off for England?
14. Giuseppe Wilson won 3 international caps for which country?
15. How is the song 'Offside' by Barry Stroller better known?

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION // ed miller

Six degrees of separation refers to the idea that everyone is at most six steps away from any other person or place on Earth. We discover what links the two players on either side who share initials and former clubs (Fisher and Northampton) - Joe Howe and Luton's former Fleet midfielder Jamie Hand.



Joe Howe...



...shares his birthday with Irish rugby captain **Brian O'Driscoll...**



...born in the Dublin suburb of Clontarf, as was Dracula author **Bram Stoker...**



...whose character is second only to **Sherlock Holmes** in the record of film adaptations...



...whose latest screen incarnation is **Benedict Cumberbatch...**



...who attended the exclusive **Harrow School**, whose former pupils include...



...**King Hussein of Jordan**, the anniversary of whose death is 7 February...



...which happens to be the birthday of **Jamie Hand**.



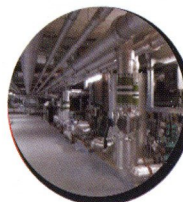
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ALAN PARKER

Hello everyone,

Today's article is going to be somewhat different from normal. I was sorting through some old match programmes the other day and I came across one against Halifax, dated September 17 2005, 6 years ago. I thought you might like to hear some of what I had to say then...

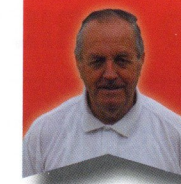
During the course of most weeks I find myself in conversation with various Fleet supporters and one of the topics that often crops up is about a possible new ground. I get asked what do you know, where will it be? etc. I reply I know about as much as you mate!

My original, favoured option was to stay here and improve our current ground. The downside of that is of course we would require a long lease and then there is a lack of room to expand. The club have now decided that they wish to move so the die is cast. The big question now is going to be the location of any new ground and the timescale.

I can only of course express a personal opinion as regards to location, I would favour the area near the new station at Ebbsfleet. The land is currently not built on, there would be plenty of car parking space available and it's only half a mile from Stonebridge Road. It would also be on the Fastrack bus route. As for the timescale I would like to see a decision on location made by no later than this time next year so that plans could be submitted and finance put in place during the following year. We could then, all being well, move into our new ground by August 2010 if not sooner.

Well folks, I really thought it was going to happen so how wrong can you be? One interesting point, that 48-page programme 6 years ago cost £2.50, the same as our current larger programme which makes that a real bargain.

Up the Fleet
Alan Parker



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HALF TIME TEASERS ANSWERS

1. It's due to the towns historical connection with hat making that goes back to the 17th century, 2. Football League (Johnstone's Paint) Trophy, 3. Newsreading, 4. 30 points, 5. Arsenal.

6. 10, 7. Magno Viera, 8. Against Northfleet United in the Southern League, 9. 6, 10. Ted Ditchburn.

11. Trinidad and Tobago, 12. Alfredo Di Stefano, 13. v Portugal, World Cup 2006, 14. Italy, 15. Theme tune for Match of the Day.

On Saturday 26th April 1975, Scotland's infamous Bay City Rollers topped the UK singles' charts with "Bye Bye Baby". Meanwhile, Slade was wowing London audiences in their unique style and a future music star was entering the world. As the 1974-5 football season was drawing to a close, Fleetstats went to see whether Luton Town could survive the rigours of top flight football.

April 1975 had been a month of meteorological contrasts in the city of Des Moines, located in Polk County and capital of the state of Iowa. Sitting at the confluence of two major rivers, nature has always had a significant impact on its development.

Although there's much evidence of prehistoric dwellings at the site, more permanent habitation didn't occur until much later. While popular opinion suggests that it was named after latter day French Trappist Monks, alternative claims exist for a more ethnic source.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Fort Des Moines had been constructed to house the transported Sauk and Meskwaki Indians. Following the devastation caused by the severe floods of 1851, it was rebuilt and the name shortened when it converted to city status.

By 1975, Des Moines had grown to around 200,000 residents and boasted the 36 storey Ruan Center as its tallest building. At that juncture, a plethora of public facilities already existed within its boundaries and it was deemed to be one of the finest places to reside in the Mid West.

The Blank Children's Hospital was the only civilian hospital built in Des Moines during World War II. At that time, Iowa had the highest rate of polio among children of any American state but was one of only a few states that didn't possess a children's hospital to care for them. In the ensuing post war decades,

medical facilities in the city rapidly developed with Britain's favourite American author Bill Bryson being born in one during December 1951.

Another user of Des Moines' hospitals was a Mrs Jordison in early 1975. Heavily pregnant, she had to endure extremes of temperatures not normally associated with the city during April. Although that month's average is 20C, 30C highs and a low exceeding minus 10C were experienced.

Fortunately, Mrs Jordison came through unscathed and give birth to a son named Nathan Jonas on Saturday 26th at Mercy Hospital. Devotees of new wave heavy metal band Slipknot will, of course, realise that this Joey emerged into the band's somewhat extrovert drummer from the mid nineties.

But on that very Saturday some 4,200 miles east, Slade was playing the New Victoria Theatre in London. In the audience was one Dave Kemp. Few, perhaps nobody, can have heard "Cum On Feel The Noise" performed live more times than Dave. In addition to his musical affliction, Dave enjoyed football and his school friends included John Barnes of Liverpool and England fame.

However, Dave wasn't with me and more than twenty thousand others tightly packed into the Kenilworth Road stadium in Luton that Saturday. With Luton Town precariously positioned around the relegation zone of Division 1 (top tier in those days) I'd driven down from Cambridge to witness their battle royal against the flamboyant Manchester City in an end of season clash.

Managed by Harry Haslem, Luton had been Division 2 runners up in the 1973-4 season. However, they struggled through most of the ensuing season. By the end of March, Carlisle United were already destined to return from whence they'd come a year earlier. The other

two relegation spots were contested between Luton, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea.

However, Luton were the in-form team during April 1975. Consecutive wins against Everton, Leicester and Birmingham had provided them with a realistic chance of survival.

As it had been for part of that April in Des Moines, Luton was sweltering on Saturday 26th. I'd arrived early at the ground and positioned myself along the narrow terrace where the Family Stand, named after their legendary midfielder David Preece, was constructed in the early nineties.

Kenilworth Road was buzzing in anticipation. Anything less than a win would offer limited support for Luton's survival aspirations. With City comfortable in mid table, the game was somewhat irrelevant to many of their glittering stars.

Luton started off kicking towards the Kenilworth Terrace. The first half was a tense affair, well it was for home fans. When Dennis Tueart put the away side ahead, the pressure was on. While City strolled about, Luton huffed and puffed without any return. So half time arrived with only the solitary goal between the sides but Luton were still in with a chance of survival.

A few choice words from Harry Haslem propelled Luton forward in the second half. A goal from Jimmy Ryan (later to become a Luton Manager) put them on level terms. The excitement was intense, unless you were a City player. They stroked the ball around the pitch and frustrated Luton.

Further frustration came along just after City's maverick Rodney Marsh was subbed. Rodney meandered over towards the terrace where I

was standing then crouched down. When the ball was kicked out by a Luton player, Rodney picked it up and took the throw in. The game continued at a pace until sustained protests from Luton players brought proceedings to a halt and Rodney a yellow card.

The match finished as a one all draw. On the drive back, I heard on the radio that Chelsea had also drawn and Spurs had lost. This meant Luton were just outside the relegation zone and could still survive.

However, a Spurs win against Leeds on the following Monday took them to safety rather than Luton. The 1974-5 season ended with Luton having won eleven games, drawn eleven and lost twenty. With one point less than Spurs, they accompanied Chelsea and Carlisle into Division 2.

It would be seven years before Luton returned to the top tier of English football, this time under David Pleat's management. However, Luton was relegated from the top division at the end of the 1991-2 season and have now slipped three further levels to reach Conference National.

Although I haven't returned to Kenilworth Road since Saturday 26th April 1975, I can vividly remember 36 and a half years ago. For me, it was a great day out and a good deal better experience than that of the unmentionable Saturday 20th March 2010.



Luton Town Football Club was formed on 11 April 1885, the product of a merger of the two leading local teams, Luton Town Wanderers and Excelsior. Initially based at Excelsior's Dallow Lane ground, the club moved to Dunstable Road in 1897. In 1890, the club began making payments to certain individual players. The following year, Luton became the first club in southern England to be fully professional.

The club was a founder member of the Southern Football League in the 1894–95 season and finished as runners-up in its first two seasons. It then left to help form the United League and came second in that league's inaugural season before joining The Football League for 1897–98. The club continued to enter a team to the United League for two more seasons, and won the title in 1897–98. Poor attendance, high wages, and the high travel and accommodation costs that resulted from Luton's distance from the northern heartlands of The Football League crippled the club financially, and made it too expensive to compete in that league. A return to the regionally organised Southern League was therefore arranged for the 1900–01 season.

Eight years after arriving at Dunstable Road, Luton moved again, settling at their current ground, Kenilworth Road, in 1905. Captain and left winger Bob Hawkes became Luton's first international player when he was picked to play for England against Ireland on 16 February 1907. A poor 1911–12 season saw Luton relegated to the Southern League's Second Division, but the club managed to win promotion back two years later. When war broke out, the schedule was reduced to a series of friendlies, but Luton took part in The London Combination for 1915–16. A

key player of the period was Ernie Simms, a forward. Simms was wounded while serving in Italy in the First World War, but returned to score 40 goals during the following season.

The Luton side first played in the white and black colours which the club has retained for much of its history during the 1920–21 season, when they rejoined The Football League; until then, the players had worn sky blue shirts with white shorts and navy socks. Such was the quality of Luton's team at this time that despite playing in the third tier, a fixture between Ireland and England at Windsor Park on 22 October 1921 saw three Luton players on the pitch – Louis Bookman and Allan Mathieson for Ireland, and club top goalscorer Simms for England. However, after Luton finished fourth in the division, the squad was broken up as Simms, Bookman and Mathieson joined South Shields, Port Vale and Exeter City respectively. Luton stayed in the Third Division South until 1936–37, when the team finished top and won promotion to the Second Division, at that time the second tier of English football. During the promotion season, striker Joe Payne scored 55 goals in 39 games; during the previous season he had scored 10 in one match against Bristol Rovers, which remains a Football League record as of 2010.

During the early 1950s, one of Luton's greatest sides emerged under manager Dally Duncan. The team included Gordon Turner, who went on to become Luton's all-time top goalscorer, Bob Morton, who holds the record for the most club appearances, and Syd Owen, an England international. During this period, Luton sides also featured two England international goalkeepers, Ron Baynham and Bernard Streten, as well as Irish internationals Seamus Dunne, Tom Aherne and George

Cummins. This team reached the top flight for the first time in 1955–56, after finishing the season in second place behind Birmingham City on goal average. A few years of success followed, including an FA Cup Final appearance against Nottingham Forest in 1958–59; at the end of the season, Owen was voted FWA Footballer of the Year. However, the club was relegated the following season, and, by 1964–65, was playing in the fourth tier.

In yo-yo club fashion, Luton were to return. A team including Bruce Rioch, John Moore and Graham French won the Fourth Division championship in 1967–68 under the leadership of former player Allan Brown; two years later Malcolm Macdonald's goals helped them to another promotion, while comedian Eric Morecambe became a director of the club. Luton Town won promotion back to the First Division in 1973–74, but were relegated the following season by a solitary point.

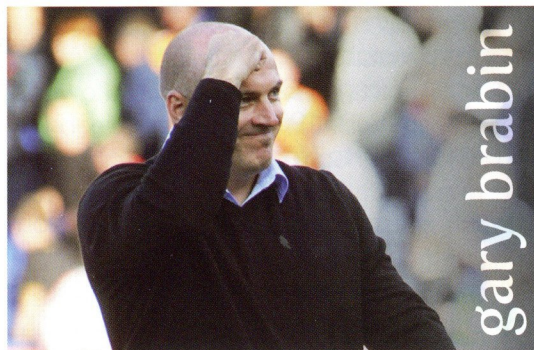
Former player David Pleat was made manager in 1978, and by 1982–83 the team was back in the top flight. On the last day of the club's first season back in the top tier, the side narrowly escaped relegation: playing Manchester City at Maine Road, Luton needed to win to stay up, while City could escape with a draw. A late winner by Yugoslav Raddy Antić saved the team and prompted Pleat to dance across the pitch performing a "jig of joy", an image that has become iconic. The club achieved its highest ever league position, seventh, in 1986–87, and won the League Cup a year later with a 3–2 win over Arsenal. With ten minutes left on the clock and Arsenal 2–1 ahead, a penalty save from stand-in goalkeeper Andy Dibble sparked a late Luton rally: Danny Wilson equalised, before Brian Stein scored

the winner with the last kick of the match. The club reached the League Cup Final once more in 1988–89, but lost 3–1 to Nottingham Forest.

The club was relegated from the top division at the end of the 1991–92 season, and sank to the third tier four years later. Luton stayed in the third-tier Second Division until relegation at the end of the 2000–01 season. Under the management of Joe Kinnear, who had arrived halfway through the previous season, the team won promotion from the fourth tier at the first attempt. "Controversial" owner John Gurney unsettled the club in 2003, terminating Kinnear's contract on his arrival in May; Gurney replaced Kinnear with Mike Newell before leaving Luton as the club entered administration. Newell's team finished as champions of the third-tier Football League One in 2004–05.

While Newell's place was taken by first Kevin Blackwell and later former player Mick Harford, the team was then relegated twice in a row, starting in 2006–07, and spent the latter part of the 2007–08 season in administration, thus incurring a ten-point deduction from that season's total. The club then had a total of 30 points docked from its 2008–09 record by The Football Association and The Football League for various financial irregularities. These deductions proved to be too large an obstacle to overcome, but Luton came from behind in the final of the Football League Trophy to win the competition for the first time. Relegation meant that 2009–10 saw Luton playing in the Conference National, a competition which the club had never before contested, and in which, as of the 2011–12 season, they remain.





Originally brought to the club as Chief Scout at the time Richard Money was appointed manager in October 2009, Brabin was reassigned in the new role as assistant manager in the summer of 2010.

Following the departure of Richard Money in March 2011, Brabin took control of the Hatters until the end of the 2010/11 season.

After playing over 275 times in League football as a tough-tackling midfielder, Brabin moved into management firstly with Southport - guiding them to the Conference North Play-offs - before moving south to manage Cambridge United in 2008.

In his first - and eventually only - season at the Abbey Stadium he guided the U's to the Blue Square Premier Play-off final after finishing runners-up to champions Burton Albion, but lost to Torquay United at Wembley.

Despite that set-back Brabin was awarded the BSP Manager of the Year award before behind the scenes differences at the Abbey led to him leaving the club in July 2009 before arriving at Kenilworth Road.

#1 Mark **TYLER** Goalkeeper

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United. Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road and was rewarded for his loyalty with a testimonial against Liverpool in 2007. After falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League 2 Bury where he made 11 appearances for the Shakers. A former England Youth international, Tyler was handed the number one shirt by the Hatters boss who admitted he'd failed in an attempt to sign the stopper the previous summer. After a hugely successful two years between the sticks at Kenilworth Road, Mark signed a new contract in the summer of 2011.

#30 Kevin **PILKINGTON** Goalkeeper

Pilkington began his career with Manchester United playing six times in the Premier League under Sir Alex Ferguson. During his six years at Old Trafford Pilkington enjoyed loan spells at Rochdale, Rotherham and Celtic before a two-year stay at Port Vale. After 23 league appearances for the Valiants, he was on the move once more, with Aberystwyth Town and Wigan Athletic his next two ports of call. However, he found stability at his next club, Mansfield, joining the Stags in 2000 and went onto feature 167 times in league action over the next five years. In 2005 the Hitchin-born stopper made the short hop down the M1 to sign for Notts County and another five year stay resulted in him making 141 appearances at Meadow Lane. However, Notts began flashing the cash at the start of the 2009/10 campaign with goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel one of many high-profile arrivals. Frozen out of the County team, and with Mark Tyler injured, Pilkington joined the Hatters on-loan in November and went onto make 11 appearance between the sticks whilst at Kenilworth Road before injury curtailed his stay. But when the Magpies released him in the summer of 2010, Money was quick to snap up the veteran permanently, giving the Town the choice of two excellent goalkeepers.

#6 George **PILKINGTON** Defender

Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having begun his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly-regarded defender has been named Player of the Year twice. Injury frustrated the centre-half in his first season at Kenilworth Road in 2008/09 but he still managed to pick-up a Johnstone's Paint Trophy winners' medal. Pilkington hit the headlines for his goalscoring exploits in the Town's first season in the Conference, twice scoring braces in early season victories over Mansfield and Crawley. His impeccable form on the pitch led to him winning a string of end-of-season awards and underlined his loyalty to the Hatters by signing a new contract at the end of the 2009/10 campaign.

#2 Dan **GLEESON** Defender

Tall and athletic defender, primarily a right-back, Gleeson signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from his home town club Cambridge United. A product of the U's academy, Gleeson made his debut at 18 and soon became a regular at the Abbey Stadium making 61 league appearances before Notts County snapped up his signature in 2006. Gleeson only

lasted a season at Meadow Lane, featuring 17 times before he was back at the Abbey, firstly on-loan before resigning permanently in 2007. Recognised as one of the best right-backs outside the Football League, Gleeson's performances have seen him rewarded with seven England C caps.

#16 Ed **ASAFU-ADJAYE** Defender

Capable of playing in any position across defence, Asafu-Adjaye has made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up. After a loan spell with non-league side Walton & Hersham, he made the breakthrough into the first team under former boss Mike Newell, when the Club was stretched to the limits through injury and suspension. However with first team opportunities limited, Ed went on-loan to Salisbury City where he earned rave reviews and when Mick Harford arrived as Manager at Kenilworth Road one of the first things he did was recall the young defender. Making his full debut in March 2008 at Kenilworth Road against Crewe Alexandra he has gone from strength to strength and was part of the Town team that won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley in 2009.

#12 Shane **BLACKETT** Defender

Luton-born Shane became Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009 after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003. His form with the United Counties side alerted the attentions of Dagenham & Redbridge who signed the 6ft 3in defender in May 2004. He made 83 appearances during his time at Victoria Road and helped the Daggers win the Conference title and earn promotion to the Football League in 2006/07. His reputation as a pacey defender alerted the attention of Peterborough who snapped him up with Dagenham team-mate Craig Mackail-Smith in January 2007. He went on to make 38 appearances during his time at London Road.

#3 Freddie **MURRAY** Defender

Left-footed versatile defender who joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009 and the deal was made permanent in January 2010. Murray only signed for the Essex club in August before making his debut for the Town in the 4-1 victory over Mansfield Town just hours after putting pen to paper. Previously with Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United the Irishman began his career as a trainee with Blackburn Rovers.

#5 Dean **BECKWITH** Defender

Centre-back Beckwith became the Hatters' second signing of the summer of 2011 following his release from League 2 side Northampton Town. The 27-year-old, who signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road, was a key member of the Cobblers' squad in 2010/11 which reached the fourth round of the League Cup following wins over Brighton, Reading and Liverpool. The commanding 6ft 3in defender has experienced promotion from the Blue Square Bet Premier before having been part of the Hereford United side that won the Play-Off final against Halifax Town in 2008. With almost 250 senior appearances to his name after starting his career as a junior at Gillingham, the centre-half enjoyed his best goalscoring season last season scoring three goals. The defender turned down offers from a number of Football League clubs but was delighted to agree terms to bolster the Hatters' defensive options.

#18 Curtis **OSANO** Defender

Lightening quick attacking defender who signed a six-month contract at Kenilworth Road following his departure from Rushden & Diamonds in July 2011. Able to play anywhere along the backline, the strong Kenyan-born defender began his career at Reading as a youngster. He failed to make an appearance with the Royals but enjoyed loan spells at Aldershot, Woking and Rushden before making the move to Nene Park permanent in 2008, going onto make over 150 appearances for the Northamptonshire club.

#34 Janos **KOVACS** Defender

Hungarian defender who signed on-loan for his second spell at the club in September 2011. Formerly with Chesterfield and Lincoln, Kovacs first signed in January 2010 before signing for Hereford United in the summer of that year.

#17 Will **ANTWI** Defender

Ashford-born centre-half who signed a six-month contract in July 2011 following his release from Dagenham & Redbridge. Capped once by Ghana, Antwi began his career as a scholar at Crystal Palace, making four league appearances before moving to Aldershot in 2004. After one season at the Rec, Antwi joined Wycombe Wanderers where he made 42 league appearances between 2005 and 2009. With first team opportunities limited at Adams Park Antwi joined Dagenham on loan before making the switch permanent in July 2009 until he release following the Daggers' relegation.

#27 Jamie **HAND** Midfielder

Central midfielder who moved to Kenilworth Road on loan in September 2011 from Hayes & Yeading United. It was then Hayes & Yeading boss Gary Haylock who persuaded him to join United in August 2010 after his form for Woking in the Blue Square Bet South had caught the eye. Scoring on his debut in a victory at Grimsby Town, Hand settled in quickly to become a vital part of the United squad that avoid relegation last season. Hand began his career with Watford, making 61 appearances in five years at Vicarage Road having burst on the scene for the Hornets in the Premier League. His performances led to him picking up the Young Player of the Year award in 2002/03. After several loans spells Uxbridge-born Hand signed for Chester and then Lincoln City. He moved to Ebbsfleet United in 2008/09 before enjoying spells with Chelmsford, Hemel Hempstead and Woking before moving to Hayes.

#11 Robbie **WILLMOTT** Midfielder

Harlow-born winger who penned an 18-month contract with the Hatters in January 2011 after hitting 10 goals for Cambridge United. Capable of playing on either wing or behind the front two, Willmott came through the ranks at the Abbey Stadium and wowed the home faithful with his pace, dribbling, close control and eye for goal. His performances for the U's' youth team saw him break into the senior squad, making his debut as a 17-year-old in September 2007. After signing his first professional contract two months later, the midfielder was mainly used as an impact substitute during 2007/08 but continued to impress: eight goals in his first season as a pro followed in 2008/09 while his level of performance and his assist tally soared last season as the U's finished in mid-table. But the youngster's talents during this campaign have really come to fore. Weighing in with 10 goals



and eight assists from just 29 starts for Martin Ling's side, Willmott's turn of foot and delivery from set-pieces has also become a highly sought-after commodity.

#15 Jake HOWELLS *Midfielder*

The young winger, who can also play at left-back or in central midfield, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his full debut in the Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008. After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 the England C international was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May. In his first season as a pro, Howells made huge strides with impressive performances on the left-side of midfield, ending the 2009/10 campaign with six goals, including his first senior goal in the incredible 4-3 win over Cambridge in September 2009.

#4 Keith KEANE *Midfielder*

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, Keith Keane went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured. Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level and he finished the season with 14 appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship. He joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential to convince Mike Newell to give him his first taste of senior action. Out of contract at the end of the 2009/10 campaign the winner of the Hatters' Goal of the Season award delighted everyone at Kenilworth Road by penning a two-year deal to keep him at the club until 2012.

#28 Adam WATKINS *Midfielder*

Young midfielder, capable of playing in attack, who signed professional forms at Kenilworth Road in June 2010. A self-confessed Hatters fan, he made his first team bow in a 1-0 defeat at Southampton in the FA Cup third round in January 2010. He broke into the first team squad during 2010/11 campaign scoring twice on his full debut in the 4-0 FA Trophy win over Uxbridge. Watkins then scored his first league goal on his first league start in the 3-1 win over Braintree in August 2011.

#21 Charlie HENRY *Midfielder*

Winger Henry signed from Blue Square Bet Premier rivals Newport County in November 2010, signing initially on-loan until January when the England C international made the permanent switch. Henry is no stranger to Kenilworth Road as he came through the youth ranks at the Club but was told he was too small to continue his scholarship and left when he was 15. Now 24, Henry came back to Bedfordshire with a bang back in August when hitting a superb goal in front of the Hatters faithful when Newport were the visitors earlier in that campaign.

#7 Alex LAWLESS *Midfielder*

Former Wales Under-21 midfielder who signed in November 2010 initially on-loan from York City before a permanent deal went through in January 2011. A star of the Minstermen's campaign last season which saw them lose in the Promotion Final to Oxford United, Lawless featured prominently in all four of the meetings with the Hatters last term at the heart of

midfield. A former Cardiff City scholar he took-up non-league football in Wales before he was snapped up to earn his first professional contract with Premier League Fulham in 2003. Without featuring for the Cottagers it was off to South West to Torquay United for the young Lawless but after just a year and 16 appearances at Plainmoor he was on the move again, to Forest Green in 2006 and in his three seasons he helped the Gloucestershire consolidate in the Conference before moving to York in 2009.

#19 James DANCE *Midfielder*

Energetic, tricky winger who joined the Hatters from Crawley Town in July 2011. Able to play on either flank or as a central striker, Dance began his career as a trainee at Birmingham City but, after being released, he made his name in non-league circles in the West Midlands before catching the eye of Kettering Town in 2009. After a string of fine performances on the wing for the Poppies - including a man-of-the-match performance against the Town in August 2009 - he signed for Crawley in January 2011. However, after picking up a Blue Square Bet Premier winners' medal last term, Dance found himself out of the Red Devils' starting XI and, after the Hatters' bid was accepted by the League 2 club, the Colehill-born man was quick to agree a two-year deal.

#20 John Paul KISSOCK *Midfielder*

Creative attacking midfielder John Paul signed a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee joining from Southport in August 2011. The former England Under-16 and Under-18 international began his career as a trainee at Premier League Everton. He was a regular in the Toffees' youth and reserve teams where he surpassed Wayne Rooney's record as the youngest ever player to feature for their second-string. In January 2008, he signed on loan for then Scottish Premier League Gretna, earning rave reviews before he returned to Goodison Park. A short spell with Hamilton Academical followed and, after attempting to find a new club, he dropped down to Cheshire county league level in a bid to resurrect his career. His performances for firstly Newton, and then Formby, alerted the attention of Southport manager Liam Watson who signed the Liverpoolian in December 2010, where he had an immediate effect for the Yellows.

#10 Danny CROW *Striker*

A nippy poacher of a striker, Crow joined the Hatters from Cambridge United in May 2010 following the expiry of his contract at the Abbey Stadium. The front man started his career as a trainee with Norwich City and made his senior bow in the Premier League for the Canaries in December 2004. A loan spell at Northampton followed towards the end of the 2004/05 season before he was released by Norwich and signed for Peterborough in the summer of 2005, notching 17 goals in his debut season at London Road. Following a short loan spell at Notts County, Crow was released by Posh and was snapped up by Cambridge in September 2008. The energetic forward's strike-rate of 22 goals in 43 league starts won him many admirers and his 19 goals during 2009/10 saw him scoop the U's online Player of the Year award.

#14 Aaron O'CONNOR *Striker*

Striker, who picked up a plethora of end-of-season awards at Nene Park, arrived at Kenilworth Road after signing a two-year contract following the expiry of his deal with Rushden & Diamonds. He scored 27 times in two seasons at Nene Park after arriving from Mansfield Town and went onto to be a

huge favourite at the Northamptonshire club. Aaron started his career on YTS forms with Derby County before moving to Ilkeston Town. He then had spells at Scunthorpe United and Nuneaton Borough before returning to Ilkeston. He then joined Gresley Rovers where between 2004 and 2007 he scored 80 goals in 127 games which saw him pick up numerous awards two seasons in succession. He then moved to Grays Athletic, and then on to Mansfield in 2008 where he scored eight times in 39 games at Field Mill prior to his switch to Rushden in the summer of 2009. Known for his strength and turn of pace the Nottingham-born front man can also play wide.

#13 Stuart FLEETWOOD *Striker*

Prolific striker who signed for an undisclosed fee from Hereford United on deadline day in August 2011. The Gloucester-born frontman, who scored 28 goals the last time he played at Conference level whilst with Forest Green Rovers, signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road. He began his career as a

trainee at Cardiff City, making the grade to feature eight times for the Bluebirds between 2003 and 2006. In January 2006, Fleetwood signed for Hereford for the first time scoring eight times before he signed for Forest Green in June 2007. And it was his spell with Rovers that saw people sit up and take notice after plundering 32 league and cup goals in a season that saw the Gloucestershire side earn their highest league placing. The Wales Under-21 international turned down a new contract at FGR to sign for then Championship Charlton in June 2008 but was loaned out Cheltenham, Exeter and Brighton. Fleetwood returned to Edgar Street last summer and scored 18 goals as he helped the Bulls avoid the drop in League 2. After hitting the post on his debut against Stockport, Fleetwood scored on his full debut in the win over Darlington.

ONE TO WATCH ONE TO WATCH ONE TO WATCH ONE TO WATCH ONE TO WATCH ONE TO WATCH

Striker or wide man who arrived at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following a two-year spell at Ilkeston Town.

He put pen to paper on a two-year deal after two years with the Blue Square Bet North side in which he scored 34 goals in 77 starts.

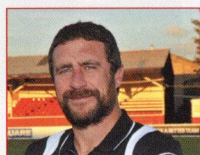
Wolverhampton-born Morgan-Smith started his career as a trainee with Wolves. He then signed for Crewe and then Stockport where he made one Football League appearance before moving to Ilkeston.

Before the 2009/10 season began the striker impressed in a trial for Championship side Derby County and although he didn't earn a contract, his former boss Kevin Wilson hailed the striker, who scored 23 goals the previous season, as the "hottest property in non-league football".

With huge interest in the forward, Town boss Richard Money was delighted to beat off competition from a number of Championship and League One sides for Morgan-Smith's signature. And, hours after completing the paperwork, Morgan-Smith was thrust into action for his debut against Mansfield and scored in the 2-0 victory.



PLAYER SPONSORSHIP



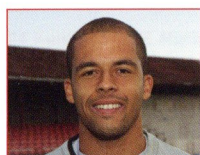
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MC, FURRY & SNEAKS



KM Rob MUCCI

Family



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Peter Price



#2 Craig STONE

Duncan Holt



#14 Joe HOWE

David Rutnam



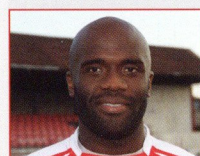
#4 Giannoulis FAKINOS

Alan & Carol Parker



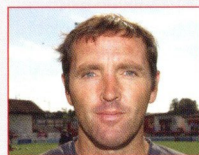
#11 Tom PHIPP

Phil Moss



#9 Calum WILLOCK

Adrian Felstead



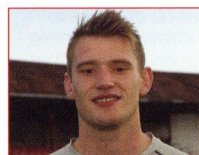
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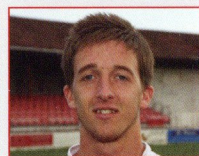
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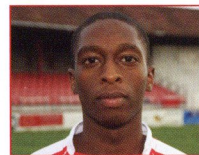
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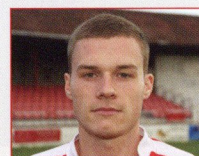
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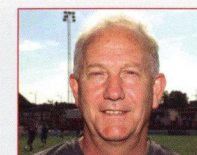
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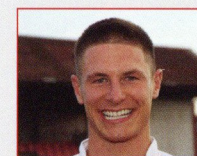
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Peter Danzey



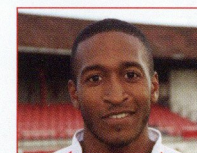
#6 Paul LORRAINE

Ed Konrady & Alex
Glockner (USA)



#8 Ram MARWA

Graham & Jessica
McQueen



#10 Ricky SHAKES

Ram Sian



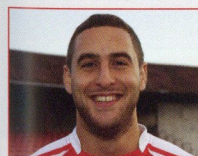
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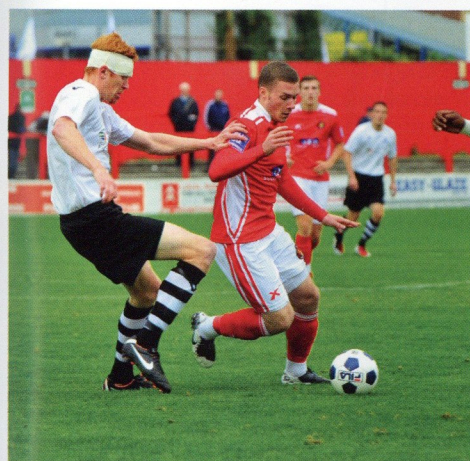
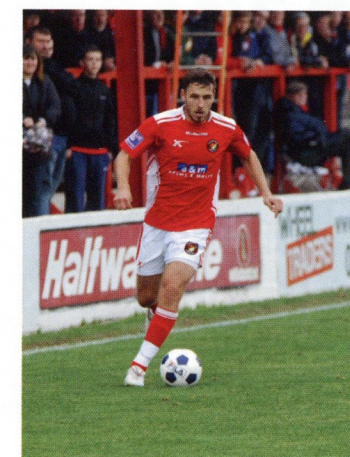
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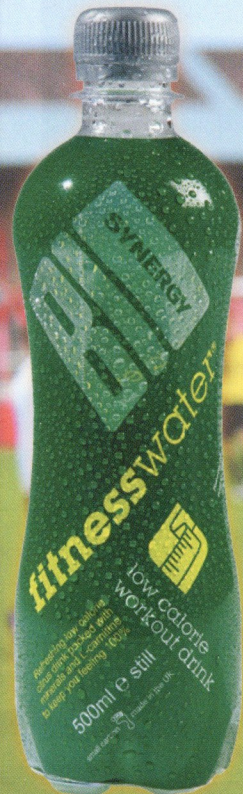
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Ben Dawson
Fitness Coach



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MATCH RECALL

It has been the story of Fleet's season but once again there was little to choose between them and their higher-placed opposition – except the fine line between victory and defeat. Gateshead triumphed courtesy of a goal shortly before half-time but other than that rarely ruffled the Fleet's feathers in a game of few chances.

Liam Daish kept faith with his 3-5-2 formation, Johnny Herd returning to the side in place of Giannoulis Fakinos and Joe Howe pushing into midfield. And with scouts aplenty in the stands, rumour had it to watch Michael West, the subject of their scrutiny came within a whisker of opening the scoring early on, as he brought the ball under control and flashed a shot wide of Paul Farman's goal. Two minutes later Craig Stone thumped a ball over after good approach play from the Fleet and then West had another effort in a similar position to his first, but the shot lacked power and accuracy.

Gateshead had the best opportunity, however, when Yemi Odubade got the better of Paul Lorraine and Chris Carruthers met the cross with a crisp shot that Preston Edwards was at full stretch to palm away. The visitors were solid across the pitch without any individual standing out and they were on top for the mid period of the first half with a couple of corners and crosses that had the Fleet defence stretched. Odubade again tested Edwards on 22 minutes with a dipping shot in a game that continued at a quite frenetic pace.

Fleet's front players struggled to get the better of the impressive James Curtis at the back and, though the defender disappeared for more than five minutes to get a head wound attended to, the home side failed to take advantage bar Willock's charge through on goal that came to nought after good defending. On the half-hour mark, Johnny Herd had a long-range effort swing wide as he smashed a shot through a crowd of players and

then Tom Phipp had two powerful shots blocked, the second troubling Farman as it rocketed in from 18 yards. And on 37 minutes, West's delightful chip picked out Willock in the middle but the striker couldn't get a clean head on the ball and glanced it wide.

That period of pressure for the Fleet came to an end five minutes before half-time when Gateshead went ahead, somewhat out of the blue. Ian Simpemba did well to head Odubade's shot clear of goal but from the corner, the ball fell to Josh Gillies who crossed for on-loan Newcastle defender Jeff Henderson to crash a header past Edwards.

Fleet shuffled their pack in the second half, Herd making way for Lanre Azeez. Within four minutes Willock was sprinting clear from Phipp's forward pass and though he got the better of his defender, his shot was blocked by Farman's legs. The home side were enjoying the bulk of possession though Gateshead were not unduly troubled and looked smart on the break, with Gillies orchestrating things in midfield and Andy Baxter strong on the right flank.

Ram Marwa made way for Scott Ginty on 71 minutes as Daish sought a greater spark up front but, while his side could hardly be criticised, neither did they have the guile to outwit the Gateshead back line. The best opportunities of the closing period fell to Willock and Ginty almost got on the end of a Yado Mambo ball in, while for Gateshead Kris Gate twice went close but Lorraine made a couple of textbook tackles. But both sides were lacking a cutting edge, with Gateshead less inclined to look for one as their slender lead looked more valuable as time passed and it was little surprise that the game ended with that as the difference between the two sides.



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RICKY SHAKES // stabroek news article

Below is an article by Iva Wharton of the Stabroek News, a tabloid newspaper in Guyana, on our very own Ricky Shakes. Ricky played the full game for Guyana in their 2-0 win over Barbados on Friday, and is up for selection again tonight in their game against Bermuda.

Playing for Guyana is an honour but knowing that you are wanted is the greatest feeling, said 26-year-old Ricky Shakes.

England-based Shakes said this is not his first international exposure nor is it his first with the Golden Jaguars. But he said it's his first with the Golden Jaguars at this level.

Shakes said he met a few of the players while they were on a trip to England. A professional footballer, Shakes was drafted to play a friendly match against Cray Wanderers Football Club. As such, some of faces on the team are familiar while others are new, but he said he likes working with them.

In 2006 Shakes said he made his international debut playing for the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago. He was eligible since his mother was born in Trinidad.

However, there is no problem with him playing for Guyana. That, he said, was five years ago. After the stint he was never called up again to represent the republic. In fact, he had given up hopes of playing for Trinidad. He also said that episode is behind him.

The Ebbsfleet United right side midfielder and striker said he was elated when he was informed that he was among the overseas players selected to contest the 2014 World Cup qualifiers in Barbados.

He is the father of a four-year-old girl, Shakes said, and this is his first visit to the country of his father's birth. He also said that he plans on returning, hopefully in November when they are scheduled to play in Trinidad.

Shakes said playing with his new teammates is a great experience as what some may see as a disadvantage can be used by them to their advantage.

"It's a good thing when you have players from all over the country, everybody has a different style of playing. You obviously have to teach and guide the other players how we play and we have to learn how they play and it comes as a good combination together to actually jell as a team."

That process, he said, is not only suitable on the field, but off the field also as team bonding is necessary.

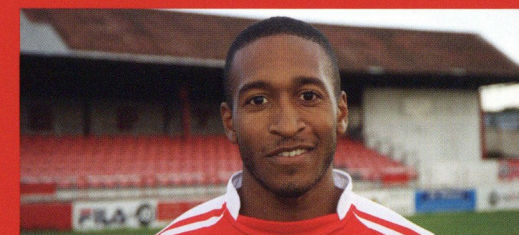
"I think we would do very well, this is a very good team. We trained together as the official team, for the qualifiers. I think we have a good chance, they have done well before I got here and I could see why they have done well."

Smiling, Shakes said his four-year-old has just started school and he is working an eight-to-four job along with his football.

According to him he is out of the professional league after this team, Ebbsfleet was relegated. "If we do well and get promoted we would be up in the league again into league three."

Shakes said he has two siblings – an older brother and a younger sister. His brother, he said, dropped the sport while he continued.

Apart from Ebbsfleet, Shakes had played for five other teams – Bolton Wanderers, Bristol Rovers, Bury, Swindon Town and Brentford.





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THE BIG PICTURE

// calum willock challenges heed
keeper paul farman on saturday





Match Details: AFC Telford United v Ebbsfleet United, Saturday 15 October, 3pm

What's it like: The New Bucks Head was built in stages, with work starting in 2000 and ending in 2003, on the site of Telford's previous stadium The Bucks Head. It is an impressive build which is quite different from most nowadays, where accommodation is predominately terracing, with the exception being the striking main stand which is single tiered and all-seated and runs the full length of the pitch. At the top of this runs a row of executive boxes which aesthetically adds a touch of class along with the red and white text in the seats spelling Telford Utd FC.

Behind both goals are identical stands which consist of good, steep terracing with neat blue crush barriers. Architecturally the roofs, which are high and slightly curved, remind me of similar ones at Kettering (Rushden) and the new one at Fleetwood.

On the side opposite the main stand is where the dugouts and club offices are held. This is more traditional 'non-league', the club offices being held in a long but square building which straddles the halfway line, with open terracing in front of this which goes for the full length on the pitch. Also on this side is located the small scoreboard.

Segregation: Away fans are usually given the entirety of one of the stands behind the goal, the Frank Naginton Stand. Unusually, seated accommodation is not usually given.

Last time here: Telford United 1-1 Gravesend & Northfleet, 10 April 2004. The last encounter saw both teams under previous guises, and with little to play for with both teams safely in mid-table with 4 games to go it was perhaps no surprise this one ended in a stalemate. Good work from Andy Drury on the left saw Moussa Sidibe net from close range to put the Fleet up early in the

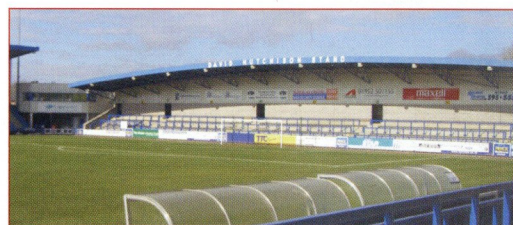
second half, before Darren Whitehead headed the Bucks level late on.

Trains: The nearest station to the ground is Wellington (Shropshire) and is about a mile away, meaning a good 20 minute walk to get to the stadium. Wellington is accessible via Birmingham New Street, which is fed by regular trains from London Euston. Journey time is around three-and-a-half hours.

Directions: M25 northbound, M1 then M6. Come off at junction 10a for the M54 and travel on here for about 20 miles, coming off at junction 6. Take the third exit at the large roundabout off the slip road. Go straight on at the next roundabout before taking a left at the second big one imminently after, and the ground is down this road on your right.

Parking: The club does have a good amount of parking, both through itself and a neighbouring college. Both of their main car parks are accessible through the Haybridge Road entrance to the ground and costs £3 per vehicle.

Admission: Adults £13, Concessions £10, Under 18's £5, Under 14's £1.



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KONICA MINOLTA

Ebbsfleet United

Colours: Red & White



M. Liam **DAISH**

AM. Paul **McCARTHY**

- ☐ **1.** Preston **EDWARDS** (GK)
- ☐ **2.** Craig **STONE**
- ☐ **3.** John **HERD**
- ☐ **4.** Giannoulis **FAKINOS**
- ☐ **5.** Clint **EASTON**
- ☐ **6.** Paul **LORRAINE** (C)
- ☐ **7.** Michael **WEST**
- ☐ **8.** Ranbir **MARWA**
- ☐ **9.** Calum **WILLOCK**
- ☐ **10.** Ricky **SHAKES**
- ☐ **11.** Tom **PHIPP**
- ☐ **12.** Scott **GINTY**
- ☐ **14.** Joe **HOWE**
- ☐ **15.** Liam **ENVER-MARUM**
- ☐ **16.** Ian **SIMPEMBA**
- ☐ **17.** Joe **WELCH** (GK)
- ☐ **18.** Lanre **AZEEZ**
- ☐ **19.** Adam **WILLIAMS**
- ☐ **20.** Alex **STAVRINOU**
- ☐ **21.** Paul **McCARTHY**
- ☐ **22.** Yado **MAMBO**
- ☐ **23.** Jamie **DARVILL**

Last Out v Gateshead (0-1)

Edwards, Lorraine, Simpemba, Mambo, Stone, West, Marwa, Phipp, Herd, Willock.

Luton Town

Colours: White & Orange



M. Gary **BRABIN**

AM. Alan **NEILSON**

- ☐ **1.** Mark **TYLER** (GK)
- ☐ **2.** Dan **GLEESON**
- ☐ **3.** Freddie **MURRAY**
- ☐ **4.** Keith **KEANE**
- ☐ **5.** Dean **BECKWITH**
- ☐ **6.** George **PILKINGTON** (C)
- ☐ **7.** Alex **LAWLESS**
- ☐ **8.** Amari **MORGAN-SMITH**
- ☐ **10.** Danny **CROW**
- ☐ **11.** Robbie **WILLMOTT**
- ☐ **12.** Shane **BLACKETT**
- ☐ **13.** Stuart **FLEETWOOD**
- ☐ **14.** Aaron **O'CONNOR**
- ☐ **15.** Jake **HOWELLS**
- ☐ **16.** Ed **ASAFU-ADJAYE**
- ☐ **17.** Will **ANTWI**
- ☐ **18.** Curtis **OSANO**
- ☐ **19.** James **DANCE**
- ☐ **20.** John Paul **KISSOCK**
- ☐ **21.** Charlie **HENRY**
- ☐ **22.** Paul **CARDEN**
- ☐ **23.** Collin **SAMUEL**
- ☐ **27.** Jamie **HAND**
- ☐ **28.** Adam **WATKINS**
- ☐ **30.** Kevin **PILKINGTON** (GK)
- ☐ **31.** Lewis **KIDD**
- ☐ **33.** Ryan **DASILVSA**
- ☐ **34.** Janos **KOVACS**
- ☐ **36.** Christian **TAVERNIER**

Last Out v Kidderminster Harriers (1-2)

Tyler, Osano, G Pilkington, Kovacs, Blackett, Hand, Keane, Dance, O'Connor, Morgan-Smith, Willmott.

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Alfreton Town v Lincoln City
Bath City v Cambridge United
Ebbsfleet United v Luton Town
Fleetwood Town v Newport County
Grimsby Town v Barrow

Hayes & Yeading United v Forest Green Rovers
Kettering Town v Braintree Town
Kidderminster Harriers v AFC Telford United
Southport v York City
Stockport County v Darlington

Referee

John **HOPKINS** (Wickford)

Assistant Referee

Lloyd **WOOD** (Dagenham)

Assistant Referee

Marc **WILSON** (Cambridge)

Fourth Official

Nolan **WILDE** (Maidstone)