

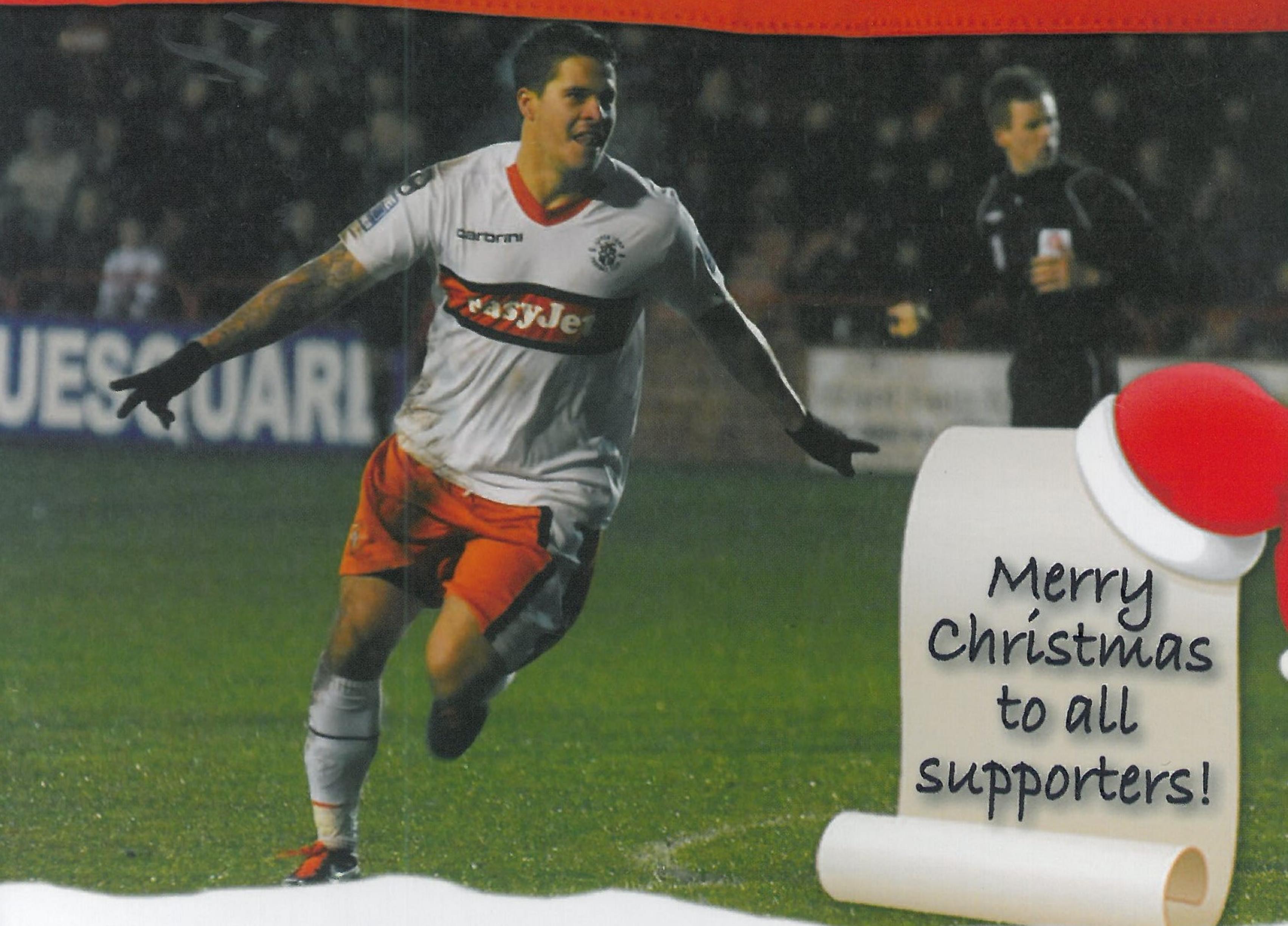
TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB • ISSUE 18 • £3

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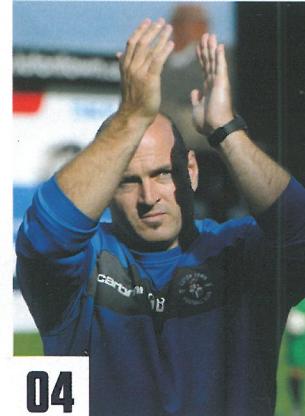
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Editor: Andrew Barringer. Editorial support: Final Third Sports Media.

Photography: Gareth Owen. Contributors: Andrew Barringer, Chris Rivett,

Roger Wash, Leigh Edwards, Simon Pitts and Mark Wood.

Design and print: Bartham Group.

The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not
necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.



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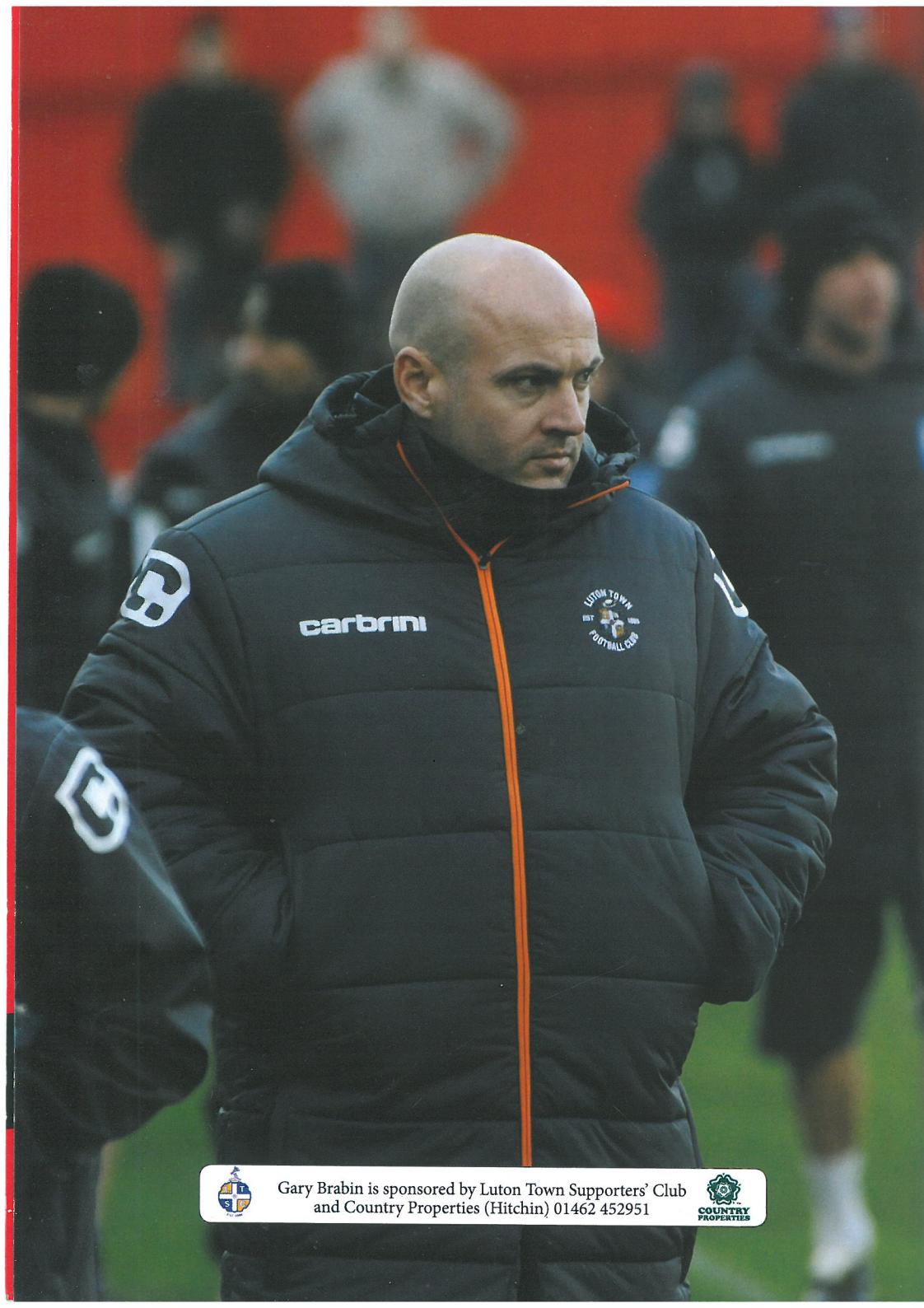
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Good afternoon and Merry Christmas to you all and welcome back to Kenilworth Road. I hope you are enjoying the festive period and had a great day yesterday.

A big welcome to everyone associated with Kettering Town, in particular manager Mark Stimson who has preserved so well in the face of so much adversity.

It cannot be an easy job in the circumstances and I hope that their fortunes turn for the better in time – naturally after today and the return fixture at Nene Park on New Year's Day.

I'm told this is the first Boxing Day game at Kenilworth Road since 2002 and I hope we are able to put on a performance to those of you who are yet to experience football here on this special day in the football calendar.

Our record here at Kenilworth Road this season hasn't been as good as we expect it to be. To have lost three matches at home at this stage is hugely frustrating and disappointing. Those games are in the past now and there's nothing we can do about them. All we can do now is focus on our remaining games.

Including today we have 12 matches here at Kenilworth Road and it's vital we begin to turn this place into a fortress. Your support can help us. I know it can be frustrating at times but we need your backing for every minute of every game. It does help. Remember the Lincoln game earlier in the season? Down to 10 men early on your constant noise acted as the 11th man and we were rewarded with a late winner.

The players at this football club know there are pressures and an expectancy level like no other in the Blue Square Bet Premier. The reason why we have them here is because I know they can deal with

those kind of influences. They are all very, very good footballers with talent by the bucket-load. I have belief in their ability and, importantly, so do they.

Positivity breeds confidence and I was absolutely thrilled with our last result, the 3-1 victory at Tamworth on 17th December. It was a kind of performance I know we are capable of. For 90 minutes that is one of the best performances of the season. Regardless of the numerical advantage we enjoyed following red cards, I thought we were superb and credit to each and every one of the players who was duty that day.

Tamworth hasn't been a happy hunting ground for us in recent seasons and before the game they had only lost once in the league. All told, it was an excellent result but, as I told the players, we need to be playing like that week-in, week-out. They are the standards I expect and that I know that this group of players are capable of.

Kettering will give us a different challenge this afternoon. They will make it incredibly hard for us – Mark isn't going to allow his team to roll over and die here today. Expectation will be on us to win and win comfortably – that's the pressure we all have to deal with at Luton Town. Believe it or not, it is something we all thrive on.

Remember we're all in this together. 2011 has been disappointing and frustrating. Here's hoping that 2012 brings us all the success that this Club so richly deserves.

Thank you for the support – keep it up – Merry Christmas and enjoy your New Year's celebrations.

Keep the faith.

FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH NICK OWEN



Good afternoon, a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road this afternoon and I do hope you are all having a happy Christmas. Special good wishes to all the Kettering contingent, our visitors today, who've been having such a tough time of it recently.

We certainly know the meaning of turmoil here at Luton Town and we can only sympathise with the acute financial difficulties the club's going through at the moment.

On top of that, they've had to relocate from their historic home of Rockingham Road to Nene Park, the erstwhile stadium for the now defunct Rushden and Diamonds.

Talk about tradition - they'd been at Rockingham Road since 1897, but decided they'd best move the short distance to Irthingborough in August this year. It must have been a terrible blow to the fans and I am sure you'll join me in wishing them a far happier 2012.

As for ourselves, the run up to Christmas couldn't have been better with our excellent win at Tamworth on 17th December. Admittedly, we played much of the match against 10 men, and even nine in the very closing stages, but I thought we were well on top when it was 11 against 11.

What's more, you still have to do the business, whatever the circumstances, and we've not always done that in the recent past. I thought we played some superb flowing football, with outstanding contributions from each and every member of the team.

It was exactly the sort of performance we all know we are capable of, but we haven't been able to produce it consistently over a full 90 minutes. Here's hoping

Tamworth was the start of a winning run that can see us storm up the table as we move into the new year.

We still back ourselves to get right up there with the leaders and funds are available if Gary Brabin feels he needs to strengthen the squad in any department.

Having said that, the players we actually have look pretty good to me when they click and I can assure you they are very much up for it. The spirit in the dressing room is very, very good.

The Boxing Day fixture is always rather special, don't you think?

I accept they're not always popular with non-football aficionados in the family, but they can also be a great occasion for getting the family together, a change of scenery and a potentially thrilling focal point after the excesses of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! I know how much it means to me and my four passionate Luton-loving offspring!

Christmas fixtures have changed a bit over the years! Around about the time I started getting interested, we had an amazing Christmas spell of four matches in eight days!

It was in the old First Division in 1957. We won 2-1 at Bolton on December 21st, then came two games in two days against Manchester United over Christmas itself and we finished off with a home game against Arsenal on the 28th.

Against United we lost 3-0 at Old Trafford on Christmas Day itself, then both sides rushed to catch the same train south for the return fixture on Boxing Day, which finished in a 2-2 draw. For the record, we thrashed Arsenal 4-0 two days later, in front of a 27,000 crowd at Kenilworth Road.

Other random memories include a year later when we beat Arsenal 6-3 at home on Boxing Day and lost 1-0 away the following day.

Much more recently, I am sure many of you here today will remember Kirk Stephens' thrilling late winner at Watford in the old Division Two - Boxing Day 1979.

While we're talking about anniversaries, last week was the 100th anniversary of the death of William McGregor who founded the Football League back in 1888.

They held a special commemoration service for him near Aston Villa, where he was chairman, which we covered on my BBC news programme in the Midlands.

It was attended by representatives of all 12 of the original clubs in the league. Also there was our old 'friend' Lord Brian Mawhinney - I wonder what William McGregor would have made of our swingeing points deduction 120 years after the league was formed in 2008?

Finally, let me wish you all a very happy holiday and plenty to enjoy and celebrate in 2012, particularly on the football side of things!

Happy new year, bye for now.

HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

F.A. Cup:
Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup: Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:
Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):
Winners 1936/37
Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One: Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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PILKS



Good afternoon
and a very Merry
Christmas to
you all.

After three very well-earned points in our last match against Tamworth we go into the festive period full of confidence.

Our form away from home this season has been frustrating

to say the least. We have only lost once but have drawn too many games, especially from winning positions. The games at Hayes & Yeading, Bath, Lincoln and Cambridge were extremely deflating knowing we had dropped two points.

We are the first to admit that our performances haven't last the whole 90 minutes. Playing well for 45 or 60 minutes isn't acceptable at this football club and we have worked incredibly hard to try and turn it around.

At Tamworth I thought we were excellent for 90 minutes. It was a performance to be proud of. It has been well documented that our past two visits to the Lamb haven't been the best. I know it's a phrase used a lot but it is a hard place to go. Only one team had won there previously this season so to go there and win so convincingly was hugely satisfying.

Now we need to build on that. This afternoon we welcome Kettering Town to Kenilworth Road - a club that has had its fair share of on and off-the-field problems this year.

The Christmas period is always a vital one for any team's chances of success and obviously we are no different. Six points are up for grabs between now and

New Year's Day and we know that we need to win both to keep us in contention in and around the top five.

Our goal is to win the title still and, while that might seem a long way off, we know there is a lot of football still to be played between now and the end of the season. We will never give up.

The past two seasons in this division have seen us playing catch-up on teams above us in the league table. This year there are two clubs vying for top spot. Maybe that's something that can work in our favour? Who knows, but what we need to do is concentrate on ourselves, keep plugging away and turn in performances like the one at Tamworth on a more consistent basis.

The most frustrating thing for us and the manager is that we know we're capable of it. We know we are good enough. However, we accept that at times this season we haven't been good enough. And the league table doesn't lie. As I say though, there's a long way to go - you just have to keep believing.

All told 2011 has been a frustrating year for us. Defeat in the Play-Off final hurt us all whilst on a personal level the injury that kept me out for pre-season and the subsequent few months of this campaign have been disappointing.

I've used the word frustrating quite a bit in these notes and I guess that sums it up so here's for a better 2012!

Your support this year, however, continues to astound me. The new lads can't quite believe the level of support we get, especially away from home and all I hope for in this new year is that we can give you something your passion and loyalty deserves. We'll certainly be giving it our all, that I promise.

Enjoy the game and keep up your fantastic support.



George Pilkington's shirts are sponsored by WHOSH and the Bobbers Travel Club



AROUND TOWN

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Flicking through this programme you're going to get festive best wishes from the chairman, manager and captain but the communications team would like to, on behalf of all departments at the club, wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHECK ON, CHEF!

The club would like to send their congratulations to Hatters fan Steve Barringer on finishing runner-up on hit BBC show Masterchef: The Professionals.



Photograph by:
Des Willie

The 25-year-old is an avid Town supporter – as shown in the final episode – and battled his way to the final having wowed two Michelin star chef Michel Roux Jr and judge Gregg Wallace.

It's hoped the young chef, who came to his first game at Kenilworth Road back in 1992, will cook for the Hatters squad in the not-too-distant future.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS VICTORY

Stuart Fleetwood scored twice as the Town hit four goals past League 1 Wycombe Wanderers in a behind closed doors friendly on Tuesday.

Hatters boss Gary Brabin fielded a strong side against the Chairboys including midfielder Godfrey Poku.

The Town took the lead in the 22nd minute when striker Ryan Brunt struck a superb shot into the top corner following a fine flowing four-man move.

After the break the Hatters doubled their lead on 52 minutes when Fleetwood capped another excellent passing move.

Fleetwood recorded his second with six minutes left before John Paul Kissock made it four two minutes later on 86 minutes.

Assistant manager Alan Neilson said: "We couldn't have wished for a better performance - every player on duty was fantastic.

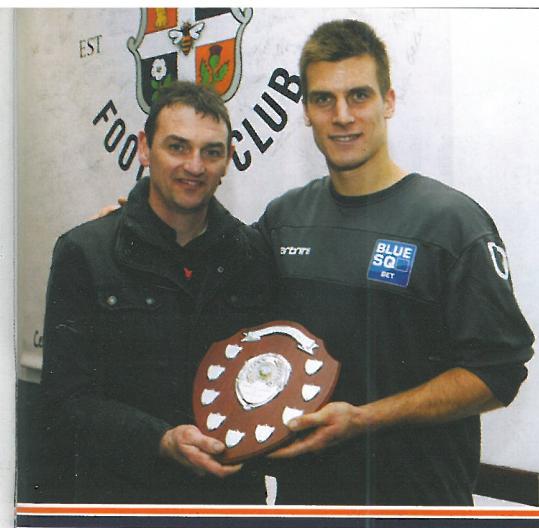
"There were some top drawer displays out there against a decent Wycombe side who made it very difficult for us. "It's in these kinds of games that you find out a lot about your players. All credit to each and every one of them because we knew it wasn't going to be easy, but to play the way we did and score the goals we did is absolutely fantastic - it was a real team performance."

Team: Kidd, Osano, O'Donnell, Poku (sub Nash 70), Lacey, Asafu-Adjaye, Willmott, Tavernier, Fleetwood, Brunt, Kissock.

JANOS YOU DIAMOND!

Defender Janos Kovacs has secured the Diamond Season Ticket Holder Player of the Month award for the second successive month.

The Hungarian centre-half came out on top in October's poll and, after another fine month at the back for the Hatters - which included him scoring once, in the 2-1 defeat to Fleetwood Town - he scooped the November prize.



Janos will receive his award prior to our Boxing Day game with Kettering Town and joins leading goalscorer Amari Morgan-Smith on the list of winners this term with the striker having picked up the awards in both August and September.

Remember one of the benefits of being a diamond season ticket holder is being able to vote for your player of the month. The voting for December's award opens on 1st January and closes on 9th January. The player with the most votes wins, obviously. But those supporters who have voted for that particular player go into a draw, and one lucky supporter will get the chance to present the trophy to the winner after a home game, in the Eric Morecambe Suite.

Remember if you'd like to become a diamond season ticket holder there are plenty of exciting benefits each season, including; two tickets into an executive box, five adult guest tickets, five junior guest tickets, a first team shirt and, for children, and a matchday experience.

THANK YOU

Following our 3-1 victory at Tamworth in our last fixture, Lambs company secretary Brian Whitehouse wrote to the club to thank the Hatters for the appreciation shown during a minute's applause at the Lamb on 17th December.

He said: "On behalf of the Directors, players, officials and supporters of Tamworth Football Club I would like to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all the officials, players and supporters of Luton Town who attended the match at Tamworth and joined with us in celebrating the life of our former chairman, Len Gendale.

"Len was a true gentleman who loved football and he, like us, would have been deeply humbled and extremely appreciative of the way you saluted him. Thank you for your support and we wish you well in the coming year."

TOWN ON TV

Our Blue Square Bet Premier home game against Mansfield Town has been chosen for live television coverage. The game at Kenilworth Road was originally scheduled for Tuesday 24th January but it will now be screened live on Premier Sports TV.

The fixture will now take place on Wednesday 25th January with a 7.30pm kick-off.

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

The club have released the following opening hours for the ticket office and club shop over the Christmas and New Year period. During times of closure remember you can book tickets online at our e-ticketing website and purchase merchandise on our online shop.

Opening hours:

Today: 9am until kick-off and then until required after
Tuesday 27th December: CLOSED
Wednesday 28th December: 10am-5pm
Thursday 29th December: 10am-5pm
Friday 30th December: 10am-5pm
Saturday 31st December: 9am-12 noon
Sunday 1st January: CLOSED
Monday 2nd January: CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd January: 10am-5pm

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AROUND TOWN

KETTERING TICKET STATEMENT



Nobody likes being taken advantage of and at Luton Town, we are no different.

Since we released ticket information for the New Year's Day game away at Kettering Town we have been contacted by a number of supporters on Kettering's decision to increase their ticket prices for the match at Nene Park on 1st January.

As a club who values the magnificent support we are so blessed to have, we, Luton Town, are disappointed that Kettering have opted to exploit what is likely to be a big Bank Holiday following of Hatters fans to Nene Park.

We have noted with huge disappointment that the Poppies' admission prices for the game on New Year's Day are £7 higher than for their match with Bath City on Saturday. Naturally we have lodged a complaint with the Football Conference and are waiting for a response.

The support of the team is vital and we do not want OUR supporters to be deterred from attending what not only is an important fixture but also our closest away game of the season. We know you make a difference. Therefore, as a gesture of goodwill, we are offering all supporters who buy a ticket for this match a free youth (any under-17) ticket for any home league match to be played at Kenilworth Road this season. This ticket can be upgraded to any other category of ticket at the appropriate rate.

We have made our feeling clear with Kettering, and to the Football Conference, and all we hope is to see the away end full on New Year's Day.

BOB ALONG ON NYE

The Luton Bobbers Club, located in Oak Road will be holding a New Year's Eve Party from 8pm until 1am. There is to be free entry and is open to Bobbers Club members and non-members on the evening.

This event is to help raise much needed funds for the Bobbers Club which is now in its 76th year.

YOUNG DUO OUT ON LOAN

JJ O'Donnell and Lewis Kidd have both been sent out on loan.

O'Donnell has rejoined Blue Square Bet South side Hampton & Richmond Borough until the middle of January whilst goalkeeper Kidd has signed on emergency loan forms with Swindon Supermarine.

AWAY TROPHY DRAW

The Hatters have been handed an away tie against Blue Square Bet North side Hinckley United in second round of the FA Trophy.

The match will take place at the Greene King Stadium on Saturday 14th January 2012 with a 3pm kick-off.

The Knitters booked their place in the second round following a 2-1 victory at Wrexham on Saturday.

GOLDEN GAMBLERS STILL UNCLAIMED

Two Town fans are missing out on a huge pre-Christmas payday with two of our Golden Gamble prizes still left unclaimed. £485 from our August draw against Braintree Town is the first. The number you're looking for is 03195.

The second draw took place at half-time during our game with Wrexham in October and a stupendous £585 is the prize if you hold ticket number 10128.

If you hold claim to either of these tickets then please contact the commercial department at the club on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk to claim your prize.

So get looking in those programmes and pockets!



WELCOME KETTERING TOWN

HISTORY

Kettering Town were originally formed in 1872, turning professional in 1891. The club graduated through twelve different leagues from 1892 until they became founder members of the Football Alliance in 1979. The club maintained its status in the top flight of semi-professional football throughout the Gola and Vauxhall sponsorships, until the 2000/01 season.

Many honours have found their way to Rockingham Road, winning the Midlands League title in 1896 and 1900. The Southern League Championship has been won on three occasions, in 1928 and 1957 under Tommy Lawton and in 1973 under the guidance of Ron Atkinson. In the 1930's the club won the East Midlands League and in 1948 the Poppies became Birmingham League Champions.

The Conference title has so far eluded Kettering, who have finished runners-up in 1981, 1989, 1994 and 1998. The GMAC Cup was won in 1987 and the Poppies were runners-up in 1995, then known as the Bob Lord Trophy. County competitions have been won regularly by Kettering Town, with the Northants Senior Cup won on 28 occasions and the Maunsell Cup 13 times.

The FA Cup has brought success and publicity to Rockingham Road with the first round proper having been reached on 50 occasions. In 1901 the club reached the last sixteen and in more modern times the Poppies reached the fourth round proper in the 1988/89 season and also the third round in 1991/92 only to lose to Kenny Dalglish's Blackburn Rovers.

In 2009 the Poppies played a classic tie against Premier League side Fulham, finally losing 4-2 after twice coming back from behind, and last season took Leeds United to a replay at Elland Road after drawing 1-1 at the Elgoods Brewery Arena

Kettering have played at Wembley on two occasions; the Poppies lost 2-0 to Stafford Rangers in the 1979 FA

Trophy final and more recently the FA Trophy Final in 2000 saw the Poppies lose a closely fought final with Kingstonian 3-2.

After relegation from the Conference in 2001 the Poppies won promotion back to non-league's top flight in 2008 winning the Conference North title winning 96 points in the process.

MEET THE MANAGER

Mark Stimson

As a player Stimson began his career with Tottenham has a youngster before moving to Newcastle United in 1989. 86 league appearances later he moved to Portsmouth in 1993. Three years later he joined Southend United.

After 57 games for the Shrimpers Stimson moved to Leyton Orient before dropping down to non-league with Canvey Island and then Grays Athletic.

It was with Grays that he began his career in management, helping the Essex side to the Conference - winning the Conference South championship in 2004/05. In the same season he helped them win the FA Trophy - a feat they achieved again the following season. His talent as a manager was soon spotted by Stevenage Borough who he joined in 2006. In 2006/07 he guided Boro to an FA Trophy success at the new Wembley with a 3-2 win over Kidderminster.

The following season he joined Gillingham and after relegation from League 1 in 2007/08, Stimson helped the club win promotion via the play-offs with a final win over Shrewsbury at Wembley.

He left Priestfield by mutual consent in May 2010 joining Barnet but was dismissed seven months later but was soon back in work again when taking the reins at Kettering in September this year.

IN OPPOSITION



There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel for Kettering fans after chairman Imraan Ladak revealed to BBC Radio Northampton that the transfer embargo placed on them should be lifted in January.

The Poppies have been unable to bring in players and has meant boss Mark Stimson has had to call upon non-contract players and youth team stars to field a side.

But Ladak hopes the Poppies' worries will be over come the New Year with potential new investors also showing an interest in the club.

"By the time the transfer window opens in January, the embargo should be lifted," Ladak said.

"We've got two or three parties interested at the moment. It's not a process that can be concluded overnight. I know the silence is frustrating for supporters, because they want to know what's going on.

"When people are interested in acquiring or investing in a football club, they like to keep things confidential and we've signed non-disclosure agreements.

"There's one party that wants to do something very quickly and I suppose it's frustrating for them that things haven't been concluded.

"But we have to look at every option and hopefully they'll understand that."

The off-field problems may have affected performances - the Poppies haven't tasted victory in the Blue Square Bet Premier since a 1-0 win at Forest Green on 15th October - a run of nine league games with a win.

But the Kettering chairman understands the frustration of the supporters and insisted that the club's future is safe.

"It was difficult for players that hadn't been paid but there's a dispute between us and a sponsor, and two sums of £48,000 and £158,000 that we believe are outstanding," he said. "I'm sorry for the heartache it's causing supporters - there's a lot of distractions for them at the moment."

Meanwhile on the pitch, Stimson's side gained a hard-earned point against bottom-of-the-table Bath City in their last game.

The boss was delighted with the efforts of his young players that saw them hit an equaliser with six minutes left on the clock.

"In the end, I thought we could have nicked it. In the first half, it was two teams struggling to find fluency in their football," he said.

"Murray has picked out a 25-yarder. But full credit to the players, they had a go at it and Jones didn't just perform well, he got the equaliser. He should be buzzing. We'd have loved three but we'll take a point. The fans were second to none, and long may that continue."

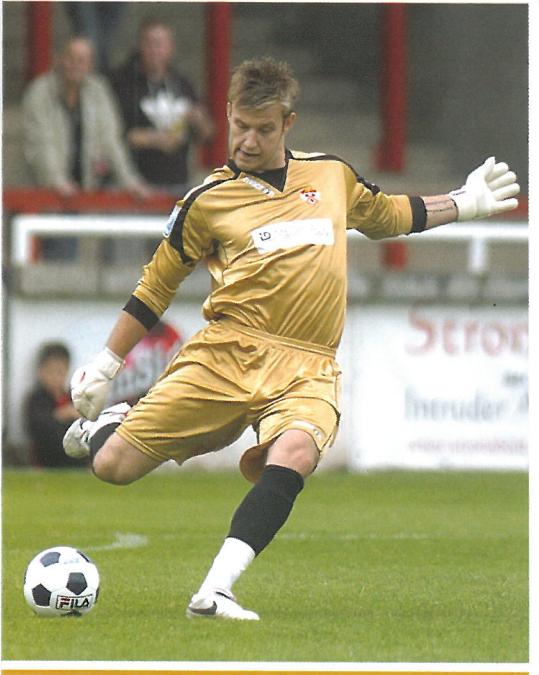


IN TOWN

■ GOALKEEPER

Laurie Walker

Bedford-born Laurie is a young talented goalkeeper who was signed in July 2011 after impressing during pre-season. A strong, commanding shot stopper who is already earning the plaudits.



■ DEFENDERS

Sol Davis

Poppies club captain who needs no introduction to Town fans after six years at Kenilworth Road. Part of the Hatters side who won the League 1 title in 2005, and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2009, Sol originally joined Kettering on-loan in November 2009. The popular defender began his career at Swindon before moving to Bedfordshire.

Djoumin Sangare

Experienced central defender brought to the club in July 2011. The Dunkirk-born playmaker should prove a real asset to the Poppies squad. 'Jimmy' opened his scoring account for the Poppies with the only goal of the game in the 1-0 win at Bath City, the fastest Kettering goal of the season in two minutes.

Jerel Ifil

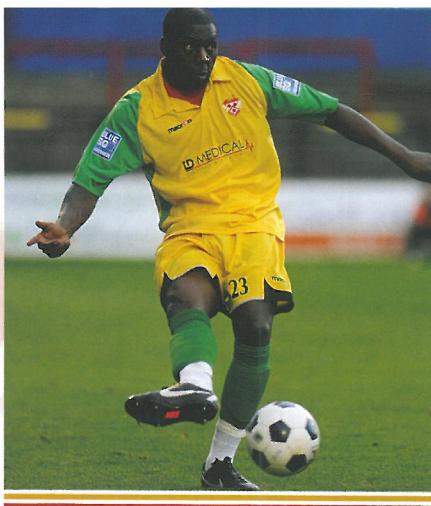
A powerhouse defender with plenty of Football League experience brought into the squad at the start of the 2011/12 season. He has already shown his class by winning the first three man-of-the-match awards.

Jaime Navarro

A young Spanish starlet signed by Morell Maison in July 2011 from giants Real Madrid. The Madrid born defender played for Madrid's 'C' team and had trials at Bolton Wanderers before opting to join the Poppies.

Phil Ifil

Joined the club in July 2011 after impressing during pre-season. Born Willesden, Phil is a towering defender with plenty of Football League experience, becoming only the second set of brothers (with Jerel) to play together in the Poppies side since 1979.



■ MIDFIELDERS

Patrick Nouboussie

The powerful holding midfielder scored his first goal for the club in the fine 2-1 away win at Wrexham in August 2009. He was a permanent feature in the team throughout the campaign and was an essential member of the team that eventually finished 6th in the league. He continued his form throughout the 2010-11 season, without adding to his goal scoring tally.

Steven Meechan

Glasgow-born midfielder who was signed in July 2011 after applying his trade in the Scottish leagues with Albion Rovers. A tough determined player who will add a touch of steel in the new look squad.



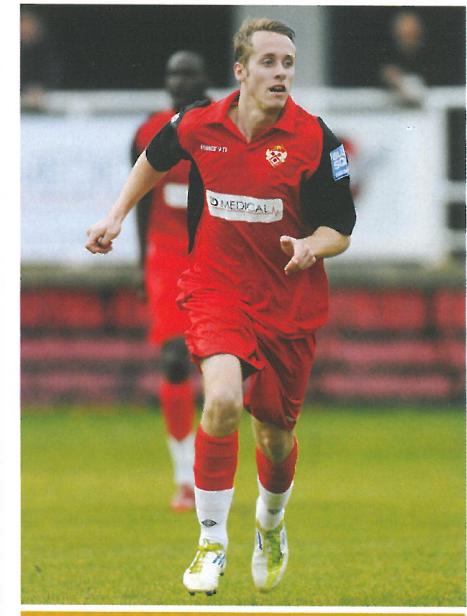
■ STRIKERS

Kiernan Hughes-Mason

A young striker drafted into the squad by Mark Stimpson during September, who scored his first goal for the Poppies in the 2-3 home defeat by Southport. Started his career as a youngster at Millwall and has also had spells with Cheltenham, Tooting & Mitcham and Chelmsford.

Josh Dawkin

A young striker brought to the Poppies on-loan from Norwich by Mark Stimpson in October 2011. Josh has represented Wales at under-17 and under-19 levels. He scored his first goal for the Poppies in only his second game as a second half substitute earning the club a 2-2 draw against Ebbsfleet United.





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□ CLASSIC CAMPAIGN

1988/89

Kettering Town finished Conference runners-up and reached the FA Cup fourth round in 1988/89. Peter Morris succeeded Alan Buckley as manager and made numerous new signings. The Poppies raced to the top of the table after dropping just five points in their opening nine games. Robbie Cooke arrived from Millwall in September and formed an experienced striking partnership with Ernie Moss. In the FA Cup, Kettering beat Dartford, Bristol Rovers and Halifax Town before losing at Charlton Athletic in the fourth round. They were top with just two matches remaining but finished six points behind Maidstone United.

□ MANAGING TO SUCCEED

Ron Atkinson

Ron Atkinson had a successful spell as the Poppies' player-manager. Initially with Aston Villa, the wing-half joined Oxford United in July 1959 and skippered their rise. He became Kettering's player-boss in December 1971 and led them to the Southern League title in 1973/74. Playing 94 Southern League games, he became Cambridge United's manager in December 1974 and plotted their 1976/77 Fourth Division title triumph.

□ FAB FOUR

Ray Crawford

Ex-England international centre-forward Ray Crawford was Kettering Town's leading marksman in 1969/70. Starting with Portsmouth, he joined Ipswich Town in 1958 and starred in their 1961/62 League Championship success. He had spells with Wolves and West Brom before rejoining Ipswich in 1966 and setting their goalscoring record. Moving via Charlton Athletic to Kettering in 1969, he scored 18 times in 26 Southern League games prior to joining Colchester United in 1970. He starred as they reached the FA Cup sixth round in 1970/71, then coached at Brighton and Portsmouth.

Derek Dougan

Former Northern Ireland international striker Derek Dougan had a spell as Kettering Town's player-manager. Initially with Distillery, he joined Portsmouth in August 1957 and Blackburn Rovers in March 1959. 'The Doog' was an FA Cup finalist in 1960 and moved via Aston Villa to Peterborough in June 1963. Twice leading marksman, he joined Leicester City in May 1965, then Wolves in March 1967. He was a UEFA Cup finalist in 1972 and League Cup winner in 1974. Appointed Kettering's player-boss from December 1975 until August 1977, he later rejoined Wolves as chief executive and died in June 2007.

Tommy Lawton

Legendary England international centre-forward Tommy Lawton guided Kettering Town to the Southern League title in 1956/57. Starting with Burnley, he moved to Everton in January 1937 and was leading marksman in their 1938/39 League Championship success. He joined Chelsea in November 1945, then Notts County in November 1947, starring in their 1949/50 Third Division (South) title triumph. After spells at Brentford and Arsenal, he became Kettering's player-boss in February 1956. Returning to Notts County as manager in May 1957, he had another spell in charge at Rockingham Road. He died in November 1996.

Dave Watson

Ex-England international central defender Dave Watson played for Kettering Town during the 1985/86 season. He had spells with Notts County and Rotherham United prior to joining Sunderland in December 1970. Ever-present in 1971/72, he starred in their 1973 FA Cup final triumph, moving to Manchester City in June 1975. Helping them win the League Cup in 1976, he then played for Werder Bremen, Southampton, Stoke City, Vancouver Whitecaps, Derby and Notts County again before joining Kettering in August 1985. He scored three goals in 10 Conference games for the Poppies and is now a businessman in Nottingham.



COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH DAVID HOSKINS

Merry Christmas and welcome to one of the biggest matches of the season so far. The department have been incredibly busy over the past week gearing up to welcome our corporate guests which include our match sponsors Claims Specialists.

We have had a dearth of festive fixtures at Kenilworth Road in recent years – this afternoon is our first home game on Boxing Day since 2002 – a long time coming!

It's been a hugely successful year for us there are a number of exciting projects and events planned for 2012. Our last big event took place at the Luton Hoo earlier this month and those of you who attended can buy their photographs taken by Gareth Owen. Check out our official website for further information.

I'd like to end by thanking all of our sponsors and corporate guest for their backing for the club throughout the past year.

Here's to a prosperous and successful 2012!

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TODAY'S MASCOTS



Please give a warm welcome to our three mascots who will have the honour of leading the team onto the pitch this afternoon.



First up is Christian Bowers, from Houghton Conquest who attends matches here with his dad, uncle and granddad. His favourite player is goalkeeper Mark Tyler.



Our second mascot is season ticket holder Kirsty Crowther from Letchworth who's favourite player is defender Janos Kovacs.

Last and by no means least is Jessica Vaughan from Clapham. Jessica's favourite player is Keith Keane and she comes to Kenilworth Road and watches games with her dad.

We hope you all have a Boxing Day to remember with us!

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LOOK BACK



TOWN 2-0 SWINDON SUPERMARINE SOUTHERN LEAGUE SCARE



Town boss Gary Brabin was disappointed with the performance of a number of his players in the 2-0 victory over Swindon Supermarine.

Brabin made eight changes to the side that drew with Lincoln in the previous game, but still picked a strong side with all bar one player having featured in the Blue Square Bet Premier this season.

But the manager revealed afterwards he was disappointed with the displays of "two or three" individuals that he selected against the Southern League side.

"The biggest negative for me today was the disappointing performances of a few members of the team," he told Hatters Player afterwards.

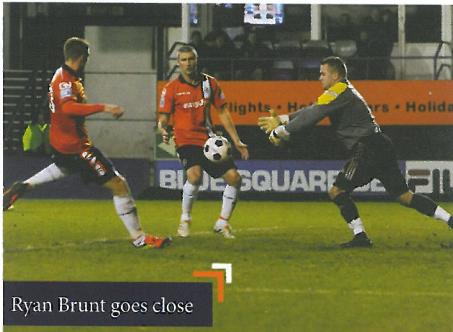
"I told those individuals afterwards that I expect more from them. You need to give 100 per cent and you can't just switch on and off like a few did.

"There were two or three that we could have got a lot more from.

"I picked a strong side and I think every time you're given a chance as a player you need to grasp it. Earlier in the season we've had to play certain players because we've had no choice due to injuries but that's not the case anymore.

"I want competition for places and I know we've got a good squad, but today there were too many players not performing for it to just be a coincidence."

That aside, the boss was pleased with the performances of the emerging youngsters in the Hatters' ranks. Brabin said: "I thought Alex Lacey was great at centre-half, Adam Watkins has played



Ryan Brunt goes close

another 90 minutes and never stopped running and I thought that was JP Kissock's best game for us when he's started. He's been ill this week and I said to him at the end that was the best he's played when not coming on as a sub.

"That's one of the positives. We knew they were no mugs and we've blooded some of the younger players which is important and, in patches, I thought we played some good football. In the first 10-15 minutes we looked a bit lethargic and did so again at the start of the second half but we got a grip towards the end and could have scored three or four in the end."

So, that's one round negotiated. The Town await now face a trip to Hinckley United in second round draw but Brabin knows where his priority lies.

"No disrespect to the competition - and I've been lucky enough to play in two finals and know how great it can be - but the priority is the league," he said.

"We need to get back to winning ways in the league - that's the most important thing."



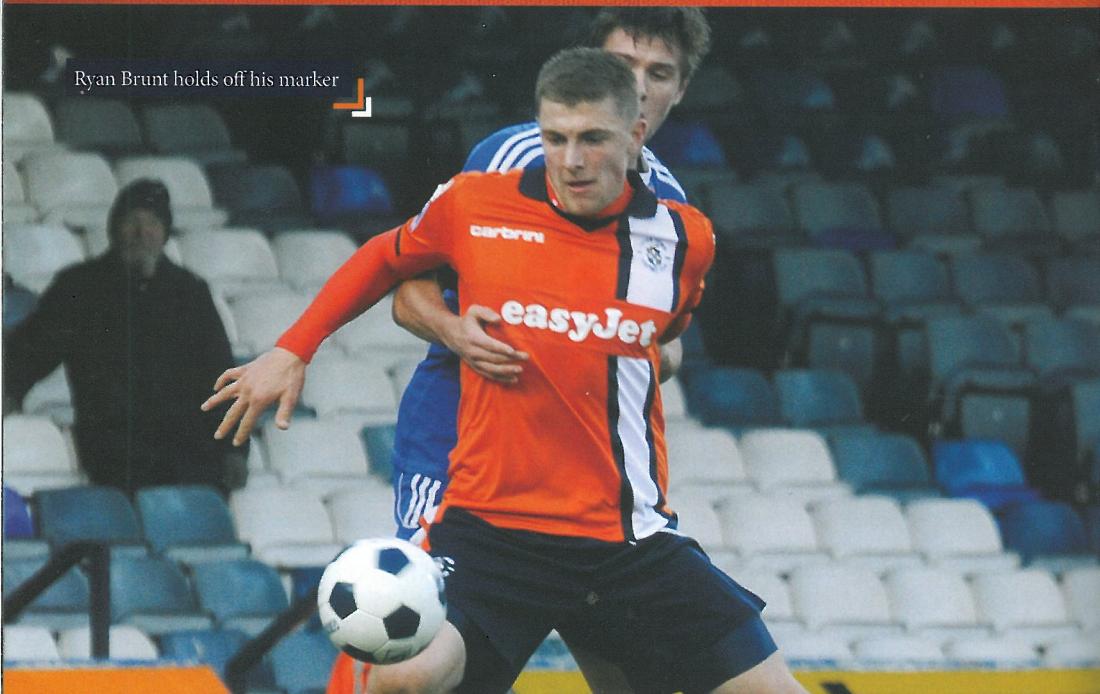
TOWN

Fleetwood 38, Wright 73

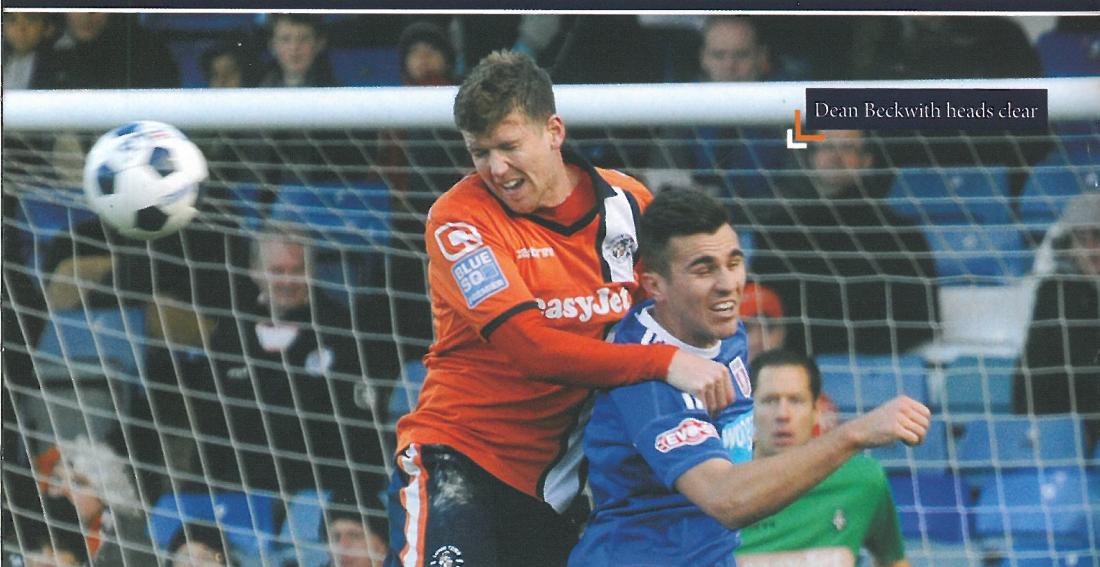
SWINDON SUPERMARINE

2
0

Ryan Brunt holds off his marker



Dean Beckwith heads clear



TOWN: Tyler, Gleeson (sub Wright 46), Beckwith, Lacey, Taylor, Kissock (sub McAdams 90) Watkins, Keane, Osano, Brunt (sub O'Donnell 68), Fleetwood. Subs not used: Kidd, Smith, Kidd.

SWINDON S: Rae, Lapham, Allen, Dean, Cole, Bampton (sub Etheridge 86), Wells (sub Morris 69), Wood, Etheridge, Edenborough (sub Cook 80), Stanley. Subs not used: Robinson, Beeden.

ATTENDANCE: 1,298



POSSESSION	
55%	45%
SHOTS ON TARGET	3
6	8
SHOTS OFF TARGET	4
10	4
CORNERS	
9	9
FOULS	

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LOOK BACK



TAMWORTH 1-3 TOWN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT



Hatters manager Gary Brabin believed the performance from his players in the 3-1 win at Tamworth was the kind he expects from his team.

A brace from Danny Crow and one from James Dance put Brabin's men three goals up before Crow missed a penalty and Tamworth scored a consolation.

But the manager was delighted with his team's effort that lifts the Town up to fifth in the Blue Square Bet Premier in the final game before Christmas.

"I thought from start to finish we were excellent," Brabin said afterwards. "We played some good football and created some great chances and that's the kind of display we've been wanting. We played really well for 90 minutes."

The game turned on 16 minutes when home captain Danny Green was sent-off for a tackle on Dan Gleeson.

"Believe it or not we were gutted to tell you the truth," admitted the manager. "We knew it meant they would sit back further and make it difficult for us. From where I was standing it looked like a straight red. There are always two sides to the story and one of their players tells me it wasn't."

However the manager was full of praise for his side as they made their numerical advantage count to seal their first ever win at the Lamb Ground.

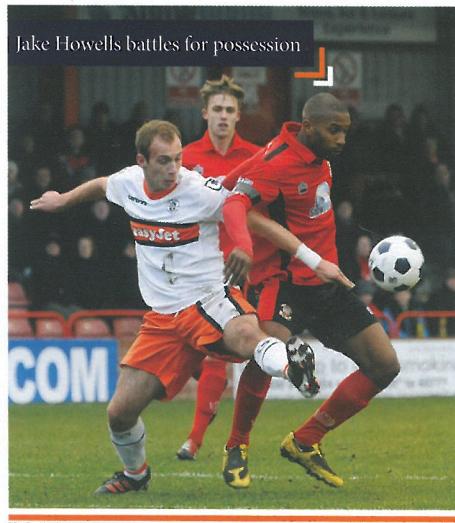
"I thought we took advantage well, we worked our socks off and I think that frustrates teams," Brabin said. "When they went down to 10 men it put us under a different type of pressure but I'm delighted with the way we've applied ourselves."

"We kept plugging away and at half-time we talked about the importance of keeping up the tempo and making it hard for them."

"I thought we've got one monkey off our back [putting in a performance for 90 minutes] but we've still got the other monkey of not scoring penalties."

"The miss made it more uncomfortable than it should have been but in fairness we gave it to Danny because he was on his hat-trick. He's devastated to have missed."

"The goalkeeper's pulled off a good save and he's been named man of the match and rightly so because he pulled off some great saves."



"But it was important we get a win and, as I said, that's more like it from us today."

"It's a busy and important schedule so it was vital we won - I guess the only blot on our copybook is the goal we conceded but the way we played more than makes up for it."

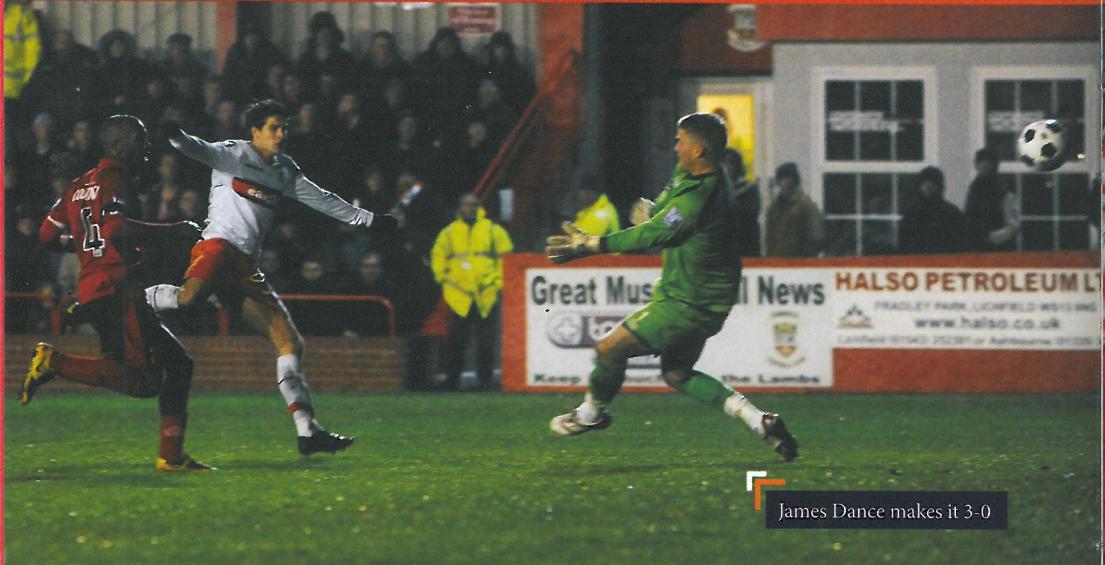


TAMWORTH 1

Mills 76

TOWN 3

Crow 38, 53, Dance 56



James Dance makes it 3-0

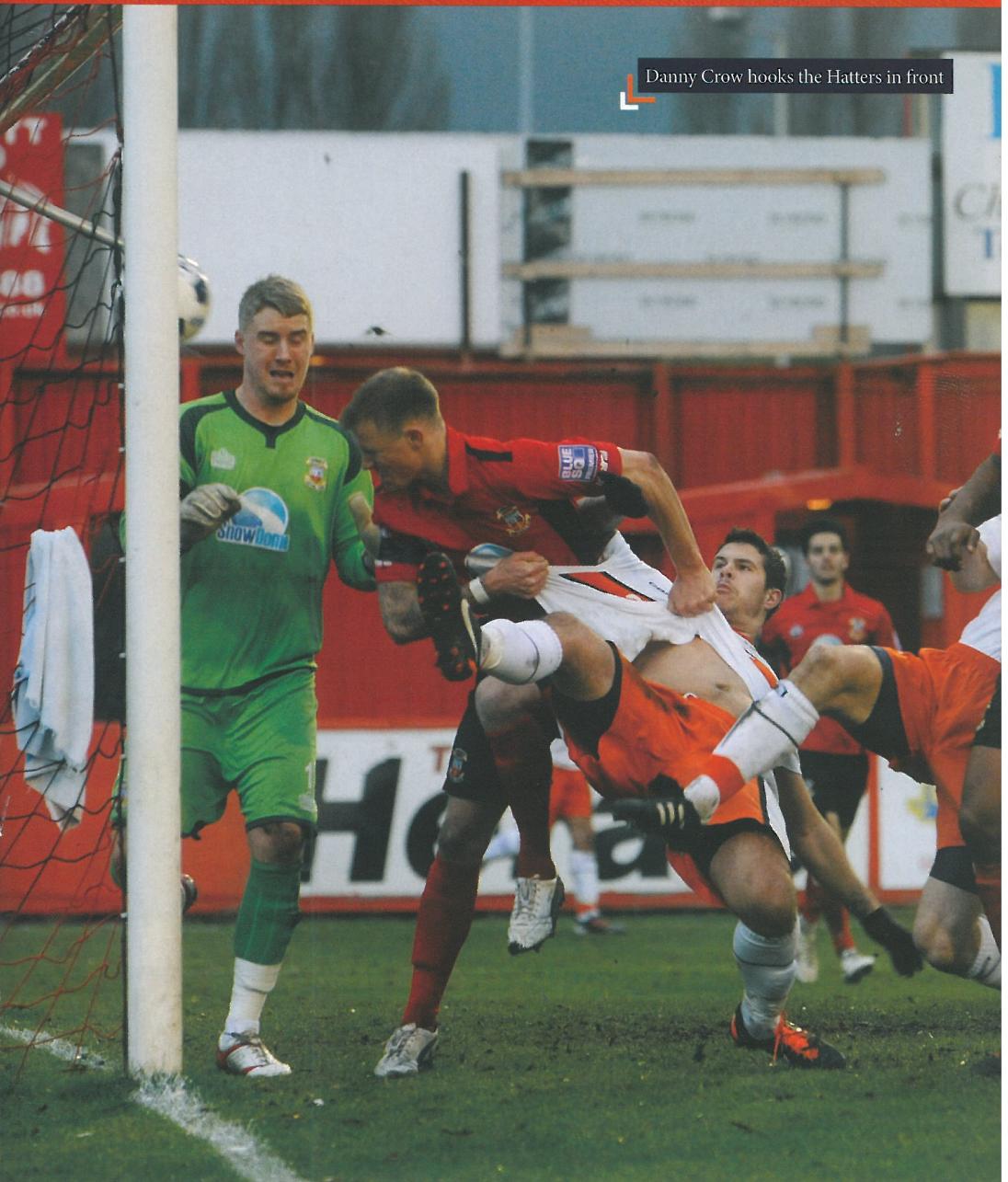


Danny Crow scores his second

TAMWORTH: Hedge, Tait, Habergham, Courtney, Francis, St Aimie (sub Christie 68), Thomas (sub Reynolds 46), Patterson (sub Mills 68), Green, Barrow, Kanyuka. Subs not used: McDonald, Shariff.

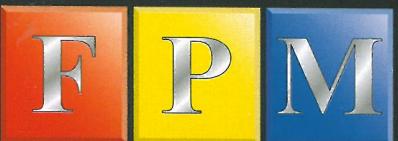
TOWN: K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Keane, Watkins (sub Kissock 76), Dance (sub Wright 90), Howells, Crow (sub Fleetwood 83). Subs not used: Tyler, Willmott.

ATTENDANCE: 1,467



Danny Crow hooks the Hatters in front

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SHOTS OFF TARGET	
3	7
CORNERS	
3	6
FOULS	
9	10



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MEMORY LANE



■ **NAME:** Ted Austin ■ **AGE:** 81 ■ **LOCATION:** Luton

■ **WHERE DO YOU WATCH GAMES FROM:** Main Stand enclosure.

■ **FIRST GAME:** Luton Town v Sunderland at Kenilworth Road in 1956. We won 6-2.

■ **FIRST MEMORY:** The day when Denis Law scored six goals for Manchester City against us only for the game to be abandoned and for us to win the replay!

■ **BEST GOAL SEEN:** There are too many but three stand out: Graham French running the length of the pitch beating several players before slotting the ball home against Mansfield; Steve Buckley smashing a huge left-foot drive home or Scott Oakes bursting forward and smashing one into the top corner against Derby.

■ **BEST MATCH WITNESSED:** The Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal. A great day for the club.

■ **WORST MATCH WITNESSED:** There was a game I went to that only lasted eight minutes before it was abandoned due to heavy rain and I got soaked. That or the 3-0 defeat at Wrexham the season before last.

■ **BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE SEEN BY A PLAYER:** Graham French or Billy Bingham.

■ **FAVOURITE HATTERS' KIT:** I like the retro shirt we have this season.

■ **FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER:** Graham French. A genius on the pitch.

■ **FAVOURITE ALL-TIME MANAGERS:** Harry Haslam.

■ **ALL-TIME TOWN XI:** Kirk Stephens, Steve Buckley, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghys, Graham French, Ricky Hill, David Preece, John Aston, Mick Harford, Malcolm Macdonald.

■ **I LOVE LUTON TOWN BECAUSE...**
The rollercoaster ride that has lasted 55 years has been fantastic and I have always realised that you have to go through the down times to really appreciate the good times. My endearing hope is that if I don't get to see the good times return again my sons, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren will. Up the Hatters!



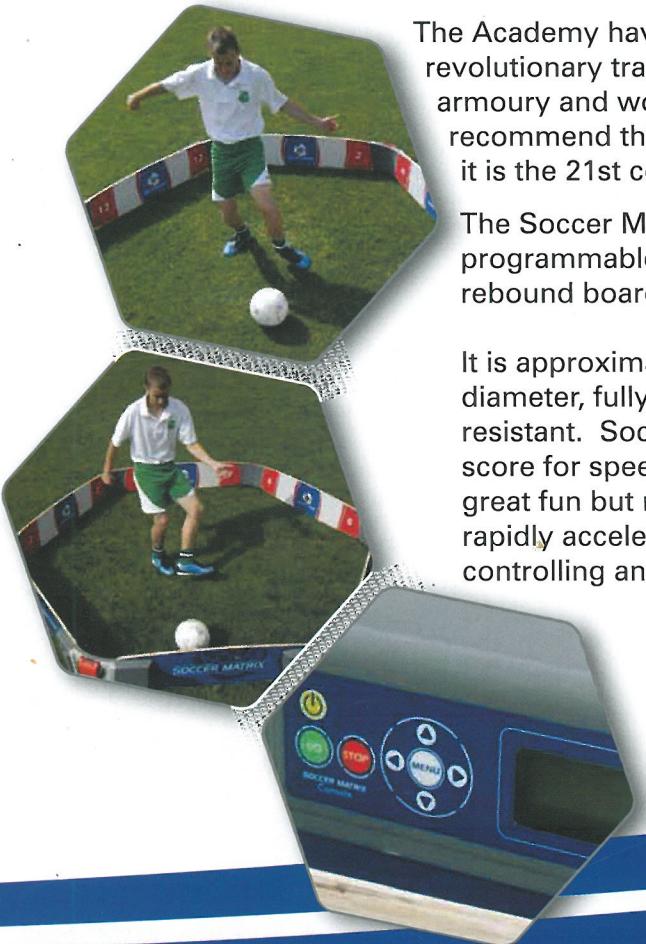
Graham French - one of Ted's all time Town favourites

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Email your Hatters memories to andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk





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LIVE ONLINE



Hatters Player subscribers have had plenty to sit back and watch since we were last at Kenilworth Road.

The Town saw off Swindon Supermarine in the FA Trophy first round. Hatters Player was there to get the reaction and boss Gary Brabin gave his account of what he thought was a deserved victory. The manager however, wasn't impressed with the displays of a number of his players, although he thought youngsters Alex Lacey and Adam Watkins excelled against the Southern League outfit.

Goalscorer Fleetwood was pleased to notch up his first goal at Kenilworth Road since the end of October whilst he also reflected on his performance at the Solyd gig 48 hours beforehand.

Player also caught up with Mark Tyler after he'd completed the paperwork on his contract extension. The stopper was delighted to commit to the club and spoke of his competition for the number one spot with Kevin Pilkington. The former Peterborough man also believes the luck hasn't been with the Town this season and that a successful season can still be had.

A 3-1 victory at Tamworth in the last game was a huge boost before Christmas and the Town boss was

delighted at the early present his side gave him with the win at the Lamb. He believed it was the one of the best performances of the season so far and that view was shared by two-goal hero Danny Crow.

The striker had mixed reactions after his brace following his missed second half penalty that denied him the matchball. But the 25-year-old felt the win went some way to righting the wrongs of recent frustrating away games where the Town have had to settle for a point having thrown away the lead.

Remember it will be the same once again after this evening's game when we'll have video reaction from all concerned from the dressing room.

Remember if you can't get to a game, the official website at www.lutontown.co.uk has it covered. The Hatters' website will provide you with pre-game views and post-match reaction, photographs, commentary, text commentary, news and plenty more. Goal action from today will be available after the game with extended highlights following later in the week.

For just £4.29 for the month you can watch and listen to all the exclusive content on Player so check out www.hattersplayer.co.uk for all the latest exclusive video content online and give it a try.

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The Town's two-goal hero against Tamworth was pleased with the 3-1 victory at the Lamb despite missing a penalty
3 days ago

PLAYER: GLEESON'S GLEE
The right-back gives his post-match thoughts after the 3-1 win over Tamworth
3 days ago

PLAYER: BRABIN'S VERDICT
The Town boss gives the press his post-match reaction in the wake of the 3-1 win at Tamworth at the Lamb Ground
3 days ago



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CENTRE SPOT



FRONT ROW: Jake Howells, James Dance, Stuart Fleetwood, Paul Carden (First Team Coach), Gary Brabin (Manager), Alan Neilson (Assistant Manager), Danny Crow, Ed Asafu-Adjaye, George Pilkington.

MIDDLE ROW: Simon Parsell (Physiotherapist), Godfrey Poku, Aaron O'Connor, Adam Watkins, Freddie Murray, Robbie Willmott, Alex Lawless, Mark Tyler, Kevin Pilkington, Curtis Osano, Dean Beckwith, Dan Gleeson, Ash Deeney, John Paul Kissock, Darren Cook (Kit Man and Team Masseur), Dmitri Kharine (Goalkeeper Coach).

BACK ROW: Ryan Brunt, Tommy Wright, Greg Taylor, Jamie Hand, Amari Morgan-Smith, Lewis Kidd, Janos Kovacs, Dan Walker, Keith Keane, Alex Lacey, JJ O'Donnell.

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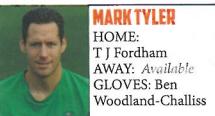
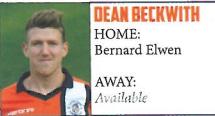
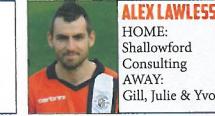
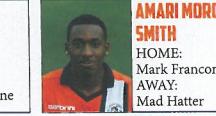
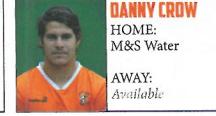
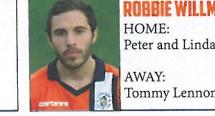
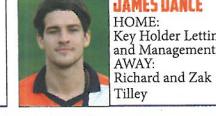
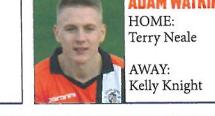
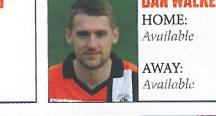
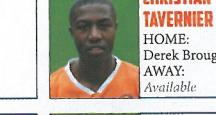
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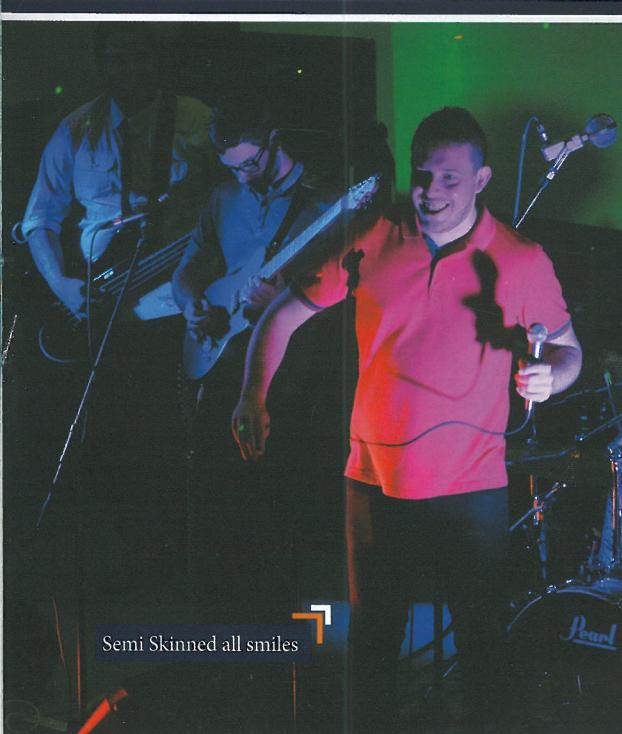
SING ALONG WITH **SOLYD**

Ryan Prazer kicks-off the night



Headline act Mark Joseph on the drums

Freddie Murray and Stuart Fleetwood perform



Semi Skinned all smiles



Dan Walder on vocals

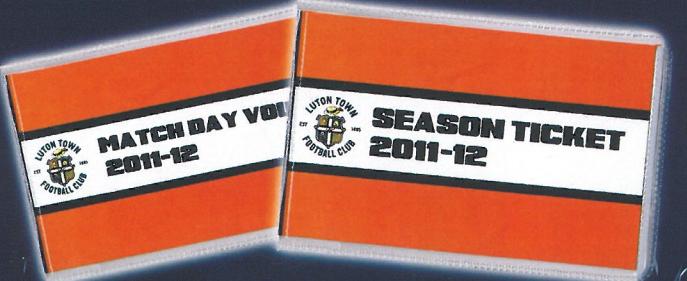
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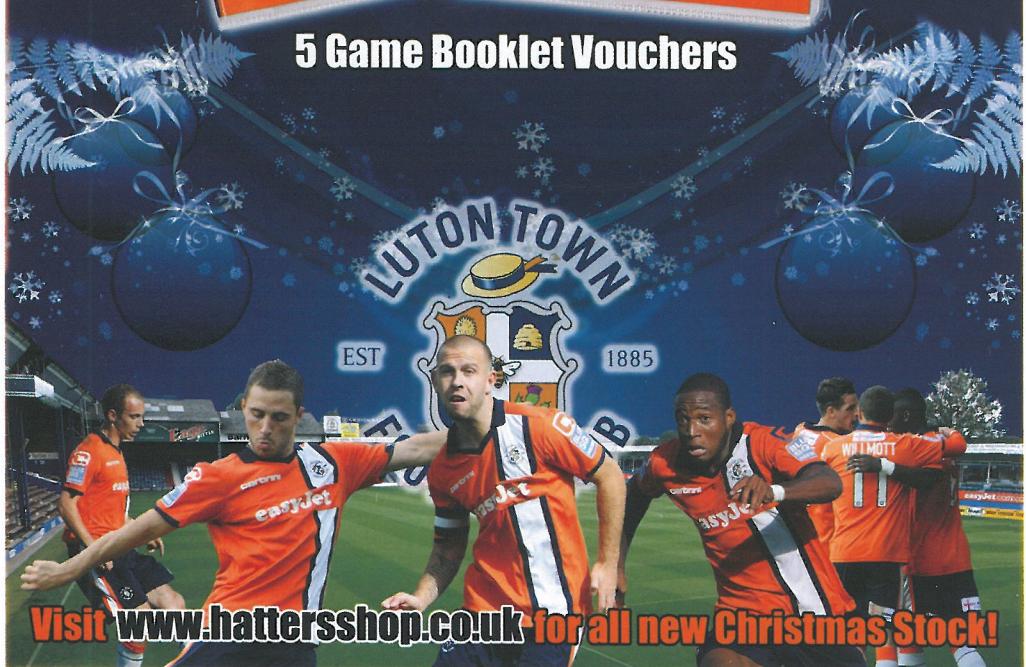
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SUPPORTERS' CLUB UPDATE

WITH LTSC CHAIRMAN KEVIN BARRETT



Firstly may I wish all Hatters fans and visiting supporters to Kenilworth Road a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Today is the first of our back-to-back matches against Kettering Town, with the return fixture on New Year's Day at the Poppies' new ground, Nene Park, the former home of Rushden & Diamonds.

Sadly, off the field events are rocking Kettering at this time, something that Luton fans are well acquainted with and I wish them well in overcoming this challenge. Fortunately for the Hatters it seems we are now in period of some stability thanks to both the current investors and the management at the club.

As fans it is always difficult to deal with something that is affecting your club and over which you have absolutely no control. Given the current economic climate I believe that we will see a few clubs struggling and not just those at the lower ends of the English game.

Of course fans of all clubs see Christmas as the point in the season that is an indicator of where their team might finish come the end of the current campaign. The season so far has been a rollercoaster ride but I am happy to be writing this after a well deserved victory at Tamworth which showed just what the team are capable of on their day (another missed penalty notwithstanding!). A few more points on the table over Christmas will certainly be a welcome gift.

Anyone in the stands at home or away games will hear widely differing views on the game from the fans. Of course everyone is entitled to their view but the only people who can really affect the game directly are the manager, his coaching team and, of course, the players. I strongly believe that while the team is on the pitch they deserve our support and we should stand united.

Relegation to our current level has led some fans to believe that promotion is a right earned by the history and recent past of the club. However, at this level every club is equal on the playing field and the size of our supporter base and the perceived ability to attract the cream of available players, doesn't mean anything. It is the passion, ability and desire to go out and get victories week after week which gains promotion. It is something that Stevenage and Crawley have had over the last couple of seasons – and ultimately that is why they won promotion and we didn't.

Luton Town have also in some ways been a catalyst for other clubs to excel. We are the team to beat, the bookies' favourite, and this weighs heavily on everyone. In addition every time the club are linked with a possible transfer target, the player's price inevitably rises. Some may think the club should just pay whatever is necessary to secure a signing, but that's the attitude that put us here in the first place.

Maybe as fans we have to lower our expectations, we are where we are, and we must deal with that. We have no more right to be in a higher division than any of the other teams we play. Promotion is something that must be earned through hard work, and that hard work goes beyond the players and management, it extends to us as fans. Our support is so great because of where we are and therefore we must show that we support our team through thick and thin.

Let's really get behind the boys today and for rest of the season – they know when they haven't performed to their best, they don't need boos to tell them. When fans get on their backs during the game we go from being our 12th man to the opposition's 12th man.

Keep up your great support and here's to a good game today!

COYH

Kevin Barrett
Chair Luton Town Supporters' Club

PICTURE

THE PAST

WITH CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH



The Hatters won this particular clash 4-0 with Allan Brown bagging a hat-trick in front of a bumper Kenilworth Road crowd of 27,493 and set up future Christmas games between the two sides.

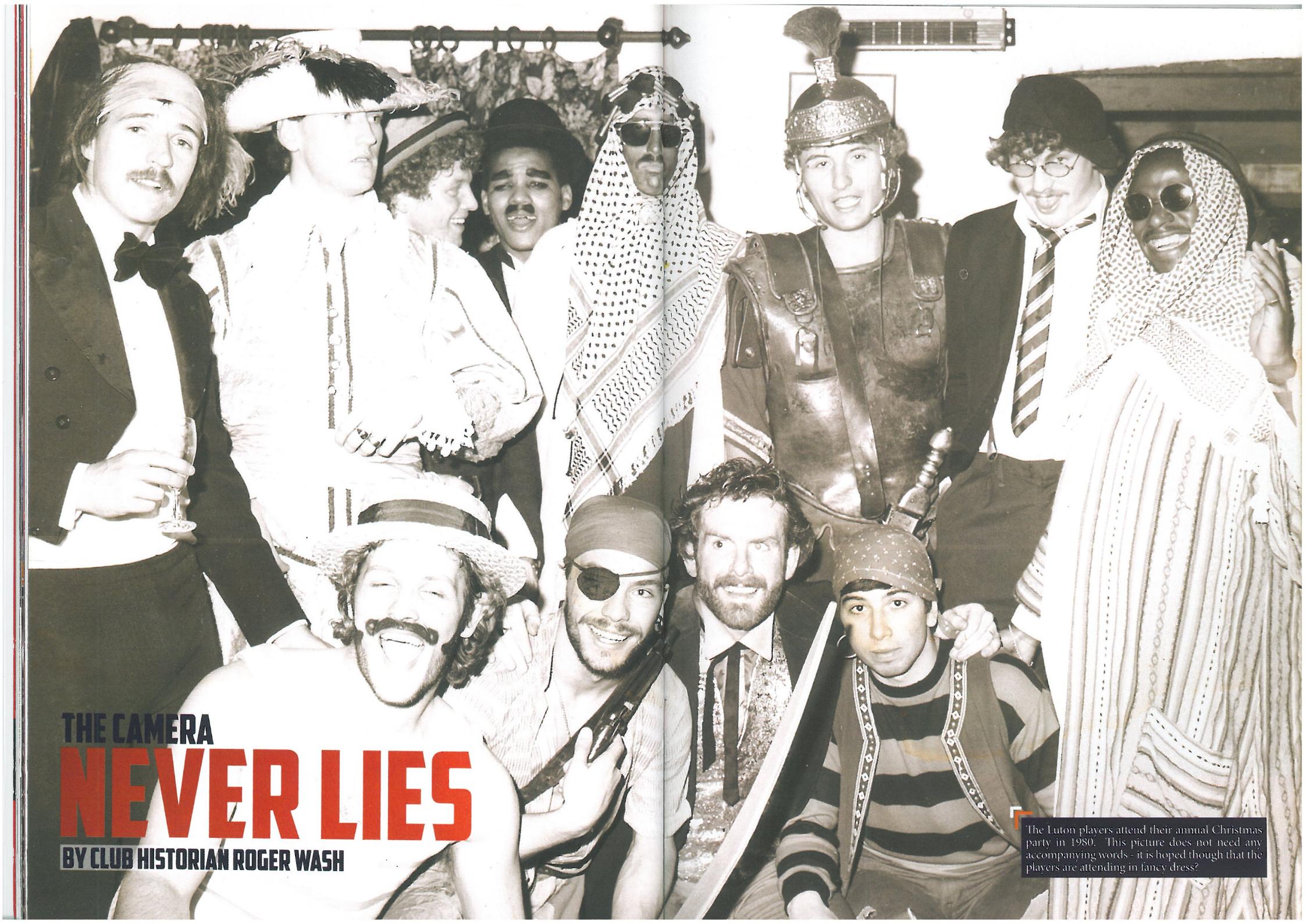
Rather than send the Town to far-flung places such as Hull, Leeds and Swansea over the festive period, as they had done in the past, the fixture compilers took pity and decided that local derbies would be more kind on the players and supporters and so paired us with the Gunners over the next two seasons.

On Boxing Day 1958, the Town came into their home game against Arsenal in poor form, having not won for almost two months. This run was ended in dramatic fashion with a resounding 6-3 victory, with Brown again on the scoresheet, netting twice. Sadly the run was not extended, as the following day a 1-0 defeat was suffered before a 56,277 crowd at Highbury.

England international goalkeeper Ron Baynham safely claims the ball from the onrushing Arsenal forwards over the Christmas holidays in 1957

L

As Christmas 1959 approached, the Town were rock-bottom of Division One (now the Premier League) and were heading for eventual relegation. A 3-0 Boxing Day win at Highbury certainly upset the formbook and raised a few eyebrows but things were back to normal the following day when we went down 1-0 at Kenilworth Road!



THE CAMERA **NEVER LIES**

BY CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH

The Luton players attend their annual Christmas party in 1980. This picture does not need any accompanying words - it is hoped though that the players are attending in fancy dress?

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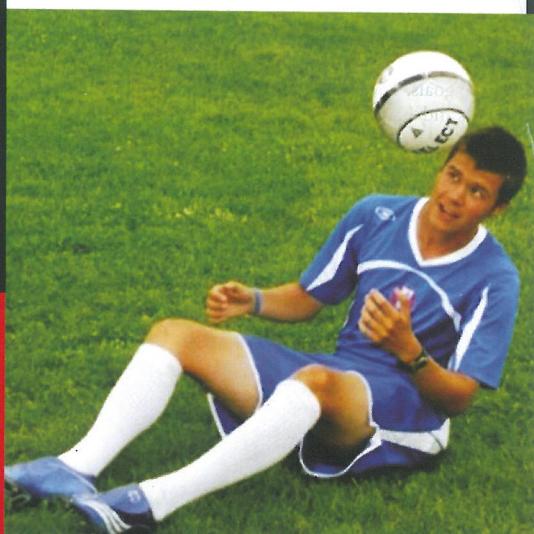
Visit: www.beds.ac.uk/sport

Profile:

Michael Sup

Football studies student

Currently in his first year, Michael has landed a position with Luton Town as head coach for under-12's.



CROW AT THE DOUBLE

STRIKER THRILLED WITH TURN OF FORTUNE

Four goals in his last three away games – Danny Crow must wish the Town play away from Kenilworth Road every week.

The striker notched two goals to help the Hatters to an excellent 3-1 victory at Tamworth on 17th December. It could have been even better for the 25-year-old but he spurned the chance of a hat-trick when he saw his penalty saved by Lambs goalkeeper Jonathon Hedge.

But although disappointed and frustrated by the miss the striker was delighted with the Town's fifth away win of the season.

"We've let a few people down recently because we haven't played well for the whole 90 minutes," the former Cambridge frontman said. "We've been doing well in the first half and not so much in the second so it was a great to come here and win in the way we have done.

"Our work ethic was fantastic and we've scored three goals. The disappointing this is that we conceded one and I missed a penalty but we've got to look on the positives and there were plenty of them.

"Tamworth is a hard place to come and we've put on a real good performance. We're up to fifth now but it's still below where we want to be. We need to kick-on from this now."

The striker's first goal was a fine acrobatic finish from close range seven minutes before the break following a first-half set-piece while his second came early in the second half that put the Town 2-0 up.



The players congratulate Crow on his goal at Lincoln

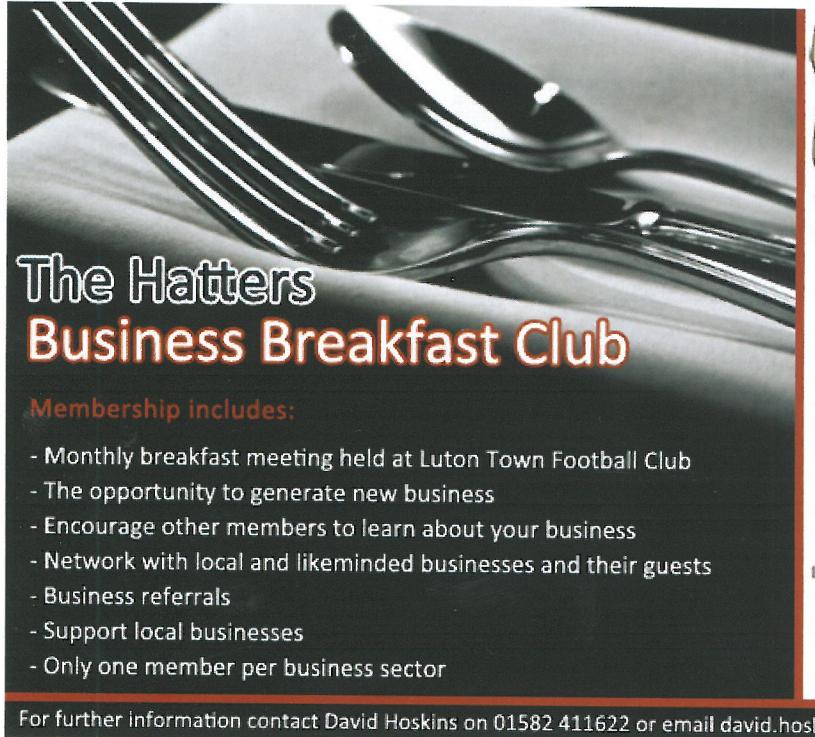
"My first goal was instinct really," said Crow. "I think they thought it was going out but I didn't and I just put my foot out and guided it home. We had been working on set-pieces in training and it's paid dividends.

"The second was all about confidence – it was great to score that one and I don't want to talk about the penalty.

"It could have been better but if you had told me three weeks ago I'd scored two goals and we'd win 3-1 at Tamworth I would have taken that.

"It's nice to win, it feels as though it's been a long time coming. We know we've let people down and this result proves what we can do.

"It's a great result for the fans, the manager and for the whole club."

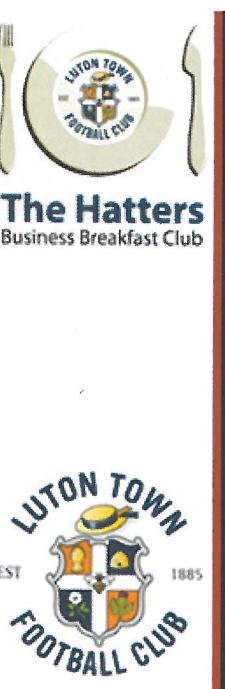


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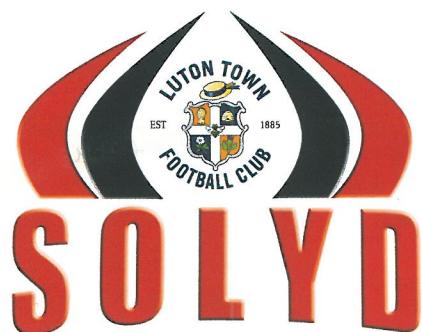
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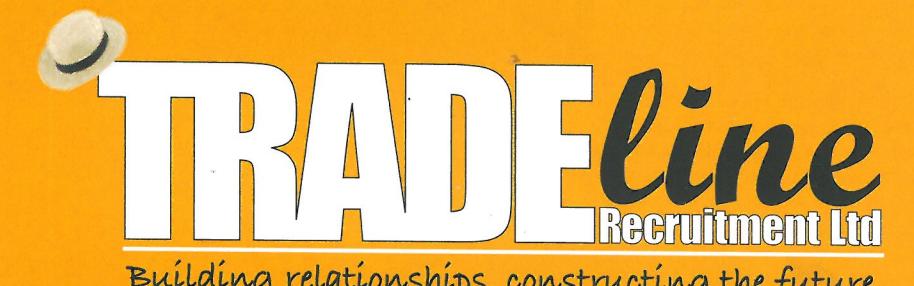
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 JAMES FERGUSON HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 NICK BURTENSHAW HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 COLBY McADAMS HOME: Moira Spain AWAY: Available
 ALASAN ANN HOME: Mark Bradbury AWAY: Available	 MOSES KADOU HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 MASON BLAKE HOME: Available AWAY: Available
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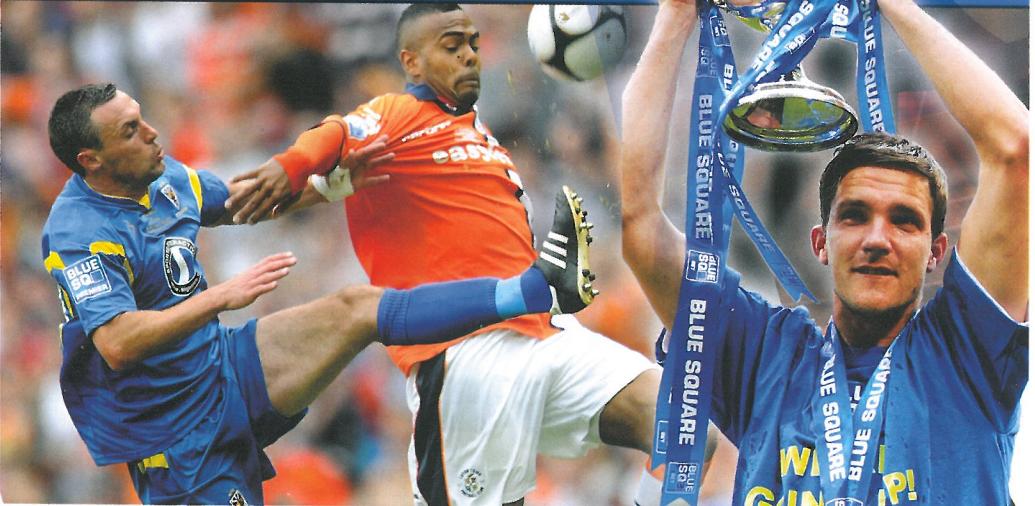
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UNDER-18S SEASON SO FAR

WITH YOUTH TEAM COACH PAUL DRIVER

As with all levels and ages when working with young players, there are ups and downs and highs and lows in a season and the first six months of the current one with the Hatters youngsters has been no different to that but, upon reflection, the positives have greatly outweighed the negatives with the group and the individuals within it.

At the start of the season, when I joined the club, if someone had offered us the chance to go into the Christmas break in the top six of a league containing Premier League, Championship and a number of League 1 clubs having won our group of the League Cup, then we would have been more than content with that and considered it decent progress by the squad.

That this is exactly what has happened is a credit to the boys and all the support staff, which is all the more to be admired when we consider that it has been done almost totally without an Under-18 goalkeeper due an injury sustained by Josh Carpenter in August. Deputising for Josh have been schoolboys Ben Barnes and 14-year-old Tyler Reading, and these lads have played a major part in giving us one of the best defensive records in the league. Josh has now fully recovered and is champing at the bit to play again having worked extremely hard and great thanks for his recovery programme goes to sports therapist Jon Chatfield and goallkeeper coach Dmitri Kharine.

We have also given extensive playing time to Charlie Smith, Ian Rees and Arel Amu from the Under-16s and they have all acquitted themselves well and will continue to train and play with the youth team into 2012 as the older boys from the Under-18s go out on loan into senior football as part of their continued development towards - hopefully - gaining a professional or development contract for next season.

Individually, Charlie was on the bench for the FA Trophy game against Swindon Supermarine in which Colby McAdams made his debut and congratulations go to both boys for that achievement. In Colby's case, it has been an excellent season and he thoroughly deserved that debut and his work experience move to Hitchin Town should now help him kick on further.

I watched him put in an excellent performance for them in a 3-1 win over Weymouth recently and the early signs are that he will be more than comfortable at that level. Alasan Ann, another excellent and consistent performer this season, is also at Hitchin on work experience to help his development.

The interest from Hitchin for these boys came after a reserve match against them where, for the second half, the Hatters team contained six youth players who all played well in the 1-0 victory helped by "veterans" Kidd, Gleeson, Antwi, Tavernier and Blackett!

It is always a nervous time for the youth team coach when "his boys" move up to play for the senior teams and I have been extremely pleased with how all the lads have done at reserve team level. Zak Stephens, Brett Longden and Jerome Jibodu, as first year scholars, all did particularly well in defence while Jake Woolley scored against a strong Stevenage team at home and looked sharp in the return match at Broadhall Way.

On the negative side, we have definitely underachieved in terms of our progress in cup competitions. An unexpected exit to Dereham in the final qualifying round of the FA Youth Cup was a massive disappointment for everyone and the loss of Newman Carney with a broken leg added to that feeling. He had been tremendous for us and I am delighted for him that he signed his professional contract at the Cheltenham game recently. Hopefully, we will get to see him in action again towards the end of the season.

Then, having won our League Cup Group, we lost in the first knock out round to Leyton Orient so it is with our cup matches that we must improve going forward.

To finish on a positive note, I have been massively impressed with the quality of the youngsters coming through the youth system especially the Under-15s and Under-16s. If these lads continue to work hard and improve then my squad in a couple of years will be an very, very exciting group to coach which will bring a number of new products into the senior set up.

Best wishes for Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all Hatters fans, players and staff.

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ACADEMY **UPDATE**

WITH HEAD OF YOUTH GREGG BROUGHTON



Christmas is traditionally a busy period in the football calendar and this is no different for the youth department. Our final scheduled games before Christmas were against QPR and it was great to see excellent performances at the Under-13, 14 and 15 age groups.

Last week was busy with player appraisals, with over 400 players aged eight to 16 receiving detailed written evaluations of their progress followed by a one-to-one meeting with their coach to discuss this report. Following these appraisals 38 players across all of our age groups will be played up a year between Christmas and Easter to push them outside of their comfort zone.

This week has seen 16 internal games between our Academy and our Development Centres and this has proved to be invaluable in assessing the progress boys have made further down our pyramid. Five players will step up to the Academy on the back of their performances and we wish them the best with their new opportunity in the New Year.

In between Christmas and the New Year all of the Academy teams will be in to train at Ely Way to ensure that we can maximise our contact time with the players rather than resting on our laurels. January sees the beginning of the indoor season in Europe and Luton Town will be competing with some of the continents biggest clubs in tournaments

Germany, Slovakia, Austria and Germany. You will be able to follow all of the boys progress via the club's website and twitter accounts.

Finally 2011 has been the most testing year the club has ever had for youth development due to our failure to win promotion in May. Things are finally beginning to settle down now thanks to the FA's ruling to back Luton Town's ability to retain the registrations of our young talented players.

It is important that supporters realise that this wouldn't have happened if the directors of Luton Town had followed the lead of many other clubs who have been in our scenario in the past. Due to 2010's belief and support in youth development, backed by their continued financial investment, our young players will continue to progress towards making a significant impact on the first team in the future.

We wish all supporters a Happy Christmas and hope you will continue to support the youth programme at Luton Town throughout 2012!

5 STEPS TO EXCELLENCE



Supporting the grass roots



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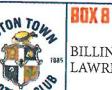
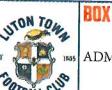
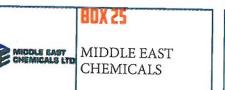
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IN THE COMMUNITY



THE HATTERS CUP – YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY 26TH AND SUNDAY 27TH MAY 2012

Under-7s to Under-14s' chance to play at
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If you play in a team or manage one, here's your chance to play at the stadium and take part of England's most exciting six-a-side tournament.

Now in its fifth year the Hatters Cup attracts over 150 teams over the weekend giving 1,500 youngsters the chance of a lifetime opportunity to play at Kenilworth Road

Places for the tournament were all snapped up in record time last year leaving lots of teams disappointed - so here's your chance to get in early and guarantee your place.

You can either use the application form over the page or download the full leaflet from the official website for full information - it's a great weekend and an unforgettable experience for hundreds of youngsters!

THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE COM- MUNITY CLUB DEVELOPMENT FUND

Last month the club were pleased to welcome Lord Faulkner of Worcester to present the Community Trust with a grant cheque of £12,000 from The Football Conference Community Club Development Fund supported by the Premier League and the Professional Footballers' Association.



Tonight the grant will be 'matched' by our main club sponsor, Easyjet, and also McDonalds and will be used to help towards funding. The Hatters recently launched 'School's Visit Project' which aims to provide free curriculum time Football coaching and PE lessons to all primary schools within Luton, Bedfordshire and North Hertfordshire.

The Football Conference Community Club Development Fund was launched earlier this year for member clubs of the Blue Square Bet Premier and Blue Square Bet North and South and involves both the Premier league and Professional Footballers' Association committing up to £400,000 each for the next three years and is designed to encourage member clubs to develop their work in their local communities. Luton's Community Department have already contacted almost 100 schools in our catchment area since the start of the term last month with the offer of free coaching and already almost 30 schools are now receiving visits from our coaching staff.

Our Football Development Officer, James Hatch, who runs the School's Visit Project on behalf of the Community Trust said: "We have already had a great response from local schools who have asked us to come in and help with all kinds of requests from running lunch time clubs to coaching the schools' football teams.

"The funding from Easyjet and McDonalds is great because for the first time in quite a while we can now get all of our local schools involved with the club at no cost to them. We hope this project will not only help schools with providing quality pe lessons but also by getting the children involved with Luton Town provide future supporters of the club."

For any schools looking to be involved in the project you can contact James on 01582 583618 or via email on james.luton@live.co.uk.



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Youth Football Tournament

May 2012

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Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May 2012

Kenilworth Road Stadium, Luton
Tournament for age groups Under 7 to Under 14



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- Please send application forms to:
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Name of Club	
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FA Affiliation Number	
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Age Group	No of Teams	Managers' Name	Managers' Tel Number
Under 7			
Under 8			
Under 9			
Under 10			
Under 11			
Under 12			
Under 13			
Under 14			

We would like to enter a total of _____ teams at £ _____ per team as entered above and enclose a cheque for a total of £ _____ made payable to 'Luton Town Community Trust'.

We would like to book _____ car / _____ minibus / _____ coach extra parking spaces for our club and have attached another separate cheque for £ _____ made payable to 'Luton Town Community Trust'.

■ Closing date for applications is Sunday 29th April 2012



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

LUTON LADIES



The Town's Ladies rounded off 2011 by completing their first league double of the season defeating Crystal Palace 3-1.

In spite of a lengthening injury list which had claimed 16 players within the previous fortnight, three new signings at the 11th hour provided an interesting test which the Ladies passed with flying colours.

A bright start almost provided debutant Natasha Fensome with two goals as a flashing header and a strike from the edge of the area flew agonisingly wide of the post. The Town continued to keep possession well and the patient build up continued to produce chances but it was goal-less at the break.

The second half saw the Hatters fall behind in disappointing circumstances as some comedy defending gifted Palace the lead from their first genuine opportunity. However, Town upped their game and were soon level when a free kick was awarded in a central position.

Up stepped another player representing the Hatters for the first time in Zara Carroll and she blasted the ball into the roof of the net from 30-yards to equalise. The fillip of a goal spurred the Hatters on and Carroll

again drove through the middle beating two players before drilling an unstoppable low drive into the corner of the net.

The Eagles were reeling and soon the points were safe following good work from Jess McKay, who won the ball back and set Fensome free on the halfway line. Her pace took her away from the pursuing defenders and she coolly slotted the ball home from 20-yards past a despairing goalkeeper.

A delighted assistant manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "It was a big gamble introducing three new players but it certainly paid off as they all fitted into the system and pattern of play so well. We have had to endure an unprecedented number of injuries this season which has prevented us from fielding an unchanged side at any point but at times like these you get to know who has the character and mental strength to dig deep and play for the shirt."

"It was great to finish off 2011 with a win as it has been a tough year for the club in rebuilding the playing personnel at this level but with the excellent team spirit and work ethic the girls have the future looks bright once again and we can hopefully now push on again to regain a place in the FA Premier League."

ON THIS DAY

SIMON PITTS LOOKS BACK ON GAMES PLAYED AT HOME ON THIS DAY

8

Luton had scored six goals in seven Boxing Day matches at Kenilworth Road before the visit of Gillingham in 1925, and this figure almost doubled in 90 minutes as the Hatters won an eight-goal thriller by a 5-3 scoreline. George Dennis and Jimmy Thompson both netted a brace with Syd Reid also scoring.

1

The first top-flight Boxing Day fixture came against Manchester United in 1957, as Allan Brown and John Groves both scored in a 2-2 draw, in front of a record Kenilworth Road crowd on Boxing Day, of 26,478. It was a good result for Luton who had lost 3-0 at Old Trafford 24 hours earlier, the last game that the Hatters played Christmas Day.

20

The number of years since Mick Harford scored against Arsenal in a 1-0 victory for the Hatters. Although the Hatters were relegated at the end of the season, they took maximum points from the final three home games of 1991, with this victory coming between a 1-0 win over Coventry and a 2-0 success against Chelsea.

3

Allan Brown scored three goals in two consecutive home Boxing Day games, after netting against United in 1957, and his brace against Arsenal a year later. This feat was repeated by Brian Stein. Stein netted twice against Chelsea, and then again in another 2-0 victory in 1984, this time against Coventry City. Ray Daniel scored the decisive second goal late in that game.

35

The number of Boxing Day fixtures previously played at Kenilworth Road. Luton have won 21 of these matches, have drawn nine and lost just five, scoring 69 goals and conceding 35.

6

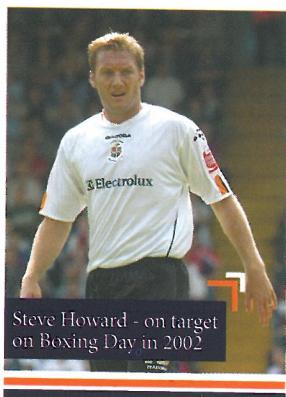
The most number of goals scored by Luton on a Boxing Day fixture, and it has happened twice. In 1951 the Town beat West Ham 6-1 with Gordon Turner netting a hat-trick. Bert Mitchell, Jack Taylor and George Stobart also netted as Luton were comfortable winners. This feat was repeated in 1958 when Arsenal were beaten 6-3 in the First Division. Billy Bingham and Allan Brown both scored twice, with Jimmy Adam and Tony Gregory also getting their name on the scoresheet.

2

The number of goals scored by both sides in 1997 as David Oldfield and Tony Thorpe netted in a 2-2 draw against Northampton. Adam Locke scored two years later in another draw, this time 1-1 against Chesterfield.

9

The number of years since the last Boxing Day fixture at Kenilworth Road, and Cardiff City were beaten



Steve Howard - on target on Boxing Day in 2002

the break before Peterborough made it 3-2 from the penalty spot.

NLP VIEW

BY STUART HAMMONDS, CHIEF REPORTER



Footballers are often given short shrift when they plead for sympathy, but at this time of year, the part-time footballers in our midst deserve a stocking full. Why? I hear you ask.

Well, consider what you did yesterday. Once the presents were opened, you might have spent an hour or two in the local pub.

If you're not teetotal, maybe a snowball (there's one for the older fans) then, once home, a glass of red with the size of dinner that a normal person would only contemplate once a year. Then it was time to settle down in front of the TV with the never emptying wine glass. If the liqueurs and shorts came out late on, you might have woken up this morning wondering what day it was.

Of course, a full-time professional footballer devotes his whole life to making sure he's able to do his job for 90 minutes, whether that matchday is on 26th August or 26th December.

But the semi-pro striker who goes to work nine-till-five – just like you and I – can't relax fully on Christmas Day. The festive period is a major part of British football, whether at the very top of the game or down in the grass-roots, like nowhere else in the world.

Clubs rely on the finance provided by a big home gate swelling not only the terrace, but also the bar. It can be the most profitable day of the season.

I played semi-pro from the age of 18 to almost 30, but in a dozen years, we probably only played four or five times on Boxing Day because of the weather. I recall the first, for Arnold Town at Hucknall, in 1996. The whole of Nottinghamshire was white with frost, and had been for over 24 hours, but in the days before the

widespread use of mobile phones and the internet, we all had to turn up at Watnall Road to be told the inevitable.

With a bit more experience, I'd have looked out of the window on Christmas Day and decided to chance it. Instead, at the age of 18, I went for a run and then sat there watching my girlfriend's family get merry – thoroughly miserable even before EastEnders came on!

Even when weather permitted – initially, anyway – I had the ignominy of being dropped by Hitchin manager Darren Salton at Bedford. I was off to Center Parcs the first weekend of 2006 and Salts wanted Leon Townley, who'd been out with a hamstring injury, back fully fit for then.

After abstaining the previous day, I spent 60 minutes freezing in the New Erye stand watching Leon's hammy go again before the ref abandoned things when the snow got too heavy.

There were highs, like a decent performance for Sutton United in the derby win at Carshalton on Boxing Day 2000, and a goal on loan for Bracknell at Wokingham the following year. But even that one disrupted a family Christmas. After the game I drove back north to spend more time at home in Nottingham, then realised I had to be back at work in London the following day.

I'd not had a drink and still got the days mixed up. Merry Christmas, indeed!

NON-LEAGUE
PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

Buy it every Sunday from your local newsagent

HOME COMFORTS

FOLLOW THE HATTERS AT KENILWORTH ROAD



LUTON TOWN v NEWPORT COUNTY

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



LUTON TOWN v STOCKPORT COUNTY

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2012, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



LUTON TOWN v MANSFIELD TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY, KICK-OFF 7.30PM

Please note the change in date and kick-off time for this match.

This game will be screened live on Premier Sports TV.

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



ALL AREAS

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

UNCOVERED SEATING - MAIN ENCLOSURE BLOCKS A & B

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

BUY TICKETS...

IN PERSON: Ticket office, Kenilworth Road. **PHONE:** 01582 416976 **ONLINE:** www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown

SAFETY NOTICE

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

ON THE ROAD

SUPPORT THE TOWN ON OUR TRAVELS



KETTERING TOWN v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is all-ticket for all supporters with no tickets available on the day. We have been given an allocation of 2,000 unreserved seats in the Airwair Stand. Supporters are reminded that Kettering Town now play at Nene Park, formerly the home of Rushden & Diamonds.

Sales plan: Tickets are now on general sale until 12 noon on Saturday 31st December (subject to availability).

Prices: £19 adults, £15 concessions, £8 under-16s, £5 under-11s.



HINCKLEY UNITED v LUTON TOWN

FA TROPHY SECOND ROUND

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Terracing and limited seating will be available at Hinckley. Terrace tickets are available on the day.

Prices: £12 for adults; £9 for over 60s and students, £5 for under 16s

Seating tickets will be available in advance from the Luton Town ticket office but will not be available until they have been received. All prices will be £2 extra than terrace.

A sales plan for the seating tickets will be released when the tickets have been received. Further information will be available on the official website and in future programmes.



GETTING TO... KETTERING TOWN – NENE PARK

Bobbers Travel (01234 856542): £13 adults, £11 concessions. Departure: 11.30am.

Town on Tour (07960 567465): £14 adults, £12 concessions. Departure: 12noon.

Car: Leave the M1 at Junction 15 and take the A508 towards Northampton. At the junction with the A45 turn right towards Wellingborough. Follow the A45 past Wellingborough and then towards Rushden. At the junction with the A6 turn left towards Irthingborough. You will come to the ground on your right.

For the sat-nav: NN9 5QF

By train: The nearest railway station is in Wellingborough, which is six miles away.

GETTING TO... HINCKLEY UNITED – THE GREENE KING STADIUM

Bobbers Travel (01234 856542): £17 adults, £14 concessions. Departure: 12noon.

Town on Tour (07960 567465): Prices and departure times to be confirmed.

Car: Leave the M1 at junction 19 and head north on the A5, signposted Nuneaton and Earl Shilton. Straight over the roundabout and past the Limekilns Pub, then over the next roundabout. At the Dodwells Bridge roundabout take the A47, signposted Earl Shilton, through the Dodwells Industrial Estate, this is the Normandy Way. Continue on this road, past the Tesco Warehouse and the Triumph motorbike factory, over three more roundabouts and past the Safeway/Morrisons supermarket. At next traffic light crossroads go straight over signposted Earl Shilton. Carry on this road, down the hill where you will see the Stadium on your right. At the next roundabout turn right, third exit, then entrance to the de Montfort Park Stadium is on your right.

For the sat-nav: LE10 3DR

By train: Hinckley is on the Birmingham to Leicester line and uses the Birmingham-Stansted timetable. The walk to the ground from the train station is approximately three miles.

FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS
■ August									
Tue 16	19:45	H	Forest Green Rovers	1-1	6,061	60	16	K. Pilkington, Asafu-Adjaye, Beckwith, I. Antwi, Osano, Keane, Howells, Lawless, O'Connor, Dance, Barnes-Homer*	
Sat 20	15:00	H	Southport	5-1	5,681	64	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1 , Howells, Keane, Watkins 1*** , Lawless, Willmott 1 , Dan, O'Connor**	
Tue 23	19:45	A	Mansfield Town	1-1	2,592	437	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1 , Asafu-Adjaye*, Dance, Watkins, Howells, Morgan-Smith, O'Connor**, Crow	
Sat 27	15:00	H	Braintree Town	3-1	5,703	110	6	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1 , Howells 1 , Dance***, Lawless*, Keane, Willmott, Crow*, Smith 2	
Tue 30	19:45	A	Hayes & Yeading United	2-2	1,015	727	8	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells*, Dance***, Lawless, Keane, Willmott, Crow 1*** , Smith 1	
■ September									
Fri 2	19:45	A	Stockport County	1-1	3,389	321	6	Tyler, Osano, Keane, Antwi, A-Adjaye, Lawless 1 , Kissock 1 , Watkins, Willmott, M-Smith, W**	
Sat 10	15:00	H	Darlington	2-0	5,952	151	6	Tyler, Keane, Antwi, Beckwith, Howells, Lawless, Hand, Willmott, Morgan-Smith*, Crow 1 , Fleetwood 1	
Tue 13	19:45	A	AFC Telford United	2-0	2,640	502	3	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye , Antwi, Beckwith, Howells, Lawless, Keane, Willmott**, Morgan-Smith 2 , Crow 1 , Fleetwood 1	
Sat 17	15:00	H	Lincoln City	1-0	6,316	206	2	Tyler, Dance, Beckwith , Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith***, Lawless, Hand, Willmott**, Fleetwood 1 , Crow*	
Tue 20	19:45	A	Bath City	1-1	1,158	442	1	Tyler, Dance*, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith 1 , Lawless, Hand, Kissock 1 , Fleetwood 1 , Crow**	
Sat 24	15:00	A	York City	0-3	3,570	606	6	Tyler, Keana, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Dance, Lawless**, Hand, Kissock 1 , Willmott, Fleetwood 1	
Tue 27	19:45	H	Cambridge United	0-1	6,274	522	9	Tyler, Dance, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith, Hand***, Keane, Willmott**, Fleetwood 1 , Crow	
■ October									
Sat 1	15:00	H	Barrow	5-1	5,613	115	6	Tyler, Osano, Keane, Kovacs, Howells, Hand, Dance 1 , Watkins 1** , Willmott, 2, O'Connor, Morgan-Smith 1	
Sat 8	15:00	A	Kidderminster Harriers	2-1	3,332	931	5	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Blackett, Hand, Dance**, Keane, Willmott 2 , O'Connor, Morgan-Smith	
Tue 11	19:45	A	Ebbsfleet United	2-2	1,651	722	5	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Blackett, Hand, Dance 1 , Carden, Willmott, O'Connor, Morgan-Smith 1**	
Sat 15	15:00	H	Gateshead	5-1	6,285	104	3	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Blackett, Willmott**, Howells 2 , Keane, Dance, Morgan-Smith*, Fleetwood	
Tue 18	19:45	H	Wrexham	0-1	7,270	239	5	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Blackett, Willmott, Keane, Dance, Howells, Fleetwood/O'Connor*	
Fri 21	19:45	A	Grimsby Town	1-0	3,239	186	4	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Willmott**, Watkins, Hand, Dance*, Fleetwood 1 , Wright 1	
Sat 29	15:00	H	Hendon (FAC 4Q)	5-1	2,329	193	-	K. Pilkington, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells, Dance 1 , Hand***, O'Connor 2 (pen), Kissock 1 , Fleetwood 1 , Wright 1	
■ November									
Sat 5	15:00	H	Fleetwood Town	1-2	6,361	83	7	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs 1 , Howells, Willmott, Keane, Lawless**, O'Connor, Fleetwood, Morgan-Smith.	
Sat 12	15:00	H	Northampton Town (FAC1)	1-0	4,799	913	-	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Howells, Hand, Lawless, Keane, Kissock 1** , M-Smith*, O'Connor.	
Sat 19	15:00	A	Cambridge United	1-1	4,796	1,754	7	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Dance*, Lawless, Hand*, Howells, Fleetwood 1 , O'Connor	
Sat 26	15:00	A	Newport County	1-0	1,511	273	6	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Fleetwood 1 , Dance, Lawless, Hand, Howells, Hand 1 , O'Connor*	
Tue 29	19:45	H	AFC Telford United	1-1	5,399	106	6	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Willmott 1 , Dance*, Keane, Lawless, Willmott 1 , Crow***, Fleetwood**	
■ December									
Sat 3	15:00	H	Cheltenham Town (FAC2)	2-4	4,516	478	-	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Willmott, Keane*, Howells, Lawless, O'Connor 2 , Crow	
Tue 6	19:45	A	Lincoln City	1-1	2,049	327	7	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington*, Kovacs, Howells, Willmott**, Keane, Howells, Lewis 1 , O'Connor 1 , Crow 1	
Sat 10	15:00	H	Swindon S (FAT1)	2-0	1,298	55	3	Tyler, Gleeson*, Beckwith, Lacey, Taylor, Kissock**, Watkins, Keane, Osano, Brunt*, Fleetwood 1	
Sat 17	15:00	A	Tamworth	3-1	1,467	622	5	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Keane, Watkins*, Dance 1 , Howells, Crow 2	
Mon 26	15:00	H	Kettering Town						
■ January									
Sun 1	15:00	A	Kettering Town						
Sat 7	15:00	H	Newport County						
Tues 10	19:45	H	Stockport County						
Sat 15	15:00	A	Hinckley United (FAT2)						
Sat 21	15:00	A	Southport						
Wed 25	19:30	H	Mansfield Town						
Sat 28	15:00	H	Alfreton Town						
■ February									
Sat 4	15:00	A	Barrow						
Sat 11	15:00	A	Forest Green Rovers						
Sat 18	15:00	H	Tamworth						
Sat 25	15:00	A	Darlington						
■ March									
Sat 3	15:00	H	Bath City						
Tue 6	19:45	A	Wrexham						
Sat 10	15:00	H	Ebbsfleet United						
Sat 17	15:00	A	Gateshead						
Sat 24	15:00	H	Grimsby Town						
Sat 31	15:00	H	York City						
■ April									
Sat 7	15:00	A	Braintree Town						
Mon 9	15:00	H	Hayes & Yeading United						
Sat 14	15:00	A	Alfreton Town						
Sat 21	15:00	H	Kidderminster Harriers						
Sat 28	15:00	A	Fleetwood Town						



LEAGUE TABLE 2011/12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wrexham	24	16	5	3	41	16	25	53
2 Fleetwood Town	24	16	5	3	49	28	21	53
3 Southport	25	14	5	6	41	37	4	47
4 York City	25	12	8	5	51	25	26	44
5 LUTON TOWN	24	11	9	4	42	24	18	42
6 Kidderminster Harriers	24	12	6	6	47	36	11	42
7 Cambridge United	24	10	10	4	31	21	10	40
8 Gateshead	24	11	7	6	38	35	3	40
9 Forest Green Rovers	25	9	10	6	38	25	13	37
10 Mansfield Town	24	7	5	13	24	34	-10	26
11 Darlington	25	10	6	9	27	28	-1	36
12 Barrow	24	10	5	9	36	35	1	35
13 Braintree Town	25	10	4	11	43	45	-2	34
14 Tamworth	23	9	6	8	28	29	-1	33
15 Grimsby Town	24	9	5	10	41	38	3	32
16 Ebbsfleet United	26	6	10	10	36	41	-5	28
17 Lincoln City	25	7	5	13	24	34	-10	26
18 AFC Telford United	25	5	9	11	25	34	-9	24
19 Newport County	25	5	7	13	30	37	-7	22
20 Kettering Town	25	5	7	13	27	50	-23	22
21 Hayes & Yeading	25	5	6	14	35	52	-17	21
22 Stockport County	25	3	11	16	26	42	-16	20
23 Alfreton Town	25	4	6	15	26	55	-29	18
24 Bath City	25	2	8	15	24	47	-23	14

PLAYER STATS 2011/12

	THIS SEASON	CUP	TOTAL	DISCIP	CAREER
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS
Will ANTWI	12 (0)	2	1 (0)	0	13 (0)
Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE	4 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (2)
Matthew BARNES-HOMER	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)
Dean BECKWITH	8 (0)	1	2 (0)	0	10 (0)
Shane BLACKETT	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (0)
Ryan BRUNT	0 (4)	1	0 (0)	1 (4)	0 (0)
Paul CARDEN	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Danny CROW	12 (6)	7	1 (2)	0	13 (8)
James DANCE	19 (4)	3	1 (0)	1 (20)	4 (3)
Stuart FLEETWOOD	13 (4)	3	2 (0)	2 (15)	4 (5)
Dan GLEESON	2 (1)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (1)
Jamie HAND	11 (2)	2	2 (0)	0	13 (2)
Charlie HENRY	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)
Jake HOWELLS	21 (0)	3	3 (0)	0	24 (0)
Keith KEANE	17 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	20 (0)
John-Paul KISSOCK	3 (10)	0	3 (1)	0	6 (11)
Janos KOVACS	15 (0)	1	2 (0)	0	17 (0)
Alex LACEY	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)
Alex LAWLESS	16 (0)	1	2 (0)	0	18 (0)
Colby McADAMS	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (1)
Aman MORGAN-SMITH	14 (1)	9	1 (0)	0	15 (1)
Freddie MURRAY	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)
Aaron O'CONNOR	11 (10)	1	3 (0)	4 (4)	14 (10)
JJ O'DONNELL	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Curtis OSANO	16 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	19 (0)
George PILKINGTON	11 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	13 (0)
Kevin PILKINGTON	6 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	9 (0)
Godfrey POKU	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)
Collin SAMUEL	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)
Christian TAVERNIER	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Greg TAYLOR	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)
Mark TYLER	18 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	19 (0)
Dan WALKER	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)
Adam WATKINS	7 (10)	2	2 (1)	1 (1)	9 (11)
Robbie WILLMOTT	18 (3)	6	1 (1)	0	19 (4)
Tommy WRIGHT	1 (3)	1	1 (1)	2 (4)	3 (0)

LAST WORD

WITH THE LUTON NEWS' MARK WOOD

I sometimes wish I had been born 50 years earlier.

Football back then seemed simpler, purer. There wasn't the glut of money that has seen players' salaries balloon and the divide broaden between the richest and poorest clubs into a gaping chasm, so much so that most teams can no longer dream of meaningful silverware.

From a journalistic point of view the demands have also become far greater. An insatiable 24/7 lust for news has seen websites mushroom up and the list of duties multiply with fewer and fewer people to do them.

But in truth I long for the days when the festive period marked a football feast for one and all. Games used to be crammed in either side of Christmas Day as fans were able to supplement their turkey with football-galore to their hearts content.

I conjure with the idea of Christmas Day games and imagine what it must have been like, opening your presents in the morning, traipsing to the football and overdosing on food in the evening.

Then on the following day, Boxing Day, the teams would often return the compliment, sometimes travelling on the same train for the reverse fixture.

Ever since I was small I heard tell of those days of yore and, sadly, I think football is all the poorer for losing that tradition.

The last time we enjoyed such a double-header was in 1957/58 when we lost 3-0 at Manchester United on Christmas Day before holding the Red Devils to a 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road the following afternoon.

Of course the game has changed and players would no longer be able to play so many games in such a short



space of time – could you imagine Sir Alex Ferguson's views if such circumstance ever arose today?

Whether the modern day supporter would have such an insatiable appetite, who knows, and I certainly couldn't imagine both teams travelling back together on the same train.

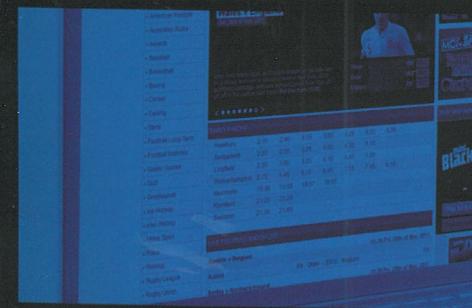
But even more than that I feel the authorities in recent years have lost their way in scheduling fixtures. Boxing Day used to be about derbies and short trips, a day for the fans, but instead in recent years fixtures around that time have taken us to the likes of Eastbourne, Chesterfield, Bournemouth, Colchester and Derby. Supporters have been ignored.

This year, though, a semblance of sense and tradition finally seems to have returned. A double-header against Kettering will see us entertain them at Kenilworth Road today before we meet again at the Poppies' new Nene Park home on New Year's Day.

It may not be the biggest of derbies, we may not have a history of tumultuous tussles, but the game is as close to a derby as the fixture compilers could have got. It marks a return to sense, even if Kettering's price hike for the return fixture is as condemnable as the scheduling is laudable.

Here's hoping that Santa has some late presents for the Hatters as they claim maximum from the coming games. Merry Christmas.

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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN 5:0 KETTERING TOWN

Mark Tyler	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dan Gleeson	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greg Taylor	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keith Keane	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dean Beckwith	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Pilkington	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Lawless	7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amari Morgan-Smith	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Crow	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robbie Willmott	11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Blackett	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stuart Fleetwood	13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aaron O'Connor	14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jake Howells	15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ed Asafu-Adjaye	16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will Antwi	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curtis Osano	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Dance	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Paul Kissock	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charlie Henry	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Brunt	23	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Hand	27	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Watkins	28	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Pilkington	30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Janos Kovacs	34	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tommy Wright	39	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Phil Ifil
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	Sol Davis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5	Djoumin Sangare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6	Jerel Ifil
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Craig Dobson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12	Laurie Walker
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Leon McKenzie
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Steven Meecham
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20	David Bridges
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Nathan Koo-Boothe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 22	Jaime Navarro
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 23	Patrick Noubissie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30	Kieran Hughes-Mason
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Aldi Haxia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 32	Mark Pryor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 33	Stephen Leary
<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Josh Dawkin
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	Moses Swaibu
<input type="checkbox"/> 39	Robbie Dance

✓ DAWKIN
✓ JONES

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R. Whitton
Assistant: K. Kirkbride
Assistant: A. Gillett
Fourth official: A. Serrano

UP NEXT

v NEWPORT COUNTY

Saturday 7th January 2012 3pm
Blue Square Bet Premier

