

TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB • ISSUE 19 • £3

LUTON TOWN v NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY 2012 - 3PM



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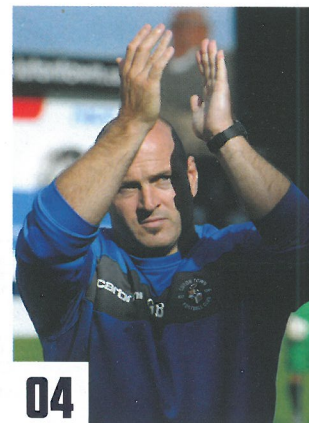


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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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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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BRABS

Happy New Year and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this afternoon's Blue Square Bet Premier meeting with Newport County AFC.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to Justin Edinburgh and his staff plus his players and the directors and supporters of the Exiles. Since Justin took over in October he has lifted the team out of the relegation zone so we know the improvement they have made after a surprisingly indifferent start to the season.

Newport lost 3-2 to Bath City on Tuesday night so I am expecting a reaction from our visitors this afternoon. There is no way Justin will want to lose a second away game in four days so we might have to be patient in our approach today.

Whereas Newport come into this game disappointed after a defeat we enter the match full of confidence after a successful Christmas and New Year period that saw us take maximum points from two games against Kettering.

A lot has been made of Kettering's problems over the last month but the fact remains that they still have a lot of talented players in their side. Their goalkeeper was outstanding in both matches while the likes of Sol Davis, David Bridges and John-Paul Marna are players with plenty of ability.

Their confidence is probably at its lowest and while we knew we were taking on a squad low on numbers, we still had to do a job and to do it in the manner in which we did was fantastic.

While you cannot argue with 10 goals scored and none conceded, as a manager you are always nit-picking and always want better. In truth, it could and should have been.

Missing a penalty again in the home match on Boxing Day was probably the most frustrating because we seem incapable of shaking that particular monkey off of our back. To miss six times from 12 yards in the first half of the season is simply unacceptable. Obviously it's not something the players are doing on purpose and, despite some opinion to the contrary, the lads do practise penalties. It goes without saying that it's something that we need to work on and hopefully that will be the last time it happens.

They say a manager should only start worrying when his team aren't creating chances and given the amount of chances we made in both games, I was very satisfied. In the New Year's Day game at Nene Park we hit the woodwork five times. That's a pretty unbelievable – and frustrating! – statistic.

That match marked the start of a New Year and all I hope in the year ahead is that we are successful. Success would be defined by promotion back to the Football League. As the league table stands we are 11 points off the top of the table which is, admittedly a big but not insurmountable gap.

We just need to believe we can do it. I do, the players do, my staff do and so does everyone behind the scenes. Confidence and consistency is the key and I am excited by the challenge we face in the second half of the season.

Your support was magnificent in 2011. 2012 begun with 2,000 of you travelling to Nene Park to make up a crowd of 3,500, which is absolutely astounding.

Keep with us and keep the faith and enjoy today's game.

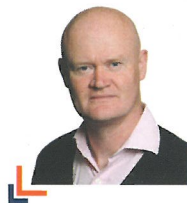



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FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID BLAKEMAN



A big welcome to today's game and to the players, coaches and fans of Newport County AFC.

Our visitors are currently stuck at the wrong end of the table and come to us following three successive defeats – albeit very narrow ones.

That isn't a position Newport will wish to persist for very long. They will be very keen to get a decent result from this afternoon's game and to avenge our narrow 1-0 victory earlier in the season.

Their task won't be rendered easier by the departure of Danny Rose (their top scorer) to Fleetwood Town, but their defensive record is good and their goal difference is easily the best of the relegation-threatened teams.

Conversely, we are on a three match winning run in the Blue Square Bet Premier. The excellent back-to-back victories over Kettering have lifted us into third place in the table and we are very confident that we can start narrowing the gap further in the next few weeks.

Clearly, a win today is crucial in terms of those ambitions. To have won our last game 5-0, away from home, is, to my mind, an excellent auger and

the revised formation the team has adopted in recent weeks seems to suit the players very well.

The away support we had at Kettering was amazing and played, I felt, a significant part in our victory. Please continue to encourage the team once more this afternoon.

I was also impressed with the fact that we gave Sol Davis, one of our former stalwarts, such generous applause on his leaving the pitch. He clearly appreciated the gesture very much.

Talking of crowds, I have been investigating, in fact, our gates and comparing them with other teams around the country. The results of this piece of research are really interesting.

Our average attendance, for the last full league season, was 6,941. That is, of course, amazing for a non-league side and easily the highest in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

Even more amazing, however, is that it is only about 1,000 less than the attendances we secured for the 1988 season (8,039), when we came ninth in what is now the Premier League. Put another way, our average for last season is 86.3% of the average for 1988.



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

Conversely, Newcastle United could only manage a measly 35.2% of their current season's support in 1991 when they flirted with relegation from the old Division 2 (16,834 in 1991 and 47,712 for this season).

One dreads to think what crowds they'd have got had they dropped to Division 5! In fact, their north eastern rivals, Middlesbrough, probably give the answer. Their crowds fell to 5,135 in 1985, but they averaged about 30,000 in their seasons in the Premier League – that's 17%!

If one looks at the record of Wolves and Cardiff City – other big clubs who have fallen, in relatively recent years, down the League ladder – the situation is similar: thus Cardiff 3,420 in 1996 and 23,194 this season (14.7%); and Wolves 4,020 in 1986 and 27,925 (14.3%).

Hopefully I haven't bored you with all these statistics but what they show, incredibly clearly, I think, is that our support is demonstrably the most loyal of any club in the country. There's no other club who come near to retaining such an extraordinary percentage of support.

We very much realise and thank our supporters for their incredible commitment and we feel that that support is crucial to our future. A very big thank you to all of you who continue to provide us with that backing.

On other fronts, we are continuing our research into a possible new stadium and have a series of initiatives under way in respect of community projects. I shall write in greater detail about both in future programme notes.

Enjoy the game and let's hope we win again!

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PILKS

What a great ending to 2011 and start to 2012 we've had. Back-to-back 5-0 victories against Kettering have lifted us to third in the table and a position which sets us up to attack the top two in the second half of the season.

Admittedly, given Kettering's problems, you can imagine we aren't getting too carried away with the results but – and this is a big but – the way in which we've performed and the confidence we have taken from these fixtures has been massive.

The 3-1 win at Tamworth was a real turning point for us. They'd only lost once at home all season at their place – at a ground in which we have struggled in recent seasons. We knew we had to build on that result in the games against Kettering and we've done that in emphatic style.

The margin of victory in both games should have been more and that's the only disappointment which says a lot. I lost count of the amount of times we hit the post or the bar in both games.

We even missed another penalty in the game on Boxing Day when Aaron struck the bar. I think us defenders might have to have a go soon at this rate! But seriously, a lot of people ask me if we practise penalties given our record this season and the answer, of course, is that we do. I have every confidence in whoever steps up from 12 yards.

This afternoon we welcome Newport County AFC to Kenilworth Road as we look to improve our home form. We've been hugely disappointed with our form here with defeats to Fleetwood, Wrexham and Cambridge incredibly painful. You only have to look at the table to see the effects those defeats have had to realise why we need to pick up.

Taking the confidence from the victories gained in recent weeks is vital if we're to go on a winning run that gets us on the coat-tails of the top two. The New Year's Day win was our third on the bounce –

only the second time we've recorded three consecutive wins. We've yet to record four on the trot but know today's game isn't going to be easy.

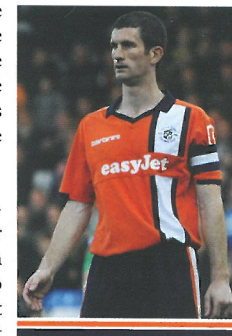
We ground out a last-gasp 1-0 win over Newport back in November thanks to Danny Crow's goal. At the time we thought that could be the turning point in our season only for us to draw disappointingly in the following game at home to AFC Telford.

Justin Edinburgh is a good manager and they have some very good players. They are bound to be hurting from a defeat in midweek against Bath and while that result may suggest we are strong favourites this afternoon we need to guard against complacency. Furthermore, we need to be patient. Remember we didn't score against Kettering at home until around the half-an-hour mark. Playing at Kenilworth Road against teams battling for survival are actually probably the toughest.

Today is the first of four home matches this month and we need to take advantage of playing here at Kenilworth Road. Your support has been terrific and as players we really do appreciate it.

The Manager doesn't usually talk about outside influences in his team-talks, but he did so on New Year's Day when over 2,000 outnumbered the Kettering supporters. We know that times this season we have let you down but we're hoping 2012 can be the year that we're all celebrating.

Enjoy the game.



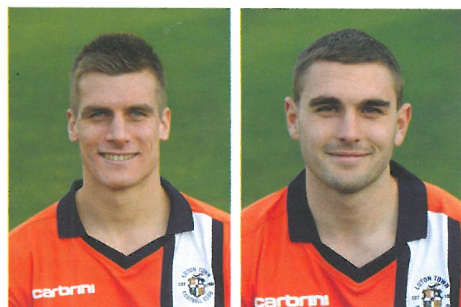
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AROUND TOWN

■ DUO'S LOANS TURN PERMANENT

The Hatters confirmed earlier this week that defenders Janos Kovacs and Greg Taylor have completed their permanent moves to Kenilworth Road.



Both have put pen to paper on contracts to keep them at Kenilworth Road until June 2013.

Taylor, 21, who made his debut in the 1-1 at Cambridge in November, netted his first goal in Town colours in the New Year's Day win over Kettering.

Hatters boss Gary Brabin told Talk of the Town: "Greg has already shown in the short time he's been here what a real competitor he is. "As I said when he joined, he's a young lad who is ready for us now. He's got a real energy and that ability to get up and down the pitch. His performances in the last two games against Kettering have been superb and long may it continue."

Hungarian Kovacs – who also netted in the 5-0 win on 1st January – originally joined the Town on-loan from Hereford in September and has since forged a superb understanding at centre-back with skipper George Pilkington.

Janos has made 19 appearance this season, picked up two monthly diamond season ticket holder awards and has scored two goals.

And Brabin was thrilled to secure the long-term future of the defender following his release from Hereford.

"Janos has been a rock at the back for us since joined us again," he said. "His performances have been fantastic and he has had an unbelievably positive effect on the team on and off the pitch. He was happy to commit his future to this football club two months ago and I'm pleased that we've been able to keep him. He loves it here and we love having Janos. His performance at Kettering epitomised everything about him."

■ DUO DEPART

Meanwhile the Hatters said goodbye to Matthew Barnes-Homer and Will Antwi last week.

The Town confirmed striker Barnes-Homer's departure on New Year's Day after having his contract terminated by mutual consent. He had been on-loan at League 1 side Rochdale this season where he made six appearances.

The 25-year-old made one appearance for the Town this season - his 81st for the club - and scored 23 goals since moving from Kidderminster Harriers in 2009.

Meanwhile centre-half Will Antwi left Kenilworth Road on 2nd January following the expiry of his contract. The 29-year-old joined the Hatters in the summer following his release from Dagenham and

Redbridge and scored twice in 12 matches - including a vital equaliser in the 1-1 draw at Mansfield Town in August.

However, following the return to fitness of George Pilkington and the arrival of Janos Kovacs, Antwi found first team opportunities limited and he signed on loan for Grimsby Town in November.

■ GET VOTING YOU DIAMONDS!

One of the benefits of being a diamond season ticket holder at Kenilworth Road is being able to vote for your player of the month.

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 in the Kenilworth Road changing rooms before a home game.

Voting for December is almost up - you have until 11.59pm on 9th January to cast your vote via email. Please refer to the letter sent out by the ticket office for this email address.

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, a training day experience.

Centre-back Janos Kovacs won the November award and is pictured receiving his trophy from Tommy Lennon in the Eric Morecambe lounge after the 5-0 Boxing Day win over Kettering. It was the second time the big Hungarian had the scooped the prize.

For further information on diamond season tickets please contact the ticket office.

■ BOXING DAY GOLDEN GAMBLE

The winner of our Golden Gamble against Kettering went home even happier after the 5-0 win after picking up a bumper £715. Paul Morlan walked away with the prize after his ticket number 19786 was plucked out of the barrel at half-time.

Look out for our sellers around the ground today. Tickets cost £1 with half the cost of a ticket directly helping the club.

■ HATTERS SPREAD FESTIVE CHEER

The Town first team squad and management made their annual trip to the childrens' ward at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital before Christmas.

The players signed autographs, posed for photographs and gave out presents donated by the club.



■ REST IN PEACE

The Hatters were saddened to hear of the death of long-standing supporter Gary Beresford, aged 78.

Gary was a regular at Kenilworth Road and was a former shareholder in the club. His favourite moment in 35 years following the Town came when the Town won the Littlewoods Cup against Arsenal in 1988.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Gary's family and friends at this sad time.

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WELCOME NEWPORT COUNTY AFC



After last season's respectable ninth place finish in their first season back in the Blue Square Bet Premier, anticipation at Newport County AFC was high as this season kick-off back in August.

Boss Anthony Hudson had captured Crawley Town's Craig McAllister to lead the line and the bookmakers' odds on the Exiles winning promotion began to tumble. Fast forward through five months of the campaign, however, and Hudson has gone and this afternoon, the Hatters welcome a County languishing in 20th place in the table with only goal difference keeping them out of the bottom four.

At the helm now is former Rushden & Diamonds manager Justin Edinburgh whose immediate task was to haul the Exiles out of the relegation zone when he took over in October – and has managed to do just that.

Now though, those in South Wales are desperately hoping they can pull away from the relegation zone after a first half of the season to forget. Edinburgh's side arrive today having lost their last three matches in the Blue Square Bet Premier with the most recent a disappointing 3-2 defeat to bottom-of-the-table Bath.

County have only won twice in 13 attempts on the road in the league this term with a 4-0 success at Hayes & Yeading in late November the most recent to date.

The Hatters will be hoping to record a double against Newport this afternoon following the late 1-0 win at Spytt Park on 26th November courtesy of Danny Crow's stoppage time strike.

Since that wet and windy afternoon in South Wales Edinburgh has had to deal with the loss of highly-rated midfielder Danny Rose who joined promotion-chasing Fleetwood, and the new boss will be hoping to strengthen his squad this month.

With a clutch of sides fighting it out to avoid relegation Edinburgh will be hoping stars like McAllister and Cardiff City starlet Nat Jarvis – currently on-loan from their Welsh neighbours – can fire the goals to stave off the threat of the drop.

Edinburgh worked miracles in difficult circumstances when at Nene Park and the popular former Tottenham defender will be looking to repeat that in the final months of the season. With nine points separating the bottom eight sides the County faithful will no doubt be happy to stop the rot of successive defeats.

The last time they visited Kenilworth Road a certain Charlie Henry scored for County in a 1-1 draw in August last season. That day the Town spurned winning all three points when missing a penalty. No doubt the visiting supporters in the Oak Road end this afternoon will take a similar scoreline once again.



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THE VISITORS IN OPPOSITION



CLUB HISTORY

Originally founded in 1912 and founder members of the Football League's new Third Division in 1920 the Newport County here this evening are the new incarnation of the club which reformed in 1989.

Welsh Cup winners in 1980, County reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup the following season but by 1988 they were relegated from the League and a year later the club folded.

The 'new' club began its rise again, beginning in the Hellenic League, winning the title in its first season. Their nickname the Exiles derives from the

fact the club began playing in Moreton-in-Marsh in Gloucestershire in this inaugural campaign.

County returned to Newport in 1994 and they kicked-off their first season back home by romping to the Southern League Midland Division title by 14 points. Re-organisation in the non-league pyramid saw the Exiles placed in the Conference South in 2004.

Following two seasons of missing out on qualifying for the Play-Offs, the 2009/10 season saw new manager Dean Holdsworth's side cruise to the title, finishing the campaign with 103 points, to take their place in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

After a successful season in non-league's top flight last season – finishing ninth – hopes were high of a promotion challenge this term but following the dismissal of Anthony Hudson, new boss Justin Edinburgh has set his sights on avoiding the drop back to the Blue Square Bet South.

MEET THE MANAGER

Justin Edinburgh

As a player Edinburgh started his career with Southend United before moving to Tottenham Hotspur in 1990 for £150,000.

A defender by trade he made over 200 appearances for Spurs in a 12 year period that saw him win the FA Cup in 1991 and the League Cup two years later.

Portsmouth was his next port of call before dipping into non-league football with Billericay Town going on to become the Essex outfit's Player-Manager.

In January 2006 he left New Lodge to take over the reins at Fisher Athletic where he guided the Fish to a third place finish in the Isthmian League that eventually saw the London outfit promoted via the Play-Offs.

After leaving Fisher by mutual consent in November 2006 he became Assistant Manager at Grays Athletic going to become first team boss at the Recreation Ground.

Edinburgh then left the Blues by mutual consent in February 2008 and following a brief scouting job with Nottingham Forest he joined Rushden & Diamonds as Assistant Manager to Garry Hill in October 2008.

Then, following Hill's departure, Edinburgh took over as Caretaker Manager before landing the job permanently at Nene Park in April 2009.

Financial difficulties then struck the Diamonds last season which led to the club folding in the summer leaving Edinburgh out of a job. But he wasn't out of work for long and after Anthony Hudson was dismissed by Newport, Edinburgh took control at Spytty Park in October.

EDINBURGH LOOKING FOR IMPROVEMENT

Losing to relegation rivals Bath City on Tuesday night was a hugely disappointing result for Exiles boss Justin Edinburgh.

The Blue Square Bet Premier's bottom side recorded a 3-2 win at Twerton Park to leave today's visitors hovering above the drop-zone.

And Edinburgh believed his players didn't help themselves despite taking an early lead.

"We're disappointed with the result," he said. "We started the game well and you hope that can kick-start you but it wasn't to be and we were cheap to give possession back to Bath.

"At half-time we said we had to get back into the game but we've conceded the third goal quickly and we left ourselves an uphill task that we were unable to climb."

However frustrated with the result, the former Rushden & Diamonds manager was still upbeat about his chances of survival.

"We're in a league of eight at the bottom and Bath are still below us," he said. "You've got to be stronger than worrying about one result and there's a lot of games still left to play.

"Of course we're disappointed. We've had fantastic following come here and sent them away unhappy. I have never faulted the players' commitment but I think we made our downfall by giving the ball away. If you continue to give it away then good players and good teams will punish you and that's what Bath did."

Edinburgh also believes that he needs as many as three new signings to boost the Exiles' chances of staving off relegation. "I feel we need two or three fresh faces," said Edinburgh. "A lot of players have come here in

the summer and some, not all, have not lived up to expectations.

"And it disappoints me at times when we have players here who, even if they're not producing, they could work a little bit harder than they do.

"We are the instigators of our own downfall and that's what frustrates me.

"Unfortunately we have certain players that are doing it time and time again and what I have to do is get them out and bring other ones in."

Edinburgh has been boosted by news that Exiles chairman Chris Blight will support his recruitment process this January.

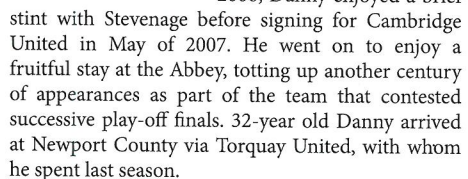
"We must try to assist Justin with his shopping list," Blight said in a statement.

"He has been busy scouring for new blood and several players are identified as targets to join our squad.

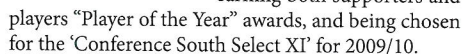
"We had a very positive meeting and have given permission to Justin to start negotiations when the window opens.

"I am sure that we will all respect that our manager would like to put his own stamp on his squad and this is the first real opportunity for him to do that."





DEFENDERS



Danny Potter

Goalkeeper who began his career as a Chelsea trainee, before heading to Exeter City in 1998 where he was to make his league debut. Spells with both Chelmsford City and Weymouth followed, before a move to Canvey Island in March, 2003, where he racked up more than a century of appearance. After Canvey's Conference dream unfortunately ceased in 2006, Danny enjoyed a brief

stant with Stevenage before signing for Cambridge United in May of 2007. He went on to enjoy a fruitful stay at the Abbey, totting up another century of appearances as part of the team that contested successive play-off finals. 32-year old Danny arrived at Newport County via Torquay United, with whom he spent last season.

Gary Warren

Gary joined County in May 2009 after two successful seasons in central defence for Team Bath. He had joined the Students in the summer of 2007 from Mangotsfield United. He showed his leadership qualities for County and enjoyed a fabulous first season in which he wore the captain's armband with distinction, earning both supporters and

players "Player of the Year" awards, and being chosen for the 'Conference South Select XI' for 2009/10.

Andrew Hughes

Highly-rated defender who spent the previous two seasons progressing through the County youth development system with his tenacious displays at left-back earning him Welsh Schoolboy international recognition. Nicknamed ‘Tiger’ for his tackling ability, he was with the Cardiff City junior set-up prior to joining County. He scored his first league goal for County against Gateshead last season.

Ismail Yakubu

Former England semi-professional international and the nephew of the former Portsmouth and Everton striker, Ismail arrived at Spytty Park in the summer having been an integral part of the AFC Wimbledon team that clinched a place in the Football League last season. Originally from Nigeria, he was raised in England and joined Barnet as a schoolboy, making his Bees debut as a 17-year old whilst still studying for his A-Levels. He quickly became a huge favourite at Underhill, going on to make 297 appearances and scoring 15 goals, before he moved to AFC Wimbledon in July of 2010.

Paul Rogers

Former Arsenal trainee Paul is a tenacious defensive player comfortable at both centre-half and full-back. He joined the Gunners in 2005 aged 15 and was rewarded with a professional contract two years later in 2007. He made his full competitive debut for the North London giants in a League Cup tie away at Burnley, in December 2008. In the summer of 2009, Paul signed for Northampton Town after previously enjoying an extended loan spell at Sixfields and went on to make 67 appearances before arriving at Newport County this summer. This versatile defender has also been capped by England at both Under-16 and Under-17 levels.

MIDFIELDERS

Tom Miller

Defender or midfielder who as a youngster at Norwich City was voted Young Players' Player of the Year by his peers at Carrow Road, which resulted in him being whisked away to Glasgow Rangers. Tom left Ibrox and signed for League of Ireland side Dundalk in February 2010. He quickly became a favourite at Oriel Park, making 32 appearances and scoring once before arriving at Spytty Park during the January transfer window of 2011.

David Pipe

Former Welsh International David signed non-contract terms with County in September 2011, following his return to the professional game; before officially signing in early November. His career began with Coventry City in 2001 before moving to Notts County. David made 141 appearances, scoring four times before heading to Bristol Rovers. A player with exceptional work-rate, David won his one full Welsh cap during a 2-0 defeat against the USA in 2003 and has also been capped 12 times at Under-21 level.

Sam Foley

Attacking midfielder who has been in impressive form ever since his debut against Maidenhead on Valentine's Day 2009. Now in his fourth season with the Exiles, Foley has made over 100 appearances for the Welsh club, netting 26 goals in the process. Foley was also capped for the Republic of Ireland's Under-21 team as a youngster.



Felino Jardim

Experienced Dutch midfielder who has previously played at this level with Cambridge United. Jardim, who usually plays as a wide man, has also represented Sparta Rotterdam, RKC Waalwijk and RBC Roosendaal in his career and signed for the Exiles in August 2011 after a successful trial period.

STRIKERS

Craig McAllister

Scottish centre-forward Craig signed for County this summer from Crawley for whom he bagged 15 goals and played a large part in the league and FA Cup success that the Sussex side enjoyed. Craig began his career with Eastleigh before moving onto Basingstoke Town in 2002, where he plundered 66 goals in just 112 games. A move to Stevenage followed, before Craig took in various spells with Woking, Grays Athletic, Oxford United and Exeter City.

Darryl Knights

Darryl started his professional career with Ipswich Town, making his Football League debut at the age of 16 and winning England Schools and Youth international honours. He played for Yeovil Town on loan in 2006-07 and joined the Somerset club the following season before a loan move to Cambridge United. It was not until he joined Kidderminster Harriers however, that he had regular first team football. He made 63 appearances scoring nine times and joined County in July 2010.

Robbie Matthews

Powerful striker who signed from Kidderminster Harriers in 2010. He began his career with AFC Bournemouth before moving to Salisbury City. In He has recently had a spell on loan at Havant & Waterlooville from November 2008 and at Crawley Town from January 2009. He signed for Kidderminster in August 2009 and made 33 appearances for them during 2009/10, scoring six goals.



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CLASSIC CAMPAIGN

1979/80

Newport County achieved a promotion and Welsh Cup 'double' in 1979/80. Beginning with wins over Port Vale and Aldershot, they won five successive Fourth Division matches in October. John Aldridge grabbed a hat-trick in the 5-0 victory at Stockport. County won just once in eight games before 10 successive wins included a 5-2 demolition of Halifax. They clinched promotion in third place with a 4-2 victory at Walsall in the final match and defeated Shrewsbury 5-1 on aggregate in the Welsh Cup final. Steve Lowndes and Nigel Vaughan were ever-present.

MANAGING TO SUCCEED

Len Ashurst

Ex-England Under-23 left-back Len Ashurst managed County to a promotion and Welsh Cup 'double' in 1979/80. A former Liverpool junior, he moved via Prescot Cables to Sunderland in 1957 and was ever-present as they won promotion in 1963/64. He became Hartlepool's player-boss in 1971, then had spells in charge of Gillingham and Sheffield Wednesday before becoming Newport's manager in 1978. After guiding them to the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals in 1980/81, he left in 1982.

FAB FOUR

John Aldridge

Striker John Aldridge was leading marksman in County's 1979/80 promotion and Welsh Cup 'double' triumph. Initially with South Liverpool, he joined Newport in 1979 and starred as they reached the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals in 1980/81, netting 69 goals in 170 League games before moving to Oxford United in 1984. The Republic of Ireland international starred as the U's won the Second Division title in 1984/85 and League Cup in 1986, moving to Liverpool in 1987. He later played for Real Sociedad and Tranmere Rovers where he had a spell as player-manager.

Steve Lowndes

Welsh international winger Steve Lowndes won the first two of his 10 caps while at Newport County. He turned professional at Somerton Park in October 1977 and was ever-present as Newport won promotion and the Welsh Cup in 1979/80. Also featuring prominently as they reached the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals in 1980/81, he netted 39 goals in 208 League games before moving to Millwall in August 1983. Helping the Lions win promotion and reach the FA Cup sixth round in 1984/85, he joined Barnsley in August 1986 and moved to Hereford United in October 1990. Later playing for Newport AFC, he is now Academy director of coaching at Cirencester College.

Nigel Vaughan

Welsh international midfielder Nigel Vaughan gained the first three of his 10 caps while at Newport County. Signing professional at Somerton Park in 1977, he was an important figure as Newport won promotion and the Welsh Cup in 1979/80, then were European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finalists in 1980/81, netting 32 goals in 224 League games before reuniting with Len Ashurst at Cardiff City in 1983. He joined Wolves in 1987 before moving to Hereford United in 1990, he then assisted several non-League clubs including a spell at Newport AFC.

Tommy Tynan

Striker Tommy Tynan was top scorer as County narrowly missed promotion to the Second Division in 1982/83. Starting with Liverpool, he had spells with Sheffield Wednesday and Lincoln City before moving to Newport in February 1979. He starred as they won promotion and the Welsh Cup in 1979/80, then were European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finalists in 1980/81, netting 66 goals in 183 League games prior to joining Plymouth Argyle in August 1983. Top scorer six times, he helped reach the FA Cup semi-finals in 1983/84 then win promotion in 1985/86 after rejoining Argyle from Rotherham United. He later played for Torquay United and Doncaster Rovers.



WWW.LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH DAVID HOSKINS

Happy New Year and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first home game of 2012. The department have been incredibly busy over the past week gearing up to welcome our corporate guests who include a match sponsor, match ball sponsor and mascot.

2011 was a hugely successful year for us and 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.

The matches are coming thick and fast, especially this month where we have four games here at Kenilworth Road.

This coming Tuesday we entertain Stockport County and, as we went to press, we had availability for match and ball sponsorship and a mascot so if you're reading this and fancy doing something different for a home game why not give us a call?

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■ MATCHBALL SPONSOR

Ray and Andy Board have been an established family-run business in the Luton area for over 40 years.

Prized employee of the month Simon Pratt was recently on Anglia News show-casing his tiling skills in Bury Park.

All of the tilers within the company are mad Luton Town supporters and would like to wish the team all the best this afternoon and for the rest of the season.

■ TODAY'S MASCOT

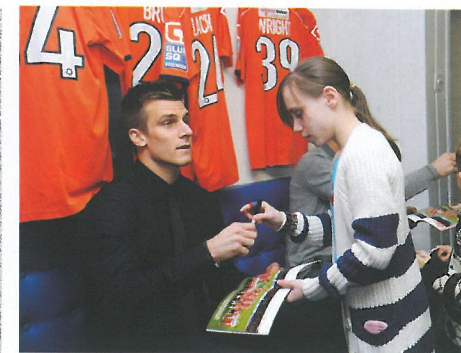
Please give a warm welcome to our mascot this afternoon who is 10-year-old Callum Drummond.

Callum attends Priory Middle School in Dunstable and comes to matches at Kenilworth Road with his dad and sisters Leah and Amber.



Callum's favourite player is striker Stuart Fleetwood and he will get the opportunity to meet all the team before kick-off in the dressing room and then lead the team out shortly before the game starts. Have a great day with us Callum!

SPONSOR GALLERY



Does your son or daughter crave to be a mascot at Kenilworth Road? Why not treat them to a commercial mascot package. Telephone 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk for more details.

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LOOK BACK



**TOWN 5-0 KETTERING
POPPIES PULVERISED**



Some critics might say the Hatters' margin of victory over Kettering wasn't large enough given the amount of missed chances - but manager Gary Brabin was still a happy man.

Yes, naturally, he was disappointed with his side's finishing at times, but he was delighted that his team were able to continue in the kind of style that saw off Tamworth in their previous match in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

In a brilliant Boxing Day performance, a missed penalty aside, the Town were full value for an impressive victory and the boss was quick to heap praise on his side as goals from Jake Howells, Aaron O'Connor, Alex Lawless, Stuart Fleetwood and Robbie Willmott secured a 5-0 win. "We spoke last week saying that was how we wanted to play and exactly the same has happened this afternoon and it's absolutely fantastic," Brabin said afterwards. "I thought the win at Tamworth was an important one. I've been talking about consistency and I'm delighted it's continued this afternoon."

Kettering could only name two substitutes and members of their squad had to make their own way to Kenilworth Road for the fixture.

But while Brabin felt for the Poppies' plight he was happy to have overcome a potential banana skin without too much hassle. "A lot has been made of their troubles," he said. "I was in a similar situation in my playing career at Hull. People aren't getting paid and players are fighting for their futures - but as I said that galvanises players. I thought it would be tough but from minute one I thought we were excellent."

Much will be made of O'Connor's missed penalty - the sixth time this term the Town have failed to net from 12 yards - and Brabin knows it's something that needs

to stop. "People were saying to me 'practise penalties' but we do. We do in training and whether or not it's the pressure of a match situation, I don't know. All of a sudden we seem to have gained a tradition of missing them and we need to get it out of our system."

"Aaron took it because he scored one here last time and he hit it well enough with power but it came off the bar. But we are nit-picking. I don't want to be harsh because we've scored five goals, created lots of chances and played really well. We just need to keep improving."



Keith Keane heads clear

A second-best crowd of the season so far cheered on the Town to victory and Brabin believes the backing of the supporters can play a huge role in his side's fortunes between now and the end of the campaign.

"We've got to knit it all together: the team, the support, everything," he said. "The atmosphere today was electric. That's what I want at home games here but you've got to earn that support. The fact there's over 7,000 here and we've been able to produced a performance like that and score a few goals is great. I asked for patience because teams do come here and frustrate us for the first 20-25 minutes. "But I will go home being proud to be manager of Luton Town - not only proud of the performance but also of the supporters."



TOWN

5

Howells 20, O'Connor 27, Lawless 49, Fleetwood 80, Willmott 85



KETTERING

0

TOWN: K. Pilkington, Gleeson, Taylor, Kovacs, G. Pilkington, Lawless, Keane, Watkins, Howells (sub Willmott 33), O'Connor (sub Kissock 75), Crow (sub Fleetwood 79). Subs not used: Wright, Tyler.

KETTERING: Walker, P. Ifil, Davis, J. Ifil (sub Sangare 20), Navarro, Pryor (sub Noubissie 63), Bridges, O'Leary, Jones, Hughes-Mason, Dawkin.

ATTENDANCE: 7,164

POSSESSION

70% 30%

SHOTS ON TARGET

13 1

SHOTS OFF TARGET

11 0

CORNERS

9 2

FOULS

12 18

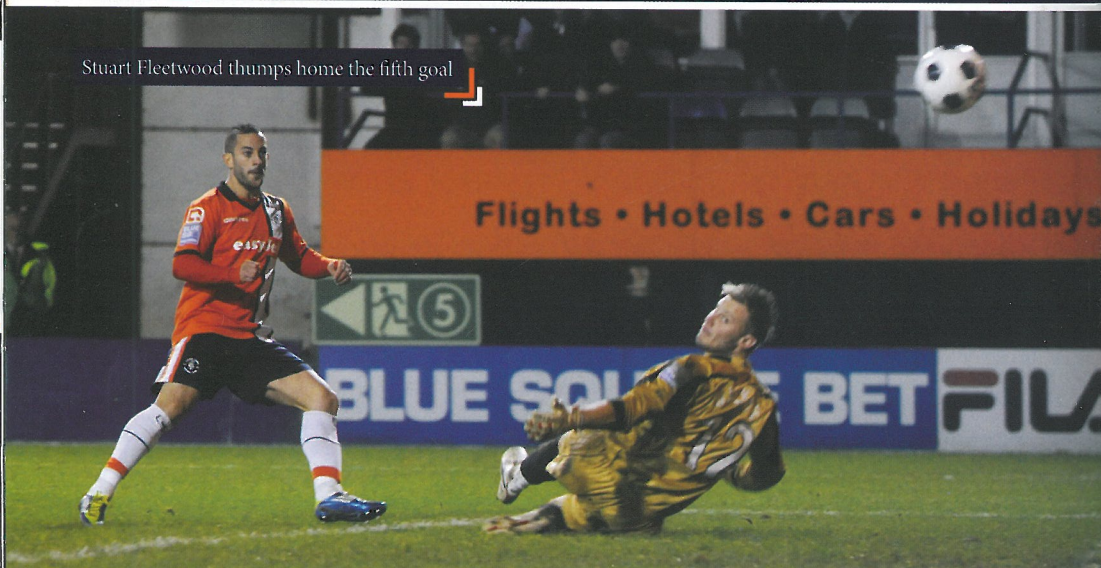
The players celebrate Alex Lawless's goal



George Pilkington heads clear



Stuart Fleetwood thumps home the fifth goal



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LOOK BACK



KETTERING 0-5 TOWN NEW YEAR CHEER



The Hatters started 2012 with a bang by hitting Kettering for five for the second time over the festive period.

And, for the second match running against the beleaguered Poppies, the Town had five different players on target, in a truly comprehensive display at Nene Park which also saw them hit the woodwork five times.

Jake Howells and Adam Watkins put the Hatters 2-0 ahead inside nine minutes as visitors raced comfortably into a half-time advantage, aided by the 40th-minute red card of the Poppies' Phil Ifil.

Further strikes in the second period from Janos Kovacs, Greg Taylor and Stuart Fleetwood further increased the Hatters' goal difference and - allied with results elsewhere - moved Gary Brabin's side up to third place in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

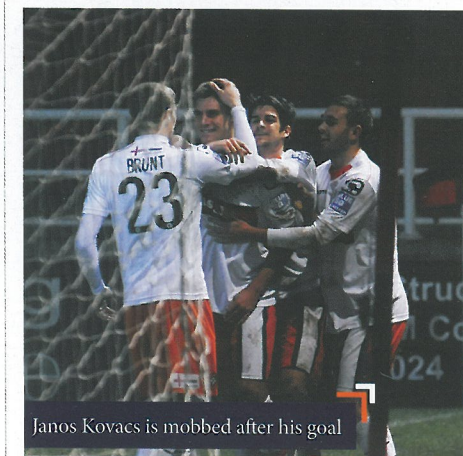
And the manager was understandably pleased to see his side record back-to-back 5-0 wins over Kettering - a result that lifted the Town into third place in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

Goals from Jake Howells, Adam Watkins, Janos Kovacs, Greg Taylor and Stuart Fleetwood helped the Hatters to victory on New Year's Day to the delight of the manager.

He said: "I thought it was a good performance, a good scoreline. I think it's always tough when you play the same team and you've got to play them back-to-back as you get a good insight from the previous game.

"I said to the lads it would be tough. A lot's been made of what's been going on here in Kettering but they've got a good manager in Mark Stimson and I genuinely believe they've got a lot of good players at the club.

"They probably haven't got enough numbers but they never made it easy for us. I never felt comfortable even at 2-0 and when they went down to 10 men they gave their all, but we played some good football, we were patient and in the end we got what we deserved."



Janos Kovacs is mobbed after his goal

The boss also paid tribute to the 2,018 Town fans who made the short trip up the A6 to back his side.

"I don't usually talk about outside influences when I talk to the team before the game, but I did today," Brabin said. "We knew that there was going to be 2,000 of our fans here, a third of the crowd and that it would be almost like a home game.

"Their support was - and has been - amazing and I'd like to thank them because it's not cheap this time of year and we all know what has gone on with the prices."



KETTERING

0



TOWN

5

Howells 4, Watkins 9, Kovacs 61, Taylor 72, Fleetwood 90

KETTERING: Walker, P. Ifil, Navarro, Sangare, Davis (sub Pryor 89), Noubissie, Bridges, O'Leary, Hughes-Mason (sub Jones 77), Marna, Dawkin.

TOWN: K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Dance (sub Willmott 77), Keane, Lawless (sub Fleetwood 81), Howells, Watkins, O'Connor (sub Brunt 60). Subs not used: Kissock, Tyler

ATTENDANCE: 3,247

POSSESSION

40% 60%

SHOTS ON TARGET

1 14

SHOTS OFF TARGET

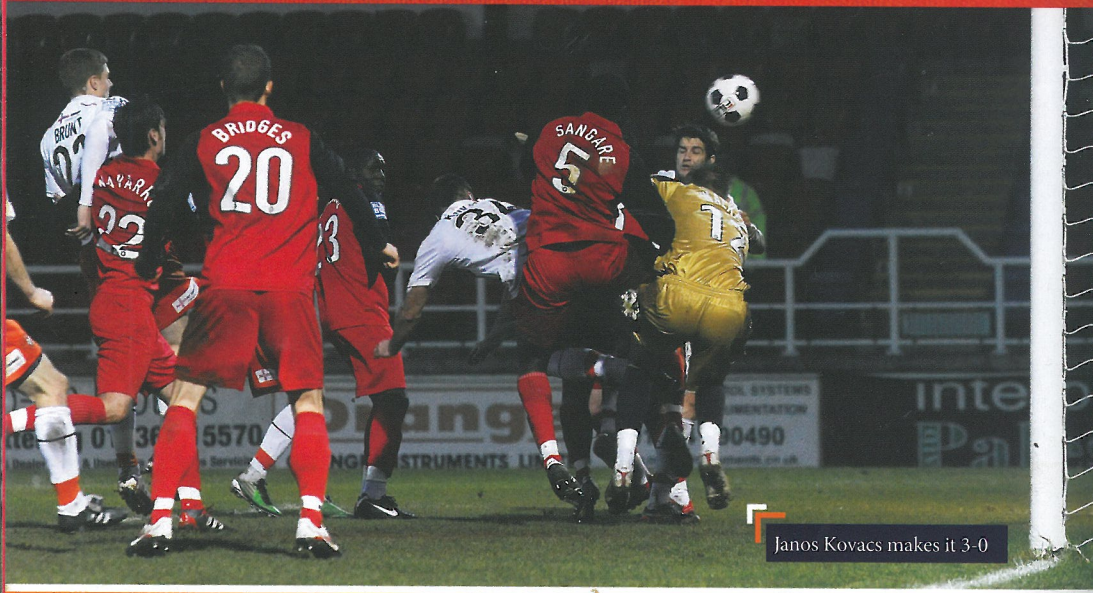
2 9

CORNERS

2 13

FOULS

14 12



Janos Kovacs makes it 3-0



Stuart Fleetwood fires home the fifth



Jake Howells rises highest



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MEMORY LANE

NAME: Robson O'Reardon

AGE: 16

LOCATION: Luton

WHERE DO YOU WATCH GAMES FROM: Kenilworth Stand Lower

FIRST GAME: At home to Burnley on 31st October 2006.

FIRST MEMORY: How impressive the atmosphere in Kenilworth Road was.

BEST GOAL SEEN: Carlos Edwards cross-shot against Norwich City in 2005.

BEST MATCH WITNESSED: The 3-2 win at Wembley against Scunthorpe in 2009.

WORST MATCH WITNESSED: The 5-0 defeat to Sunderland in 2007. I remember walking out of the ground being very disappointed.

BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE SEEN BY A PLAYER: I can't really remember the best individual performance but I have to say that Keith Keane is a stand-out player for me. The effort he puts in every game is fantastic.

FAVOURITE HATTERS' KIT: I liked the 125 year anniversary kit the most out to all of the Hatters kits in recent years.

FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER: Once again it has to be Keano, just down to the fact that he loves the club and it can be seen when he plays.

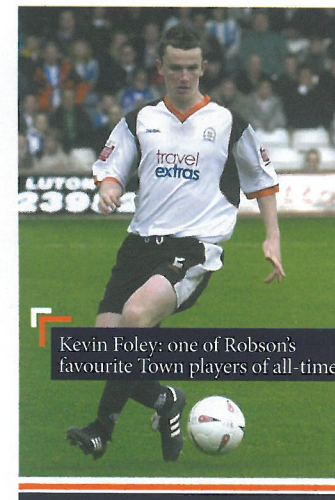
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME MANAGER: Mick Harford

ALL-TIME TOWN XI: Mark Tyler, Sol Davis, George Pilkington, Chris Coyne, Kevin Foley, Jake Howells, Keith Keane, Kevin Nicholls, Carlos Edwards, Steve Howard, Andy Drury.

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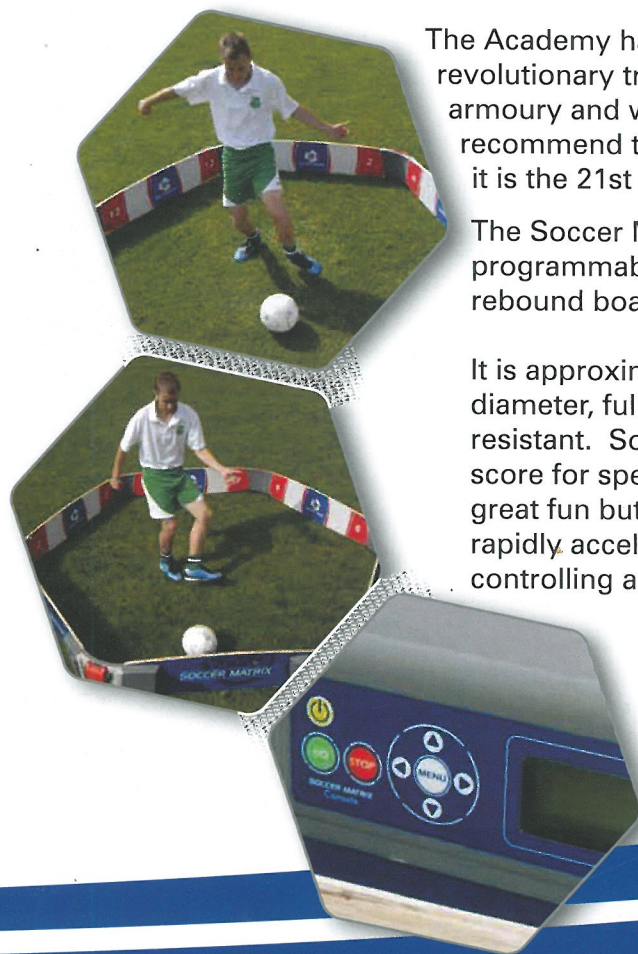
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Kevin Foley: one of Robson's favourite Town players of all-time



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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 enjoyed a fine festive period with back-to-back 5-0 victories over Kettering Town and Player was there to get all the post-match talk. Gary Brabin spoke to the cameras giving subscribers his account of what he thought was a deserved victory but was slightly disappointed his side could not score more than the five they did.

Goalscorer Aaron O'Connor – who was guilty of missing a second-half penalty – believed things are slowly clicking into place after the comprehensive win but could not put his finger on why the Town are still unable to convert from 12 yards. Meanwhile another goalscorer, Alex Lawless, revealed he is finding his form again after after missing several weeks with a broken hand sustained in the September defeat at York.

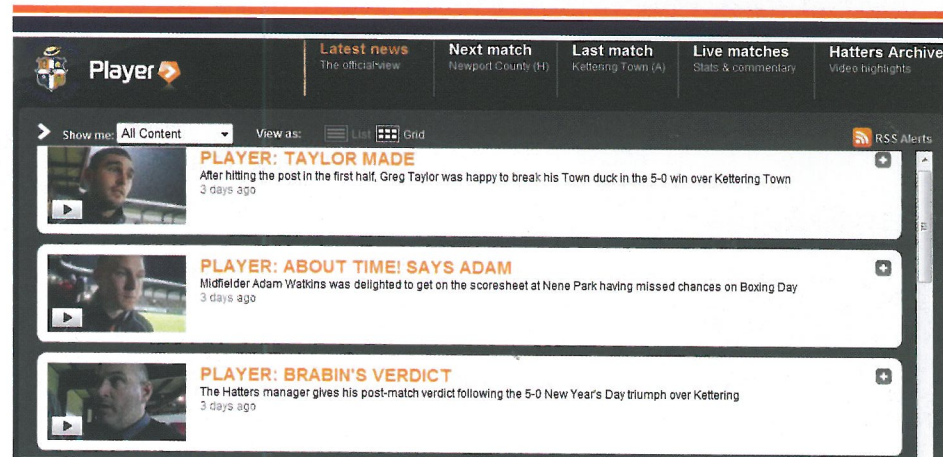
Player subscribers also got to see all five goals within hours of the final whistle as well as nine minutes of highlights the following day. The official website and our Facebook feed also had a special one-minute Showboat clip dedicated to John Paul Kissock after his cameo in the victory.

A week later and the Hatters repeated their Boxing Day win with another 5-0 rout of the Poppies and Brabin was again thrilled with the performance of his team. Two of the five goalscorers – Greg Taylor and Adam Watkins – told Player their relief at finding the net after missing opportunities on Boxing Day.

For Taylor it was his first for the club against his former employers and Watkins was pleased to notch his fourth goal of an impressive campaign so far but stressed that the team need to continue the kind of form into the New Year.

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. Today's goal action plus video action from all concerned from the dressing room will be available after the game with extended highlights following later in the week.

Player is currently on offer in a January sale for just £17.99 so you can watch and listen to all the exclusive content from Kenilworth Road on Player so check out the official website for all the latest exclusive video content online and give it a try.



CENTRE SPOT

Stuart Fleetwood celebrates his goal with Robbie Willmott at Kettering



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 JANOS KOVACS HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Available	 GARY BRABIN HOME: LTSC AWAY: Country Properties	 ALAN NEILSON HOME: Gleneden Plant Sales AWAY: Available	

THE HAPPY HUNGARIAN

**JANOS KOVACS IS LOVING TIME AT LUTON TOWN,
FRESH FROM SIGNING A PERMANENT DEAL**

They say a lot happens in a week in football – but, in Janos Kovacs' case – a lot has happened for the Hungarian in the past 18 months.

In the summer of 2010 the defender left Kenilworth Road after six months and 18 appearances to sign for Hereford.

However, after a season at Edgar Street, the popular centre-half answered Gary Brabin's call to return on an emergency loan in September and hasn't looked back.

On New Year's Day it was confirmed that Kovacs will remain at Kenilworth Road until June 2013. Now, with his future sorted for the foreseeable future, the 26-year-old is hoping he can use what he's learned during his time away from Kenilworth Road, to help the Hatters win promotion this season.

"I think the turning point is my mental strength," Kovacs told Talk of the Town. "Over the past two years I think I've learned a lot. For me the focus and experience on the pitch is so very important.

"In the Premier League the winners and losers are determined by their mental strength and you can tell when a certain player's mentality has been affected and some high-profile ones have to deal with off-the-pitch pressures too.

"I've begun to help my fellow team-mates and it's just little things like a few sentences in a player's ear if they're feeling a bit down.

"A word here and there in the dressing room is good for team spirit and we have quite a young team. Leadership and those kind of battling mental qualities

have been missing in some games this season but I think we're improving now, as shown in our last three league games."

Kovacs is naturally delighted to be back at Kenilworth Road and his enthusiasm was evident for all to see after his goal in the 5-0 victory against Kettering on Boxing Day.

He harbours hopes of ending the season on a high but refuses to get carried away with the Town's recent revival that has seen them jump into third place in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

"It's a cliché but you must take every game as it comes," he says. "We won the last three matches and we're playing well but it's a long season and there are lots of games left. We don't want to get too carried away.

"I don't want to be too positive or too negative but we need to keep our feet on the ground and just keep doing what we're doing.

"When you look back we've lost in important games against Fleetwood, Wrexham and Cambridge and those defeats still pain me now, looking back.

"Sometimes you come back into the dressing room after a game and you have to accept that the other team had their day but this season we have been frustrated having been ahead 1-0 so many times this season and only drawn.

"I know this team is capable of being the best and winning the title – we just need to start showing it on the pitch. The Newport game is just another game. We need to keep going and take each game as it comes and hopefully keep the winning run going."

But it hasn't been all smiles for the defender in his time at Kenilworth Road. He first signed for the club in January 2010 and scored on his debut at Histon, but by the end of the season he decided to leave the club having been frozen out of the starting XI for the play-off defeats to York City – an experience which hugely disappointed the Hungarian.

"In football you never know what's going to happen and at the time I thought leaving was the best thing to do," he says.

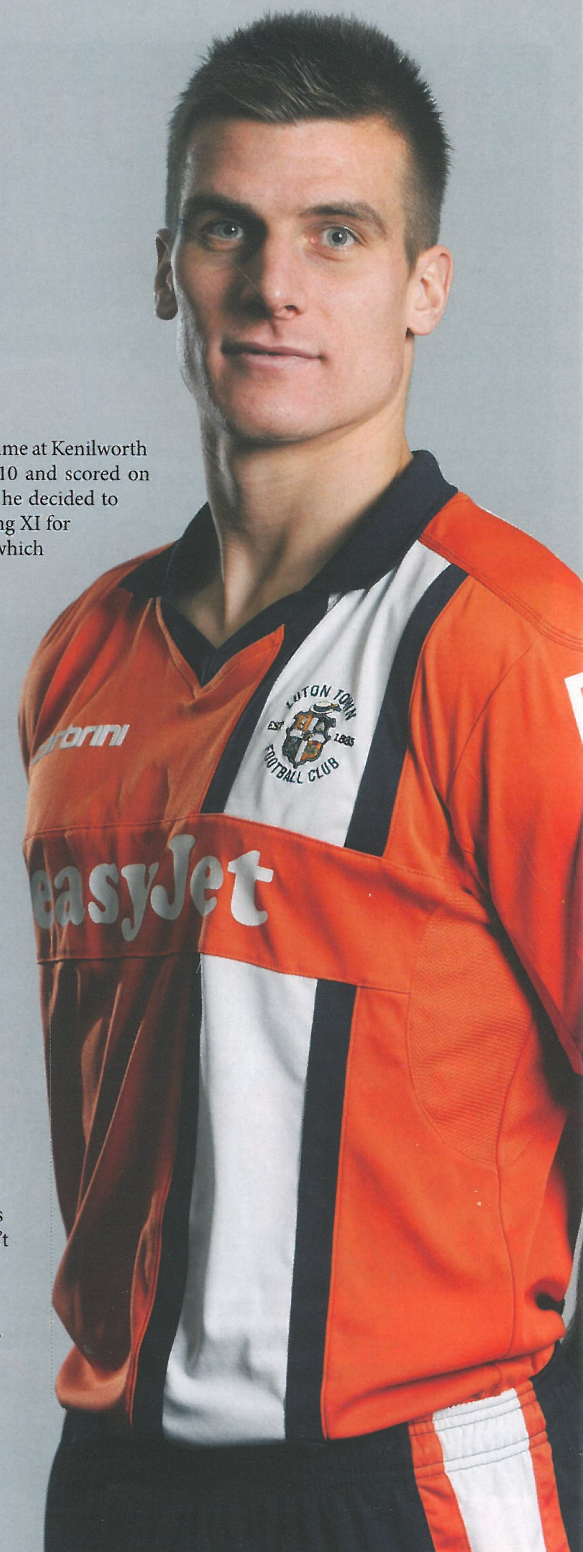
"I felt I wanted to be playing in the Football League and I was disappointed we lost in the play-offs and didn't get promoted.

"Maybe I forced myself out but you learn things as you make your way in life and, maybe, it wasn't the right decision. "Why didn't it work out in the end at Hereford? Well, there are many factors that influence things like that. Settling in the area and, the size, support and professionalism of club are always taken into consideration.

"If I think back to September and how I feel was feeling at the time, I couldn't have been happier more when Gary Brabin called to ask if I could help and my answer was 'Yes! Yes!' It was just what I wanted.

"Luton is the biggest club I've ever played for and I want to play at the highest level possible with this club. I enjoy it and I'm settled here and I couldn't be more happier.

"You can never say never in football, that's why I love it so much. What I do know is, if you put your heart into everything the best result will come."



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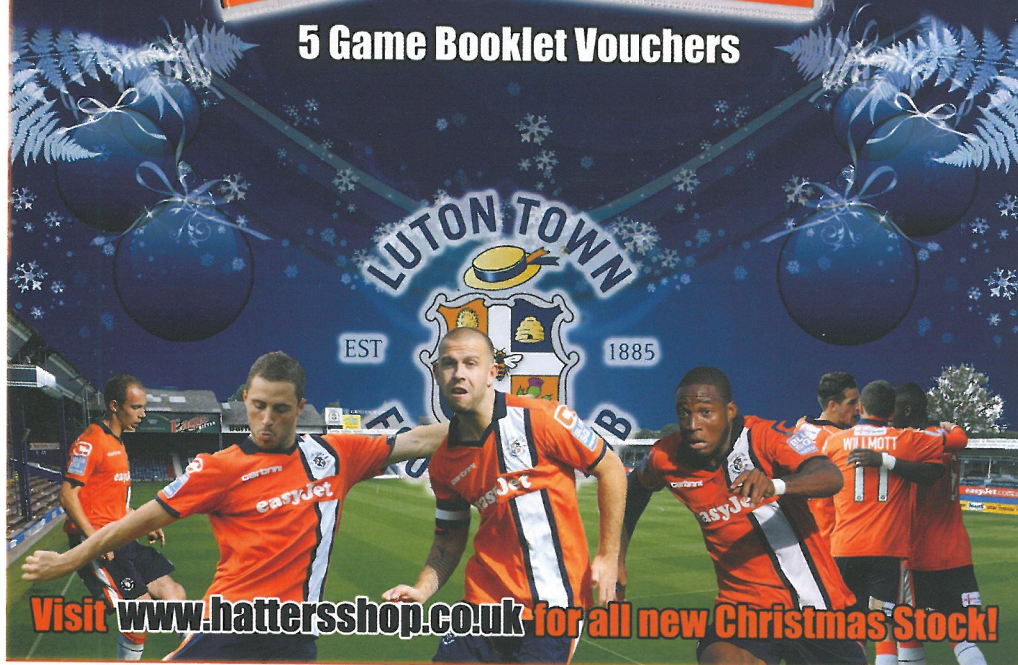
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Adult £175

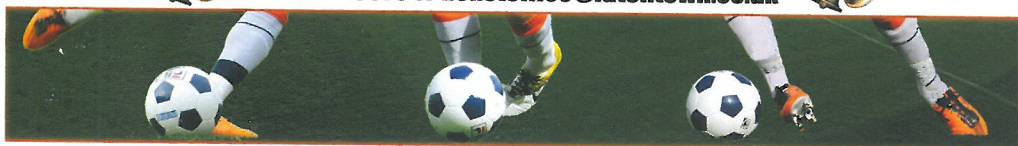
Juniors
£26

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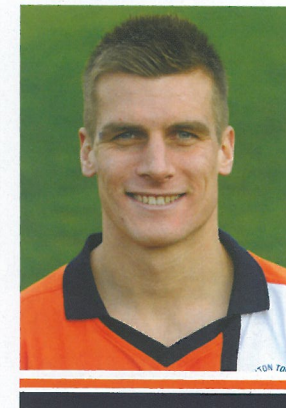
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GETTING TO KNOW...

JANOS KOVACS



WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN FOOTBALL?

Martin Fulop. He's the second choice goalkeeper at West Brom but while we've never played together we grew up together and have remained good friends.

WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT?

Manchester United. When I was growing up David Beckham had just broken into their first team squad and he was a big hero of mine. Before Beckham there was Eric Cantona.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PLAYING FOR LUTON?

Luton are the biggest club I've played for and the support we get is the easily the best thing. The size of our home crowds, for this level of football, is frightening.

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS IN FOOTBALL?

To play at the highest level I can – with Luton Town.

WHO'S YOUR FUNNIEST TEAM-MATE?

Dan Gleeson is very funny. Amari Morgan-Smith has his own, 'style' of comedy, shall I say.

WHO'S GOT THE BEST TASTE IN MUSIC?

You'd expect that pre-match the tunes would be some kind of house or dance to get us pumped but occasionally Kevin Pilkington puts on some old skool and romance songs! It really is quite funny.

WHO IS THE HARDEST WORKER AT THE CLUB?

I'd have to say Alex Lawless. On and off the pitch he works very hard and he takes everything very seriously. Keith Keane is another, he's a machine.

WHO HAS BEEN YOUR MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT?

Zoltan Gera. I only played against him once in the Hungarian Premier League but he was technically brilliant. Not only that, he has an incredible leap on him for such a small player.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR LIFE AFTER FOOTBALL?

To stay in the game. I don't know in what capacity: manager, coach, scout, agent, but all I know if I love the game too much to be doing any other job!

WHO IS YOUR ALL-TIME FOOTBALL IDOL?

My dad. He was a professional footballer who played for 15 years in the top league in Hungary. He was someone I really looked up to and was the biggest influence on me. I also think Rio Ferdinand is amazing too – for a centre-back his technical, physical and mental strength is second-to-none.

PICTURE

THE PAST

WITH CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH

Rory Allen slams in the unlikely winner at Grimsby in April 1998



After a winter of struggle and wildly inconsistent performances the Hatters were one place off the bottom of Division Two (now League One) as Easter 1998 approached.

Desperate for the loan of a proven striker before deadline day, manager Lennie Lawrence was thwarted at every turn until ex-Hatters and then Tottenham manager David Pleat offered a lifeline in the shape of 20-year-old Rory Allen.

Although Allen had been touted as a star of the future he was just getting back to fitness after a serious ankle injury. Lawrence had struggled with enough injured players during the season without taking risks on another but did not wish to look a gift horse in the mouth. We are all eternally grateful that he did not!


Allen was a revelation and galvanised the Town side with his enthusiasm and goalscoring, leading to a run of five wins from eight games following his arrival.

He made his debut at Walsall and set up a goal for David Oldfield and scored one himself in the 3-2 victory before helping his new side to a 3-0 home win over York on Easter Saturday.

The Hatters then had to travel to promotion-chasing Grimsby where they were forced to endure an onslaught. With the defence playing heroically it was left to Allen to poach the only goal of the game after he was quickest to react to an Oldfield shot that rebounded off the post.

A 3-0 home win over Chesterfield was sandwiched between defeats at Gillingham and Bristol Rovers before a 2-2 draw at Brentford, with Allen scoring the Town's second, confirming that the fight against relegation had been won with a game to spare.

The final game of the season, at home to Carlisle, was therefore played in a carnival atmosphere with Allen, playing to the gallery, scoring with scorching shot in the last minute to secure a 3-2 win. The best loan signing in the club's history?



A photograph for Luton supporters of a certain age who loved to combine football with the glory days of steam!

JW. GREEN'S NOTED LUTON ALES

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

BY CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH

Pictured is action from an FA Cup tie against Swansea in 1947 with a steam train from Luton to Dunstable passing by.

Quite often the steam from trains used to envelop the Kenilworth Road end of the ground but tales of forwards missing open goals after being momentarily blinded by steam and cinders are probably urban myths.

What can be said for certain, though, is that the Town beat Swansea 2-0 that afternoon in a fourth

round tie with Mel Daniel and an own goal settling the contest in front of a crowd of 24,327.

Daniel is seen in the centre of the photo wearing an uncharacteristic strip of red shirt and black shorts. In those days - where there was a clash of colours in cup ties - both teams were made to change. Swansea turned out in blue shirts and white shorts that day.

The line from Luton to Dunstable was closed as part of the 'Beeching Axe' with the last passenger train passing through in 1965.

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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.



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

WATKINS RELIEVED TO FIND THE TARGET

Frustrated at not finding the net on Boxing Day midfielder Adam Watkins was delighted to notch his fourth goal of the season in the New Year's Day victory over Kettering.

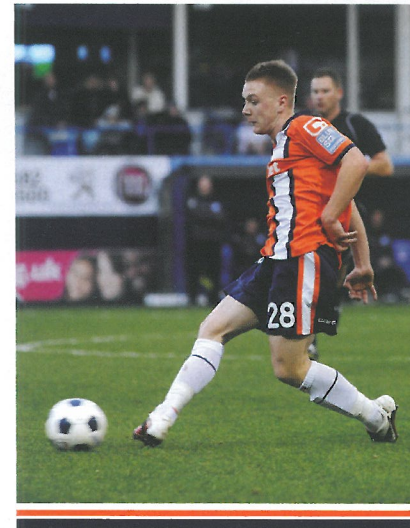
The 20-year-old revealed his relief after he curled home a beautiful right-foot shot following a short-corner routine to put the Hatters 2-0 up in the ninth minute at Nene Park.

"Over the last two games I maybe should have scored more than I'd have liked," he said after the 5-0 victory. "If the team wasn't creating I'd be getting worried and like every game, we can't take it lightly, so Newport is a massive game for us."

The youngster has held down a regular place in the Town starting XI after a string of fine performances and while Watkins is pleased to be playing, the challenge now is to stay there. "I'm just delighted to play and I appreciate the manager giving me a start every time," said Watkins. "Hopefully I can cement that place in the team now, keep scoring and doing well for the team."

"Two years ago I was a scholar so I wasn't really in and around the side but I think going out on loan and playing men's football last year helped me. I've made the step up this year, the gaffer has given me the opportunity and I'm delighted to take it, long may my performances continue."

Three straight league wins have propelled the Hatters into third place in the table with Watkins playing



a starring role in midfield alongside Keith Keane and Alex Lawless in the middle of the park – and that's something that the Lutonian is relishing.

"I think we've got a settled midfield now with me, Keano and Alex," he said.

"We work well as a three. We've still got a lot to learn, in terms of when we haven't got the ball, but at the minute we are playing with confidence."

"Keano being beside me helps a lot in the defensive aspect and I've got Lawless behind me telling me what to do."

"It's a benefit for me and as long as we can get that settled three – and hopefully I'll be in it and I can prove to the gaffer that he can trust me – then that's fine by me."

"We have set a way of playing and it's working at the minute. That's only three games in but there are still a lot more to play."

2012 started in fine style with that thumping victory but Watkins knows how important the remainder of the season is if they're to make an impression on the top two.

He said: "We can't get carried away. We've got to keep our feet on the ground, keep working hard and hopefully Fleetwood and Wrexham might slip up if we put on the pressure."

"We've got two massive games coming up in Newport and Stockport. They are going to be tough games, even though they are further down the league, we have still got to go out there and do the business."

The Hatters Business Breakfast Club

Membership includes:

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

For further information contact David Hoskins on 01582 411622 or email david.hoskins@lutontown.co.uk



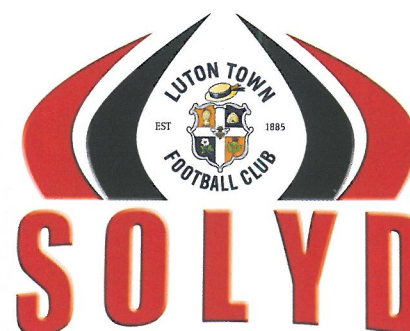
The Hatters
Business Breakfast Club



2011/12 YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS



	JOSH CARPENTER HOME: Mike Kneafsey, Valley View Care Home AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available		BRETT LONGDEN HOME: Available AWAY: Available		JEROME JIBODU HOME: Available AWAY: Available		MUSTAFA MIRZAI HOME: Available AWAY: Available
	JAMES FERGUSON HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES:		NICK BURTENSHAW HOME: Available AWAY: Available		COLBY McADAMS HOME: Moirs Spain AWAY: Available		JERRY NASH HOME: Available AWAY: Available
	ALASAN ANN HOME: Mark Bradbury AWAY: Available		MOSES KADU HOME: Available AWAY: Available		MASON BLAKE HOME: Available AWAY: Available		BEN EKINS HOME: Available AWAY: Available
	JORDAN DAVIS HOME: Terry Neale AWAY: Terry Neale		JAKE WOOLLEY HOME: Ian Gazeley AWAY: Available		IAN REES HOME: Available AWAY: Available		CHISOLM AMADI HOME: Available AWAY: Available
	NEWMAN CARNEY HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Doug Knight		CHARLIE SMITH HOME: Peter Mitchell AWAY: Available				



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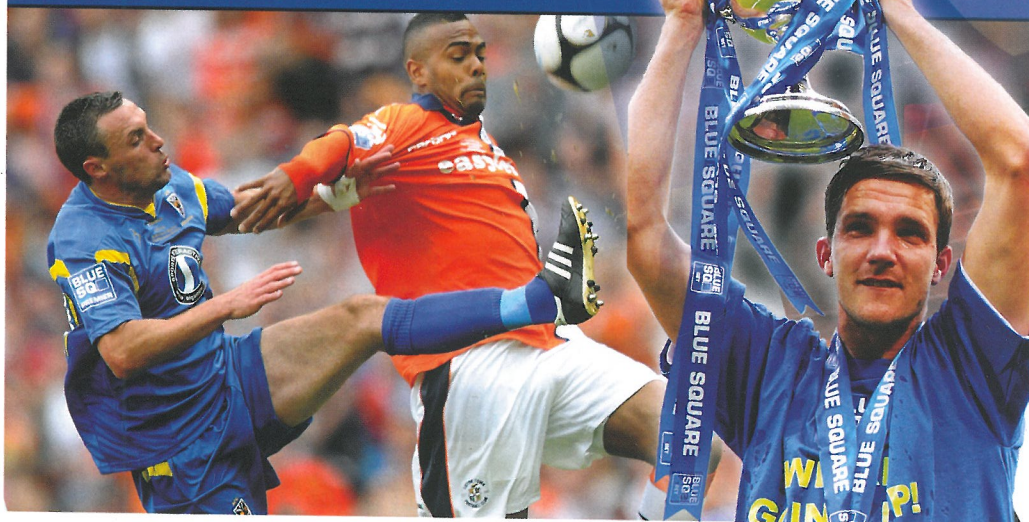
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YOUNG HATTERS



UNDER-18S

PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE
UNDER-18
SOUTH-EAST DIVISION

AUGUST

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

20 - BARNET (H) W 3-1
27 - WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2-1

SEPTEMBER

3 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN (H) 2-0
10 - BRENTFORD (A) L 0-1
17 - STEVENAGE (H) W 4-1
19 - ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS (H)
FAYC W 11-2
24 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED (H)
D 1-1

OCTOBER

5 - LEIGHTON TOWN (H) FAYC W 5-1
8 - BARNET (H) PYC D 1-1
15 - STEVENAGE (H) PYC W 4-1
21 - DEREHAM TOWN (A) FAYC L 1-2
29 - WYCOMBE WANDERERS (H)
PYC W 5-2

NOVEMBER

5 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED (A) PYC
L 2-3
8 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN (A) PYC
W 2-1
12 - WYCOMBE WANDERERS (H)
L 1-4

19 - NORTHAMPTON TOWN (A)
W 1-0

DECEMBER

3 - LEYTON ORIENT (A) L 0-3

JANUARY

7 - PETERBOROUGH UNITED (A)
28 - COLCHESTER UNITED (A)

FEBRUARY

4 - QUEENS PARK RANGERS (H)
11 - BARNET (A)
18 - MILLWALL (H)
25 - SOUTHEND UNITED (A)

MARCH

3 - BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION (H)
10 - ALDERSHOT TOWN (A)
17 - AFC WIMBLEDON (H)
24 - DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE (A)
31 - CRAWLEY TOWN (A)

APRIL

SAT - 14 LEYTON ORIENT (H)
SAT - 21 GILLINGHAM (H)

SHADOW SQUADS

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
YOUTH ALLIANCE
CENTRAL DIVISION

SEPTEMBER

14 - ST ALBANS CITY (A) L 0-5
28 - TAMWORTH (H) D 2-2

OCTOBER

12 - CORBY TOWN (A)
26 - WATFORD HERTSWOOD (H)

NOVEMBER

2 - KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS (H)
9 - OXFORD CITY (A)

16 - BIRMINGHAM CITY WHITES (H)
23 - CHASE TOWN (A)

30 - FOOTBALLCV REDS (H)

DECEMBER

7 - HITCHIN TOWN (A)

JANUARY

11 - KETTERING TOWN (H)
25 - KETTERING TOWN (A)

FEBRUARY

1 - ST ALBANS CITY (H)
8 - TAMWORTH (A)

22 - CORBY TOWN (H)
29 - WATFORD HERTSWOOD (A)

MARCH

14 - KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS (A)
21 - OXFORD CITY (H)

28 - BIRMINGHAM CITY WHITES (A)

APRIL

4 - CHASE TOWN (H)
18 - FOOTBALLCV REDS (A)

25 - HITCHIN TOWN (H)

SOUTHERN COUNTIES
FLOODIT YOUTH LEAGUE
CORINTHIAN DIVISION

AUGUST

29 - NEWPORT PAGNELL D 1-1

SEPTEMBER

5 - CHESHAM UNITED (H) L 0-3
12 - LEIGHTON TOWN (H)

26 - BOREHAM WOOD (A)

OCTOBER

3 - HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN (H)
17 - CHESHAM UNITED (A)

24 - NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN (H)

NOVEMBER

7 - LEIGHTON TOWN (A)

21 - BOREHAM WOOD (H)

28 - HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN (A)

■ **FIXTURE** Leyton Orient

■ **COMPETITION** Youth Alliance

League Cup

■ **RESULT** 0-3

■ **TEAM**

Barnes, Longden, Jibodu,
Burtenshaw, Ferguson, Ekins (sub
Stephens 46), McAdams, Nash,
Woolley, Smith (sub Blake 64),
Davis (sun Amu 64). Subs not used:
Reading, Rees.

COACH'S COMMENTS

"Despite the scoreline in the
game, I felt we acquitted ourselves
pretty well today but we just didn't
have enough about us in the final
third whereas they did. Andy
Edwards, their coach, was very
complimentary about us and the
way we look to play the game and
he felt we were the better side in
the second half. We really missed
Alasan Ann today - we needed
his physical presence at both ends
of the pitch with their physicality
causing us big problems at corners."

YOUTH ALLIANCE LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Gillingham	12	9	15	28
2 Brighton & Hove Albion	11	8	23	26
3 Queens Park Rangers	10	7	12	24
4 Southend United	12	6	9	21
5 Crawley Town	11	6	1	21
6 LUTON TOWN	11	6	5	20
7 Brentford	11	6	2	19
8 Colchester United	12	6	5	18
9 Leyton Orient	12	6	-4	18
10 Millwall	12	5	9	17
11 Barnet	12	5	2	16
12 Peterborough United	11	3	-5	13
13 Wycombe Wanderers	11	4	-8	13
14 Northampton Town	11	3	-5	10
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	12	2	-15	8
16 Aldershot Town	10	2	-9	7
17 Stevenage	10	1	-11	6
18 AFC Wimbledon	11	1	-26	3

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First Capital Connect



ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER GREGG BROUGHTON

Firstly I'd like to welcome our guests from First Capital Connect to today's game. First Capital's sponsorship of Luton Town provides vital assistance to the recruitment and retention of young talented players to Luton Town.

With both our training grounds at Ely Way and Baldock within walking distance of mainline train stations, it opens up great communication links to the North (Bedford and Wellingborough) and to the South (St Albans and Greater London). A great example of this link-up is Tuki Teyali who is currently shining in our Under-15 age group. Tuki lives in Kingston-Upon-Thames during the week and was spotted playing by our scouts whilst playing for Newport Pagnell while staying with his mother at weekends. He had been approached by all of the big London clubs, as well as some of our closer competitors, but logistically it was impossible for him to travel to any clubs with his living arrangements.

Thanks to First Capital's support he is able to commute twice a week from his London home to Luton to train with our squads and, at weekends, we help him make the short journey from Newport Pagnell to Luton to play in games. Tuki has a bright future at the club and is one of 50 players within our system who may have struggled to attend the Academy without First Capital's assistance. Many thanks to Lynn Howarth and Julie Ryan at First Capital for all their support, and to Steve Newland who helped put the deal together.

As you read this article a majority of our coaching

staff will be in Europe with our Under-12, 13 and 15 squads competing in some of the continents biggest tournaments.

The Under-12s fly into Vienna before travelling across the Slovakian border to Nitra, where our friends from FC Nitra have invited us for the first time to their big international tournament.

The Under-15s are also travelling to a tournament for the first time, and will fly into Munich before catching the train across the Austrian border to Passau. They compete in two one-day tournaments with a unbelievable selection of Europe's major clubs. Finally the Under-13s fly into Dortmund before they make the short journey to Heiden on the Dutch border to compete in the Euro-Masters.

All of the travel has been funded by the boys' parents and we thank them as always for their support, along with Club's main sponsors Easyjet who have assisted with the flights. We will keep you updated of the boys progress via the programme and website, you can also follow us on twitter [Ltfcontour](https://twitter.com/Ltfcontour).

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 BOX 24 ROB & GREG HALL	 BOX 25 MIDDLE EAST CHEMICALS	 BOX 27 SKF	

IN THE COMMUNITY



THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE COMMUNITY CLUB DEVELOPMENT FUND

SUPPORTED BY THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND THE PROFESSIONAL
FOOTBALLERS' ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY EASYJET

This season we have successfully launched our Schools Visit Project which aims to provide free curriculum time football coaching and PE lessons to all primary schools within Luton, Bedfordshire and North Hertfordshire

easyJet

The Football Conference Community Club Development Fund was launched last 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.

free coaching and already almost 40 schools are now receiving visits from our coaching staff.

Our Football Development Officer, James Hatch, who runs the schools visit project on behalf of the Community Trust told Talk of the Town: "We have already had a great response from local schools who have asked us to come in and help.

"The funding from the Football Conference and Easyjet 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.

"So far this season we have provided almost 600 hours of coaching and are well on target to provide 2,000 free hours of coaching to local schools throughout the season."



The club's Community Department have already contacted almost 100 schools in our catchment area since the start of this school year with the offer of

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



Luton Town FC The Hatters Cup

Youth Football Tournament May 2012

Sponsored by



Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May 2012

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

Application Form

- Please send application forms to:
James Hatch, Luton Town FC, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU4 8AW
- Please make all cheques payable to 'Luton Town Community Trust'

Name of Club	
County of Affiliation	
FA Affiliation Number	
Contact Name and Address	
Email	
Telephone (Daytime)	
Telephone (Mobile)	

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.

THE COST OF LOVING



I would like you to be honest with me please. During your average week how often do you sit at your desk at 3.45pm and think to yourself, "You know what, it is neither lunch time or tea time but I suddenly have the urge to eat. I wonder where I can get a quick steak and kidney pie?"

I'd imagine that this is a rare event so how come we can't get through a Saturday afternoon without feeling the need to fill our faces with a half-time pie or a foot long hot dog?

I ask this on the back of a new survey which seemed to send the media world into a feeding frenzy this week. The report was all about the price of attending football last year and inevitably it was the price of a pie and a cup of tea that caught the headlines.

Shock horror, a pie can cost anything up to £4 a time (at Arsenal where I am sure you have to manoeuvre the meat around for ages in eye catching style before you are allowed to finish), or £3.50 at clubs like Cheltenham Oxford and Brighton. A cuppa can be just 50p at plucky Football League newcomers Crawley or as much as £2.20 at West Brom. Programmes seem to almost all be £3 with few clubs daring to go higher.

With so many sports pages to fill it is easy pickings to focus on those eye watering prices for pies and teas, but surely the more positive story is in the very first column of the report.

So many clubs are doing fantastic work to try and attract supporters. You can watch Premier League football for just a tenner at Newcastle and Blackburn, while under £20 will get you in to the vast majority of clubs in the Football League.

Most clubs are all too aware that people don't have a lot of disposable income at the moment so tickets

are given away to schools, local teams, armed services and so on. There are discount days and lower prices for cup matches. That is not because the clubs are holding their hands up and saying, "We have been a bit greedy with the usual prices, sorry, have this one a bit cheaper to make up for it." Far from it, clubs are charging lower prices because they can then claw that back with the secondary spend: the afore mentioned pies, pasties and programmes.

Everyone knows that football clubs are struggling and every penny is vital, so do regular supporters really begrudge that extra 50p on a pie? Not at all. Somewhere in the fans' head they know that they are helping their club by paying those prices.

I think the real point of reports on the cost of attending football is for those who DON'T go to be able to shake their heads at those who do.

News journalists seize on the story and we supporters are supposed to feel ripped off about how much we are paying for a dodgy lukewarm pie.

But what those writers just don't get is that we do not choose the pie. The pie chooses us. It is all part of the Saturday ritual. What is a Saturday for other than paying over the odds for petrol at the services, paying £4 to an urchin to 'watch your car' in a disused schoolyard, taking three times as long to get served in the matchday pub, drinking overpriced tea and chomping on a pie at a time of day you would never usually eat.

Football is all about suffering. We don't need to be told that we are paying over the odds. We know. We love it.

Article kindly written by Chris Williams of award-winning sports content specialists Final Third Sports Media www.sportcontent.co.uk

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.

0

The second clean sheet came against Northampton Town in 1961, as the Cobblers were beaten 4-0 in front of a record crowd for this date at Kenilworth Road on 7th January, of 26,220. Gordon Turner became the eighth Luton player to have scored at least two goals on this date, with Allan Brown and Alec Ashworth also scoring.

4

The fourth of these FA Cup ties also saw four goals, as Luton drew 2-2 with local rivals Watford. Emeka Nwajiobi opened the scoring before Brian Stein made it 2-0 to the Hatters. John Barnes immediately replied for the Hornets before Mo Johnston equalised from the penalty spot.

6

The most goals scored by Luton in a home fixture on this date came in 1905 when Fulham were beaten 6-0 in a Southern League match. Three players: Samuel Eaton, George Lamberton and Davie Ross, all scored twice.

9

The highest number of goals scored by the sides as Bristol City were the visitors in 1933 for a Division Three (South). Andy Rennie became the second player to have netted a hat-trick on this day as Luton won 5-4, with Arthur Mills and Tommy Tait also scoring.

3

Luton have played in third round of the FA Cup six times on this day at Kenilworth Road. The first of these came in 1950 when Grimsby progressed to the Fourth Round with a 4-3 victory. Tommy Kiernan scored twice with Billy Waugh netting as well for Luton.

2

The number of League fixtures previously played, with the first being a Second Division match against Barnsley. Edwin Birch scored a hat-trick and James Kemplay also scored as Luton won 4-1.

10

The number of home matches previously played on this date, with Luton winning five, drawing three and losing just twice. The Hatters have scored 32 goals and conceded 19.

63

In his 63rd and last appearance for the Hatters, before a big money move to Arsenal, John Hartson ended his Luton career with an equalising goal against Bristol Rovers on this day in 1995. Marvin Johnson saw a penalty saved after Gary Waddock had been tripped inside the area. Luton won the replay 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Dwight Marshall.

6

The number of years since the last meeting here on 7th January, and who could forget the most remarkable FA Cup thriller against Liverpool? Steven Gerrard had opened the scoring for Liverpool before the Town hit back through Steve Howard, Steve Robinson and a Kevin Nicholls penalty to lead 3-1 early in the second half. Florent Sinama Pongolle and Xabi Alonso both scored twice though to turn the game around as it eventually ended 5-3 to the visitors.

NLP VIEW

WITH MATT BADCOCK

It's the £1million question – is a Non-League player worth a seven figure splurge?

We've come a long way since Nottingham Forest broke the barrier for Trevor Francis in 1979. Now the game is consumed by outrageous spending.

Recession? Pah, what recession? Here's £35m to shell out on an unproven player who scored a few goals in the Championship. (You know who I mean Liverpool fans). So if the upward trend continues to rise, and there is seemingly no reason why it wouldn't, then one day Non-League could have its first £1m man.

In last week's NLP we revealed that Fleetwood Town star Jamie Vardy was expected to attract an offer of over £1m, with the Cod Army already knocking back a bid just shy of that.

Vardy is an exceptional talent – the most exciting seen for a few years. His former FC Halifax manager Neil Aspin raved about him and has always said he would always go high.

Fleetwood chairman Andy Pilley reckons the Premier League. Since arriving in the Blue Square Bet Premier – fresh from winning the Evo-Stik Premier with the Shaymen – he has been nothing short of a revelation.

Add in a few goals in the FA Cup spotlight and suddenly everybody wants a piece of the 24-year-old Sheffield lad.

It's easy to scoff at suggestions a Non-League player is worth that sort of money. The current record for a player going into the League is £260,000 forked out by Peterborough for George Boyd, then at Stevenage.

Another player to have pulled on the Stevenage shirt now is Steve Morison – also ex Bishop's Stortford – and it wasn't all that long ago either.

Just two seasons after signing for Millwall he's now in the Premier League with Norwich. In his first game of 2012 last Monday the striker – and full Welsh international – scored his seventh of the season.

Millwall saw a huge return on their £130,000 outlay when the Canaries stumped up over £2m in the summer.

Swansea left-back Neil Taylor was playing for Wrexham in the Blue Square Bet Premier two years' ago. In the summer the newly-promoted Swans were rejecting seven-figure bids from Newcastle for his services.

A player's value can dramatically increase in a short space of time.

Vardy hasn't played in the Football League. But he is without doubt the hottest property outside it right now. The idea that he can go on and play in the Premier League is by no means far-fetched.

Fleetwood say they are determined to hold on to their jewel. And who can blame them? They are bang in the title race and promotion to the Football League has long been the ambitious club's aim.

Where Vardy ends up, when he goes, and for how much, remains to be seen.

But with recession-proof football the way it is, you wouldn't bet against one day there being a £1m Non-League player.



THE 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 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.



LUTON TOWN v ALFRETON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal match day prices.



ALL AREAS

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

UNCOVERED SEATING - MAIN ENCLOSURE BLOCKS A&B

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

BUY TICKETS...

IN PERSON: 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



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. All prices will be £2 extra than terrace. Seating tickets are now on general sale until Friday 13th January at 2pm.



SOUTHPORT v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

This game is pay on the day for Town supporters. We have an allocation of 1,100 terrace places and 200 seats.

Prices: Terracing: £12.50 adults, £9 over-65s, £5 under-18s, FREE for under-11s with a full-paying adult.

Seating: £14 adults, £10 over-65s, £5 under-18s, FREE for under-11s with a full-paying adult.



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-Stansfield timetable. The walk to the ground from the train station is approximately three miles.

GETTING TO...SOUTHPORT - HAIG AVENUE

Bobbers Travel (01234 856542): £24 adults, £21 concessions. Departure: 9am.

Town on Tour (07960 567465): £25 adults, £23 concessions. Departure: 9.30am.

Car: M1 north, M6, leaving the M6 at Junction 26 before taking the M58 towards Southport. Leave the M58 at Junction 3 and take the A570 towards Ormskirk. Follow the A570 around Ormskirk Town Centre towards Southport. On entering Southport you will come to a large roundabout with Tesco's & McDonalds outlets. Take the 3rd exit onto Scarisbrick New Road (A570). You should now be able to catch sight of the ground over on your right. Pass the Richmond pub on your left and then turn right into Haig Avenue. The ground is down on the right.

For the sat-nav: PR8 6JZ

By train: The nearest station to the ground is Meols Cop which is about a mile away from the ground. It is served by trains from Manchester Piccadilly. As you come out of the station turn left and proceed down Norwood Road. After about half a mile, turn right into Haig Avenue and the stadium is located down on the left.

FIXTURES & RESULTS



DATE TIME H/A OPPOSITION 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, Antwi, Osano, Keane, Howells, Lawless, O'Connor, Dance, Barnes-Horner*
Sat 20	15:00	H	Southport	5-1	5,681	64	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1, Howells, Keane, Watkins 1***, Lawless, Willmott 1, O'Connor***
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, Howells 1, Dance***, Lawless*, Keane, Willmott, Crow 1***, Smith 2
Tue 30	19:45	A	Hayes & Yeading United	2-2	1,015	727	8	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells 1, Dance***, Lawless, Keane, Willmott, Crow 1***, Smith 1

September

Fri 2	19:45	A	Stockport County	TV	1-1	3,389	321	6	Tyler, Osano, Keane, Antwi, A-Adjaye, Lawless 1, Kissock*, Watkins, Willmott, M-Smith, O'Connor***
Sat 10	15:00	H	Darlington	2-0	5,952	151	6	Tyler, Keane, Antwi, Beckwith, Howells, Lawless, Hand, Willmott, Morgan-Smith*, Crow*, 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*, Fleetwood**	
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*, Fleetwood, Crow***	
Sat 24	15:00	A	York City	0-3	3,570	606	6	Tyler, Keane, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Dance, Lawless**, Hand, Kissock*, Willmott, Fleetwood***	
Tue 27	19:45	H	Cambridge United	0-1	6,274	522	9	Tyler, Dance, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith, Hand***, Keane, Willmott*, Fleetwood, 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	TV	1-0	3,239	186	4	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Willmott***, Watkins, Hand, Dance*, Fleetwood***, 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, Fleetwood 1, Wright 1**	

November

Sat 5	15:00	H	Fleetwood Town	1-2	6,361	83	7	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, 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***, 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**, Dance, Lawless, Hand, Howells, Fleetwood 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, 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, Lawless, O'Connor***, Crow 1
Sat 10	15:00	H	Swindon S (FAT1)	2-0	1,298	55	-	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***, Howells, Crow** 2
Mon 26	15:00	H	Kettering Town	5-0	7,164	205	5	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless 1, Watkins, Keane, Howells, O'Connor 1**, Crow***

January

Sun 1	15:00	A	Kettering Town	5-0	3,247	2,018	3	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs 1, Taylor 1, Lawless**, Keane, Watkins 1, Howells 1, Dance*, O'Connor*
Sat 7	15:00	H	Newport County					
Tues 10	19:45	H	Stockport County					
Sat 14	15:00	A	Hinckley United (FAT2)					
Sat 21	15:00	A	Southport					
Wed 25	19:30	H	Mansfield Town	TV				
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					

Willmott*, Watkins, Morgan-Smith, Crow, Kidd
M-Smith 1**, Crow 1*, A-Adjaye**, Barnes-Horner, K. Pilkington
Gleeson*, Walker**, Poku, Barnes-Horner, K. Pilkington
Watkins*, O'Connor*, Kissock***, A-Adjaye, K. Pilkington
Watkins*, A-Adjaye*, O'Connor***, Kissock, K. Pilkington

Dance*, Fleetwood**, O'Connor, Carden, K. Pilkington
Dance*, Kissock*, Watkins, O'Connor, K. Pilkington
Dance*, Kissock, Watkins**, O'Connor**, K. Pilkington
Watkins*, O'Connor*, Kissock***, Samuel, K. Pilkington
O'Connor*, Samuel**, Willmott*, Watkins, K. Pilkington
Crow***, Watkins**, O'Connor*, Asafu-Adjaye, K. Pilkington
O'Connor*, Kissock*, Watkins**, Asafu-Adjaye, K. Pilkington

Crow*, Kissock**, Antwi, Asafu-Adjaye, K. Pilkington
Fleetwood*, Crow**, Antwi, Watkins, K. Pilkington
Fleetwood*, Watkins**, Antwi, Kissock, K. Pilkington
O'Connor 1****, Hand 2***, Watkins, Kissock**, K. Pilkington
Wright*, Kissock**, Hand, Watkins, K. Pilkington
Crow***, O'Connor*, Kissock**, Beckwith, K. Pilkington
Crow*, Henry***, Tavernier**, Willmott, Samuel, Carden, Tyler

Kissock*, Watkins***, Hand, Wright*, K. Pilkington.
Tyler, Willmott*, Gleeson, Beckwith, Crow*, Blackett, Watkins*** 1
Tyler, Watkins**, Willmott, Kissock, Brunt*
Tyler, Crow 1***, Willmott*, Brunt*, Keane
Watkins***, Brunt*, O'Connor*, Tyler, Taylor

Kissock*, Beckwith, Fleetwood, Dance, Hand, Wright, Tyler
Hand*, Dance*, Brunt***, Fleetwood, Tyler
Kidd, McAdams***, Smith, Wright* 1, O'Donnell**, Kidd
Tyler, Wright***, Willmott, Fleetwood**, Kissock*, Willmott
Tyler, Fleetwood 1***, Kissock, Willmott 1**, Wright

Brunt*, Fleetwood 1***, Willmott*, Kissock, Tyler



The players celebrate Jake Howells' opener against Kettering

LEAGUE TABLE 2011/12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wrexham	26	18	5	3	47	16	31	59
2 Fleetwood Town	26	17	6	3	57	30	27	57
3 LUTON TOWN	26	13	9	4	52	24	28	48
4 Southport	27	14	6	7	43	45	-2	48
5 York City	27	12	10	5	54	28	26	46
6 Kidderminster Harriers	26	13	7	6	49	37	12	46
7 Gateshead	26	12	8	6	40	36	4	44
8 Cambridge United	26	11	10	5	35	24	11	43
9 Mansfield Town	26	9	12	5	40	32	8	39
10 Forest Green Rovers	27	9	11	7	39	27	12	38
11 Grimsby Town	26	11	5	10	46	40	6	38
12 Barrow	26	11	5	10	39	38	1	38
13 Darlington	27	10	7	10	28	30	-2	37
14 Braintree Town	27	11	4	12	46	49	-3	37
15 Tamworth	25	9	7	9	32	36	-4	34
16 Ebbsfleet United	27	7	10	10	39	42	-3	31
17 Lincoln City	27	7	5	15	26	39	-13	26
18 AFC Telford United	27	5	9	13	25	40	-15	24
19 Stockport County	27	4	11	12	29	45	-16	23
20 Newport County	26	5	7	14	32	40	-8	22
21 Alfreton Town	27	5	7	15	33	59	-26	22
22 Kettering Town	27	5	7	15	27	60	-33	22
23 Hayes & Yeading	26	5	6	15	36	55	-19	21
24 Bath City	26	3	8	15	27	49	-22	17

PLAYER STATS 2011/12

	THIS SEASON		CUP	TOTAL		DISCIP		CAREER TOTAL		
	LEAGUE									
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Will ANTWI	12	(0)	2	1	(0)	0	13	(0)	2	0
Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE	4	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(2)	0	1
Matthew BARNES-HOMER	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	81
Dean BECKWITH	8	(0)	1	2	(0)	0	10	(0)	1	2
Shane BLACKETT	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	43
Ryan BRUNT	0	(5)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(5)	0	6
Paul CARDEN	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	11
Danny CROW	13	(6)	7	1	(2)	0	14	(8)	7	3
James DANCE	20	(4)	3	1	(0)	1	21	(4)	4	3
Stuart FLEETWOOD	13	(6)	5	2	(0)	2	15	(6)	7	3
Dan GLEESON	3	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(1)	0	1
Jamie HAND	11	(2)	2	2	(0)	0	13	(2)	2	4
Charlie HENRY	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Jake HOWELLS	23	(0)	5	3	(0)	0	26	(0)	5	2
Keith KEANE	19	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	22	(0)	0	5
John-Paul KISSOCK	3	(11)	0	3	(1)	0	6	(12)	0	0
Janos KOVACS	17	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	19	(0)	2	2
Alex LACEY	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0
Alex LAWLESS	18	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	20	(0)	2	6
Colby MCADAMS	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Amari MORGAN-SMITH	14	(1)	9	1	(0)	0	15	(1)	9	6
Freddie MURRAY	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	79
Aaron O'CONNOR	13	(10)	2	3	(0)	4	16	(10)	6	2
JJ O'DONNELL	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Curtis OSANO	17	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	20	(0)	0	3
George PILKINGTON	13	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	15	(0)	0	2
Kevin PILKINGTON	8	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	11	(0)	0	0
Godfrey POKU	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	29
Collin SAMUEL	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Christian TAVERNIER	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	1
Greg TAYLOR	5	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	0
Mark TYLER	18	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	19	(0)	0	0
Dan WALKER	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Adam WATKINS	9	(10)	3	2	(1)	1	11	(11)	4	3
Robbie WILLMOTT	18	(5)	7	1	(1)	0	19	(6)	7	1
Tommy WRIGHT	1	(3)	1	1	(1)	2	2	(4)	3	0

LAST WORD

WITH THE LUTON NEWS' WITH JAMES CUNLIFFE

After play-off penalty shoot-out heartbreak and slipping 11 points off the pace in the Blue Square Bet Premier title race, it's fair to say the last calendar year was an *annus horribilis* for most things Hatters.

But the last three games have brought nine points and at least provided an early tingle of optimism that 2012 could be a whole lot better, with team shape, selection, performances and player partnerships all starting to gel.

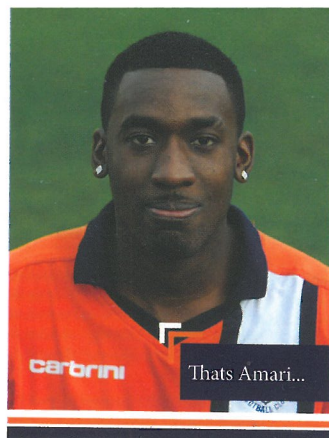
Thirteen goals have been a boon to the forwards and with only one conceded in 270 minutes, the defence looks like it is rediscovering some sturdiness. In particular, Greg Taylor looks a magnificent signing. He has freed up Jake Howells to start terrorising the left flank, much the same way he did two seasons ago when the youngster was part of an exciting triumvirate with Tom Craddock and Freddie Murray.

Of course, the former was snatched away by Oxford in the 2010 January transfer window and this month the hope has to be that the Welsh Under-21 international is not prized away from Kenilworth Road. Likewise Town's other stars.

Hopefully Gary Brabin can find another goalscorer, with emphasis on adding, not subtracting from his squad - as has been the case for the past two winter windows.

Certainly, a big attacking spark was lost around this time last term when Andy Drury left for Ipswich, so recent speculation of a return is welcome. And if he does, then the current tingle of optimism may just turn into a full blown outbreak.

It would be a great way to carry on from the festive feel-good factor where Town made it 14 times that, as a non-league side, they've scored five or more goals in a game. The second of these was certainly a great



reward for the 2,018 fans that travelled to Nene Park on Sunday, selling out the away end, despite a Poppies price hike.

And while on the subject of support, it was nice to hear fans, during the 5-0 win, once more serenading former hero Sol Davis to the tune of 'Gold' by Spandau Ballet.

I'm sure I also heard Morecambe and Wise's 'Bring Me Sunshine' played over the tannoy at half-time, as if it were heralding the start of a promising year.

By the way, I've often wondered why the tune was never adopted as a Kenilworth Road anthem, considering it was made famous by a former fan, director and comedy legend, but I digress.

It did, however, get me thinking that I've not heard too many terrace chants for the current crop of players. Though I can claim absolutely no originality, it didn't take long to think of one for Amari Morgan-Smith, as the striker's name is tailor-made for 'That's Amore' by fifties crooner Dean Martin.

Apologies in advance (and no offence Danny and Jake), but to get the ball rolling, here it goes:

*'When the ball hits the goal
'It's not Howells, it's not Crow,
'It's Amari'*

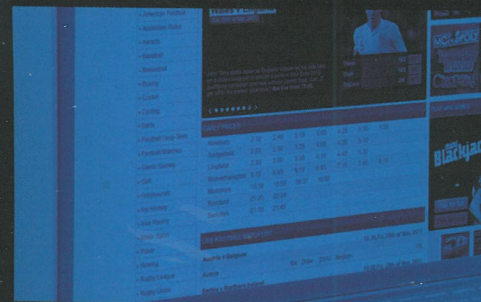
Granted, this season's top goalscorer needs to recover from injury and start hitting the net again, but I'm sure, in the meantime, some of the less musically handicapped among you can think of few more inventive ditties. Does anyone know what rhymes with Kovacs?

Anyway, songs or no songs, happy New Year and let's hope it's finally Luton's *annus promotionous*.

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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN 3 0 NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

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

✓ 1	Danny Potter
✓ 3	Lee Baker
■ 4	Tom Miller
✓ 5	Gary Warren
✓ 6	Ismail Yakubu
■ 9	Craig McAllister
✓ 10	Sam Foley
✓ 11	Darryl Knights
■ 12	Ryan Gilligan
■ 14	Tommy Doherty
✓ 16	Andrew Hughes
■ 17	Wayne Hatswell
✓ 18	Glyn Thompson
✓ 19	David Pipe
✓ 21	Robbie Matthews
✓ 23	Jake Harris
✓ 25	Paul Rodgers
✓ 26	Elliott Buchanan
■ 27	Felino Jardim
■ 29	Guilluame Velez

✓ JARVIS
✓ CHARLES
✓ SANDELL

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: K. Evans
Assistant: G. Kane
Assistant: P. Lavelle
Fourth official: B. Knight

UP NEXT

v STOCKPORT COUNTY

Tuesday 10th January 2012 7.45pm
Blue Square Bet Premier

