

TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB • ISSUE 20 • £3

LUTON TOWN v STOCKPORT COUNTY

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2012 - 7.45PM



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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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BRABS



Good evening and welcome back to you all to Kenilworth Road for our second home game in four days.

I'd like to welcome Jim Gannon and his Stockport County team to Bedfordshire as well as the directors, staff and supporters of our visitors tonight. I served my apprenticeship at Edgeley Park as a young player and have fond memories of my time there – apart from the time when they released me!

It seems a long time since our 1-1 draw at Edgeley Park back in early September in front of the television cameras. That night I was hugely disappointed to leave with just a point having been a goal up going into stoppage time.

Indeed a lot has changed since that Friday night fixture. Stockport have since changed managers with Jim replacing Didi Hamann.

Our visitors' squad still contains a wealth of experience and quality despite their lowly position in the table. It is a huge surprise to see a club like Stockport battling against relegation to the Blue Square Bet North. Given the size and stature of the club and the quality available to Jim I am sure he will turn their fortunes around. I just hope that revival starts after tonight.

The draw against Stockport in September was one of many frustrating results we encountered in the first half of this season. It's hard not to look back and think at what might have been had we held on to winning positions in games against Stockport, Hayes, Bath, Cambridge and Lincoln.

The inconsistency of our results and performances were frustrating in the extreme and, I am delighted that we have begun to improve in these areas in the past month.

Five wins on the bounce is fantastic and the confidence of the players has steadily improved too and hopefully that is something you have seen too.

I feel as though I keep repeating myself, but that win at Tamworth before Christmas was a huge boost and I'm delighted we have built on that performance.

Tonight we go in search of a fifth straight league victory following Saturday's 2-0 win over Newport County. It wasn't pretty, it was spectacular but it was professional and deserved. I felt we controlled the game throughout even when they had 11 men on the pitch.

We scored two very good goals and played some good football at times but I still believe we can offer more but I guess, like all managers, I am hard man to please. It's only natural to want to do better and I truly believe that there is plenty more to come from us between now and the end of the season.

There are 19 games left to play and 57 points to play for. That's a hell of a lot of football to be played. A lot of people are asking me if we can catch Wrexham and Fleetwood. Of course we can, anything is possible. But we mustn't get carried away with winning four league games on the trot. Champions are consistent, grind out wins when they're not playing well and invariably, going on long winning runs.

We need to concentrate on ourselves. We have to rely on others to slip up and we need to make sure that if they do we keep winning to keep the pressure up.

I told the players after the win on Saturday to forget the result. We had won, forget it, move on. The next game is always important. We need to be in this mindset and just keep going. We can only affect what we can do.

Please get behind us once more this evening. Another 6,000 in the ground on Saturday was fantastic.

Keep the faith.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MIKE HERRICK



Firstly, may we extend a warm welcome to all connected with Stockport County – players, supporters and directors alike.

If there are any neutrals amongst the crowd today then we hope you will enjoy the game as well and that you'll be amazed with the standard of football served up in the fifth tier.

This evening's visitors have not found the transition to life in the Conference easy – who does, these days? – and an abundance of draws now sees them languishing just above the relegation zone.

One of those draws, of course, was in the fixture at Edgeley Park earlier this season when we were distraught to concede a last gasp, deflected equaliser. We aim to put that right tonight in the hope of continuing our recent run of form.

Whilst maybe not a vintage performance against Newport on Saturday we achieved three more points, another clean sheet, and a fourth straight league win. Job done.

It is a great pity that financial problems at various clubs continue to dominate the headlines – most particularly at Darlington and Kettering, though several others are finding times very difficult at present.

There are currently grave concerns that Darlington's fixture with Barrow last Saturday may signal the end of 128 years of history. At times like these, the match result itself is of little significance when set against the club's very survival. All genuine football fans can really sympathise with them.

Of course we know of these difficulties only too well ourselves. It is the principal reason that we as your board of directors have given our overriding focus to ensuring financial stability and sustainability.

Nothing else comes close to this – whether that be the new stadium, or even promotion itself, vital though both of these are.

Don't take this to mean, however, that we lack ambition. Far from it. We are genuine supporters ourselves, many of us going back more than 50 years, and we are completely committed to ensuring that we make the journey back into the Football League and beyond in good shape.

But we must temper outright ambition with reality. We have no right to gamble our future on your behalf chasing the dream.

Having said all that, even though we've already been able to spend over six figures in transfer fees so far this season, sensible funding is still available to further strengthen the squad in this transfer window without compromising our objectives.

Rest assured, we are giving our utmost backing to the push for promotion *this season*. But when we go up, we shall have done it in the right way – a way that will guarantee us a successful future – and the many messages of support and encouragement that we receive from our incredibly loyal supporters show us that you share this vision.

Yes – there will always be differing views on team selection and tactics but these must be set in the overall context. Just ask Darlington.

It is a crying shame, to put it at its mildest, that those in charge of our national game saw fit to create the Premier League, thus allowing the gulf between rich and poor to increase to the unimaginable extent that we see today.

If the trend continues and leads to the establishment of a 'European Super League', that will exacerbate matters still further and can only lead to the continued destruction of the fabric of the game.

Even the 'ordinary' Premier League clubs will then face ruin as they try and reach beyond their means to join those at the top table. Where will it leave the rest when there is effectively only one table left? Those governing the game, both nationally and internationally certainly have a lot to answer for.

The strength of football in this country always used to be based on strength in depth – strength that stretched down well beyond the top division.

It should have been obvious that a fairer distribution of wealth was needed to protect this depth in our national game. With the experience of their previous decisions, however, I'm afraid we won't be holding our breath while we wait for the FA to act.

All we at Luton Town can do is to do the right thing by our club, for our club and for all who belong to it. Let's all continue to take pride and give our support in whichever way we can. We know the staff and players greatly appreciate this and they *will* respond to it.

Bring me sunshine.

Mike



HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

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

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup: Runners-up 1988

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

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One: Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

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

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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PILKS



Another victory and another clean sheet on Saturday was excellent.

Consistency has been a major frustration for us this season so to chalk up our fifth straight win in all competitions and keep our fourth clean sheet in five matches meant a great deal.

Like most teams who visit Kenilworth Road, Newport came to frustrate us and, for the first half-an-hour, they did so. The sending off of Ryan

Charles certainly changed the game and we managed to capitalise on our numerical advantage two minute later when Aaron O'Connor headed us into the lead.

We knew we would be in for a tough game. The match at their place was a real tough one where we had to grind out a late, late victory and on Saturday it was very similar. It was vital that we scored a goal before half-time because Newport will have wanted to have get to the break without conceding, giving them a chance to regroup in the second half. We kept our composure at the back and continued to play some good football and that led to our second goal that Danny Crow scored shortly after the hour mark.

I don't often look at the leading goalscorers charts but I did the other day and it's interesting to note that we don't have a single player in the top 20 in the Blue Square Bet Premier yet we are the third highest scorers in the division. That shows that we don't rely on just one player for our goals.

Everyone in our squad is capable of scoring goals and there is a real confidence about the place right now. There was a lot of disappointment after some of the draws this season. After the Lincoln game we were hugely deflated but since that set-back we have responded really positively.

The Newport win was the first time we had won four league games on the spin since the middle of last season which is pleasing. We know it's a sequence that needs to be extended this evening and beyond if we're to challenge for the top spot but all we can do is keep plugging away and hoping that one of the teams above us falters.

In our first season in this league we had to chase down Stevenage and Oxford and almost did so and last season we were faced by Crawley and AFC Wimbledon and again lost out. It's an over-used cliché but there is still a long way to go this season.

First and foremost we need to cement our place in the Play-Offs before starting to worry about anything else. Last season it took us a bit longer to confirm our position in the top five and the sooner we can do it this season the earlier we can concentrate on any tilt at the title.

You know, I know, my team-mates know and the management and directors know we are good enough to be successful this season. We are the first to admit that we've hadn't been in the first half of the season. We've started to show it in recent weeks and we have to make sure we continue it between now and the end of April.

Stockport will present another tough challenge tonight. They are a team scraping at the wrong end of the table. It is a surprise to see them in the position that they are and given the names in their squad it's fair to say it's a false one.

We need to be patient once more, keep our concentration and take our chances when they come our way. If we can do that then we're more than confident of taking all three points and continuing our good run of form.

Enjoy the game.

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

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AROUND TOWN

NEW RESERVE DATES

The Hatters have re-arranged both of their fixtures against Oxford United in the totosport.com Combination.

The Town will now host the U's at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 7th February (kick-off 2pm) before travelling to Didcot Town to play the return match on Wednesday 29th February (kick-off 7pm).

Furthermore, the Hatters' scheduled home reserve game against Colchester United on 31st January has been postponed due to our Bedfordshire County Senior Cup commitments. The Town have been drawn away to Bedford Town (kick-off 7.45pm) on this date.

NEWPORT GOLDEN GAMBLE

The winner of our first golden gamble of 2012 went home with a delightful £690 on Saturday.

Mr Paul Giddings, of Aylesbury, collected the prize after his ticket, number 21348, was plucked out of the barrel at half-time.

Expect another big payout tonight when the Hatters entertain Stockport County at Kenilworth Road.

TEXT TO WIN TICKETS

Text £5 and win the chance to secure a pair of home game tickets to see any home game match of your choice between February and the end of March 2012.

By entering you have the chance to make a real difference to our local hospice, Keech Hospice Care which looks after children and adults in the area.

Text just £5 to be in with a chance to win the pair. All you have to do is text KHC21E5 to 70070 and you will be notified by text if you have won the tickets.

You will be given a letter which you have to bring along to collect the tickets in person.

So, give our local hospice a boost and give yourself a chance to win two tickets.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The Hatters would like to wish a happy ninth birthday to season ticket holder Josh Straker today. Josh's favourite players are Keith Keane and Jake Howells and he is here at Kenilworth Road tonight celebrating with his family and friends.

TWITTER PASSES 4,000 MARK

The Hatters' social media presence continues to increase by the day with our Twitter account @LTFC_Official recently passing the 4,000 mark.

Our Facebook page is now one of the most popular outside the Championship with over 6,500 fans registered at facebook.com/lutontown.

Press officer Andrew Barringer said: "We've been delighted at the supporters' enthusiasm for social media. Almost 10,000 people now have access to both our social media accounts which gives them direct communication with the club at the click of a button.

"We have been able to post photographs and videos as well as tweet quotations from the manager straight after the final whistle."



Kevin and George Pilkington help prepare lunch

MASTERCHEF LUNCH

The Town squad were treated to a gastronomic two-course meal cooked by Masterchef: The Professionals runner-up and Hatters fan Steve Barringer on Thursday.

The 25-year-old was assisted by fiancée and fellow chef Lucy Thompson as well as Town duo and fans of the hit BBC 2 show Kevin and George Pilkington in the kitchen.

Steve told Talk of the Town: "After supporting the Town for so long, it was something I'd always wanted to do. A couple of the lads are big fans of the show, so it was a way for me to say thank you for their support. I was unsure about which dishes to cook as I wanted everyone to enjoy it, but I was pleased with how everything turned out."

Club photographer Gareth Owen was on hand to take some pictures (and eat the left-overs!).



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WELCOME STOCKPORT COUNTY



When tonight's visitors unveiled new owners and a new manager in Champions League winner Didi Hamann there were high hopes at Edgeley Park of an instant return to the Football League following last season's relegation.

However, fast forward to January and the club that share our famous nickname find themselves anxiously looking over their shoulders with trap door to the Blue Square Bet North a few points away.

Gone is Hamann and back in the dugout is Jim Gannon for another spell in the County hotseat as the former fans' favourite as a player at Edgeley Park looks to stave off the threat of relegation.

This evening Gannon will attempt to lead his struggling side to just their second away victory of the campaign but more importantly will probably want to stop the rot of five successive away league defeats which included an humiliating 7-0 reverse against Grimsby.

Their only success away from Edgeley Park this term was a 2-0 win at Bath City on 18th October and Gannon's side will be looking to win at Kenilworth Road for only the second time in history. County last tasted success in Bedfordshire in September 1966.

The Hatters won the last meeting at Kenilworth Road in the 2004/05 League One winning season with goals from Chris Coyne, Steve Howard and a Kevin Nicholls penalty.

With the weight of history and statistics against them, the 'other' Hatters will be pleased to know that football isn't decided by pieces of paper and numbers. Gannon's side will take heart from a recent 3-2 win over Barrow on New Year's Day that saw them score a late winner to take all three points.

There is certainly enough quality in the ranks at Edgeley Park for Gannon's side to pull away from the relegation zone in the second half of the season.

Goalkeeper Matt Glennon and striker Martin Gritton have considerable experience at a higher level whilst young loanees Aaron Cole of Derby and Danny Rowe of Fleetwood have brought pace and a goal threat to County attack.

Their poor form this term has surprised many but, with a talented and hard-working group of players and a manager who has been there, done that and got the Stockport t-shirt already at Edgeley Park in the past, County have a good chance of avoiding a second successive relegation.



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THE VISITORS

CLUB HISTORY

Established in 1883 as Heaton Norris Rovers, in 1890 the name was changed to Stockport County to reflect the town gaining County Borough status. After winning the Lancashire League in 1900, County gained admittance to the Football League.

After finishing in the bottom three in their first four seasons, County failed to gain re-election in 1904 and so spent a season in the Lancashire Combination; they won the League at the first time of asking and made an immediate return to the professional ranks. County have been proud Football League members ever since.

Joining the League meant the club soon outgrew their ground behind the Nursery Inn on Green Lane in Heaton Norris and, in 1902, they moved south of the River Mersey to Edgeley Park, then home of Stockport RLFC. County have played there ever since.

The club stayed in the Fourth Division doldrums until the turn of the 90s, when Uruguayan manager Danny Bergara turned the Hatters into regular top-of-the-table challengers. Promotion came in 1991, and was followed by four visits to Wembley in two years - twice in play-off finals, twice in the Football League Trophy. Unfortunately County lost on each occasion.

Following Bergara's departure in 1995, Dave Jones took charge and gave the club its most memorable season where they reached the semi-finals of the League Cup and won promotion as runners-up in the Second Division. After Jones' departure for Southampton, County consolidated in the First Division until relegation in 2002. What followed was a largely downward spiral back to the bottom division, twice finishing a season on just 26 points, and by Boxing Day 2005 County were well adrift at the bottom of the Football League.

In came former player Jim Gannon as manager, who led the team to a remarkable run of form and, with

an incredibly tense 0-0 draw on the final day against Carlisle, eventual safety. Success finally came in 2007/08. After finishing fourth, Gannon's side beat Wycombe in the semi-finals followed by a thrilling 3-2 win over neighbours Rochdale, finally ending the club's hoodoo at Wembley.

Unfortunately, the Hatters couldn't build on that success and went in to administration before the final game of the season at Brighton. In 2009/10 administration took its toll, and County finished on a new record low of 25 points and were relegated back to the bottom flight.

In the summer of 2010 the club was taken out of administration by a group of local business people, ensuring the club's survival. However, fortunes took a downturn on the pitch and the Hatters finished bottom of League Two, meaning that they would compete outside the Football League for the first time since 1905.

MEET THE MANAGER

Jim Gannon

Gannon has experienced County success as both a player and a manager. Having joined the Hatters in 1990, over the next decade he helped the side climb through the leagues, and even reach the League Cup semi-finals in 1996/97.

Leaving in 2000 for Crewe and then back to his native Ireland, he returned to Edgeley Park in December 2005 to take over as manager. County were adrift at the bottom of the Football League at the time, but Gannon turned the team around to be one of the form sides in the division, surviving on the final day of the season. Two years later they won promotion from League Two via the play-offs.

After being relieved of his position in the summer of 2009 when the club went into administration, he spent spells at Motherwell, Peterborough and Port Vale before returning to Edgeley Park in 2011.

IN OPPOSITION



"But we'll stick with it and keep working in training but ultimately this team will only improve if we get better players in and players who have the ability to influence games.

"A lot of hard work needs to be done to get players out and to get players in. It's a lot of work but we do have some good players here.

"We saw a glimmer against Barrow that if we work hard and stick to the tactics we can achieve results.

"I need players who have an appetite for the game and that can influence games. But I'm learning who I can trust to do what I asked them to do.

GANNON LOOKING FOR IMPROVEMENT

After suffering another defeat on the road, Stockport manager Jim Gannon believes the only way tonight's visitors can improve is by adding to his squad.

Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Gateshead was a blow to the County chief after they had recorded a 3-2 win over Barrow on New Year's Day.

And Gannon, who took over from Didi Hamann in October, wants players to come that can influence games - something that was lacking in the Hatters' defeat on Tyneside at the weekend.

"I'll give the players positive feedback from this game," Gannon said on Saturday. "But the bottom line is no matter how much you work on the training ground, once you get out there the best laid plans go out of the window.

"There were times on Saturday where people were losing possession and not doing what they were told to do. We aren't a good enough team to carry people, especially when we don't have possession."

Gannon was disappointed that his side could not build on the New Year's Day victory and was frustrated that his team could not take their chances against the promotion-chasing Heed.

"They had a couple of chances first half and we had some great chances," he said. "We went in 0-0 and we had a bit of wind with us and I told them to stay strong and to press them and for 15 minutes we made them look edgy and at that point we need to get at them.

"But the goal then changed everything and changed the mindset and mentality for our players for the rest of the game."

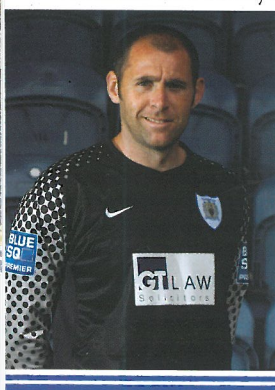
IN TOWN

GOALKEEPER

Matthew Glennon

Much travelled stopper who started as a trainee with Bolton Wanderers back in 1997. He was an unused substitute for a County for a few games in early 2000

whilst on loan but had to wait over 10 years to make his debut for the club he watched as a youngster. That County debut came when he signed for the club at the start of last season. Matty has past experience of Blue Square Premier football with the play off winning Carlisle United team of 2004/05. His other clubs include Bristol Rovers, Hull City, Falkirk, St Johnstone and Huddersfield Town.



DEFENDERS

Andy Halls

Commanding defender who made his debut for County in 2009. He had joined County's Centre of Excellence five years earlier and broke into the youth team whilst still a schoolboy. After breaking into the youth team his performances saw the first year trainee rewarded with a full professional contract and his games per season have increased each season since then.

Carl Piergianni

A product of Peterborough United's youth system, Carl was given a professional contract at London Road after he was named Under-18 Player of the Season. He spent part of 2009/10 on loan at United Counties League side Spalding Town, and made his senior Posh debut against Rochdale in December 2010. Later that month he joined Altrincham on loan, featuring regularly at the back for the Moss Lane club. He left Peterborough for County in August 2011.



Euan Holden

Though born in Scotland, Euan moved to the United States in his youth. In 2010 he turned down an offer from MLS side Houston Dynamo to move to Denmark with Vejle BK. The following summer he had trials with a number of English clubs, but stayed in Denmark and joined FC Hjørring. He impressed Dietmar Hamann in the summer of 2011, signing for his Hatters side in July.

Daniel O'Donnell

Defender who signed for County for the 2011/12 season having ended last season at Edgeley Park on a short contract. Started at Liverpool after being spotted in amateur football and captained their Under-18 team. A season long loan at Crewe Alexandra followed in 2006/07 which then became a permanent move. When released by the Gresty Road club a trial at Shrewsbury Town led to a six-month contract. Danny only played a handful of games during that contract and was released at the end of the year when he joined County. He played seven consecutive games before an ankle injury put him out for the rest of the season but County had seen enough to offer him a contract for 2011/12.

Daniel Rowe

Wing-back who had been on the books of Manchester City and Bolton Wanderers as a youngster but switched to County when not offered a trainee contract. Following some excellent reserve team performances, Danny was brought back into the first team by Ray Mathias during the unbeaten home run-in last term.



MIDFIELDERS

Ryan McCann

Scottish midfielder who came through the ranks at Celtic, having been part of Willie McStay's youth team at Parkhead. He made one appearance for the Bhoys, starting in a 2-0 win over Dundee United in 2000. After a year in England with Hartlepool, Ryan moved to St Johnstone where he had previously spent time on loan. This was followed by spells at Clyde, Bohemians (of Ireland), Queen of the South, Morecambe, Airdrie and Ayr. During his time at Queen of the South was notable for scoring from 84 yards in a cup tie against Dundee, a world record for an outfield player.

Sam Sheridan

Though born in Trafford, Sheridan has represented Ireland at Under-19 level. Sam came through the ranks at Bolton Wanderers, playing for the Trotters' youth and reserve teams before leaving to join County in the summer of 2011. Although he played as a striker in his youth, now his main position is central midfield.

Ryan Fraughan

Young midfielder who came through the schoolboy and youth ranks at Tranmere and has made around 20 appearances for Rovers. Ryan was released by Tranmere at the end of last season and he signed for County in July after a trial period.



Aaron Cole

Highly-rated young winger currently on-loan from Championship Derby County. Originally signing for one month the deal was extended to a second last week. The youngster has also enjoyed time out on loan at Eastwood Town in the Blue Square Bet North this term.

STRIKERS

Martin Gritton

Experienced frontman signed in the summer who began his career as a youngster at Plymouth. Later moves have seen Martin on the books of Torquay United, Grimsby Town, Lincoln City, Macclesfield Town, Chesterfield and Yeovil Town. He was at Yeovil towards the end of last season following a brief spell at Chester.

Danny Rowe

Teenage forward who signed on a one-month loan from Fleetwood Town last week. The 19-year-old scored 12 goals whilst on-loan at Droylsden in the Blue Square Bet North this season, netting seven of those in November which saw him earn the player of the month award.

Tom Elliott

Striker who came through the youth ranks at hometown club Leeds, making his debut for the Whites aged 16 in 2007. Loan spells at Bury and Rotherham followed before he made a permanent move to Hamilton Academical in 2010. After a successful pre-season with County he was signed by Didi Hamann last summer.





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■ CLASSIC CAMPAIGN

1996/97

Stockport won promotion and were League Cup semi-finalists in 1996/97. Brett Angell returned from Sunderland, while other newcomers included Paul Jones from Wolves and Andy Mutch from Swindon. After failing to win any of their first six games, Stockport soared into the promotion frame with just two defeats in 20 matches. Dave Jones' side beat Chesterfield 4-2, Sheffield United 7-3, Blackburn 1-0, West Ham 2-1 and Southampton 2-1 before losing 2-1 to Middlesbrough in the semi-finals. Deadline signings Kevin Cooper and Ken Charlery helped clinch promotion with a 1-0 win at Chesterfield. The Hatters finished the season in third place and were denied automatic promotion by second-placed County.

■ MANAGING TO SUCCEED

Dave Jones

Dave Jones managed Stockport to promotion and to the League Cup semi-finals in 1996/97. A former defender with Everton, Coventry and Preston, he was assistant-boss at Southport, Mossley and Morecambe before becoming Stockport's youth coach in 1990. He worked his way up the ranks to manager in 1995 and remained in charge at Edgeley Park until leaving in 1997 to manage Southampton. Given a year's leave of absence in 2000 to concentrate on his defence in a court case, he became manager of Wolves in 2001 and plotted promotion in 2002/03. He then managed Cardiff City for six years.

■ FAB FOUR

Jack Connor

Centre-forward Jack Connor holds County's goalscoring record. He had spells with Albion Rovers and Ipswich Town prior to joining Carlisle United in 1946, then moved via Ards to Rochdale in 1948. Joining Bradford City in April 1951, he moved to Stockport in October 1951 and was top scorer in five successive seasons. He netted 132 goals in 206 League games while at Edgeley Park, joining Crewe Alexandra

in 1956, then playing for Runcorn. Later steward at Reddish Conservative Club, he was Pools Promoter at Stockport and Rochdale and died locally in 1998.

Kevin Francis

Giant striker Kevin Francis was top scorer as Stockport County reached the Second Division Play-Offs in two consecutive seasons. He impressed with Mile Oak Rovers before moving to Derby County in 1989 and joined Stockport in 1991. Helping clinch promotion that season, he also appeared in two League Trophy finals and netted 88 goals in 152 League games prior to joining Birmingham City for £800,000 in 1995. He featured in their Second Division title and League Trophy double triumph, then played for Oxford United, Stockport again, Exeter City, Hull City and Hednesford Town.

Paul Jones

Welsh international goalkeeper Paul Jones was ever-present in County's 1996/97 promotion success. A former Shrewsbury Town junior, he moved via Bridgnorth to Kidderminster Harriers in 1986 and was ever-present as they reached the Welsh Cup final in 1989 and were FA Trophy finalists in 1991. He joined Wolves in 1991 and moved to Stockport in 1998, also starring as they reached the League Cup semi-finals in 1996/97. He played 46 League games at Edgeley Park before following Dave Jones to Southampton in 1997, he later appeared for Liverpool, Wolves again and QPR.

Chris Marsden

Fiery midfielder Chris Marsden was an important figure as Stockport County won promotion and were League Cup semi-finalists in 1996/97. Signing professional for Sheffield United in 1987, he moved to Huddersfield Town in 1988 and had loan spells at Wolves and Notts County prior to joining Stockport in 1996. He scored three times in 65 League games while at Edgeley Park before joining Birmingham City in 1997, then reunited with Dave Jones at Southampton in 1999 and captained Saints in the 2003 FA Cup final. After a spell with Puscan Icons, he joined Sheffield Wednesday.



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COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH DAVID HOSKINS

A warm welcome to our corporate guests and sponsors this afternoon for our second home match in four days.

It's certainly been a busy and exciting start to the season on and off-the-pitch with the commercial department launching a number of new projects.

One of which was our Hatters Business Breakfast Club - a linking tool for local businesses to meet and establish lasting relationships.

The meetings are held on a monthly basis in the newly refurbished Eric Morecambe Lounge. They have a wide variety of benefits and are a great way to enhance and promote business to other local establishments.

At every meeting there is the opportunity for one local company to hold a session to promote themselves and the benefits they can offer to the other members.

Membership to the Business Breakfast Club is available at £250 plus VAT for 12 months.

Included in the membership package:

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

We're also on the lookout for matchball sponsors for our remaining home games in the Blue Square Bet Premier this season.

This unique opportunity at Kenilworth Road enables guests to sponsor the matchball - and then get to keep it afterwards with all the players' autographs.

The packages gives you the chance to mingle with the players and directors whilst also gaining programme and public address recognition.

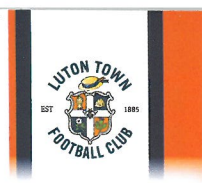
For just under £450 six guests will enjoy all the pre and post-match behind-the-scenes action before receiving the matchball by the man-of-the-match.

Match ball Sponsorship at £449 includes:

- Six guests (Additional guests at £60pp)
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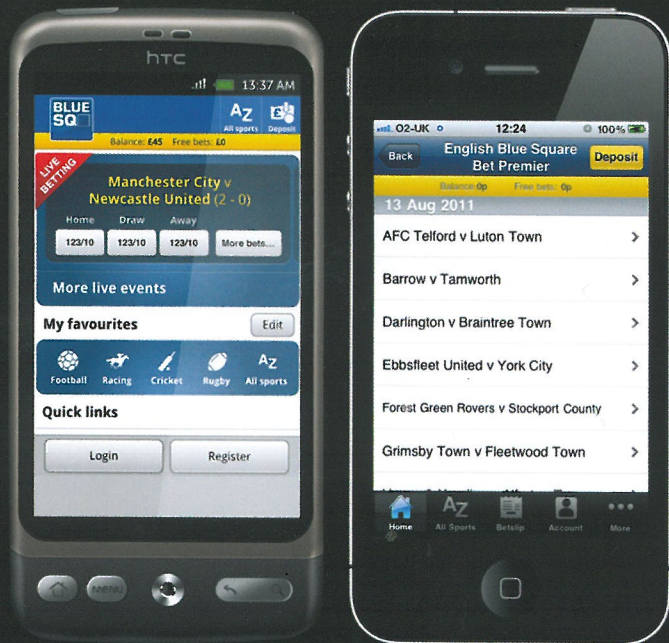
To join the business breakfast club or to sponsor a matchball at a forthcoming match contact the commercial department on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

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LOOK BACK



TOWN 2-0 NEWPORT
STRAIGHTFORWARD VICTORY



Pleased with a professional performance and a 2-0 victory over Newport County, Town boss Gary Brabin still believes his side have room for improvement.

Aaron O'Connor and Danny Crow scored the Hatters goals either side of half-time after the visitors were reduced to 10 men.

The victory was the Town's fourth in succession in the Blue Square Bet Premier and the manager was satisfied with his team's display against struggling County.

"The consistency is getting there and it's nice to continue this winning streak but I've told the lads it's gone now, this game is gone and we move on," Brabin said afterwards.

"I told the players we can't lower our standards. We've got a bit of form and a bit of consistency but I think there's room for improvement.

"We've got to concentrate on ourselves - we know we have to rely on others. We can only do what we can do at the moment and we've got to continue doing it."

The Town came into the game off the back of two successive 5-0 victories over Kettering but struggled in the opening half-an-hour to test the visiting goalkeeper Glyn Thompson.

And it wasn't until the sending off for former Hatters striker Ryan Charles that the Town took full control - when O'Connor netted the opener two minutes later.

"After two 5-0 wins I knew today would be completely different," Brabin said.

"Teams come here and make it hard for us - it's a big game for any team that comes to Kenilworth Road but



at the end of the day it is 11 human beings out there against 11 of our human beings.

"I was expecting a tough game and that's what we got and it was a real, good, professional performance.

"I thought we had control of the game without hurting them. The sending off didn't change their game plan much but I always thought we were comfortable and that we would win the game after the first goal."

The Town boss was forced into three substitutions after George Pilkington, Dan Gleeson and Danny Crow sustained injuries.

Brabin, however, could not give any prognosis on the trio.

"We're not sure yet," he said. "We need to have a look at them over the next 24-48 hours.

"We've had to swap personnel around today but we'll assess everything Monday and prepare for what's another big game."

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23



TOWN

O'Connor 35, Crow 66



NEWPORT

2

0

TOWN: K. Pilkington, Gleeson (sub Dance 41), G. Pilkington (sub Willmott 80), Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Keane, Watkins, Howells, O'Connor, Crow (sub Fleetwood 75). Subs not used: Kissock, Tyler.

NEWPORT: Thompson, Rodgers, Warren, Yakubu (sub Baker 87), Hughes, Buchanan (sub Matthews 58), Pipe, Foley, Sandell, Jarvis (sub Harris 73), Charles. Subs not used: Knights, Potter.

ATTENDANCE: 6,108

POSSESSION

55% 45%

SHOTS ON TARGET

5 1

SHOTS OFF TARGET

9 5

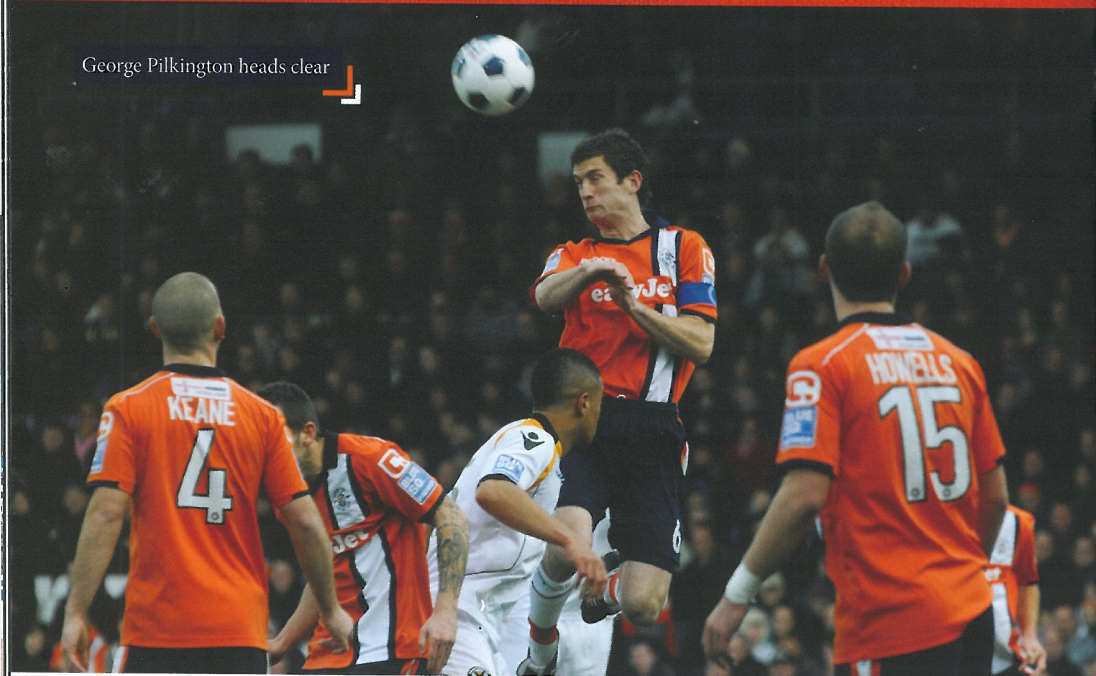
CORNERS

2 1

FOULS

4 12

George Pilkington heads clear



Janos Kovacs heads wide



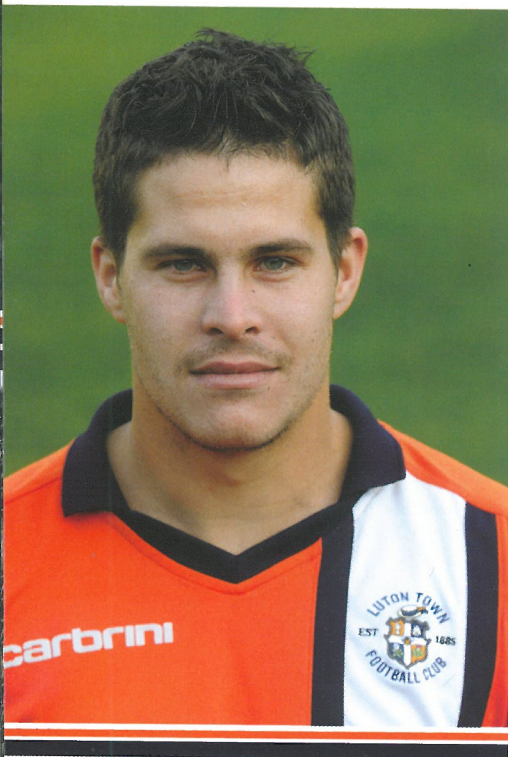
Aaron O'Connor turns away from his man

DANNY'S DELIGHT

AFTER ANOTHER GOAL ON SATURDAY, STRIKER DANNY CROW IS ENJOYING HIS FOOTBALL

Eight goals in 15 starts is a good return in anyone's book and Danny Crow is hoping for more in a bid to fire the Town to promotion this season.

Crow's goal in the win over Newport County put the Hatters 2-0 up against Justin Edinburgh's side which further cemented their place in the Blue Square Bet Premier play-off places.



But the striker, whose goal was his fourth goal in as many games, would happily swap his goal ratio for a continued run of results for the Hatters.

"Four wins on the spin is very good – it's nice to have a winning feeling but we've got to go and win another four," the 25-year-old said after Saturday's victory.

"We didn't play very well today but we got two goals ahead and, against 10 men, we took our foot off the gas a little bit but at the end of the day, a win's a win.

"In the back of our minds we have the horrible feeling of how we felt after the Lincoln game when we drew 1-1. We knew after yet another draw that we had to improve and since then we've won five games in all competitions."

But it's not just those disappointments that have spurred the Town on to record their first four-match winning streak in 12 months.

"When we were getting all these draws the manager analysed things and pointed out that we just weren't working hard enough as a team," Crow explained.

"We're now working much harder, getting fitter and the only disappointment on Saturday was that we didn't think we played too well but it wasn't easy because Newport are scrapping at the bottom of the table, but we'll take it."

Crow's goal came in the 66th minute against the Exiles and turned out to be the clincher and, despite crashing into the post after converting the goal, he was happy with another goal.

"Adam Watkins played in Greg Taylor down the left and he shot the ball across goal and I thought I'd try to get on the end of it," he said.



Crow goes for goal in Saturday's 2-0 win

"I hit the post afterwards but I was still pleased and I was happy that we've won again.

"At the start of the season I thought to myself it would be good to 15 goals and kick on from there and that's eight now from 15 starts which is nice.

"I'd take a goal every three or four games as long as we keep winning and the main thing is now that that we try and catch Fleetwood and Wrexham.

"We'd made a bit of ground on them because they didn't play Saturday but there's still a long way to go – there's a lot of points up for grabs and as we know there aren't many easy fixtures in this league.

"Newport made it hard for us, even with 10 men. Wrexham and Fleetwood are due a dip in form and our aim is to catch them."

Crow found himself restored to the line-up for Saturday's win having missed the New Year's Day win over Kettering through illness.

And given the striking options available, Crow was pleased to reward his manager for keeping the faith with him.

"It's nice and it does a lot for confidence," he said. "I've been working hard and against Newport it wasn't easy – they have two big centre halves but that's the case whoever you play against. "It's tough playing down the middle but as a front three, Jake is clever and Aaron is explosive so we've got a lot of different threats to pose the opposition.

"And with Stuart Fleetwood and Robbie Willmott on the bench we've got a lot of options which is great for competition."

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LEAGUE ROUND-UP



COOPER IN AT KETTERING

Mark Stimson has left Kettering Town and Mark Cooper has taken caretaker charge until the end of the season.

Stimson took over at Nene Park in September but the Poppies were put under a transfer embargo and transfer-listed their entire squad in November.

The 44-year-old has only been able to name two substitutes on a regular basis since the embargo.

Former Darlington boss Cooper managed the Poppies between 2007 and 2009.

A club statement read: "On behalf of the players, supporters and staff we thank Mark for his efforts during a very difficult period and wish him the very best for the future."

Former Stevenage, Gillingham and Barnet manager Stimson took over from Morell Maison before the crisis that has put the club's existence in doubt became fully apparent.

He transfer listed 11 players and admitted he was shocked by the poor fitness of the squad he had inherited within weeks of arriving.

A month later, the club's financial situation became known and he lost several of his squad in the final week of the transfer loan window and had to look to the Poppies' youth team to supplement his squad.

DARLINGTON IN ADMINISTRATION

Darlington were placed in administration for the third time in nine years last week. The Quakers have been handed an automatic and immediate 10-point deduction by the Football Conference, which will see the club drop to 16th.

"Every day is critical if the club is to survive," Harvey Madden, joint administrator, said.

"The position of the club is such that without any financial support from outside the club, or anyone willing to acquire the club, I will, unfortunately, have little alternative but to cease to trade in a very short time.

"I am currently exploring all options to try and find a way to enable the football club to remain in existence."

AWARDS FOR KIDDY DUO

Kidderminster Harriers manager Steve Burr and striker Jamille Matt have been named the Blue Square Bet Premier Manager and Player of the Month respectively for December.

Three wins from three matches in the league and progress to the next round of the FA Trophy sealed a great month for Burr and his team. A maximum haul of nine points keeps them right in the race for a 'top 5' finish in the table and a spot in the play-offs.

Burr's side are unbeaten in the league since late October and started their December fixtures with a 4-1 home win over Bath City.

Then an impressive 3-2 win at promotion rivals York City was consolidated with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Forest Green Rovers on Boxing Day. Kidderminster went through to the second round of the FA Trophy with a win over Vauxhall Motors in a replay at Aggborough after a thrilling 4-4 draw on Merseyside.

Young forward Matt has caught the eye of Football League clubs this season and has increased that attention with a fantastic December for his side.

Matt has scored five goals in five appearances including a brace against Bath City in a 4-1 home win. He also scored Kidderminster's third goal at York City in a 3-2 win over their promotion rivals – a fantastic solo effort in front of the TV cameras.



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MEMORY LANE



NAME: James Andrews

AGE: 29

LOCATION: Luton

WHERE DO YOU WATCH THE GAME: Main Stand.

FIRST GAME: Luton Town v Everton – October 1990.

FIRST MEMORY: That Everton game. The buzz of the crowd and the small dancing characters on the Kenilworth Road end scoreboard.

BEST GOAL SEEN: There have been so many great goals. For me, take your pick from Matthew Spring's against Watford, Scott Oakes' against Derby and Jean-Louis Valois' against Torquay.

BEST MATCH WITNESSED: Either the 4-4 draw at Charlton in the League Cup in 2003 or the 2006 FA Cup tie against Liverpool at Kenilworth Road. Shame we didn't win either game!

WORST MATCH WITNESSED: Luton 0-4 Watford in 1997.

BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE SEEN BY A PLAYER: Kevin Nicholls dragged us kicking and screaming to victory in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final against Scunthorpe at Wembley.

FAVOURITE HATTERS KIT: I love this season's home shirt but I have a soft spot for the strange Umbro strip from 1991/92 with its blue and orange flashes and stripes as it was my first kit.

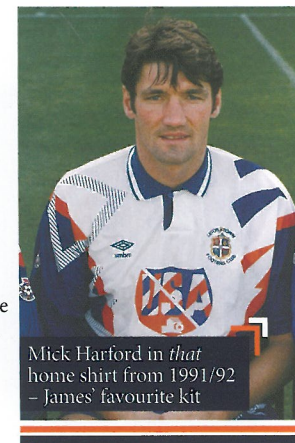
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER: Steve Davis. A colossal defender who could score goals. A great captain. I was gutted when he left.

FAVOURITE ALL-TIME MANAGER: Joe Kinnear.

ALL-TIME TOWN XI: Marlon Beresford, Kevin Foley, Steve Davis, Curtis Davis, Matthew Taylor, Jean-Louis Valois, Kevin Nicholls, Scott Oakes, David Preece, Mick Harford, Tony Thorpe.

I LOVE LUTON TOWN BECAUSE...

they're my team. Regardless of the highs and lows they will always be my team. They've given me and my family and friends so much joy (and pain!) but I don't think I would want it any other way. COYH!

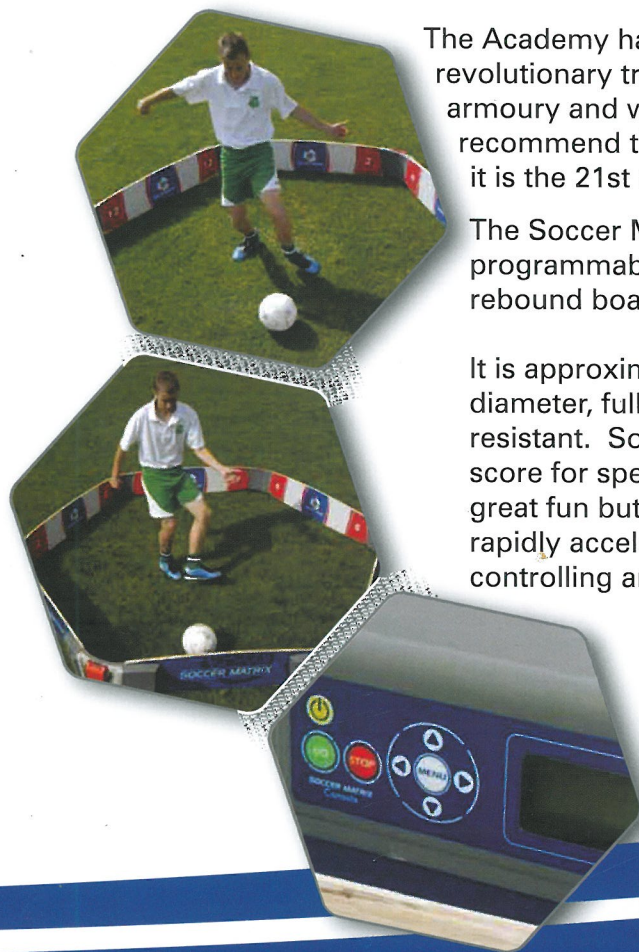


Mick Harford in that home shirt from 1991/92 – James' favourite kit

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

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LIVE ONLINE



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

The Town enjoyed a straightforward victory over Newport County at the weekend and Player spoke to all of those involved after the final whistle.

Hatters Player was there to get the reaction and boss Gary Brabin spoke to the cameras giving subscribers his account of what he thought was a deserved win and stressed that there is more to come from his side following their fourth successive league victory.

Goalscorer Danny Crow was happy to find the target once more and he explained that hard work is paying dividends for the Town at the moment.

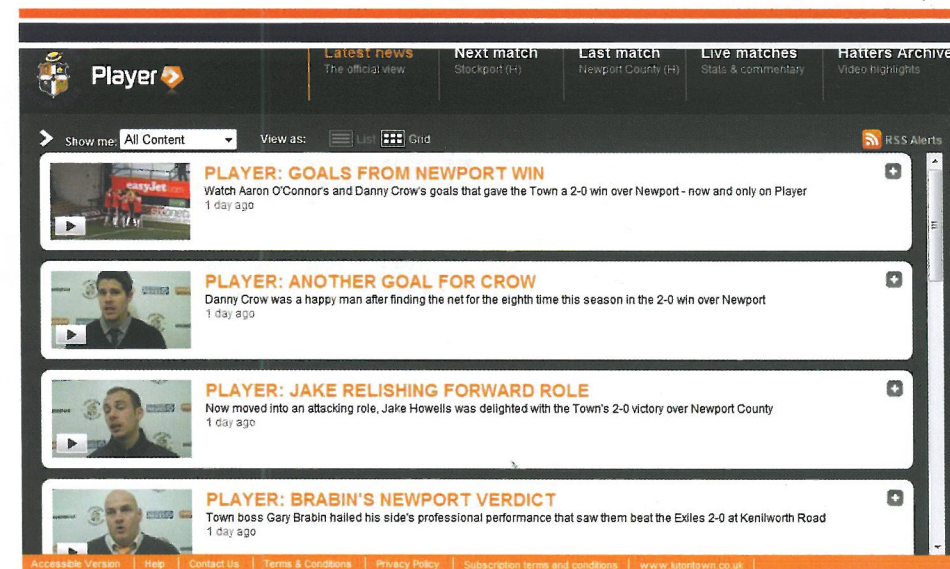
Jake Howells was also up in front of the cameras in the interview room and the creator of Aaron O'Connor's first-half header, is delighted with the way the side are playing at the moment and is relishing his role in an attacking position.

There was much more than just three interviews after the game too. 90 minutes after the final whistle Player subscribers also got to see both the goals.

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

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

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.



Masterchef runner-up Steve Barringer with the Town squad after he'd cooked lunch last week



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CHANGING PLACES

JAKE HOWELLS IS RELISHING HIS NEW FORWARD ROLE

Whisper it quietly but Jake Howells is a man on form. With two goals in his last three games and an assist in Saturday's 2-0 win over Newport County the Hatters youngster is relishing playing in a forward role under Gary Brabin.

The 20-year-old left-footer has been utilised as wide attacker in a 4-3-3 formation, often swapping flanks with whoever is picked on the right flank.

And Howells, who goes into tonight's game looking for his sixth goal of the season, is enjoying his new-found freedom in attack.

"The gaffer has put me up front and I've scored two and set one up against Newport, so it seems to be working well," the Wales Under-21 international said.

"I've played in that position for England C, here at Kenilworth Road in fact, and the manager asked me after training last month and I said "why not?" and ever since I've really enjoyed it.

"It gives me the freedom higher up the pitch and enables me to be involved more. I don't mind where I play as I enjoy playing anywhere."

After back-to-back 5-0 wins over Kettering in which Howells scored twice, the youngster knew it would be a different challenge against County.

"All teams come here and make it tough for us," he said. "Newport did well but that's the case with most teams that visit Kenilworth Road. It's not always easy but once we got the goal I thought we controlled the game and while it wasn't as impressive as the Kettering wins it was still an important result."

The game changed when ex-Hatter Ryan Charles saw red for a two-footed challenge on Dan Gleeson.



Jake in action against Newport

was no need for him to do it," he said. "It was two feet off the floor but that's football and luckily we took advantage of it."

Indeed the Town did, scoring two minutes later when Howells' right-wing corner was headed home by Aaron O'Connor.

"It was a great header, he made his run from the back post – it was a great touch and set us up nicely for the rest of the game.

"The manager has been telling us to press higher up the pitch and it's seen us create more chances. Teams can't deal with us pressing that far up the pitch and we know we're good enough in the final third to break anyone down.

"There's still a long way to go but if we know if we keep winning we can still nick top spot if other teams slip up."

PICTURE

THE PAST

WITH CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH

Steve Howard nets one of three goals in the 5-0 rout of Colchester at Layer Road in April 2003



After winning promotion from Division Three (now League Two) in 2002 the Town took some time to adjust to their higher status. The first four games were lost, with the doom merchants out in force, but by Christmas we were up to sixth spot with supporters now talking about back-to-back promotions!

Sadly, the Town were wildly inconsistent over the second half of that campaign with good performances setting the hopes up one week only

for an abject display the next week sending everyone back to the depths of despair. By Easter it was clear that, although the Town would finish in a creditable top 10 position, the play-offs were out of reach.

The trip to Layer Road, Colchester on Easter Monday was therefore seen as a typical end of season affair with nothing at stake for either side and the crowd of 3,967 reflected this.

Colchester had gone on an eight-game unbeaten run which had propelled them up to the top half of the

table but by the interval they had been submerged under an avalanche of goals with home goalkeeper Richard McKinney largely to blame.

Big striker Steve Howard scored the first on 14 minutes, sliding in a Peter Holmes cross before McKinney fumbled a Howard cross leaving long term absentee Carl Griffiths to net his first goal for the Town since September 2001.

McKinney then pulled down Howard in the area, after dropping a Sol Davis free-kick, leaving Kevin

Nicholls to score from the spot before Howard made it 4-0 at the interval with a simple far post header.

The Hatters took their foot off the gas in the second period but Colchester could not find a way past teenage goalkeeper Rob Beckwith, making only his second League appearance for the club.

The scoring was completed by Howard, with his hat-trick goal, in the final minute when he latched on to a through ball from Nicholls before rounding McKinney to stroke home.

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

BY CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH

The strange sight of England international goalkeeper Ron Baynham playing up-front for the Town in a home clash with Leyton Orient in April 1962



Ron Baynham had fractured his skull the season before and the Town soon went into the transfer market and brought the very capable Arsenal goalkeeper Jim Standen to Kenilworth Road.

As such, when he was fully fit again, Baynham found himself sharing the goalkeeping duties with Standen and for large chunks of the 1961/62 campaign found himself kicking his heels in the stands.

During a testimonial game, Baynham had the chance to back up his claims that he was the best header of

the ball at the club and promptly fired in a hat-trick! Mindful of this the Town decided to give Baynham a chance at number 9 in the Easter Monday game with Orient.

Sadly, the difference between playing in a testimonial game and the much higher tempo of a Division Two

(now Championship) contest was soon evident. The Town went down 3-1 to the promotion chasing O's and the experiment was not repeated.

The story has a happy ending though as Baynham was virtually ever present between the sticks the following season.

HATTERS v HATTERS

THE EARLY YEARS

BY CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH



Brian Lewis goes close with a diving header during the 4-1 home victory against County in April 1969

When we won the championship of the old Division Three (South) in 1937, Stockport were champions of the Northern section at the same time and, by coincidence, the two sides clashed at Edgeley Park on the opening day of the following season.

Despite the absence of '10-goal' Joe Payne, who was taken ill on the journey north, we took the lead through Albert Dawes but could not hold on with Stockport netting twice, the winner coming four minutes from time.

By the time of the return, on New Year's Day 1938, Stockport were struggling at the wrong end of the table but they made a nonsense of their league position when going in at the interval 4-3 ahead. Fortunately, the Town proved the stronger side in the second half with goals from George Stephenson, Charlie Ferguson and Jack Vinall sealing an unlikely 6-4 victory.

Stockport were relegated at the end of that season and it was not until 1965 that the two sides clashed

again, this time in Division Four. We travelled to Edgeley Park only days after our shock home FA Cup defeat at the hands of Corby and were then thrashed 4-1 by a rampant Stockport side which included future Luton star Keith Allen who bagged a hat-trick.

When the return game came around the following May we had managed to overcome our mid-season slump and were challenging for promotion. Bruce Rioch scored after only six minutes to put us ahead, but we had to suffer several anxious moments after full-back Fred Jardine went off with an ankle injury, which meant we lost our shape for a while.

Heroics from goalkeeper Tony Read, playing his first game between the sticks for the Town after scoring 12 goals as an inside-forward earlier in the campaign, kept us in the game, before John O'Rourke was brought down in the box on the hour with Ray Whittaker netting from the spot.

In the following season, the worst in our history at that point, we went down twice to a County side that walked away with the championship. County had

recruited what many critics thought were old men (including Matt Woods from the Town) to mount a promotion bid, but they gelled brilliantly as we were to find out.

County had won four games on the trot when we came up against them at Kenilworth Road early in the season and it was men against boys as the visitors ran out easy 3-0 winners with veteran Frank Lord scoring twice.

In the return we went down 1-0, but in truth only the woodwork and a brilliant display from triallist goalkeeper Ron Swan kept the score down.

It was to be only two seasons before we met again, following our promotion to the old Division Three, and when the sides clashed at Edgeley Park in November 1968 we were going through a spell of being invincible at home but returning pointlessly from our travels.

A crowd of 13,246 gathered at Edgeley Park, not to watch the Town but to welcome new signing from Everton, Alex Young, the 'Golden Vision'. The Town were forced on the defensive throughout, but any hopes of stealing a point were dashed when Fred Goodwin let fly from 25 yards just after half-time with Bill Atkins heading a second towards the end.

The return was played just before the end of the season when we were desperately clinging to hopes of promotion. Stockport's early season promise had by then evaporated.

We scored twice in a minute early on through Brian Lewis and Rioch and were cruising to victory when Stockport were awarded a controversial penalty on the hour.

John Moore caught the ball in the area after hearing a whistle, which turned out to come from someone in the crowd! Young scored from the resultant spot-kick.

Fired by this injustice the Town players rolled up their sleeves and two more goals from Lewis confirmed an emphatic victory.

The final pair of games for many years took place in 1969/70 in a season that saw the Town promoted and County move back to Division Four. Neither game set the pulses racing with Chris Nicholl and Malcolm Macdonald netting during a lacklustre home win while a Matt Tees effort was enough to earn a point in the return.

It was to be 26 years before the sides met again but that is another story!

Bruce Rioch powers his way through the County defence in April 1969. This was Rioch's penultimate game for the Town



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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.



TAYLOR MADE

LEFT-BACK'S DELIGHT AT BREAKING DUCK

If Greg Taylor had come off the pitch on New Year's Day without scoring you could forgive him for being slightly annoyed with himself.

The 21-year-old defender, who signed a permanent contract last week to tie him to Kenilworth Road until 2013, twice came close to scoring his first goal for the Hatters in the Boxing Day win over Kettering before striking the post in the first half in the second meeting with the Poppies.

His raids from left-back were an eye-catching feature of both of the Hatters' 5-0 wins over the Northamptonshire side and it was with relief that Taylor saw the net bulge when his searing shot in the 72nd minute beat Laurie Walker in the hosts' goal.

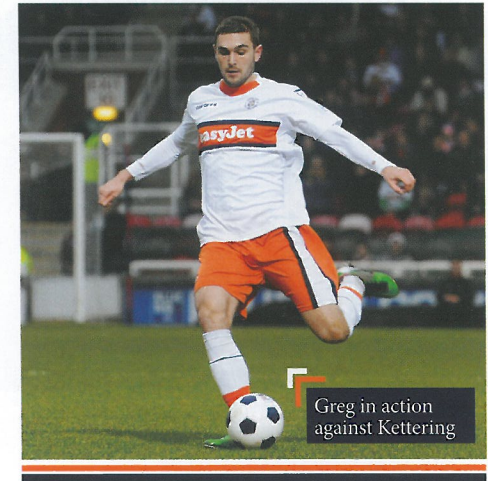
"I tried to hit it as hard as possible!" the former Darlington man joked afterwards. "It's been coming, I've had a few chances and I should have scored earlier. I hit the post and I thought it was going to be one of them games when I wasn't going to get my goal."

"It was a very good felling to get my first goal, especially in front of the away end. I did say when I joined that the fanbase was massive. I tend not to get my first goal for a club for quite a little while but I'm lucky to get off the mark. The main thing is the win but obviously it's nice to get on the scoresheet."

It was quite a dramatic 90 minutes for Taylor. He was on the receiving end of a challenge in the first half at Nene Park that led to the dismissal of Phil Ifil moments before the break.

And the defender agreed with the referee's decision to send-off the Poppies' right-back.

"It was quite high and he did catch me so I think it's the fairest decision," he said. "I didn't know too much about it. I've just turned round and kicked the ball away and he's come straight through me. There



Greg in action
against Kettering

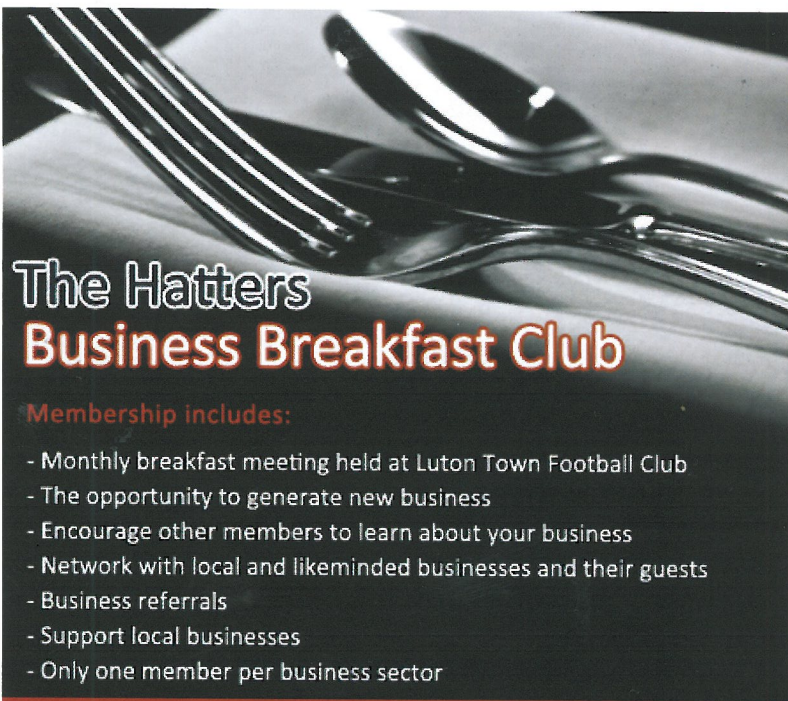
wasn't a lot I could have done about it, but the ref thought it was a red card."

The two 5-0 victories have swept the Hatters into the third place in the table and all eyes are now on attempting to catch the top two in a bid for automatic promotion.

With two successive home games Taylor is hoping the Town can continue their fine run of form at Kenilworth Road today and then against Stockport on Tuesday.

"I don't see why we can't," Taylor said. "They are both winnable games, but you try and focus on the one coming up. "We've just got to apply ourselves again and get the same result. We can just keep chipping away at the top two but we can only do what we can do. If we can keep winning you never know they might slip up."

"All we can do is focus on us and get our act in order and you never know what can happen."

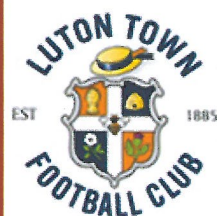


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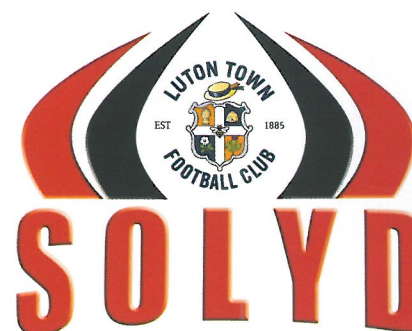
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	JAMES FERGUSON HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES:		NICK BURTENSHAW HOME: Available AWAY: Available		COLBY McADAMS HOME: Moira Spain AWAY: Available		JERRY NASH HOME: Available AWAY: Available
	ALASAN ANN HOME: Mark Bradbury AWAY: Available		MOSES KADOU 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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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)
D 1-1

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** Peterborough United

■ **COMPETITION** Youth Alliance

■ **RESULT** 1-1

■ **GOALSCORER** McKenzie-Lowe

■ **TEAM** Carpenter, Longden, Blake,

Smith, Stephens, Ferguson, Davis,

Nash, McKenzie-Lowe (sub Amu 55),

Burtenshaw, Woolley. Subs not used:

Barnes, Terry, Johnson.

COACH'S COMMENTS

"I think everyone agreed that the draw was a fair result while either side could have nicked themselves a win. I think we'll see quite a few games now where both sides play younger teams and we've shown today that we can be competitive in these types of games - the bigger tests come against the teams that keep their older boys in. It's great to have Jemale McKenzie back with us and playing for Luton Town again and he will be a massive gain once we get him fit. The pick of the bunch for me was Arel Amu who improves with every game for us."

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

ACADEMY UPDATE

UNDER-13S COME CLOSE IN HEIDEN



The team pose for their photograph

The Town's Under-13s shone in an indoor tournament held in Heiden, Germany over the weekend. Taking part in the Under-13 Euro-Cup, they became the first English side to ever qualify for the quarter-finals.

The tour began on Friday with an early morning flight to Dortmund, before the short transfer to Heiden. Upon arrival the team played a friendly game on astroturf against the host club, which ended in a comprehensive win for the young Hatters. More importantly it was a chance to work on the basics needed to thrive in the indoor environment.

Indoor tournaments are so important for a young player's development, and it is no coincidence that they are so popular throughout Europe where the importance of technical ability is stressed. The format asks players to retain possession in tight areas and on a quick surface, as well as being able to receive the ball under pressure.

Crucially, they also highlight the need for defensive responsibility all over the pitch due to the speed of transitions. The events ask players to perform in front

of a large, vociferous crowd, and teach them how to win a game. Finally, they give our staff a chance to spend quality time with our young players, looking at their social and eating habits when away from their home.

The tournament kicked off early on Saturday morning, but with our first game not until mid-afternoon, it gave us a chance to watch some of the Bundesliga clubs in action, as well as another light training session in preparation. We were also able to work on penalties, as we knew that there would always be a chance that a drawn knock-out game may lead to this.

The first game was against Bundesliga second division side DSC Arminia Bielefeld, and we started really slowly gifting the opposition a goal from overplaying in a tight area. Although we improved throughout the game we weren't able to do enough to equalise. Our Under-10 coach Andy Elderton who was accompanying us on the trip was statistically analysing the games looking at our pass completion rate, and his feedback confirmed our thoughts that we hadn't retained the ball anywhere near our target rate of 70 per cent.



At the opening ceremony

Our next game showed an improvement, and despite a spirited performance from Dutch opponents Neptunia, we ran out 3-0 winners. This was followed by a remarkable game versus Aachen. After taking an early lead, we were guilty of switching off at set-pieces and soon fell behind. We then were able to step-up the tempo and produced some exhilarating one and two touch football to secure a narrow 3-2 victory.

Next up was another Bundesliga second division team St Pauli, and we passed the ball with real quality to win 2-0. Our passing statistics were now much more favourable now the boys were playing "simple, early and quick". It meant a victory against Bundesliga giants Hannover 96 meant that we would be guaranteed a place in the next day's quarter-finals. Having watched the opposition's diamond shape, the focus was on quick diagonal passes to isolate the solitary defender. It was great to see the boys earn a standing ovation for their performance, and also for their ability to carry out the game plan to perfection!

The day finished late into the evening against another Bundesliga giant Werder Bremen, and we controlled the game from beginning to end to comfortably win 2-0. This meant we were able to join some of Germany's biggest club's in the knock out stages, and became the first English club in the tournament's 12-year history to reach this stage.

The performances on the first day and the mood in the camp was very reminiscent of when our current Under-14s won the Aarau Masters in Switzerland three years ago, but the dividing line between success and failure is very thin at this level! Unfortunately the second day of the event we fell on the wrong side of this line to eventually finish a very respectful eighth out of the 24 competing teams.

In the quarter-finals, the opposition slowed the game down and we tried to match them at this pace rather than playing the style of football that had got us success on the first day. We still did enough to win the game, but an individual error cost us and we lost 1-0.

This meant we had to play-off for places 5-8 and against Wolfsburg we dominated the game, but again lost 1-0. Our final game of the tournament was against our previous opponents Werder Bremen and after racing into a two goal lead we looked certain to win the game. Our German opposition never gave up though and clawed back a late equaliser to send the game to penalties.

Our penalty practice the previous day worked to perfection for our goalkeeper Sam who saved four of the seven penalties he faced. Unfortunately it wasn't as successful for our outfield players who missed five of their seven penalties!

The boys were upset and disappointed with their finish, but should take credit for their progress and most importantly they have learnt so much from the weekend.

Equally, as coaches, we have learnt a lot about them which we will be able to build into their training programme going forwards.

Squad: Sam F, Tyreeq B, Joshua B, Kavan C, Romelle A, Cameron M, George M, Ergyst S, Jack S.

Player of the Tour: Sam F

Off the Pitch: George M



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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

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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."

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.



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



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May 2012

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- Please make all cheques payable to 'Luton Town Community Trust'

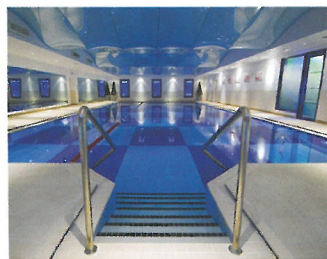
Name of Club	
County of Affiliation	
FA Affiliation Number	
Contact Name and Address	
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Telephone (Daytime)	
Telephone (Mobile)	

Age Group	No of Teams	Managers' Name	Managers' Tel Number
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Under 8			
Under 9			
Under 10			
Under 11			
Under 12			
Under 13			
Under 14			

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LUTON LADIES



The Hatters Ladies resumed their season after the Christmas break with the short trip to West London to play Old Actonians.

The lack of sharpness certainly showed early on as Luton struggled to impose their game plan on the home side and were shaken from their malaise after a free kick was blocked and the rebound was blasted high into the net from 20 yards.

The Town struggled to keep possession and were constantly caught by the hosts' offside trap but that changed after 29 minutes when Nicola Henman picked the ball up on the half way line and carried the ball past the defence before finishing with a sublime chip into the top corner of the net over the advancing goalkeeper.

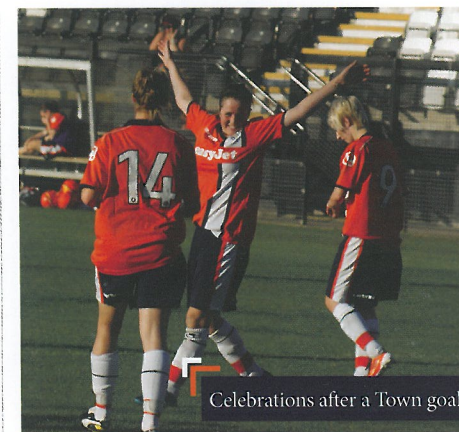
Level at half-time, the Town made a tactical change moving skipper Michelle Byrne to the right flank and that paid dividends as Luton ran away with the game.

Jess McKay gave Luton the lead with a neat finish clipping the ball over the diving goalkeeper and scored an almost identical third five minutes later.

The Hatters were now well in control and were unlucky not to extend their lead on several occasions with Lydia Radley, Jodie Whitford-Stark and McKay all going close.

After 75 minutes McKay picked out Byrne on the far post and she rose to head the ball home and make it 4-1.

When the hosts were awarded a corner the Actonians goalkeeper made her way upfield only for Town keeper Reynolds to catch the corner and distribute the ball to Radley. At that stage Radley had plenty to do and did well to hold the ball before beating her player and threading the ball into the empty net from 25 yards.



Celebrations after a Town goal

There was still time for a sixth when Byrne beat the offside trap to drive her shot low into the far corner of the net.

Assistant Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "It was a relief to start playing again and we were very slow out of the blocks but once we were able to raise the tempo with some consistency there was only going to be one winner and scoring five without reply in the second half is testimony to that."

Meanwhile the reserves returned to winning ways defeating Fulham's first team 4-2. The visitors took an early lead but were soon pegged back when Rachel Kosky equalised. Maddie Warbey was then tripped in the area and Millie Glean stepped up to confidently convert the resultant penalty.

Laura Day then earned the Town a free kick 25 yards out which was superbly despatched by dead ball specialist Glean to give Town a 3-1 lead. Fulham got themselves back into the game soon after but Day clinched a 4-2 win to lift the Town up two places.

ON THIS DAY

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

7

The number of matches previously played on this date at Kenilworth Road. Luton are unbeaten with four draws and three wins, scoring 20 goals and conceding seven in the process.

1

The first match came in 1920 in an FA Cup first round tie against Coventry City. Tom Parker and George Dodd scored in a 2-2 draw. The Town progressed by winning the replay 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Sid Hoar.

11

It was 11 years later before the Hatters were to play host again in 1931, with Norwich City the visitors for a Division Three (South) match. George McNestry scored the only goal of the game, and it was the first in a run that saw him score nine goals in six consecutive games.

6

The most goals scored by Luton in these fixtures came when Blackburn Rovers were beaten 6-1 in a FA Cup third round tie in 1953. Jesse Pye had netted a hat-trick against Rovers, in a 6-0 league win, in November 1952 and he repeated this feat in the Cup tie. Bernard Moore also scored one goal in both games, whilst Arthur Taylor netted a brace to secure the Hatters' passage to round four.

9

On this day in 1959 was the first of nine FA Cup ties to be played that season, and the start of Luton's progression through to a Wembley final. On this day it was a third round tie against Leeds United that the Hatters won 5-1, courtesy of a brace from both Billy



Bingham and Tony Gregory. Bob Morton also netted as Luton went through to a fourth round encounter against Leicester City.

3

It took three games in 1962 to settle the outcome of the third round tie against Ipswich Town. Robin Chandler scored his only goal for Luton in a 1-1 draw when the sides met at Portman Road on 6th January, and it was the same scoreline in this replay at Kenilworth Road just four days later. Dave Pacey netted for Luton, his first in the competition since scoring at Wembley three years earlier. This game also saw the highest attendance on this day at Kenilworth Road, as 23,818 watched the action. The second replay was played at Highbury, and Ipswich progressed with a 5-1 win, Alec Ashworth scoring the only Luton goal.

2

A Second Division tie against Cardiff City in 1981 saw both sides score two goals as they shared the two points. The visitors took the lead before David Moss equalised, but Cardiff scored again immediately after the break before Paul Price scored his first goal of the season to earn the Hatters a draw.

14

The number of years since Blackpool were beaten 3-0 courtesy of a Tony Thorpe hat-trick in 1998.

TWITTERS AND TRANSFERS



It was only ever going to be a matter of time before footballer's discovered twitter and when one did more have followed with a boring regularity.

Some have bought with them a welcome insight into life as a professional footballer, others have added a touch of humour, while others have created quite a stir – or if you're Rio Ferdinand you've done all three.

His famous rift/banter with Robbie Savage made the national press, while his row with a national journalist threatened to get out of hand.

But he's not the only sportsman to get into trouble on twitter – just ask Newcastle United midfielder Alan Smith whose ex-girlfriend hacked his account in revenge and she really was a woman scorned.

Ryan Giggs was first named as the footballer who took out the super injunction on twitter, while Ryan Babel was charged with improper conduct, by the FA, for a picture he posted on his twitter account.

Over the summer it's all went quiet as players spend their holidays on the beaches of the world but one football man hit twitter a vengeance.

Terry Skiverton, manager of Yeovil Town, hasn't been using it to keep Glovers fans up to date on what he's had for tea though – instead it's become a valuable scouting tool.

The 36-year-old turned to the technology in a bid to unearth a gem in the summer when he asked his followers to recommend some players worth having a look at.

"It's not a bit of fun for me," he told BBC Somerset. "It's a serious business."

"I can't afford a scouting system. I've got 1,700 followers and out of that I've got quite a few names and there have been some interesting ones."

Three days later and it paid off as the League 1 side made their first "twansfer" signing Kieran Agard, following his release from Everton.

"I'll be retweeting the ones that came up with the name. There's a couple of people who had mentioned him, so they'll be taking the credit."

It's not just been Yeovil fans playing their part with supporters of Liverpool, Manchester United, Tottenham, Arsenal and Chelsea all telling him about "their best youngsters and players available for loan".

The question now is how many more clubs will use their social networking site to reach out to the wider community and how many more twansfers will the Glovers and other clubs make before the season kicks off in August.

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

Join the thousands of Hatters fans already following us on Facebook and Twitter:



@LTFC_Official



facebook.com/lutontown

HOME COMFORTS

FOLLOW THE HATTERS AT KENILWORTH ROAD



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.



LUTON TOWN v TAMWORTH

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 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-Stanstead 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

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-Homer*
Sat 20	15:00	H	Southport	5-1	5,681	64	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1, Asafu-Adjaye*, Dance, Watkins, Howells, Morgan-Smith, 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**
Sat 27	15:00	H	Braintree Town	3-1	5,703	110	6	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells 1, Dance***, Lawless*, Keane, Willmott, Crow**
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 1, Fleetwood 1	
Tue 13	19:45	A	AFC Telford United	2-0	2,640	502	3	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Antwi, Beckwith, Howells, Lawless, Keane, Willmott***, Morgan-Smith 2, Crow*, Fleetwood**	
Sat 17	15:00	H	Lincoln City	1-0	6,316	206	2	Tyler, Dance, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith***, Lawless, Hand, Willmott*, Handwood 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	Ebbwfleet 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 1, Howells, Willmott*, Keane, Lawless**, O'Connor*, Fleetwood, Morgan-Smith
Sat 12	15:00	H	Northampton Town (FAC1)	1-0	4,799	913	-	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Howells, Hand, Lawless, Keane*, Kissock***, 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*, 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 1, 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	2-0	6,108	228	3	K. Pilkington, Gleeson*, G. Pilkington***, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Keane, Watkins, Howells, O'Connor 1, Crow 1**

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	Ebbw Vale 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					

SUBS

Willmott*, Watkins, Morgan-Smith, Crow, Kidd
M-Smith 1**, Crow 1*, A-Adjaye***, Barnes-Homer, K. Pilkington
Gleeson*, Walker**, Poku, Barnes-Homer, 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***
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
Willmott***, Fleetwood**, Dance*, Kissock, Tyler



Greg Taylor's cross is about to be met by Danny Crow to put the Town 2-0 up against Newport

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	27	14	9	4	54	24	30	51
4	York City	28	13	10	5	56	28	28	49
5	Kidderminster Harriers	27	14	7	6	52	38	14	49
6	Southport	28	14	6	8	43	48	-5	48
7	Gateshead	27	13	8	6	42	36	6	47
8	Cambridge United	27	12	10	5	38	24	14	46
9	Mansfield Town	27	10	12	5	41	32	9	42
10	Grimsby Town	27	12	5	10	51	42	9	41
11	Barrow	27	12	5	10	42	38	4	41
12	Forest Green Rovers	28	9	11	8	39	28	11	38
13	Braintree Town	28	11	5	12	47	50	-3	38
14	Tamworth	25	9	7	9	32	36	-4	34
15	Ebbwfleet United	27	7	10	10	39	42	-3	31
16	Darlington	28	10	7	11	28	33	-5	27
17	AFC Telford United	28	6	9	13	28	41	-13	27
18	Lincoln City	28	7	5	16	26	41	-15	26
19	Stockport County	28	4	11	13	29	47	-18	23
20	Newport County	27	5	7	15	32	42	-10	22
21	Alfreton Town	28	5	7	16	35	64	-29	22
22	Kettering Town	28	5	7	16	28	63	-35	22
23	Hayes & Yeading	27	5	6	16	37	58	-21	21
24	Bath City	27	3	9	15	28	50	-22	18

PLAYER STATS 2011/12

	THIS SEASON LEAGUE			CUP	TOTAL		DISCIP		CAREER TOTAL				
	APPS	GLS	APPS		GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS				
Will ANTWI	12	(0)	2	1	(0)	0	13	(0)	2	0	13	2	
Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE	4	(2)	0	0	0	0	4	(2)	0	0	1	75	1
Matthew BARNES-HOMER	1	(0)	0	0	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	81	23
Dean BECKWITH	8	(0)	1	2	(0)	0	10	(0)	1	2	1	10	1
Shane BLACKETT	4	(0)	0	0	0	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	43	1
Ryan BRUNT	0	(5)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(5)	0	0	0	6	0
Paul CARDEN	1	(0)	0	0	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	11	0
Danny CROW	14	(6)	8	1	(2)	0	15	(8)	8	3	0	58	16
James DANCE	20	(5)	3	1	(1)	1	21	(5)	4	3	0	26	4
Stuart FLEETWOOD	13	(7)	5	2	(0)	2	15	(7)	7	3	0	22	7
Dan GLEESON	4	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	6	(1)	0	1	0	49	0
Jamie HAND	11	(2)	2	2	(0)	0	13	(2)	2	4	1	15	2
Charlie HENRY	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Julie HOWELLS	24	(0)	5	3	(0)	0	27	(0)	5	2	0	158	14
Keith KEANE	20	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	23	(0)	0	5	0	266	6
John-Paul KISSOCK	3	(11)	0	3	(1)	0	6	(12)	0	0	0	18	0
Janos KOVACS	18	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	20	(0)	2	2	0	37	3
Alex LACEY	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	5	0
Alex LAWLESS	19	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	21	(0)	2	6	1	50	7
Colby MCADAMS	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Amari MORGAN-SMITH	14	(1)	9	1	(0)	0	15	(1)	9	6	0	43	17
Freddie MURRAY	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	79	1
Aaron O'CONNOR	14	(10)	3	3	(0)	4	17	(10)	7	2	0	27	7
JJ O'DONNELL	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	6	0
Curtis OSANO	17	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	20	(0)	0	3	0	20	0
George PILKINGTON	14	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	16	(0)	0	2	0	147	10
Kevin PILKINGTON	9	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	12	(0)	0	0	0	30	0
Godfrey POKU	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	19	0
Collin SAMUEL	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Christian TAVERNIER	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Greg TAYLOR	6	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	7	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Mark TYLER	18	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	19	(0)	0	0	0	113	0
Dan WALKER	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	20	1
Adam WATKINS	10	(10)	3	2	(1)	1	12	(11)	4	3	0	29	6
Robbie WILLMOTT	18	(6)	7	1	(1)	0	19	(7)	7	1	0	44	13
Tommy WRIGHT	1	(3)	1	1	(1)	2	2	(4)	3	0	0	6	3

LAST WORD

WITH BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO'S SIMON OXLEY

It promises to be a busy month in the loan market, with Gary Brabin promising plenty of comings and goings. Loans can often make or break a season, and I wonder who your particular favourite has been down the years.

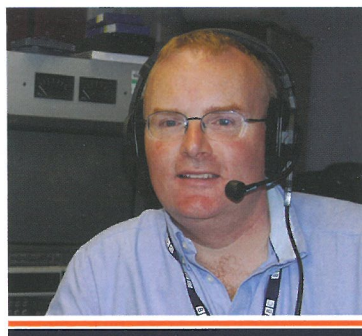
I think many Hatters fans would opt for Rory Allen who was signed on loan from Tottenham by Lennie Lawrence in 1998 in the old Division Two (now League One), and more than played his part in helping Luton avoid relegation. It helped of course that a certain Mr Pleat was at Tottenham, but Allen scored six goals in eight games. I can recall in particular his goal on his debut at Walsall, and the game at Brentford which sealed another great escape.

Another Lennie loan was centre-half Sean Dyche from Bristol City the following season, and I remember him being a steadying influence, although the club's financial problems prevented it from becoming a permanent move.

You christened him "the Little Shaf" and "McSheffchenko", and Gary McSheffrey was a great loan signing from Coventry in 2003 with eight goals in 18 games. What sort of an impact would the highly-rated Graeme Tomlinson have made when he signed on loan from Manchester United in 1996, had it not been for a broken leg on his full debut?

Goalkeepers are often loan arrivals, usually to cover injuries, so how about Lewis Price as Luton's best ever loan signing? He only played twice in 2009, but one of those games was the Johnstone's Paint Trophy area final against Brighton when he saved two penalties to help the Hatters to Wembley.

And of course one of Luton's most popular players of the last 20 years - American goalkeeper Ian Feuer - was initially a loan signing. We couldn't even say his



name, never mind spell it, when he made his debut in a 0-0 draw at Millwall, but he was a top bloke. Has anyone still got an Ian Feuer "height chart" which was the brainwave of the club shop manager at the time.

In my early days of reporting on Luton, David Pleat - in his first season of his second spell in charge - decided to bring in the experienced keeper Steve Sutton on loan from Nottingham Forest. It was hard on the popular Alec Chamberlain, but Sutton made a real difference. Again though, a permanent deal couldn't be agreed, and he returned to the City Ground. Sutton was then replaced by the on loan Mervyn Day, before Chamberlain was restored for the run-in.

Maybe some arrivals this month will prove to be the difference between going up and staying in the BSBP come May. I must admit to thinking tonight's opponents would be up there challenging when they appointed Dietmar Hamann last summer.

But they are one of a number of clubs in the Conference who have had problems. We experienced Kettering first hand over the festive period, and now Darlington have gone into administration. The Conference have a real job to prevent this season falling apart at the seams.

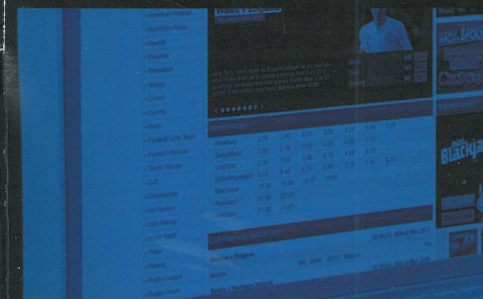
I enjoyed the trip to Nene Park on New Year's Day, as did over 2,000 of you. Apart from the endless speed cameras on the A6, wasn't it nice to go to an away game without having to go on a motorway?

Luton press box legend Brian Swain claimed to know a non-motorway route to every ground, having started his Luton News career in the days when there was no other way to go. Those of you who know Brian will not be surprised to know that he could also name most of the pubs on the routes as well, and was on first name terms with the landlords!

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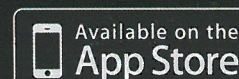
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TONIGHT'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN

STOCKPORT COUNTY

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	Matt Glennon
■ 2	Mark Lynch
✓ 3	Euan Holden
■ 4	Jon Routledge
✓ 5	Danny O'Donnell
✓ 6	Danny Rowe
■ 7	Sean McConville
✓ 8	John Nolan
✓ 9	Martin Gritton
■ 10	John Miles
✗ 11	Ryan Fraughan
■ 12	Cameron Darkwah
✓ 13	Ian Ormson
✓ 14	Sam Sheridan
✓ 15	Danny Whitehead
■ 16	Ryan McCann
✓ 17	Andy Halls
✓ 18	Danny Rowe
✓ 20	Tom Elliott
■ 21	Nabil Bounab
✓ 22	Carl Piergianni
■ 24	Joe Edwards
■ 27	Dane Smith
✓ 29	Aaron Cole
■ 30	Kyle Brownhill
■ 31	Ben Say
✓ 32	Joe Connor

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: K. Johnson
 Assistant: P. Harris
 Assistant: L. Venamore
 Fourth official: L. Wood

UP NEXT

v **MANSFIELD TOWN**

Wednesday 25th January 2012 7.30pm
 Blue Square Bet Premier

