



KETTERING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Sunday 1st January 2012
Kettering Town
versus **LUTON TOWN**
Kick-Off 3.00pm
Blue Square Bet Premier Division



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From the BOARDROOM



Good afternoon everyone and we at Kettering Town Football Club wish you all a happy healthy and prosperous new year.

Firstly, some encouraging news about Rachel Roberts. She is now out of hospital, after a very long period and staying with relatives as she begins her rehabilitation. She is walking with the help of a frame and beginning to talk again. Rachel has had a really rough time of it and for her at one stage it was touch and go. All of us associated with Kettering Town and many friends she made in her time here wish her a full recovery and we hope she can make it down to Nene Park before the end of the season.

These notes are written early in view of the Christmas period, but at the time of writing it looks as if our pre match hospitality offer will have its busiest game to date with the game fully sponsored and with a number of fans dining before the game in the North stand. We hope to see a big holiday crowd and a game full of atmosphere.

The financial struggles of this club have been fully aired in public over the last period, and, at the time of writing, it is not known if there will have been a resolution to the issues. There have been talks with potential buyers, or

investors, and these have to be conducted in private. Frustrating for the fans-but necessary to try to get the right result. The future still remains worryingly uncertain.

Amongst all of this, the Manager, team and supporters continue to give of their best efforts and for that the Directors are very grateful and appreciative.

The Chairman has requested a personal hearing to discuss the charges levied against the Club by the Football Conference and this hearing should be early in this new year.

We are aware that supporters need answers and as soon as there is news that can be reported, it will be communicated.

A reminder to our fans that the discounted admission pricing offered from the 17th September to 31st December, have now expired and future home games revert to the standard pricing announced on 30th July last year.

Finally a warm new year welcome to the Chairman, Directors, Officials, Players and Supporters of today's visitors, Luton Town. After today's game we wish you every success in your ambitions to return to the Football League.

SAFETY MESSAGE:

Kettering Town Football Club has a detailed evacuation procedure in place should the need arise. Supporters who visit Nene Park on a regular basis will become aware that throughout the season we will occasionally broadcast the following message: "STEWARDS TO POST". In the event that the message is given, please remain seated (if applicable) and listen carefully for further announcements. The public address system at Nene Park is designed to reach people both inside and outside of the stadium. Any emergency messages may also be announced in the Corporate areas. Whole stands, part of stands, or the entire stadium may have to be evacuated. The public address system operates on a zone basis throughout the whole stadium. It may be that certain zones are affected but not others. Therefore any announcements will be directed to the area affected and the attention focused on the spectators using that part of the ground. If you hear an announcement broadcast within the stadium, which is not directed at the area where you are situated, please ignore it. You should only respond to messages directed at your section of the stadium. All spectators are asked to respond calmly, but as quickly as possible if you are in the affected area and comply with stewards' instructions without delay. In the event of an abandoned match, regardless of the amount of playing time remaining, stewards will issue vouchers at all exits from the stadium. Advice regarding these vouchers will be published in the local press and on the Club website at www.ketteringtownfc.co.uk in the day immediately following the match.



mark stimson

Good afternoon everyone.

First of all I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year and I am sure we are all hoping that a new year will bring a change in fortunes for this club.

I would like to welcome the players, manager, directors and fans of Luton Town to Nene Park.

And I would also like to thank them for their hospitality on Boxing Day, which was first class.

Looking back on the last couple of games, the last time we were here was against Bath City.

It was a poor first half with both sides struggling to get any sort of football going and I guess that had something to do with the position both teams found themselves in.

It opened up in the second half and Bath went in front with a great strike but I was delighted by the response from our players.

They stepped up and went in search of an equaliser and it was great to get one through the young lad Ollie Jones with a great strike.

From there, we were disappointed not to go and win it. The Bath goalkeeper made one great save and there were other chances.

But we had to settle for a point, which meant we maintained our distance from the side at the bottom of the table.

It was always going to be hard for us at Luton on Boxing Day.

They are a very strong side and they moved the ball extremely well all afternoon.

They have some experienced players in their squad as well as some youngsters like Adam Watkins and we will have to be more wary of him this afternoon.

Our performance was disappointing, we conceded too many silly goals and it could have been a lot worse.

But today is another day and we will need a better performance and we have to do all we can to get something from it.

The players need to do their bit and if we get the same sort of backing we have had recently from the fans then we will have half a chance.

Your support has been incredible and long may it continue.

I truly hope there are better times to come.

Enjoy the game.

Mark

WHO'S WHO AT NENE PARK

KETTERING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Club President	Sid Chapman
Chairman	Imraan Ladak
Non Executive Directors	Lee Thorn, Elio Buizza
Associate Directors	Gary Foreman, Gary Graham, Adrian Wright, Bryony Gates
Manager	Mark Stimson
Physiotherapist	Jo Korge
Club Secretary	Mike Cobb-Pernak
Kit Man	Malc & Arron Lewer
Club Doctor	Dr. David Thomas
Safety Officer	Mark Brace
Club Photographer	Mike Capps
Groundsman	Greenbay Groundcare
Programme Editor	Terry Brumpton, JJ Sports Promotions Ltd tel 07771 802 048



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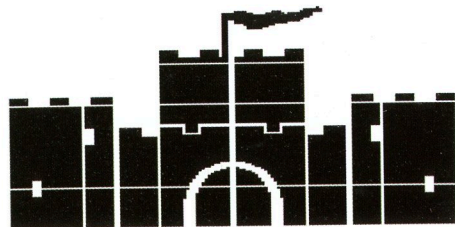
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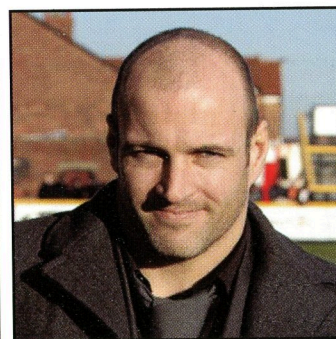
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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



GARY BRABIN - Manager

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

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

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

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

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

BRIEF HISTORY...

1885 - Luton Town Football Club was formed on 11 April 1885, the product of a merger of the two leading local teams, Luton Town Wanderers and Excelsior. The club moved to Dunstable Road from Dallow Lane club moved to Dunstable Road in 1897 and in 1981 became the first club to turn fully professional.

1905 - After a brief spell in the Football League following a few years in the Southern League, Luton move to Kenilworth Road. Two years later, Bob Hawkes became Luton's first international player when he turned out for England.

1916 - Despite being wounded during World War I, forward Ernie Simms nets 40 goals in a season in the London Combination.

1920 - The club rejoin the Football League, progressing through the leagues in the next few years.

1936 - Prolific striker Joe Payne scores 10 goals in a 12-0 victory over Bristol Rovers, which is still a Football League record.

1956 - Dally Duncan is in charge for one of the greatest eras in Luton Town's history, with International players galore plying their trade at Kenilworth Road. They are promoted to the Football League for the first time.

1959 - Luton lose 2-1 in the FA Cup Final to Nottingham Forest. Within six years though, they find themselves back in the fourth tier.

1970 - Malcolm Macdonald, who would go on to play for England, helps Luton to promotion with a number of goals

during his spell at the club. With Eric Morecambe on the board, good times return and by 1974, they're back in the top flight. Relegation swiftly follows, but the club are promoted again in 1982 under David Pleat.

1983 - A final day win over Manchester City, The Hatters' goal arriving through Yugoslav Raddy Antic, secures survival and relegates City in the process. Pleat, in a brown suit, jigs across the pitch in joy, an iconic image which has been repeated several times.

1985 - The club install an artificial surface but in the same year, their match with Millwall is marred by the first televised pitch invasion. Such horrific scenes caused the then-chairman, Conservative MP David Evans, to ban visiting supporters to Kenilworth Road and introduce a scheme where home fans had to carry identity cards.

1987 - Arguably the best period in the club's history. The highest ever league position is achieved (seventh in the top flight) and a year later, Luton beat favourites Arsenal to lift the League Cup. With 10 minutes left Luton were 2-1 down, but a penalty save from Andy Dibble is followed by goals from Danny Wilson and Brian Stein to win the Cup. A year later they're beaten in the Final by Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest.

1992 - Luton's spell in the top flight ends as they're relegated to the second tier, now known as Division One. In the same season, the club ditch the artificial pitch.

2002 - After dropping back through the Divisions, Joe Kinnear bucks the trend

and leads the club to the Third Division title. Despite his success, he is sacked a year later and replaced by Mike Newell, following a phone vote. The club enter administration.

2005 - Newell leads Luton back to the second tier (in the same season they lose 5-3 at home to Liverpool in the FA Cup after being 3-1 up) where they fight off financial problems and survive for two seasons, before he is replaced by Kevin Blackwell. In the same year, Luton sell Curtis Davies to West Brom for £3m - the club's record transfer fee received.

2008 - The Hatters hold Liverpool to a 1-1 draw in the FA Cup 3rd round before losing the replay 5-0. They are deducted 10 points for entering administration and Blackwell departs to join Sheffield United before Luton are relegated for a second successive year. In the summer of 2008, they are deducted an astonishing 30 points for various financial irregularities. This penalty proves too much as they finish bottom of the table, but win the Football League Trophy along the way.

2011 - For the second season running, Luton reach the play-offs, this time the final. Recently appointed manager Gary Brabin watches on as the Hatters are defeated on penalties in the final at the City of Manchester Stadium following a goalless 120 minutes vs AFC Wimbledon.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



ONES TO WATCH...



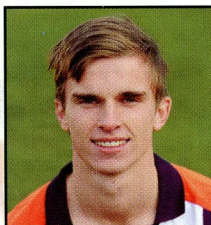
MARK TYLER

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United. After a hugely successful two years between the sticks at Kenilworth Road, Mark signed a new contract in the summer of 2011.



CURTIS OSANO

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



JJ O'DONNELL

Tricky winger who joined the Town with St Albans team-mate Godfrey Poku in January 2010. Also capable of playing at left back the youngster featured for the Hatters' reserve and youth teams during 2009/10. He made his first team debut as a substitute in the 4-2 FA Cup first round replay win over Corby Town and was handed a one-year contract extension in June 2011.

PROFILES...

KEVIN PILKINGTON

Vastly experienced goalkeeper who joined the Hatters in May 2010 after his release from Notts County. Pilkington began his career with Manchester United playing six times in the Premier League under Sir Alex Ferguson.

GEORGE PILKINGTON

Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having begun his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter

City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly-regarded defender has been named Player of the Year twice. His impeccable form on the pitch led to him winning a string of end-of-season awards and underlined his loyalty to the Hatters by signing a new contract at the end of the 2009/10 campaign.

DAN GLEESON

Tall and athletic defender, primarily a right-back, Gleeson signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from his home town club Cambridge

United. A product of the U's academy, Gleeson made his debut at 18 and soon became a regular at the Abbey Stadium making 61 league appearances before Notts County snapped up his signature in 2006. Recognised as one of the best right-backs outside the Football League, Gleeson's performances have seen him rewarded with seven England C caps.

GREG TAYLOR

Left-back signed from Darlington in November 2011 who made his Town debut in the 1-1 draw

at Cambridge United. Started his career as a junior with Northampton before he signed for Kettering Town. He then joined Darlo, linking up with boss Mark Cooper at the Darlington Arena.

ED ASAFU-ADJAYE

Capable of playing in any position across defence, Asafu-Adjaye has made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up.

SHANE BLACKETT

Luton-born Shane became Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009 after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003.

FREDDIE MURRAY

Left-footed versatile defender who joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009 and the deal was made permanent in January 2010. Previously with Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United the Irishman began his career as a trainee with Blackburn Rovers.

ALEX LACEY

Up-and-coming centre-half who made his first team debut as a 17-year-old in the FA Trophy first round tie against Welling, earning the man-of-the-match award for an excellent performance. Signed a professional contract to remain at Kenilworth Road until the end of the 2011/12 season.

DEAN BECKWITH

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

JANOS KOVACS

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

JAMIE HAND

Central midfielder who moved to Kenilworth Road on loan in September 2011 from Hayes & Yeading United. It was then Hayes & Yeading boss Gary Haylock who persuaded him to join United in August 2010 after his form for Woking in the Blue Square Bet South had caught the eye. Scoring on his debut in a victory at Grimsby Town, Hand settled in quickly to become a vital part of the United squad that avoid relegation last season.

Hand began his career with Watford, making 61 appearances in five years at Vicarage Road having burst on the scene for the Hornets in the

Premier League. His performances led to him picking up the Young Player of the Year award in 2002/03. After several loans spells Uxbridge-born Hand signed for Chester and then Lincoln City. He moved to Ebbsfleet United in 2008/09 before enjoying spells with Chelmsford, Hemel Hempstead and Woking before moving to Hayes.

ROBBIE WILLMOTT

Harlow-born winger who penned an 18-month contract with the Hatters in January 2011 after hitting 10 goals for Cambridge United. Capable of playing on either wing or behind the front two, Willmott came through the ranks at the Abbey Stadium and wowed the home faithful with his pace, dribbling, close control and eye for goal.

JAKE HOWELLS

The young winger, who can also play at left-back or in central midfield, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his full debut in the Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008. After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 the England C international was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May.

GODFREY POKU

Tenacious defensive midfielder who signed together with JJ O'Donnell from Blue Square South outfit St Albans City in January 2010 on an 18-month contract. A tough-tackling and no-nonsense midfielder, the Town beat off competition from several Football League clubs for his signature. He featured and impressed in the Hatters' reserves in 2009/10 and was an unused substitute in the Blue Square Premier but made his debut as a substitute in the 1-0 win at Barrow in October 2010.

KEITH KEANE

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, Keith Keane went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured. Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level and he finished the season with 14 appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship. Capable of playing right the way across the back four or in midfield the only positions he's not featured for the Town (yet) are in goal and up-front.

ADAM WATKINS

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

ALEX LAWLESS

Former Wales Under-21 midfielder who signed in November 2010 initially on-loan from York City before a permanent deal went through in January 2011.

JOHN PAUL KISSOCK

Creative attacking midfielder John Paul signed a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee joining from Southport in August 2011.

TOMMY WRIGHT

Centre forward who signed a three-month deal in October 2011. Wright began his career as a youngster with Leicester City, earning call-ups to the England Under-19s and 20s sides.

RYAN BRUNT

Highly-rated teenage striker who joined on work experience from Stoke City in November 2011. Started his career as a junior with Bristol City before moving to the Potteries. Made his debut in Town colours as a substitute against Cambridge United before hitting a hat-trick in his first match for the reserves.

MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER

Prolific striker who joined the Hatters initially on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers before agreeing a two-and-a-half year contract in 1st January 2010. The powerful forward followed up his 21 goals in all competitions during 2008/09 with nine goals in 20 league appearances in following season before finishing the Hatters' top goalscorer with 19 goals in all competition last season.

DANNY CROW

A nippy poacher of a striker, Crow joined the Hatters from Cambridge United in May 2010 following the expiry of his contract at the Abbey Stadium. The energetic forward's strike-rate of 22 goals in 43 league starts won him many admirers and his 19 goals during 2009/10 saw him scoop the U's online Player of the Year award.

DAN WALKER

Quick young forward capable of playing down the flanks who signed a one-year deal in July 2010 after impressing in pre-season in games for and against the Hatters.

AMARI MORGAN-SMITH

Striker or wide man who arrived at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following a two-year spell at Ilkeston Town. He put pen to paper on a two-year deal after two years with the Blue Square Bet North side in which he scored 34 goals in 77 starts.

AARON O'CONNOR

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

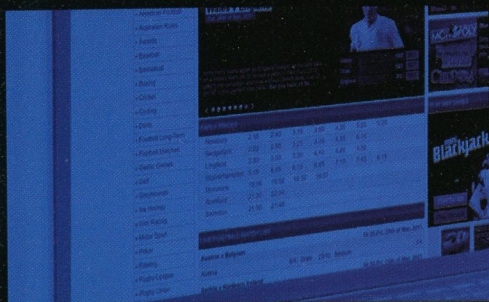
STUART FLEETWOOD

Prolific striker who signed for an undisclosed fee from Hereford United on deadline day in August 2011. The Gloucester-born frontman, who scored 28 goals the last time he played at Conference level whilst with Forest Green Rovers, signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road. He began his career as a trainee at Cardiff City, making the grade to feature eight times for the Bluebirds between 2003 and 2006. In January 2006, Fleetwood signed for Hereford for the first time scoring eight times before he signed for Forest Green in June 2007. And it was his spell with Rovers that saw people sit up and take notice after plundering 32 league and cup goals in a season that saw the Gloucestershire side earn their highest league placing. The Wales Under-21 international turned down a new contract at FGR to sign for then Championship Charlton in June 2008 but was loaned out Cheltenham, Exeter and Brighton. Fleetwood returned to Edgar Street last summer and scored 18 goals as he helped the Bulls avoid the drop in League 2. After hitting the post on his debut against Stockport, Fleetwood scored on his full debut in the win over Darlington.

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Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS looks at Luton Town's leading lights

CLASSIC CAMPAIGN – 1987-88

Ray Harford plotted Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Danny Wilson replaced Peter Nicholas in midfield, while Micky Weir arrived from Hibernian and Mike Newell moved to Leicester. The Hatters won 5-2 at Oxford and Ian Allinson was signed from Stoke in October, with Luton losing just twice in 12 matches including a 7-4 win the return match against Oxford, finishing ninth in the top-flight. They defeated Wigan 5-2, Coventry 3-1, Ipswich 1-0, Bradford City 2-0 and Oxford 3-1 in the Littlewoods Cup before beating Arsenal 3-2 in the final. Luton were also FA Cup semi-finalists and Simod Cup finalists.

MANAGING TO SUCCEED – DAVID PLEAT

Articulate manager David Pleat guided Luton Town to the Second Division title in 1981-82. A former winger, he played for Nottingham Forest, Luton, Shrewsbury, Exeter and Peterborough before becoming Nuneaton's player-boss. He rejoined Luton as coach in July 1972 and became manager in January 1978, guiding the Hatters to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1984-85. Taking charge of Spurs in May 1986, he led them to the 1987 FA Cup final, then managed Leicester City before rejoining Luton in June 1991. He took the Hatters to the FA Cup semi-finals again in 1993-94, leaving in June 1995. Now working in the media.



FAB FOUR

BRUCE RIOCH

Influential midfielder Bruce Rioch was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in September 1964, he starred in the 1967-68 Fourth Division title triumph and netted 46 goals in 149 League games prior to joining Aston Villa for £100,000 in July 1969. He was a key figure in their 1971-72 Third Division title success and moved to Derby County in February 1974, helping to win the League Championship in 1974-75. He played for Everton, Derby again and Torquay, since managing Middlesbrough, Millwall, Bolton Wanderers, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wigan Athletic.



BRIAN STEIN

England international striker Brian Stein scored twice in Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Edgware Town in October 1977, he was leading marksman in Luton's 1981-82 Second Division success and also starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88. He joined French side Caen in July 1988 and moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991. Voted 'Player of the Year' for the second time in 1991-92, he netted 130 goals in 427 League games overall for the Hatters before joining Barnet in August 1992. His younger brother Mark also played for Luton.



RICKY HILL

England international midfielder Ricky Hill was 'Player of the Year' when Luton Town won the Second Division title in 1981-82. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in May 1976, he was 'Player of the Year' again in 1982-83 and starred as Luton were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85. He featured in two consecutive Littlewoods Cup finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph and netted 54 goals in 436 League games before moving to Le Havre in July 1989. Reuniting with David Pleat at Leicester City in August 1990 and later as a coach at Sheffield Wednesday and Spurs, he briefly rejoined Luton as manager.



MALCOLM MACDONALD

Ace marksman Malcolm Macdonald was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Initially with Tonbridge, he joined Fulham in August 1968 and moved to Kenilworth Road in July 1969. He was Luton's top scorer in two consecutive seasons including the 1969-70 promotion success and netted 49 goals in 88 League games before being sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. An FA Cup finalist in 1974, he joined Arsenal for £333,000 in August 1976 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1978 before injury ended his career. He managed Fulham and Huddersfield Town and has since worked in the media.



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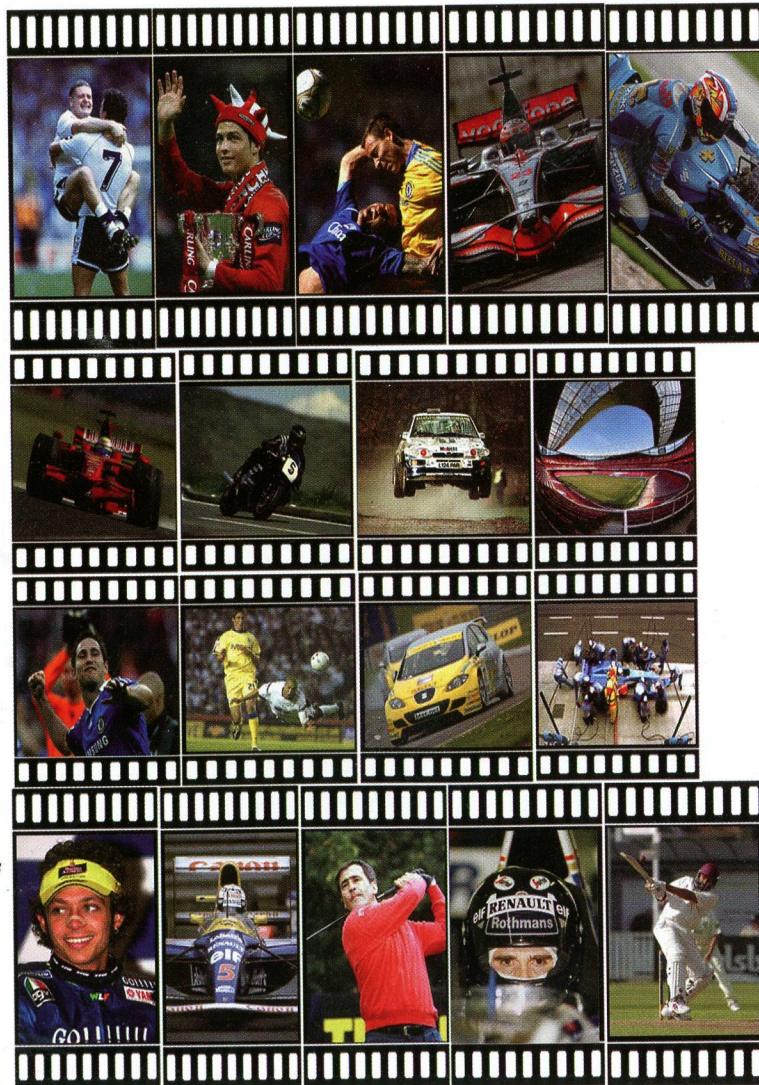
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Christmas Cheers

You really can't beat it can you? I'm talking about a home game over the Christmas / New Year festive period. Some clubs are lucky enough to be given a home tie on Boxing day and over the New Year, what more could you ask for as a Christmas bonus? Obviously, the result can either make or break your Christmas. If we win, it rounds off the festive season very nicely. On the flip-side of that, if we lose, it stuffs up your Christmas completely!

Almost everyone in football says that looking at the table at Christmas is a good gauge of how the season will pan out. Of course there's the January transfer window to look forward to but a lot view the Christmas period as a key time in the season, the half-way mark, to look at how the season has been and what needs to be done to build on the current league position.

Christmas is also the time when the treatment room begins to fill up and the squad becomes depleted by injuries.

What's even better at Christmas is that the fixture-crunching 'machine' is apparently programmed to dish-out a fixture that prevents a club from having to travel too far for the fixture. If you're really lucky, you'll be given a game against your local rivals and end up with a local derby over the yuletide – could Christmas really get any better? Imagine it, time off work, great food, great gifts, family and friends getting together, great TV [????], a home game over Christmas, victory over the neighbouring club – MERRY CHRISTMAS Indeed!!

The biggest problem with Christmas fixtures, less so nowadays than in the past has been the weather and the much anticipated Chrimbo game being postponed – Bah, Humbug, you just don't need it do you?

These days though, we rarely see snow on Christmas Day as all the Christmas cards traditionally depict. It's a fact that fewer games are called off as a consequence of bad weather over Christmas, something to do with a Global warming or damaged Boyzone layer or something like that, so they say.

Can you believe they used to have fixtures on Christmas Day itself? Yeah it's true! In Scotland, back in December 1976 the last scheduled round of league fixtures took place. However, because of the players'

reluctance to play [I wonder why?] and also the poor weather the fixtures were shifted to Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

Here in England it seems the clubs and players 'wised-up' a lot sooner than those in Scotland as the last games played on Christmas Day in England were way back in 1959, when Blackburn beat Blackpool 1-0 at home in the old First division and Coventry beat Wrexham 5-3 in the Third division.

Of course the most famous game to take place on Christmas day was that historical game between the British and German soldiers played in Armentieres in France during the truce of the First World War. This year marks the 95th Anniversary of that amazing 'fixture'. Prior to the football taking place the soldiers sang Christmas carols in the trenches of the battlefield before leaving the trenches to play a match in sub-zero temperatures in no-man's land.

It's remarkable that on Christmas Eve and days, weeks and months prior to this, these same fellas were shooting at, and trying to kill each other. They were probably exhausted, cold and hungry, but then a simple, yet beautiful game of football can change everything so drastically!

If you're reading this, then the weather hasn't taken its toll on today's game and it's going ahead as scheduled. Had it not gone ahead there was always the possibility of us doing something completely different on the pitch for the 90 minutes? That's exactly what Halifax Town FC did back in the 1962/63 season. The weather was so bad and it was the coldest winter since 1740. Most of Britain was snow covered from Boxing Day right through to March and hardly any football was being played!

Halifax Towns enterprising idea was to use their 'Shay' ground as an ice rink and opened it up to the public for ice skating. Sadly, although the club gained a small revenue from the 100's of people using the 'rink', they were still relegated to the old Fourth division. You can't blame them for trying though can you?

Here's hoping for a great Christmas prezzie today in the form of

Three 'festive' points and a push up that league table.

Let's hear your Christmas Cheer until the final whistle.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER
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IT'S the weekend of the season sent to test the loyalty of even the flask holding, ticket stub collecting supporters.

FA Trophy first round day or Christmas shopping? If it was an actual choice over being rail-roaded into it, maybe the answer would be a little different.

But last weekend many opted for the expensive yet sheltered surroundings of Brent Cross, the Trafford Centre or Westfield, skipping their team's Trophy tie to take the opportunity to score some brownie points with the family.

And it's difficult to be too judgemental. Luton Town got around about a fifth of their usual gate for the visit of Swindon Supermarine, while Wrexham and York City only just attracted four-figures. Even the lower league clubs welcoming higher level opposition struggled – Northwich's 484 for the visit of Fleetwood Town backs that up.

The problem the competition faces at this stage is that the league programme is so chocker block that many managers saw last Saturday as an ideal chance to rest some legs.



When the supporters cotton on that it's a second-string side, racing in and out of high street shops seems a more appealing prospect than the constant cold of the terraces.

Another big issue with the Trophy, and it has been for a decade, is the introduction of the play-offs in all the divisions.

If you are Mansfield manager Paul Cox and it's purely the champions that win promotion, you're 13 points adrift of the leaders and long since out of the FA Cup. The Trophy then become vital to your season. And your players know it.

Factor in the little matter of only being three points outside those all-important top five places and all of a sudden, like last season, a run to Wembley is suddenly more of a distraction.

The Stags – for the record – tumbled out at Blue Square Bet North Droylsden last weekend, watched by just 335.

An argument raised this week was to delay playing the first round until after the New Year.

When supporters have more money in their pockets and no Christmas commitments, matches in January are likely to raise bigger crowds.

And how about the FA enforce a maximum admission fee of a tenner, with all under-16s getting to watch their local club free of charge without exception in every round?

Ideas are quickly needed to get this famous Non-League competition back to its former glory.

Sam Elliott

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DAVID BRIDGES
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GEORGE TAFT
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JAIME NAVARRO
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JEAN-PAUL MARNA
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LEON MACKENZIE
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1=Paul & Penny Andrews
2=Paul & Penny Andrews
3=Paul & Penny Andrews

AWAY

1=Available
2=Available
3=Available

MARCUS KELLY
HOME

1=Gary Foreman & Sam Orbell
2=Gary Foreman & Sam Orbell
3=Gary Foreman & Sam Orbell

AWAY

1=Stronghold Security
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THANK YOU – HELEN B

Many thanks to Helen B from everyone at the Poppies for ensuring that the bars are stocked, manned and functioning; for being there late into the night when events are taking place; for never ceasing to smile through the good times and bad; and for putting up with us all in Strikers after a game. Thank you, Helen.

Yours sincerely,
Chris and William Needle

KETTERING TOWN FC – SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES 2011/2012 SEASON

EXECUTIVE MATCH SPONSORSHIP: £750 + Vat (Additional persons at £50 + vat)

Sponsors often opt to sponsor an individual match, and like to bring their clients or staff for a day of match hospitality and football, while advertising their company at the same time.

This package comprises:

Exclusive use of an Executive box for the match

Match tickets for 10 people

Reserved seats outside your executive box

Match meal for 10

Access to cash bar

Tea and coffee served in your box at half time

5 parking spaces

Match day programmes

Team sheets

Write up in the match programme (commercial section)

Your logo appears on the front cover of programme as the match sponsor

Opportunity to Select Man of the Match- announced over PA system- with your company's name

Presentation of memento after the match with Manager and Players in attendance (in Strikers bar, at present)



PROGRAMME SPONSOR: £250 + vat (additional persons @ £35 + vat)

Match tickets for 4 people

Reserved table of 4 in the North stand restaurant

Reserved seats in the North stand

Access to cash bar

2 parking spaces

Match day programmes

Team sheets

Mention in the match programme (commercial section)

Your logo appears on the front cover of programme as the programme sponsor

Presentation of a signed programme (In Strikers bar, at present)



BALL SPONSORSHIP: £250 + vat (additional persons @ £35 + vat)

Match tickets for 4

Reserved table for 4 in the North stand restaurant

Reserved seats in the North Stand

Access to cash bar

2 parking spaces

Match day programmes

Team sheets

Mention in the match programme (commercial section)

Your logo appears on the front cover of programme as the programme sponsor

Presentation of a signed memento (In the Strikers bar, at present)



KIT SPONSORSHIP:

Fans and companies have the opportunity to sponsor the playing kit of a specific player for the season.

Name or company name will appear beside the player in the match day programme, listed as the kit sponsor.

At the end of the season, they receive a shirt signed by the player they sponsor.

The shirt can be framed for a professional look at the cost of £110 (this is optional, but makes a lovely gift, and a timeless memento for the season)

Home Kit - £120

Away Kit - £100



PROGRAMME ADVERTISING:

Half season - full page: £ 400

Half season - half page: £ 200



PITCH ADVERTISING: (Each new board production cost is an additional £200 + vat)

A Prime position- behind the goal- Now only £600 + vat for remainder of the season

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WEBSITE ADVERTISING:

Your company logo on the home page of our website and can link to your website. £200 + vat (for remainder of season)

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**hot off
the press**



**Evening
Telegraph**

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy new year.

And one can only hope that 2012 is a whole lot better than 2011 for Kettering Town.

It's hard to believe that almost a year ago, the Poppies were here at Nene Park and beating Rushden & Diamonds 2-1 thanks to two goals from Iyseden Christie.

And it just shows how much things can change in the space of 365 days.

This ground is now home to Kettering, Diamonds are no more and the Poppies are now still fighting for their very existence.

It's fair to say that it has been a torrid time for the club just recently and, at the time of writing, the crisis is showing no signs of coming to an end.

Chairman Imraan Ladak has come under fire from the fans while maintaining that he is in talks with at least two parties over a potential takeover.

Former director Lee Thorn has admitted he is one of those and that his offer to take the club on remains on the table.

It does feel like a battle for power and I am sure I speak for the fans when I say I just hope this situation is resolved, one way or another, as soon as possible.

The longer this drags out, the more likely it is that the club will struggle to survive and I can't believe anyone will really want that on their conscience.

The fans are the ones who are losing out all the time and no club should be going through what Kettering are at the present moment.

Clearly, it is all having a massive impact on the on-field matters and the uncertain times have seen results dip severely.

The Poppies are fighting for survival off the pitch but they are in a massive fight to survive in the Blue Square Bet Premier and it is worryingly catching up with them at the moment.

One club that knows all about battles for survival is Luton Town, who are the visitors today.

Things have turned around impressively at Kenilworth Road and once again they are right in the shake-up for promotion.

The Poppies were poor on Boxing Day but they were up against a Hatters side that is packed with quality players for this level.

Luton will still be disappointed they didn't win by more than five in that game, they did deserve to.

But it's a new year and new game and one would hope the Poppies will have a point to prove this afternoon.

It won't be easy, far from it.

There is likely to be very little choice for Mark Stimson again and I continue to have a lot of sympathy for a manager who has conducted himself impressively during such dark times.

But hopefully whoever goes on the pitch in a red shirt will do their best to give the club and it's suffering fans something to smile about.

Jon Dunham

Chief sports writer – Northamptonshire Evening
Telegraph

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Treatment TABLE with Joe Korge



Hi everyone

With a busy winter schedule of games comes pressure on the club to keep the players we have fit. Our luck hasn't been too bad of late but we're unable to leave Kenilworth Road completely unscathed. Jerel Ifil retired from the match early in the second

half with a hamstring strain which rules him out of the game today. He's likely to be sidelined for a couple of weeks.

Recently, Stephen Meechan has struggled with a knee problem picked up against Grimsby. It's hoped he'll be ready to return today but if things don't go to plan then we won't rush him back.

I was happy to see Stephen O'Leary return last Monday after three weeks nursing ankle ligament damage. I'm sure it was a frustrating time for him but his hard work has paid off with him being able to go straight into a full match.

With squad numbers already quite low it's been important to keep the majority of the players fit for matches so we've actually been quite lucky in that sense! Hopefully we can continue with this and give you something back for the great support you have shown the team in recent weeks.

Hope you enjoy the match

Joe

[@PhysioJoeKTFC](https://twitter.com/PhysioJoeKTFC)

BLUE SQUARE BET ROUND-UP



Blue Square Bet Premier Boxing day Round Up



Blue Square Bet Premier leaders Wrexham won 2-0 at the New Bucks Head against AFC Telford United on Boxing Day to extend their unbeaten league run to thirteen matches. In front of a crowd of 4,591, Wrexham took the lead after 13 minutes through Joe Clarke when the midfielder scored from six yards after

latching onto Danny Wright's header. Telford went close to equalising as Ashley Cain's header hit the post before Richard Davies fired wide. But Jake Speight extended Wrexham's lead after 67 minutes, heading home to secure victory, while Telford went down to ten-men in injury-time when midfielder Phil Trainer (pictured) was sent-off for a second booking.



Fleetwood Town managed to secure a share of the spoils with Southport at Highbury, despite being reduced to ten-men early in the second half. Tony Gray fired the Sandgrounders into the lead on 13 minutes before Andy Mangan (pictured) equalised from the penalty spot in the 18th minute. Gray put his side back in the lead with a 50th minute effort and things went from bad to worse for Fleetwood just 5 minutes later when Jamie McGuire picked up his second card of the afternoon. However, it was substitute striker Richard Brodie who had the last say as he netted with a 88th minute effort to spare his side the blushes.



Mansfield Town recorded their 11th draw of the season as they were held at home by York City. A defensive error gifted the Stags the lead when David McGurk left his backpass short and Matt Green nipped in to round goalkeeper Michael Ingham. Green blasted wide just after the break and Linton Meikle forced a smart save from Ingham. The Minstermen levelled when Lanre Oyejobo's mis-hit shot fell to Liam Henderson (pictured) who finished well.



Struggling Kettering Town were put to the sword as Luton Town gave their fans plenty of Christmas cheer with a 5-0 hammering at Kenilworth Road. In front of a terrific crowd of 7,164, the Hatters put on a real show against the hapless Poppies, who barely troubled home keeper Kevin Pilkington (pictured) all afternoon. The beleaguered Poppies had just thirteen players available and they were thoroughly beaten to leave the club firmly in a battle to avoid the drop. Goals from Howells, O'Connor,

Lawless, Fleetwood and Willmott secured all three points for the Hatters. After the game Kettering boss Mark Stimpson told BBC radio Northampton "It could have been even worse but for Laurie Walker pulling off a couple of saves. At times it looked like men against boys. "It hurts my pride and you hope players come back on New Year's Day and put on a much better performance." There were a couple out there who don't care. That really hurts you and the quicker we can get rid of those players, it'll be so much better for this football club."



Midfielder Jack Byrne (pictured) plundered the winner as play-off chasing Kidderminster Harriers kept the pressure on the top five with a hard fought win over Forest Green Rovers at Aggborough. Byrne made it four goals in five games with a 67th minute winner which stretched Steve Burr's side's unbeaten run to nine games. Harriers had to be patient in a disjointed first half but with red-hot hitman Jamille Matt, who was subject to three bids from League Two side Northampton, in good form they always looked capable of scoring.



Michael Gash (pictured) set Cambridge United on their way as they claimed their first league win since early November against Braintree Town at the R Costings Abbey Stadium. Ashley Carew went close with a 20-yard free-kick early on before James Jennings shot wide from similar distance. But Gash blasted home from just inside the area on 32 minutes after beating the offside trap to pounce on a long pass from Jennings. Luke Berry doubled United's lead on 58 minutes with a low finish after connecting with Marriott's pull back. Gash, Josh Coulson and Berry could all have added to the hosts' tally in the latter stages before O'Connor was dismissed in stoppage time after collecting a second booking.



Gateshead were denied all three points by Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's (pictured) late equaliser in a closely-fought north east derby against Darlington at the International Stadium. Gateshead had gone ahead through Martin Brittain's finely-taken free-kick in the 53rd minute. That looked to be enough before Chris Carruthers was sent-off for a foul on Bridge-Wilkinson inside the box 8 minutes from time. The former Carlisle man stepped up to convert the resulting spot-kick and seal a share of the points.

Struggling Stockport County's winless run was extended to nine league games, as Phil Bolland's (pictured) header



handed Barrow AFC all three points. Sean McConville tested home keeper Danny Hurst's reactions early on. Visiting custodian Matt Glennon was forced into fine saves by Paul Rutherford and Andy Cook before Bolland headed home from Richie Baker's corner just before half-time.

Hurst then saved well from Ryan Fraughan and Danny Rowe as the Hatters searched in vain for a leveller. County have now gone 481 minutes without a goal.

Grimsby Town clawed their way back from one goal down to see off the challenge of Lincoln City at Sincil Bank. The Imps drew first blood when Conal Platt (pictured) found the back of the net in the 33rd minute, but goals from Scott Garner after 52 minutes and Liam Hearn just past the hour-mark sealed the result in favour of the visitors.



Ebbsfleet United further distanced themselves from the relegation places with a 3-1 victory over Hayes & Yeading United at Stonebridge Road. Michael West put the home side ahead on 42 minutes before a brace from Tom Phipp (pictured) on 51 and 61 minutes put them firmly in the driving seat. Tom Collins managed to pull one back for the visitors 10 minutes from time but it was a case of too little, too late as the hosts cruised to a comfortable victory.

Other News

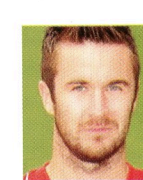


It was a sad day in North Wales on Tuesday when one of the most well known grounds in Non league football hosted its final game. It has seen European footballing giants felled and trophies galore, but now the last game has been played at Bangor City's Farrar Road stadium. A ground that Tamworth visited in their Northern Premier Division days, saw City sign off in style, beating Welsh Premier rivals Prestatyn 5-3 in the ground's farewell clash in front of over 2,500 spectators. After nearly a century, the Citizens are moving a few miles away to the club's new home at Nantporth on the Menai Strait. The stadium site is being redeveloped and turned into a supermarket. Probably the most famous game played there was in September 1962. Italian side AC Napoli, at the height of their European dominance, were drawn against lowly Bangor City in the European Cup Winner's Cup. But the Italians' trip to Farrar Road did not go to plan. They lost 2-0 to the part-timers, who

lay sixth in the then Cheshire League, and Bangor City became the first club in Wales to win in Europe. A second leg in Italy saw Bangor beaten, but only just, say the fans, with a 3-1 scoreline. Under today's scoring system, that away goal would have seen Bangor progress to the next round. Instead, there was a replay at Arsenal's ground in London - and a 2-1 defeat for the Citizens. But it was not the final foray into European football for the club, or Farrar Road. 1985 saw Atletico Madrid, still one of the biggest clubs in the game, make their way to North Wales. This time there were no shocks as the Spanish outfit won 2 - 0

Ebbsfleet United club director Jessica McQueen says that playing staff are unlikely to be sold to cut costs at the Blue Square Bet Premier club. However, Fleet have admitted that a sum of £50,000 must be generated before the end of the current campaign, and have appealed for investment. "We're looking at every way we can to save money," McQueen told BBC Kent. "The last thing we want to do is look at the team, which everyone thinks is the instant quick fix," she added. "We're up to date with National Insurance, PAYE and VAT, so we are not in a dreadful position. "But, as soon as the quality of football goes down, so do the gates." On the pitch, Liam Daish's side, 16th in the Blue Square Bet Premier, have the 17th lowest average attendance in the division following the Boxing Day round of fixtures.

"Our gates are down, mainly because of the amount of home matches that have been scheduled for a Tuesday evening," said McQueen. "Our advertising and promotions are also below the line we had hoped for and I can tell you it is not for the want of trying. "Solutions need to be found to provide £50,000 between now and the end of the season. It's going to be a tall order." Fleet are owned by members of a website called MyFootballClub, in which fans have bought shares to raise funds.



Midfielder Josh O'Keefe (pictured) and defender Adam Watts have left Lincoln City by mutual consent. O'Keefe and Watts, who are both 23, were signed during Chris Sutton's reign as manager but had recently been made available for loan by current Imps boss David Holdsworth. He told BBC Lincolnshire: "They're good lads but their futures are elsewhere. "It's all about the bigger picture. Sometimes you have to step back to take a step forward." O'Keefe, who signed a new two-year deal in May 2010, made 51 appearances for the Imps while former Fulham man Watts played 55 times for the club. But the pair had fallen out of favour with Holdsworth and both are understood to have rejected loan moves to Blue Square Bet North clubs in the week before Christmas, to the frustration of the Lincoln manager. Holdsworth added: "It's about taking the club forward and we must deal with it that pragmatically and bring competition in places where we need it. "We need a strong backbone and I'm looking to develop that and you have to make changes sometimes."



PREMIER REVIEW THE HALFWAY POINT



As we begin another brand New Year we look back and at how all the clubs in the Blue Square Bet Premier Division have fared, up until the end of Boxing Day, with Dan Jennings.

Alfreton Town. Played: 26. Points: 21. Position: 22nd

The Reds have struggled since last season's promotion, conceding more goals than anyone else in the division at this stage – 57. They are only one point from safety though, so there is still hope. Fans will hope to see Nathan Jarman get more game time; the summer signing from Corby Town has scored six league goals so far but mustered just eight starts.



AFC Telford United. Played: 26. Points: 24. Position: 18th

The Bucks have taken to this level in a steady fashion knocking about in mid-table. The double header with Wrexham on Boxing Day and New Year's Day could decide whether they push up the table or get dragged towards the bottom. Andy Sinton also wants a good run in the F.A. Trophy after beating Nuneaton 2-0 a couple of weeks ago.



Barrow. Played: 25. Points: 38. Position: 10th

The Bluebirds have turned Holker Street into a little fortress. After being involved in relegation battles the last few seasons they are currently sitting pretty in the top half. If they hang onto Adam Boyes, scorer of 16 goals in 22 matches so far this term, in the January market they can continue to look upwards rather than down.



Bath City. Played: 25. Points: 14. Position: 24th

The part-timers had great expectations for this season but maybe they were punching above their weight last campaign. Things are looking bleak at Twerton Park but Adie Britton still keeps faith. They are currently eight points behind 20th placed Kettering Town so a win at home to Newport County tomorrow could spark a mid-season revival.



Braintree Town. Played: 26. Points: 34. Position: 14th

Alan Devonshire's outfit got off to a great start. A 5-0 home win over Grimsby made the rest of the division sit up and take notice. They took last season's momentum into this campaign climbing into the play-off places. The wheels have slowly fallen off the bandwagon; expect the Iron to continue their current slide down the table.



Cambridge United. Played: 25. Points: 43. Position: 7th

Jez George's young side have really come to fruition this season. For a number of years the U's have finished in mid-table

anonymity but, playing some great football this season, are still rightly amongst the chasing pack. They have conceded just 21 goals while wingers Ashley Carew and Harrison Dunk remain key to provide them with goals.

Darlington. Played: 26. Points: 37. Position: 12th

Having sacked manager Mark Cooper at the end of October, the Quakers have seen a steady rise under Craig Liddle's stewardship. Liddle has put faith in last season's talisman Mark Bridge-Wilkinson who has been pulling the strings in the midfield once again. Under the recent resurgence fans will hope it's not too late for a play-off charge.



Ebbw Vale United. Played: 27. Points: 31. Position: 16th

The Fleet have been doing a steady job since their return to this level without setting the World alight. In Liam Daish they have a manager who has instilled a winning mentality. In Ian Simpember, Ram Marwa and Calum Willock the team has a strong backbone and should remain comfortably away from the drop zone.



Fleetwood Town. Played: 25. Points: 54. Position: 2nd

What a first half of the season it has been for Fleetwood Town. Handily placed in the table and a third round home FA Cup tie with neighbours Blackpool to look forward too things could hardly have gone any better for them. They have remained neck-and-neck with leaders Wrexham all season. Micky Mellon is confident of hanging onto highly rated Jamie Vardy in the transfer window. Expect the Cod Army to splash out in January looking to launch a big push for the title.



Forest Green Rovers. Played: 26. Points: 37. Position: 11th

The Green Army have been a bit of a surprise package this season. They have proved difficult to beat with just seven losses to date and are currently part of the play-off chasing pack, eight points behind fifth-placed Luton Town. If Reece Styche can return from his knee injury earlier than expected they could have a revitalised charge.



Gateshead. Played: 25. Points: 41. Position: 8th

The Heed were surprise early season leaders, going unbeaten in their first seven matches. They have since had a bit of a slide but regrouped in recent weeks and still sit one place outside the play-off spots. Jon Shaw will be looking to add to his 16 league goals so far and Ian Bogie's men will be there or thereabouts come April.



Grimsby Town. Played: 25. Points: 35.

Position: 13th

It's never good when managers get more publicity than the players. Duo Rob Scott and Paul Hurst have been in the limelight following lacklustre displays and even ranting at their own fans. Fourteen points clear of the drop zone but ten short of the play-offs; it's looking like another frustrating mid-table finish for the Mariners.

Hayes & Yeading United. Played: 26.

Points: 21. Position: 21st

Despite having talented individuals, such as Louie Soares, United have struggled to gel as a team. Playing at Woking's Kingfield Stadium hasn't helped; regularly getting more away fans than home fans through the gates. To escape trouble, Nas Bashir needs to forget the transfer window and get the players he has at his disposal playing for each other.



Kettering Town. Played: 26. Points: 22.

Position: 20th

Without a win since October, the Poppies have slid down the table. Hitting the headlines with players fighting over penalties and being forced to transfer list the whole squad has left boss Mark Stimson embarrassed. The Christmas double-header with Luton could push them even further down the table.



Kidderminster Harriers. Played: 25.

Points: 45. Position: 6th

Steve Burr's men have stuttered through their season so far having scored, and conceded, goals for fun. They are still in a good position and the form of Jamille Matt will give supporters hope. They will be looking for a maximum return from the Forest Green Rovers double-header to keep within touching distance come the New Year.



Lincoln City. Played: 26. Points: 26.

Position: 17th

Lincoln have really struggled to come to grips with life in the Blue Square Bet Premier, just three points above the relegation places with a tricky run of games to come. Winger Gavin McCallum is currently on loan to Barnet until January and the Imps best chance of pulling clear of the drop zone is getting him back until the end of the season.



Luton Town. Played: 25. Points: 45. Position: 5th

The pre-season favourites have lost just four times, but in big games - Wrexham, Cambridge and Fleetwood at home and away at York. They failed in an attempt to sign Gateshead's Jon Shaw but made a statement sealing hit-man Stuart Fleetwood's signature. The Hatters might spend big again in January in one last big push for promotion.



Mansfield Town. Played: 25. Points: 38.

Position: 9th

The Stags are another team crammed into the pack just below the play-offs. Louis Briscoe has returned from injury and will be looking to strike a good partnership with powerhouse Matt Green, the in-



form forward on loan from Oxford United. The Stags face a tough trip to York City this afternoon and it will give Paul Cox's men a great chance to close the gap.

Newport County. Played: 25. Points: 22. Position: 19th

The Exiles have recently found that winning habit again and clawed themselves out of the bottom four. With the Boxing Day home game against Bath City called off they travel to Twerton Park tomorrow evening for what will be a crucial game. Midfielder Danny Rose has attracted interest from Crystal Palace but Justin Edinburgh will be desperate not to lose him.



Southport. Played: 26. Points: 48. Position: 3rd

The Sandgrounders have shocked everyone so far this campaign. Their form away from Haig Avenue, eight wins from 12, and Tony Gray's 12 goals have fired them into the play-off spots largely unnoticed. Liam Watson's side now face Mansfield, Fleetwood twice, Cambridge and Luton – a true test of character if they are to stick the pace.



Stockport County. Played: 26. Points: 20. Position: 23rd

County are experiencing a mighty fall from grace. The board quickly decided Dietmar Hamann wasn't the man to get them back into the football league and Jim Gannon now faces a huge task just to keep them afloat. Having won only three games all season they must find the winning habit soon.



Tamworth. Played: 24. Points: 33. Position: 15th

Marcus Law found his side flying high in August and September. Since then they have drifted into mid-table obscurity. Their home form should see them safe but they now face a vital home game this afternoon against Alfreton Town who hit five past them on Boxing Day. The Lambs have a trip to Everton's Goodison Park in the F.A. Cup to look forward to at the turn of the year and they will be hoping this helps turn around their league form.



Wrexham. Played: 25. Points: 56. Position: 1st

The Dragons have overcome a lot of off-the-field troubles and played superbly on it. Losing striker Andy Mangan made experts doubt the Reds' credentials but they have been pulling goals from all sources and defending astutely with 15 clean sheets to date. Getting to the 50 point mark first is a boost and they must now push on from here.



York City. Played: 26. Points: 45. Position: 4th

The Minstermen men have been scoring freely and Gary Mills will be keen to hang on to leading marksmen Jason Walker in January. Jamie Reed has rediscovered his goal-scoring touch of late while Ashley Chambers has also chipped in from midfield. Lurking menacingly behind the top two, automatic promotion is still in their sights.



Commercial Update

Today's Match Sponsor – JOHNSTONES DECORATING CENTRE

Kettering Town Football Club is delighted to welcome sponsors Johnstone's decorating centre as match sponsors for today's game, Johnstones decorating centre will offer on production of todays programme a discount to all Poppies fans. Please welcome Manager Steve Wright and his staff by taking up this fantastic deal by going along to see what they have to offer. Please see programme ad for further details. Subject to terms and conditions.

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

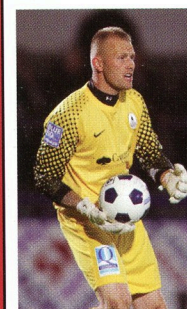
On the ROAD...



AFC TELFORD UNITED

This coming Saturday 7 th January we will be hitting the road for our first away game of the New Year when we will be making the shortish trip to Shropshire to take on newcomers AFC Telford United in the Blue Square Bet Premier Division at their magnificent New Bucks Stadium ground.

The Bucks are back in the Blue Square Bet Premier Division for the first time since the club re-formed



having won promotion at the end of last season via the play-offs. They have made a steady in unspectacular start to life in the higher sphere and before the Boxing Day games were just two points ahead of ourselves.

A quick look at the results and their goals form column will soon tell you that they are not the most prolific of goalscorers, in fact just Lincoln City and bottom of the table, Bath City, have scored less goals than Telford United have this season and they haven't scored more than two goals in any league game this season (hope that's not the kiss of death for this Saturday!). Their leading goalscorer is Chris Sharp with just four and he is the son of the former Everton star striker Graham.

From their opening twelve home league games this season they won four, drew four and lost four but have scored just ten goals, although conceded just twelve.

Their victories have come against Newport County (2-1), Bath City (2-1) Alfreton Town (1-0) and Barrow (1-0) while games have ended all square against Stockport County (1-1), Hayes & Yeading United (1-1), Mansfield Town and York City both ending in goalless draws. Defeats have been suffered against Lincoln City (1-2), Luton Town (0-2), Ebbsfleet United (0-2) and Gateshead (1-2)

This will be the first meeting of the two teams since season 2007/2008 when we were both competing in the Conference North as it was called then. The Poppies as you will no doubt remember won the league by a staggering seventeen points, ahead of the runners up who were AFC Telford United. We managed to record a league double over them that season as well winning 3-

0 at home and 1-0 away, how we would love that to happen this season.

As you can see AFC Telford United are a difficult side to beat but if we are to have any hope of climbing back up in the league table then we must go there on Saturday, be positive, and look to bring back the three points.

For anyone who is thinking of travelling to the game we have the following simple ground directions

Head up the A14 to join the M6 North leaving this motorway to join the M42N. Leave the M42N at junction 9 to join the M6 TOLL and then leave the toll road at junction T8 then merge onto the A460 signposted M6 South and Wolverhampton, then take the third exit onto the A460. At next roundabout take the 3rd exit and join the M54 eventually leaving the M54 at junction 6. Take the third exit onto the A5223 and at the next roundabout take the 2nd exit and continue on the same road. At Ketley Brook roundabout take the first exit into Bennetts Bank B5061 and then right at the traffic light and then right into the ground.

The journey is approximately 97 miles and you should allow yourselves a couple of hours.

We hope to see a large turn out of Kettering fans for the game, cheering the lads on to what we hope will be a much needed victory.





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League STATISTICS...

**BLUE SQUARE BET
PREMIER**

AS AT 26-12-2011

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wrexham	25	17	5	3	43	16	56
Fleetwood Town	25	16	6	3	51	30	54
Southport	26	14	6	6	43	39	48
York City	26	12	9	5	52	26	45
Luton Town	25	12	9	4	47	24	45
Kidderminster Harriers	25	13	6	6	48	36	45
Cambridge United	25	11	10	4	33	21	43
Gateshead	25	11	8	6	39	36	41
Mansfield Town	25	9	11	5	38	30	38
Barrow	25	11	5	9	37	35	38
Forest Green Rovers	26	9	10	7	38	26	37
Darlington	26	10	7	9	28	29	37
Grimsby Town	25	10	5	10	43	39	35
Braintree Town	26	10	4	12	43	47	34
Tamworth	24	9	6	9	30	34	33
Ebbsfleet United	27	7	10	10	39	42	31
Lincoln City	26	7	5	14	25	36	26
AFC Telford United	26	5	9	12	25	36	24
Newport County	25	5	7	13	30	37	22
Kettering Town	26	5	7	14	27	55	22
Hayes & Yeading United	26	5	6	15	36	55	21
Alfreton Town	26	5	6	15	31	57	21
Stockport County	26	3	11	12	26	43	20
Bath City	25	2	8	15	24	47	14

Blue Square Bet Premier Division FIXTURES

Today

Darlington v Gateshead
Braintree Town v Cambridge United
Forest Green Rovers v Kidderminster Harriers
Grimsby Town v Lincoln City
Hayes & Yeading United v Ebbsfleet United
Kettering Town v Luton Town
Southport v Fleetwood Town
Stockport County v Barrow
Tamworth v Alfreton Town
Wrexham v AFC Telford United
York City v Mansfield Town

Tuesday 03 January

Bath City v Newport County

Thursday 05 January

Cambridge United v Southport

Saturday 07 January

AFC Telford United v Kettering Town
Alfreton Town v Grimsby Town
Barrow v Darlington
Bath City v Braintree Town
Gateshead v Stockport County
Kidderminster Harriers v Hayes & Yeading United
Lincoln City v York City
Luton Town v Newport County
Mansfield Town v Forest Green Rovers

FA Cup, with Budweiser, Third Round

Brighton & Hove Albion v Wrexham
Everton v Tamworth
Fleetwood Town v Blackpool

Tuesday 10 January

Cambridge United v Grimsby Town
Fleetwood Town v Barrow
Gateshead v Kidderminster Harriers
Luton Town v Stockport County

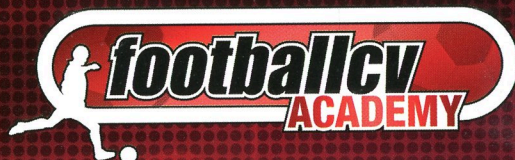
Top Scorers

Player	Goals	Pens	Total
Shaw (Gateshead)	14	4	18
Hearn (Grimsby Town)	16	0	16
Walker (York City)	13	2	15
Gray T (Southport)	13	1	14
Green (Mansfield Town)	12	2	14
Vardy (Fleetwood Town)	13	0	13
Willock (Ebbsfleet United)	11	2	13
Boyes (Barrow)	11	1	12
Soares (Hayes & Yeading)	8	4	12
Rose (Newport County)	9	2	11
Speight (Wrexham)	7	3	10
Christie (Tamworth)	3	6	9
Cook (Barrow)	9	0	9
Mangan (Fleetwood Town)	7	2	9
Morgan-Smith (Luton Town)	9	0	9
Wright (Braintree Town)	7	2	9
Chambers (York City)	8	0	8
Elding (Grimsby Town)	7	1	8
Klukowski (Forest Green Rovers)	6	2	8
Marks (Braintree Town)	8	0	8

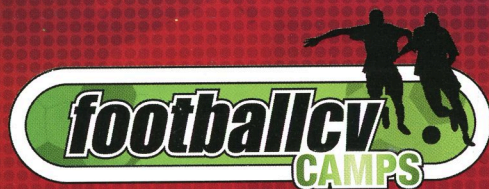
Table includes league goals only



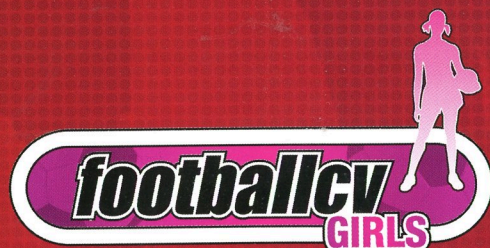
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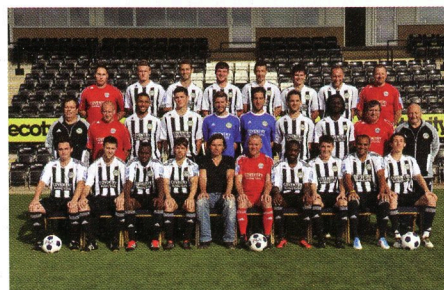
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Coming up NEXT AT...



FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Dateline	Saturday 14 January 2012
Kick-Off	3.00pm
Match	Kettering Town versus Forest Green Rovers
Competition	Blue Square Bet Premier Division



Our next home will now take place a week this coming Saturday when Forest Green Rovers will be our visitors in a re-arranged Blue Square Bet Premier Division fixture. The game originally was due to played on Tuesday 7th February but because both teams involvement in the FA Trophy came to an end at the first hurdle it was agreed to bring the game forward.

I think its fair to say that Forest Green have been one of the surprise teams of the season playing a brand of attacking football that has seen them score a number of goals both home and away. They hit six at Alfreton Town on the second Saturday of the season and five at Braintree Town in November and they are a side capable of scoring goals throughout the side. After a first month in which their highly rated striker, Reece Styche, had scored six goals, he suffered a huge blow when a knee injury ruled him out for the rest of the campaign but Rovers have still managed to score goals without him.



Before their Boxing Day game at Kidderminster Harriers, Rovers had only lost once on the road in the league this season, when they went down to a surprising 2-0 defeat ay Hayes & Yeading United but they have managed to gain

excellent results at the likes of Luton Town, Fleetwood Town, Southport and Cambridge United.

Manager David Hockaday is in his second full season with the Club and has received fantastic backing by Chairman, Dale Vince, as they look to build for the future, and have recently applied to join the Football Club such is the ambition of the club. If their home record had been half as good as their away form this season Rovers would now be sitting in a play-off spot but at The New Lawn they have flattered to deceive on a number of occasions and back in October we managed to pull off a 1-0 victory down there, so we will have a rare opportunity to try and record a 'league-double' this season.



Jake Thomson is currently on loan with Rovers and a decision is expected on his future shortly. Thomson is a talented player who has also fitted in at centre-half a couple of times, during his loan spell, although he is obviously more suited to midfield. On his day though Jake is a match-winner but Rovers will have a few in their ranks who will need careful watching. Striker, Matty Taylor, as plucked from lower league football this season, and he responded by scoring a hat-trick in the 4-1 home win Alfreton Town while midfielder, Yan Klukowski is currently the leading goalscorer with eight goals to his name. James Bittner has reclaimed his spot in between the posts after losing it at the beginning of the season to Matt Bulman and then later on to Jonathan Bond while captain and right back Jared Hodgkiss has enjoyed a consistent season.

Rovers are an attractive this season and it should be an excellent game when the two teams meet a week on Saturday.

Make sure you don't miss it!!

THE SQUADS

MANAGER

MARK STIMSON

COLOURS

Shirts: Red, White & Black
Shorts: Red
Socks: Black

MANAGER

GARY BRABIN

COLOURS

Shirts: White
Shorts: White
Socks: White

KETTERING TOWN

2.	PHIL IFIL	■
3.	SOL DAVIS	■
5.	DJOUMIN SANGARE	■
6.	JEREL IFIL	■
9.	CRAIG DOBSON	■
12.	LAURIE WALKER	■
14.	LEON MCKENZIE	■
16.	STEVEN MEECHAM	■
20.	DAVID BRIDGES	■
22.	JAIME NAVARRO	■
23.	PATRICK NOUBISSIE	■
29.	JORDAN CROSS	■
30.	KIERNAN HUGHES-MASON	■
32.	MARK PRYOR	■
33.	STEPHEN O'LEARY	■
34.	JOSH DAWKIN	■
38.	OLLIE JONES	■
39.	ROBBIE DANCE	■

1.	MARK TYLER	■
2.	DANIEL GLEESON	■
3.	GREG TAYLOR	■
4.	KEITH KEANE	■
5.	DEAN BECKWITH	■
6.	GEORGE PILKINGTON	■
7.	ALEX LAWLESS	■
8.	AMARI MORGAN-SMITH	■
9.	MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER	■
10.	DANNY CROW	■
11.	ROBBIE WILLMOTT	■
12.	SHANE BLACKETT	■
13.	STUART FLEETWOOD	■
14.	AARON O'CONNOR	■
15.	JAKE HOWELLS	■
16.	ED ASAFU-ADJAYE	■
17.	WILL ANTWI	■
18.	CURTIS OSANO	■
19.	JAMES DANCE	■
20.	JOHN KISSOCK	■
21.	CHARLIE HENRY	■
22.	PAUL CARDEN	■
24.	ALEX LACEY	■
26.	JONATHAN O'DONNELL	■
27.	JAMIE HAND	■
28.	ADAM WATKINS	■
30.	KEVIN PILKINGTON	■
31.	LEWIS KIDD	■
39.	JANOS KOVACS	■

LUTON TOWN

MATCH OFFICIALS

Ref: MR. N. KINSELEY

Assistant: MR. A. BARNEY

Assistant: MR. G. TAYLOR

4th Official: MR. R. HODGES

NEXT UP AT NENE PARK

FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Saturday 14th January 2012, 3.00pm

Blue Square Bet Premier Division