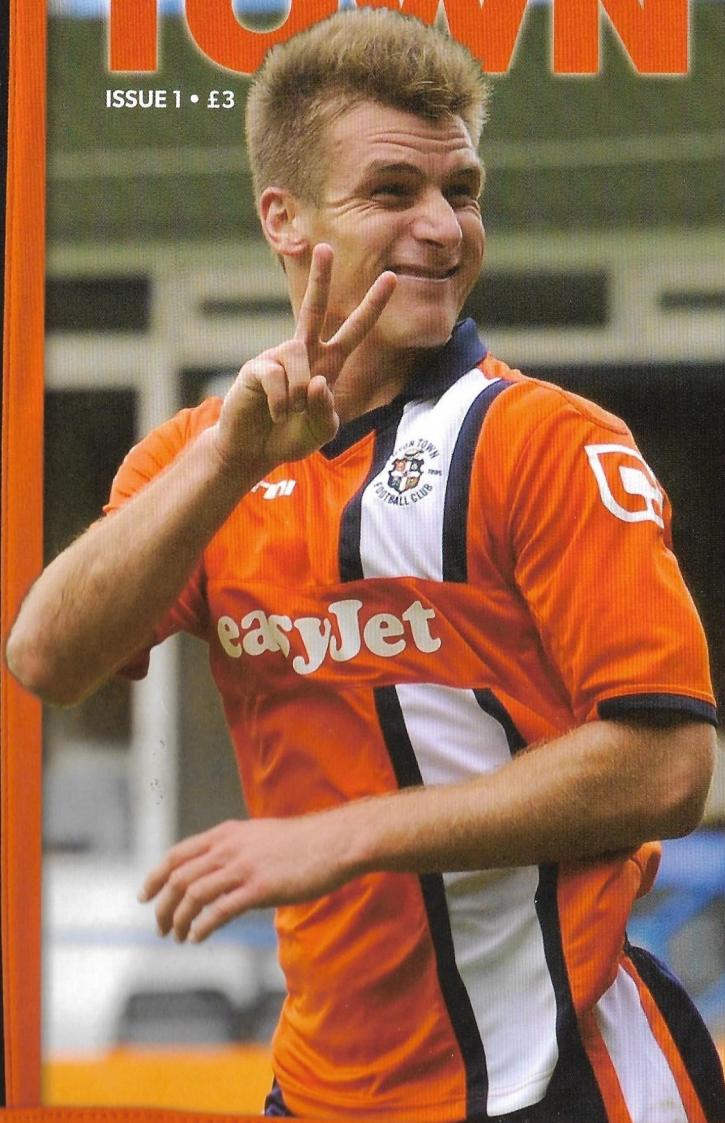




Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club

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BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

LUTON TOWN v GATESHEAD

SATURDAY 11th AUGUST 2012 • 3PM



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

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PAUL

BUCKLE

A big welcome back to you all to Kenilworth Road for the first game of the new season against Gateshead.

Today represents our first opportunity to get points on the board as we begin what promises to be an exciting, if not tough, campaign in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

Some things in football change but my philosophy and ethos certainly hasn't. This afternoon we will try to do what we will do in every game; attack teams and work hard for one another.

In our path today are Gateshead who will no doubt be a tough opposition, but I am confident we can continue our fine pre-season of scoring goals and keeping clean sheets.

Our preparation over the past few months has been rigorous and I am pleased with the way the team has developed during the course of pre-season.

One of the main points I have told the players is that we have standards – high standards – and in this unforgiving league we cannot afford to dip below these. Hard work will get us there and from what I've seen from the players so far I am happy that they are taking this important message seriously.

For me, the performance levels of the players are hugely important and it's vital that we perform to a high standard on a consistent basis if we are to succeed this season.

We all know that today and the subsequent 45 matches are massive for Luton Town Football Club and everyone is in it together.

The board, you - the supporters, the management and the players are all



Paul Buckle is sponsored by



Greg Taylor holds aloft the David Preece Memorial Trophy

pulling in the same direction and a happy club is a great place to be and that in itself breeds confidence. It's something that we need to keep in mind throughout the next nine months.

I have been told that we have sold well over 4,000 season tickets and this afternoon almost 7,000 of you will be backing us. That is absolutely fantastic. In the fifth tier of English football your passion knows no bounds.

There will be times when our passing might not be at its best, when our finishing or defending is called into question. All I ask is that you stick by us and the team. I've said it before and I'll say it again; together we can conquer.

It has been a very productive pre-season but we have still had our fair share of problems with injuries to new recruits Danny Spiller, Garry Richards and Jon Shaw. It's not been as smooth as I would have liked but the one thing which has delighted myself and the coaching staff has been the attitude and application of the younger players.

With their contribution we have been able to maintain an unbeaten record in pre-season and from the players'

point of view the games have enabled them to pick up valuable experience of playing at Kenilworth Road against strong Football League opposition.

However, it doesn't matter whether you're young or old – all players understand what it is like to play for Luton Town and the pressures that come with it.

They'll be times when the opposition will raise their game against us just because we are Luton Town.

To combat that we need a strong group who will work hard to ensure that you are proud of your football club and I believe we have a group here that will do that.

You play a major part in our season so please get behind and welcome this new group and fresh start. As I've said, there will be times when it won't be pretty but if we all support each other we can achieve great things.

Enjoy the game.

Paul Buckle

FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



As the sun sets on a truly magnificent London Olympics, today marks the dawn of a new football season for Luton Town Football Club. And I am sure, like me, you are fired with that customary first day cocktail of excitement, anticipation, apprehension and optimism. Football fans are nothing if not optimistic and full of hope - what's the point if we don't fantasise about roaring crowds, thrilling goals, epic victories and a memorable finale?

So welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first game of season 2012/13 in the Blue Square Bet Premier. For the last three years, we have come so close to promotion back to the Football League - we've reached the Play-Offs each time, as you know, and lost in the final twice. Surely this has to be our year.

We certainly feel manager Paul Buckle has everything in place on the field, with no fewer than nine new faces, so a warm welcome to them all - Ronnie Henry, our new captain, Dean Brill (good to see a Lutonian back with the club), Yaser Kasim, Scott Rendell, Garry Richards, Matthew Robinson, Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, Jon Shaw and Danny Spiller.

Highly-impressive

In every case, I feel it is a tribute to Paul; the heritage of our fine football club and our redoubtable fans that these players have chosen to pledge their futures to Luton Town. From what I have already seen on the field in pre-season friendlies, and indeed from what I've heard from behind the scenes, these players are a highly-impressive group complementing a very strong squad going into the new season. Here's hoping that Danny Spiller and Garry Richards can get themselves fully fit as soon as possible.

It's also a good time to say thanks to all the players who've moved on, after playing their part for Luton Town,

particularly Keith Keane and George Pilkington. Keith and George were always two of our most popular, loyal, reliable and committed performers. They sampled some dreadful disappointments but, in amongst all the ups and downs, they'll both undoubtedly treasure the exhilarating memory of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final victory at Wembley in 2009.

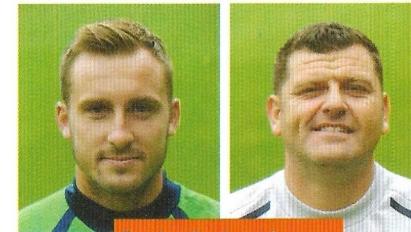
I'd also like to say welcome back to Wayne Turner, who's steeped in Luton Town history, of course. He was born in Luton, played for Luton, coached at Luton and has now returned to Luton as Head of Youth. It's great to have you on board again, Wayne, and all the best to you in what is an absolutely vital part of our football club, for now and the future.

Welcome back also to our former goalkeeper Carl Emberson, who's come in as First Team Development Coach. It's good to see him around the place again, too. Let me also say farewell and thanks to Gregg Broughton, as he moves on from leading our youth set-up here for six years to Norwich City. What a remarkable job he did for us - many thanks, Gregg, and here's to success in your new role at Carrow Road.

Absolutely fantastic

There's a tremendous buzz around the place at the moment as we gear ourselves up for the new season and that air of anticipation certainly seems to have spread to our supporters because we have sold around 4,000 season tickets - absolutely fantastic, thank you very much.

One thing that has been driving me bonkers, though, and I bet you feel the same, is our new website. I'm sure you'll agree that the old one needed refreshing, but it's been a real problem, for various technical reasons, getting it fully on stream. Ninety other clubs are finding similar problems with their new sites - some much worse than ours. Ipswich had a Norwich City man on their player profiles, while Stockport County carried Southport's fixture list. Our Press Officer Andrew Barringer has been working tirelessly to try to get it going properly and we will get there, but please be patient.



Two familiar faces from the goalkeeping union have returned

So here we go. Personally, I am delighted with the way things have turned around on the field since Paul Buckle arrived. The new energy and direction was plain for all to see in the closing stages last season, despite disappointment at Wembley, and now he's had another three months or so to bring in the sort of players he feels are crucial to our success.

Unbeaten

I am already hugely impressed with the work ethic of the squad, the commitment and running, constantly pressing the opposition as well as showing no little skill when we're on the ball. We're unbeaten in pre-season and that includes convincing performances against Ipswich Town and Leyton Orient. We beat them both and they couldn't score against us.

Today's visitors are Gateshead, who had a good season last time around by finishing eighth and challenging for a Play-Off place until late on, and I would like to welcome their players, directors and supporters to Kenilworth Road. It's ironic that Jon Shaw's first Blue Square Bet Premier match for Luton Town should be against the team-mates he's just left behind in the north east.

Many thanks again for your continuing and dedicated support - it's constantly talked about by the players, especially by the new ones coming in. It's massively appreciated and it's the envy of many clubs, even two divisions above us.

We are equally passionate in the boardroom, as you know. We are long-standing (suffering) supporters and, like you, we cannot wait to get the new season started - now the time has come!

Enjoy the game.

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F.A.Cup:

Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:

Winners 2009

Simod Cup:

Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:

Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):

Winners 1936/37
Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 1969/70

League One:

Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:

Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:

Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:

Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:

Runners-up 1913/14

United League:

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

Southern Alliance:

Runners-up 1913/14

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RONNIE HENRY

Good afternoon and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this opening day fixture against Gateshead.

It's always nice to have a home game to kick-off the season and what better place to do so than at Kenilworth Road.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to write these notes as captain of Luton Town. When the manager told me the news I was absolutely thrilled, as were my family.

It is a huge honour and I will be a very proud man leading the lads out of the dressing room this afternoon.

As the appointed leader on the pitch it is a big responsibility and one that I am relishing. I have always been a vocal player on the field and it's nice to be trusted by the manager and my teammates.

I have only been here a short time but thanks to the backroom staff and the administration staff at the club, and you - the supporters - I feel I have been here a lot longer.

I have been made to feel very welcome and it's not easy for players to fit in straight away at a new club.

Your support has been absolutely unbelievable in the friendlies so I, like all the lads, are looking forward to this afternoon and the rest of the season in the league.

To take the thousands of fans to the likes of Hitchin, St Albans and Dunstable is fantastic and it goes to show just how loyal and passionate you are about this club.

Our results in pre-season have been hugely encouraging. We have kept it incredibly tight at the back and scored plenty of goals - what more could you ask for?

The schedule and variation of games have been perfect in terms of preparation. For me pre-season is all about winning and building confidence.

Of course, improving fitness levels plays a major part but there's nothing better for morale than beating teams of the calibre of Ipswich Town and Leyton Orient.

We are all aware that you get nothing for victories in friendlies and performances in training but the hard work we have been putting in over the past month will be put into practise this afternoon.

Tough games

A bad performance and result in pre-season can, like in any league match, affect confidence. As we haven't had one, we have held our heads high in training and worked incredibly hard as we aim to get the season off to a flier this afternoon.

Today is the first game in a long, hard season and there are going to be a lot of tough games where teams are not going to just lie down.

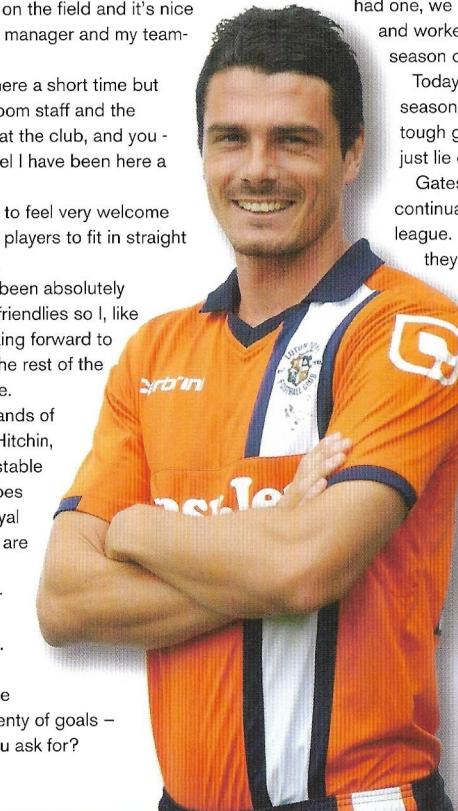
Gateshead are a good side and have continually improved since returning to this league. Like a lot of the clubs in the division they harbour hopes of a successful season, but so do we.

We know if we work hard enough and take the confidence from our pre-season results into today then we can get a positive result.

Whether it's at Kenilworth Road, or at Barrow in February on a Tuesday night, I can assure you the lads will be giving 100 per cent - that's the least you deserve for your support.

Here's to a great season that begins with three points this afternoon.

Ronnie



Ronnie is sponsored by **Mark Francome and Key Holder Lettings & Management**

AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

BUSY SUMMER

Welcome back to another season at Kenilworth Road. It's been a rather busy summer here in a number of ways.

New recruits in the dressing room were the big news with no less than nine new faces brought in by boss Paul Buckle.

Please give a warm welcome to them all. If you turn to the fixture list page at the back of this programme you can find out further information of all nine players who have joined.

It wasn't just new arrivals and departures though, as a number of familiar faces agreed contract extensions.

Alex Lawless, Alex Lacey, JJ O'Donnell, Jake Howells, Dan Walker, Lewis Kidd and Alasan Ann all agreed new deals with the club following negotiations over the course of the close season.

Three players still contracted to the club have joined other teams on loan until January. Goalkeeper Kidd has joined Dunstable, John Paul Kissock is at Macclesfield whilst Andre Boucaud has joined Notts County.

There will also be familiar face on the touchline this season, too, in Carl Emberson, a former Town goalkeeper and team-mate of the manager who has a re-joined the club in the position of First Team Development Coach.

Jon Shaw: One of nine new faces at Kenilworth Road

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HOME TICKET PRICES

Adults (22-64) £18, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £13, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £10, Youths (10-16) £8, Juniors (under 10s) £5.



KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST 2012, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

This game is pay on the night for Town supporters. Seating: Adults £17, Over 60s and Under 16s £11 and Under 8s free. Terrace: Adults £14, Over 60s £8, Under 16s £5 and Under 8s free.



HYDE v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
FRIDAY 17TH AUGUST 2012, KICK-OFF 7.30PM

Please note the change in date for this match which will be screened live by Premier Sports. We will receive an allocation of just over 700 terrace tickets and up to 100 seats. Tickets are priced at £14 Adults, £7 Over 65s, £4 Under 16s. There is a £2 increase that is payable on entry into the seated areas. This will be one a first come first served basis. This game is pay on the night, however, we will be expecting to receive an allocation of terrace tickets towards the end of the week for anybody that wishes to purchase in advance. These tickets will be available on General Sale. We have been advised there is an Away Car Park available near the away end of the ground for the cost of £4.



LUTON TOWN v AFC TELFORD UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM
Tickets are now on sale at usual matchday prices.



EBBSFLEET UNITED v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
MONDAY 27TH AUGUST 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are awaiting ticket details from Ebbsfleet for this match.



LUTON TOWN v MACCLESFIELD TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM
Tickets are now on sale at usual matchday prices.



COMMERCIAL BREAK

EMAIL US COMMERCIAL@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

It barely seems two minutes since we were preparing for the Wrexham Play-Off fixture but here we are, about to embark on what we hope to be a successful and exciting campaign in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

It certainly has been a busy summer with this game in particular catching the attention of guests and sponsors keen to take advantage of our hospitality packages.

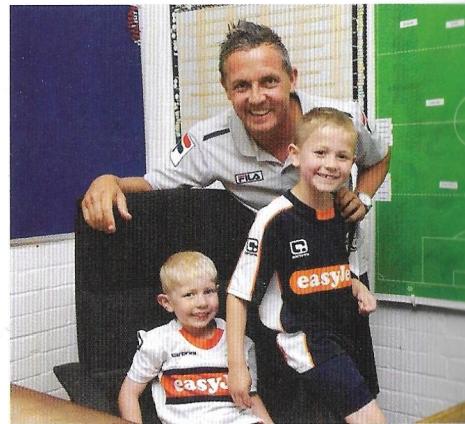
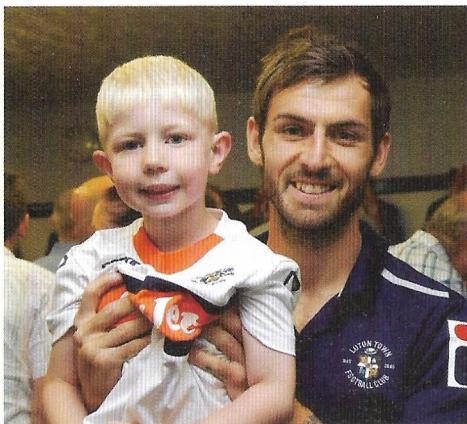
Just like it was last season, there has been substantial interest from companies - local and national - expressing a desire to snap-up corporate hospitality and sponsorship.

On our official website www.lutontown.co.uk we notified supporters of the availability of our matchday executive boxes which sparked plenty of interest.

Remember, you too can enjoy all the benefits of watching a game from this unique vantage point at Kenilworth Road - please get in touch on the number and email below.

There are 22 league matches at Kenilworth Road left after this afternoon to look forward, and therefore, plenty of opportunities to watch the Hatters in style with us - just get in contact via phone or email.

Finally I would like to thank all the sponsors and guests who attended our pre-season friendlies. A selection of photographs from the post and pre-match entertainment can be found on the page opposite.



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BOX 14: **TJ ALDRIDGE**



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BOX 16: **PRESTIGE DESIGN**



BOX 18: **CME HEATING**



BOX 20: **GILMARTINS**



BOX 24: **ROB & GREG HALL**



BOX 26: **COALESE IT**



BOX 8:

BILLINGTON & LAWRENCE

BOX 10: **F&S PIPEWORKS**



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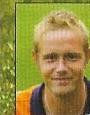
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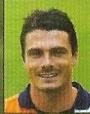
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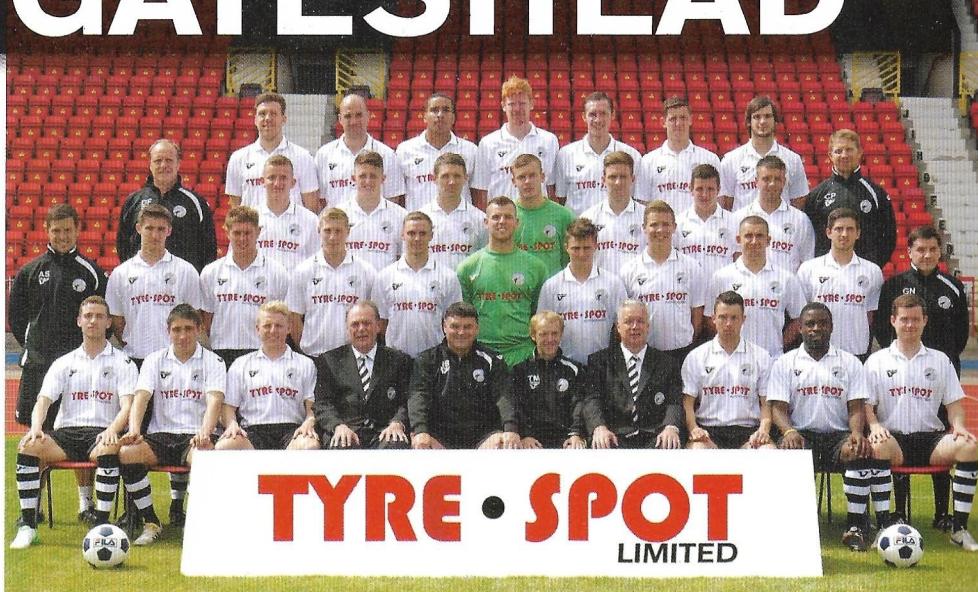


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WELCOME

GATESHEAD



It was another season of success on Tyneside last season – and we're not talking about Newcastle United.

Ian Bogie's Tynesiders finished their third season in the Blue Square Bet Premier in eighth place having been among the chasing pack for promotion right the way through the campaign. The Heed's rise from the backwaters of the Northern League since Bogie's arrival in 2007 has seen the club improve season on season, so there is an air of expectation at the International Stadium that another promotion push could be on the cards.

Much will be made of last season's top goalscorer Jon Shaw's move to Kenilworth Road and all eyes will be on the striker this afternoon, but Bogie's skill is not just about getting his sides to play good football but also replacing departing stars with new talent.

The Hatters know all too well the threat posed by the Tynesiders. In previous seasons the Town have often come unstuck at the hands of Bogie's sides.

In the first season at this level, in 2009/10, the Town laboured to a 2-1 home victory before completing a double later in the campaign with a 1-0 win on Tyneside.

The season before last, Bogie's men took four points off the Hatters with a 1-0 win at the International Stadium thanks to a header from Shaw, before a thrilling 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road that saw the Town fight back from two goals down in the first half to earn a point.

TOWN v GATESHEAD

HEAD2HEAD IN THE BSP

3	WINS	1
10	GOALS	5

LAST MEETING: April 2012: Gateshead 0-0 Town

THE HEED

AN AT-A-GLANCE VIEW OF THE GATESHEAD SQUAD



IAN BOGIE

The boss. Now in his sixth season as Gateshead manager, Bogie has guided the Tynesiders to two promotions since his appointment at the International Stadium in 2007. As a player he served Newcastle, Preston, Leyton Orient, Port Vale and Kidderminster as a midfielder, making over 450 appearances.

ADAM BARTLETT

Goalkeeper who joined the Heed this summer from Hereford United, who he played 121 times for. Has Blue Square Bet Premier experience with Kidderminster and Cambridge.

JORDAN NIXON

Young goalkeeper arrived this summer from Darlington.

BEN CLARK

Centre-back and captain who arrived on Tyneside from League 1 Hartlepool in 2010. Came through the ranks at Sunderland as a youngster and has gone on to pick up a string of awards whilst with Gateshead.

PATRICK BOYLE

Scottish Under-21 international left-back on a six-month loan deal from Dunfermline Athletic. A former Everton trainee, he has also served Dumbarton and Partick Thistle.

JAMES CURTIS

The Heed's longest-serving player, James joined the club in 2003 from Northern League side Washington. A towering central defender, he has made over 400 appearances across four divisions for the club.

CHRIS BUSH

Versatile defender signed this summer from AFC Wimbledon. The youngster began his career at Brentford and has also had experience on-loan with Salisbury.

CARL MAGNAY

A January 2012 signing from Chelsea. The right-back has also enjoyed loan spells with MK Dons and Northampton and has been capped at Under-21 level for Northern Ireland.

GLENN WILSON

Right-back who signed this summer from Crawley Town who he made 157 appearances for. Spent time on loan with Fleetwood and Woking last term.

PHIL TURNBULL

Experienced central midfielder who signed in February 2008 on a permanent basis having spent time on loan from Hartlepool. A regular for the Heed over the past four seasons, Phil has also previously played for York.

MICKY CUMMINS

Former Republic of Ireland Under-21 international who signed from Grimsby last summer. The 34-year-old has a wealth of experience and last season hit 12 goals from midfield.

JAMIE CHANDLER

The Tynesiders' vice-captain who joined the club from Darlington last season. A central midfielder with an eye for a pass, he began his career as a trainee at Sunderland.

JAMES MARWOOD

Lightning-quick winger who came through the ranks at Newcastle to sign for the Heed in the summer of 2010. The son of Brian, he has racked up 50 appearances for the club.

JOSH GILLIES

A 2010 close season signing from Blyth Spartans. The winner of an FA Vase medal with Whitley Bay, Josh can operate out wide or behind the front two.

JAMES BROWN

Talented striker who signed from Hartlepool this summer, Brown spent seven years at Victoria Park. In a spell hampered by injury, he made 200 appearances scoring 37 goals prior to his move to Tyneside.

YEMI ODUBADE

Experienced and fleet-footed front-man signed from Stevenage last summer. Counts Eastbourne Town, Yeovil, Eastbourne Borough and Oxford as his former clubs, winning the Conference title with Boro in 2009/10.

NATHAN FISHER

Striker who joined the Heed in the summer of 2010 from Chester-le-Street Town. Came through the ranks as a youngster at the Middlesbrough academy.

LIAM HATCH

Experienced centre-forward who signed from Darlington in January this year. Spent a season on loan at Kenilworth Road in 2009/10 from Peterborough and has also represented Barnet and Gravesend.



Established: 1889 (Reformed in 1977)

Nickname(s): The Heed, The Tynesiders

Stadium: Gateshead International Stadium

Capacity: 11,800 (Avg. attendance '11/12 – 825)

Best Achievement: FA Cup Quarter-finalists '52/53

Manager: Ian Bogie (5 years, 3 months)

Final league position: '11/12: 8th BSBP

RECENT MEETINGS

(since '09/10 season)

P7	F12
A5	
W4	D2
	L1

Gateshead is a club moving in the right direction both on and off the field. Having improved upon their final league standing every single season for the past six years (a feat which includes back-to-back promotions), the Tynesiders are now aiming to better themselves once again by achieving a play-off spot this term. What's more, the club is awaiting a move to a brand new 7,000+ capacity stadium and the plan is to be a Football League club by the time the move is ready.

How did they fare last season?

Last season, the Heed finished eighth in the Blue Square Bet Premier with 74 points. They amassed 33 points away from home, winning 10 games on their travels (three more than the Hatters managed), including impressive victories at Mansfield, York, Kidderminster and Southport. Incredibly, they only failed to score in three away games, but it was their defensive record which let them down. Even after discounting the 5-1 drubbing they received here last October, the men from Tyneside still conceded an average of 1.41 goals per game.

The major difference between the Gateshead of last year and this year, as most Hatters will know, is the absence of centre-forward Jon Shaw. The Sheffield-born striker signed for Luton this summer after scoring an incredible 35 goals in 50 games for Gateshead last season. Shaw won his team 27 points as the only scorer in eight wins and three draws, and contributed goals to another six wins and one draw (19 points). Of Shaw's 28 league goals, 14 came away from home – meaning he scored 47% of all the Tynesiders' away goals.

How will they play?

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Gateshead is the footballing philosophy manager Ian Bogie has instilled in the club since his arrival in May 2007. Bogie, a keen admirer of the Spanish style of play, likes his men to employ an attractive short passing game and has stuck firmly to his beliefs despite criticism that his team 'overplay' the ball.



How will they line up? Who are their key men?

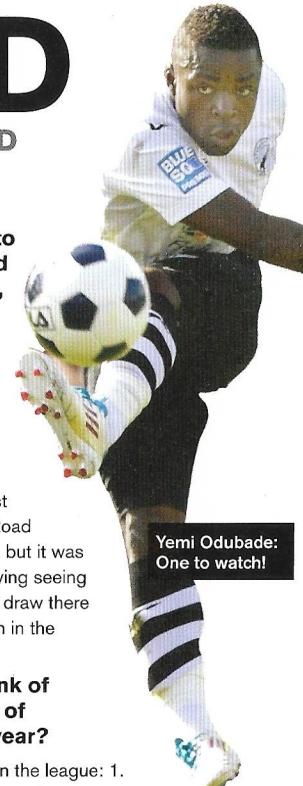
Bogie has tinkered with his team no end during pre-season, but it is likely his men will set up in a 4-3-3. Towering centre-back James Curtis, who has been at the club for nine years and made over 400 appearances, should be partnered by 20-year-old Chris Bush at the heart of the defence. In midfield, playmaker Phil Turnbull and ex-Darlington dynamo Jamie Chandler are likely to be anchored by club captain Ben Clark, who has recently been moved forward into a defensive midfield role. 34-year-old Micky Cummins scored 12 goals from midfield last year, but is likely to start on the bench. Up front, Ex-Luton loanee Liam Hatch will lead the line with Yemi Odubade and former Hartlepool forward James Brown flanking him. Odubade scored seven goals last year and made the club's most assists despite missing 20 games through injury.

Reason for caution

Despite having the edge over Gateshead in recent meetings, there is reason to be cautious going into today's curtain-raiser. Gateshead hit the ground running last season. They won six of their first seven encounters and were in the top three for the first 15 games, so they will be hoping for a similar start to this campaign with an upset here at Kenilworth Road.

THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

TALK OF THE TOWN GETS THE INSIDE WORD FROM THE VISITORS' CAMP



Have you been to Kenilworth Road before and if so, how was the experience?

The Luton fans are always friendly. Cambridge United have the most miserable supporters ever. I first went to Kenilworth Road watching Newcastle, but it was probably most satisfying seeing Gateshead getting a draw there in our second season in the Conference.

What do you think of Luton's chances of promotion this year?

I think Luton will win the league: 1. Because of Jon Shaw and 2. Because of Paul Buckle – he's done it before with Torquay. Certainly whoever finishes above Luton will win it – there's no Crawley or Fleetwood type this year.

What can Luton fans expect from Jon Shaw?

His goalscoring and heading ability are second to none, and he's such a nice lad – someone you'd like your daughter to bring home. He has a good touch, can take penalties, free-kicks – and he cost you nothing. He's the best Gateshead player I've seen in 22 years.

What's your club's favourite chant/song?

The Trail of the Lonesome Pine by Laurel and Hardy. I'm not sure how it originated, some guy was drunk at a game, we asked him for a song, he came out with this and it stuck.

What's the score going to be today?

I'll go 2-1 Gateshead, I won't live it down otherwise. Jon Shaw to score for you.

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS
10 OF GATESHEAD FINEST SEASONS

1947/48

Gateshead finished fourth in the Third Division (North) in 1947/48, their highest position for 16 years. Results were inconsistent during the first half of the season but a thrilling 7-0 win at home to Hartlepools on Christmas Day was quickly followed by a 5-0 demolition of Rochdale, with Harry Hawkins grabbing a hat-trick. Five successive wins lifted Gateshead up to third place by early February but promotion hopes faded after Oldham Athletic won 5-3 at Redheugh Park and top scorer Harry Hawkins moved to Hartlepools, despite Bill Tulip's side beating eventual champions Lincoln City 3-2. Tom Callander was ever-present in the heart of defence.

1948/49

Gateshead reached the FA Cup fourth round for the first time in 1948/49. Bill Tulip's side defeated Netherfield, Scarborough and Aldershot before facing West Brom in front of 17,000 at Redheugh Park. Tom Callander gave Gateshead a first-half lead but the Baggies triumphed 3-1 after extra-time. Leading marksman George Wilbert and Johnny Ingham scored 26 goals between them as Gateshead finished fifth in the Third Division (North). They trounced Bradford City 6-2 in mid-March and their two Easter matches against eventual champions Hull City were watched by a total 61,333 fans. Defensive pair Tom Callander and Harold Wyles were ever-present.

1949/50

Gateshead finished Third Division (North) runners-up in 1949/50. They kicked off with a 3-1 win at Rochdale, then Ernie Passmore netted four goals in a 7-1 demolition of Halifax, a hat-trick against Chester and five in a 5-3 victory at Hartlepools. But Gateshead slipped from top to mid-table before a 3-2 win at Darlington on Boxing Day sparked an improvement. They gained two consecutive 5-1 wins over York City and Tranmere Rovers, then a 5-0 victory over Accrington Stanley in mid-March heralded seven successive wins. George Wilbert was the leading marksman and Johnny Ingham was ever-present as Gateshead finished just two points behind champions Doncaster Rovers.

1952/53

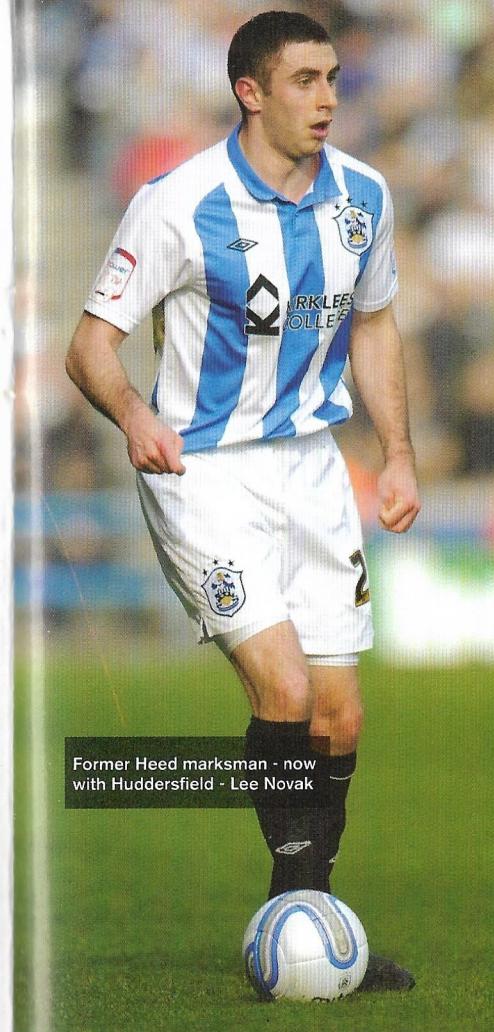
Gateshead reached the FA Cup sixth round for the only time in 1952/53. Bill Tulip's side beat Crewe Alexandra and Bradford PA before Ian Winters' goal clinched an epic 1-0 third round win at home to Liverpool. They then won at Hull City and Plymouth Argyle, before losing 1-0 to eventual finalists Bolton Wanderers in front of 17,692 at Redheugh Park. Gateshead were the North-East's last survivors in the FA Cup that season. George Wilbert was top scorer and the two Callander brothers, Jack and Tom, were both ever-present as Gateshead finished a disappointing ninth in the Third Division (North), despite hammering Crewe 6-1 and slamming five goals past Darlington and Accrington.

1953/54

Gateshead finished fourth in the Third Division (North) in 1953/54. They hit four goals past Southport, Workington, Stockport, Tranmere, Halifax and Accrington - remaining unbeaten at home until a 2-1 loss against Darlington in February. Bouncing back to hammer Grimsby 7-1 a week later, Billy Watkin scored four goals and was immediately sold to Middlesbrough. Gateshead were one of only three teams to beat champions Port Vale that season. Bill Tulip's side were second in the table in mid-March, but a 5-1 defeat at Wrexham heralded a poor run and they won just three of their last 11 matches. Bob Gray and Tom Callender were ever-present.

1982/83

Gateshead won the Northern Premier League title with a club record 100 points in 1982/83. Ray Wilkie's side included skipper Terry Hibbitt, goalkeeper and 'Player of the Year' Kenny Dodds, Steve Higgins, Gordon Hindson, Kevin Pugh and strikers Jim Pearson and Bob Topping, who scored 47 of Gateshead's 114 Northern Premier League goals between them. Gateshead trounced Netherfield 8-0, both Goole and Worksop 6-0 and Matlock, Oswestry and Tamworth 5-0. They emerged from the pack around Christmas, when they started catching up with the games in hand, and eventually finished 16 points clear of runners-up Mossley, losing just once at home all season - 2-1 to Chorley.



Former Heed marksman - now with Huddersfield - Lee Novak

1985/86

Gateshead were Northern Premier League champions in 1985/86. They began with a 2-0 win at Witton and lost just one of their first 10 games. Injury and loss of form caused a mid-season slump during which they suffered their only two home defeats, against Macclesfield and Workington. They were rocked when chairman/manager Ray Wilkie quit in March to take charge of Barrow but, inspired by Ian Donaldson, Gateshead lost just three of their last 17 games, including a 4-2 win at home to Morecambe. They pipped Marine to the title with a 3-2 victory at Rhyl in their final match. Keith McNall was top scorer with 23 goals, while Simon Smith was ever-present.

1989/90

Gateshead went close to the Northern Premier League double in 1989/90. Despite an early 3-2 victory over eventual champions Colne Dynamoes, Dave Parnaby's side were just above mid-table at Christmas, but won 11 of their last 15 games, losing just once. They finished runners-up after a 3-1 win at South Liverpool on the final day and regained Conference status after Colne were denied promotion due to ground grading issues. Gateshead were also League Cup finalists for the first time but lost 1-0 to Hyde United at Maine Road. Simon Smith and Gary Hays were ever-present, while other key players included Derek Bell, Paul Doolan, Bobby Hulse and Keith McNall.

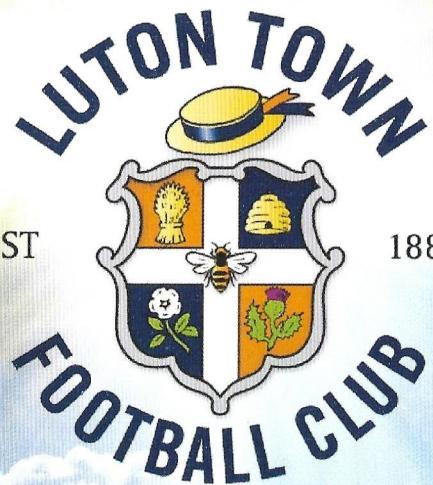
2007/08

Gateshead won the Northern Premier League play-off final in 2007/08. Ian Bogie's side began with six straight wins and remained in the leading pack throughout the season, despite three successive defeats, completing the double over eventual champions Fleetwood Town. They finished third behind Fleetwood and Witton Albion after winning nine of their last 10 unbeaten matches, scoring 29 goals and conceding just two in the process. Gateshead beat Eastwood Town 4-1 in the play-off semi-final, then clinched promotion with a 2-0 play-off final victory over Buxton. Leading marksman Graeme Armstrong and David Southern netted 39 goals between them.

2008/09

Gateshead won the Blue Square North play-off final in 2008/09. The Tynesiders were mid-table before Lee Novak's four-minute hat-trick in a 5-2 victory at Hyde United in early November sparked a marvellous run of 14 wins in 17 games. They trounced Hyde 6-3, Tamworth 5-1 and Hinckley United 5-1, and were top at the start of March but finished runners-up, five points behind Tamworth, after losing three of their last nine matches. Ian Bogie's side defeated Southport 2-1 on aggregate in the play-off semi-final, then secured promotion with a 1-0 play-off final win over Telford United. Top scorer Lee Novak and Graeme Armstrong netted 48 goals overall.





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LOOK BACK



UNBEATEN PRE-SEASON

The Town come into the new season brimming with confidence after enjoying a seven-match unbeaten run over the course of pre-season.

The record – not including a Bedfordshire Senior Cup final defeat – reads five wins and six clean sheets in seven matches.

Even more impressive was the Hatters' home record against three Football League sides – one from each division – with two victories and three clean sheets.

The Town began their pre-season preparation with a narrow 1-0 win at Hitchin – Adam Watkins' fine strike shortly before the break was enough for a victory at Top Field.

In the inaugural David Preece Memorial Trophy, the Hatters picked up silverware with a 7-1 thumping of AFC Dunstable at Creasey Park. Andre Gray scored twice whilst Alex Lawless, Dan Walker, Watkins, Greg Taylor and Stuart Fleetwood were also on target.

New signing Scott Rendell put the Town ahead in the third friendly, at St Albans City, and another goal from Fleetwood ensured a 2-0 victory and a third straight win.

League 2 side Wycombe Wanderers, managed by former Hatter Gary Waddock, were the first visitors

to Kenilworth Road but despite creating numerous chances the Town had to settle for a goalless draw.

Three days later, Championship club Ipswich Town left Bedfordshire with their tails between their legs after the Hatters inflicted a 2-0 defeat on the Tractor Boys.

It was two headed goals from centre-half Janos Kovacs – one in each half – that did the damage against a strong Ipswich side that included former Hatters favourites Carlos Edwards and Andy Drury. Goalkeeper Mark Tyler also produced a stunning double save late in the first half to keep the visitors at bay.

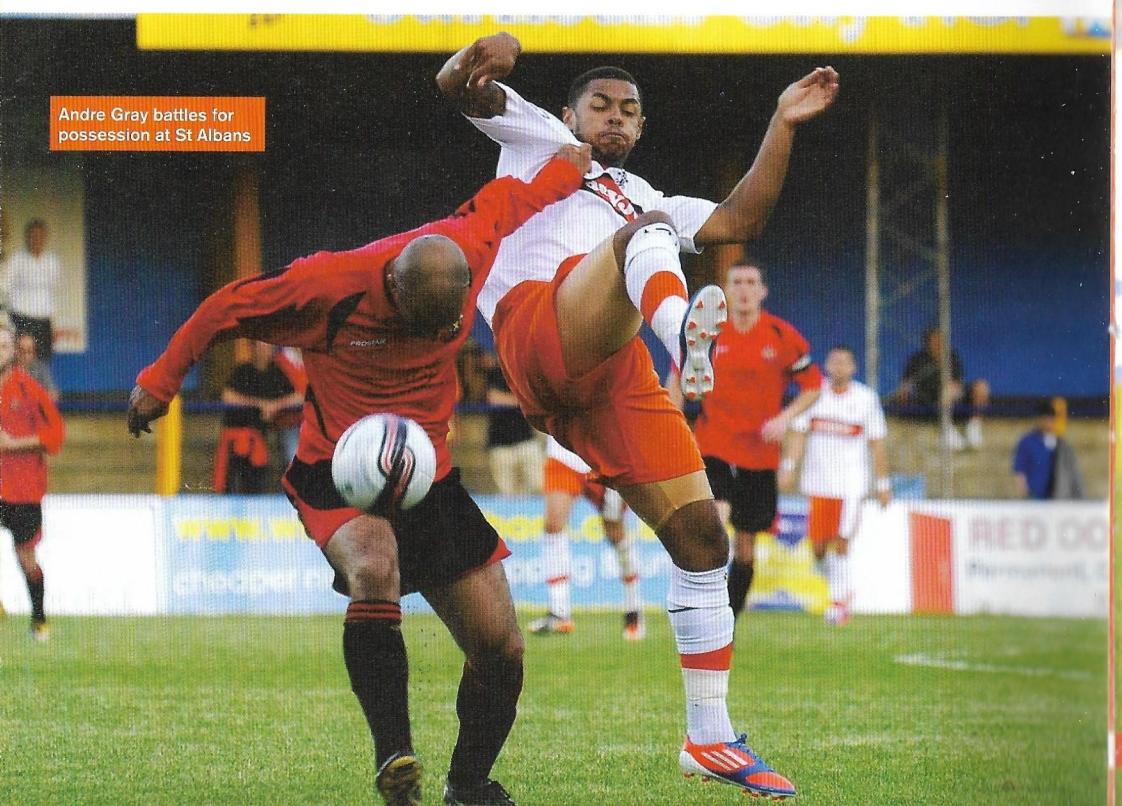
Next up for the Hatters was a short trip to Blue Square Bet North newcomers Brackley Town but, despite the first appearance of new signing Jon Shaw, Paul Buckle's charges could not find a way through and the game ended goalless.

The Town got back to winning ways three days later, though, when League 1 side Leyton Orient were beaten by a solitary goal from Shaw.

The centre-forward rose to plant a towering header past the Orient goalkeeper just two minutes after his introduction as a half-time substitute.



Scott Rendell heads goalwards

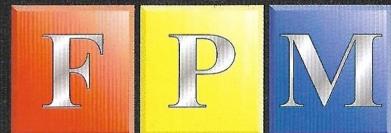


Andre Gray battles for possession at St Albans

PRE-SEASON IN PICTURES



Gray in action against League 2 side Wycombe



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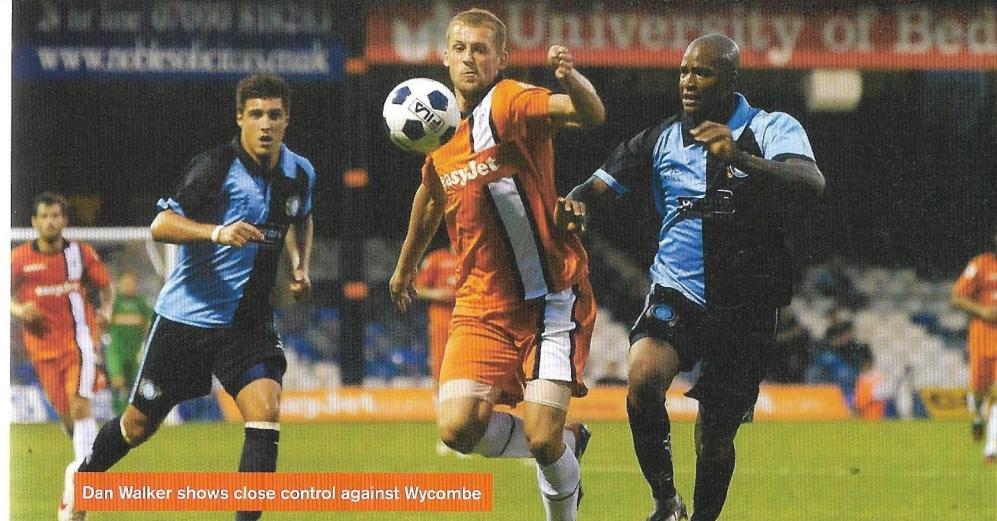
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LOOK BACK



Dan Walker shows close control against Wycombe

PROMOTION TOPS AGENDA

Manager Paul Buckle described himself as "hell-bent" on ensuring promotion this season following an efficient 1-0 victory over Leyton Orient which confirmed the Town ended pre-season unbeaten.

The Hatters restricted their League 1 opponents to a handful of chances during the 90 minutes, as they kept another clean sheet following similar shut-outs against Wycombe and Ipswich. Buckle revealed the high quality of the players' pre-season performances have given him a selection dilemma ahead of what he feels will be difficult game against Ian Bogie's Tynesiders this afternoon.

"It's not going to be easy picking the team, I can tell you that much," he said. "We've watched Gateshead so we know all about them and we had a tough game there last year when we drew 0-0, so it's not an easy game for Luton Town. We don't get given an easy game, it's not like that, everybody comes here to try and beat us. Everyone punches above their weight against us. It's something we're used to now and I'm just trying to close ranks with the players and say it's not about any other team or what they do or try and do, it's about what we do."

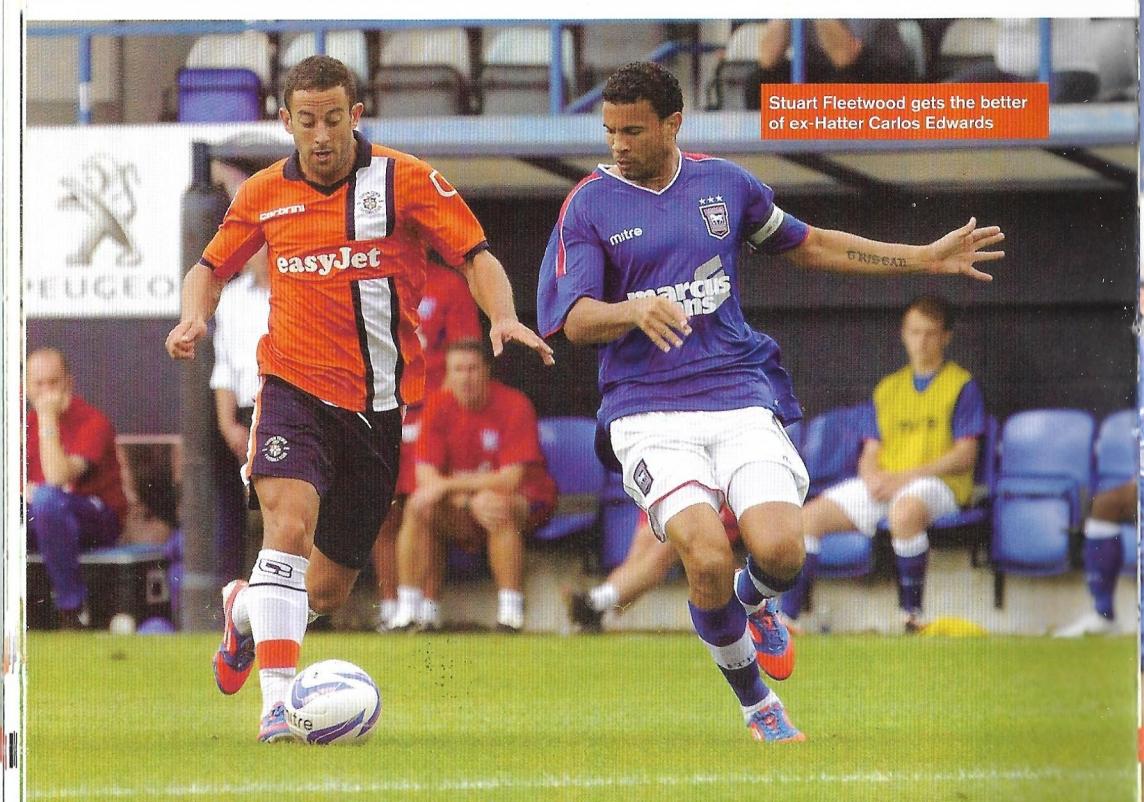
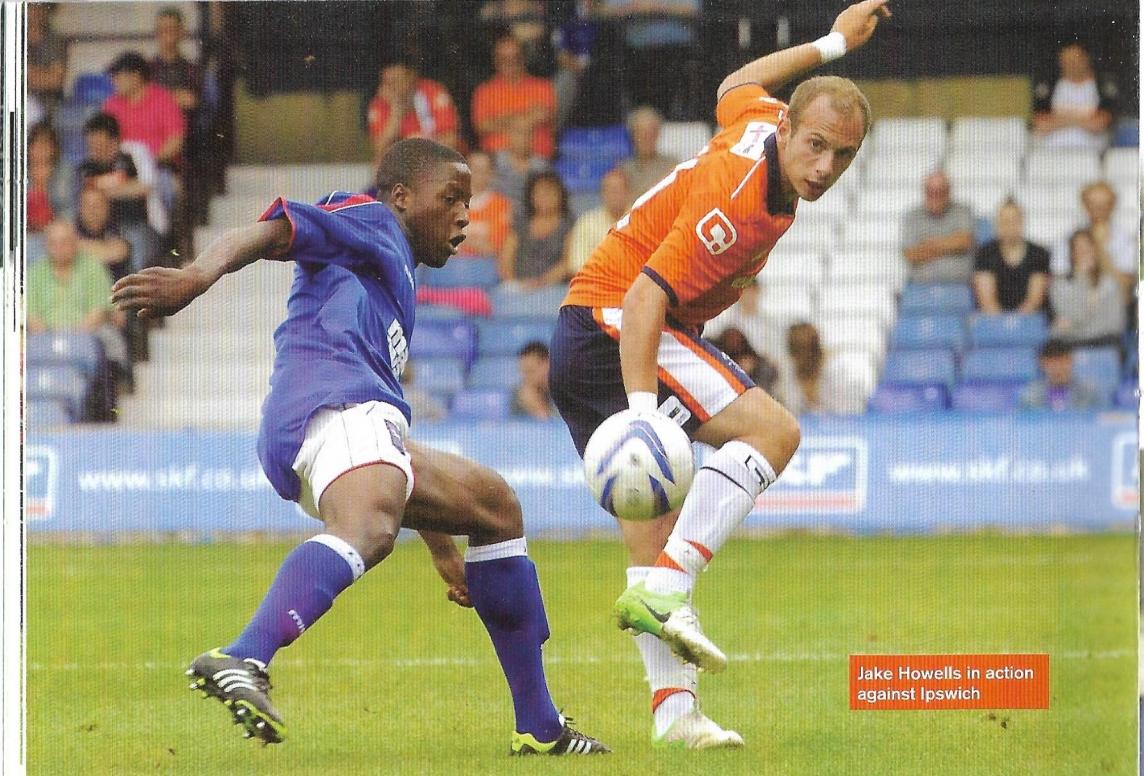
With the practice of pre-season over, the manager is keen to outline that the determination shown against

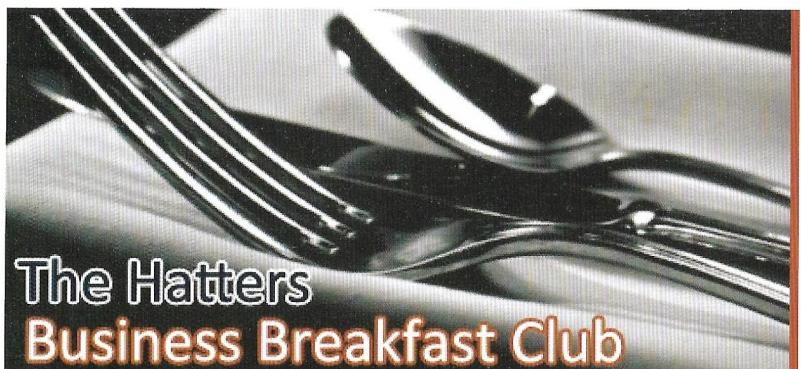
the O's was exactly what he expects from the players ahead of the forthcoming campaign.

"The players have given everything, I've said to them afterwards that the Luton fans expect that, and deserve that work-rate and if we do that they'll stick with us and they'll back us. You know it's going to be a tough ride, the Conference is an unforgiving league, and we're going to have to be at it in all aspects of our game.

"The fitness levels are very good. We won't know until the season starts to see where we're at and we have to get up to speed quickly. What I would say is that in comparison to last year, we are fitter. I think the team moves better and we are lasting the games. We saw a lot of late goals last year and fitness is a major part of the game. I think Ronnie Henry brings something to the football club, you see the way Ronnie is in training and the way he is these games, he's bringing Janos alongside him and all the other defenders. You need that mentality, that horrible mentality to say no every time teams come knocking.

"I've got out this division once and I want to do it again. I'm hell-bent on doing it. I said I'd bring in players that would die for the football club and that's what we've got to do. We have to fight and scrap for every ball this season, and if we do that we'll give ourselves a chance."



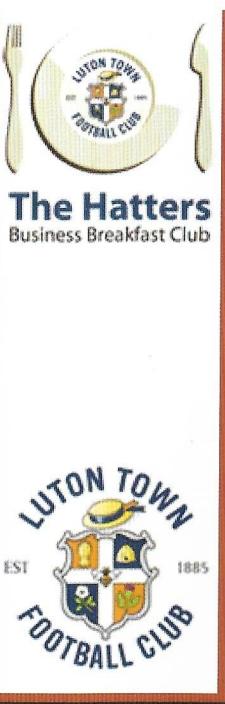


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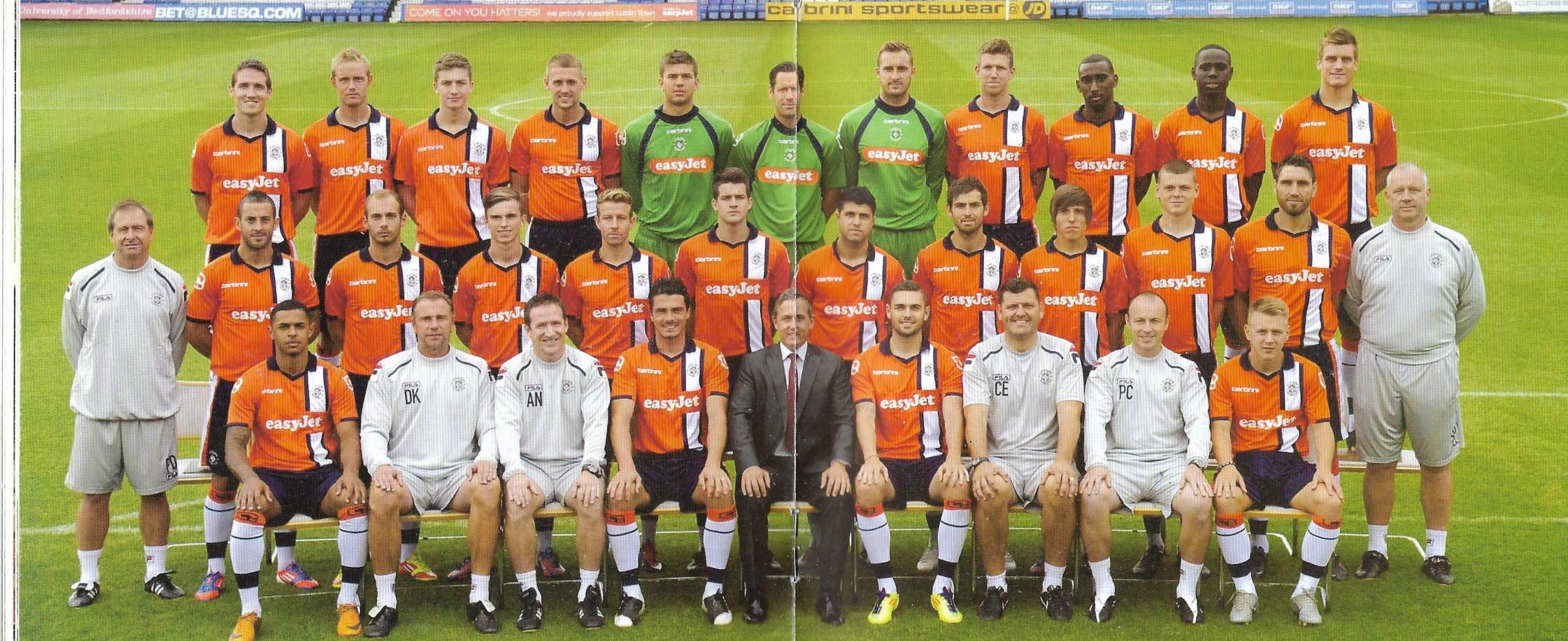
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FACE: RONNIE HENRY, SCOTT RENDELL, JON SHAW

CENTRE SPOT

YOUR SQUAD FOR 2012/13 COYH!



Back row (left to right):

Jon Shaw, Scott Rendell, Alex Lacey, Dan Walker, Lewis Kidd, Mark Tyler, Dean Brill, Dean Beckwith, Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, Alasan Ann, Janos Kovacs

Middle row (left to right):

Paul Driver (Youth Team Coach), Stuart Fleetwood, Jake Howells, JJ O'Donnell, Danny Spiller, James Dance, Yaser Kasim, Alex Lawless, Jake Woolley, Matt Robinson, Garry Richards, Simon Parsell (Physiotherapist)

Front row (left to right):

Andre Gray, Dmitri Kharine (Goalkeeper Coach), Alan Neilson (Assistant Manager), Ronnie Henry, Paul Buckle (Manager), Greg Taylor, Carl Emberson (First Team Development Coach), Paul Carden (First Team Coach), Adam Watkins

PICTURE

THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH Delves
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Jesse Pye smashes the ball over the Fulham
wall at Craven Cottage in September 1953



Jesse Pye had been signed from Wolves that summer and, at 32, was seen to be long past his best but he soon silenced his doubters by top scoring for the Hatters in 1952/53, as well as nurturing the blossoming talents of future record-scorer Gordon Turner.

With his brilliant football brain and superb ball control, he remains the favourite Hatter for supporters of a certain age.

TOWN TREASURES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES DEEP INTO HIS VAST COLLECTION OF HATTERS MEMORABILIA

In topical mode, featured is a photo of the Great Britain Olympic Football side that struck gold at London 1908.

Playing in that victorious side was the Town's first superstar, half-back Bob Hawkes, who went on to win 19 amateur caps for his country as well as five full caps. Not included in the above cap tally, Bob starred as Great Britain thrashed Sweden 12-1, with Bob scoring

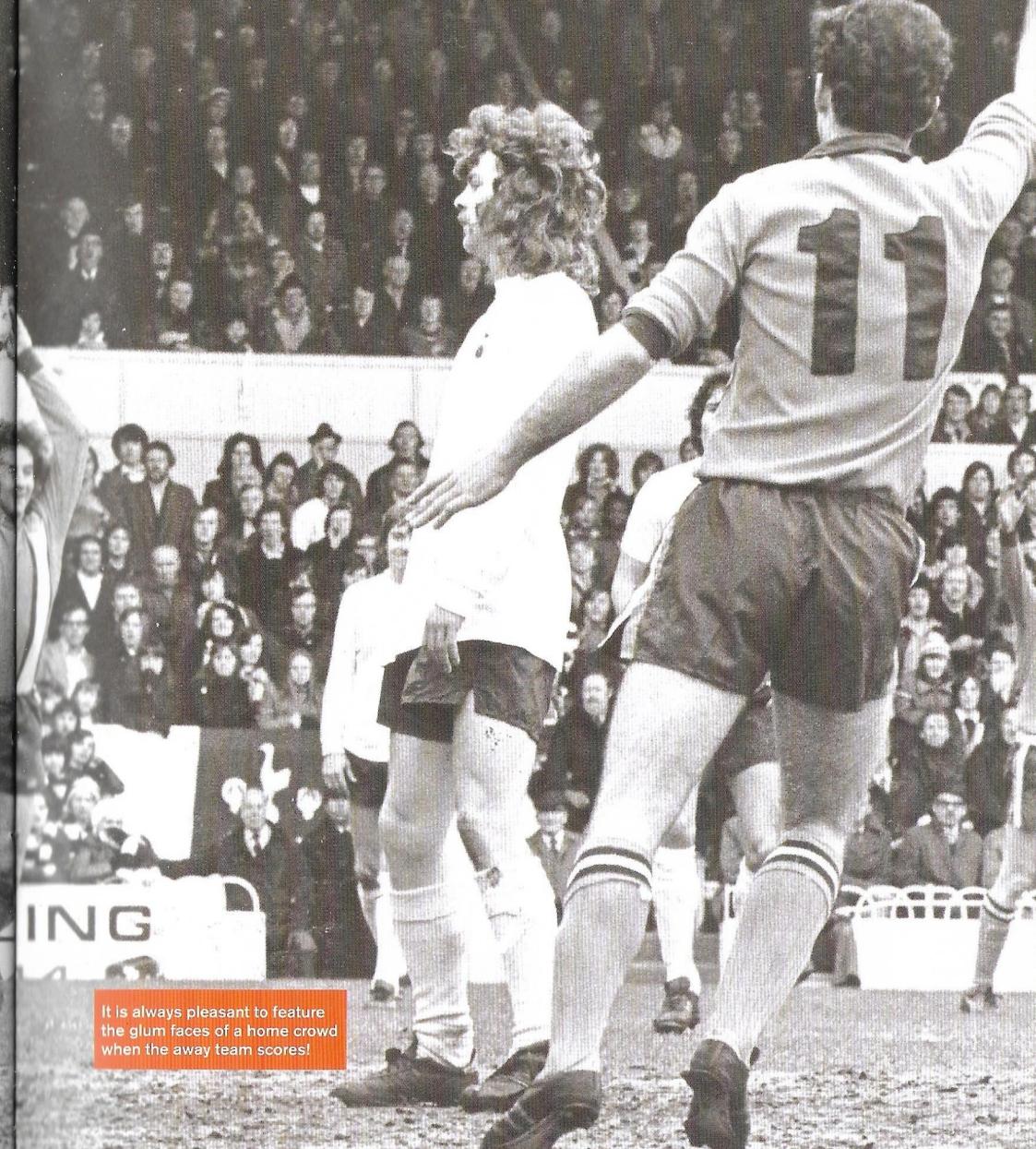
twice, before beating the Netherlands 4-0. In the final at White City, a crowd of 8,000 saw Great Britain beat a Denmark side, who had trounced France 17-1 in an earlier round, 2-0.

The winning team was awarded only one gold medal but the individual players each received a decorative scroll commemorating the achievement.



THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

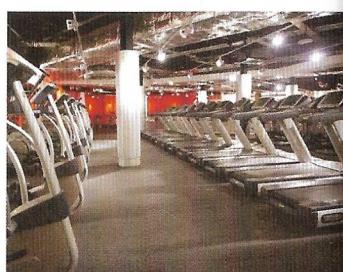
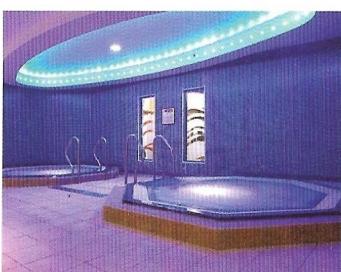
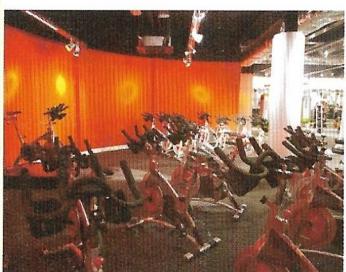
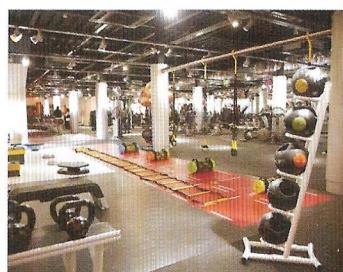
CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



It is always pleasant to feature
the glum faces of a home crowd
when the away team scores!

Alan West (10) has just put the ball in the net to level the score at Tottenham in April 1975. Sadly, a late goal from a blatantly-offside Alfie Conn rescued the points for an undeserving Spurs side.

To compound the Town's woes, young Luton defender Paul Futcher was dismissed for complaining too vigorously at the injustice of it all.



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ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 11

THE RECORD

The Town have only ever played six times on 11th August in their history. The first came at Gillingham in a League Cup tie in 1979. Of the six games, the Town have won four and lost two.

The most recent was the Hatters' first home game in the Conference in 2009 against Mansfield.

STAGS SUNK

On that night, the Town beat the Stags 4-1 in front of 7,295 at Kenilworth Road. Mansfield took the lead through a Scott Garner header on 18 minutes, but George Pilkington's first ever goal for the club six minutes before the break levelled things up.

Pilkington – now of course a Mansfield player – scored again to put the Town in front on 66 minutes before a Kyle Perry own goal moved the Hatters 3-1 ahead nine minutes from time.

In stoppage time, Tom Craddock converted a penalty to make it four, with the crowd baying for Pilkington to net a hat-trick. "Tommy's our penalty taker," boss Mick Harford said afterwards.

HOME COMFORTS

The Town began their 2007/08 season in League 1 with a home fixture against Hartlepool United. Manager Kevin Blackwell gave debuts to seven new signings and two of those – Darren Currie and Alan Goodall – struck to secure a 2-1 victory in front of 8,013.

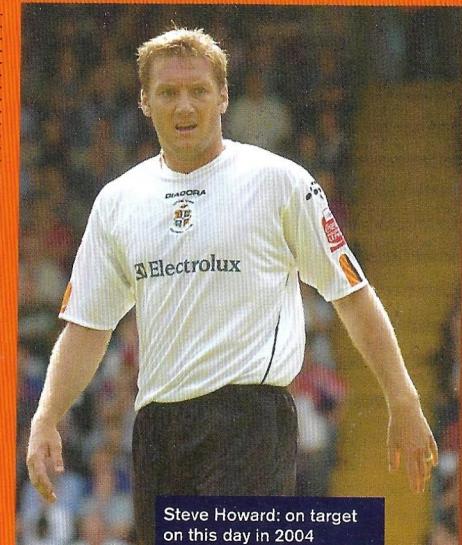
CHAMPIONS ELECT

At the beginning of the Town's League 1 title-winning season in 2004/05, Mike Newell's side rattled off six successive victories to rise to the top of the table.

Having beaten Oldham on the opening day of the season, the Hatters travelled to Swindon Town the following Tuesday.

A Kevin Nicholls penalty put the Town ahead in the 24th minute before an own goal from the Robins' Rory Fallon doubled the Hatters' lead.

Sam Parkin, who would later go on to play for the Hatters, pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time but Steve Howard restored the Town's two-goal cushion six minutes after the restart. Alan Reeves' header for Swindon made it 3-2 but the Hatters held on.



Steve Howard: on target on this day in 2004

AWAY THE LADS

The Town began life in Division 3 (now League 2) in 2001/02 with the long trip to Carlisle United. Over 1,000 Hatters fans travelled up the M1 and M6 to watch the team secure a 2-0 victory thanks to two goals in 11 second-half minutes from debutants Paul Hughes and Carl Griffiths.

(NOT) UP FOR THE CUP

The 1979 meeting with Gillingham, the first on this date, saw the Town go down 3-0 at Priestfield in a League Cup first round first leg tie. A 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road in the second leg saw the Hatters eliminated.

It was a different story 19 years later, though. The Town lost 3-2 at home to Oxford United in a League Cup first round first leg tie on this date in 1998, but a 3-1 second leg win at the Manor Ground saw them through on aggregate. The Hatters went onto reach the quarter-finals, where they were beaten by Sunderland.

A SHAW THING!

New signing Jon Shaw tells Talk of the Town his hopes and dreams of a season of success

New Hatters striker Jon Shaw is looking forward to life at Kenilworth Road, starting with his former team-mates who are today's visitors.

The Town's new number nine had a successful two-year spell at the Gateshead International Stadium, scoring more than 50 goals for the Tyneside outfit - clinical form which brought him to the forefront of scouts up and down the country.

Sheffield-born Shaw put pen to paper on a two-year contract with the Hatters in June and looks forward to emulating his prolific goal scoring record which concluded with his acquisition into Paul Buckle's squad.

Joe Flemons caught up with the Hatters' newest cult hero after his goalscoring start to life at Kenilworth Road against Leyton Orient.

First appearance

45 minutes and a goal on your first appearance in front of the home crowd - was that the dream start you were looking for?

Definitely. Up until now it's been a bit frustrating having not played many games, but I got 45 minutes against Brackley and I was looking to get a run out against Orient at home in front of the fans, so to come on and score straight away, you can't really ask for much more.

As you mentioned, it must have been frustrating having your pre-season disrupted as much as it has been?

I've been here nearly five weeks and I've only spent one week injured, but it seemed like an eternity because we played so many games in that week. So, yes, it's been a lot of hard work and then to miss out on those friendlies was a bit frustrating but the season starts next week so hopefully I'll be back.

So, Gateshead at home to kick-off the season

- how do you feel about the upcoming fixture against your former side?

You've just got to treat it like any other game - we will play them twice this season anyway so to get them early when everyone is fresh and ready to start should make it a good game. Ian Bogie's side will try and play good football - he always does - and I'm looking forward to a good game. I had two great years there so I'm not going to sit here and say 'we're going to beat them or they're going to beat us', but I predict a good game of football with two teams who want to play the right way.

Will you celebrate if you score?

No. I said that early when I first signed that if I score I won't be celebrating. I'm not really a big celebrator anyway. So no, I think it would be slightly disrespectful to them and I don't see it as disrespecting our fans, I think they'll understand. I had a good couple of years with Gateshead and I'll leave it at that.

You had an incredible start to last season netting six goals in six games. Is that something you're looking to emulate in a Hatters strip this season?

Well, obviously you want to score as many goals as you can. You set your target for the season at around 20, and anything else is a bonus. If you can get off to a good start and score as many as possible it makes the task a little bit easier to get to your target - that would be ideal, but if it doesn't you don't expect too much.

There has been a number of summer signings, yourself included, how have you all settled in?

Brilliantly. You couldn't ask for a better bunch and there's been a lot of surprise from people outside the club at how you attract the likes of Ronnie Henry, Scott Rendell, Danny Spiller, Gary Richards and Nathaniel Rowe-Turner to the club. They are big names from higher

PLAYER FACTS

• AGE:	28
• HEIGHT:	6ft 1in
• 2011/12 GAMES:	50
• 2011/12 GOALS:	35

leagues that have proved they can play in leagues above, and a few have been in teams that have got out of this league. There's a lot with experience of success and they're all winners - it's great to have such influence on the rest of the squad.

With the additions to an already strong attacking side, who would you see as an ideal strike partner for yourself?

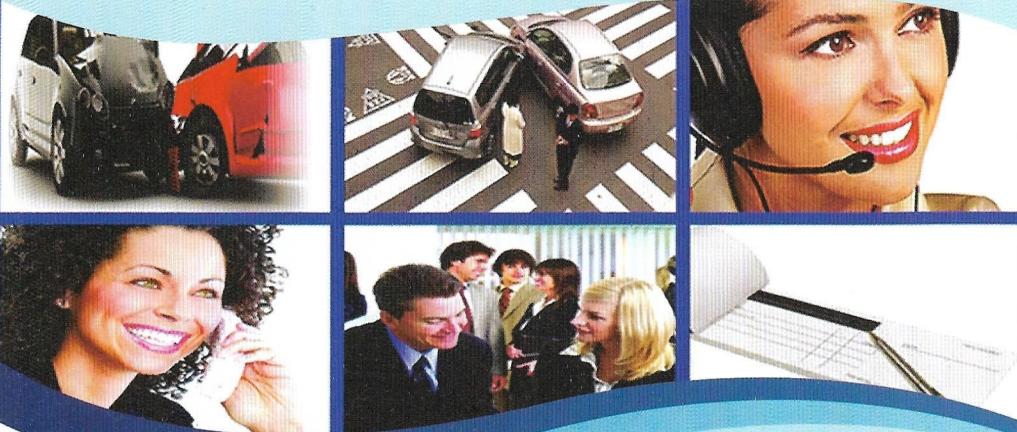
To be honest with you, we can all play together and I think that goes for even the young lads that are coming into the side. Whether its Andre Gray, Stuart Fleetwood, Dan Walker or Scott Rendell, we can all play with each other. We've all got different elements which add something to the team, so whether its one, two, three or four of us at once, I'm sure other teams will be looking at that and are a bit worried.

Have you got confidence that this is the squad to take the club up?

Yes. I know how hard this league is, I've been here for a long time. I've seen teams that have come down and struggled, teams that have gone up playing the right way, teams that have gone up playing horribly. However, I believe in this squad, I believe in the club - that's why I came and if I didn't think we could win it or be in the shake up at the end I wouldn't of signed. It's a genuine belief that this is the season for us.



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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

THE NLP VIEW BY SAM ELLIOT

Their training is complete, the tactics decided and finally, the talking can stop.

It's arrived. The big day everyone has been waiting all summer for is here. At last we can sit back and discover the answer to what we're all itching to know... will the mother of all publicity stunts last longer than 90 minutes?

No, it's not just the Blue Square Bet Premier that's having its curtain raised this weekend. It's the FA Cup's opener too, with the extra preliminary round which, if you're up to speed with the transfer coups of the summer, can mean only one thing – Wembley FC's new wonders are about to get their boots back on.

For those that haven't seen what the club's new sponsors Budweiser are up to, you're in for a treat.

It started in late March as Terry Venables got people talking, taking over as 'technical advisor' – few people knew what that meant exactly, but all was about to become clear.

El Tel soon had company. Former internationals including Ray Parlour, Martin Keown, Graeme Le Saux, Claudio Caniggia and Brian McBride had all signed for the Combined Counties Premier club...but would

play only in the FA Cup, sponsored, of course, by the American brewing giant.

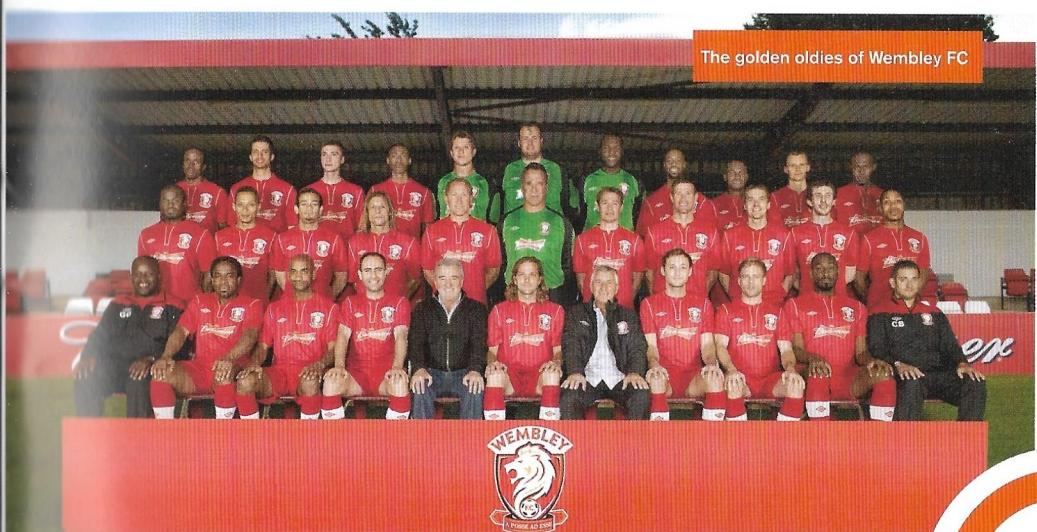
It led the NLP to ask the question – welcome extra publicity and some good harmless fun, or has the Non-League game become the Bud of the joke?

We could get the answer today as the old timers take to the field against Langford. With £1,000 up for grabs for the winner, what the Spartan South Midlands side make it all is anyone's guess. Or, for that matter, the players dropped to make way for the celebs after a solid 1-0 first day victory at Raynes Park Vale.

But there are positives to be taken from the experiment, the new boys know all about the competition. Parlour, dubbed the Romford Pele by Arsenal fans, has won it four times – including the crowning moment of his career, a sensational 30-yard strike to settle the 2002 final with Chelsea.

Keown has lifted the FA Cup three times, while Le Saux has a winners' medal from 2000 at Chelsea.

Venables himself won it as player and as manager of Tottenham. Getting the retired legends back in the groove and winning over the sceptics is his biggest challenge to date.



The golden oldies of Wembley FC



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A SEASON'S STORY

PART ONE BY DAVID CAIN

Here we go, here we go, here we go. Here we go, here we go, here we go.

Here we go, here we go, here we go. Here we go, here we go, here we go.

The long sleep of summer is over. Taking with it stuporous Saturdays, and that recurring nightmare of a cross perfectly flighted but forever out of reach of Craig McAllister's lunging forehead.

The past is the past and the future today. It's time to pull on the shirt. It's time to clear your throat. It's time to start again, time to take heart. Because this is it, and here we go. Eleven against eleven, one ball, one game, all played out on this beautiful patch of green grass we call home.

Closing your eyes, you are back in at instant at your first ever match. The excitement growing with every step towards the ground. The buzz inside captivating you like no other feeling on earth. Arriving early, eager to catch a glimpse of unknown faces, princes waiting

to be crowned kings as they emerge from the tunnel side-by-side with returning heroes. No longer awkward strangers, about to become a team.

Best of all, we can sing again. Carrying within our songs the voice of everyone who has stood in these stands. A bloodline stretching back to our first ever match in 1885. They are all here with us today, the living and the passed, all rising up in one eternal song a million voices strong. All with one question in their voices - what will become of us this time? Que sera, sera.

Here we go, here we go, here we go. It starts right here. It matters from the first whistle of the first match, from the first touch, the first song. A chain reaction of hope and dreams is born, and whatever the highs and lows, we all know we would not want it any other way. For we do not choose to support Luton Town. No, Luton chooses us. So come on you dreamers, you heroes, you hatters.

Here we go, Here we go, Here we go!



David Cain is an experienced writer and research and follower of the Hatters.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH THE LUTON NEWS' MIKE SIMMONDS

A new season dawns, surely this is the one where Hatters fans will finally be celebrating promotion back to the Football League come May – without needing those darned Play-Offs.

Today's opening fixture with Gateshead has crept up somewhat, with that little thing called the Olympics taking place just down the road, capturing the majority of the public's interest.

But to matters in hand, and this time, I honestly can't see past Luton for the title after the wind of change that has swept through Kenilworth Road this summer.

Boss Paul Buckle stated that he wanted a slimline squad after last season's over-inflated bunch he inherited from Gary Brabin, and boy has he gone about doing that.

Sixteen players moved on with nine coming in, and of the nine, there is some serious quality there.

You look at clubs who have won the league in previous seasons and they have always brought in a stellar signing, the likes of Matt Tubbs at Crawley, and Jamie Vardy with Fleetwood.

Promotion push

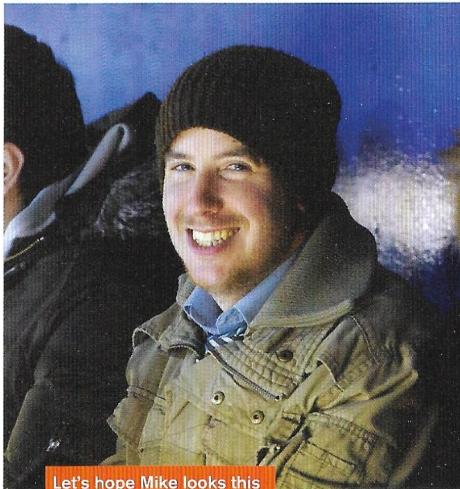
For me, it is only Luton who have done so this campaign when they announced Jon Shaw had finally put pen to paper. An injury-free season, getting anywhere near the 35 goals he bagged for today's visitors, and he could be just the man to spearhead this promotion push.

It's not just Shaw though, with Scott Rendell and newly-installed captain Ronnie Henry both catching the eye in pre-season. Even the players who probably weren't on the radar of Town fans, like Brighton's Yaser Kasim and Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, they have both impressed greatly since pulling on a Hatters shirt.

The players who remained at Kenilworth Road from last season aren't a bad lot either, and I for one am looking forward to seeing Andre Gray's continued improvement after his stunning start to life at Luton.

It's not going to be easy by any stretch, with teams expected to challenge, including Mansfield, which should be two cracking games after the Stags brought in George Pilkington, Godfrey Poku and Jamie Hand during the summer.

Wrexham will hope to go one better, but was last season their best chance? Forest Green are splashing



Let's hope Mike looks this happy come April

some cash with Magno Vieira joining Ed Asafu-Adjaye, but surely they won't do a Fleetwood and come from nowhere. Grimsby could be strong after keeping hold of Liam Hearn, while I'm not expecting either of the sides coming down, Hereford and Macclesfield, to mount a serious challenge.

Fast start

One thing that will be vital for Luton this time is that they make a fast start to announce their intentions.

The last two seasons, the title has been realistically out of reach around Christmas with the Town being forced to play catch-up and then settle for the lottery of the Play-Offs.

This time under Buckle though, you get the feeling that won't happen. Everything I've seen around the club shows it is geared towards success this season and there is an air of quiet confidence exuding from the squad not noticeable from previous campaigns.

Gateshead first up will be a test no doubt, but one that Town can definitely overcome.

Excited? Confident? I am.

THE PRESS OFFICE PICTURE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER

ALL CHANGE

It's been a summer of change on the pitch with new manager Paul Buckle adding nine new faces to the Kenilworth Road dressing room, but there has also been plenty of changes off the pitch too, following the launch of our new-look website.

Together with almost 90 other clubs, the new-look site went live over the course of the summer with lutontown.co.uk completing its makeover in early July.

The decision to change sites came following Football League Interactive's (FLI) decision to switch service providers from Perform Group to a new provider in the shape of Sapient Nitro.

The project was well over 12 months in the making, which began with FLI tendering the contract and ended when sites began going live in late June.

Clubs were given the option of choosing one of three new designs with our feeling that the current 'Action' lens was right for us given the expertise and imagery of our photographer Gareth Owen.

A few teething problems still persist but we have been advised by the FLI that the experience of visiting the new site will continue to improve.

We have successfully pushed for the multi-pagination of stories to be removed and add to gallery sections to news articles – something which was bizarrely omitted by Sapient when the sites first went live.

Things will only get better, sung D:ream in the 90s,



The official website's new-look

and we certainly hope the user experience will improve as time goes on.

The major complaint I received was, or is, the lack of a mobile or 'lite' site to be viewed on mobile devices and, we're pleased to report, something will be launched next month.

Press officers up and down the country and have been pulling their hair out (from what they have left) at certain problems but I'm pleased to say the issues are slowly being ironed out.

Remember to check out the site when you get home tonight for a full match report, all the post-match reaction and photographs from today's curtain-raiser with Gateshead.

GET SOCIAL

The boom of social media over the past few years certainly hasn't left us trailing in its wake as our recent figures have shown.

On Twitter (@LTFC_Official), we recently surpassed over 8,000 followers, placing us – as we went to press – as the 46th most followed club in England and, remarkably the 277th most followed club in the world, sandwiched between clubs in Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Remember, our Facebook and Twitter pages are also the best ways to keep in touch with the latest at Kenilworth Road with all breaking news stories from the official site immediately uploaded to our feeds.

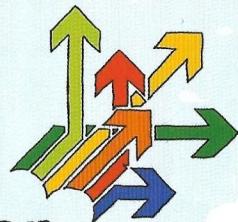
Fans and followers are also able to view all those little behind-the-scenes pictures taken from around the club or up and down the country on our travels.

GET WITH THE PROGRAMME

I hope you like our new-look edition of Talk of the Town too, and I must go on record to thank our designer Heather Ellis and the team at our Luton-based printers Bartham Press for their hard work.

As a club we're proud that our programme is printed in the town – and I hope it's a good read, of course.

If you have any comments, or wish to submit content on any of pages this season, then please do get in touch.



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ACADEMY UPDATE

ALL CHANGE IN YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Hatters were happy to announce an exciting new restructuring in the youth development department over the summer.

The set-up reshuffle comes as the club enters the EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) for the first time, as well as news that Head of Youth Gregg Broughton is to further his career away from Kenilworth Road with Premier League Norwich City.

With Gregg's departure comes the opportunity for others, and the Town are delighted to welcome three new faces into the youth department.

One face is a familiar one; that of Wayne Turner, who takes on the mantle as of Head of Youth Football. Wayne has had a long association with the Hatters having appeared 82 times at Kenilworth Road as a player, as well as coaching at various youth levels.

Wayne will be assisted by Matt Stannard, who has joined from Wycombe Wanderers as Youth Operations Manager, and Lee Cowley, who has become Youth Coaching Manager. Matt has valuable experience of football administration and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Academy. Whilst Lee, himself a former manager at local level and youth coach at Kenilworth Road for 15 years, will oversee the club's coaches across all age groups from Under-9s to Under-18s. With a dedicated administrative point of contact, Matt's role will enable coaches to focus on football and coaching.

Managing director Gary Sweet told lutontown.co.uk: "As a board, 2020 put youth development as one of the cornerstones of our vision for the football club and this hasn't wavered, despite the enormous challenges we have faced behind the scenes.

"Despite the Football League cutting our funding from £180,000 to £90,000 after relegation, and then cutting it to zero after losing two successive Play-Off finals, our investors have continued to back this key area. Their investment has almost reached £750,000 in this area alone since taking over four years ago.

"The importance that youth football plays at our football club is hugely significant, and we owe massive gratitude to our shareholders for enabling our restructuring plans at youth level to go ahead.

"More importantly, the role our youth section plays on the pitch will be more significant in the coming years and beyond. Youth development is never a quick fix, but it is the only way to progress.

Hugely exciting

"We have recently signed Alasan Ann and Newman Carney on professional deals whilst also agreeing terms with nine new scholars who will feature for the Under-18s next season under the guidance of Paul Driver.

"The future is most definitely bright and our restructuring plans are hugely exciting. Not only are we employing more people – which will give players at all youth levels a dedicated point of contact – but across the board we have invested in quality people, too.

"On behalf of all the board members and shareholders I would like to welcome and wish

all our new faces good luck at Luton Town.

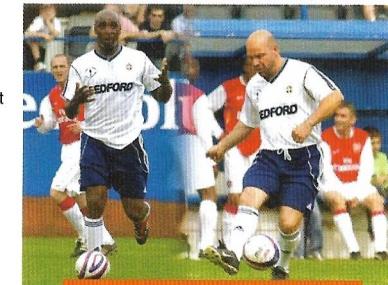
"We would also like to pay tribute to Gregg who has done a marvellous job over the past six years at this club and wish him well for future away from Kenilworth Road."

"With changes afoot, Sweet also called for supporters to continue to back Supporters of Youth Development whose fundraising initiatives have played a major role in supporting the club's youth section.

"The importance of SoLYD at this crucial time as we enter another season in the Blue Square Bet Premier is vital," said Sweet.

"Their staunch efforts, hard work and loyalty is incredible and they will play a key role again next season with a series of events and fundraising activities planned throughout the season."

For further information and to donate to SoLYD please visit www.solyd.co.uk.



Head of Youth Wayne Turner on his last appearance at Kenilworth Road

YOUTH FIXTURES

PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER-18 SOUTH-EAST FIXTURES - SEASON 2012 - 2013

AUGUST

SAT 11 LEYTON ORIENT A 11.00AM
SAT 18 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE H 11.00AM
SAT 25 STEVENAGE BOROUGH A 11.00AM

SEPTEMBER

SAT 01 PETERBOROUGH UNITED A 11.00AM
SAT 22 MILTON KEYNES DONS A 11.00AM
SAT 29 NORTHAMPTON TOWN H 11.00AM

OCTOBER

SAT 06 STEVENAGE BOROUGH A 11.00AM - PUMA YA CUP 1
SAT 13 NORTHAMPTON TOWN H 11.00AM - PUMA YA CUP 2
SAT 20 11.00AM - PUMA YA CUP 3
SAT 27 PETERBOROUGH UNITED H 11.00AM - PUMA YA CUP 4

NOVEMBER

SAT 03 MILTON KEYNES DONS H 11.00AM - PUMA YA CUP 5
SAT 24 IN SERVICE TRAINING

DECEMBER

SAT 01 PETERBOROUGH UNITED H 11.00AM
SAT 08 NORTHAMPTON TOWN A 11.00AM

JANUARY

SAT 10 MILTON KEYNES DONS H 11.00AM
SAT 19 SOUTH CUP 2
SAT 26 LEYTON ORIENT H 11.00AM

FEBRUARY

SAT 02 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE A 11.00AM
SAT 09 STEVENAGE BOROUGH H 11.00AM
SAT 16 SOUTH CUP 3

MARCH

SAT 02 AFC WIMBLEDON H 11.00AM
SAT 09 AFC WIMBLEDON A 11.00AM
SAT 16 SOUTHEND UNITED H 11.00AM
SAT 23 PORTSMOUTH A 11.00AM

APRIL

SAT 06 GILLINGHAM H 11.00AM
SAT 13 CRAWLEY TOWN A 11.00AM

EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



Wingdings was an unusual choice of font for player names

YOUTH LATEST

The club were pleased to announce the signing of nine new scholars who will feature for the Under-18s next season during the summer.

The nine include Leeroy Maguraushe and Charlie Smith who featured in the Town's FA Trophy campaign last term.

Youth team boss Paul Driver will have a squad of 17 for the forthcoming season.

The new signings are:

Chisom Amadi, a 16-year-old striker from Bedford.
Arel Amu, a 16-year-old striker from Luton.

Zane Banton, a 16-year-old striker from Stevenage.

Tinashe Chabata, a 16-year-old central defender from Aylesbury.

Leeroy Maguraushe, a 16-year-old midfielder from Milton Keynes.

Ben McFarlane-Barnes, a 16-year-old goalkeeper from Hemel Hempstead.

Jemale McKenzie-Lowe, a 16-year-old striker from Luton.

Ian Rees - 16-year-old midfielder from Knebworth.

Charlie Smith - 16-year-old midfielder from Redbourn.

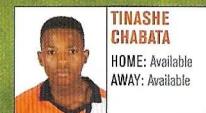
They will join existing scholars Nick Burtenshaw, Josh Carpenter, Jordan Davis, Jerome Jibodu, Brett Longden, Jerry Nash, Zak Stephens and Jake Woolley.

Throughout the season in Talk of the Town we will be featuring all of the Under-18s news and results as well as player profiles.

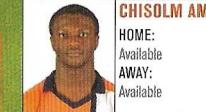
2012/13 YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS



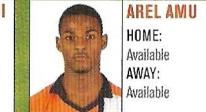
ZANE BANTON
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



TINASHE CHABATA
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHISOLM AMADI
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



AREL AMU
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



IAN REES
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHARLIE SMITH
HOME: Peter Mitchell
AWAY: First Capital Connect



NICK BURTENSHAW
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



JOSEPH CARPENTER
HOME: Mike Kneafsey,
Valley View Care Home
AWAY: Available
GLOVES: Available



JORDAN DAVIS
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



JERRY NASH
HOME: Moira Spain
AWAY: Available



JEROME JIBODU
HOME: Doug Knight
AWAY: Doug Knight

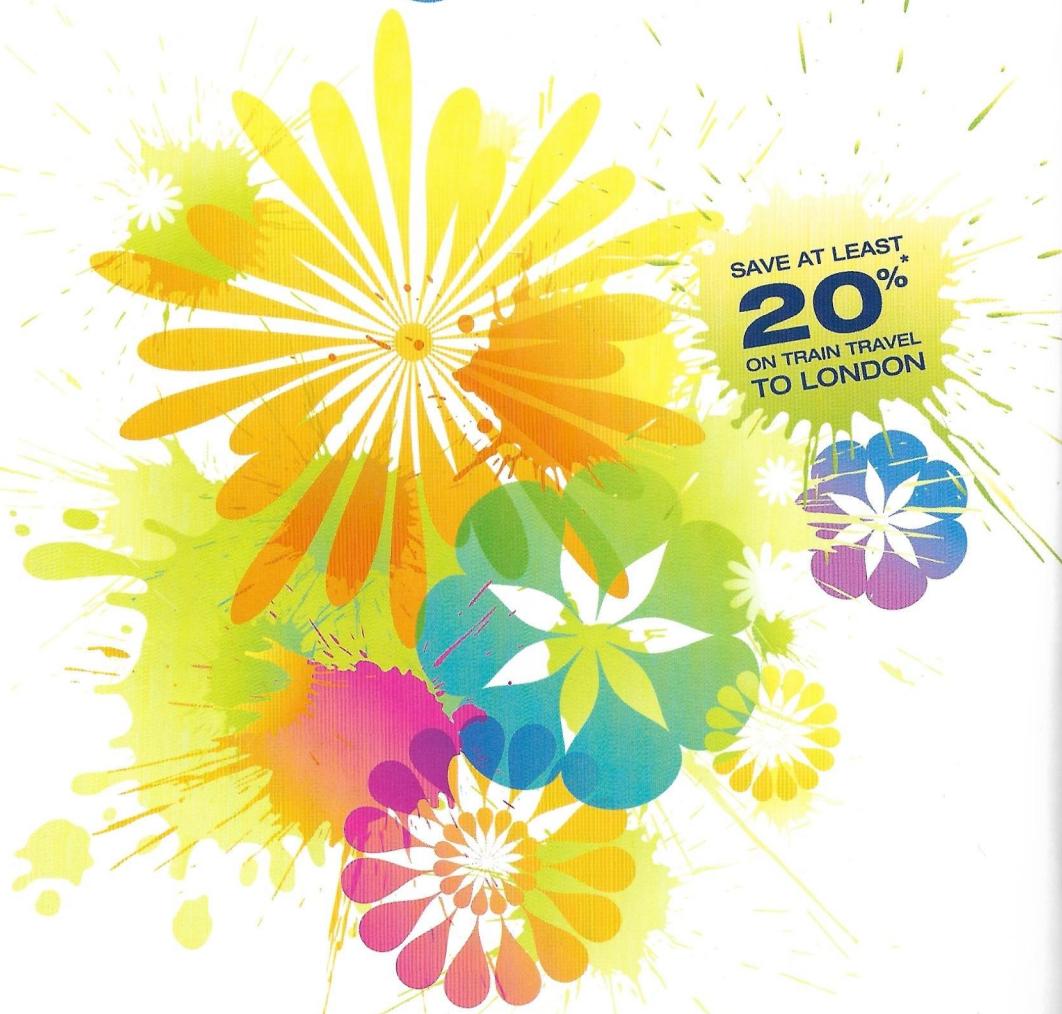


ZAK STEPHENS
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



JAKE WOOLLEY
HOME: Ian Gazeley
AWAY: Available

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FUTURE STARS

PRE-SEASON JOY FOR YOUNGSTERS

The Hatters' Under-18s enjoyed a varied and successful pre-season under manager Paul Driver.

The summer got off to the best possible start with a 6-2 thumping of a strong Wingate & Finchley Side. The youngsters led 2-0 at half time thanks to goals from Jemmale McKenzie-Lowe and Leeroy Maguraushe.

Eight changes at half-time saw the Hatters net a further four times with Zane Banton – with two – Arel Amu and Matt Robinson on target, before they conceded two late goals.

After the game, Driver said: "The goals we conceded at the end spoilt an otherwise good performance an 6-0 would have been a fair scoreline so it's disappointing to come away having let in two goals.

"Wingate are a strong club for their level of football and had players who have enjoyed success at under-15, 16 and 17 level last term. It was a good work out though and we came through unscathed with no injuries."

Days later the youngsters jetted off to Sweden to take part in one of the largest youth competitions in Europe: the Gothia Cup. The Hatters were placed in the U17 group – which meant a number of the 'senior' players in the squad were too old to compete.

Solitary strike

In the opening fixture the Town saw off hot home favourites IFK Gothenburg as a solitary strike from Amu earned a fine 1-0 victory.

The following day, however, the Hatters were defeated by the same scoreline, as Danish outfit Esbjerg secured all three points.

That result meant the Town needed to beat Swedish side

Brommapojkarna to qualify for the quarter-finals but, despite Osamu Allman's goal, the game ended 1-1.

The result didn't mean an early exit though, as the Hatters played-off for the right to finish 13th in the competition. However, more Danish opposition – this time in the shape of FC Midtjylland – dashed their chances of finishing 13th with as they won 3-1.

It meant one more game for the Town in a bid to finish 15th, and that place was assured thanks to a fine 3-1 victory over Polish side Lechia Gdansk.

It was back to Britain for the boys and having taken part in friendlies against youth teams of Tottenham and Fulham, the Town were pitted against two adult sides.

A 3-2 to defeat to AFC Kempston – with Zak Stephens and Ian Rees on target – was followed by a 3-1 victory over AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

Driver, a former coach with the Diamonds, said: While the Rushden game was obviously a way better game all round for us – the Kempston game was equally useful in the development of the boys.

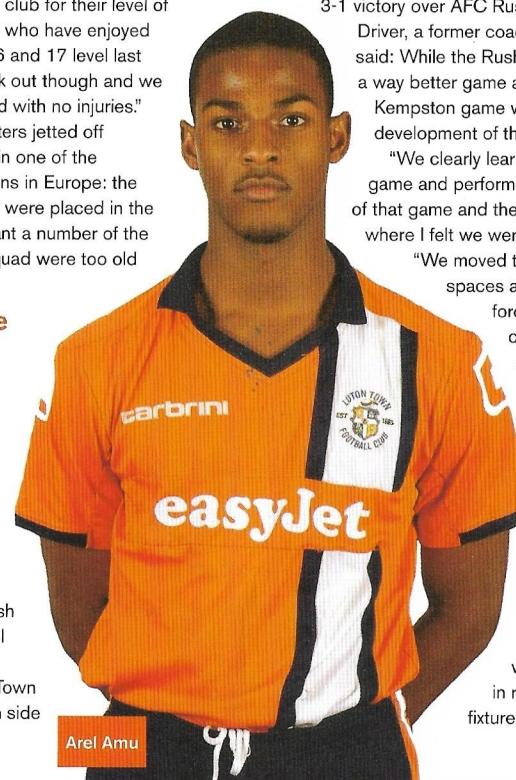
"We clearly learnt from the first half of that game and performed much better for the rest of that game and the entire match at Rushden where I felt we were superb.

"We moved the ball well and found spaces all over the park which forced them into a formation change and we showed great energy throughout the 90 minutes in closing them down.

"These games are great for the players.

After playing against Academy sides, this teaches them

how to play against older and bigger players which is exactly what they will come up against when they move to play in reserve and first team fixtures."



Arel Amu



Luton Town Legends

v Aston Villa Old Stars

At Kenilworth Road on

26th August 2012, Kick-off 2:00pm

LUTON TOWN ALAN MACINALLY 2004/05
 EXCELSIOR KEVIN PILKINGTON PAT HEARD JAKE FINDLAY MITCHELL THOMAS
 GARY THOMPSON 2009 GRAHAM ALEXANDER DEREK DUDLEY WANDERERS
 DAVID NORTON 1981/82 **ASTON VILLA**
 RICHARD DRYDEN DARREN BRADLEY STEVE DAVIS OAK ROAD STEVE ROBINSON
 COLIN GIBSON DAVID BAYLISS GORDON COWANS NEIL COX MARK KINSELLA
 TONY MORLEY KIRK STEPHENS ROB JOHNSON MARTIN CARRUTHERS 1874
HATTERS ALAN NEILSON MARVIN JOHNSON'S GARETH FARRELLY 1885
CLASSIC JOHN FAULKNER KIRK STEPHENS JULIAN JAMES
 LITTLEWOODS CUP LIAM GEORGE
 KENILWORTH ROAD ADAM LOCKE **LEGEND**
MARK PEMBRIDGE 1988 KEVIN WATSON SCOTT OAKES
 PAUL MCLAREN GAVIN MCGOWAN MARLON BERESFORD
 JOHN DREYER

Adult: £10 Under 17's: FREE
Season Ticket Holder: £5
Concession: £5
35 minutes each half

For tickets contact the ticket office on
01582 416976 or ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk



LUTON LADIES

FINE PRE-SEASON FOR LADIES

Like Paul Buckle's boys, the ladies are unbeaten in pre-season, which included two good wins against higher ranked teams.

The pre-season started when a Town XI travelled to Great Shelford, who had won promotion to the Eastern Region Premier Division at the end of last season, boasting an unbeaten record in the process.

A Town side made up of first team players and trialists were made to work hard in the early stages by a team that certainly did not lack confidence. But once Lydia Radley had deflected a Zara Carroll free-kick into the net on the half hour the Town took control.

A second goal was not long in coming, and Carroll was the provider once again. Her deep free-kick was met by Lauren Impey who headed the ball into the net.

A solid performance by the back four during the second half - which included two trialists - limited the home team to just one decent opportunity, which was comfortably dealt with by Town keeper Holly Staples. And a third goal arrived in the closing minutes, when Radley netted from close range after a cross by Rachel Konky.

Tougher task

The second pre-season game was going to be a much tougher task on paper as the Town travelled to National Premier Division South side, Gillingham. Both teams were at full strength on what was a very hot afternoon. Gillingham came close to opening the scoring in the first two minutes, but Lauren Impey cleared the ball off the line. But as the Town upped the tempo, Gillingham were struggling with the pace. The Town then went 1-0 up after 10 minutes when Nicola Henman seized onto a weak back-pass and slotted the ball past the Gills keeper.

As the Town piled on the pressure another goal soon arrived. A through ball sent Jess McKay bursting into the penalty area, and she was brought down by a Gills defender. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Henman then tucked away the resulting penalty.

As the tempo dropped in the searing heat, Gillingham came back into the game. Although they had a lot of possession, another solid performance by the back four held them at bay and the Town held



Bex Scott scores the Town's sixth goal against QPR

on to lead 2-0 at the break. In the last half hour of the game the Town seemed to draw on their resources and once again started to dominate the game. Radley was unlucky to see one effort strike the upright, Carroll then had a goal a goal disallowed. But the Town were not to be denied a third goal as Henman completed her hat-trick in the closing minutes to record a second 3-0 pre-season win. The result aside, this was a very encouraging performance.

Queens Park Rangers - another National Premier Division South side - were the visitors to Stockwood last Sunday, and this game turned into a goal fest. Rangers took an early lead, and they looked the better side until on the half hour when a cross come shot by Carroll completely deceived the QPR goalkeeper and finished up in the net.

Radley soon added a second when she somehow squeezed a shot in from a narrow angle despite being surrounded by three defenders. Just before half-time it was 3-1, when Michelle Byrne rifled in a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Two goals in the first eight minutes of the second half from Rangers wiped out the lead. But, within a minute, the Town were back in front when Bex Kane pressurised a Rangers defender to put the ball into her own net. From that point on the Town totally dominated the game. Two well struck free-kicks by Carroll found the net to complete her hat-trick, before Bex Scott scored with a fine solo effort to round off a 7-3 victory.

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LEAGUE LOOK

WITH PETER BUCKELEY

It has been another busy summer in the Blue Square Bet Premier with the most active team in the transfer market being Macclesfield Town, perhaps unsurprising considering their relegation from League 2 last season.

The majority of last season's squad have left Moss Rose, including top scorer George Donnelly, who has joined Rochdale. Fourteen players have signed for the Silkmen, most notably from a Luton perspective are former players Matthew Barnes-Homer and Charlie Henry, whilst John-Paul Kissock has joined on loan from the Hatters. Other signings include Harry Aporabar, who had trials with West Ham United and Partizan Belgrade before signing for Macclesfield, and Peter Winn from Stevenage.

Financial issues after relegation have meant that Hereford's transfer activities have been limited, although strikers Ryan Bowman and Marlon Jackson are among the key signings for new manager Martin Foylo.

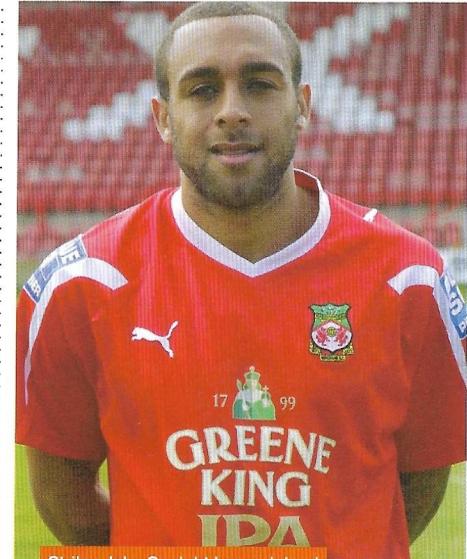
Out of last season's Play-Off contenders, Mansfield have been the most active, signing many players with high credentials at this level. These include John Dempster from Crawley, George Pilkington and Godfrey Poku from Luton, and Jamie Tolley and Jake Speight from Wrexham.

Suffered

The Welsh side, who were runners-up last season, have suffered in the transfer market over the summer, with not only Tolley and Speight departing, but also Mathias Pogba, Nat Knight-Percival and Chris Maxwell leaving to join Football League sides. Manager Andy Morrell has added former Premier League striker Brett Ormerod to his squad, but generally he will look towards the same players from last season that saw the Dragons finish second.

Other top-half teams from last season have seen varying levels of activity in the transfer market. Nantport have made few changes from the squad that finished seventh last season, the most notable departure being Andy Owens to Mansfield.

Today's opponents Gateshead will look towards James Brown to replace Jon Shaw, who netted 28



Striker Jake Speight has re-joined Mansfield from Wrexham

league goals last season, whilst Kidderminster have added 6ft 5in centre-back Exodus Geohaghon and winger Ricky Shakes from Ebbsfleet, as well as re-signing midfielder Keith Briggs from Fleetwood to boost their promotion push.

Other teams involved in disappointing campaigns last season include Cambridge United and Lincoln City, and both clubs have added 10 players to their respective squads. Cambridge's signings include Scott Garner from Grimsby, Ricky Wellard from AFC Wimbledon and the return of winger Robbie Willmott.

Forest Green Rovers, meanwhile, have added four strikers to their squad, including Magno Vieira from Fleetwood and Phil Marsh from Stalybridge, who scored 22 goals in the Blue Square Bet North last term.

The four newly-promoted teams to the division have generally been quiet during the summer, with the notable exception of Nuneaton Town.

Boro have signed 11 players during the close season, including former Aston Villa defender and Ireland international Stephen O'Halloran and target man Kyle Perry.

Hyde have been the quietest of any teams during the transfer market, signing just three players and seeing only two leave.

Elsewhere, the most notable and, perhaps shrewd, signing of the summer could be Tamworth's capture of former England international Lee Hendrie, who is now aged 35.

Luton Town FC

SUMMER HOLIDAYS SOCCER SCHOOLS



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- Years 3 & 4
- Years 5 & 6

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- Fun games to practice techniques
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- Medals for all participants

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per participant

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SOCCER SCHOOLS

The youth football season may still be over a month away, but we are still running our soccer camps all the way throughout August in Luton, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire for all of our young aspiring footballers who want to both learn and improve their game.

The popular courses are designed to cover all aspects of the game including shooting, passing, heading and dribbling and offer well-organised, fun programmes for boys and girls to include small-sided games, competitions and fun games to practice ball technique.

BARTON

Venue: Arnold Academy, Hexton Road
Dates: Wednesday to Friday 25th to 27th July
Wednesday to Friday 8th to 10th August
Wednesday to Friday 29th to 31st August

BEDFORD

Venue: Newnham Middle School, Polhill Avenue
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 30th July to 1st August*
Wednesday to Friday 22nd to 24th August

BIGGLESWADE

Venue: Edward Peake Middle School, Potto Road
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 6th to 8th August
Tuesday to Thursday 21st to 23rd August

BROMHAM

Venue: Bromham Lower School, Grange Lane
Dates: Thursday & Friday 2nd and 3rd August

CADDINGTON

Venue: Caddington Village School, Five Oaks
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 23rd to 25th July
Tuesday to Thursday 14th to 16th August

DUNSTABLE

Venue: Creasey Park Stadium, Creasey Park Drive
Dates: Wednesday to Friday 25th to 27th July*
Wednesday to Friday 15th to 17th August
Wednesday to Friday 29th to 31st August

FLITWICK / AMPHILL

Venue: Flitwick Leisure Centre, Steppingley Road
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 23rd to 25th July
Monday to Wednesday 6th to 8th August
Tuesday to Friday 28th to 31st August*

KEMPSTON

Venue: Daubeny Middle School, Orchard Street
Dates: Wednesday to Friday 22nd to 24th August

HARPENDEN

Venue: Sir John Lawes school, Manland Way
Dates: Tuesday to Thursday 24th to 26th July
Wednesday to Friday 29th to 31st August

HOUGHTON REGIS

Venue: Thomas Whitehead Lower School, Angels Lane
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 20th to 22nd August

All venues and dates are listed below and parents can either book children for an entire course or individual days by phoning or sending a text to James Hatch on 07725 172345 or by email at ltfc.soccerschools@hotmail.co.uk.

Prices start from only £10 per day, and all children attending receive a special Luton Town medal and ticket voucher for a home fixture at Kenilworth Road. All courses run 10am to 3pm and we do offer sibling discounts.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Venue: Gilbert Inglefield Middle School, Vandyke Road
Dates: Wednesday to Friday 15th to 17th August

LINSLADE

Venue: Cedars Academy, Mentmore Road
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 30th July to 1st August
Tuesday to Thursday 21st to 23rd August*

LUTON

Venue: Barnfield College, New Bedford Road
Date: Monday to Friday 23rd to 27th July
Monday to Friday 6th to 10th August*
Monday to Friday 20th to 24th August
Venue: Playfootball.net, Stopsley, St Thomas' Road
Dates: Monday to Friday 30th July to 3rd August
Monday to Friday 13th to 17th August*
Tuesday to Friday 28th to 31st August

PITSTONE & IVINGHOE

Venue: Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 30th July to 1st August
Tuesday to Thursday 21st to 23rd August

POTTON

Venue: Potton Lower School, Mill Lane
Dates: Wednesday to Friday 1st to 3rd August

SANDY

Venue: Robert Peel Lower School, Dapifer Drive
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 13th to 15th August

SHEFFORD / HENLOW

Venue: Digswell football pitches (next to Sub Police station)
Dates: Wednesday to Friday 25th to 27th July
Wednesday to Friday 15th to 17th August
Wednesday to Friday 29th to 31st August

STOTFOLD

Venue: Roecroft Lower School, Buttercup Road
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 6th to 8th August

TODDINGTON

Venue: Toddington parish playing fields, Luton Road
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 20th to 22nd August

WOBURN SANDS

Venue: Fulbrook Middle School, Weathercock Lane
Dates: Monday to Wednesday 13th to 15th August

*Goalkeeping courses also included

FIXTURES AND

NEW FACES

August

Sat 11	15:00	H	Gateshead
Tue 14	19:45	A	Kidderminster Harriers
TV Fri 17	19:30	A	Hyde
Sat 25	15:00	H	AFC Telford United
Mon 27	15:00	A	Ebbesfleet United

September

Sat 1	15:00	H	Macclesfield Town
Wed 5	19:45	H	Cambridge United
Sat 8	15:00	A	Alfreton Town
Sat 15	15:00	H	Wrexham
TV Fri 21	19:30	A	Grimsby Town
Tue 25	19:45	A	Tamworth
Sat 29	15:00	H	Southport

October

Sat 6	15:00	A	Lincoln City
Tue 9	19:45	H	Braintree Town
Sat 13	15:00	H	Nuneaton Town
Sat 27	15:00	A	Forest Green Rovers

November

Tue 6	19:45	A	Hereford United
Sat 10	15:00	H	Dartford
TV Thu 15	19:45	A	Mansfield Town

December

Sat 1	15:00	H	Barrow
Tue 4	19:45	A	Newport County
Sat 8	15:00	H	Alfreton Town
Sat 22	15:00	A	AFC Telford United
Wed 26	15:00	H	Woking
Sat 29	15:00	H	Ebbesfleet United

January

Tue 1	13:00	A	Woking
Sat 5	15:00	A	Macclesfield Town
Sat 12	15:00	H	Hyde
Sat 19	15:00	A	Nuneaton Town
Tue 22	19:45	H	Lincoln City
Sat 26	15:00	H	Stockport County

February

Sat 2	15:00	A	Barrow
Sat 9	15:00	H	Forest Green Rovers
Tue 12	19:45	A	Dartford
Sat 16	15:00	H	Newport County
Sat 23	15:00	H	Mansfield Town
Tue 26	19:45	A	Braintree Town

March

Sat 2	15:00	A	Stockport County
Sat 9	15:00	H	Hereford United
Sat 16	15:00	A	Wrexham
Sat 23	15:00	H	Tamworth
Sat 30	15:00	A	Cambridge United

April

Mon 1	15:00	H	Kidderminster Harriers
Sat 6	15:00	A	Gateshead
Sat 13	15:00	H	Grimsby Town
Sat 20	15:00	A	Southport



DEAN BRILL

Position: Goalkeeper
Previous club: Barnet
Age: 26

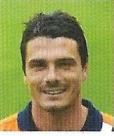
No stranger to Kenilworth Road having made 97 appearance for the Hatters after rising through the ranks as a youngster. Left the club in 2009 for Oldham where he spent two seasons before signing for Barnet last season, who he helped keep in the Football League.



LATHANIEL ROWE-TURNER

Position: Defender
Previous club: Torquay
Age: 22

Quick defender capable of playing at centre-half or at left-back who was snapped up by Paul Buckle, the manager he had played under at former club Torquay. Began his career as a youngster at Leicester City where he won the Premier Academy League in 2006/07.



RONNIE HENRY

Position: Defender
Previous club: Stevenage
Age: 28

Appointed as captain, Ronnie is a right-back or centre-half who joined the Town following his release from Stevenage. The former Tottenham trainee tasted promotion twice in the last three seasons with Boro, including from the Conference as champions in 2009/10.



GARRY RICHARDS

Position: Defender
Previous club: Gillingham
Age: 26

Commanding centre-half with a wealth of Football League experience following spells with Colchester, Southend and Gillingham. Garry made over 100 appearances for the Gills and, whilst with Colchester, won a League 1 runners-up medal.



JON SHAW

Position: Striker
Previous club: Gateshead
Age: 28

Centre-forward who arrives at Kenilworth Road after two hugely successful seasons with today's visitors, Gateshead. Notched 35 goals in all competitions for the Tynesiders last season and had similarly prolific campaigns in this division with Burton and Halifax.



SCOTT RENDELL

Position: Striker
Previous club: Wycombe Wanderers
Age: 25

Scott signed for an undisclosed fee from League 2 Wycombe. He helped fire the Chairboys to promotion to League 1 in 2010/11, scoring 15 league goals, and has enjoyed several seasons in front of goal at this level, most notably with Cambridge United and Torquay, the latter under Paul Buckle.



DANNY SPILLER

Position: Midfielder
Previous club: Gillingham
Age: 30

Experienced central midfielder who signed from Gillingham. Danny started his career at the Priestfield Stadium and, after 128 Football League appearances, he signed for Millwall. After two seasons at the Den he re-signed for the Gills in 2010.



YASER KASIM

Position: Midfielder
Club: On-loan from Brighton and Hove Albion
Age: 21

Iraqi central midfielder who has arrived on a six-month loan deal from Championship side Brighton. Began his career as a trainee at Tottenham Hotspur before moving to the Amex Stadium. Made his league debut for the Seagulls in May 2011.



MATT ROBINSON

Position: Midfield
Previous club: Leicester City
Age: 18

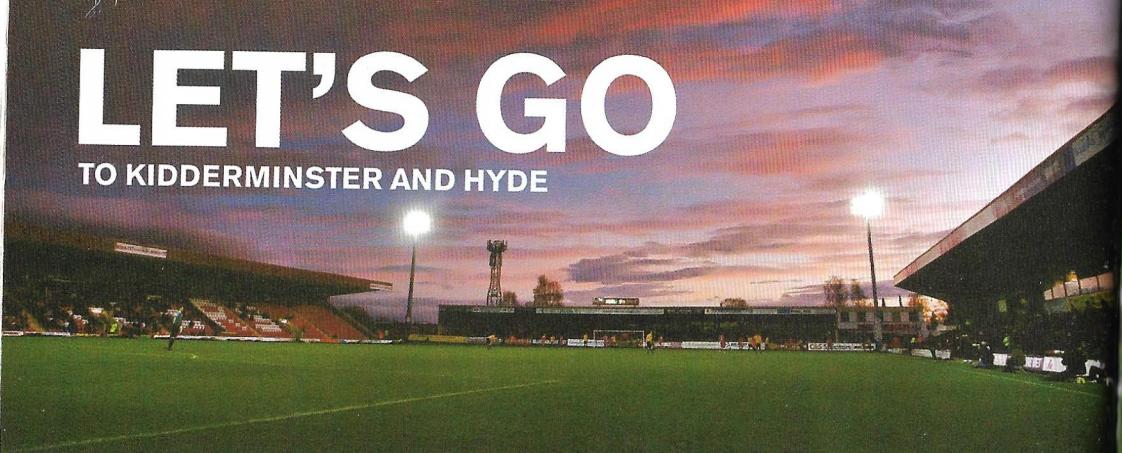
Teenage central midfielder with an eye for goal who impressed Paul Buckle enough in pre-season to earn himself a contract. Despite being a regular goalscorer for the Foxes' youth team he was released at the end of last season.

LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 AFC Telford United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Alfreton Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Braintree Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Cambridge United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Dartford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Ebbesfleet United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Forest Green Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Grimsby Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Hereford United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Hyde FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Kidderminster Harriers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Lincoln City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 Luton Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Macclesfield Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Mansfield Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Newport County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Nuneaton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Southport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Stockport County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 Tamworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Woking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Wrexham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LET'S GO

TO KIDDERMINSTER AND HYDE



The Town face two successive away fixtures after this afternoon's season-opener against Gateshead.

Paul Buckle's men travel to Kidderminster Harriers on Tuesday night before heading further north on Friday night for a televised trip to newly-promoted Hyde.



KIDDERMINSTER

Where: Worcestershire, England. To be more precise, Aggborough Stadium, Hoo Road in Kidderminster. Typing in DY10 1NB into your sat-nav will get you there.

Not got sat-nav, mate: Okay, well the Bobbers Travel are, as ever, running a coach to Aggborough. They're leaving our Maple Road car park at 3.30pm and the prices are £19 for adults and £16 for concessions.

We've been here before haven't we? Absolutely, and what's more, we haven't lost in five previous visits; winning four and drawing one. That's bound to jinx it then.

Eat and drink: Like any supporter (or journalist) will tell you, a trip to Aggborough is the highlight of the culinary season. Both sets of supporters can mingle in the friendly ambience of the supporters' club directly behind the main stand before tasting the home-made delights once inside. The cottage pies (with gravy, trust me) are hailed nationwide, while the famous pea-green Aggborough soup is available by the gallon and is a firm favourite with locals and visitors.

Vantage point: Town fans will be stretching their vocal chords predominately on a covered terrace behind the goal. A right old racket can be created by only a handful of supporters chanting, so imagine the noise a thousand voices can muster. Seating in a relatively new stand by the side of the pitch is also available.

Non-footballing fact: Kidderminster is most famous for carpets. The area began as the hub for the industry back in the late 18th century. And no, Harriers aren't nicknamed the Carpet Fitters.



HYDE

Where: This isn't the small civil parish of Hyde that's south-east of here (the land mostly occupied by the Luton Hoo), but, and I quote "a town in the Metropolitan Borough of Tameside, Great Manchester, England". Basically, seven miles east of Manchester. The football club plays at Ewan Fields.

Ok, thanks for the geography lesson, how do I get there? Well, if you're driving, the postcode for the ground is SK14 2SB. If you'd prefer a coach driver to take the strain, the Bobbers are running a coach that leaves the Maple Road car park at 1.30pm and costs £23 for adults and £20 for concessions.

So, Hyde then? Yep, previously known as Hyde United. Why drop the United, I can hear you asking in your thousands. Well, the club struck a deal with Manchester City to use Ewan Fields as a venue for their reserve games. City didn't want the U-word anywhere. Hyde do play in red shirts, though, and more importantly, won the Blue Square Bet North championship last term so they won't be pushovers.

Step into the unknown: The Town have never played against Hyde or paid a visit Ewan Fields before.

Telly addicts: Premier Sports TV are screening the game live on television and you could save yourself a 350-mile round trip by either making the somewhat shorter journey to Kenilworth Road to watch the game with fellow fans in the Eric Morecambe lounge, or by subscribing to the channel itself - just call 0871 663 9000 to do so.

Luton link: Town favourite and current club chaplain Alan West was born in Hyde. Midfielder Alan began his career with Burnley before going onto make 317 appearances at Kenilworth Road between 1973 and 1981.



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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1	Adam Bartlett
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	2	Carl Magnay
Greg Taylor	3	Patrick Boyle
Garry Richards	4	Jamie Chandler
Dean Beckwith	5	James Curtis
Janos Kovacs	6	Ben Clark
Alex Lawless	7	Josh Gillies
Danny Spiller	8	Phil Turnbull
Jon Shaw	9	Liam Hatch
Scott Rendell	10	Yemi Odubade
Jake Howells	11	Micky Cummins
Stuart Fleetwood	13	Nathan Fisher
Adam Watkins	15	James Brown
Alex Lacey	16	James Marwood
JJ O'Donnell	17	Chris Bush
Yaser Kasim	18	Glenn Wilson
James Dance	19	James Nixon
Ronnie Henry	25	Jamie Barton
Andre Gray	27	Luke Carr
Dan Walker	29	Lewis Galpin
Dean Brill	33	Lee Mole

GATESHEAD

1	Adam Bartlett
2	Carl Magnay
3	Patrick Boyle
4	Jamie Chandler
5	James Curtis
6	Ben Clark
7	Josh Gillies
8	Phil Turnbull
9	Liam Hatch
10	Yemi Odubade
11	Micky Cummins
12	Nathan Fisher
13	James Brown
14	James Marwood
15	Chris Bush
16	Glenn Wilson
17	James Nixon
18	Jamie Barton
19	Luke Carr
20	Lewis Galpin
21	Lee Mole
22	Callum Patton
23	Rob Ramshaw
24	Michael Roberts

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: N. Kinseley

ASSISTANT: S. Feerick

ASSISTANT: S. Pawley

FOURTH OFFICIAL: A. Degnarain

UP NEXT

AFC TELFORD UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST 2012

KICK-OFF 3PM

