

TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB • ISSUE 33 • £3

LUTON TOWN v WREXHAM

THURSDAY 3RD MAY 2012 - 7.30PM



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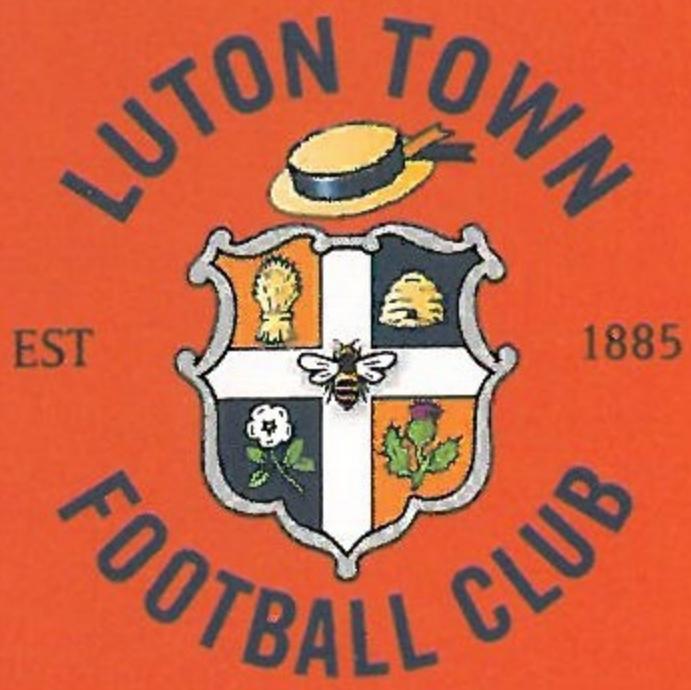


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COMPETITION
PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG





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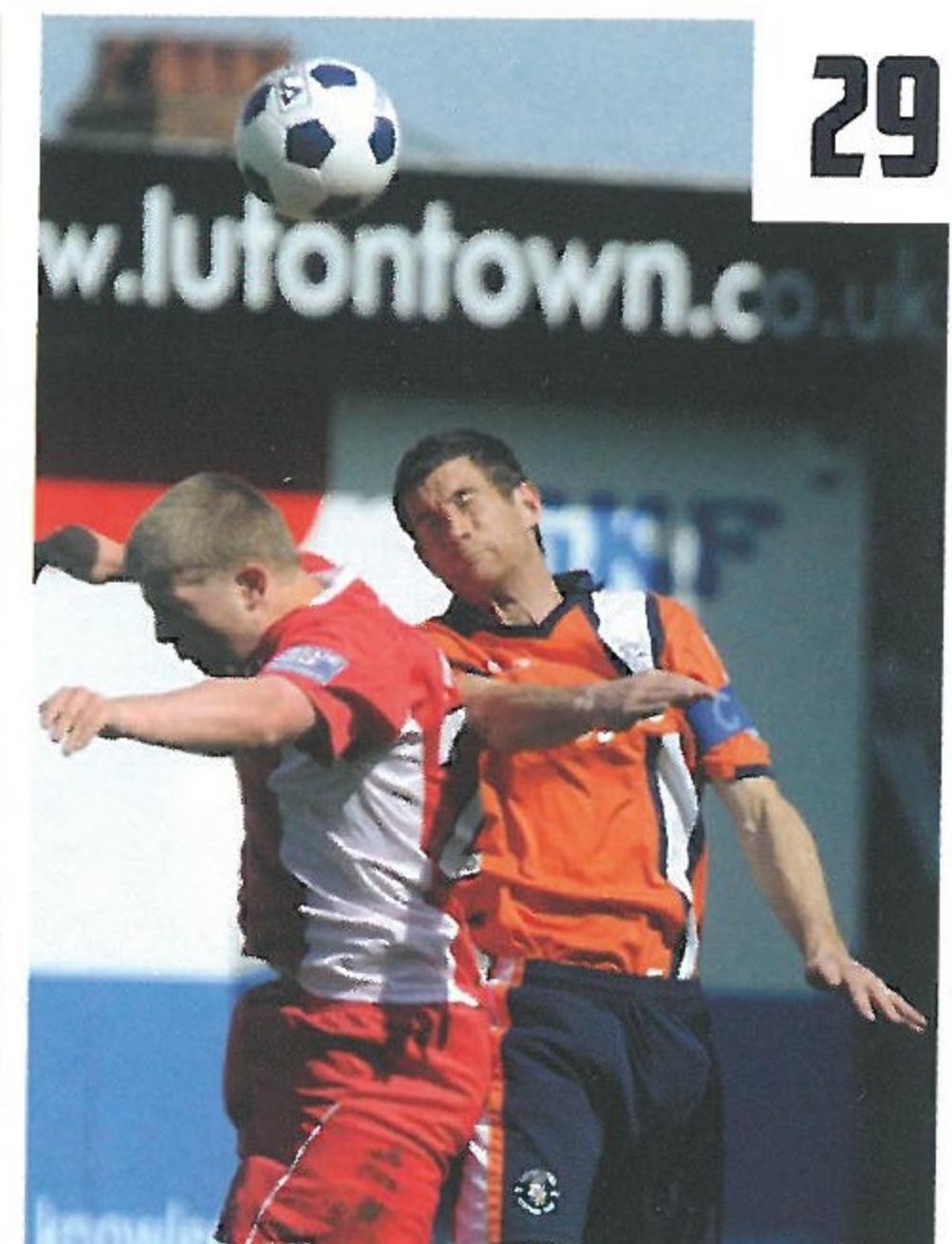
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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PAUL BUCKLE

Good evening and welcome to you all to this evening's Blue Square Bet Premier Play-Off semi-final first leg against Wrexham.

A warm welcome to Andy Morrell and his players and staff, plus the directors and supporters of the Red Dragons.

Since I took control, each game has grown in its size and importance. We have been desperate to keep the season going and we're determined to finish the job.

It's a big game for both clubs and I know everyone associated here wants to put the disappointment of last season behind us and we are going to have to be at our best to do so. However, first things first, we have tonight's game, where we need to put everything we have done and learned over the past six games into practice. I have asked for an improvement in every game since I have been at the club and I've got one, which has given us a lot of confidence.

With each game and with each passing day's work on the training field, I know we are improving. The players are getting to know me and, so far, they have given everything for me – every last sinew. It's meant we have developed a real character and there's a determination and steel about us right now.

The biggest thing is that we need to be careful not to be over-confident. What I am confident about though is that the players will give me everything tonight. We have a real tight-knit squad and I know I can call upon every single one of them.

What has gone on before my arrival this season, or last season, makes no difference. Who we have played and the results we have picked up all go out of the window. We need to concentrate on tonight's game before we worry about anything else.

When I watched the Braintree game we were out of the Play-Off picture and since that day we have worked our socks off as a group and as a result we have found ourselves in with a chance. I know, and

the players know, that there's more to give. What we are seeing now is when a player makes a mistake, someone is helping to rectify the situation. Unbeaten in six games, five successive clean sheets – that is the benchmark we've set ourselves.

The players are enjoying themselves, especially in training, and I know if the players show that they are giving 100 per cent then you, the supporters, will come in your numbers. And you have a huge role, a major part, in the Play-Off process. You can push us on and make a difference. Ever since the game against Hayes & Yeading I have been blown away by your noise and passion. 8,500 against Kidderminster, 150 up at Gateshead in midweek when it was on television and not forgetting almost 1,000 at Flewood. Unreal. It makes us all proud.

Tonight's game is the biggest of my career as a manager and it's the biggest of the players' careers too. Why have we been doing so well? Well we have never taken our eye off the ball, we've concentrated and focused on each game and not been distracted by any outside influences. We weren't phased by only earning a point at Gateshead, even if it was tinged with disappointment. We were not concerned about what Kidderminster were doing on Saturday.

I am telling you what I will be telling the players before kick-off. There are no secrets. We will work hard and there won't be any nerves. You should only get nervous when you're losing 3-0 at Forest Green, or 3-1 at Braintree. You only get nerves when you cut corners.

There is no talk of the second leg. Tonight is our focus. The players will give everything tonight, I can assure you.

Get behind us like you have done. It should be a full house tonight and an electric atmosphere. Savour it, embrace it and enjoy it!

FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Well, here we are again in the nail-biting grip of the Play-Offs for the third successive season. Surely this will be third time lucky? If you look at our recent form, we must have a great chance - things have really taken off since Paul Buckle arrived, but my overriding feeling about the season as a whole is one of immense frustration.

Why, for instance, have we failed to win an evening league game under floodlights on no fewer than 17 occasions? Eleven draws, often from a position when we'd been in the lead, and six sickening defeats, including those dreadful nights at Wrexham and Forest Green.

Sometimes we were caught cold, sometimes we ran out of steam, sometimes it seemed like we hadn't turned up. I must say, it has me baffled.

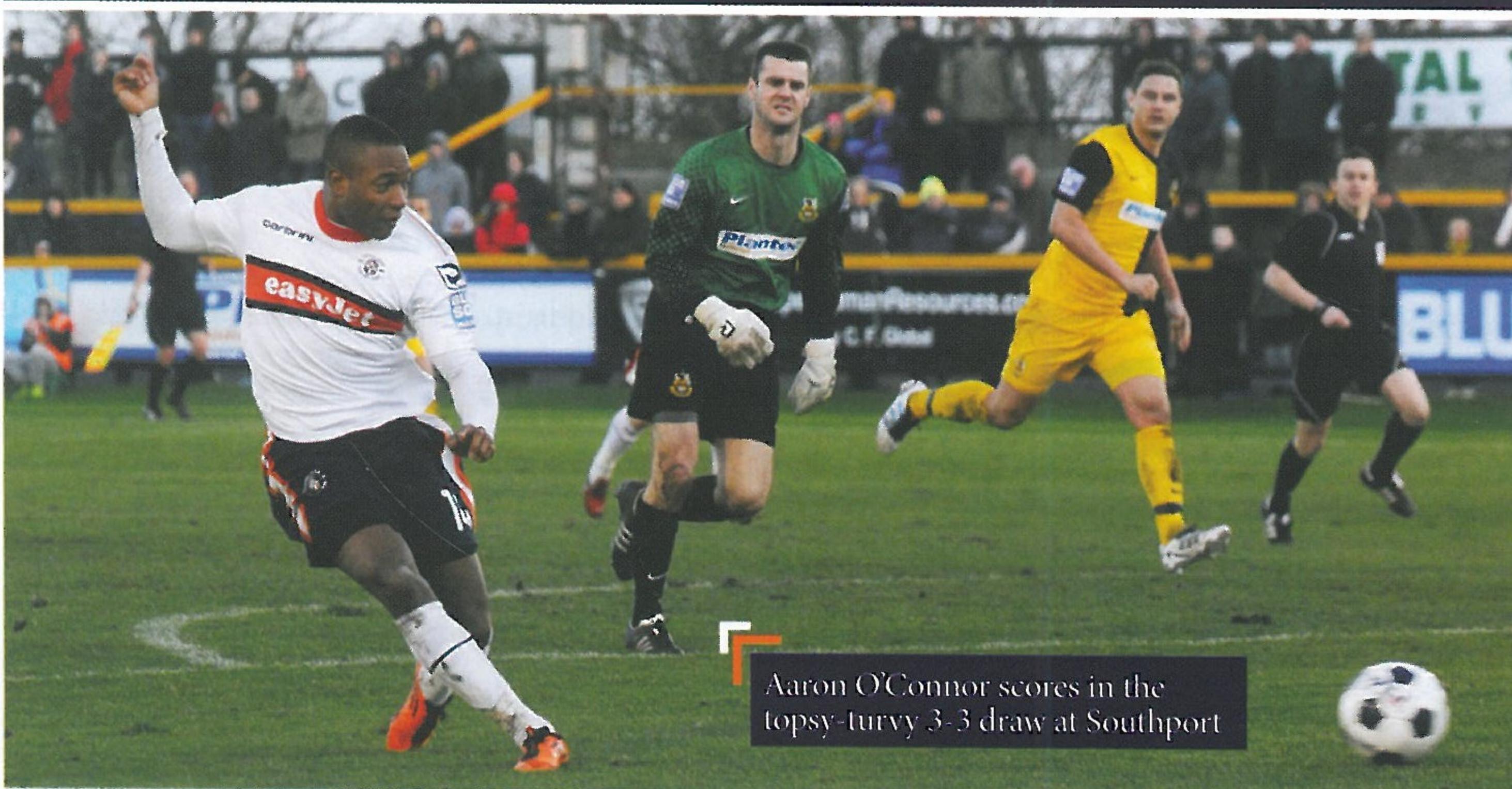
There have been some excellent highlights, though. Most recently, that exhilarating victory over Kidderminster at Kenilworth Road.

A brilliant assist from Mark Tyler and a superbly taken goal by Robbie Willmott. The attendance that day was something to marvel at too. Amazingly, the crowd of 8,415 was larger than the number of people Hayes and Yeading had through their turnstiles altogether for the whole season!

Which brings me to our fans: blooming marvellous! The support, home and away, for a club which has seen such wretched times in recent years, is nothing short of phenomenal and incredibly encouraging for those of us charged with being custodians of Luton Town. Thank you.

My other happy memories of this season include Amari Morgan-Smith's stirring form in the first three months or so. He was unstoppable - fast, strong, skilful, brave and prolific. How we've missed him!

But at the other end of the season, how exciting it's been to see the emergence of Andre Gray who's full of pace and trickery with a deadly eye for goal. After a close season as a full-time footballer, who knows how good he can be!



Aaron O'Connor scores in the topsy-turvy 3-3 draw at Southport

Another stand-out aspect of the season for me was the way we battled it out at home to Lincoln City back in September when central defender Dean Beckwith was sent-off early in the first half.

We still took the game to them and, amazingly, snaffled a winner with less than 10 minutes to go after a burst of genius from Jean Paul Kissock followed by a six-yard strike from Stuart Fleetwood. An exhilarating moment!

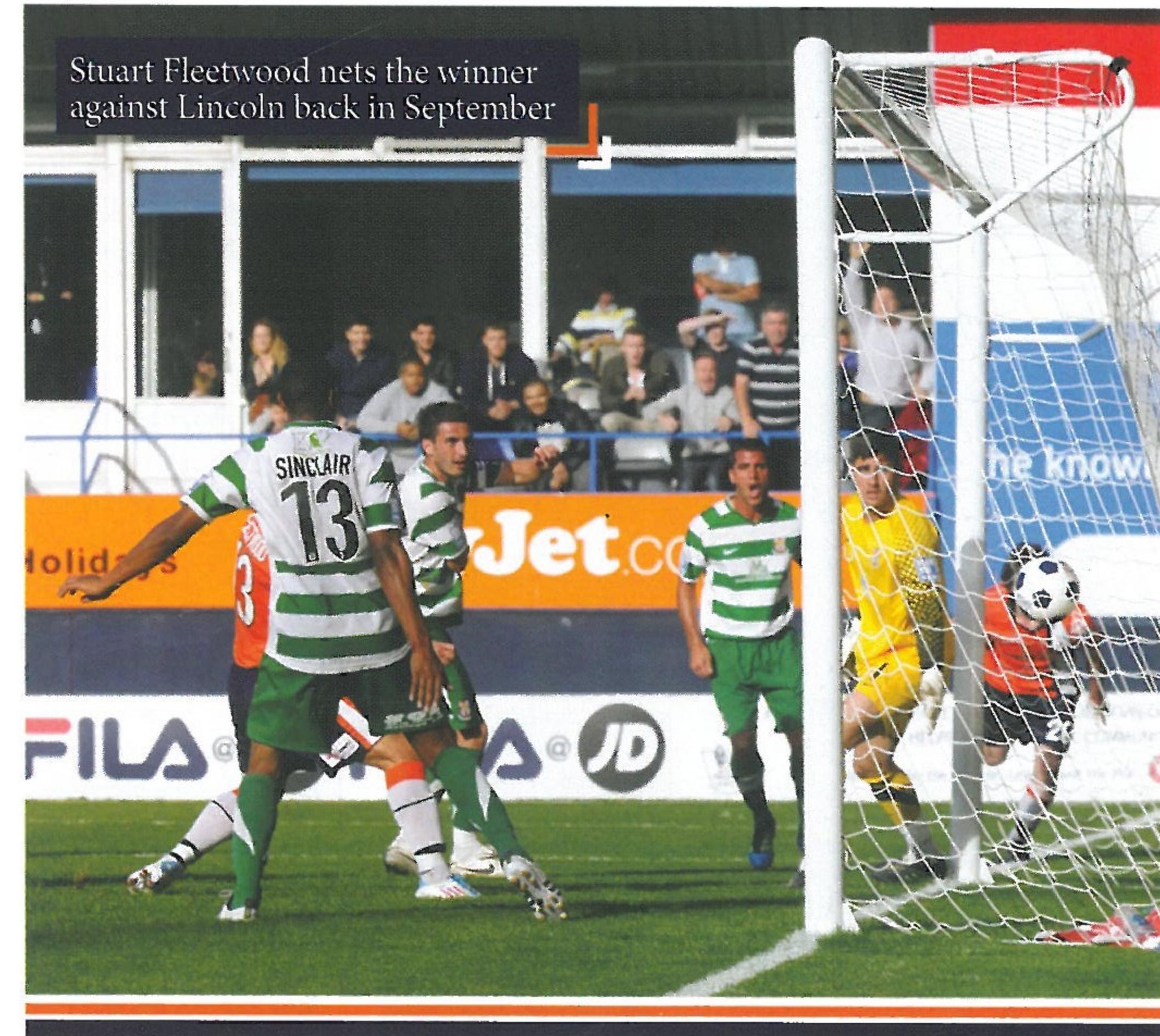
I also remember with great satisfaction the wet and windy Saturday afternoon at Newport County in November, when it was blowing such a gale that the nearby wind turbines nearly gave up through exhaustion.

Our redoubtable fans got a drenching on the open terraces, but our battlers on the pitch never wilted and Danny Crow slotted home a winner in injury time. What a great feeling that is!

And talking about the wind, what about the match at Southport?

It was farcical at times and could have finished 6-4, 4-6, or 6-6, but we settled for 3-3 and that was a decent result in the circumstances. Adam Watkins scored a beauty that day after a terrific build-up and that's another moment etched in my memory box (filed under 'happy').

As far as individual players are concerned, I feel that Mark Tyler and Janos Kovacs have been inspirational this season, but most of the squad have had their



Stuart Fleetwood nets the winner against Lincoln back in September

glorious moments at some time or another - the frustration is that, knowing how much talent there is, we haven't been more consistent.

Still, we're in the Play-Offs with, I hope, three more games to our season. Win at Wembley and all those agonies and frustrations of 2011/12 will drift beyond the horizon and we'll be back where we belong.

Thanks to the players for all their efforts this season and to you, our staunch fellow supporters, for being so loyal and resilient.

Come on you Hatters.

Bye for now.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON

I am writing this bathing in the afterglow of our tremendous result and performance at Fleetwood last Saturday whilst admitting that I don't remember being so nervous before a game.

As I look back over the season it goes without saying that we should never have been in such a nerve-racking situation. The away draws at Hayes and Yeading, Bath and Ebbsfleet come to mind as the most disappointing because in all cases it seemed as though we had done enough to win before dropping the ball in the latter stages of the match.

We started the year, after last season's disappointment at Manchester, full of optimism and at our close season Board and Investor meeting a generous budget was agreed to meet our football ambition.

We recognised that the squad needed strengthening in certain areas and made significant bids for various players. We were knocked back a number of times particularly by players in the League who didn't want to drop into the Blue Square Bet Premier.

However, good signings were made and we welcomed Janos Kovacs, James Dance, JP Kissock, Curtis Osano, Stuart Fleetwood, Greg Taylor, Craig McAllister, Aaron O'Connor, Andre Boucaud and Andre Gray. We also financed loan players being brought in to fill the gaps created by the early injury crisis.

Early season form was erratic largely due to injuries in the defence. George Pilkington had had a very difficult summer, Freddie Murray was suffering from a long-term injury, Dan Gleeson was also troubled with injury so the back four was different for almost every game.

Although there were some good results, we lost at home to Cambridge, Wrexham and Fleetwood, which obviously put a dent in our morale – and position at the top.



The middle part of the campaign went well and our record from after the Cheltenham game in the FA Cup at the beginning of December, until the Bath game in early March was 30 points from 13 games. However we then went six games where we picked up just two points with big defeats at Wrexham, Forest Green and Braintree.

It was these, along with our inability to beat the top clubs, that put us so far behind. We gained five points out of a possible 24 against the four teams that finished above us and three of those came at the death on Saturday.

So I suppose my summary of the season should be broken into two parts – the first 40 games and the last six. The first 40 were by and large disappointing and the 67 points gained were nowhere near the target set at the beginning of the season. However, the last six were an incredible transformation, not only of results, but of performances.

Football can be a cruel game and so it turned out as this poor run forced our hand and Gary Brabin had to leave.

Luton can be an unforgiving place if expectations are not met and so it was, but I for one wish him well and feel sure that he will find a niche that suits him sometime soon. He brought in some good young players and didn't have the best of luck.

The King is dead long live the King.

Between 7th March and 7th April there were eight games of which five were lost and three drawn and this was the run of results and form inherited by Paul Buckle.

Interviews were held in the week after the York defeat and Paul was in the stands to watch the dreadful performance at Braintree.

We all know what has happened since then. We have picked up 14 points out of the last 18 and secured a Play-Off spot against the odds.

Paul has been like a whirlwind around the place since he arrived and seems to have found what had been missing.

Whatever it was - spark, confidence, energy, work-rate – we've got it back. Wherever it was hiding Paul seems to have found it.

I know that a lot of us on the Board had stopped enjoying our football, and sometimes it is worse for us because not only are we fans like you, but financial backers or managers as well.

You can go home, kick the cat and have a moan. We have decisions to make which can affect the long-term future of the club and instant reactions are not always the right ones.

Behind the scenes it is as hectic and difficult as ever and the list of problems to solve seems to get longer and longer e.g. Busway, Boardroom, car parks, training facilities, academy, council, community, commercial, retail, charity and stadium.

We'll have more news no doubt throughout the summer and we'll endeavour to keep you updated.

Finally could I take this opportunity to wish a happy wedding day on Saturday to Lynne Bird's daughter, Vicky, and her fiancée Shane.

Buckle UP

COYH

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

PILKS

What a fantastic feeling it was on Saturday as we booked our place in the Play-Offs with a deserved victory at the champions Fleetwood Town.

We knew we had to go there and get a point to secure our place, and to do so in the manner in which we did was absolutely unbelievable.

From the first whistle I thought we were excellent. We took the game to them and used the ball really well when we had it. Fleetwood were chasing a record points total and wanted to end the season on a high having won the championship.

There were so many positives to take, including a fifth straight clean sheet. To achieve that against a team who had scored over 100 goals in the Blue Square Bet Premier is a superb feat.

Keeping clean sheets always gives us a great chance of winning games because we have the faith in the ability of our attacking players to go out and cause opposition problems going forward.

The new manager has restored a belief in ourselves, he has got us working hard for one another. We're a team and that's what all good teams do: battle for one another on the field.

Hitting the Play-Offs in form is always a must and we are full of confidence after a run of six games without defeat. In that time we have conceded just two goals. It's a massive testament to everyone involved in getting us over the line.

It's not been easy. It's been a tough, frustrating season for us but those 46 games are now behind us as we focus on two games against Wrexham. Either ourselves or our opposition tonight will be walking out at Wembley – what a magnificent incentive. We were all disappointed not to reach Wembley in the Trophy but this is a whole different ball game. Don't get me wrong we would have loved to have got to the final of that competition but this is huge.

Last season we got so close having beaten Wrexham in the Play-Off semi final. We will need to be at our best once more to get past them because they have had a great season. In any other league, 98 points would be enough to win you the title but over the next two legs we are equal. It's a horrible cliché but it's 11 versus 11 at the end of the day. All the past matches, all past form and league position goes out of the window. Last season we took four points off of AFC Wimbledon and didn't concede any and look what happened in the final.

A first-leg advantage is always a big plus. It's a new scenario for us because we're the home team first. Since I have been at the club all of our semi-final first legs have been away from home. Last season we built up a fine 3-0 first-leg advantage at the Racecourse and we will be gunning for a repeat performance tonight to take into next Monday's second leg.

Our last home match here against Kidderminster was a great occasion. 8,500 crammed into see us triumph and win a crucial three points. The noise when Robbie's goal hit the back of the net was deafening.

I'm sure it will be another packed house tonight. Evening games under the floodlights are special occasions here at Kenilworth Road and it's something I absolutely love.

It promises to be a nerve-jangling, exciting and nail-biting week or so but with your support I'm sure any nerves will dissipate. Especially if we turn out to be successful and get to Wembley.

Ever since the Johnstone's Paint Trophy win in 2009 I've been longing for a return! Let's make it happen. Get behind us and thank you for the magnificent support you've given us all season.

Enjoy the game.



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LEAGUE LOOK

**MARK YOUNG LOOKS BACK ON
THE LAST DAY IN THE BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER**

The Town booked their place in the Play-Offs after a 2-0 away win at Blue Square Bet Premier champions, Fleetwood Town.

But while the Hatters were at Highbury paving their way into the Play-Off picture, every other team in the league also played at 1pm on Saturday afternoon.

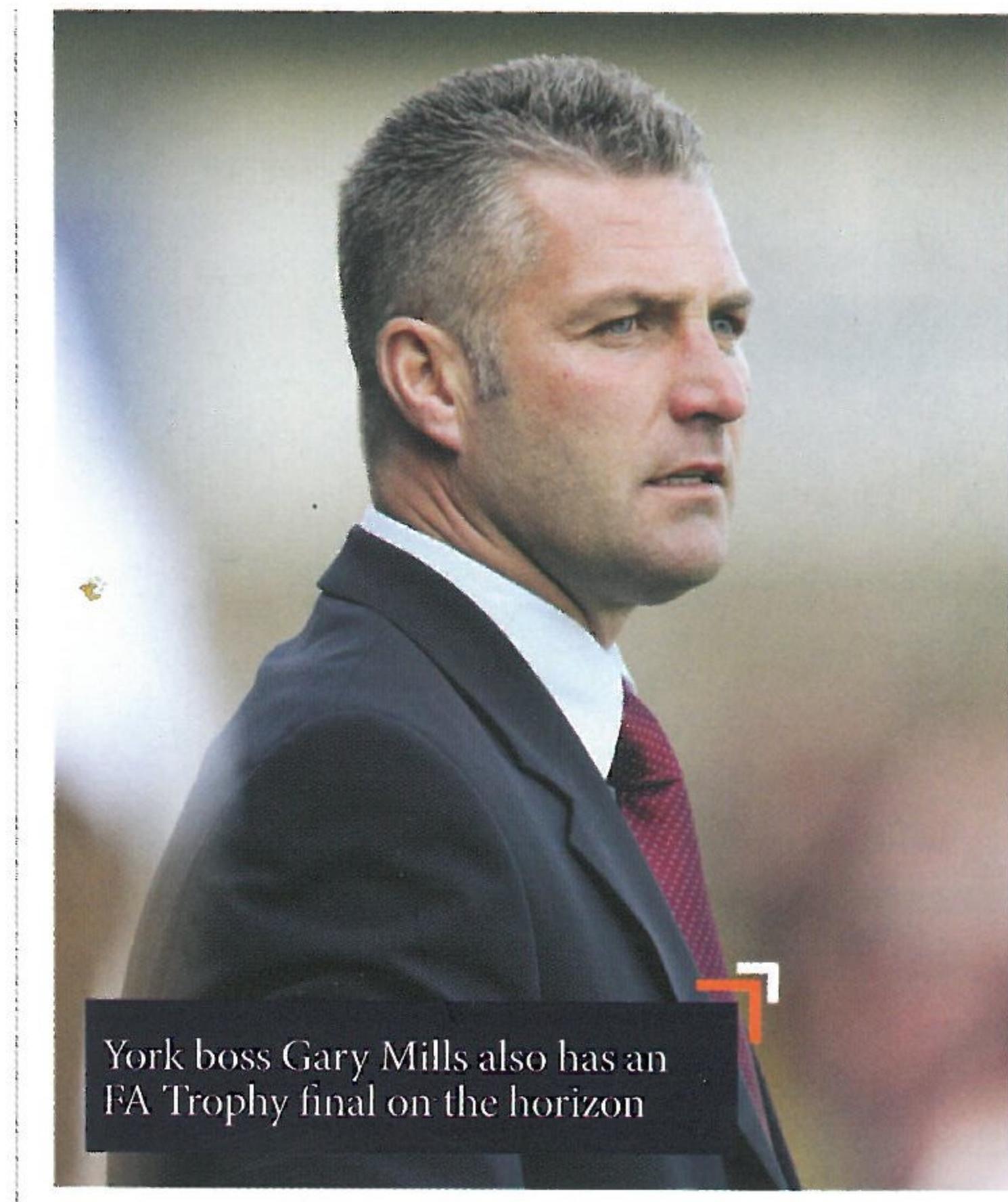
There was one game that the Hatters had to keep their eye as Kidderminster hosted Mansfield, who already had a Play-Off place confirmed – but the home side needed to win in order to gain a top-five finish.

Unfortunately for the home side they were to go on and lose 3-0 after Lee Vaughan had seen red in the 48th minute. Lee Stevenson, Louis Briscoe and Matt Green all scored to once again show Mansfield's promotion credentials. The result meant that whatever happened at Highbury, the Hatters would finish in the top five.

Meanwhile, if York failed to win the Town could end up finishing fourth, but City nicked an 82nd-minute winner at home to Forest Green Rovers.

Luton's opponents tonight, Wrexham, comfortably finished second and a 5-1 victory at home to Braintree on Saturday will give them high hopes going into the double-header against Paul Buckle's men. Player-manager Andy Morrell netted after 19 minutes and then the floodgates opened.

Elsewhere, Alfreton Town beat Bath City 2-1 at home, with early goals from Danny Meadows and Anthony Wilson. Lincoln City, relegation-threatened for most of the season, finished in 17th place thanks to a 3-2 win against Ebbsfleet United. Calum Willock cancelled out an own goal from Joe Howe within 25 minutes. Peter Bore scored three minutes later and Jamie Taylor added another in the 33rd minute. Liam Bellamy pulled one back for Fleet but nothing came of it as Lincoln held on.



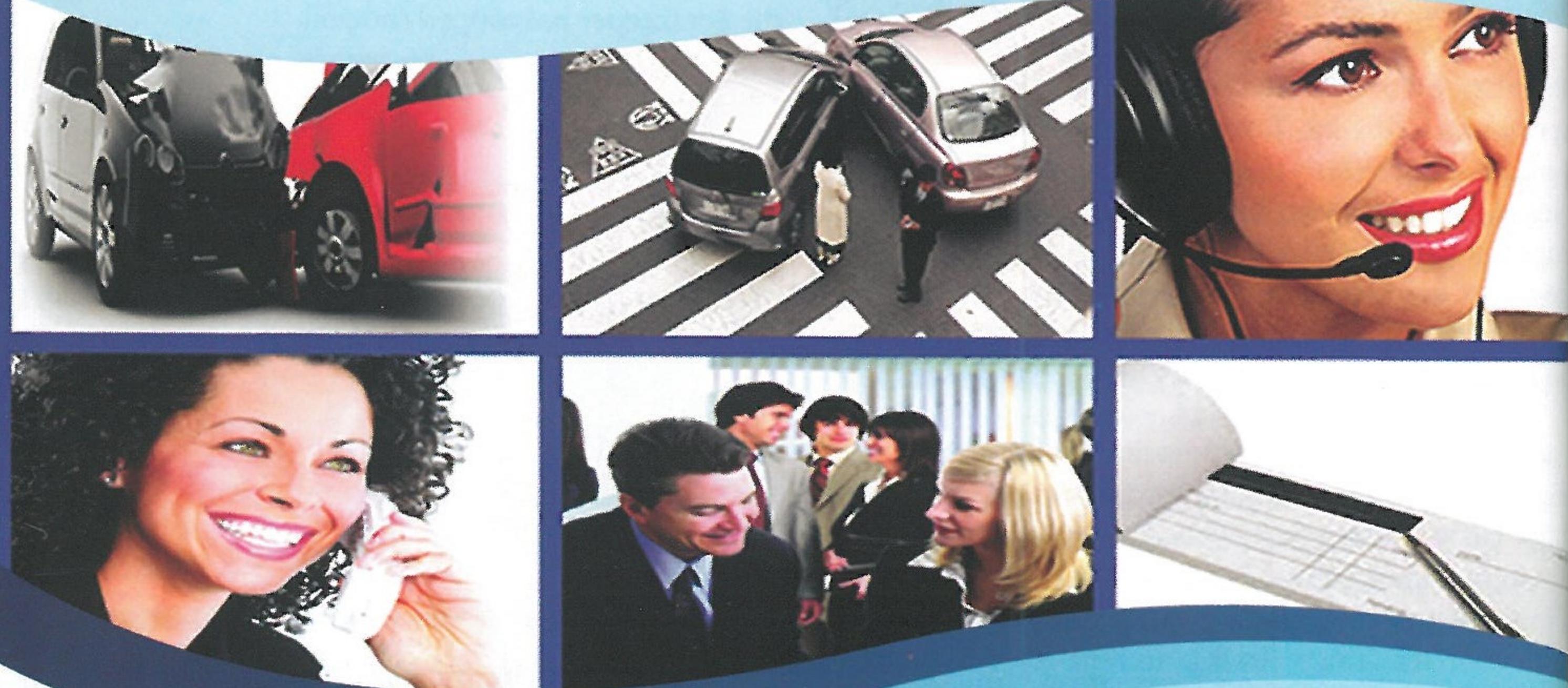
York boss Gary Mills also has an FA Trophy final on the horizon

The Town's opponents last Tuesday, Gateshead, were at home again and produced a fine display winning 3-0 against AFC Telford.

FA Trophy finalists, Newport County were defeated 3-1 at the hands of Barrow at Holker Street. Ismail Yakubu's 15th-minute strike cancelled out an Andy Cook opener. Second-half goals from Richie Baker and Adam Boyes meant that Barrow ended the season positively.

Hayes and Yeading were defeated by Stockport County at home while already-relegated Darlington beat bottom-of-the-table Kettering Town 3-1. Grimsby Town ended the season with a 1-0 defeat at home to Southport after a Darren Stephenson winner.

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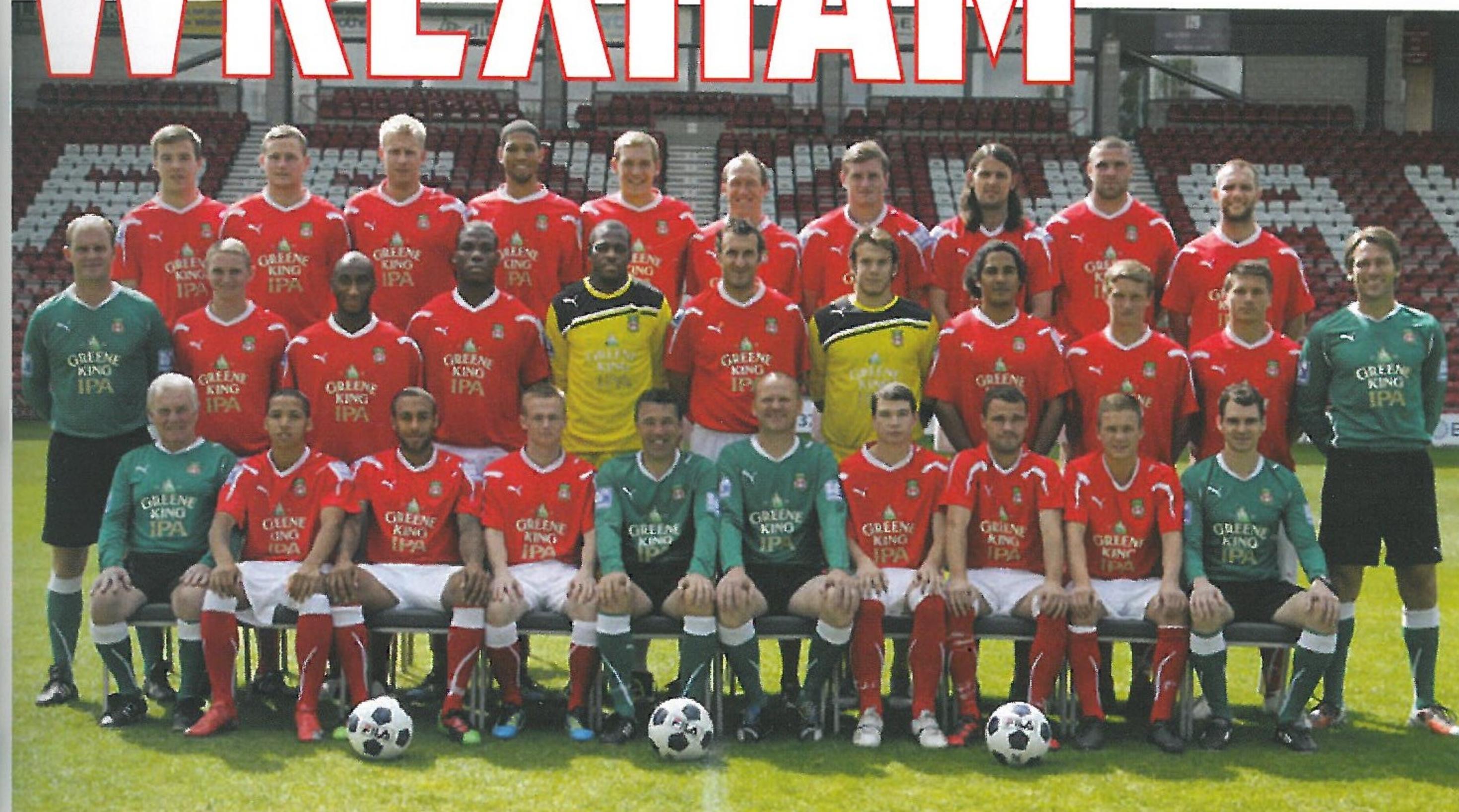
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WELCOME WREXHAM



It really is crunch time coming into this encounter at Kenilworth Road against Wrexham but, as recent weeks have shown, when games are must win, Paul Buckle's Hatters get a result.

The visitors this evening are the Red Dragons, the team that finished second in the league and five points adrift of champions Fleetwood. They stand in the way of the big day out at Wembley for the Hatters to right some wrongs of Manchester last year. But no chickens can be counted yet as the Welsh side warmed up for tonight's encounter by smashing five goals past Braintree on Saturday at the Racecourse Ground.

Buckle has won all of his games at home so far since taking over the reigns at the club at Easter.

The Dragons have hit a sticky patch of late but there is no doubt that they have some of the meanest strikers in the league - including their manager. Andy Morrell opened the scoring at the weekend and he has 10 goals to his name this season. Mathias Pogba scored at Kenilworth Road earlier this season and he is on 11 goals for the campaign and scored on Saturday.

The meanest striker of the Dragons squad is Jake Speight. The 26-year-old striker has netted 21 times this season and has been the figurehead of the promotion push and their season-long championship battle - he will have to be watched.

If this two-legged affair was to be played out over the two games that took place between the two teams earlier this season then it would be the Welsh side that would come out on top.

Andy Morrell's men won 2-0 at home against a beleaguered Hatters team in March. Danny Wright and Dean Keates nicked two first-half goals to put the fixture beyond doubt early on. The reverse fixture in October at Kenilworth Road had one less goal but Wrexham won yet again thanks to a Pogba strike.

On recent form it is all pressure on the away side as the Hatters have not scored a goal or taken a point from them this season, yet the optimism around Kenilworth Road at present is rare in comparison to the last few years and with a packed home support tonight the Town faithful could roar the team to a good first leg result.

IN TOWN

□ GOALKEEPER

Joslain Mayebi

Joined the Dragons in December 2010 after a trial period, and the departure of Scott Shearer to Crawley Town. Born in the Cameroon, he has also played for the likes of FC Metz, AEK Larnaca, Hakoah Ramat Gan and Maccabi Ahi Nazareth, while owning a French passport. Joslain was selected for the Cameroon national team at the 2008 Summer Olympics and was also called into their squad for a 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Togo in March 2009.

□ DEFENDERS

Neil Ashton

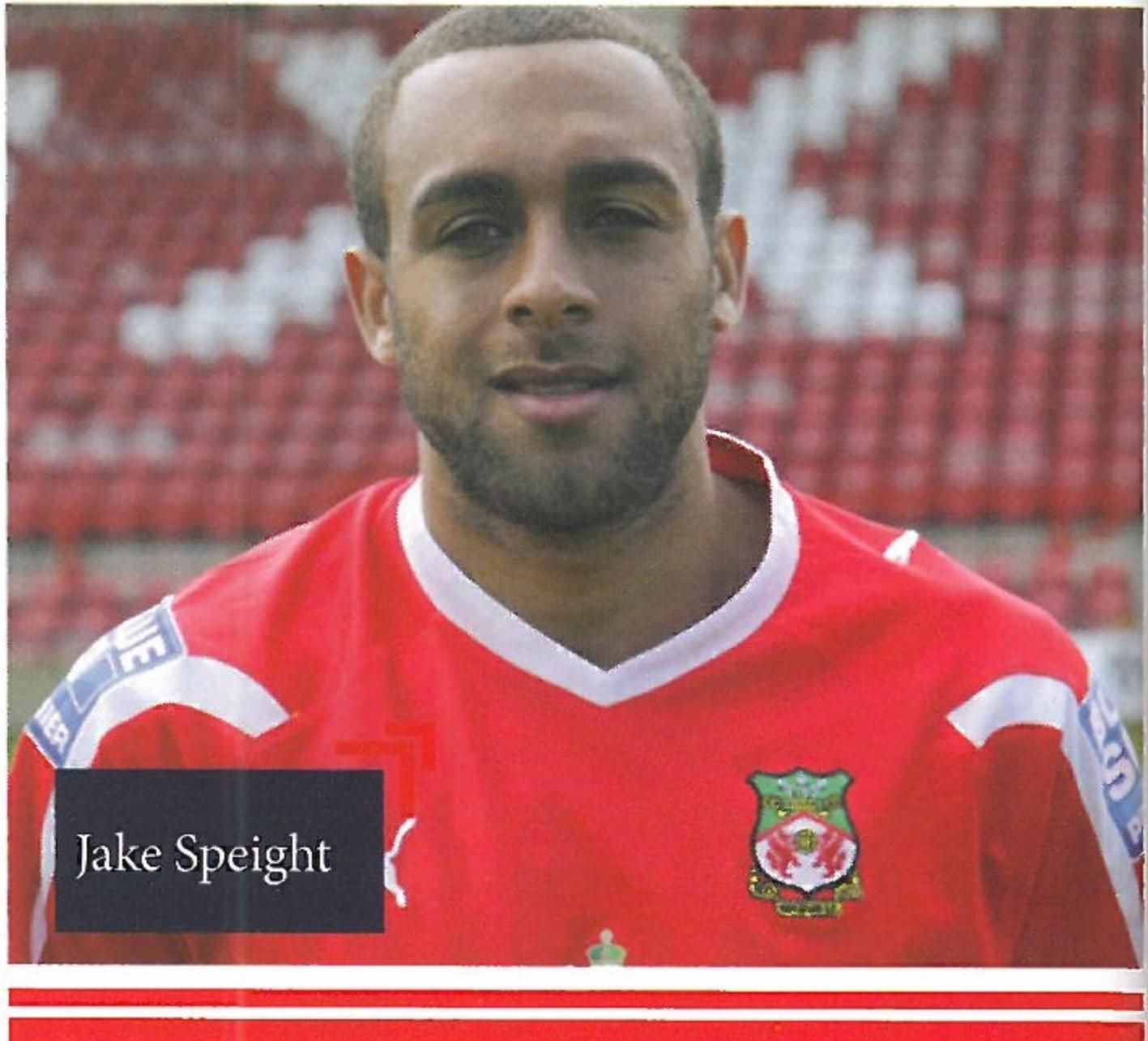
A left-back who has totted up some 200 senior appearances while with Tranmere, Shrewsbury, Macclesfield and Chester City. The 25-year-old began training with Wrexham in January 2010, as Chester's demise left him without a club. He played in several reserve team games and signed a one-year contract in the summer of 2010.

Mark Creighton

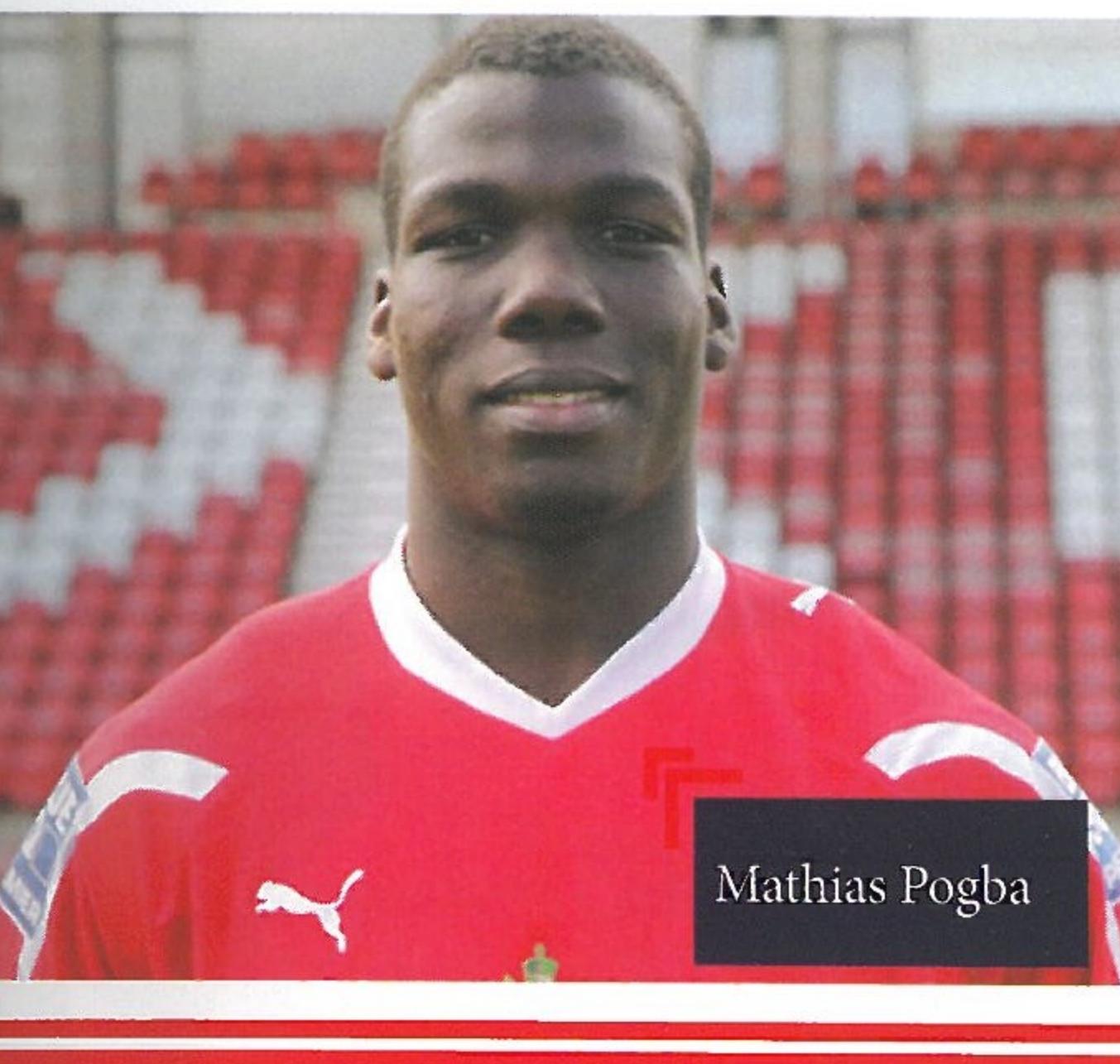
Towering centre half who started his career as a youngster with Kidderminster Harriers before playing with a number of local sides in the Birmingham area. It was from Redditch United that the Harriers picked him up again and he became a regular in their line-up for several seasons. A move to Oxford United followed in 2009 and he was part of the team that returned the U's to the Football League in the summer of 2010. Mark played a number of times for United in 2010/11, but joined Wrexham on loan in November. That deal was turned permanent in early January 2011, as he signed an 18-month contract after performing so impressively at the heart of the Dragons' defence.

Daniel Alfei

A product of the Swansea City youth team, who has also progressed to represent his country at all levels up to Under 21, despite still being only 19 years of age. Daniel joined the Dragons in 2012 on loan for the remainder of the season. He made his Swans' debut against Colchester United in the FA Cup during 2011



Jake Speight



Mathias Pogba

and with the club winning promotion to the Premier League, he was offered a new three-year contract.

Stephen Wright

Joined the Dragons as an out-of-contract signing at the start of 2012, following Hartlepool United's decision not to extend his contract. The right-back came through the ranks with Liverpool and went on to play 14 senior games for the Anfield Road club, including an appearance in the Champions League. He then switched to Sunderland in 2002 for a fee of £3m and played over a 100 times for the Black Cats. Stephen then moved to Coventry City, where he was their captain and, more recently, had a season with Brentford before returning to the north-east to join Hartlepool. A change of manager at Victoria Park left the 32-year-old out in the cold before Wrexham made their move for him.

Nathaniel Knight-Percival

Picked up from Conference rivals Histon, after his contract expired in May 2010. Nathaniel was a key member of the Stutes squad, having made his way through the youth ranks at the club, and played as a virtual ever-present since they joined the BSP in 2007, but was a first-team regular with them since 2005. His performances were also recognised by Paul Fairclough, the England non-league team manager, who awarded Nat with his first England C call up.

□ MIDFIELDERS

Dean Keates

A vastly experienced midfielder, who has won promotion six times with three different clubs. Beginning his career with his hometown club Walsall,

Keates made his professional debut as a substitute in October 1996, playing 150 times before later settling in with Hull City, Kidderminster, Lincoln City, Walsall (again), Peterborough and finally Wycombe. His career to date has seen him make over 500 senior appearances and score over 50 goals. Leaving the Chairboys in the summer of 2010, he accepted an offer from Wrexham to switch to the Racecourse.

Adrian Cieslewicz

A Polish Under-19 international, Adrian spent nearly three years at Manchester City before his release in 2009. Primarily a right-sided midfielder with lightning pace, he can also operate as a second striker and had a good goalscoring record with City's reserve side. Although Polish by birth, Adrian grew up in the Faroe Islands, where his father was a professional footballer. He made his first start for the Dragons in the 2009/10 season opener with Eastbourne, winning a vital penalty to help secure three points.

Joe Clarke

Signed in the summer of 2011 on non-contract terms, Joe was most recently with Solihull Moors in the Blue Square Bet North, following a short spell with Darlington midway through the 2010/11 season. Able to operate in defence, but more happy playing through the middle, he was first spotted by Mark Cooper playing for Solihull against Kettering Town in the FA Cup. When Cooper took on the manager's job with the Quakers he returned to the midlands to take Joe up north with him. Joe then trained pre-season at the Racecourse and stuck with the club as the new season started, making his debut as a substitute against Tamworth at the end of August.

Steven Leslie

Signed following his release by Shrewsbury Town in January 2012, on a contract with Wrexham until the end of the current season. The 24-year-old was born in Glasgow, but joined the Shrews as a youngster, going on to make his debut in 2006. After that, Steve played over 100 times for the Salop club, while also going on loan twice to Hereford United and switching to the Racecourse in search for regular first-team football. He made his debut in a 4-1 win over Hayes and Yeading United, and picked up the sponsors' Man of the Match award.

□ STRIKERS

Daniel Wright

Powerful centre-forward who signed for the Red Dragons in August following his release from Cambridge United. The 27-year-old scored 10 goals for the U's in the Blue Square Bet Premier last season having arrived at the start of the 2010/11 campaign from neighbours Histon, where he had bagged 33 goals in 90 starts for the Stutes. The striker scored against the Town at the Racecourse in March.

Jake Speight

Starting his career working through the Sheffield United youth team, he signed with Scarborough in 2005, and later Bury. He dropped down to Conference football between 2007 and 2010, playing for Northwich Victoria, Farsley Celtic, Droylsden, and Mansfield Town. In 2010 he was signed by Bradford City, but was sent out on loan to Port Vale, before signing permanently for Wrexham in 2011. An undisclosed fee secured his services with a year still remaining on his deal at Valley Parade. It was his 17 goals in 33 games for Mansfield in 2009/10 that persuaded Dean Saunders to bring the striker to the Racecourse.

Mathias Pogba

Joined the club from a lower-league side in France, after serving his time with Celta Vigo in Spain. A 20-year-old bustling centre forward, who has made his mark in the reserves and is now looking to do the same in the first team. Scored his first senior goal when wrapping up a 2-0 win over Bath City in January 2011.



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NAMES & GAMES

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS LOOKS AT WREXHAM'S LEADING LIGHTS

□ CLASSIC CAMPAIGN

1977/78

New player-manager Arfon Griffiths guided Wrexham to the Third Division title in 1977/78. Replacing John Neal in charge, he signed Dixie McNeil to replace Bill Ashcroft and also recruited Les Cartwright and Dai Davies. Wrexham won only one of their opening seven League games but soared to the top of the table with a 13-match unbeaten run, also reaching the League Cup quarter-finals, before losing 3-1 to Liverpool, and FA Cup quarter-finals, before losing 3-2 to Arsenal. Graham Whittle, Bobby Shinton and Dixie McNeil starred as Wrexham clinched promotion with a 7-1 victory over Rotherham and also won the Welsh Cup.

□ MANAGING TO SUCCEED

Arfon Griffiths

Welsh international midfielder Arfon Griffiths managed Wrexham to the Third Division title in 1977/78. Signing professional at the Racecourse Ground in 1959, he featured in Wrexham's 1960 Welsh Cup final triumph and moved to Arsenal in 1961. He rejoined Wrexham in 1962 and was a key figure in their 1962/63 and 1969/70 promotion campaigns. Also starring in successive Cup runs, he became player-boss in 1977 and guided Wrexham to the FA Cup sixth round in 1977/78. He netted 120 goals in a record 592 League games before resigning in 1981, he then managed Crewe Alexandra.

□ FAB FOUR

Barry Horne

Influential midfielder Barry Horne was capped 59 times by Wales after leaving Wrexham. A latecomer to professional football, he played for Rhyl while completing chemistry and engineering degrees at Liverpool University and joined Wrexham in June 1984. He was twice ever-present and starred in the 1986 Welsh Cup final triumph, netting 16 goals in 136 League games before moving to Portsmouth in 1987. Sold to Southampton for £700,000 in 1989, he joined Everton in 1992 and was an FA Cup winner in

1995. He later played for Birmingham, Huddersfield, Sheffield Wednesday, Kidderminster and Walsall.

Joey Jones

Welsh international full-back Joey Jones gained a club record 29 caps during three spells at the Racecourse Ground. Signing professional for Wrexham in 1973, he starred in the 1973/74 FA Cup run and 1975 Welsh Cup final success. He moved to Liverpool for £110,000 in 1975 and featured in their 1976/77 League Championship and European Cup 'double', rejoining Wrexham for £210,000 in 1978. Reunited with John Neal at Chelsea in 1982, he moved via Huddersfield Town back to Wrexham in 1987 and netted 19 goals in 375 League games before joining their coaching staff.

Ian Rush

Legendary Welsh international striker Ian Rush played for Wrexham during the 1998/99 season. He turned professional in 1979 and was sold to Liverpool for £300,000 in 1980. He was leading marksman in successive seasons and amassed a vast collection of honours, moving to Juventus for £3,200,000 in 1987. Returning to Anfield a year later, he joined Leeds United in 1996 and had a spell with Newcastle United before joining Wrexham in 1998. He made 17 League appearances while at the Racecourse Ground, since holding various coaching and managerial posts.

Mickey Thomas

Welsh international midfielder Mickey Thomas was capped 11 times while at the Racecourse Ground. Signing professional for Wrexham in 1972, he starred in successive Cup runs and was an important figure in the 1977/78 Third Division title triumph. He moved to Manchester United for £300,000 in 1978 and featured in the 1979 FA Cup final, joining Everton in 1991. Following spells at Brighton, Stoke, Chelsea, West Brom, Shrewsbury, Leeds and Stoke again, he rejoined Wrexham in 1991 and scored in the 1991/92 FA Cup defeat of Arsenal. He has since worked as a match summariser.

CLASSIC

CAMPAIGNS

**FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS
SELECTS 10 OF WREXHAM'S FAMOUS POST-WAR SEASONS****□ 1952/53**

Wrexham narrowly failed to win promotion to the Second Division in 1952/53. Peter Jackson's side lost 2-0 at Grimsby on the opening day but won their first three home games, slamming four goals past Barrow and five past Stockport. They maintained their promotion challenge throughout the season and the main reason for Wrexham's success was the forward-line of Glyn Hughes, Ron Hewitt, Tommy Bannan, Tommy Tilston and Billy Tunnicliffe. Wrexham narrowly lost 2-1 at Stoke in the FA Cup third round and hammered rivals Chester 7-0 in their penultimate match, finishing only three points behind champions Oldham Athletic.

□ 1961/62

New player-boss Ken Barnes guided Wrexham back to the Third Division at the first attempt in 1961/62. He introduced a new spirit and signed Ron Barnes from Rochdale, with Wrexham winning seven of their first nine games including a 5-0 demolition of Mansfield. Kevin Keelan arrived from Kidderminster in November and Wrexham remained among the leaders with a 12-match unbeaten run, securing five-goal wins over Darlington and Chesterfield. They gained a record 10-1 victory over Hartlepools shortly before top scorer Wyn Davies moved to Bolton and finished in third position, also reaching the Welsh Cup final.

□ 1969/70

Brian Kinsey scored 27 goals as Wrexham won promotion under John Neal in 1969/70. New signings included Dave Gaskell and Bobby Park, with Wrexham storming to the top of the Fourth Division after losing just three of their opening 21 matches. They lost 2-0

at Manchester United in the League Cup third round and took the lead before losing 3-1 at Liverpool in the FA Cup fourth round. Wrexham overcame a lean spell to end the campaign in fine style, beating Darlington 6-2 and hitting four goals past Workington and Bradford PA. They clinched the runners-up slot with a 3-0 victory at home to Northampton.

□ 1973/74

John Neal managed Wrexham to the FA Cup sixth round in 1973/74. They won their opening three Third Division matches but then went six games without victory before trouncing Southend 5-1. Geoff Davies arrived from Chester and Arfon Griffiths grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-0 win over Hereford, with Wrexham rising to fifth place by New Year after five successive wins. They beat Shrewsbury 1-0, Rotherham 3-0, Crystal Palace 2-0, Middlesbrough 1-0 and Southampton 1-0 in the FA Cup before losing 1-0 at Burnley in the sixth round. Wrexham lost only two of their last 12 games and finished fourth in the Third Division.

□ 1975/76

Wrexham reached the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals in 1975/76. John Neal's side had won the Welsh Cup the previous season and they defeated Swedish side Djurgardens 3-2 and Polish team Stal Rzeszow 3-1 in the European Cup Winners' Cup to earn a third round tie against leading Belgian side Anderlecht. They narrowly lost 1-0 in Brussels and were held to a 1-1 draw in the second-leg, losing 2-0 on aggregate to the eventual winners. Bill Ashcroft was leading marksman as Wrexham lost only three of their last 17 League matches and finished sixth in the Third Division, four points adrift of a promotion slot.

**□ 1977/78**

New player-manager Arfon Griffiths guided Wrexham to the Third Division title in 1977/78. Replacing John Neal in charge, he signed Dixie McNeil to replace Bill Ashcroft and also recruited Les Cartwright and Dai Davies. Wrexham won only one of their opening seven League games but soared to the top of the table with a 13 match unbeaten run, also reaching the League Cup fifth round before losing 3-1 to Liverpool and the FA Cup sixth round before losing 3-2 to Arsenal. Graham Whittle, Bobby Shinton and Dixie McNeil starred as Wrexham clinched promotion with a 7-1 win over Rotherham and also won the Welsh Cup.

□ 1991/92

Wrexham made headlines with their epic FA Cup run of 1991/92. Brian Flynn's young side had finished bottom of the Football League the previous season and Mickey Thomas returned from Stoke, while Gordon Davies arrived from Fulham. They won only four of their opening 17 Fourth Division games but defeated Winsford 5-2 and Telford 1-0 in the FA Cup before goals by Mickey Thomas and Steve Watkin clinched a sensational 2-1 third round win at home to champions Arsenal. Despite not having won an away League match for 15 months, Wrexham drew 2-2 at West Ham in the fourth round before losing 1-0 in the replay.

□ 1992/93

Steve Watkin and Gary Bennett scored 34 goals between them as Wrexham won promotion in 1992/93. Brian Flynn's side kicked off with a 3-1 victory at home to Rochdale and Gary Bennett netted a hat-trick in the 4-2 win over Bury. Mike Lake was signed from Sheffield United in November and

Wrexham soared into the promotion frame with six straight victories including a thrilling 5-4 win over Chesterfield. Karl Connelly and Barry Jones were ever-present as they finished runners-up after losing just two of their last 19 matches, including a 2-0 defeat by rivals Cardiff in the top-of-the-table clash at the Racecourse Ground.

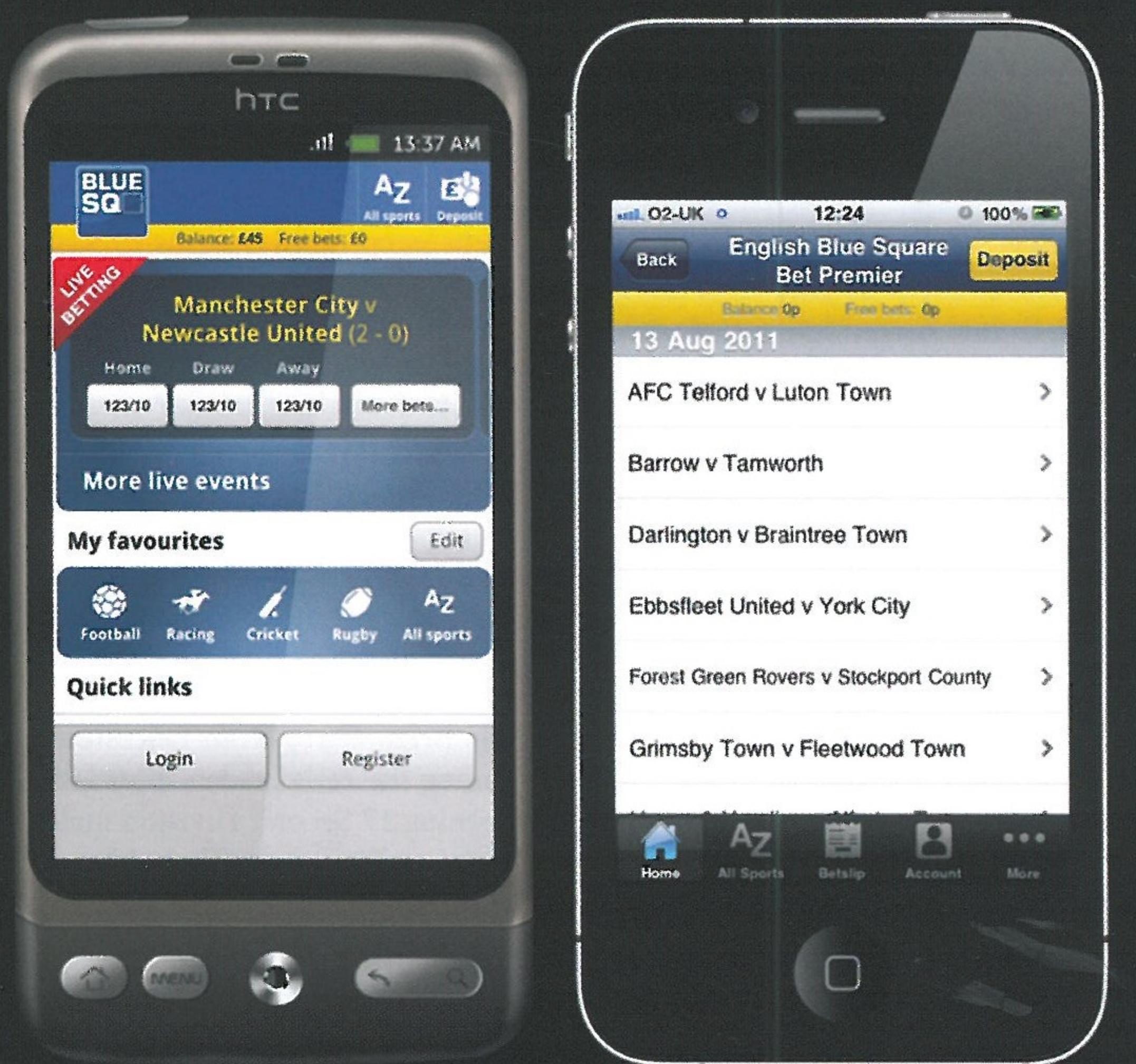
□ 1996/97

Brian Flynn managed Wrexham to the FA Cup sixth round in 1996/97. The major summer signing was Brian Carey from Leicester and Wrexham were among the early leaders after losing just one of their opening 17 Second Division matches, drawing 4-4 at home to Plymouth. They defeated Colwyn Bay 2-0, Scunthorpe 3-2, West Ham 1-0, Peterborough 4-2 and Birmingham 3-1 in the FA Cup before losing 1-0 to fellow giant-killers Chesterfield in the sixth round. Gary Bennett returned from Preston in February but Wrexham finished four points adrift of the play-off places after winning only three times in 17 matches.

□ 2002/03

Wrexham regained Second Division status at the first attempt under Denis Smith in 2002/03. Newcomers included Andy Dibble from Stockport and Paul Edwards from Swindon, with Wrexham unbeaten in their first four games. Andy Morrell starred as they won 4-0 at home to both Swansea and Exeter, maintaining their promotion challenge with four victories in five matches. Scott Green arrived from Wigan and made a significant contribution as Wrexham ended the season with eight successive wins, trouncing Carlisle 6-1 and Cambridge 5-0, to clinch promotion in third position. Andy Morrell was leading scorer with 34 goals.

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LOOK BACK



TOWN 1-0 KIDDERMINSTER VITAL VICTORY



Boss Paul Buckle hailed a massive win for his side as the Town leapfrogged Kidderminster in the table to boost their chances of finishing in the Play-Offs.

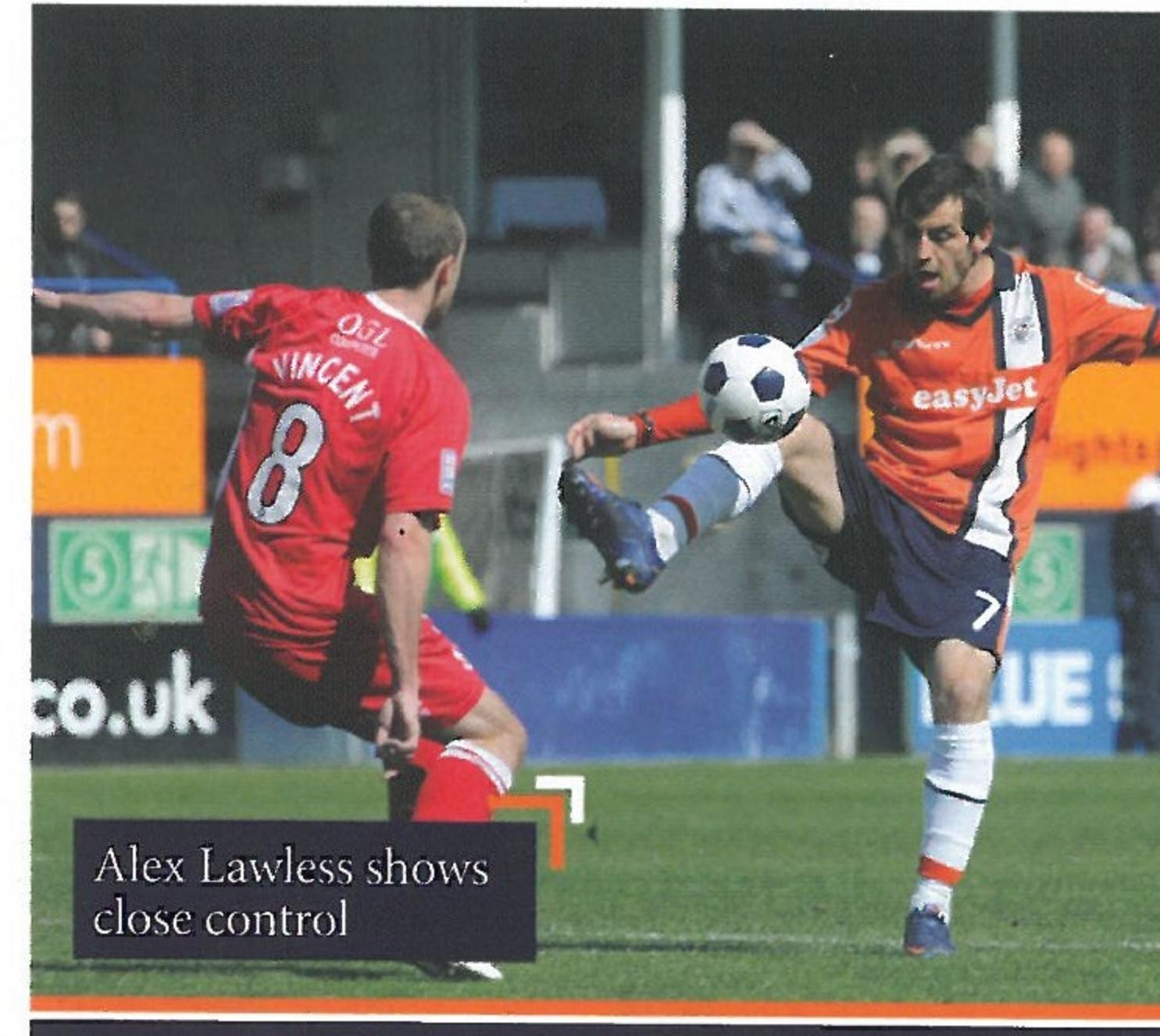
Robbie Willmott's goal midway through the second half gave the Hatters a vital three points and the manager was delighted with a determined display against Harriers. "It was huge. Massive. It was a massive day for us all, in front of a big crowd and we've deserved to win," Buckle told Hatters Player afterwards. I thought we were the better team. Before the game I told the players we couldn't afford to have the mentality of winning 1-0 but that's how it's finished.

"Everyone's played their part today - it was a professional performance. In the first half we felt we got into good positions but didn't take advantage of them but we remained patient, we waited, and eventually the goal came.

"My worry before the game was that we wouldn't be able to show the same level of performance that we achieved against Ebbsfleet, but today was a different kind of performance. We were more focused, organised and there was a determination there not to let Kidderminster into the game. The clearance off the line at the end epitomised that. We were strong today, not careless and showed our mettle."

A season's best 8,415 crammed into Kenilworth Road to cheer the Town to victory. And Buckle thanked the Hatters hordes for their backing. "I'd like to say a big thanks to all our supporters," he said. "It was special. It makes you proud on the sidelines to see the team put in the effort when the crowd have come along.

"After we scored the goal and were going for a second the noise levels were absolutely unbelievable. The big thing I told the players was not to be afraid of it but to embrace and give the fans what they want...and that's



Match-winner Willmott meanwhile was delighted with his goal that gave the Hatters all three points. The winger's 67th-minute strike was his ninth goal of the season.

"It was a great feeling," the 21-year-old told Hatters Player afterwards. "There were rumours during the week of the how many fans were going to come and it was absolutely packed - the atmosphere unbelievable.

"You always think what it would be like to score the winner and when the goal went in it was mental. I could feel my legs turning to jelly but luckily the full-back ran past me, I cut inside and I hit it as hard as I could and the keeper missed it."

Willmott's goal was his first under Buckle and the former Cambridge midfielder believes he's now playing his best football under the new boss. "I think he's brilliant," he said. "He's come in and given me a new confidence and a licence to go and play. I felt I was a bit restricted under the old manager. I had a dip in form but now I want to keep going and make sure



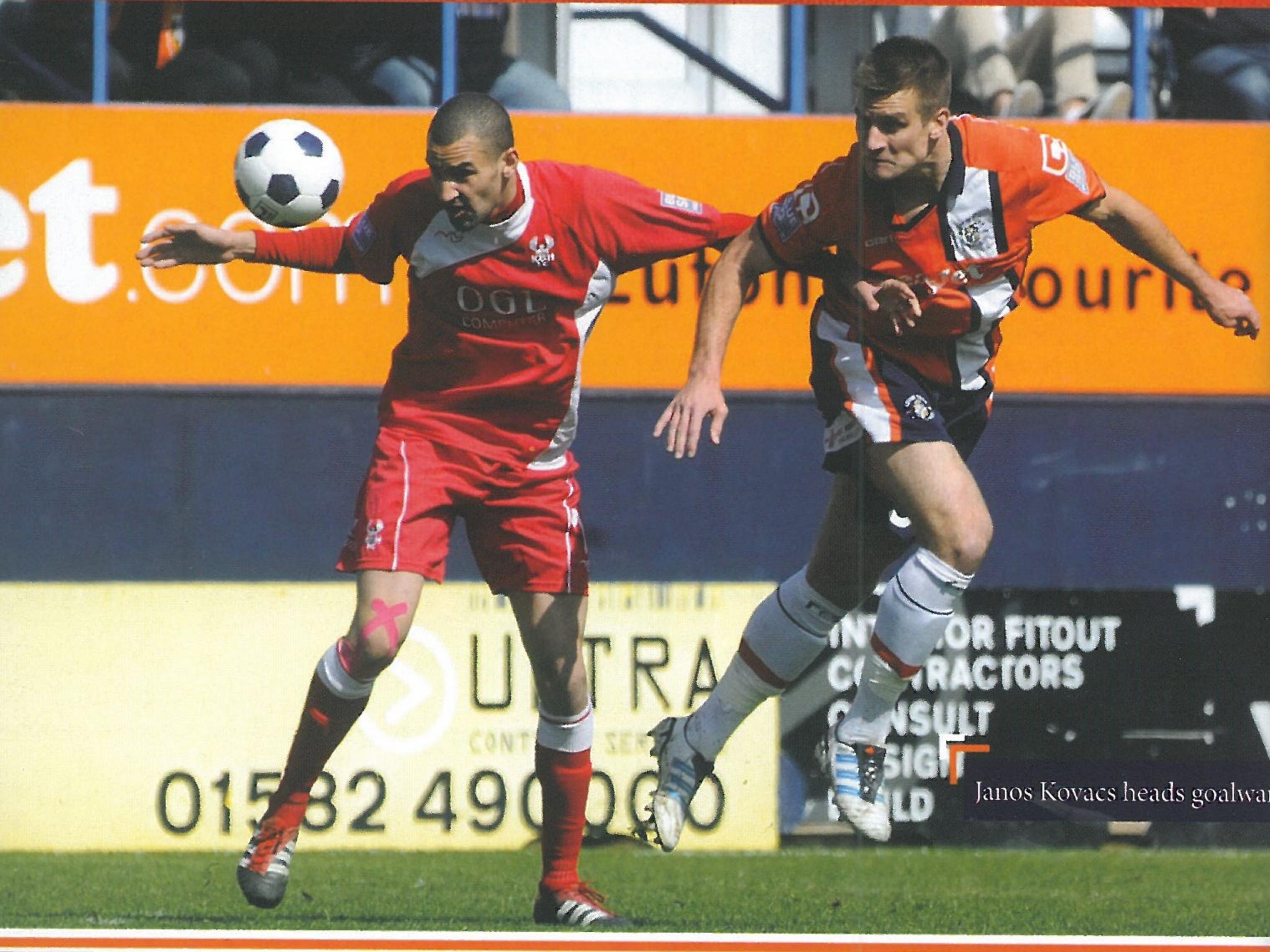
TOWN

Willmott 67

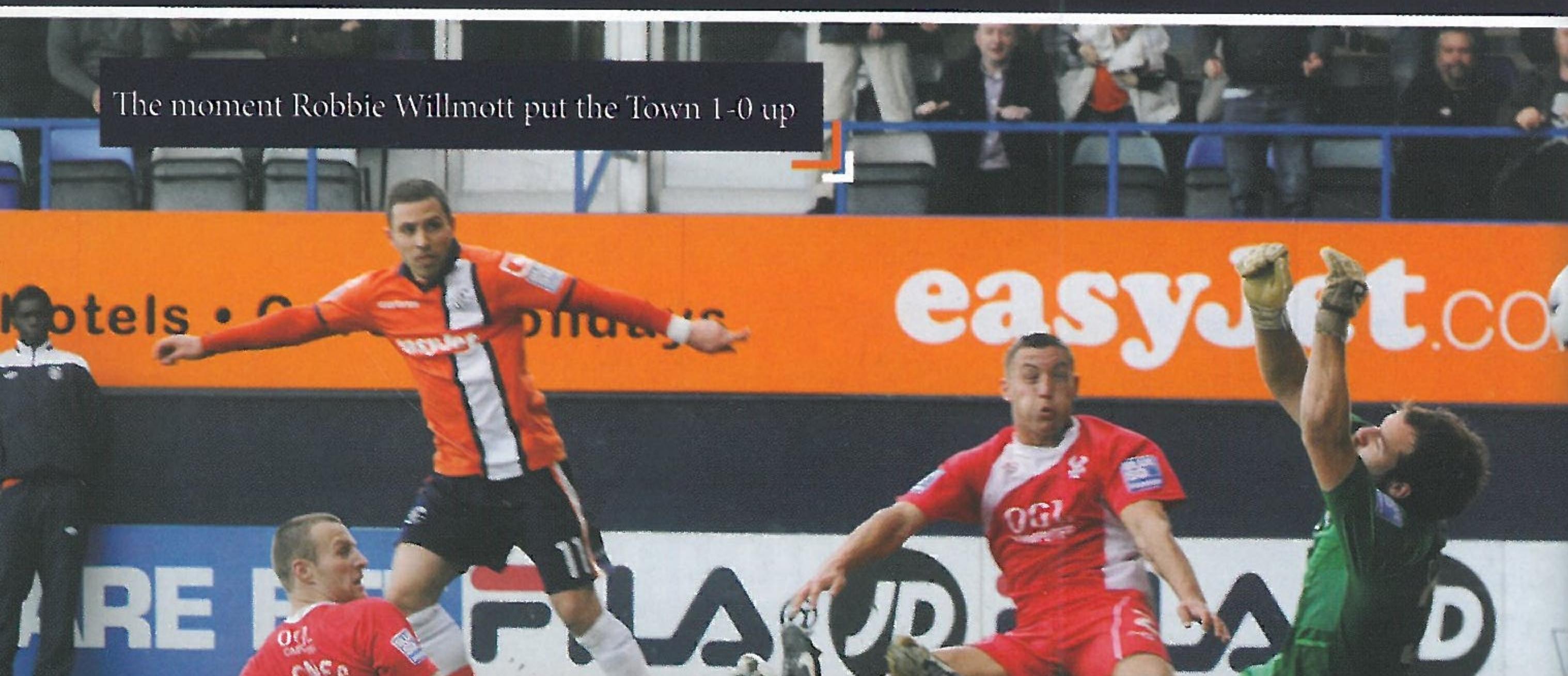


KIDDERMINSTER

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The moment Robbie Willmott put the Town 1-0 up



TOWN: Tyler, Osano, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Lawless, Willmott (sub Blackett 85), Keane, Watkins (sub Poku 78), Fleetwood (McAllister 82), Gray. Subs not used: Gleeson, Taylor.

KIDDERMINSTER: Breeden, Vaughan, Williams, Jones, Marshall, Hankin (sub Guinan 88), Vincent, Wright (sub Rowe 64), Storer (sub Bradley 81), Malbon, Johnson. Subs not used: Lyness, Demetriou.

ATTENDANCE: 8,415

POSSESSION	
51%	49%
SHOTS ON TARGET	
7	2
SHOTS OFF TARGET	
5	4
CORNERS	
6	7
FOULS	
14	4

George Pilkington wins this aerial battle



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LOOK BACK



GATESHEAD 0-0 TOWN GOALLESS ON TYNESIDE

Town boss Paul Buckle was disappointed that his side failed to secure their place in the Play-Offs after a goalless draw at Gateshead.

It could have been a lot worse for the Hatters: Gateshead had a shot cleared off the line in the first half and hit the post in second-half injury time.

"I think if had come here earlier in the season it would have been a good point," the boss said afterwards. "But with games running it out we're disappointed now to have won because we came here to win the game."

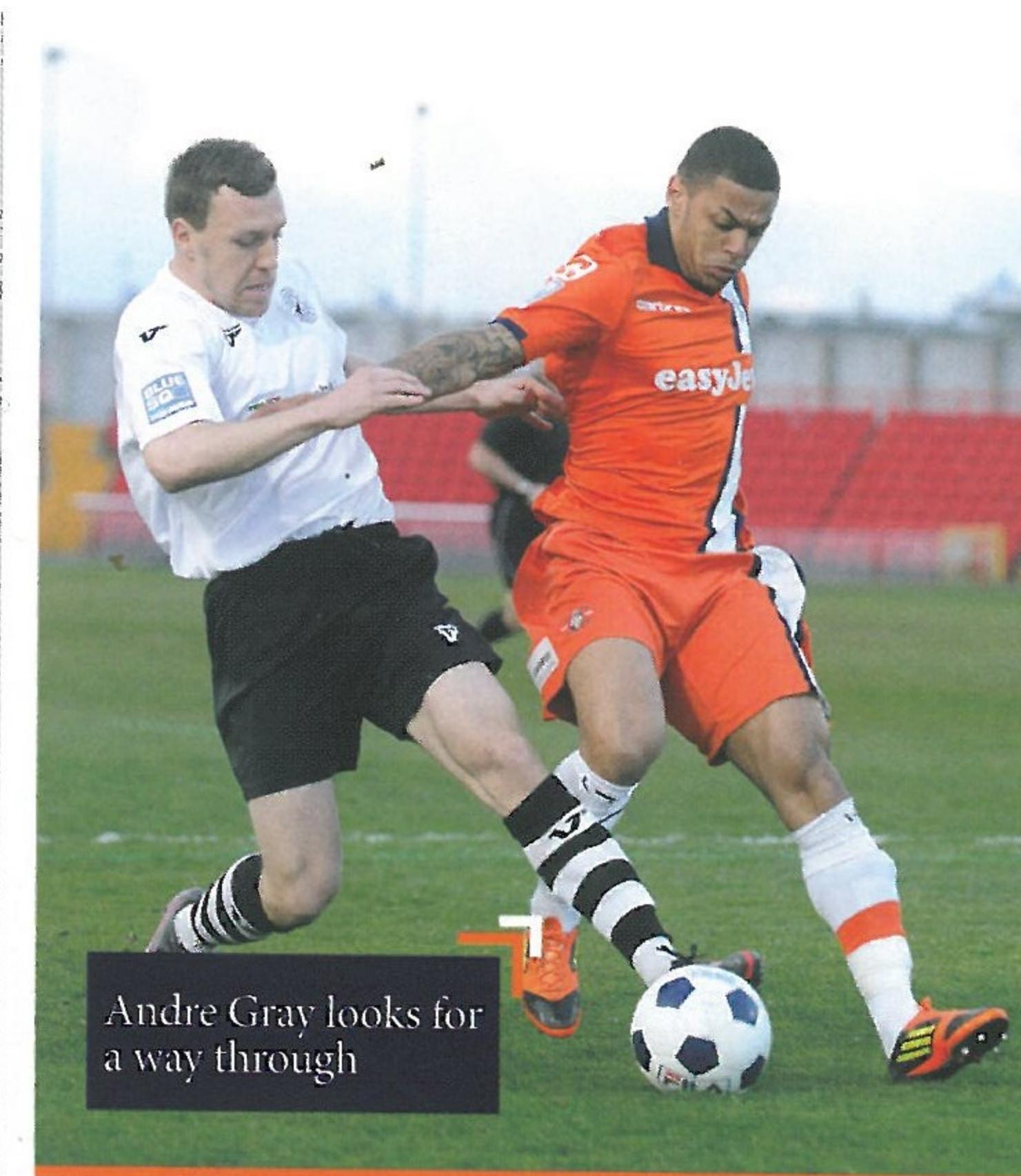
"It was the best pitch but that's not an excuse - we knew the reward for winning here tonight and it's not to be but we have to be realistic. We've got a point and a clean sheet and all credit must go to the players because in the last five games they've given me everything - the performance levels have been excellent."

A point at Fleetwood would be enough but the Hatters will be going to win the game says Buckle. "Saturday is going to be exciting," he said. "We've given ourselves a chance."

"I've been frank with the players in the dressing room and told them not to feel sorry for themselves as we need to focus on Saturday. "We've got to dust ourselves down. We weren't at our best tonight but we will need to be at our best on Saturday."

That was a feeling shared by skipper George Pilkington and goalkeeper Mark Tyler, who made a terrific late stop to prevent Greg Taylor's sliced clearance giving the hosts the points.

"Any other time in the season it would be a good point up here," said Pilkington. "It's a hard place to come but in the grand scheme of things and the way the game



went, we could have done more to push on and get that winning goal.

"On reflection it's probably a fair result, but like I say we wanted more."

Tyler added: "It was a hard game, it always is here. They are a good quality side. I think we dug in and we are on a good roll defensively and we wanted to continue that. I think we probably had the best chances but didn't take them."

"It is another point closer to the play-offs and we have to go to Fleetwood now and will be all guns blazing to hopefully get the right result. The gaffer rightly had a go at us because we weren't on our game. The pitch was bobbly so our passing wasn't as fluid as it has been the last few games."





GATESHEAD TOWN

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Robbie Willmott attempts a cross

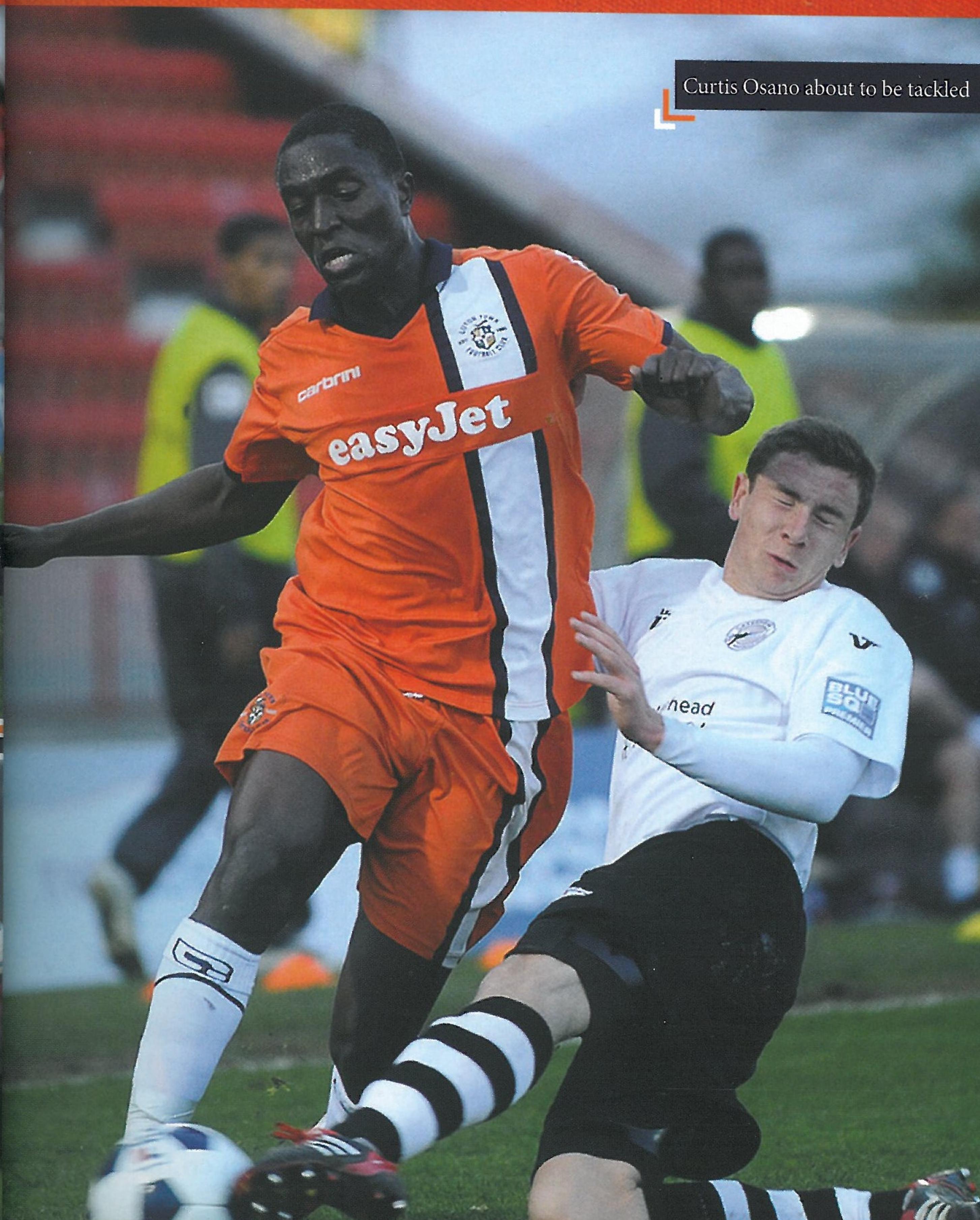
GATESHEAD: Deasy, Odhiambo, Gate, Clark, Turnbill, Cummins, Hatch, Gillies, Magnay, O'Brien (sub Marwood 82), Dummett. Subs not used: Farman, Brittian, Baxter, Moore.

TOWN: Tyler, Osano, Kovacs, Pilkington, Howells, Willmott (sub Taylor 56), Keane, Watkins (sub Poku 53 (sub McAllister 71)), Lawless, Fleetwood, Gray. Subs not used: Blackett, Walker.

ATTENDANCE: 703

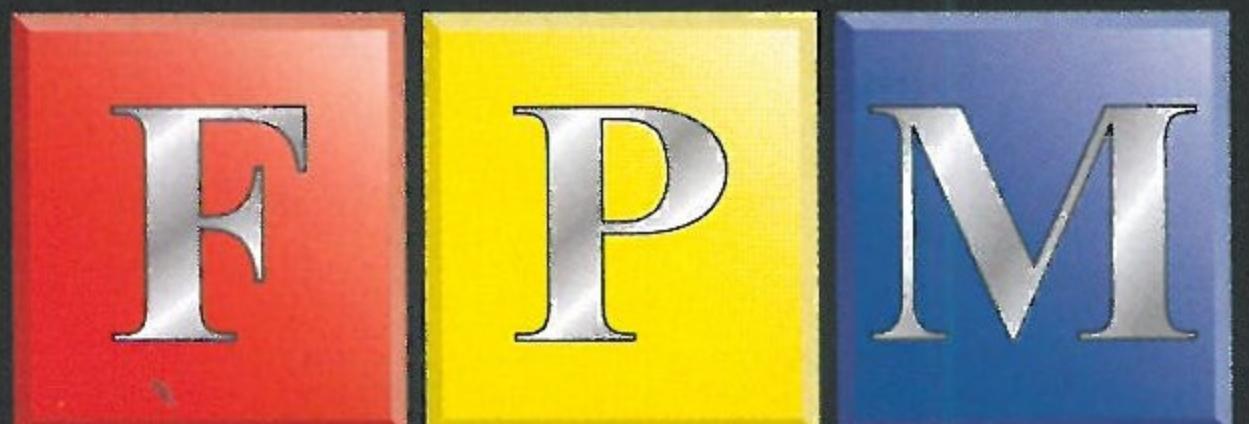
POSSESSION	54%	46%
SHOTS ON TARGET	8	5
SHOTS OFF TARGET	8	7
CORNERS	14	7
FOULS	8	5

Curtis Osano about to be tackled



Alex Lawless goes for goal





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LOOK BACK



FLEETWOOD 0-2 TOWN CHAMPIONS BEATEN

Paul Buckle felt his side thoroughly deserved their victory at Fleetwood which confirmed the Town's place in the Play-Offs.

Goals from Craig McAllister and Andre Gray sealed a comfortable 2-0 win which delighted the boss, who remains unbeaten in his six matches in charge.

"It was a great day for us," Buckle said afterwards. "I thought for 90 minutes we deserved to win and I'm thrilled for everyone - the players, staff and the fans."

"We've dug it out and showed exactly what hard work can do and now we're going to do our utmost to get to the final."

The Hatters started the day needing a point to guarantee their spot in the top five and were also hoping that Kidderminster failed to beat Mansfield.

Harriers' 3-0 defeat was enough to see the Town over the line anyway but Buckle knew the fixture against the champions wasn't going to be easy.

"I didn't want to rely on Mansfield doing us a favour and I certainly knew Fleetwood weren't going to go easy on us."

"I wanted us to earn the right and we've done that. We've played brilliantly, we passed it well and did all the right things."

"We've earned a place in the Play-Offs on merit. We've come to the champions and won."

"We gave them a guard of honour, which I'm very big on, and clapped them because I told the players 'look at them and clap them because we could join them.'

"It was a very positive day for us."



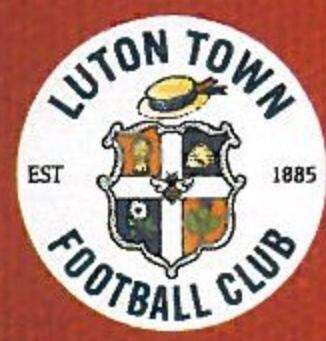
Andre Gray gets past his man

Wrexham await for the second season running in the Play-Offs with the Red Dragons making the trip to Kenilworth Road on Thursday for the first leg.

And it came as no surprise that Buckle believes it will be a huge test for his team. "It's not going to be easy," he said. "But I don't think I've had an easy game since I've been here."

"They are going to be epic games, and we will need some luck but we're in there and that's all that counts. We have chance and we will go for it."





FLEETWOOD TOWN

McAllister 9, Gray 70

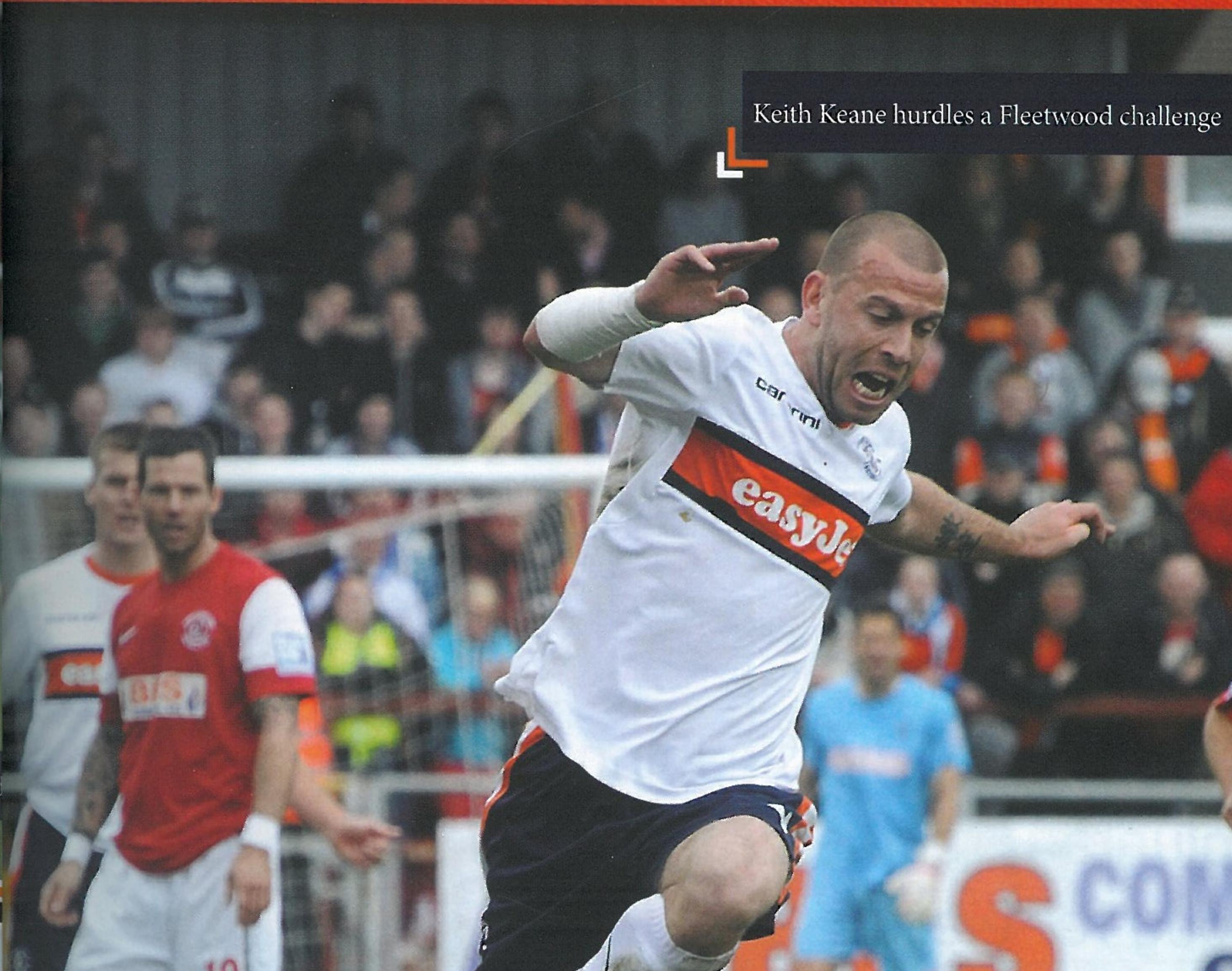
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FLEETWOOD: Davies, Beeley, McNulty, Pond, Goodall, Mangan, Seddon (sub Allen 77), Cavanagh, Fowler, Rose (sub Rowe 62), Vardy (sub Milligan 88). Subs not used: Charnock, Stevenson.

TOWN: Tyler, Osano, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Lawless (sub Taylor 52), Keane, Watkins, Kissack, McAllister (sub Willmott 62), Gray (sub Fleetwood 85). Subs not used: Blackett, Kidd.

ATTENDANCE: 4,446

POSSESSION	50%	50%
SHOTS ON TARGET	8	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	3	2
CORNERS	7	2
FOULS	12	10



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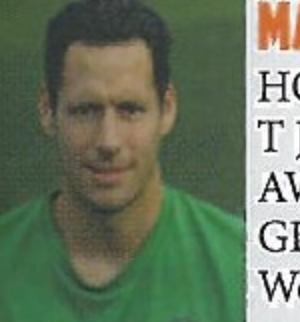
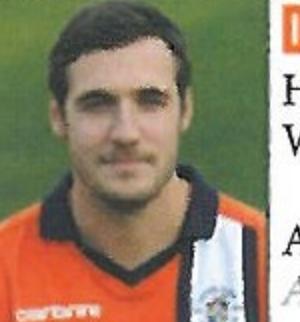
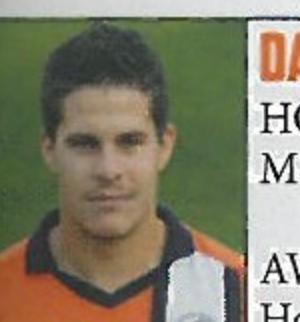
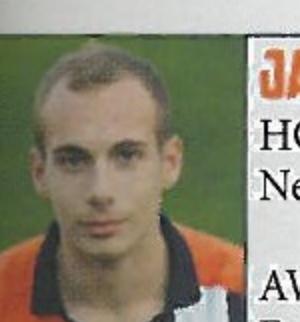
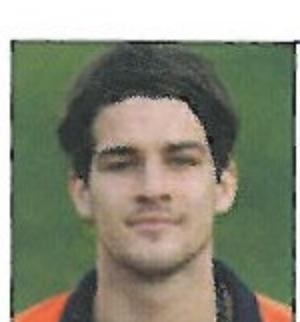
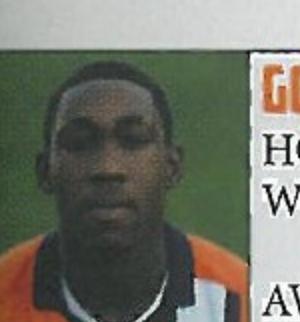
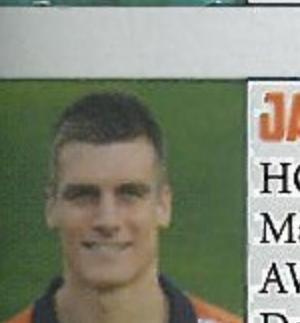
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■ **LOCATION:** Hitchin

■ **WHERE DO YOU WATCH THE GAME:** Kenilworth Road end, lower tier, block b.

■ **FIRST GAME:** A 3-0 home victory over Bristol Rovers in 2001/02.

■ **FIRST MEMORY:** My first memory came a month after my first game when we beat Halifax 5-0 at Kenilworth Road. It was the game that got me hooked and I have supported the Hatters ever since.

■ **BEST GOAL SEEN:** The best goal I have ever seen has to be Keith Keane's goal direct from a corner against Oxford two seasons ago. After being 1-0 down I thought we had lost it until George Pilkington equalised and then to top it all, Keano scored the winner seven minutes into injury time. The Kenny End went absolutely mental!

■ **BEST MATCH WITNESSED:** The 5-3 defeat to Liverpool in the FA Cup. I never would have thought we would ever take the lead against Reds, let alone be 3-1 up! It was unfortunate not to lose but it was an amazing game.

■ **WORST MATCH WITNESSED:** For me it would have to be losing in last season's Play-Off final to AFC Wimbledon. Getting all the way to Eastlands and then losing on penalties was a very sad moment.

■ **BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE SEEN BY A PLAYER:** This is a difficult one. I can't really think of an outstanding solo performance in my life-time but the team performance in the 8-0 victory over Hayes & Yeading was fantastic, especially being 7-0 up at half-time.

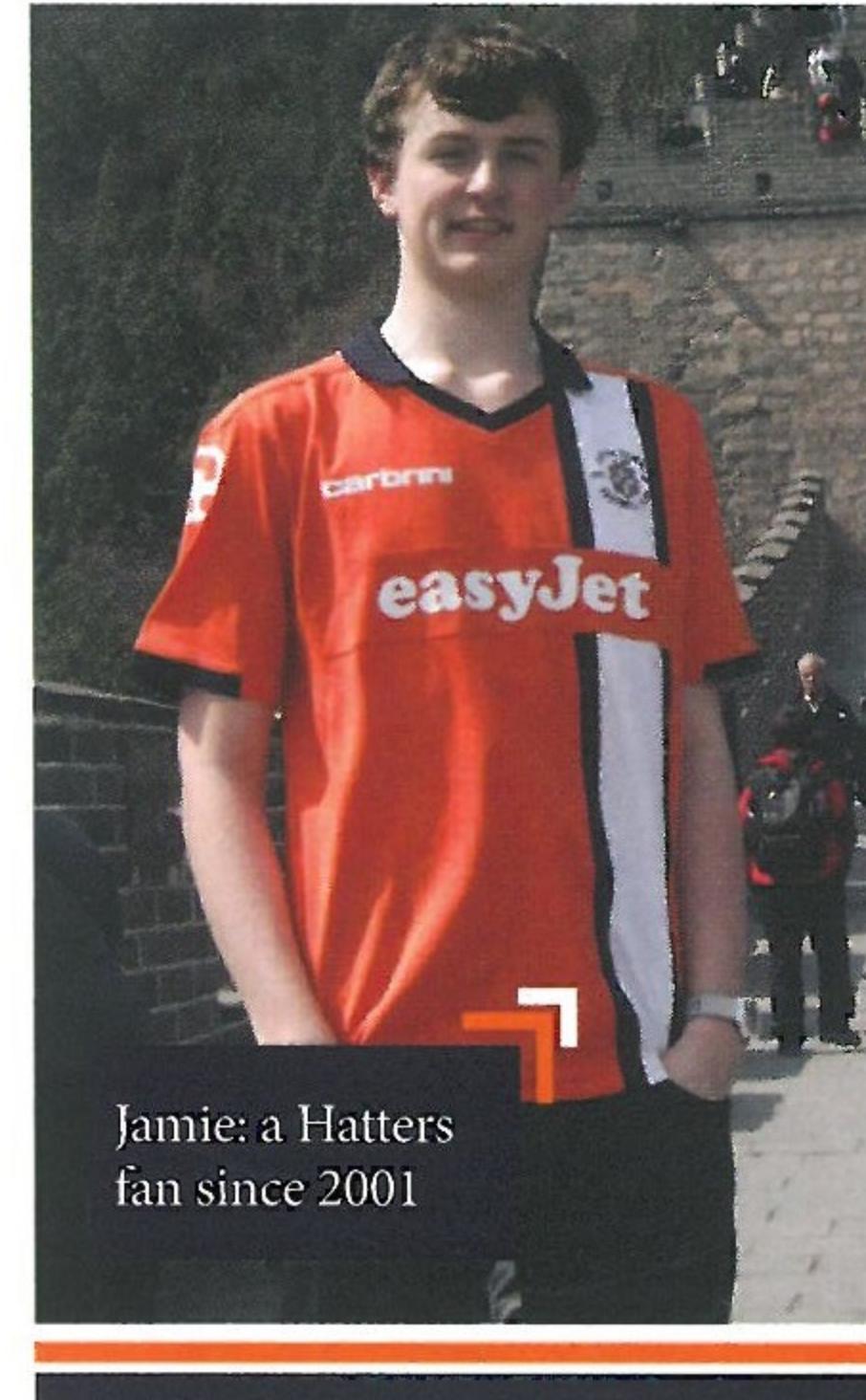
■ **FAVOURITE HATTERS' KIT:** This season's retro design.

■ **FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER:** Carlos Edwards. I remember him lobbing Robert Green from the half-way line against Norwich.

■ **FAVOURITE ALL-TIME MANAGER:** Mike Newell. He gets the vote because not only did he get us to the highest league in my life-time but also we played the best football I have seen.

■ **ALL-TIME TOWN XI:** Mark Tyler, Kevin Foley, Chris Coyne, Curtis Davies, Emmerson Boyce, Carlos Edwards, Keith Keane, Kevin Nicholls, Matthew Spring, Steve Howard, Rowan Vine.

■ **I LOVE LUTON TOWN BECAUSE...** it's in my blood. My family have supported the Hatters for generations and hopefully still will for many more.



Jamie: a Hatters fan since 2001

NUMBERS GAME

SIMON PITTS LOOKS BACK ON THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

46

The number of matches played in the Blue Square Bet Premier (BSBP) this season, with Luton winning 22, drawing 15 and losing nine times. The Hatters have scored 78 goals and conceded 42, giving them 81 points and a goal difference of plus 36.

42

The most appearances in the BSBP by a Luton player is Jake Howells, who only didn't feature in the games at Stockport, Kidderminster, Ebbsfleet and Darlington. Howells is closely followed by Robbie Willmott on 39 appearances, although 10 of his were from the substitutes' bench. Janos Kovacs has the longest run of consecutive BSBP appearances – 37 – after re-joining the Hatters from Hereford he hasn't missed a league match.

35

The number of different players to have featured for the Hatters in this competition this season. Five of these players have appeared only once: Matthew Barnes-Homer, Paul Carden, Collin Samuel, Dan Walker and Jake Woolley.

15

The most number of substitute appearances made by Stuart Fleetwood, who has just one more than both John Paul Kissock and Adam Watkins on 14.

11

The most goals scored by a Luton player, and again it's Fleetwood, who just edges it by two ahead of Amari Morgan-Smith and Danny Crow, both on nine. Luton have only failed to score in nine League fixtures this season, and only once did this happen in consecutive matches, at York on 24th September, followed by the home defeat to Cambridge three days later.

5

The biggest margin of victory and it's happened twice, and against the same team. Kettering Town were beaten 5-0 at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day, with Howells, Aaron O'Connor, Alex Lawless, Fleetwood and Willmott all getting on the scoresheet.

This scoreline was repeated on New Year's Day, this time with Howells and Fleetwood scoring again, and further goals from Watkins, Kovacs, and a first goal for the club for Greg Taylor.

18

The number of clean sheets in the 46 fixtures, with seven of these coming away from home. The Hatters ended the season with five consecutive clean sheets in the BSBP, which is the best run of the season. The Hatters did break a club record of 10 consecutive clean sheets in all competitions at Kenilworth Road.

The run started with a 2-0 FA Trophy victory over Swindon Supermarine on 10th December, with the 10th match against Bath City, again a 2-0 win. It was a late equaliser, scored by York City, in the FA Trophy semi-final second leg, that ended the run on 17th March.

28

The number of times the Hatters have scored first in a BSBP match, and they've ended up winning 20 of these. The sole defeat came against York City on 30th March, as the visitors scored two goals in the final minutes after Luton had taken an early lead through Andre Gray.

This was Gray's second goal in as many appearances and he went on to break a club record by scoring four goals in his opening four matches for Luton after joining from Hinckley.

Goals during the 5-0 win over Kettering Town was the highest victory of the season

2

The number of times the Town have won after conceding the first goal, and they both ended up in 5-1 victories. The first came against Southport on 20th August, as Watkins, Will Antwi, with his first goal for the club, Morgan-Smith, Willmott and Crow all netted for the Hatters. The last four goals were scored in an eight minute spell during the second half, after Southport's Steve Akrigg had been sent off.

Barrow had taken an early lead at Kenilworth Road on 1st October, but a brace from Willmott and a one from Watkins made it 3-1 before an hour had been played. James Dance scored his first goal for the club, before Morgan-Smith netted his eighth of the season in the 5-1 victory.

13

The longest unbeaten run of the season started on 19th November at Cambridge United, as Fleetwood scored in a 1-1 draw. Eight wins, and a further four draws followed as Luton scored 27 goals, and conceded just seven times, keeping eight clean sheets in the process.

After five consecutive victories, against Tamworth, Kettering (twice), Newport and Stockport, the Hatters drew at Southport in an amazing game. The home side took a 2-0 lead during the first half before Crow and Watkins made it 2-2 with goals in the last six minutes of the half. The second half was just a few minutes old when O'Connor made it 3-2 to the Hatters but Luton were to be denied the victory after a shot hit a post and went in off the legs of Hatters' keeper Kevin Pilkington.

0

There have only been three goalless draws this season in the BSBP. The first of these came against Mansfield Town on 25th January, in the 30th fixture in the campaign. The other two have come more recently, at Alfreton on 14th April and at Gateshead 10 days later.

18

The number of goals scored in the final 15 minutes of the first half. Just six goals have been scored from the 16th to 30th minute of the match. The Town also finished matches strongly, scoring 17 goals in the final 15 minutes. Defensively, just three goals were conceded in the second 15 minutes of the first half, with 13 conceded in the final 15 minutes of a match.

594

The average following of Luton fans at an away fixture this season, with 2,018 being the highest. This came on New Years' Day in the previously mentioned 5-0 victory against Kettering. The only following below 100 came on 21st February when 70 fans made the long midweek trip to Barrow, to witness a 1-0 defeat. In contrast the average away following at Kenilworth Road is just 182, with the highest of 751 coming from Kidderminster. This easily beat the next highest of 522 following Cambridge United. Ebbsfleet's following of just 59 was the lowest on 17th April.

72

On 30th August Luton fans made up nearly 72 per cent of the attendance for the fixture against Hayes & Yeading, as there were 727 Luton fans in a crowd of 1,015, meaning just 288 were supporting the home team. Kidderminster's following for the final match of the season at Kenilworth Road, was also the high percentage for an away team, but they didn't quite make up nine per cent of the attendance. The average number of Luton fans at Kenilworth Road was 5,929 – the total league average at home games this season was 6,111.



PICTURE

THE PAST

WITH CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH



It had been a momentous campaign for the Hatters which started off with ten wins and two draws from the opening dozen games, and meant from mid-

Promotion had been confirmed the preceding mid-week before we travelled to Wrexham to put the icing on the cake. In a tough contest against the already

Happy days in Wrexham as the Town celebrate clinching the championship of League One at the Racecourse in 2005 following a hard fought 2-1 victory.

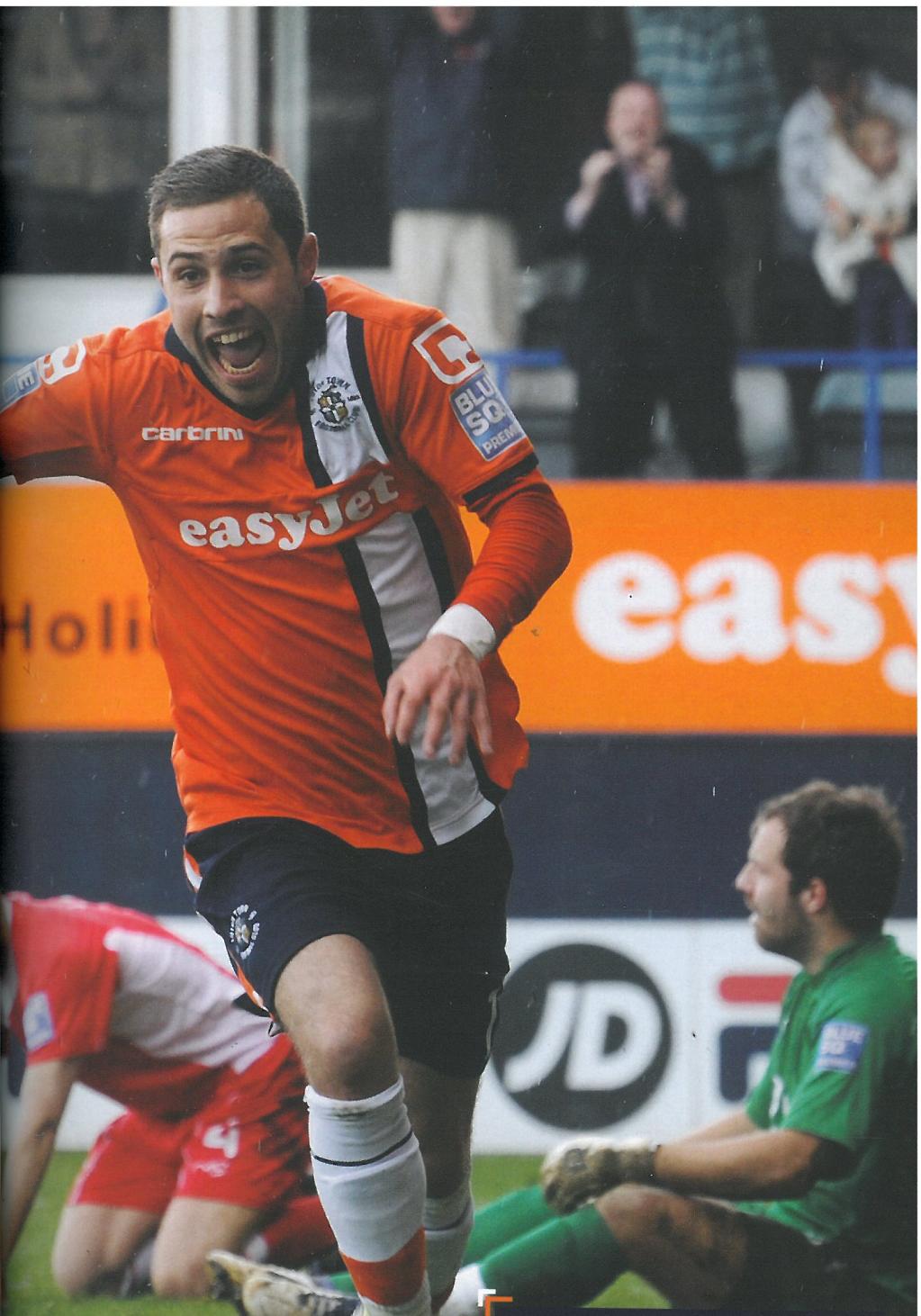
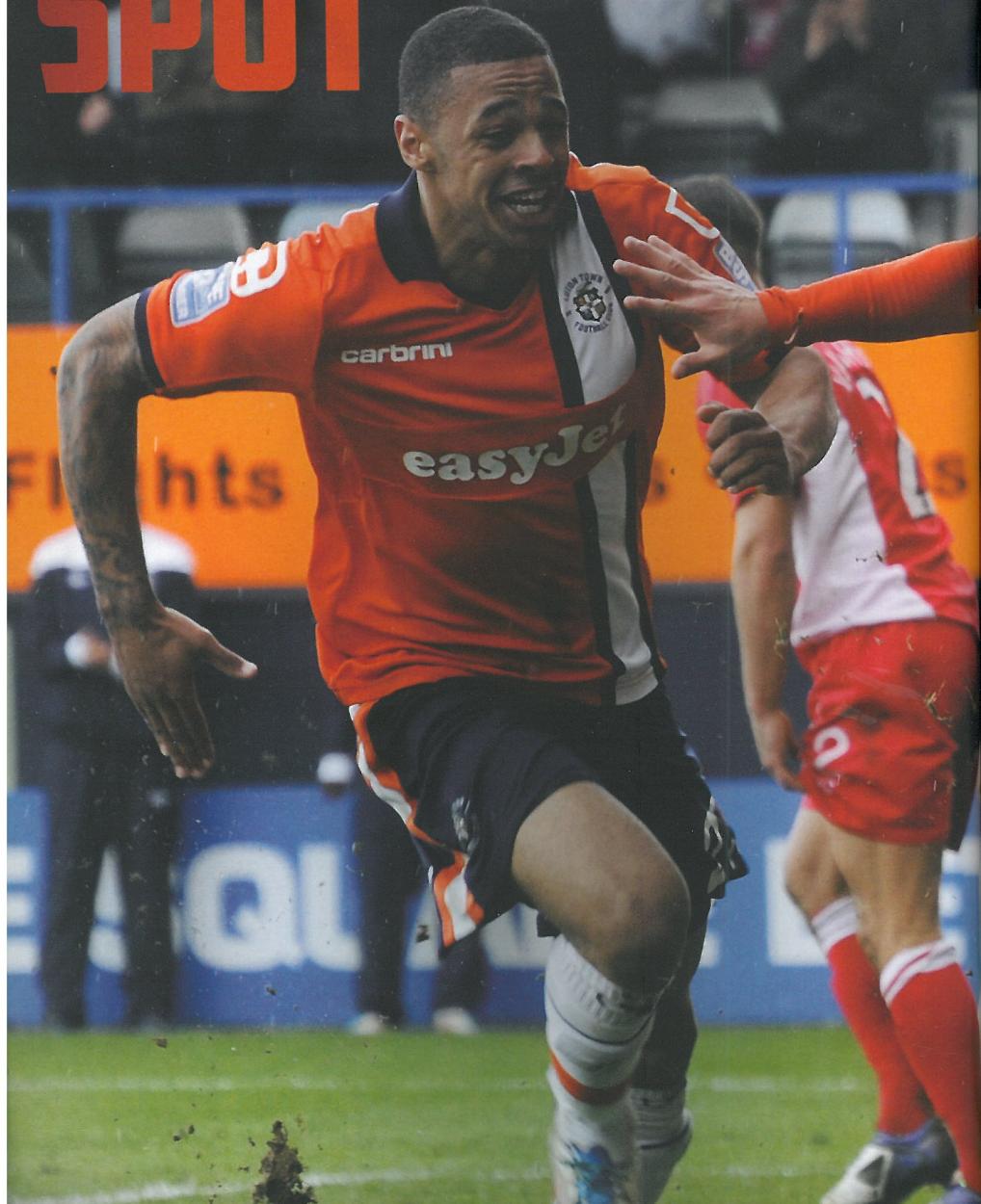


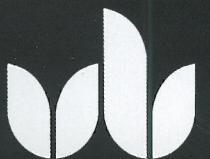
THE CAMERA
NEVER LIES



Luton trainer Ralph Hann dispenses 'vitamin' tablets to the trusting Town players before an FA Cup tie against Blackburn in January 1953. The Hatters won 6-1!

CENTRE SPOT





University of
Bedfordshire

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The University of Bedfordshire is proud to offer a wide range of courses in sport and exercise science, sports studies and physical education. With more than 20 different degrees to choose from, we can help you realise your sporting potential.

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- You will be taught by leading experts with sport and industry experience
- Take advantage of world-class facilities on and off campus

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.



LUTON LADIES



During the past three seasons there have been many changes within the Ladies set up, beginning with the club being placed in the FA Women's Premier League Northern Division after winning the South East Combination League title.

The enormous commitment, expense, plus the support from men's Premier League clubs made it very difficult to compete and an almost inevitable relegation followed. The hangover of the demotion lasted almost 18 months before the Ladies really started to believe in themselves and compete again. This season has brought about a very encouraging recovery since November, with the Town suffering just a single league defeat between then and the end of the season, where we finished a very creditable fifth.

The ladies leagues are very similar in organisation to that of the men's Conference pyramid with only a single promotion place up for grabs, but with the additional problem of Play-Offs being a rarity.

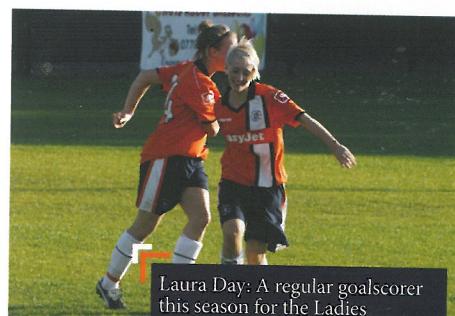
The same difficulties apply in that there always seems to be a team that has enormous resources and funding from nowhere. This season Lewes Ladies FC ran away with the League title attracting players from both the United States and Premier League clubs and even able to field an England international.

Obviously it is very difficult for a club with very limited resources such as ours to progress, but having reached the Premier League once there is no reason why that cannot be achieved again with the right infrastructure and talented players eager to prove themselves at a higher level.

The Town's first team competes at the third level nationally and even our reserve squad competes at the highest level possible, just two divisions below, so we are assured of a renewable stream of young talent coming through the club. Half of the regular starting line up in the first team are aged 17 or below so if you are good enough at Luton you get your chance early, regardless of the data on your birth certificate.

The club also runs successful youth teams at Under-13 and Under-14 level and those players can rest assured that when they develop they will be given opportunity to play senior football within this club.

There are many talented local players all of whom are welcome to come along and develop themselves to play at the highest level they can, as this club has also provided the likes of Arsenal with players and two of them are still banging goals at that level.



Laura Day: A regular goalscorer this season for the Ladies

When times are difficult financially it is extremely tough to finance the running of a club at regional level and sponsors are at an absolute premium. If there is anyone out there who feels able to help and support the Ladies by way of sponsorship then be aware that it really does make a difference in supporting our ambition of regaining Premier League status.

The Ladies would like to go on record by thanking the club for their support and making the Ladies feel a genuine part of the club. Special thanks must go to Mike Hooker who always helps out when issues arise for the Ladies' squads.

Any potential sponsor or player please contact lutontownfc@hotmail.com for further details and information.

To find out more

Call: 01234 793279

Email: Ad.Roda@bed.ac.uk

COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH DAVID HOSKINS

Tonight sees our final home game of the season as we welcome Wrexham with a huge prize at stake.

As expected this game has caught the imagination and is due to be a sell-out. Should we be lucky enough to progress to the final is at Wembley on 20th May there will be a number of hospitality packages available. We will release information, should we be involved, via our official website.

It promises to be an exciting and busy few weeks at Kenilworth Road with the Play-Offs and our end of season dinner next Wednesday for which we still have a short number of spaces. Tickets for this event are still available and cost £60.

If you have any queries or would like to book hospitality for next season, such as executive boxes, then please get in touch by calling us on 01582 411622 or emailing commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

MATCH SPONSOR



South East Security is a NACOSS Gold installer of intruder alarms, CCTV and access control systems, established in 1983 by Chris and Jan Purcell and located in Hitchin. Key clients include Bedfordshire Police, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and many Bedfordshire schools as well as many thousands of commercial and domestic clients. As a provider of security solutions, SES is also responsible for electronic security at Kenilworth Road.

Chris has been a keen Luton Town supporter since 1963, he has however, now been a member of the Kenilworth Suite for several years and watches the games in comfort from the directors' box.

South East Security are also pleased to offer a discount on the installation of a security system to Luton Town supporters on production of a current season ticket.

MATCH BALL SPONSOR



It is with great pleasure that the chairman, president and several directors from Spalding United sponsor tonight's match ball.

Spalding United was formed in the early 1920's in Spalding, Lincolnshire. The team were affectionately called the Tulips after the thousands of tulips that are grown in the Lincolnshire fields and right on cue, it is flower festival next weekend.

The chairman, Chris Toynton, has had a long affiliation with Luton Town since he was a local schoolboy.

Although they play in the United Counties League, the club has aspirations to climb the football pyramid, looking up at a great model in the Hatters.

MASCOTS



We have the pleasure of welcoming two mascots this evening, who will get the chance to meet the players before kick-off and lead the team out onto the pitch.

First up is Cade Ewington who celebrated his seventh birthday on Tuesday. He comes to matches here with his dad and his favourite player is Jake Howells.

Our second mascot is Jayme O'Callaghan, who is also seven. Jayme's plays football for St Joseph's Under-8 and his favourite Hatters player is Keith Keane.

We hope you both have a wonderful experience at Kenilworth Road this evening.

SPONSOR GALLERY



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

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of Luton Town FC**



The Hatters Business Breakfast Club

Membership includes:

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



The Hatters
Business Breakfast Club



ACADEMY UPDATE

SEASONAL SUMMARY FROM HEAD OF YOUTH GREGG BROUGHTON

After Saturday's tremendous performance at Fleetwood, I sat down to read my notes from last year's Play-Off game against Wrexham. I would like to start tonight's notes be re-quoting ad verbatim how I started those thoughts a year ago:

"The Play-Offs are of monumental importance to the future of this Football Club, and especially to the Youth Department.

"Promotion equals the return of Football League funding which would allow us to take great strides forward in what we are trying to achieve on and off the pitch. In addition to that it also guarantees the club's ability to retain the registration of all player under the age of 16.

"The last few months have been difficult, and make a mockery of the current Football League rules. Watching agents circle like vultures around our best talent whilst other club's do their best to unsettle our players is tough to take. The rules are unjust, unfair and absurd; I will continue to lobby against them regardless of whether we are promoted or not.

"Wrexham have a great history of producing talent and their Youth Programme should be something they should be proud of. They lost their funding at the beginning of the season due to being out of the League for two years, yet Andy Davies and his team have continued to work miracles."

Last summer was the trickiest period I have ever worked through in football, and the predicted cherry-picking of our best talents was even more widespread and calculated than we could have imagined. For two months, our staff did nothing except deal with agents and unsettled parents who had been (falsely) promised the world. The Football Association are often criticised by Luton fans, but when we needed their support it was forthcoming, and along with the Premier League they gave us full protection of our registrations

Although this was great news, we were then faced with the prospect of picking up the pieces of the players who thought they were moving onto new clubs only to find out that these clubs weren't prepared to pay a penny for all the hard work Luton Town had put into their development forcing them to return. This process began on 21st July and finished on 30th March, and was met by frustration from all parties due to the Football League's inability to have any form of long-term vision.

Once again our parents have been magnificent this season, supporting the boys in games across the country. They have stuck by the club through thick and thin and hopefully over the next three games they will be rewarded for that.

Regardless of tonight's result, I know that you the fans will remind them what a great club we are. As staff, we are always humbled by the support this club receive and hopefully you will all be rewarded with a trip to Wembley. As the season draws to a close, can I thank all of our magnificent coaching staff. We are blessed to have such a talented and hard-working group. A special mention to our three sports science interns who have worked tirelessly throughout the season supporting staff and players. Chris, Louie and Jamie will all go on to have great careers in their respective fields.

Finally I would like to thank the landladies who look after our scholars and the committee members of SoLYD. They all give up long hours to help the club and their assistance is pivotal to our future success.

It is now six years since we introduced the TIP development plan for recruitment, and four years since this began to impact on the Academy. I believe that next season will be the first year that these schemes will have had long enough to impact on the first team. There is a group of players who are now 19/20 years old and they now have to step up to the plate and show the manager that he can trust them to impact on his team.

YOUTH TEAM

LOOK BACK

MANAGER PAUL DRIVER REVIEWS THE UNDER-18S' 2011/12 CAMPAIGN

The final three games of the youth team's season summed up the league campaign as a whole: very well.

In each of the games against Colchester, Leyton Orient and Gillingham, the boys played some excellent football - and particularly in the first halves of the first and third of these - but were not able to convert the performances into the points that were deserved and we finished with, probably, four points less than we should have achieved from the games.

With just these four points, a finish in the top 10 would have been achieved which would have been a

very satisfactory return given that the majority of the second half of the season was played with a number of Under-16 players in the line-up - sometimes as many as six.

When it is considered that teams in the top five used their quota of Under-19 players, then competitive performances against QPR (the eventual champions) where we drew away and lost by the odd goal at home, Brentford (runners-up) who we beat at home after a another close odd-goal defeat away and Brighton (third place) where we drew 1-1, there are something to take the positives from as we look towards next season.

We are taking on 10 lads from the Under-16s into the scholarship scheme next season and they have all played a decent part in this season's campaign and that should prove invaluable to the team and, more importantly, them as individuals going forward.

From a team perspective, the biggest disappointment was the FA Youth Cup defeat at Dereham in another game where we dominated only to lose, and with it missed the chance of games against Orient and Stevenage which would have been a great experience for the players.

game, also, we lost Newman Carney for virtually rest of the season when he broke his leg in injury time at the end of the tie.

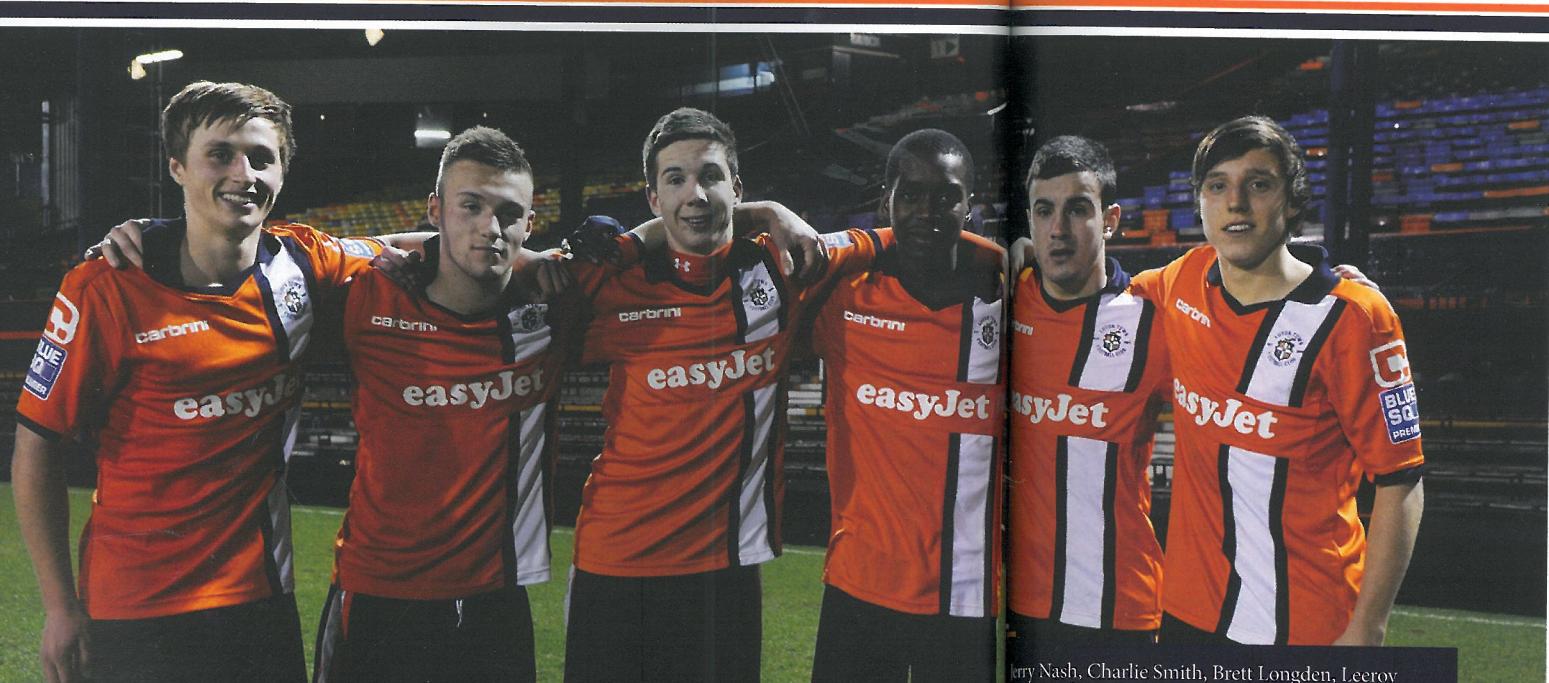
This was a great loss to the team and a real pity Newman personally as he was performing superbly the time but hopefully he will come back strong in the season when he starts his first year as a professional with Alasan Ann.

On an individual basis, the season has been a very good one for the youngsters when they have stepped up to the next level which, for the schoolboy is the senior ranks for Reserve, Senior Cup, Trophy and Conference games and, whether we're in the Youth Alliance or come bottom, the progress and development of the boys is quite simply the most important thing that we are looking at when we assess how the season has gone.

This season, we had Jake Woolley, Jerry Nash, Alan Ann, Brett Longden, Colby McAdams, Charlie Smith and Leeroy Maguraushe all involved in FA Trophy games - the last two lads being Under 16s - and the club got to the semi-final of that competition with Jake coming on in the first leg of the game at York. also followed this up with a substitute appearance for Darlington in the Blue Square Bet Premier where he set up Stuart Fleetwood's equaliser with his first touch and he fully deserved his Solyd Young Player of the Year Award.

Nick Burtenshaw, James Ferguson, Zak Stephens and Jerome Jibodu have all had plenty of playing time in Reserve and Beds Senior Cup games and have acquitted themselves very well in the matches - never looking out of place at the level and this also bodes well for the group as two of these as well as Brett, Charlie and Leeroy are all eligible for the FA Youth Cup next season.

Finally, good luck to Paul Buckle and the lads for the Play-Offs. COYH!



Jerry Nash, Charlie Smith, Brett Longden, Leeroy

YOUNG HATTERS

The Hatters Under-18s rounded off their season with a 1-1 draw against Gillingham at Ely Way on Saturday morning.

Mason Blake returned to the starting line up following six weeks out with injury and both Jordan Davis and Newman Carney took their places on the bench after lengthy spells on the sidelines - six months in the case of Carney after his leg break in the FA Youth Cup tie at Dereham in September 2011.

The Hatters started well and played some excellent passing football and deservedly took the lead in the 17th minute when Alasan Ann showed good power and strength to break through the Gillingham back line to finish from 10 yards.

Gillingham's best chance of the half came on 34 minutes following a foul on the edge of the Hatters penalty box and the resulting free kick was headed just wide of Ben Barnes goal.

The Town's best opportunity in the remainder of the half came from a central free-kick but Leeroy Maguraushe's effort was charged down by the Gillingham wall. The Hatters felt they had a good shout for a penalty just before the break when Zane Banton was fouled in the box but their appeals were turned away by the referee.

Gillingham came out in the second half with renewed vigour and were the better side in the earlier exchanges, but the first real chances came the Hatters' way when James Ferguson found Mason Blake who drove into the Gillingham box and set up Zane Banton, whose shot was well blocked by the visitors' goalkeeper. The Gills stopper was then on hand to save his side four minutes later when he tipped a rasping drive by Maguraushe over the bar.

But Gillingham's improvement was rewarded in the 68th minute when a delivery into the box was punched out by Barnes to one of the visitors who was the first to react to lob the ball back into the empty net.

Back came the Hatters and Paul Driver's side had a chance to win the game in the 84th minute when the impressive Brett Longden was upended as he burst into the box. However, Ann's penalty hit the post and couldn't be bundled home from the rebound and the game finished all square.

On his side's final game of the campaign, Driver said: "We started so well and played some lovely stuff in the first half and forced them to change their shape twice to cope with us so to finish all square is frustrating.

"On the plus side, it was great to have Mason, Jordan and, particularly, Newman back after they've been missing for so long. Brett Longden and Jerome Jibodu were absolutely superb and showed just how far they have progressed over the season."

Team: Barnes, Longden, Jibodu, Nash, Ferguson, Stephens, Blake, Woolley (sub Davis 68), Ann, Banton (sub Carney 79), Maguraushe (sub Burtenshaw 85). Subs not used Carpenter, Chabata.

YOUTH ALLIANCE LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Queens Park Rangers	24	14	23	48
2 Brentford	25	15	12	48
3 Barnet	25	15	25	47
4 Brighton & Hove Albion	24	14	27	46
5 Millwall	25	13	22	45
6 Southend United	25	12	18	43
7 Gillingham	25	12	14	39
8 Leyton Orient	25	11	3	37
9 Colchester United	25	10	5	34
10 Crawley Town	25	8	-1	34
11 Northampton Town	25	10	-2	32
12 LUTON TOWN	25	8	-7	31
13 Wycombe Wanderers	25	8	-7	31
14 Peterborough United	24	7	-9	29
15 Stevenage	25	6	-15	26
16 AFC Wimbledon	25	5	-44	19
17 Aldershot Town	24	4	-29	16
18 Dagenham & Redbridge	25	3	-35	16

VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR MARK WOOD

A change in manager at Kenilworth has resulted in a massive uplift in Town's fortunes much to everyone's delight.

And while it must be disconcerting for Luton's players sounding out a new manager and working out what he wants, it's also a whole new experience for the press corps too.

Gary Brabin was the most affable of men and, while sad to see him go on a personal level, you must always be careful to separate your personal and professional opinions.

A massive dip in form coupled with a series of disappointing results left the club with little option but to change managers, meaning us scribes in the stands to have a whole new personality to get used to.

Gone are the joking asides and banter that used to come with the old boss and we are gradually getting used to the new man in charge.

Paul Buckle's comments and quotes are more thought-out and he is always direct in his answers, even if he remains cagey in some of his replies in a manner that almost every manager is.

The doors at football clubs are always revolving and you must quickly learn to adapt.

In many ways I imagine it's the same for Paul. He has already admitted that coming into the job has been a whirlwind experience and he has certainly helped to blow the cobwebs away.

A first batch of players have already departed as he will undoubtedly look to trim a squad too weighty in number. No doubt he will already have his eyes on potential targets for next season, while desperately trying to get his feet warm under his new desk.

His new reign has certainly started with a huge amount of promise and his track record speaks for itself. If he can emulate what he achieved at Torquay

here at Luton then he will already have achieved his primary objective.

But it is a lot to ask of a man who has barely been the job two minutes, but such is the expectation that comes with the job.

We are all hoping for another wonderful Wednesday experience, but first we must douse the Drama in order to get there. And if we can, Brabin has already shown what he can achieve on the big stages.



Paul Buckle is already friends in the media

IN SAFE HANDS

PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR MARK TYLER IS GOING FOR GLORY

There's only a select few in the Town squad that hold bad memories of the Play-Offs. Mark Tyler is one of those men.

Heartbreak two years running – against York two years ago and AFC Wimbledon in the final last term – the Hatters' goalkeeper does not want a third year of disappointment.

The 35-year-old has had, by his own admission, an up and down season.

Displaced by fellow stopper Kevin Pilkington half-way through the campaign, the former Peterborough stopper has made a huge impact between the sticks in the Town's recent turn in fortunes.

Who can forget that point-winning save at Gateshead the other week? Or the point-blank save from Andy Mangan at Fleetwood.

Five successive clean sheets has helped the Hatters hoist themselves into the top five and with it an opportunity to make it third time lucky.

For Tyler though, it's vital that each game in the Play-Offs are approached in the same manner as if it was a run-of-the-mill league fixture in the middle of the season. Too much pressure at this stage could be calamitous.

But it's different this time round. The home leg first is first as the runners-up visit Kenilworth Road with the Town very much the underdogs to progress to the final later this month – not that that will faze the recently crowned players' player of the year.

"We had our goal at the start of the season to get promoted and didn't get it so the next step is to do it via the Play-Offs and we have a good a chance as any," Tyler tells Talk of the Town.

"It will be tough but we go into it with a new manager, who has given the whole place a lift, and that has

shown in poor performances. We didn't want to take it to the last day to make sure of our place but we had to do and we did and we go into these games in good form.

"We'll approach these games like would any other. It's the other way round this season as we go away from in the second leg but I'm sure we'll put on a good show in the first leg and get the right result to take into second leg.

"We know what the Play-Offs are about, we've had enough experience of them by now. The fact we're away second is the only difference.

"We've experienced semi-final defeat a defeat in the final – hopefully we can go one better and achieve the one outcome we have yet to experience.

"Regardless of the result in the first leg we will be going to Wrexham on the front foot – trying to win the game like we did at Fleetwood. It's going to be tough for all four teams in the Play-Offs and we have a good a chance as any."

At 35 – hard to believe, I know – Tyler is the veteran of the Hatters squad which is full of young exuberant players.

The goalkeeper has been around long enough to deal with the highs and lows of football and, after the disappointments through March that eventually led to the dismissal of Gary Brabin, Tyler is delighted to see the confidence return to the side in recent weeks.

"Some of the performances this season have been below the standard for Luton Town," he says. "We should be beating teams like Barrow and it's hugely disappointing we have been unable to beat the top sides, especially at home."

"It has been a weird situation and a lot of the lads lost their confidence. It is a young squad. There isn't a lot of us over the age of 30 and when you're playing in

front of big crowds and things aren't going your way players do go inside to their shells. Confidence is huge in football and now it's role reversed and it's great to see. We're doing well at the moment. We're more organised, stronger and playing with confidence. We're not conceding goals, have sharpened up our defensive game, especially from set pieces and we need to take it into the Play-Off games."

So, as the elder statesmen, does he have a role in gelling up his team-mates before they go into battle?

"We have a lot of experienced lads on the pitch. Keano's vocal. He might be only 25 but he's played almost 300 games. The changing room is full of good characters.

"Janos, Shane Blackett and Adam Watkins are all good at that. Adam's a Luton fan and been on the terraces as a supporter and his passion comes out.

"I put my experience to good use and make sure that everyone plays with a smile on their face.

"I have the best view in the house – watching the quality in our side go forward and attack teams."

MARK TYLER – VITAL STATS

■ AGE:	35
■ 2011/12 GAMES:	40
■ 2011/12 CLEAN SHEETS:	14
■ LTFC CAREER APPEARANCES:	134



THE RISE OF JANOS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR JANOS KOVACS BELIEVES PROMOTION WOULD CAP A GREAT 12 MONTHS

Twelve months ago, as his season with Hereford United came to a close, Janos Kovacs headed home to Hungary with a lot to think about.

After beginning last season on a high: he was the Bulls' captain and scored on his debut – the campaign ended with the defender frozen out of the team and put on the transfer list by the Edgar Street club.

"Through the summer I was really down and I had some massive questions to answer," Kovacs tells Talk of the Town. "I missed a lot of the season through injury and deep down I had some family issues living in Hereford and I went back to Hungary and thought about returning their full-time.

"I spoke with family and my close friends and decided to come back. I came back to training last summer with Hereford positive.

"I'm a firm believer in positive thinking and if you think in that way positive things will happen – and they did."

And happen they did. Still out of the Hereford side in the first month of this season, Kovacs got the call he had been waiting for in early September as former Town boss Gary Brabin persuaded the centre-half to rejoin the club he left in May 2009.

It was a no brainer and no sooner had the Hungarian said yes he was thrown in the starting line-up at Bath City. And he's never looked back – 40 games later he's helped the Hatters into the top five and walked away from the end-of-season awards night with a collection of trophies and the adulation of the Town faithful.

"I've said before that in hindsight I should never have left Luton," continues Kovacs. "I learned a lot from leaving and when I arrived at Hereford. Since the Play-Off defeat with York two years ago with Luton I have become a man.

"I was like a little boy back then and I've come back mentality stronger. Mental strength is a very important part of being a footballer, and a defender, especially.

"I do feel as though I have improved as a player and a lot has to do with belief. Importantly it's about consistency. Everyone can have one good game but if you can be consistent in your performance then it helps everyone, not just yourself.

"When I was here last time I came in January, half-way through the season and I wasn't the same player, the same person that I am now."

His role in influencing those around him (and in the stands for that matter) has been one of the most striking changes in the 'new' Janos.

But the 26-year-old believes the new mentality under new boss Paul Buckle has been a major reason behind the Town's up-turn in fortunes.

"The attitude in our heads has changed," admits Kovacs. "Results have helped but we're the same players – it's the same squad. Only one person has come in.

"The most important thing we have is heart and passion and we're showing that. The games where we've lost away from home are well documented. We needed a reaction from those games, turn the negatives into positives.

"Nobody likes going to Braintree and losing 3-1. Look at us now, winning 2-0 at Fleetwood with the pressure on.

"The key is improving though – not settling for what we've achieved so far. Yes, we've made the Play-Offs and yes, we beat Fleetwood but it's all about the next step, the next move and improving on what we've done so far in such a short space of time.

"Winning is never enough, you always need to strive for better. If a player scores a goal I congratulate them but there's a danger that you can fall into a false sense of security believing that now you've scored that's it, you can relax. That over-confidence is not acceptable because you all always do better."

Last weekend's win at champions Fleetwood sets-up tonight's game with league runners-up Wrexham and the likeable defender will just be urging everyone to enjoy the occasion.

"Play-Off games are fantastic spectacles and we're all looking forward to it," says Kovacs. "A lot of people say it's just a flip of a coin as to how you do in them but it's up to us to affect what happens.

"If we prepare, how we eat, how we sleep, how we train all affects it. To us, it's just another game but we need to go in to it full of heart. If you can't enjoy and get up for these kind of games then you can't get up for any game. These are the games if you're successful in that can be stored in your memory to look back on and we're all hoping that we can make it through to the final."

Voted Player of Year and Internet Player of the Year as well as scooping two further honours from the Bobbers and Loyal Luton, Kovacs was all smiles at the end-of-season awards night.

"It's always nice to receive awards and hopefully I can give even more," he says. "I'd like to thank my team mates. They have been the ones who have put a smile on my face each day."

"I'd like to thank the fans, staff and physios – big muscles need looking after having played Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday, Tuesday! – and of course, my family for all their help and advice."

JANOS KOVACS – VITAL STATS

■ AGE:	26
■ 2011/12 GAMES:	40
■ 2011/12 GOALS:	4
■ LTFC CAREER APPEARANCES:	57
■ LTFC CAREER GOALS:	5



THIRD TIME LUCKY?

KEITH KEANE IS HOPING THE TOWN GO ONE STEP BEYOND...

After last season's Play-Off final against AFC Wimbledon, press officer Andrew Barringer searchingly looked around the dressing room for a player willing to talk to media after the painful penalty shoot-out defeat.

Keith Keane volunteered. Let's just say he never relishes being put in front of the microphone – even when the Town are on the end of a positive result – but the Hatters' longest serving player was more than happy to speak of his disappointment and share his and his team-mates' gut-wrenching experiences of that fateful day at Eastlands.

Fast forward 12 months and Keane, who clocked up his 250th appearance in Town colours earlier in the season, is now hoping the Town can go one step better this season.

Wrexham stand in the Town's way in the semi-finals but, after two successive seasons of hurt in the end-of-season competition, the 25-year-old is hoping that this year can be third time lucky for his home-town club.

The Hatters go into the tie as underdogs against a Wrexham side who pushed Fleetwood all the way in the race for the title.

And the underdog tag suits Keane down to the ground. "Given our season: how we've played in parts, I think it will suit us," he says. "I think you can sense it around the club – there is more of a hope than expectation. A couple of weeks ago we were written off and getting in the Play-Offs was looking unlikely. But we're there now and, while we know it's going to be tough, we've given ourselves a chance – it's in our own hands."

Keane was part of the Town side that fell at the first hurdle two seasons ago against York and again in last year's final in Manchester. And the former Ireland Under-21 international believes an over-confidence was to partly to blame for their failures to return to the Football League.

"In the York games we went into those confident – perhaps too confident," he admits. "We went into the games against York with the mentality that we were invincible. We had won 10 of the last 12 matches and were undefeated and had a rude awakening in the Play-Offs, losing both legs 1-0. We just couldn't see ourselves losing, we were beating teams 6-0 and 8-0 each week."

"Last season there was an expectancy to beat Wimbledon in the final given we how impressive we were against Wrexham and because we had played really against Wimbledon in the two league fixtures.

"It just goes to show that it doesn't matter what happens during the course of the season. It all goes out of the window. What counts are your performances in each game. It's a cliché but you need to take each game as it comes. They are all different. Play-Offs are known as a lottery for a reason."

As Keane says, the Hatters are in the mix for the third season running but three weeks ago it looked unlikely that a place in the top five would be theirs.

When the Town axed then manager Gary Brabin after the 2-1 home defeat to York the club openly admitted it's disappointment at some of the players' performances. That's a view shared by Keane and the 3-1 defeat at Braintree a week later only served to illustrate the Hatters' problems prior to Paul Buckle's arrive at the helm.

And the midfielder feels the Braintree debacle opened everyone's eyes that a place in the Play-Offs was in serious doubt. "When you play for Luton there's an expectancy and if you're not doing your job properly you're going to hear about it," says Keane. "None of us were playing well, we were low on confidence but as a group we felt that the criticism could spur us on and play with a freedom. We knew we were letting the whole club down; the fans, the staff and ourselves. It was a time where we couldn't get much lower. We knew we were capable of better."

"The Braintree result killed us off. We all looked at each other after that game in the dressing room and it was noticeable that the confidence had gone and we couldn't put our finger on why. It looked as though we had absolutely no hope of getting in the Play-Offs but we knew it couldn't get any worse and we knew we had to use that particular game as a turning point if we were to make something of our season."

That display in Essex now seems in the distant past. Six games later the Town are yet to lose under new boss Paul Buckle on their way to booking their place in the Play-Offs against all the odds.

After those uninspiring defeats at Braintree, at Forest Green and at Barrow, the Town players have got their mojo back. "I think we have restored some pride," says Keane. "We, as players, have been embarrassed with some of the performances and no disrespect to the likes of Forest Green and Braintree but we shouldn't be getting beaten out of sight by these teams."

"We had a chance to put it back in the new manager's first game against Hayes & Yeading and we did that and it's snowballed ever since. We've carried that on and the new gaffer has been great. He wants certain things done, and those things done properly. If you don't then you'll find yourself out of the team, it's that simple."

"Don't forget there are a lot of players playing for futures at this club and it's vital to try and impress new manager. When he came in it was a fresh start for everyone and the whole squad are committed to getting this club back in the League. I'm a Luton fan at heart, I want us back in the League."

"It won't be easy against Wrexham but we should show against Fleetwood what we are capable of again. It's a very good team. It's all about repeating that kind of performance again, and again and again if we're to realise our goal."

KEITH KEANE – VITAL STATS

■ AGE:	25
■ 2011/12 GAMES:	38
■ 2011/12 GOALS:	2
■ LTFC CAREER APPEARANCES:	281
■ LTFC CAREER GOALS:	8



ANDRE GRAY

STRIKER HOPING WHIRLWIND SEASON CAN END WITH WEMBLEY TRIP

Two months ago Andre Gray was scoring goals for Hinckley United in the Knitters' quest to avoid relegation to the Southern League.

Now the 20-year-old has the chance of rubbing shoulders with the Plymouth Argyles and Bradford Citys of this world, rather than the Bidefords and Barwells, should the Town be toasting promotion to The Football League.

If ever a new signing has caught the imagination of the Hatters' faithful then it's Gray. Since his arrival, the Wolverhampton-born striker has hit five goals in nine games. Raw energy and searing pace have had Blue Square Bet Premier defences running scared and Gray is hoping his goals can help propel the Town to promotion via the Play-Offs.

Wrexham stand in their way at the semi-final stage, which kick-offs tonight, and Gray isn't approaching the game any differently to the previous eight he has started in Town colours.

"We need to go into the Play-Offs treating them just as any other game," he told Talk of the Town. "If we put too much pressure on ourselves then we could mess things up. Our preparation will not be any different. Just because it's Wrexham and it's a Play-Off match does mean we'll do things any other way. We'll work hard, we'll train hard and I'm sure we'll be fine."

Saturday's 2-0 victory over Champions Fleetwood confirmed the Town's place in the top five to ensure tonight's game goes ahead.

And Gray believes the confidence taken from the win over Micky Mellon's title-winners will be a massive boost to everyone at Kenilworth Road. "We're all buzzing," the striker added. "To go to Fleetwood and pick up three points when we were under pressure to get the result was fantastic."

"Wrexham will be tough opponents, too. They have been so close to getting promoted, winning 98 points, but it's all about us. We can't afford to worry about what the opposition are capable of. We need to replicate the performance at Fleetwood - They couldn't cope with us on the day."

As the youngster admits, it's been a whirlwind start for the former Shrewsbury Town trainee. Four goals in his first four games came at a time when the Hatters were struggling, but now he's delighted his goals and performances have come as the team's performances have improved.

"It's a big difference, and it's all happened rather quickly," he says. "We've played so many games and had a change in manager that I haven't had time to sit down and reflect on what's happened! I take things in my stride though and will continue to work hard. We're playing much more like a team now and with the results improving so is the confidence and that's vital going into the Play-Offs."

"The first few goals of mine came when we lost to York and Braintree, and drew with Grimsby, but now it feels better when I'm scoring and we're winning."

"It's crazy to think that a few months ago I was fighting to help Hinckley stay up and now I'm fighting to try and get Luton up. It's a big difference but one that I'm relishing. If I'm being honest I didn't really expect to score goals - it's a big step up. Every time I score it's a massive bonus and I hope I can keep it up to get this club promoted."

Gray's fifth goal of the season in the victory at Fleetwood was also key in the striker's mind as it showed the continued improvement the Town have shown under new manager Paul Buckle.

"It was a brilliant game and a great atmosphere. We worked hard and deserved to win. We needed to go there and get the win and not concern ourselves about what Kidderminster were doing. I think playing for a draw would have killed us - we want a winning mentality and that's what the gaffer is instilling in us and it paid off."

"To go to the champions, who had nothing to really play for, was dangerous but we remained disciplined and worked hard and it we managed to pull it off."

The striker was paired with Craig McAllister for the trip to the Cod Army having previously played alongside Stuart Fleetwood. And the fact that McAllister, who scored the Town's opener at Highbury, came in to give a big contribution shows the strength in depth the squad possess, according to Gray. "There's a big difference between Macca and Fleets," he says. "Stuart and I like to play off of each other whereas Craig can win the headers and flick the ball on to me, which works well too. I'm a direct player. I don't really like to come short, I like to run at big centre halves - just like the one [Steve McNulty] on Saturday!"

Robbie Willmott was left out on Saturday but came on and set me up and that shows that we can call on everyone to play a part. It is a squad game. We needed fresh legs on Saturday because Fleetwood were getting on top. He anticipated the mistake from their defender well and put it in the right place for me.

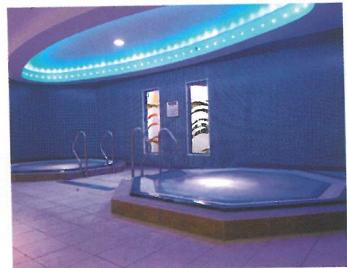
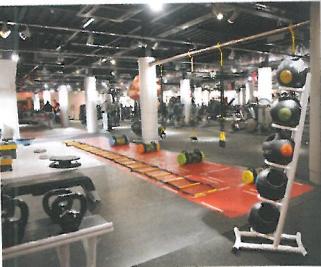
"I could see the cross coming to me in my head before he passed it and it was instinct when putting it away. It was all about getting good contact because it's easy."

It was great to get a good connection and see it go and I celebrated with the supporters. They are going to be a massive factor if we are to get to Wembley."

ANDRE GRAY – VITAL STATS

AGE:	20
2011/12 GAMES:	9
2011/12 GOALS:	5
LTFC CAREER APPEARANCES:	9
LTFC CAREER GOALS:	5





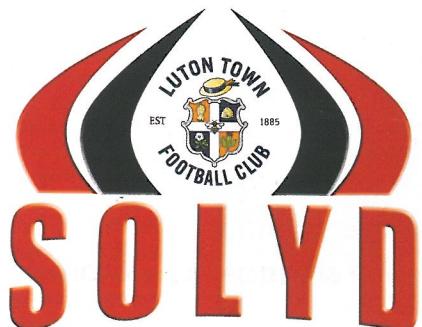
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HATTERS HISTORY

ROGER WASH DETAILS THE TOWN'S PLAY-OFF RECORD

In the past a great many clubs knew by Christmas each year that they were not likely to win promotion, and as the season was effectively over for them attendances normally dropped away alarmingly.

In order to keep interest going until the bitter end, Play-Offs were introduced in 1987 but it was to be 10 years before the Town tasted what is now regarded as the annual end of season nail-biter.

We had been relegated to Division Two (now League One) at the end of the 1995/96 campaign and in spite of a valiant effort to win immediate promotion were destined to finish in third spot behind Bury and Stockport.

Sixth place Crewe had lost 17 games that season including a 6-0 mauling at Kenilworth Road and the

Play-Off semi-final first leg against the Railwaymen was looked on as a formality by the Luton supporters who travelled to Gresty Road!

All seemed to be going to plan when, after only three minutes, Crewe goalkeeper Jason Kearton parried a low Andrew Fotiadis cross into the path of David Oldfield who made no mistake. From then on it all started to go wrong...

Firstly, the influential Gary Waddock was forced to go off after suffering a gashed leg and then Mark Rivers, whose father played for the Town in the 1960's, forced an equaliser following a mistake by Luton full-back Julian James.

It was to get worse for James who was dismissed for a second yellow card shortly after and it soon became a one-way traffic as Crewe laid siege on the Luton defence.

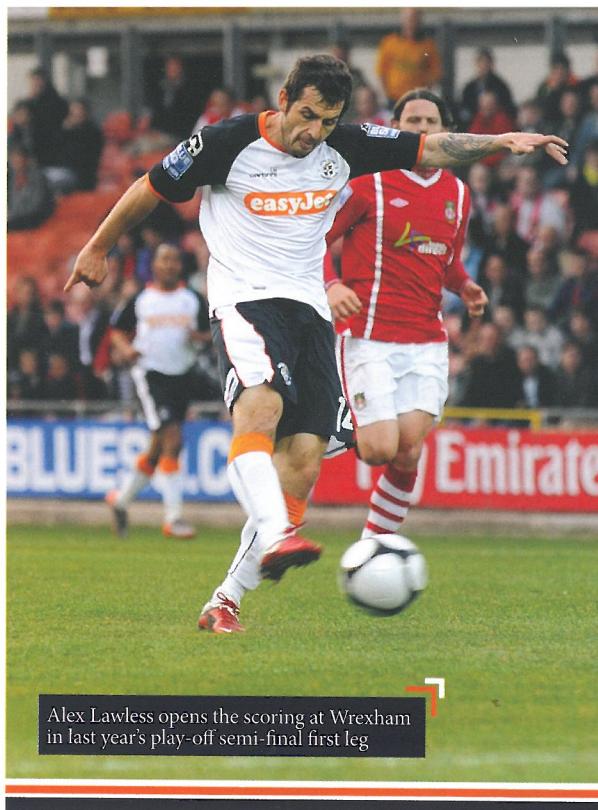
Fortunately only one further goal was scored with Colin Little presented with an open target but how big striker Dele Adebola failed to make it 3-1 with a shot that hit a post is anyone's guess.

It was therefore back to Kenilworth Road for the second leg and a relieved Hatters side re-grouped, confident that they would not play as badly again.

Again, it all started well with Oldfield putting the Town 2-0 up after half an hour only for Little to



David Oldfield wheels away after scoring the Town's first ever play-off goal. At Crewe in 1997



Alex Lawless opens the scoring at Wrexham in last year's play-off semi-final first leg

pull a goal back a couple of minutes later. After Shaun Smith levelled the score on the night after 61 minutes there was no way back for the Town who were well held by their increasingly classy opponents.

It was to be another 13 years before the Town tasted the Play-Offs again and by this time we were tasting our first season out of the Football League since 1920.

Our initial season in the Conference of 2009/10 saw us finish in second spot behind Stevenage and we were down to play York at Bootham Crescent in the semi-final first leg.

On the night the Town, who had gone 14 games unbeaten, did everything but score but were killed off by a sucker punch in the final minute. A long ball out of the York defence skidded off the top of Shane Blackett's head into the path of Richard Brodie who up until that point had been starved of the ball all evening. Brodie took the chance well to set up an intriguing second leg in front of a near capacity crowd at Kenilworth Road.

York had done their homework, limited the Town to only a handful of chances before getting a lucky break when a clearance from Geoff Pilkington cannoned off Craig Carruthers into the net. At 2-0 down there was no way back for the Town and it was scant satisfaction that York lost to Oxford in the final.

Last season the Hatters finished third and were due to take on fourth placed Wrexham in the Play-Off semi-final with the first leg at Wrexham.

In an amazing first 45 minutes Town stunned the crowd of 7,000 by taking a 3-0 lead with a brilliant display of football. Alex Lawless with a 25 yard pile-driver, Claude Gnable

with an equally impressive strike and a first ever goal for Ed Asafu-Adjaye gave the Hatters a commanding lead which they held on to with ease.

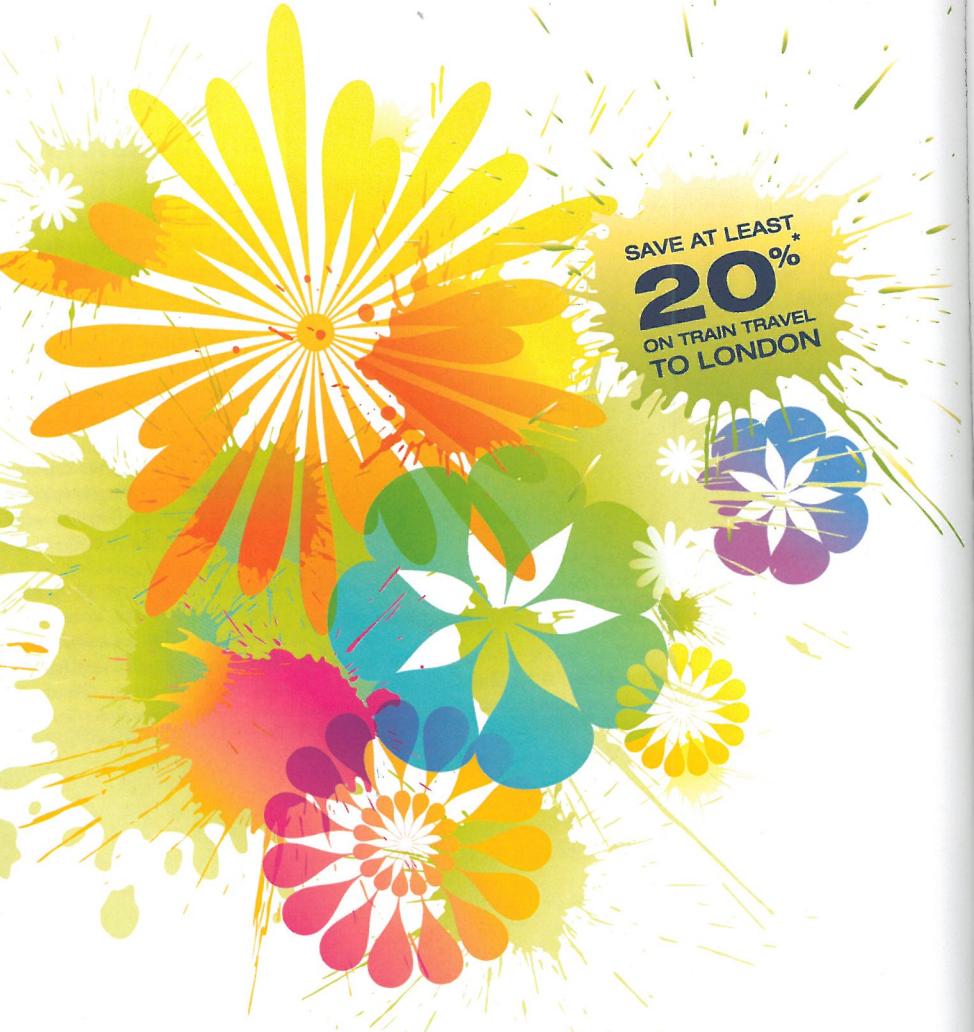
Although the Town were leading 3-0 on aggregate, nerves certainly started jangling in the crowd of 9,000 in the second leg when Andy Mangan pulled a goal back in the eighth minute as Wrexham attacked with a will during the opening period.

Worse was to come soon after when Dan Gleeson was penalised for handball but Mark Tyler, in the Luton goal, saved Gareth Taylor's spot kick and from then on the Town fought their way back and more or less killed the game with Zdenek Kroca's header from Asafu-Adjaye's 29th minute free-kick.

Jason Walker netted the Town's second in the closing minutes to confirm a 5-1 aggregate win and set up a play-off final against Wimbledon at Eastlands. That is another story!

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PLAY-OFFS ON PLAYER

The season is almost finished...but not for the Hatters, as Paul Buckle's men know that if they're going to win promotion they are going to have to do it the hard way.

And that means a nerve-racking and exciting two-legged semi-final, the first of which is this evening at Kenilworth Road.

Hatters Player has followed the Town every step of the way this season with home highlights, pre- and post-match reaction with the manager, live commentary courtesy of our Luton Town Show team, as well as reaction from the players that mattered come the final whistle.

For just £4.29 for the final month of the campaign you can watch and listen to all of the exclusive content from Kenilworth Road as the Hatters gear up for what promises to be a thrilling, nail-biting, gut-wrenching (call it what you will) month of Play-Off action.

Player will be there every step of the way; before, during and after both semi-finals, so if you have yet to sign-up, just £4.29 will get you closer to Kenilworth Road than ever before.

In the lead-up to both legs we will give you interviews and press conferences from the men that matter – like we have throughout the campaign.

We've had post-match reaction too and will after tonight's fixture – win, lose or draw. Plus subscribers will be the first to watch all the reaction in the aftermath. If you want to re-live the action fear not, our exclusive match highlights for match Kenilworth Road are live and online within hours of the final whistle – how's that for unrivalled coverage?

In recent weeks Player has given you exclusive interviews with all of our end-of-season award winners plus the pre and post-match thoughts of the wins over Kidderminster and Fleetwood. And if one of the teams tonight, Wembley beckons, and that is the Town then remember Hatters Player have all the exclusive behind the scenes build-up.

But we've got 90 minutes tonight and possibly minutes and beyond next Monday so let's not count those chickens yet. What we can guarantee is excitement and tension today and remember, way or another, we'll bring it you through Hatters Player.

Player

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PLAYER: GRAY REVELS IN VICTORY
Striker Andre Gray reveals to Player that his fifth goal for the club came in the biggest game of his career to date 2 days ago

PLAYER: DEFINITELY CLAMING IT! - McALLISTER
Going on target, so it's mine. Craig McAllister tells Player after the 2-0 win over Fleetwood 2 days ago

PLAYER: BUCKLE'S VERDICT
The boss gives his post-match thoughts to the press as Fleetwood celebrate their title in the background 2 days ago



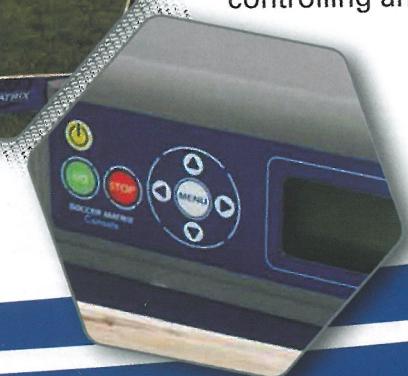
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AWARDS NIGHT

DEFENDER SCOOPS AWARDS DOUBLE

Janos Kovacs was the big winner at the Luton Town Supporters' Club end-of-season awards night.

The Hungarian centre-back picked up the coveted LTSC Player of the Year award before being named official website Player of the Year, as chosen by visitors to www.lutontown.co.uk.

Kovacs told Talk of the Town: "It's always a surprise to have awards like this and I am a very, very happy man. I would like to thank everyone. First of all to my team-mates and staff, directors and of course the fans as well because, without all these people it wouldn't happen."

Goalkeeper Mark Tyler scooped the Players' Player of the Year award while Adam Watkins won the Young Player of the Year prize. Like Kovacs, Tyler was surprised to come out on top of the players' vote. "It was a shock as I thought Janos would win it," he said. "I haven't won an award like it before and it's great because it's voted for by the players."

Keith Keane marked a season in which he surpassed 250 games for the Town by picking up two awards: the Ian Pearce Memorial Trophy – presented to the player that has been given the most man-of-the-match awards by the match sponsors – and Goal of the Season for his free-kick against Gateshead in the FA Trophy at Kenilworth Road.

It was the third time that Keane had scooped the Goal of the Season award having won the 2006/07 prize for his strike against West Brom and again in

2008/09 for his last-gasp goal from a corner against Oxford. "Everyone keeps telling me I don't score but when I do score they're decent; I've been getting forward a bit more and I've had chances to score a goal," Keane said.

Robbie Willmott – the Hatters' goal hero in Saturday's victory over Kidderminster – got the vote from LTSC's junior members whilst Jake Woolley won SoLYD Youth Development Player of the Year.



ROLL OF HONOUR

LTSC Player of the Year: **Janos Kovacs**

Website Player of the Year: **Janos Kovacs**

Players' Player of the Year: **Mark Tyler**

Young Player of the Year: **Adam Watkins**

Ian Pearce Memorial Trophy: **Keith Keane**

Goal of the Season: **Keith Keane v Gateshead**

LTSC Junior Members Player of the Year: **Robbie Willmott**

SoLYD Youth Development Player of the Year: **Jake Woolley**

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NLP VIEW

BY SAM ELLIOTT

It is usually at this time of the year that we at The Non-League Paper get asked the question: "So, what exactly is it you guys do during the close-season?"

The answer, let me promise you, is not 'head off for a 10-week holiday' like many suspect!

It's a badly kept secret that instead of downing tools for the summer, our team actually have to work twice as hard to keep things rolling. After all, there's no football going on to fill our pages.

What we don't do is take the paper off the shelves. Unlike the players, we want to keep going 12 months a year.

We begin with a big meeting at the beginning of May, planning how we go about tackling the weeks where a ball isn't being kicked. At times it's a frightening prospect having to fill 40-odd pages with no live action, but it's always a challenge we relish.

Before long, we've compiled a list of brand new feature ideas, arranged more interviews and we're set for long road ahead.

A lot of people say they actually prefer picking up a copy of The NLP during May, June and July.

If that's because they don't have to read a report of their team suffering another defeat, or because it's that

we offer much more space for news on many clubs that we can usually squeeze in, who know?

This summer we're giving our favourites a new look. There is sure to be new-look reviews of the best as well as previews to the next year's action – which already can't come fast enough.

There will be more columns too, as well as coverage from top of the Non-League game through to the bottom. Everyone is catered for.

The lack of live action means harder graft for our writers, but with the odd Saturday off as a team morale gets us through.

There'll be plenty to read about in May. Play-off Vase and Trophy finals as well our National Awards – with voting for our end of season ceremony closing at midnight on Monday.

For most, today is their final game of the season for those that have games to come, the nerves of the dreaded play-offs are just about to get started.

The NLP would like to send a massive thank you to all of our contributors this season and, of course, our loyal readers.

We hope you keep reading over the summer to fill the void!

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER
ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

Buy it every Sunday from your local newsagent

THIS SEASON

A LOOK-BACK AT THE SEASON SO FAR

■ AUGUST - P5W20D10

The Town's season got belatedly underway against Forest Green Rovers at Kenilworth Road following the postponement of the scheduled opening game against AFC Telford. Having gone behind against Rovers, a Dean Beckwith header earned the Hatters a point. Three days later a 5-1 victory over a Southport team that included John Paul Kissock was accomplished thanks to goals from Robbie Willmott, Adam Watkins, Will Antwi, Danny Crow and Amari Morgan-Smith.

The Town drew their opening away fixture of the campaign at Mansfield on 23rd August with an another equaliser scored by a defender, this time captain for the night Antwi. Newly-promoted Braintree Town were seen off three days later at Kenilworth Road but the Hatters dropped two points at Hayes & Yeading on the 30th, missing two penalties in the 2-2 draw at Kingfield.

■ SEPTEMBER - P7W3D2L2

An injury-time equaliser denied the Hatters all three points in front of the Premier Sports TV cameras at Stockport County having led through Alex Lawless' fine early effort. A 2-0 victory over Darlington followed with new signing Stuart Fleetwood on target and three days later the rearranged AFC Telford game got the Town back on course with two goals from Morgan-Smith sealing victory which moved them up to third in the table.

A late winner from Fleetwood saw off Lincoln City in a game that saw the Town down to 10 men for over an hour following the dismissal of Beckwith in the first half. New-signing Kissock setting up the goal four minutes from time. A trip to Bath ended in disappointment as the Town failed to take advantage of a first-half goal from Morgan-Smith after the hosts had been reduced to 10 men. But despite Bath's equaliser the point took the Town to the top of the table for what would be the only time this season.

The Hatters' unbeaten run came to abrupt end after 10 games when a first-half blitz from York left them on

Worse followed days later when Cambridge United inflicted the Town's first home defeat of the campaign as September ended with two straight defeats which left them in ninth place in the table – which would turn out to be their lowest position in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

■ OCTOBER - P7W5D1L1

The Hatters got back to winning away at the beginning of October with their second five-goal haul of the season after coming from a goal behind to beat Barrow 5-1 at Kenilworth Road.

A fine 2-1 victory at Kidderminster Harriers followed seven days later at Aggborough thanks to two goals from Willmott, which pushed the Hatters back into the top five.

Three days later the Town let a two-goal lead slip at Ebbsfleet to leave Kent with a point, having raced into a 2-0 lead thanks to goals from Morgan-Smith and James Dance. The disappointment of that draw was quickly forgotten however when league leaders Gateshead were hammered 5-1 at Kenilworth Road – the three points lifting the Town back into third place once more.

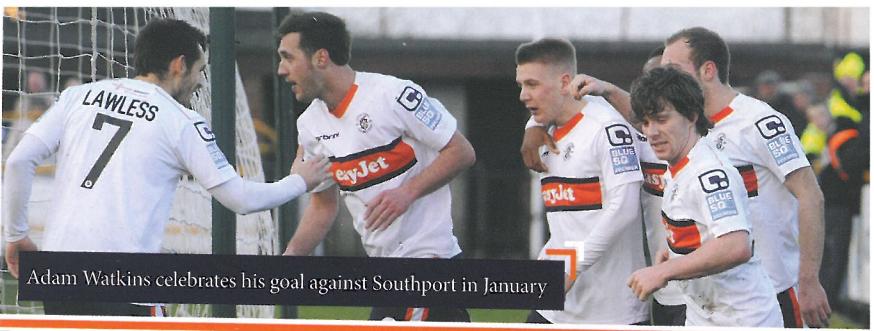
That victory set up another top-of-the-table clash with Wrexham but, in front of 7,270, the Town failed to spark on the night at the Red Dragons' won the points thanks to a late strike from Mathias Pogba.

Once again though the Hatters bounced back to winning ways the following week when a Tommy Wright goal secured a hard-fought victory away at Grimsby in front of the Premier Sports cameras.

The month ended with the Town securing their place in the first round proper of the FA Cup with a 5-1 win over Ryman League Hendon. The Hatters recovering from going a goal down inside the first five minutes.

■ NOVEMBER - P5W20D1L1

The Hatters faced another test against one of their promotion rivals but disappointingly slipped at home to Fleetwood Town to leave them seventh in the table. A quality strike from Watkins gave the Town a 1-0 win over League 2 Northampton Town at Kenilworth



Adam Watkins celebrates his goal against Southport in January

Road before another local derby at Cambridge United followed a week later – Fleetwood scoring the Hatters' goal in 1-1 draw. A goal three minutes into stoppage time from Crow gave the Hatters a hugely important victory in the wind and rain at Newport County but three days later a disappointing draw at home to AFC Telford left the Town still outside the Play-Off places.

■ DECEMBER - P5W3D1L1

League 2 high-flyers Cheltenham ended the Town's run in the FA Cup following a hugely entertaining 4-2 defeat at Kenilworth Road. The Hatters failed to build on a first-half goal from Crow at Lincoln City three days later but the Town ended the month with three straight victories, starting against Swindon Supermarine in the first round of the FA Trophy.

Crow scored twice and missed a penalty – the sixth time the Town had missed from the spot – in an excellent 3-1 win at Tamworth before a 5-0 win on Boxing Day over Kettering in front of 7,164 left the Town in fifth place at the end of 2011.

■ JANUARY - P8W5D3L0

The New Year started how the previous one ended when the Town thumped Kettering 5-0 for the second successive game, this time at Nene Park. Newport County and Stockport County were then seen off in successive games at the Town broke back into the top three of the Blue Square Bet Premier.

A goalless draw at Hinckley in the second round of the FA Trophy was followed by a topsy-turvy 3-3 draw at promotion-rivals Southport, where the Town had trailed 2-0 but also led 3-2 in a game best remember for the windy conditions at Haig Avenue. Hinckley were eventually beaten in an FA Trophy replay before a goalless draw with Mansfield and a narrow win over Alfreton ended the month with the Hatters unbeaten.

■ FEBRUARY - P4W3D0L1

In a freezing cold month the Hatters only featured four times but a 2-1 win at Kidderminster booked their place in the quarter-finals of the Trophy. A routine win over Tamworth followed but the Town's unbeaten run came to an end following the long midweek trip to Barrow. However, the Hatters

themselves in the semi-finals of the Trophy second successive season by dispatching G 2-0 at Kenilworth Road with first goals of the from Keith Keane and Kissock.

■ MARCH - P8W1D3L4

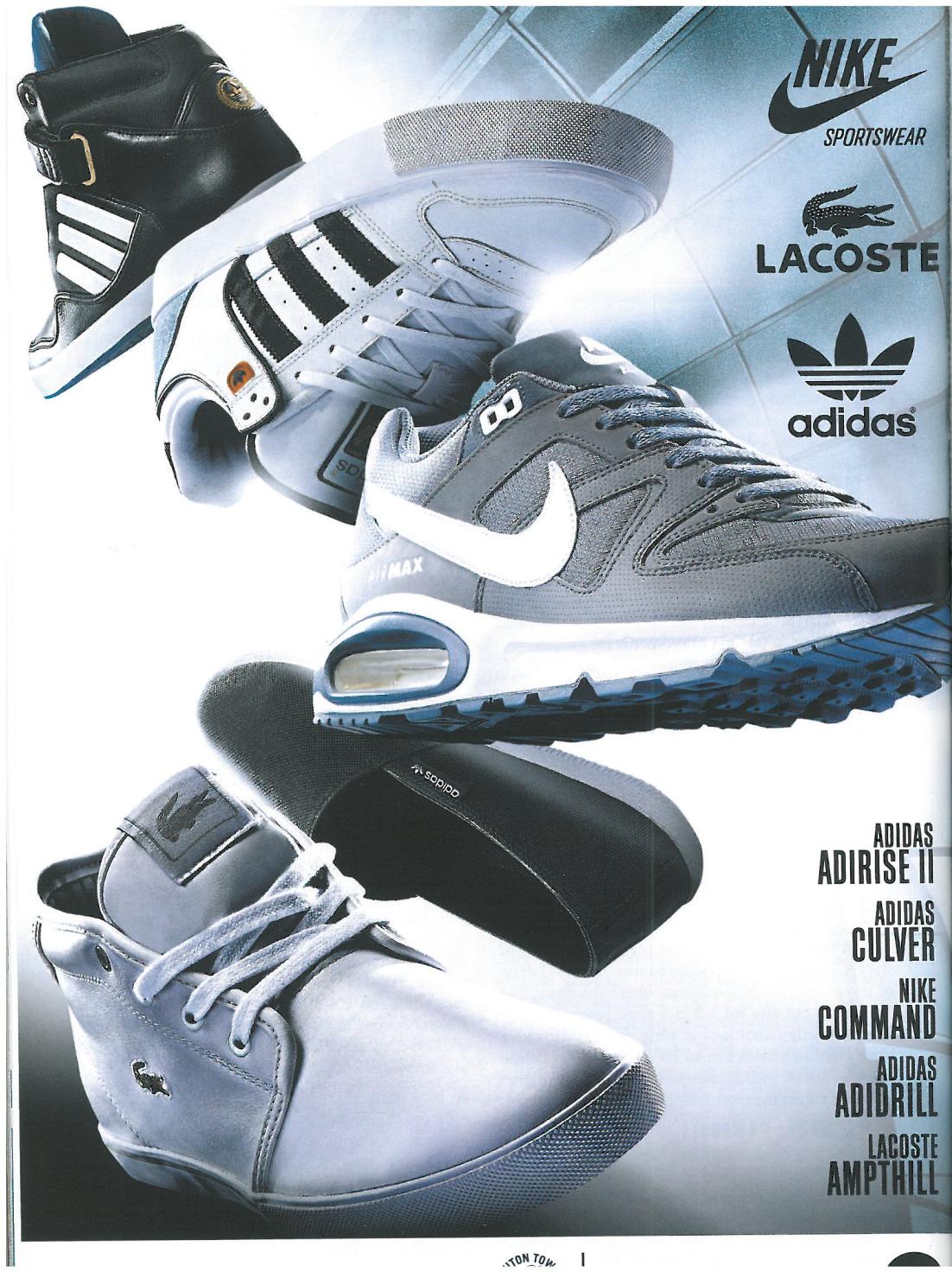
The Town's beat bottom club Bath 2-0 at Ke Road to begin March but it would prove to only victory of the month. A disappointing Wrexham live on television was followed by rear-guard action at York in the FA Trophy se first leg that saw the Town play 40 minutes w men. A dramatic 1-1 draw at Darlington fol the Town scored an injury-time equaliser b Tyler saved a penalty minutes later and Janos was also sent-off.

York dumped the Hatters out of the Trophy wi minute aggregate winner before a 3-0 defeat a Green left the Town looking over their shou the race for the Play-Offs. Late goals cost th the points in the next two home fixtures with earning a point and York leaving Kenilw with all three points in the league meeting a goals in the last 10 minutes. That proved to be straw for the Hatters board who sacked manager Brabin.

■ APRIL - P7W4D2L1

Paul Buckle was appointed the new manager watched on in horror as the Town slumped to defeat at Braintree which saw the them slip the Play-Off places at a crucial time. masterminded a 4-2 win over Hayes & Yead Easter Monday in his first game in charge and goalless draw at Alfreton, a 3-0 victory over El at Kenilworth Road followed.

A vital win over Play-Off rivals Kidder achieved thanks to a sole goal from Willmott, Town in the driving seat to extend their season points were needed at Gateshead to confirm place in the top five but could only muster a p But the Town were all smiles last week a fantastic 2-0 win at champions Fleetwood their spot in the Play-Offs and kept up their


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SUPER SUPPORT

Once again your support this season has been incredible – almost 150,000 of you passing through the Kenilworth Road turnstiles in matches in the Blue Square Bet Premier alone.

From the 23 league matches the average attendance here has been a fantastic 6,111 – by far and away the largest average in the division and almost double the amount of the next-best average. That average figure isn't far away from the crowd of 6,061 which witnessed the opening game of the season against Forest Green Rovers here way back in August. Our last home fixture, against Kidderminster Harriers, generated the largest home gate of the season of 8,415 which was buoyed by 751 Kidderminster fans in the Oak Road end – the healthiest away following any team has brought in a league fixture this season.

In total the league attendance this term was 140,560. Two attendances topped 7,000: the meeting with Wrexham back in October and the Boxing Day victory over Kettering Town. The lowest league gate was the 5,261 that watched the goalless, televised draw with Mansfield Town on 25th January.

Kidderminster's following last week upped the average of visiting supporters that clicked through the Oak Road turnstiles. In total 4,186 away supporters travelled to Kenilworth Road, working out an average of just 182. Not included in those figures are the cup ties, the highest attendance in any cup match coming

HOME & AWAY

Average Kenilworth Road league attendance: 6,111

Average away following at Kenilworth Road: 182

Average attendance at away grounds: 2,318

Average Hatters away following: 5

in the FA Trophy semi-final second leg to York City when 5,925 witnessed the 1-1 draw from home, the total aggregate attendance was 53,315 and gives an average of 2,318.

The biggest gate the Town have encountered on their travels was the 4,796 that watched them at Cambridge United in November. The draw at Gateshead.

But the Town's away following once more failed to amaze everybody connected to the club. Midweek trips to Barrow, Darlington, Wrexham and Gateshead may have prevented further records being made in the journey but the average of Town's away following in league matches this season is 594.

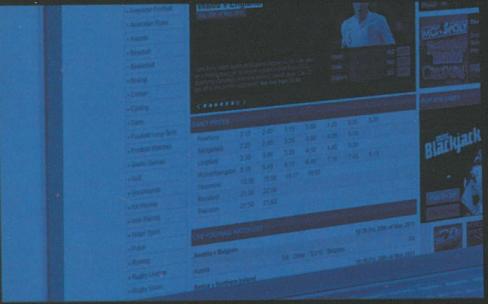
In total 13,669 Hatters have walked into away grounds up and down the country this term, taking in 13 grounds at AFC Telford, Alfreton and Braintree.

Nene Park was the venue for the largest away contingent – 2,018 making up three-quarters of the crowd against Kettering on New Year's Day. High away followings include the 1,754 to Cambridge, 931 that travelled to Kidderminster and 900 that went to Braintree and 889 at Alfreton.

Your support is vital. Please keep it up. See you at the next game.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

■ TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME - FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

Term 5 Starting in May

We are inviting young players from around Luton, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire to join our TIPS Soccer Centre for a nine-week programme of coaching followed by a trial game. The purpose of our talent identification programme is to provide high quality coaching for up and coming young footballers, whether they are ambitious players wanting to progress towards becoming a professional or a newcomer wanting to develop the basic skills.

The list of venues and term dates are all listed overleaf and each term costs £45 which includes nine practical sessions and a trial match. All players receive an end of term report on their development and for those players who the coaches feel have shown the right level of ability and attitude during the term, the opportunity to progress to the Performance Centre/Centre of Excellence or Academy is offered. Players who display talent can be moved through the programme after only a few weeks, if deemed appropriate.

Our successful TIPS Development programme is now in its sixth year of operation and the club's youth section prides itself on the high calibre of its coaching team. Any youngster signing up to TIPS will receive the same standard of coaching that has helped produce players such as Curtis Davies, Matthew Upson, Matthew Taylor, Kevin Foley, Leon Barnett and Jack Wilshere. No other club in our region can claim the same level of success in terms of youth development - two England youth internationals in the last two seasons in Dave Molli (now Liverpool) and Cauley Woodrow (now Fulham). In addition, over 65 players have been signed by our youth academy during the last five seasons through our TIPS programme.

To enrol on our TIPS programme for term three is really easy: you can download our application form at www.lytd.co.uk or either email us at tips.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01582 583618 for further information and to register your place.

■ FOOTBALL CONFERENCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



easyJet

This season we successfully launched our Schools Project which aims to provide a curriculum for football coaching and PE lessons to all primary schools within Bedfordshire and North Hertfordshire.

The Football Conference Community Development Fund, which was launched last year by member clubs of the Blue Square Bet Premier League, Blue Square Bet North and South, involves the Premier League and Professional Football 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 respective communities.

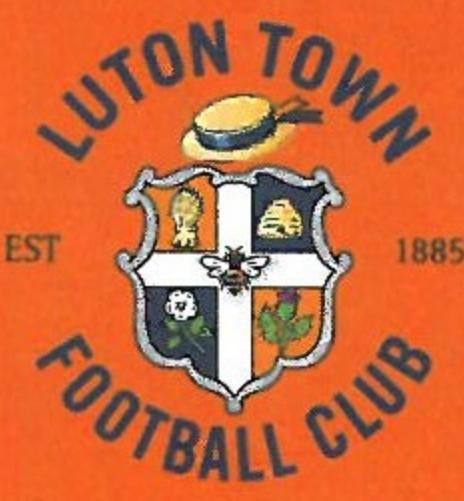
The club's Community Department have already contacted close to 100 schools in our catchment area since the start of this school year with the offer of free coaching. At present, 40 schools are now receiving visits from our coaching staff.

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

"The funding from the Football Conference 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.

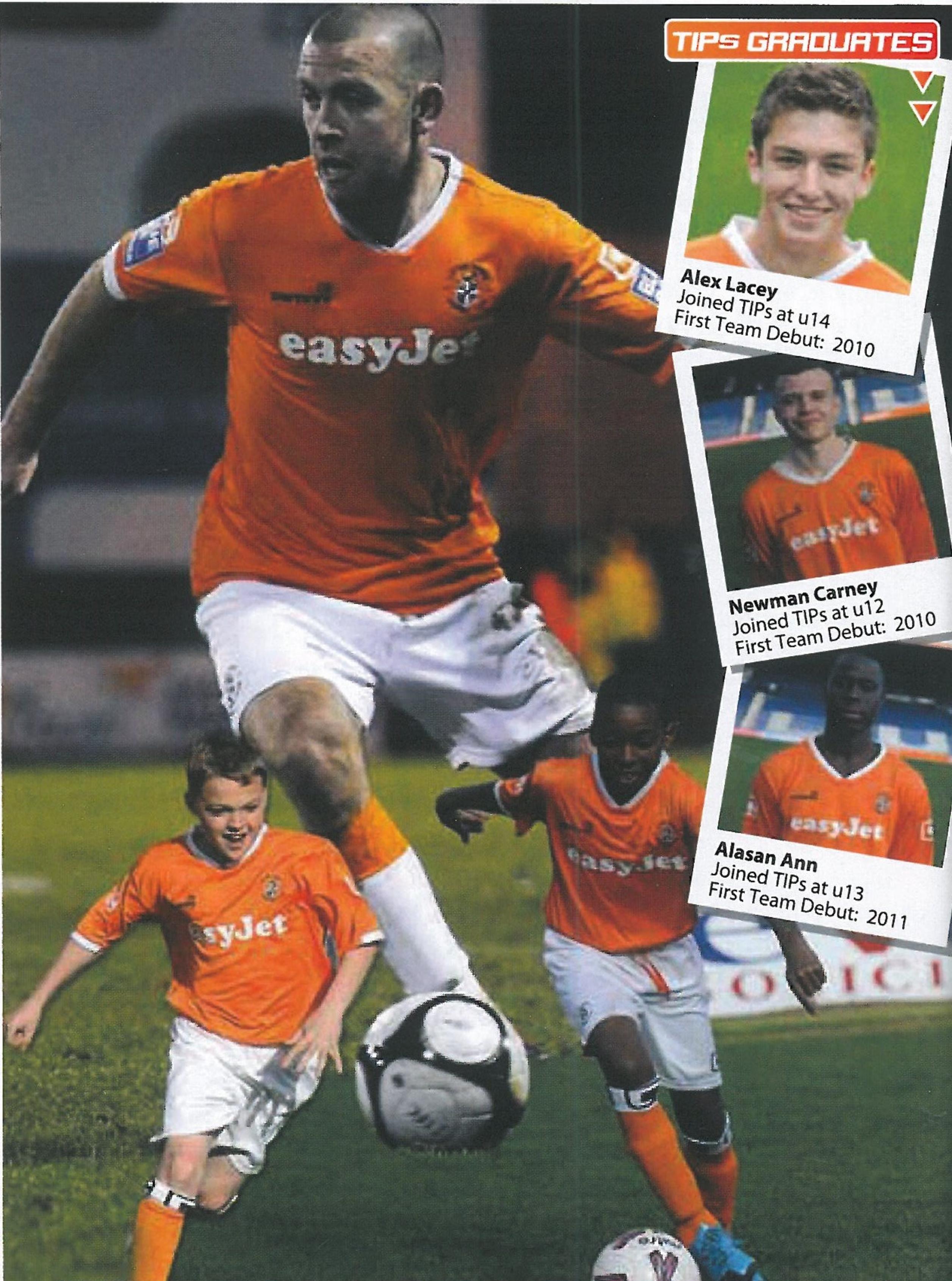
TIPs - Talent Identification Programme



Luton Town FC

Youth Development 2011-12

Football Development for 6 to 16 year olds



Soccer Centres in Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Flitwick, Leighton Buzzard,



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Please enquire about our Kit Packages. You too can look like your favourite Luton players.

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TIPs Development Centre Application

Please return this form with payment to: LTFC Youth Development, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds LU 4 8.

Age Group: School Years 2&3 4&5 6&7 8&9 10&11

Age groups are school years (NOT child's age) as of 1st September 2011

Term(s): 1 2 3 4 5

First Name: Surname: Date of Birth:

Venue: Biggleswade Ampthill Luton Flitwick Leighton Buzzard
 Bedford Hitchin Dunstable Harpenden Shefford

My son is a goalkeeper and wishes for specific training (available at Dunstable, Hitchin and Luton)

Address:

Postcode:

Contact Tel Numbers:

School: Club:

Do you suffer from any illness, learning or physical disabilities which should be brought to our attention? YES NO

If YES, please give details:

I enclose a CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER payable to 'LTFC Youth Development' for £45 per term with my child's name and my cheque guarantee card number on the back. DECLARATION BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN: I wish for my son/daughter to be accepted onto the above course and confirm that any medical condition which may affect my child's participation on the course has been disclosed above. HEALTH & SAFETY/CHILD PROTECTION: I give permission for LTFC to take and use photographs of my child for future LTFC publicity, administer first aid if necessary, and to transfer my child to a hospital in an emergency. Please tick the box if you wish to order kit for £65 / 75 Please tick a box below to indicate required size:
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Name: Signature: Date:

PLEASE NOTE: Confirmation of bookings will be sent by email. Please provide below.

Email address for confirmation:

For more information call us on 01582 583618 or email tips.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk

For more information regarding our Youth Development Programme

visit www.ltfc.co.uk

JUNIOR HATTERS



COME ON YOU JUNIOR HATTERS!!

The new and improved **JUNIOR HATTERS** Club is the only way for young supporters to follow Luton Town. Get closer to the Hatters (especially Happy Harry!) and you'll receive **LOADS OF GOODIES** exclusive to the Junior Hatters! Once registered you will be a Junior Hatter until you reach the age of 16. But the best thing about becoming a member is that it's completely **FREE!!**

Come On You Hatters!

HAPPY HARRY

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Membership Card with personal log in number
- E-card at Christmas time and Birthday
- A quarterly newsletter
- 1 Free home league ticket*
- Free admission to all Reserve games**
- 10% discount on tickets for all accompanying adults
- 10% discount at the Club Shop.
- Monthly draws to be a Mascot or Ball Boy
- A dedicated room for all JH at home games
- AND MUCH MORE!

* Provided the JH is accompanied by a paying adult

** Provided the JH is accompanied by an adult whose ticket is also free

Fill in this application and return it to Junior Hatters, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road Stadium, Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW; or you can email a copy to juniorhatters@lutontown.co.uk

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WHO DO YOU ATTEND MATCHES WITH

FAVOURITE HATTERS PLAYER

CHALLENGE HARRY

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP CHECKING THE LTFC FACEBOOK & TWITTER FOR MORE CHANCES TO WIN FREE TICKETS AND CLUB SHOP VOUCHERS

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GOOD LUCK!!

HAPPY HARRY

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CAN YOU GUESS THE THREE PLAYERS IN EACH PHOTO?



HAIR

EYES & NOSE



MOUTH & NECK

COMPLETE THE PUZZLES AND FILL IN YOUR DETAILS, THEN RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE TICKET OFFICE BEFORE SATURDAY 11TH MAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN FREE TICKETS!!

WHO WANTS IT MOST! -ALL 5 PLAY-OFF GAMES LIVE

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02 MAY	YORK CITY vs. MANSFIELD TOWN	7.30PM
03 MAY	LUTON TOWN vs. WREXHAM	7.30PM

PLAYOFF 2ND LEGS

07 MAY	MANSFIELD TOWN vs. YORK CITY	2.00PM
07 MAY	WREXHAM vs. LUTON TOWN	4.30PM

20 MAY	PROMOTION FINAL	3.00PM
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UPS AND DOWNS

WHO THE TOWN COULD BE FACING NEXT SEASON

■ DOWN FROM LEAGUE ONE

Should the Town be successful in their quest for promotion then supporters will face the four clubs relegated from League One.

Rochdale were the first club to be relegated and the Dale have since been joined by Exeter City, Chesterfield and Wycombe Wanderers who exited the trapdoor at the weekend.

Exeter lost 4-1 at Carlisle United, whilst Chesterfield lost 3-2 to Yeovil Town and Wycombe - 3-2 up with two minutes left - lost 4-3 at home to Notts County.

■ IN LEAGUE 2

The Town definitely won't be playing Swindon Town or Shrewsbury Town following their elevation to League 1. Swindon secured the title whilst Shrewsbury nabbed the second automatic promotion spot after beating Dagenham & Redbridge.

Crawley, Torquay and Southend all face a battle for the third and final promotion spot with two of those involved in the Play-Offs with Cheltenham And one from either Crewe or Oxford, who will contest the final Play-Off place up for grabs on the last day of the season.

Of those clubs not involved in last day drama that the Town could face include Plymouth Argyle, Northampton, AFC Wimbledon, Paul Buckle's former employers Bristol Rovers and Burton Albion - the only team in League 2 the Hatters have not played.

For ground hoppers, Rotherham are due to move into a new stadium whilst Morecambe's Globe Arena was opened last season.

Macclesfield were relegated at the weekend to non-league football while either Hereford or Barnet will join them. Hereford will go down unless they beat Torquay and Dover on Saturday.



The Town could face Gary Waddock's Wycombe next season

■ BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

Should the Town be in League 2 next year they will meet champions Fleetwood Town on

The Play-Offs are all contested by former League clubs with the second semi-final third-placed Mansfield and fourth-placed

The Hatters will definitely not be playing Darlington, Hayes & Yeading and Basingstoke Town in their relegation from the Blue Square Bet season.

■ UP FROM NORTH & SOUTH

Should the Hatters face a fourth season in the Blue Square Bet Premier they will face the champions of the Blue Square Bet North, a

Dartford, Welling United, Sutton United, Basingstoke Town will contest the Play-off southern section whilst Guiseley, AFC Gainsborough Trinity and Nuneaton Town in the northern section for a place in non-league football.

ON THE ROAD

SUPPORT THE TOWN ON OUR TRAVELS



WREXHAM v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

MONDAY 7TH MAY 2012, KICK-OFF 4.30PM



This match is all-ticket for Town supporters.

We have received an allocation of 1,219 seats for the upper and lower sections of the Yale Stand.

Tickets are now on general sale from the ticket office and will remain available until the close of business on Saturday (12 noon).

There will be a collection point available at Wrexham for those who are unable to collect tickets from Luton Ticket Office.

Prices: £17.00 Adults, £10.00 Seniors (over 60),
£10.00 Young Person (under 22), £5.00 Juniors (under 16)

Wheelchair tickets are available directly from Wrexham by ringing 01978 364492.



GETTING TO...WREXHAM – THE RACECOURSE

Bobbers Travel (01234 856542): £20 adults, £17 concessions. Departure: 11am.

Car: M1 north, M6, taking the M54 from the M6 (Junction 10A Northbound). Follow the M54 to the end of the motorway and join the A5 towards Shrewsbury. Continue on the A5 past Shrewsbury and Oswestry and then join the A483 towards Wrexham. Stay on the A483 as you reach Wrexham (this is the Wrexham by-pass). Leave the A483 with at the junction of the A541 Mold Road. The ground is 300 yards from this junction (on the A541) towards Wrexham town centre.

For the sat-nav: LL11 2AH

By train: Wrexham General train station is located next to the ground.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

Here's our answers to all the questions on ticketing arrangements for the potential Square Bet Premier promotion final, should the Hatters be successful in the Semi-

■ **WHEN:** Sunday 20th May, kick-off 3pm

■ **WHERE?** The final will be played at Wembley

■ **WHAT IS OUR TICKET ALLOCATION?** If we are successful, will be allocated an initial 21,500 seats in the West End of the stadium.

■ **WHEN DO TICKETS GO ON SALE?** Tickets will go on sale on a date to be confirmed should we be successful.

■ **HOW MANY CAN I BUY?** Diamond season ticket holders and executive members can buy 10 per person. Season ticket holders are entitled to six per person.

■ **WHEN DO THEY GO ON GENERAL SALE?**

Tickets will go on sale on a date to be confirmed, should we be successful.

■ **ARE THE CLUB SELLING TICKETS?** No. Ticketing arrangements are courtesy of the Football Conference who have appointed a third party agency, See Tickets, to sell the tickets. Unfortunately, you will not be available to buy via the Luton Town ticket office, for which we apologise.

■ **HOW DO I BUY THEM?** In two ways: 1. Online via www.seetickets.com/luton or by calling See Tickets. A dedicated telephone line will be set-up solely for Town supporters. Details will be released

■ **HOW MUCH WILL THEY COST ME?**

There are two pricing structures from the match. Level 1 prices are £36 for adults and £18 for Under-16s. Level 2, which is club Wembley, is priced at £41 with no concessions.

■ **REMEMBER** All ticket information, should we be successful, will be available on www.lutontown.co.uk our social media outlets and publicised in the local press. If you need help you just have to ask.



SEASON TICKETS 2012/2013

PRICES FROZEN

All Areas

Category	Age	Early Bird			Prime Time			Anytime		
		2 nd April - 6 th May		Diamond	7 th May - 30 th June		Diamond	1 st July Onwards		Diamond
		Price	£ per match		Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond
Adult	22-64	300	13.04	450	335	14.55	485	365	15.87	515
Young Adult	17-21	200	8.70	330	230	10.00	360	260	11.30	390
Senior	65-74	200	8.70	330	230	10.00	360	260	11.30	390
Golden Senior	Over 75	130	5.65	260	155	6.74	285	170	7.39	300
Youth	10-16	100*	4.35	150	100*	4.35	150	110*	4.78	160
Junior	Under 10	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100

Uncovered Seating - Enclosure A & B

Category	Age	Early Bird			Prime Time			Anytime		
		2 nd April - 6 th May		Diamond	7 th May - 30 th June		Diamond	1 st July Onwards		Diamond
		Price	£ per match		Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond
Adult	22-64	270	11.74	420	300	13.04	450	325	14.13	475
Young Adult	17-21	180	7.83	310	210	9.13	340	240	10.43	370
Senior	65-74	180	7.83	310	210	9.13	340	240	10.43	370
Golden Senior	Over 75	130	5.65	260	155	6.74	285	170	7.39	300
Youth	10-16	100*	4.35	150	100*	4.35	150	110*	4.78	160
Junior	Under 10	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100

*UNDER 17'S £50 (£100 FOR DIAMOND) WITH A FULL PAYING ADULT, FOR ALL AREAS



Luton Town Football Club - Season 2012/2013

Season Ticket Application Form

To apply for the Instalment Plan scheme for season 2012/2013, please complete and return this form to the Ticket Office.

Personal Details					
Full Name (incl title)				Client Reference (if known)	
Address and Postcode				Daytime tel. No	
				Evening tel. No	
				Mobile tel. No	
Email address				Date of birth (compulsory)	
Season Ticket Details					
Season ticket details	Stand		Block		Row
Season ticket type (Please tick)	Junior (under 10)	Youth (10-16)	Young Adult (17-21)	Adult (22-64)	Senior (65-74)
Type of Season Ticket (please tick)	Regular			Diamond	
Payment Details					
Season ticket total price					
Payment Method (Please tick)	Credit or Debit Card	Cash or Cheque	4 Monthly Instalment Plan (Early Bird Only)		8 Monthly Instalment Plan (Prime Time and All Other Months)
8 Month Plan Only					
First Month Payment of: (see payment chart)			Subsequent Monthly Instalments of:		
Four Month Plan – The first payment is made at the time of application and three subsequent payments are made on the 1 st July & 1 st Aug 2012					
Eight Month Plan – First payment is made at the time of application. The second payment will commence on the 1 st July 2012 and the 1 st of each month thereafter up to and including 1 st February 2013 (or for 7 consecutive months thereafter where applied for after 1 st July).					
The information you provide on this form will be used to process the booking and ensure your enrolment on the 'instalment plan' scheme. By completing and returning this form you agree to the terms and conditions and have read and understood the privacy policy overleaf.					
Applicants signature:				Date:	
Card Details					
Cardholders signature				Cardholders name	
Cardholder's full name and address (including postcode) if different from the above					
Credit/debit card no:					
Valid from				Expiry date	

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 1, Antwi, Osano, Kean, Howells, Lawless, O'Connor, Barnes-Homer*	
Sat 20	15:00	H	Southport	5-1	5,681	64	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1, Howells, Kean, Watkins 1***, Lawless, Willmott 1, Dance, O'Connor**	
Tue 23	19:45	A	Mansfield Town	1-1	2,592	437	10	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi 1, Howells, Kean, Watkins 1***, Lawless, Willmott, Morgan-Smith, Connor**, Crow	
Sat 27	15:00	H	Braintree Town	3-1	5,703	110	6	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells 1, Dance***, Lawless*, Kean, Willmott, Crow*, Maitth 2	
Tue 30	19:45	A	Hayes & Yeading United	2-2	1,015	727	8	Tyler, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells*, Dance**, Lawless, Kean, Willmott, Crow 1***, Maitth 1	
■ September									
Fri 2	19:45	A	Stockport County	TV	1-1	3,389	321	6	Tyler, Osano, Kean, Antwi, A-Adjaye, Lawless 1, Kissack*, Watkins, Willmott, M-Smith, Gray**
Sat 10	15:00	H	Darlington	2-0	5,952	151	6	Tyler, Kean, 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, Kean, Willmott***, Morgan-Smith, Crow, Fleetwood**	
Sat 17	15:00	H	Lincoln City	1-0	6,316	206	2	Tyler, Dance, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith***, Lawless, Hand, Willmott, Fleetwood 1, Crow*	
Tue 20	19:45	A	Bath City	1-1	1,158	442	1	Tyler, Dance*, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith 1, Lawless, Hand, Kissack*, Fleetwood, Crow***	
Sat 24	15:00	A	York City	0-3	3,570	606	6	Tyler, Kean, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Dance, Lawless**, Hand, Kissack*, Willmott, Fleetwood***	
Tue 27	19:45	H	Cambridge United	0-1	6,274	522	9	Tyler, Dance, Kovacs, Antwi, Howells, Morgan-Smith, Hand***, Kean, Willmott**, Fleetwood, Crow	
■ October									
Sat 1	15:00	H	Barrow	5-1	5,613	115	6	Tyler, Osano, Kean, 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**, Kean, Willmott 2, O'Connor, Morgan-Smith	
Tue 11	19:45	A	Ebbfest 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, Kean, Dance, Morgan-Smith, Fleetwood	
Tue 18	19:45	H	Wrexham	0-1	7,270	239	5	Tyler, Osano, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Blackett, Willmott, Kean, Dance, Howells, Fleetwood 1, 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 1, Wright 1
Sat 29	15:00	H	Hendon (FAC 4Q)	5-1	2,329	193	-	K. Pilkington, Osano, Beckwith, Antwi, Howells, Dance 1, Hand***, O'Connor 2 (1pen), Knock, 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*, Kean, 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, Kean, Kissack**, M-Smith, O'Connor	
Sat 19	15:00	A	Cambridge United	1-1	4,796	1,754	7	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Howells, Hand, Lawless, Kean, Kissack**, M-Smith, O'Connor	
Sat 26	15:00	A	Newport County	1-0	1,511	273	6	K. Pilkington, Osano, G. Pilkington, Howells, Hand, Kissack**, M-Smith, 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, Kean, 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, Kean, 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*, Kean, Howells, Lawless, O'Connor***, Crow 1	
Sat 10	15:00	H	Swindon S (FAT1)	2-0	1,298	55	-	Tyler, Gleeson*, Beckwith, Lacey, Taylor, Kissack*, Watkins, Kean, Osano, Brunt*, Fleetwood 1	
Sat 17	15:00	A	Tamworth	3-1	1,467	622	5	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Kean, 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, Kean, 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***, Kean, 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, Kean, Watkins, Howells, O'Connor 1, Crow 1**	
Tues 10	19:45	H	Stockport County	1-0	5,588	78	3	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, G. Pilkington, Taylor, Dance*, Watkins, Lawless, Howells, Fleetwood*, Crow	
Wed 18	19:45	A	Hinckley United (FAT2)	0-0	754	75	-	Tyler, Osano, Lacey, Asafu-Adjaye, O'Donnell, McAdams**, Dance, Kissack, Willmott, Feed, Ann*	
Sat 21	15:00	A	Southport	3-3	1,665	540	3	K. Pilkington, Taylor, Kovacs, G. Pilkington, Taylor, Lawless, Kean, Watkins*, Dance***, Howells, Crow 1	
Mon 23	19:30	H	Hinckley United (FATR2)	3-0*	1,004	81	-	Tyler, Osano, Asafu-Adjaye, Lacey, O'Donnell, Nash, McAdams**, Willmott, Kissack, Fleetwood 1***, Morgan-Smith 1**	
Wed 25	19:30	H	Mansfield Town	TV	0-0	5,261	111	3	K. Pilkington, Gleeson, Kovacs, G. Pilkington, Taylor, Lawless, Watkins, Howells, Morgan-Smith*, O'Connor, Crow**
Sat 28	15:00	H	Alfreton Town	1-0	5,658	89	3	Tyler, Gleeson, G. Pilkington 1, Kovacs, Taylor, Willmott***, Watkins**, Lawless, Howells 1, McAllister	
■ February									
Tue 7	19:45	A	Kidderminster H (FAT3)	2-1	1,186	111	-	Tyler, Osano, Blackett, Beckwith, Taylor, Lawless, Henry**, Kissack, Willmott, Howells 1, Fleetwood 1	
Sat 18	15:00	H	Tamworth	3-0*	5,833	66	3	Tyler, Osano*, G. Pilkington, Kovacs 1, Taylor 1, Lawless, Kissack**, Howells, Boucard, O'Connor***, Fleetwood 1	
Tue 21	19:45	A	Barrow	0-1	925	70	3	Tyler, Kean, Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Howells, Boucard, O'Connor, Fleetwood 1, McAllister*	
Sat 25	15:00	H	Gateshead (FATQF)	2-0	2,499	88	-	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Blackett, Pilkington, Taylor, Lawless, Kean, Kissack 1, Howells, Willmott***, Crow**	
■ March									
Sat 3	15:00	H	Bath City	2-0	5,745	80	3	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Kovacs 1, Pilkington, Taylor, Lawless, Kean, Kissack*, Willmott, Howells, O'Connor 1, Crow	
Wed 7	19:30	A	Wrexham	TV	0-2	4,206	167	3	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Kovacs, Pilkington, Taylor***, Lawless, Kean, Boucard*, O'Connor, Howells, Crow
Sat 10	15:00	A	York City (FATSF1)	0-1	3,365	457	-	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Kovacs, Pilkington, Taylor, Lawless, Watkins, Kean, Kissack*, O'Connor, Howells, Crow**	
Tue 13	19:45	A	Darlington	1-1	1,382	123	3	Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Kovacs, Pilkington, Taylor, Lawless, Watkins*, Kean, Kissack*, O'Connor, Howells, Crow**	
Sat 17	15:00	H	York City (FATSF2)	1-1	5,796	400	-	Tyler, Osano, Pilkington, Kovacs, Taylor, Lawless, Watkins*, Kean, Kissack*, O'Connor, Howells, Crow**	
Tue 20	19:45	A	Forest Green Rovers	0-3	975	297	4	Tyler, Osano, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Lawless*, Kean, O'Connor***, Watkins*, Willmott, Fleetwood	
Sat 24	15:00	H	Grimsby Town	1-1	6,419	484	5	Tyler, Osano, Kovacs, Pilkington, Howells, Lawless*, Kean, O'Connor***, Watkins*, Willmott, Fleetwood	
Fri 30	19:30	H	York City	TV	1-2	5,925	196	6	Tyler, Osano, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Wilmott, Lawless, Kean, Poku, Gray 1
■ April									
Sat 7	15:00	A	Braintree Town	1-3	1,703	882	7	Tyler, Osano, Kovacs, Pilkington, Blackett, Howells, Boucard**, Keane, Lawless***, O'Connor, Gray 1	
Mon 9	15:00	H	Hayes & Yeading United	4-2	6,003	79	7	Tyler, Osano, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Lawless, Wilmott***, Keane 1, Poku, Fleetwood 1, Gray 1*	
Sat 14	15:00	A	Alfreton Town	0-0	1,654	889	7	Tyler, Osano*, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Wilmott***, Keane, Poku, Lawless, Fleetwood, Gray	
Tue 17	19:45	H	Ebbfest United	3-0	5,526	59	7	Tyler, Osano*, Pilkington, Kovacs, Howells, Wilmott***, Keane, Poku, Lawless, Fleetwood, Gray	
Sat 21	15:00	H	Kidderminster Harriers	1-0	8,415	751	5	Tyler, Osano, Kovacs, Pilkington, Howells, Keane, Lawless, Watkins*, Willmott 1**, Fleetwood*, Gray	
Tue 24	19:45	A	Gateshead	0-0	703	150	5	Tyler, Osano, Kovacs, Pilkington, Howells, Keane, Lawless, Watkins*, Willmott*, Fleetwood, Gray	
Sat 28	13:00	A	Fleetwood Town	2-0	4,446	683	5	Tyler, Osano, Kovacs, Pilkington, Howells, Keane, Lawless*, Watkins, Kissack, McAllister 1, Gray 1***	
■ May									
Thu 3	19:30	H	Wrexham (PO-SE1)						

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 2011

1	Fleetwood Town	46	31	10	5	102
2	Wrexham	46	30	8	8	85
3	Mansfield Town	46	25	14	7	87
4	York City	46	23	14	9	81
5	LUTON TOWN	46	22	15	9	78
7	Kidderminster Harriers	46	22	10	14	82
7	Southport	46	21	13	12	72
8	Gateshead	46	21	11	14	69
9	Cambridge United	46	19	14	13	57
10	Forest Green Rovers	46	19	13	14	66
11	Grimsby Town	46	19	13	14	79
12	Braintree Town	46	17	11	18	76
13	Barrow	46	17	9	20	62
14	Ebbsfleet United	46	14	12	20	69
15	Alfreton Town	46	15	9	22	62
16	Stockport County	46	12	15	19	58
17	Lincoln City	46	13	10	23	56
18	Tamworth	46	11	15	20	47
19	Newport County	46	11	14	21	53
20	AFC Telford United	46	10	16	20	45
R	Hayes & Yeading	46	11	8	27	58
R	Darlington	46	11	13	22	47
R	Bath City	46	7	10	29	43
R	Kettering Town	46	8	9	29	40

PLAYER STATS 2011/12

	THIS SEASON		CUP		TOTAL	
	LEAGUE		LEAGUE	CUP	LEAGUE	CUP
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS
Alasan ANN	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)
Will ANTWI	12	(0)	2	1	(0)	13
Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE	7	(2)	0	4	(0)	11
Matthew BARNES-HOMER	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	1
Dean BECKWITH	8	(0)	1	3	(0)	11
Shane BLACKETT	5	(4)	0	2	(1)	7
Matthew BOUCAUD	4	(3)	0	0	(0)	4
Ryan BRUNT	0	(5)	0	1	(0)	1
Paul CARDEN	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	1
Danny CROW	23	(6)	9	4	(2)	27
James DANCE	21	(5)	3	2	(0)	23
Stuart FLEETWOOD	22	(15)	11	6	(1)	28
Dan GLEESON	8	(2)	0	2	(0)	10
Andre GRAY	9	(0)	5	0	(0)	9
Jamie HAND	11	(2)	2	2	(0)	13
Charlie HENRY	0	(2)	0	2	(2)	0
fake HOWELLS	42	(0)	5	7	(0)	49
Keith KEANE	33	(0)	1	6	(0)	39
John Paul KISSOCK	7	(14)	0	7	(1)	1
Janos KOVACS	37	(0)	4	4	(0)	41
Alex LACEY	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	3
Alex LAWLESS	38	(0)	2	6	(0)	44
Brett LONGDEN	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0
Colby McADAMS	0	(0)	0	2	(1)	1
Craig McALLISTER	4	(9)	2	0	(0)	4
Amari MORGAN-SMITH	15	(2)	9	2	(0)	17
Freddie MURRAY	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0
Jerry NASH	0	(0)	0	1	(1)	0
Aaron O'CONNOR	21	(13)	5	3	(1)	4
JJ O'DONNELL	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	2
Curtis OSANO	28	(0)	0	7	(1)	35
George PINKINGTON	33	(0)	1	5	(0)	38

	Goals	Assists	Penalties	Yellow	Red	Shots	Off	On	Off	On	Off	On
Kevin PILKINGTON	12	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	15	(0)	0	0	0	0
Godfrey POKU	5	(5)	0	0	(0)	0	5	(5)	0	0	0	0
Collin SAMUEL	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	0
Charlie SMITH	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	0
Christian TAVERNIER	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	0
Greg TAYLOR	15	(2)	1	5	(0)	0	20	(2)	0	0	0	0
Mark TYLER	34	(0)	0	7	(0)	0	41	(0)	0	0	0	0
Dan WALKER	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	0
Adam WATKINS	20	(14)	5	3	(3)	1	23	(17)	6	0	0	0
Robbie WILMOTT	29	(10)	8	6	(1)	1	35	(11)	9	0	0	0
Mike YCOLVETT	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0

LAST WORD

WITH FINAL THIRD SPORTS MEDIA'S CHRIS RIVETT

With the best part of 100 pages dedicated to the Hatters' season in this programme already I don't feel I could add much more to what has been said in the pages proceeding this, so I hope you'll forgive me for turning your attention in a different direction.

It doesn't seem appropriate to start anywhere else other than with a mention for Anthony Malbon, and his family and friends, as well as his colleagues at Kidderminster Harriers. You can't even begin to understand what must have been going through their minds when the 20-year-old was air lifted to hospital following nine minutes of treatment on the pitch at the end of Harriers' game with Mansfield Town last weekend.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. I had planned to write about something else today, but that all pales into insignificance when something like this happens in football. It immediately brought back thoughts of Tom Bender, of Fabrice Muamba, and of course, not that long ago, our own Sol Davis. Even though the last few times I have seen him he's been wearing a Kettering kit, I still call him 'our' Sol Davis - am sure you're with me on that one.

Anyway, I digress. I know the circumstances of all four individuals were completely different, and I know they are just four players I could have mentioned, there are of course many more. There is a common theme though, and that is the quick thinking of the medical specialists who arrived on the scene, and promptly made the correct diagnosis of the situation to enable them to make the right decision.

I can't imagine the pressure that comes in a situation like that. These guys are real unsung heroes, they are at every game in every stadium around the country all season - ready at a moment's notice to be called into action.

There might be a medical specialist stood near you right now while you are reading this, let's hope that is where they stay for the whole match.

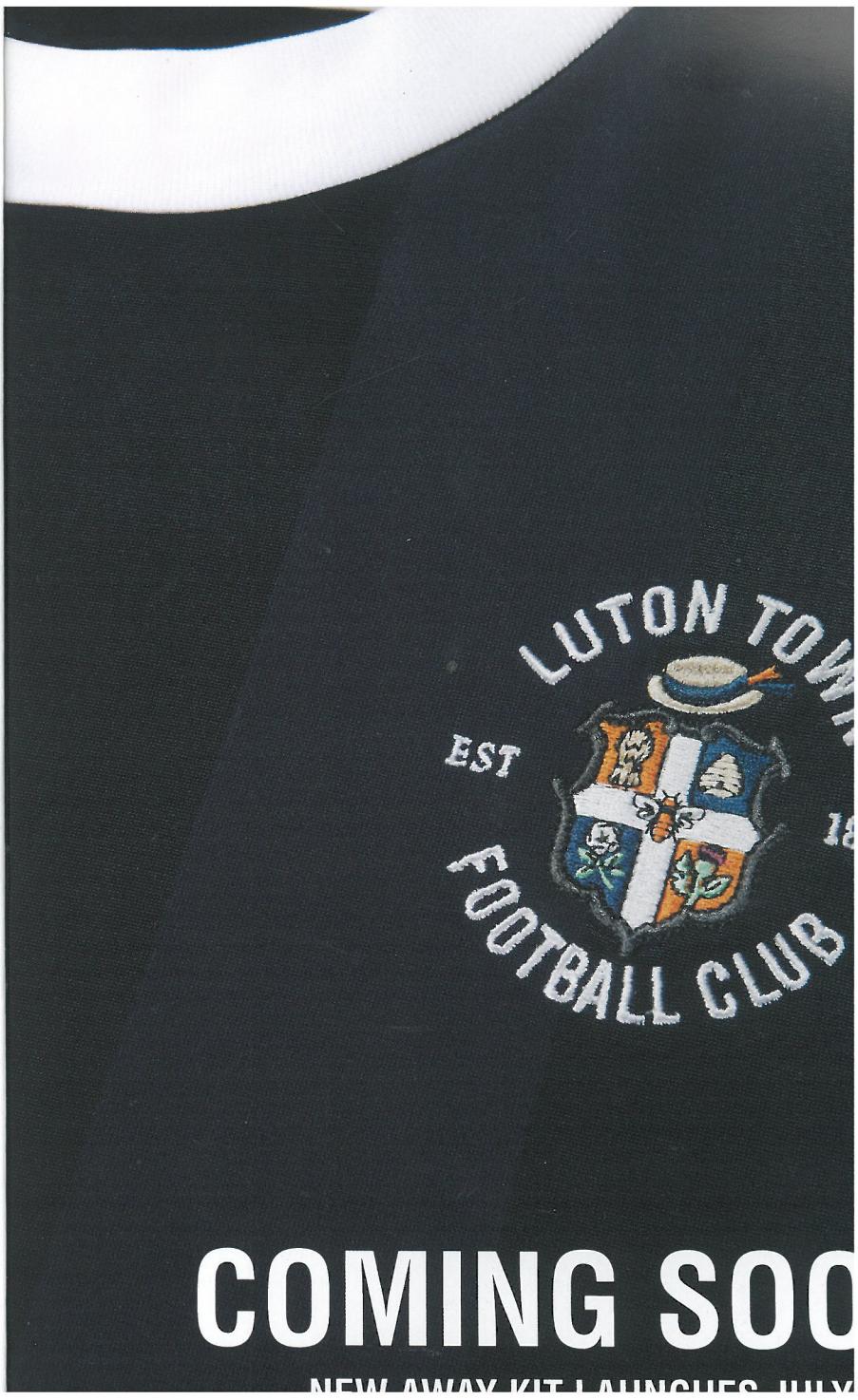
I am sure a player never gives it a second thought when they hear the first whistle blow; they don't expect they will leave the pitch on anything other than their own two feet in a state of full consciousness.

It would appear that these sorts of incidents are on the increase. Fortunately I don't think they are, I just feel that the world we live in now means we get to hear about them much quicker, and therefore they seem more frequent than they actually are.

These reports also appear far worse when it is someone like Sol who you know, or in the case of Anthony, someone many of you watched just over a week ago in our last home match. Fortunately Anthony has undergone a scan and the results have come back with the all clear. It may be sometime before he kicks a ball again, as it will be for Fabrice but I mentioned Sol earlier and it was with good reason. His recovery was amazing, back in action two months after he had suffered a stroke. I hope that he will serve as an inspiration to the players mentioned, and any others who face adversity in the future.

Everyone's circumstances are different but it shows what can be done. Little over two years later Sol was part of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy winning squad - the last Luton team to pocket a winner's medal at Wembley.

Just to swing it back to Hatters matters before I finish, let's hope we can't say that about him for much longer.



TONIGHT'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN 2 : 0 WREXHAM

Mark Tyler	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dan Gleeson	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Taylor	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keith Keane	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dean Beckwith	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Pilkington	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Lawless	7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amari Morgan-Smith	8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Craig McAllister	9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Danny Crow	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robbie Willmott	11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Blackett	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stuart Fleetwood	13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aaron O'Connor	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jake Howells	15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andre Boucaud	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curtis Osano	18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
James Dance	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Paul Kissock	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Godfrey Poku	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andre Gray	27	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adam Watkins	28	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Janos Kovacs	34	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1	Louis Gray
2	Dan Alfei
3	Neil Ashton
4	Mark Creighton
6	Jay Harris
7	Adrian Cieslewicz
9	Danny Wright
10	Jake Speight
11	Andy Morrell
12	Dean Keates
14	Leon Clowes
15	Steve Tomassen
16	Johnny Hunt
17	Glen Little
18	Jamie Tolley
19	Obi Anoruo
20	Nat Knight-Percival
21	Chris Maxwell
22	Declan Walker
23	Chris Westwood
24	Mathias Pogba
25	Joslain Mayebi
26	Joe Clarke
27	Jay Colbeck
30	Steve Leslie
31	Rob Ogleby
34	Stephen Wright
35	Rob Evans
36	Anthony Stephens

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D. Bond
 Assistant: D. Cook
 Assistant: L. Venamore
 Fourth official: K. Johnson

UP NEXT

v WREXHAM

Monday 7th May 2012 4.30pm
 Blue Square Bet Premier
 Play-Off semi-final second leg