



Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club

TALK OF THE TOWN

ISSUE 2 • £3



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BLUE SQUARE BET
PREMIER

LUTON TOWN v AFC TELFORD UNITED

SATURDAY 25th 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.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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PAUL

BUCKLE

Welcome back to you all for this afternoon's Blue Square Bet Premier fixture with AFC Telford United.

We go into today's game unbeaten having taken seven points from nine, which is a great return having played three games in a six-day period.

The improvement since the first half against Gateshead has been fantastic and I cannot praise the players enough for their hard work and determination to ensure we have the points total we have early on in this campaign.

A number of the lads are new signings and, with the weight of expectation firmly on everyone's shoulders, I am delighted with their attitude.

Playing at pace

Expectation is always tougher to manage when you're a club like Luton Town. It's easy when you're the underdog. However, I believe when we play football at a high tempo those pressures can be forgotten. When playing at pace we are a hard team to contain – and that's what we'll be out to do this afternoon.

In the last three games we have shown a variety of characteristics which leads to me to suggest we have an absolutely fantastic group of players here at Kenilworth Road. Those who witnessed the Hyde game will see we made a huddle at the full-time whistle. We wanted to show everyone the togetherness we have here. We are all working towards achieving one goal.

We've shown character to come from one goal down and two goals down. We've shown our quality to go to Kidderminster and win comfortably and keep a clean sheet in the process. Individually, players have shown their physical and mental attributes. Those who have been substituted have taken it the right way, whilst those who have come on have gone on to do the business.

Hugely motivated

In the three games we have played, we have already seen that teams are hugely motivated playing Luton Town. This was illustrated at Hyde where they gave us a real run

for our money. I hope they will go on to give other clubs in and around the top of the table a good game, too.

AFC Telford will be the same. I know Andy from time spent together at Brentford and they are not going to make it easy. But, with all due respect to Telford, I'm not interested in the opposition. It's about what we do that matters.

We will not be standing off teams. The players have a license from me to go and attack teams at will and play on the front foot. That was something we didn't do in the first half against Gateshead but that has since been rectified. The players have the quality and have been given the opportunity to go and express themselves.

Today is the first of two games in the space of three days over this Bank Holiday weekend, with a trip to Ebbsfleet waiting in the wings on Monday.

The dangerous thing is to look at both games but make no mistake we will be fully focused on this afternoon's fixture. Believe me, if we were to win today we'll have lots of running in our legs on Monday.

Up and running

We'll be going full out today. We won't be giving Telford a moment's peace. The pleasing thing is we're up and running – striker's are scoring and creating goals and the team are working hard for one another.

Finally, I must pay tribute to the supporters who travelled to Kidderminster and Hyde last week. Your support doesn't go unnoticed and I'm sure the six points put a smile on your faces.

Three points could see us return to the top of the league so please get behind us again today.



Paul Buckle is sponsored by:

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FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



Good afternoon to you all for our second home match of the season, and a vital one it is too! Despite being so early in the season, any game which provides a fantastic opportunity for the Hatters to be top of the league by 5pm must be considered as an important event.

A very warm welcome to the supporters, players and officials of AFC Telford United, whose second season in the Blue Square Bet Premier is now fully underway having just seen off Braintree by three goals. I'd like to extend a personal welcome to Lee Carter, the Telford Chairman, who has just joined me on the board of the Football Conference.

As this is my first opportunity to wish you all a happy new season, I'd particularly like to thank each and every season ticket holder for renewing or joining. As an update, I'm delighted to be able to announce that you have astounded us and surpassed the expectations of everyone.

Including executive ticket sales, we have now broken the 4,000 mark and have beaten our total of last year. On behalf of the board, a massive thank you to you all for your loyalty and commitment.

Season tickets are incredibly important to us. Not only are they a crucial source of guaranteed income but season ticket sales provide an accurate barometer for the feeling of enthusiasm, hope and faith for the club for the season and, the jobs we, collectively, are doing to get our great club back on track.

We also use season ticket sales as a gauge of confidence in the squad put together which, in turn, enables us to trade more effectively and more assertively.

As you may have noticed, we have had a busy (to say the least) and successful (we all hope) summer of player trading.

In Paul Buckle we have a manager who revels in the challenge of change and strives for perfection. Without any disrespect to those players who departed over the summer, each departure provided us with an opportunity to improve that particular position, to improve the squad balance and to improve the flexibility or depth of the squad.

Additionally, by making such changes, we have had the opportunity to restructure a new culture in the squad with a tight-knit pack of strong, determined characters.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every departing player for their involvement at Luton Town over their time, and, in particular, to two loyal servants.

George Pilkington was an impeccable servant to this club having captained us for four years, led us to a Football League Trophy victory and provided some wonderful memories of his ability, including his cool head for that penalty up in North Wales last May.

Unforgettably, Keith Keane, who rose through the youth ranks at Kenilworth Road from the age of seven and made his debut almost 10 years ago at the ripe old age of 16. Keith gave us many pleasurable moments during his 285 odd appearances, most notably his injury time winner against Oxford direct from a stupendous corner kick in 2010. Whilst it is always a wrench to see such good lads leave, I think you'll agree, our current squad fills us with a greater prospect of hope and excitement than I have felt since becoming involved almost five years ago.

It is all slightly overshadowed by injuries to two recent, promising signings, Garry Richards and Danny Spiller. Whilst we understand that supporters would always like to be fully informed about the squad's fitness levels, it simply wouldn't be wise for us to expose the conditions of our players to our opposition.

Danny and Garry are both doing everything in their powers to recover from their injuries; both of which were sustained since signing. It was such bad luck that having established a new and incredibly thorough medical and fitness test protocol for this summer – which both players passed with flying colours – that two of our most exciting new recruits found themselves out of action after picking up longer term problems.

We wish both of them well in their recoveries. Meanwhile, to balance this setback, we have been delighted by the development of one or two youngsters who are making a name for themselves, particularly JJ O'Donnell who has been like a new signing to us this season. Well done JJ!

Also I must congratulate Jake Woolley on the signing of his first professional contract, thoroughly deserved.

Obtaining seven points from nine is a very good start to the campaign, particularly after two successive away wins – showing the sort of resilience that's been missing in recent seasons. Our squad isn't quite complete yet, so we are hoping and expecting good results to continue and performances to improve throughout the season.

This can't be done without your help, especially away from home. You continue to follow the team away in numbers, for which we are very grateful, and when journeys north on a Friday night are as difficult as they were to Hyde last week, we are yet again left astounded by the togetherness of the fans and team. Never lose sight of the impact you have, the very fact that you are every bit an intrinsic part of the team of Luton Town and the fact that your continued support is crucial to whatever we achieve this season.

Please keep the atmosphere electric, especially here at Kenilworth Road. The noise at our last game against Gateshead was terrific, especially in the second half as we fought back from two goals down.

I must sign off now, but in my next set of notes, I'd like - amongst other things - to discuss stadium and training ground relocation issues; on both of which subjects we've made small but steady progress over the summer.

Enjoy the game today and let's get this place rocking!

COYH

HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

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

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup: Runners-up 1988

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

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One: Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

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

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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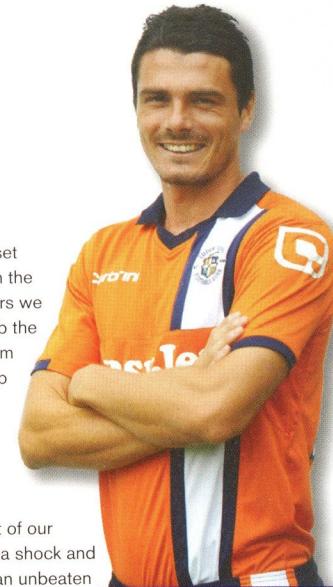
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RONNIE HENRY



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road after a fortnight away since the opening day of the season. We all love playing in front of the big crowds here and we've been looking forward to this game all week.

Our last game here against Gateshead was hugely disappointing. Okay, so we came back from two goals down to earn a point, but we were frustrated that our first-half performance was not good enough and it meant we had to battle back in the second to earn a point.

Every game we play we want three points and we felt we let ourselves, the manager and you, the supporters, down.

We knew we had to learn from our mistakes and put the disappointment behind us when we travelled to Kidderminster. We were desperate to atone for our Gateshead performance and we were delighted to pick up an important three points and keep a clean sheet.

It was great to get that first win and it was thoroughly deserved against a team who, despite their start to the season, will no doubt, be there or thereabouts come the end of the campaign.

Victory

That victory gave us the confidence to go to Hyde and once again we showed terrific character to come from a goal down to win all three points.

We knew it was going to be a tough game – perhaps tougher than the Kidderminster match. Hyde won the Blue Square Bet North last year and, with the game on television, they were out to impress.

In the first half we played some excellent football but couldn't find the breakthrough and, after we conceded to go behind, we rolled up our sleeves, got on with the job, and came back to show what determination we have.

We're developing a never-say-die attitude and results and victories like this can stand us in good stead as the season progresses. We know we are not going to have our own way all of the time and this was a good case in point. The thing is, though, we won. We battled back and that's something I was extremely proud of.

I won't lie; I was expecting us to pick up nine points from the first three games - we all were, that's the

standards we set ourselves. With the quality of players we have at the club the expectation from within the camp is high.

In a way it was good we got the first half against

Gateshead out of our system. It was a shock and perhaps after an unbeaten pre-season it was a wake-up call to league action. What better time to iron out those mistakes than in the first game?

It's early days and we know that there is a long way to go. After today we have 42 games left and a mammoth 126 points left to play for.

But it's important you get off to a good start and the pleasing thing for me is that we are grinding out results but playing okay.

I believe we're not playing anywhere as good as we can. There's much more to come from us. They say the mark of a good team is to grind out results when they're not playing well and that's certainly the case as far as we're concerned.

Roll over

Today, AFC Telford aren't going to roll over and make it easy for us. They won 3-0 last week so they'll be confident, but we can take heart from the last two-and-a-half games and, of course, use your vocal backing to our advantage.

I'd like to thank those supporters who made the midweek games at Kidderminster and especially Hyde on a Friday night. Your encouragement at both games was fantastic, so thank you.

Enjoy the game and get behind us again this afternoon.

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

AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

LEGENDS IN ACTION TOMORROW

Luton Town Legends v Aston Villa Old Stars
At Kenilworth Road on
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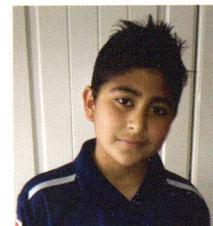
For tickets contact the ticket office on 01582 416576 or ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk

Graham Alexander and Rob Johnson will take on a Villa side containing the likes of Gordon Cowans, Mark Kinsella and Tony Morley.

The Town side will be joint-managed by Kirk Stephens and Jake Findlay and the game will be 35 minutes each-way against the Villa former players' association that features members of their European Cup winning side of 1982.

It promises to be a fantastic occasion as a squad consisting of Hatters legends spanning several decades make a welcome return 'home'.

Tickets are priced at £10 for adults, £5 for concessions, and £5 for ALL season ticket holders. What's more, entry is completely free to all under-17s. Tickets available online as well as the ticket office.

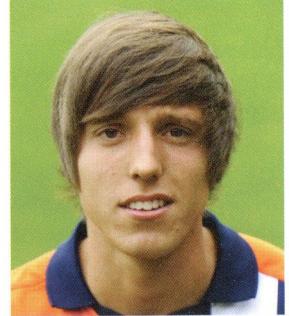


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We'd like to wish Saud Ali Mahmood a very happy 10th birthday. Love from Mum, Dad, Mahraib, Maaz and Sarmad.

If you'd like a birthday shout-out in Talk of the Town then get in touch.

PRO-DEAL FOR WOOLLEY



It's a Bank Holiday weekend packed with football, with Town stars from the past taking on an Aston Villa All Stars XI at Kenilworth Road tomorrow - Bank Holiday Sunday 26th August - at 2pm.

Hatters heroes including Scott Oakes, Mark Pembridge, Marvin Johnson,

the striker now joins the senior side.

Buckle told Talk of the Town: "Jake's got up to the level and he's going to be a good player for Luton in the next few years and I was pleased to give him the contract he deserves."

Meanwhile, youngster Alasan Ann has joined Kettering Town on a month's loan.

HOWELLS CAPPED AGAIN

Midfielder Jake Howells was capped for the fifth time for the Wales Under-21 side last week.

The 21-year-old played a full 90 minutes as the Welsh youngsters slipped to a 1-0 home defeat to Armenia at the Racecourse.

The home side's chances were not helped by an early sending off and the Armenians flew home with all three points in the UEFA Under-21 European Championship qualifier.

GOLDEN GAMBLE

Our ever-popular Golden Gamble returned two weeks ago and a big prize was awarded to David Chellew at our game with Gateshead.

David was clutching ticket number 02400 which was pulled out of the hat at half-time against the Tynesiders, giving him a rather handy £655.

Remember, tickets only cost £1, so look out for sellers inside and outside Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

HATTERS ABROAD

Season ticket holders Dave Boutwood and Ken Hathaway spent their summer holidays touring the west coast of America from San Francisco to Seattle - and posed for the obligatory photographs decked out in Town colours.

A trip to the top of Space Needle was taken in, and, in these photographs, the duo are pictured outside the Seattle Sounders soccer stadium.



REST IN PEACE

The club was saddened to hear of the deaths of two ardent Hatters fans who passed away over the summer.

Christopher Parkin (pictured below), a member of the Century Club for many years, died on May 3rd after a brave battle with cancer. He was 75.

Christopher was a Luton Town fan dating back to when he moved to Dunstable in the early 1960s.



Originally from West Yorkshire, he was a very kind and caring man and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him, including his wife Rachel and his two daughters; Susan and Claire.

Meanwhile, tributes came pouring in for John Moore member Richard Combes who lost his battle with cancer at the age of 67 on July 31st.

Richard had been a member of the Century Club for many years and he and his wife Pat missed very few home games and travelled all over the country when they could. He will be sadly missed.

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Adults (22-64) £365, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £260, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £170, Youths (10-16) £110, Juniors (under 10s) £50.

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.



EBBSFLEET UNITED v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match will be pay on the day only for Town supporters. Terracing and seating will be allocated with seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Prices: Adults £15, 13-17-year-olds and over-60s £10, 5-12-year-olds £5, under-5s free.



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.



LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets are now on sale at usual matchday prices.



ALFRETON TOWN v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are waiting for ticket details from Alfreton for this match



LUTON TOWN v WREXHAM

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at usual matchday prices.



COMMERCIAL BREAK

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As I mentioned in our programme for the visit of Gateshead, we have been busy in the department over the past few weeks taking bookings for corporate hospitality and I expect that to increase as the season continues.

Some of our high-profile fixtures have proved to be incredibly popular with match sponsor, ball sponsor and other commercial opportunities snapped up quickly and that is sure to be the case as the season progresses.

It's certainly a busy time of year and we'll all be back at Kenilworth Road again tomorrow when our legends from our past take to the field once more against an Aston Villa All-Stars XI.

We've been thrilled with the enthusiasm from everyone involved in this game, none more so than our former players.

Scott Oakes, Marvin Johnson, Steve Davis and Graham Alexander are just some of the names who will set foot on the hallowed turf in Town colours once more.

It is sure to be a fantastic occasion and we'd love to see you here for it. Ticket prices can be found on page 10 of today's programme.

Turning our attention back to this afternoon, we have the continued support of Estimators, who sponsor today's game, whilst we also have the pleasure of welcoming two mascots, too. I hope you have an enjoyable day.

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MASCOTS

We have great pleasure to welcome two mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon who will lead the team out onto the pitch prior to kick off.

First up is 11-year-old Jacob Penny from Luton. Jacob attends Lealands High School and plays football for Sundon Athletic.

He comes to games here with his dad and his favourite Town player is Jake Howells.

Our second mascot is five-year-old Arjan Saini of Harpenden. His favourite player is defender Dean Beckwith and he comes to Kenilworth Road with his mum, dad and sister. Arjan enjoys tennis, football and we are told he is an expert Lego builder.

We hope you both have a great time with us this afternoon.



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BOX 16: PRESTIGE DESIGN



BOX 18: CME HEATING



BOX 20: GILMARTINS



BOX 25: MIDDLE EAST CHEMICALS



BOX 27: SKF



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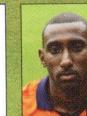
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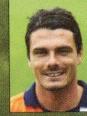
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WELCOME

AFC TELFORD



Today's visitors will be hoping a case of second season syndrome doesn't come hunting for AFC Telford heads as they look to improve on last season's survival success.

After successfully negotiating an instant dismissal from the Blue Square Bet Premier last season - avoiding the drop by the narrowest of margins, finishing 20th - the Bucks will be looking to improve under the watchful eye of former England international Andy Sinton. Sinton, who represented his country on 12 occasions, took over the reins back in 2010 and led his side to promotion in his first season in charge. Sinton strengthened his side in the close season by recruiting the likes of former QPR forward Kieron St. Amie, who netted 11 times for league rivals Tamworth, including a brace against his new side in August 2011. His addition, along with former Newport County striker Jake Reid, shapes a new-look front line for the Bucks as they embark on their most ambitious campaign since they were reformed only eight years ago.

The Bucks will arrive at Kenilworth Road this afternoon with optimism after they frustrated the home side and salvaged a well-earned point against the Town last season. On that day, current Bucks shot stopper Ryan Young was in scintillating form, preventing the Hatters from taking all three points with point blank saves from Stuart Fleetwood, James Dance and Town's goalscorer on the day Robbie Willmott.

However, the only other occasion these sides have met was last season's return fixture which took place in

September at the New Bucks Head, where the Hatters were not so forgiving. An inspired Amari Morgan-Smith bagged an early goal to soothe the nerves before doubling his tally after the restart. It was a ruthless performance by the Hatters despite ending the evening with 10 men after Ed Asafu-Adjaye was dismissed. They left Shropshire with all three points.

Sinton's side entered this season as one of the favourites to succumb to relegation. However, after impressive points against Barrow and Braintree, the Bucks sit comfortably in mid-table prior to today's game and will be looking to prove to all those who doubted, well and truly wrong.

Past results favour the home side in today's clash but, with the Bucks marching into the game off the back of an impressive 3-0 drubbing of Alan Devonshire's Braintree, spirits are high in the Telford camp that they can leave Bedfordshire with a favourable result that will have many pre-season doubters stand up and take note of this ever-growing young football club.

TOWN v AFC TELFORD

HEAD2HEAD RECORD

1	WINS	0
3	GOALS	1

LAST MEETING:

November 2011: Town 1-1 AFC Telford

THE BUCKS

AN AT-A-GLANCE VIEW OF THE AFC TELFORD SQUAD



ANDY SINTON

The boss. Enjoyed an illustrious playing career with spells at Brentford, QPR, Sheffield Wednesday, Spurs and Wolves, and capped 12 times for England. Joined Telford in June 2010 and guided the club to promotion in his first season.

JACK CUDWORTH

Young goalkeeper who joined this summer having been released by Macclesfield. Begun his career at Preston and last term had spells on loan at Colwyn Bay and Barrow.

RYAN YOUNG

One of the most dependable goalkeepers in the division, Ryan has made over 200 appearances for the Bucks after signing from Kettering.

CHRIS BLACKBURN

Club captain and centre-half who has a wealth of experience following spells with Chester, Northwich, Morecambe, Aldershot, Wrexham and Stockport, from who he joined from in January.

MICHAEL BRISCOE

Former Kidderminster centre-half who arrived at the New Bucks Head this summer. Played League 2 football with Macclesfield and has also had a spell with Tamworth.

LUKE HUBBINS

Young right-back signed from Tamworth this summer. Began his career as a trainee with Birmingham and has also had a loan spell with Notts County.

DAN PRESTON

Another former Birmingham defender, centre-back Dan was released from St Andrews in 2011 and was a regular for Telford last season.

TOM ROBERTS

Former Manchester United schoolboy and scholar at Aston Villa who joined Welsh club The New Saints in 2011. Highly-rated full-back who signed for the Bucks this summer.

WILL SALMON

Talented right-back who signed from Ebbsfleet at the start of the 2010/11 campaign. A consistent performer who has also played for Aldershot.

RYAN VALENTINE

Experienced left-back who counts Darlington, Wrexham and Hereford among his former employers. Gained eight Under-21 caps for Wales.

JONATHAN BROWN

Midfielder who signed permanently this summer having impressed last season whilst on loan from Southport.

STEVE JONES

Vastly experienced winger who counts Crewe, Walsall and Burnley as his former clubs. Signed for the Bucks in November 2011.

STEVEN LESLIE

Scottish midfielder who signed this summer having previously been with Shrewsbury, who he had played over 100 times for.

NATHAN ROONEY

Former Wolves midfielder who signed for the Bucks at the start of last season. Had been at Molineux since he was eight and was once their reserve team captain.

JAY SMITH

Ex-Southend and Notts County midfielder. Signed for the Bucks in November 2011, initially on loan before agreeing a permanent switch.

KRIS TAYLOR

Versatile midfielder who can also operate in defence. Signed this summer from Darlington, he has also enjoyed spells with Walsall, Hereford and Port Vale and was once on the books of Manchester United.

PHIL TRAINER

Hugely experienced midfielder who joined from Oxford in 2009. Scored an injury-time winner that secured Telford's place in the Blue Square Premier two years ago.

JAKE REID

Bristol-born forward who signed this summer following his release from Newport County, who he scored nine times in 22 games.

CHRIS SHARP

Son of former Everton striker Graeme Sharp, Chris is a prolific forward who has scored goals for Rhyl, Bangor and TNS in Wales. Signed in August last year.

JAMES SPRAY

Young striker who was released from Wolves this summer. Having impressed on trial, he was awarded a deal with the Bucks.

KIERON ST AIMIE

Former QPR winger or centre forward who signed this summer. Has played for numerous clubs over the past five years including Tamworth, Kettering and Barnet.



Established: 2004

Nickname(s): The Bucks, The Lilywhites

Stadium: New Bucks Head

Capacity: 6,300 (Avg. attendance '11/12 - 2,264)

Manager: Andy Sinton (2 years, 3 months)

Final league position: '11/12: 20th BSBP

DID YOU KNOW

- Telford have failed to score in the first half in 34 of their 49 BSBP games.
- Last season, Telford conceded first in 23 games and only came back to earn points in four of those games.

AFC Telford United narrowly avoided relegation last season with just two games to go and it is a widely-held belief they owe their survival to the well-documented implosion of Darlington. However, the club is looking ahead not backwards and manager Andy Sinton has brought in no fewer than 12 new faces over the summer in a bid to make Blue Square Bet Premier survival an easier task this time around.

How have they started the season?

Confidence is currently at an all-time high at Telford after the club recorded its biggest winning margin since being in the top tier of Non-League football with a 3-0 win over Braintree last weekend. Prior to that, a 2-1 defeat to Forest Green Rovers saw the Bucks produce a spirited second-half display which was nearly enough to complete a comeback from 2-0 down against one of the favourites for this season's league title.

How did they fare last season?

Last season, Telford finished 20th in the Blue Square Bet Premier with a lowly 46 points. The side possessed one of the poorest scoring records in the league and only registered 45 goals in total. Of those 45, 20 were scored by three players who will all be unavailable today. Chris Sharp - the club's top scorer with 11 goals last season - is out with a groin injury, whilst Kyle Perry and Sean Newton have moved on to other clubs.

The Bucks had a respectable home record last year (ranked 13th in the league), but it was their abysmal away record which put them in such danger. Sinton's team only managed to win one game away from New Bucks Head all season - a 1-0 win at York City - and that came back in August last year.

It is worth noting that after winning at York, Telford then went on to earn draws at Fleetwood, Mansfield and ourselves - so they will be hoping to replicate those performances again this year.

How will they play? Who are their key men?

Telford have added some size and strength to their squad this summer and word from the club is that Sinton's men will look to press the Hatters aggressively in order to stifle any attempts to play football through the midfield.



After impressing when switching to a 4-4-2 during the second half against Forest Green and beating Braintree convincingly, it is likely Sinton will keep faith

that system. New signing Justin Rose will be partnered by the experienced Chris Blackburn at the back if he is fit. In midfield, Luke Hubbins' pace, industry and ability to beat his man down the outside will be a threat, while attacking central-midfielder Nathan Rooney, who has scored twice this season, will look to get forward often. Steven Leslie is arguably the most

technically gifted of Telford's players and he will look to provide a creative edge from the left-hand side of midfield. Wolves graduate James Spray should start up front with the physically imposing Kieran St Aimie. It is likely one of the two will be instructed to prevent Yaser Kasim from composing the play in front of the Luton defence.



Gifted: Steven Leslie

THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

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

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Joey Heppenstall

AGE? 18

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

Four seasons

HOW'S YOUR SEASON GONE SO FAR?

I feel the season hasn't started too badly. A solid point at Barrow, a battling loss versus Forest Green and a 3-0 win against Braintree. There's more to come from our new signings.

WHO'S YOUR PLAYER TO WATCH?

Our new signing Steven Leslie. A former Football League player with a lot of skill and good feet. He has got the vision and creativity to unlock any defence in this league. He has only had one pre-season game and three league games but I feel there's still a lot more to come from him.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR MANAGER?

Andy Sinton isn't really what you call a 'fans' manager' - he doesn't interact with the supporters that often. If he came out to explain some of his decisions more often, I believe he'd have a better rapport with the Telford fans.

WHO DO YOU MOST WANT TO BEAT THIS SEASON?

I would love to watch Telford get one over on Nuneaton this season. Their squad is made up of ex-Telford players - it should make for an intriguing encounter.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO KENILWORTH ROAD BEFORE, AND IF SO, HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE?

I have been to Kenilworth Road before, last season when the teams drew 1-1 thanks to Sean Newton's fantastic free-kick. I personally liked the stadium. It was a lot different to what the Telford players were playing in during the Blue Square North campaign. The squad has changed a lot now and I'd back our lads to cause an upset.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES FROM FACING LUTON IN THE PAST?

They had a strong squad but lacked a cutting edge. Hopefully, for Telford's sake, they still have those issues.

IS THERE A PARTICULAR LUTON PLAYER YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING PLAY?

Yes, Andre Gray, who had a loan spell with us from Shrewsbury a few years ago. I'm looking forward to seeing how far he's progressed as a player.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

The best thing about supporting AFC Telford is that it is fan-owned and the volunteer ethic which surrounds the club is fantastic.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MATCH INVOLVING YOUR CLUB WHILE YOU'VE BEEN SUPPORTING THEM?

My favourite match whilst supporting Telford was the Blue Square North Play-Off Final against Guiseley. Phil Trainer's last-minute winner - which sent the Bucks up in to the Blue Square Premier - was by far the best moment I have ever witnessed at the New Bucks Head.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CLUB THIS SEASON?

I expect Telford to play a lot better than they did last season. We've made a few strong signings and I don't expect the team to be struggling to keep out of the relegation zone come the end of the season.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LUTON'S CHANCES OF PROMOTION THIS YEAR?

I believe Luton will get stronger as the season progresses, and I expect them to make the Play-Offs by the end of the season.

WHAT'S THE SCORE GOING TO BE TODAY?

I'm backing Telford to cause a small upset today - 2-2.

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS TEN POST-WAR TELFORD UNITED/AFC TELFORD CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1969/70

Telford United reached the first ever FA Trophy final in 1969/70. Ron Flowers' side defeated Witton Albion, Ilkeston Town, Wigan Athletic, Romford, Worcester City and Chelmsford City before losing 2-0 to Macclesfield Town in the Wembley final. Telford finished eighth in the Southern League Premier Division, blasting Barnet 5-3 and Wimbledon 4-0 at the Bucks Head and winning 2-1 at Yeovil Town. They also reached the FA Cup first round for only the second time in 15 years.

1970/71

Graham Carr skippered Telford United to the FA Trophy and Southern League double in 1970/71. They beat Bradford Park Avenue, South Shields, Burton Albion, Tamworth and Yeovil Town en route to the FA Trophy final. Goals by Jack Bentley, Joey Owen and Micky Fudge secured a 3-2 victory over Hillingdon Borough at Wembley. The Bucks beat Weymouth 3-2 on aggregate in the Southern League Cup final and won 5-2 at Walton & Hersham to reach the FA Cup second round for the second time.

1981/82

Telford United finished third in the Conference in 1981/82, the club's highest ever position. They kicked off with a 2-0 defeat at Bath City but lost just one of their next 11 games. Dave Mather scored four times in a 7-1 demolition of Frickley Athletic and Mark Neale grabbed a hat-trick in a 4-3 win over Altrincham in consecutive home matches in February. Just one defeat in their last 10 games, including a 4-1 win over Boston United, saw them finish third behind Runcorn and Enfield. They lost 1-0 to eventual winners Enfield in the FA Trophy third round. Dave Mather was top scorer with 22 goals, while Kevin Charlton and Tony Turner were ever-present.

1982/83

United won the FA Trophy for the second time in 1982/83. Stan Storton's side beat Burton Albion, Spennymoor United, Scarborough, Dartford and Harrow

Borough en route to the FA Trophy final. Two goals by Dave Mather gave Telford a 2-1 victory over Northwich Victoria at Wembley. They also beat Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup first round - their first ever win over Football League opposition in the competition - then took Tranmere Rovers to a second round replay.

1983/84

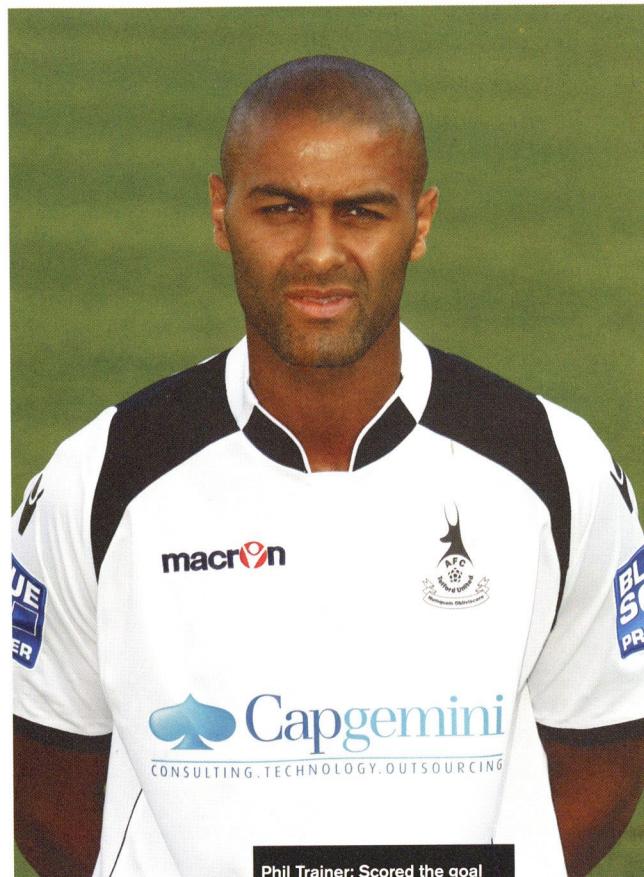
The Bucks beat three Football League clubs en route to the FA Cup fourth round in 1983/84. Stan Storton's side defeated Stockport County 3-0, Northampton Town 3-2 and Rochdale 4-1 in the FA Cup before losing 3-2 at Derby County. Telford reached the Bob Lord Trophy semi-finals before losing to Barnet and lost their grip on the FA Trophy with a 2-0 quarter-final replay defeat at Marine. Colin Williams, Dean Edwards and Dave Mather scored 51 goals between them.

1984/85

United beat four Football League clubs en route to the FA Cup fifth round in 1984/85. They defeated Lincoln City 2-1, Preston 4-1, Bradford City 2-1 and Darlington 3-0 in the FA Cup before losing 3-0 to holders Everton in front of 47,402 at Goodison Park. Telford were only the fourth non-league club to reach the FA Cup fifth round since the war. Mark Hancock was Player of the Year, while Kevin Charlton and skipper Tony Turner were both ever-present.

1987/88

Telford were FA Trophy finalists for the fourth time in 1987/88. Stan Storton's side defeated Buxton, Wealdstone, Stafford Rangers, Cheltenham Town and Wokingham Town en route to the FA Trophy final. They were held to a 0-0 draw by Enfield at Wembley before losing 3-2 in the replay at The Hawthorns. They won 10 times in 11 matches in mid-season, including a 4-0 demolition of Enfield. Top scorer Steve Norris joined Scarborough for a record fee.



Phil Trainer: Scored the goal that won the Bucks promotion

1988/89

Telford won the FA Trophy for the third time in 1988/89. They defeated Witton Albion, Yeovil Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Newcastle Blue Star and Hyde United to reach the FA Trophy final for the second consecutive season. Ian Crawley scored in extra-time to clinch a 1-0 victory over Macclesfield Town at Wembley. They also took Carlisle United to an FA Cup first round replay but finished 16th in the Conference.



1991/92

Gerry Daly plotted United's FA Cup first round replay win over Stoke City in 1991/92. They drew 0-0 at the Victoria Ground before Ian Benbow scored twice in their 2-1 replay victory at the Bucks Head. Telford lost 1-0 at home to Wrexham in the second round. They lost just two of their first 10 Conference games and went second with a 4-1 victory over Stafford in late September but finished sixth. Eventual winners Colchester defeated them 4-0 in the FA Trophy quarter-finals.

2010/11

AFC Telford won the Blue Square North Play-Off final in 2010/11. Andy Sinton's side finished runners-up to Alfreton Town, winning 5-0 at home to Corby Town and Hyde and also at Gainsborough Trinity. They lost just two matches at home, against Boston United and Solihull Moors, and two away,

against Eastwood Town and Blyth Spartans. Andy Brown was top scorer with 14 goals and they kept 14 clean sheets in their 20 away games. The Bucks beat Nuneaton Town 3-2 on aggregate in the Play-Off semi-finals before goals from Sean Newton, Liam Murray and Phil Trainer clinched a dramatic 3-2 victory over Guiseley in the Play-Off final, watched by 5,436 at the New Bucks Head.



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TOWN 2-2 GATESHEAD



Liam Hatch gets to grips
with Yaser Kasim

OPENING DAY HONOURS SHARED

Paul Buckle's men clawed their way back from two goals down to earn an opening day draw with Gateshead at Kenilworth Road, with goals from Stuart Fleetwood and debutant Jon Shaw sealing a comeback in a strong second-half display.

Two-nil down at half-time after a muted first-half display, the Hatters came out for the second half with real vigour and attacking intent, but fell just short of picking up the three points they wanted after giving themselves too much to do against a strong and well-organised Heed side.

The Tynesiders stunned the majority of the 6,700 crowd at Kenilworth Road when Liam Hatch nodded home a left-wing corner on 25 minutes. And worse followed 10 minutes later when Hatch's strike-partner Yemi Odubade sped through to slip a fine finish underneath Mark Tyler to double the visitors' advantage.

Buckle made two changes at half-time, introducing Alex Lawless and former Tynesider Shaw and it was the striker who got the Town back in the game when he struck just after the hour to make it 2-1.

Now confidence was flowing through the Hatters and it came as no surprise when Fleetwood fired a fine finish into the corner of the net 10 minutes later to bring the scores level.

Afterwards Buckle felt his side showed great character to come back from two goals down to earn a point. "The first half was definitely one to forget," he

told Hatters Player afterwards. "It didn't look anything like us from pre-season and it seemed to me that the players wanted too much time on the ball. There wasn't enough purpose about us."

"We've been undone for the first goal by a set-piece which is sloppy, and it's a reminder to the players that if you concede the first goal at Kenilworth Road it's very difficult. But we showed fabulous character and the fans stuck with us – and we could have won it."

Trailing at the break Buckle felt he had no option to make the two changes. "I will always go for it," Buckle said. "It was killing me to be 2-0 down at half-time. We came in and there were a lot of faces down but, it's a good saying of ours, 'there's nothing on the floor, so heads up'."

"Both changes were tactical and with Jon up there we looked a different a completely different team. In the first half we were trying to score the perfect goal but once Jon was on we could hit him and everyone could join in."

"I've said before if we're going to succeed this season we're going to have to mix it up and I'm delighted we've shown so much character to come back from two down and draw. It's a great reminder of what this league is all about and we've shown the strength of character to come through it."

"There's a lot of positives and it's only the first game of the season."



TOWN 2

SHAW 61, FLEETWOOD 71



GATESHEAD 2

HATCH 25, ODUBADE 35



Mark Tyler takes a catch



Jake Howells is sent tumbling

Copper - Brass
minium - Cables - L
series - Stainless Steel
catalytic Converters

01582 565969

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INTERIOR FIT
CONTRACTORS
CONSULT
DESIGN
BUILD



Janos Kovacs heads clear

POSSESSION	
42%	58%
CORNERS	
2	6
OFFSIDES	
7	2
SHOTS ON TARGET	
3	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	
3	3
FOULS	
15	9
YELLOW CARDS	
0	1
RED CARDS	
0	0

TOWN:

Tyler
Rowe-Turner
Henry
Kovacs
Taylor
(sub Lawless 46)
Kasim
(sub Shaw 46)
O'Donnell
Howells
Gray
(sub Watkins 69)
Rendell
Fleetwood
Subs not used:
Beckwith
Brill

GATESHEAD:

Bartlett
Magnay
Chandler
Curtis
Clark
Gillies
(sub Marwood 67)
Turnbull
Hatch
Odubade
(sub Fisher 75)
Cummins
Bush

Subs not used:
Boyce
Wilson
Nixon

ATTENDANCE:

6,743

(67 Gateshead)

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HYDE 1-2 TOWN

Stuart Fleetwood hits the winner at Ewen Fields

LATE COMEBACK EARNS VICTORY

The Town battled back from behind to go top of the Blue Square Bet Premier with a hard-earned win at Hyde.

After both sides had gone close to opening the scoring in the first half, it was the Tigers who took the lead on 55 minutes when former Hatters loanee Matthew Blinkhorn turned on the edge of the box and finished well past Mark Tyler who, despite getting a glove on the ball, could not keep it out. In response, Paul Buckle made two substitutes in quick succession; introducing Jake Howells and Andre Gray for Greg Taylor and Yaser Kasim.

The Town were finding it tough going and looked unlikely to find a way back into the game until JJ O'Donnell stepped in on 69 minutes.

Jon Shaw battled for the ball and worked it into the path of Scott Rendell, who showed patient play to feed O'Donnell and he arrowed a low shot goalwards that fizzed past the motionless David Carnell in the Hyde goal. It was the young midfielder's first goal for the club.

Now the Hatters were in the ascendancy, O'Donnell saw a shot from the edge of the box that was blocked minutes later before Ronnie Henry blasted a shot inches wide with 16 minutes left on the clock.

It seemed that Hyde's threat had now been nullified as the Town went in search of a winner and, lo and behold, 10 minutes after they drew level, they took the lead through Stuart Fleetwood.

Tyler played a crucial role – darting way outside of his box in sweeper-esque fashion to mop up the danger and pass to Henry. The skipper then threaded a fine ball down the line to Gray who raced down the wing, looked up and swept an inch-perfect pass into the path of Fleetwood whose first-time finish beat Carnell and completed the turnaround.

Afterwards, Buckle again praised his side's character as they came from a goal down to earn victory.

He said: "I'm pleased we've won – we've come through two difficult games with six points. The players deserve a massive pat on the back. Tonight showed we have some tremendous characters.

"Sloppy play on the edge of our box led to their goal but in truth, especially in the first half, we were making all the running and creating chances.

"When you don't get the first goal it's always hard, but we remained patient and the supporters helped us

– I thought they were first class again tonight – coming to Hyde on a Friday night and that's why we went over to them at the end because they played a vital role.

"We showed our desire tonight. I'm trying to instil a winning mentality and a grit and determination, and you know if you baulk at places like Hyde then you'll get rolled over.

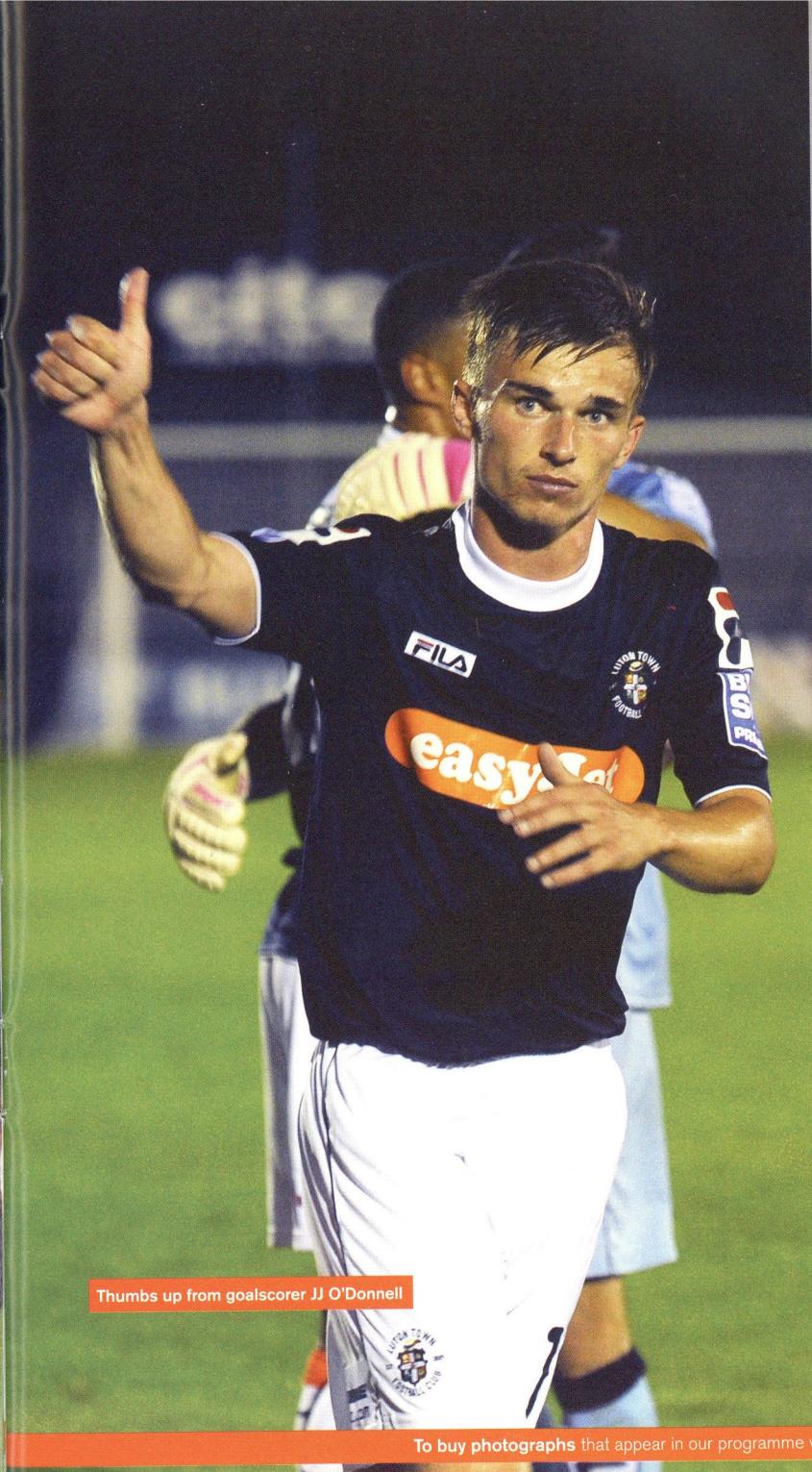
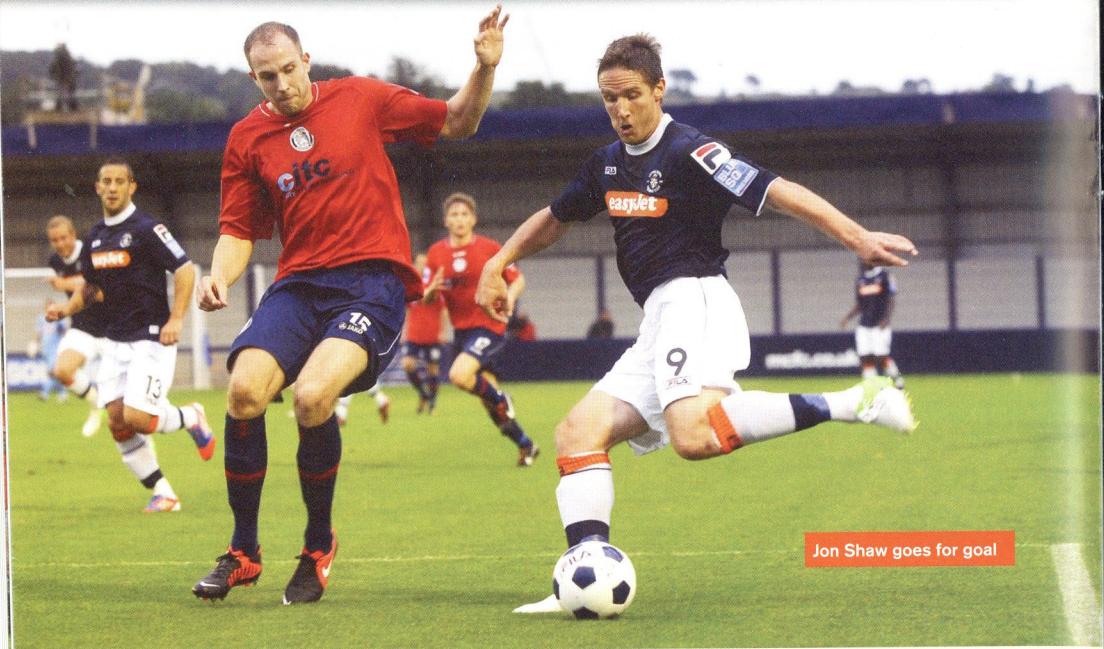
"We showed that we can mix it up and I'm proud that we're top of the league tonight.



HYDE 1
BLINKHORN 55



TOWN 2
O'DONNELL 68, FLEETWOOD 78



POSSESSION	
59%	41%
CORNERS	1
7	1
OFFSIDES	5
3	5
SHOTS ON TARGET	4
4	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	13
6	13
FOULS	14
8	8
YELLOW CARDS	1
3	3
RED CARDS	0
0	0

HYDE:
Carnell
Brizell
Griffin
Ashworth
Brown
(sub G. Spencer 75)
Byrne
(sub Lomax 89)
S. Spencer
Jevons
(sub McNiven 75)
Williams
Cassidy
Blinkhorr
Subs not used
Frith
Douglas-Pringle

TOWN:
Tyle
Henry
Rowe-Turne
Kovacs
Taylor
(sub Howells 61)
Kasin
(sub Gray 64)
O'Donne
Lawles
Rende
Shaw
Fleetwood
(sub Robinson 87)
Subs not used
Beckwith
Bri

ATTENDANCE:
2,271
(543 Lutor)

Greg Taylor looks for a pass

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KIDDERMINSTER 0-2 TOWN

PROMOTION TOPS AGENDA

Two first-half goals from Stuart Fleetwood gave the Hatters their first victory of the season at Kidderminster.

The striker scored two fine goals in the space of seven minutes to extend the Hatters fine record at Aggborough – this was their fifth win in the last six visits to this part of Worcestershire.

It was no more than the Town deserved with Fleetwood opening the scoring on 23 minutes, finishing coolly following an intricate move involving JJ O'Donnell and Scott Rendell.

His second was even better. With nothing on, he turned to hit a stunning low, curling shot from the edge of the area beyond the home goalkeeper Danny Lewis.

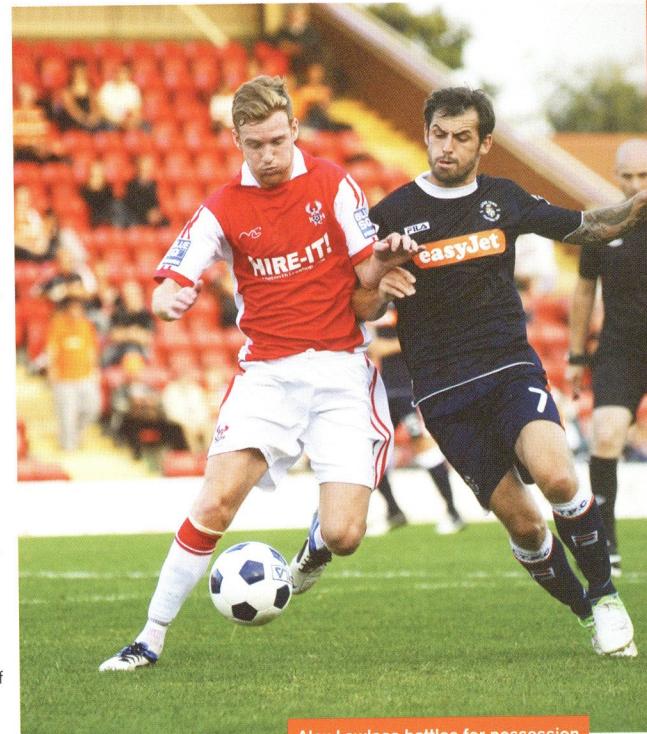
Harriers, who had rarely threatened in the first half, came out all guns blazing in the second half but failed to call Mark Tyler into a meaningful save.

O'Donnell, Jon Shaw, Alex Lawless and Fleetwood all came close to adding to the tally, including an effort from the latter that skimmed the top of the crossbar.

But it mattered not – the Town were always comfortably in control despite Harriers' efforts, and held on to secure a deserved victory – banishing the disappointment of the first half on Saturday.

Town boss Paul Buckle felt he got the response he was looking for from his side having been unimpressed with the 2-2 draw with Gateshead on Saturday – and two goals from Fleetwood at Aggborough delighted the boss.

"I got a response for the whole 90 minutes," he said afterwards. "We started well and we began like we were in the mood not to be second best. We worked hard and got our reward and I thought we were magnificent. I told the players we need to be nasty and to grind out victories away from home and in the end we made it look easy because we were doing the right things well."



Alex Lawless battles for possession

"We've set the benchmark and got a good three points against a good side, and the key is to continue that and build on it at Hyde on Friday."

Buckle revealed that it was a hard decision to give goal hero Fleetwood the nod to start over Andre Gray, who was dropped to the bench in favour of Shaw.

"It was a tough call," he said. "In the end I went with Stuart because he scored one and made one on Saturday - but he wasn't by any means on it at the weekend."

"Before the game I asked him if he still believed in himself and he said he did. After all, his record in this division speaks for itself and the two goals he scored were excellent."



KIDDERMINSTER 0



TOWN 2
FLEETWOOD 23, 30



Stuart Fleetwood puts the Town in front at Kidderminster



POSSESSION	
59%	41%
CORNERS	
7	1
OFFSIDES	
3	5
SHOTS ON TARGET	
4	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	
13	6
FOULS	
8	14
YELLOW CARDS	
1	3
RED CARDS	
0	0

KIDDERMINSTER:
Lewis
Storey
Geohaghon
Williams
Byrne
Vincent
Rowe
(sub Rowe 72)
Malbor
Johnson
(sub Pilkington 79)
Austin
Briggs
Subs not used
Demetriou
Dunkley
Baughan

TOWN:
Tyler
Henry
Kovacs
Rowe-Turner
Taylor
Kasim
Lawless
O'Donnell
Rendel
Shaw
(sub Robinson 87)
Fleetwood
(sub Gray 79)
Subs not used
Beckwith
Walke
Brid

ATTENDANCE
2,275
(543 Luton)

To buy photographs that appear in our programme visit www.hatterspics.co.uk

PICTURE THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Luton centre-back Paul Price blasts the ball towards the Shrewsbury goal during the Town's 2-1 win at Gay Meadow in December 1979.

Price's effort was off target but goals from Brian Stein and Bob Hatton earned a valuable two points in this Division Two (now Championship) encounter and pushed the Town up to third spot.

FOOTBALL!

GRAND OPENING MATCH. SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

On the TOWN GROUND, LUTON,

SATURDAY, SEPT. 1ST, 1900,

LUTON

v.

SOUTHAMPTON

KICK-OFF, 4 P.M.

Admission, 6d. Stand, 6d.

Cheap Train from St. Albans at 3 p.m., also from Leighton and Dunstable.

S. PRIDE, PRINTER, LUTON.

TOWN TREASURES

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

Featured today is a remarkably well preserved poster advertising a match at the old Dunstable Road ground 112 years ago.

This was to be no ordinary game though, as the Town were entering a new chapter in their history by re-joining the Southern League following their failure to establish themselves as a major force in the national, but northern-dominated, Football League.

Founder members of the Southern League in 1894, the Town had finished runners-up to Millwall in each of their first two seasons and then felt ready to make the step up, but their assumption that they would be accepted by the Football League was dealt a savage blow when they were not elected.

The Town therefore had to play a season in the United League before their eventual elevation in 1897. Sadly, the Football League Division Two was not all it seemed, as, with only Woolwich Arsenal south of Leicester, travel costs were huge and as the team was not really strong enough, crowds dwindled away leaving the club in a parlous financial state.

In 1900, after three years of declining fortune, the Town did not seek re-election and instead went cap in hand back to the Southern League who, thankfully, accepted us back into the fold.

In the four years the Town had been away, the Southern League had grown progressively stronger, as proved by visitors on the opening day of the 1900/01 season, Southampton, who reached the FA Cup final the season before.

Re-joining the Southern League was not only sound financial sense but it seemed to rejuvenate the Luton supporters and there was an expectant crowd of "upwards of 4,000" who generated gate receipts of £105 for the clash with the Saints. This attendance was in direct contrast to those of the back-end of the previous season which had dipped as low as 1,000.

With seven players making their Luton debuts that day, it was felt that the team would take time to settle so it came as a surprise when Bill Molyneux fired the Town into an early lead.

Southampton were a strong side though, and were 3-1 up at the interval but, although better footballers, they were second best when it came to passion and, when Jimmy Blessington netted the Town's equaliser in the second half, after Molyneux had earlier reduced the arrears, a point was on the cards.

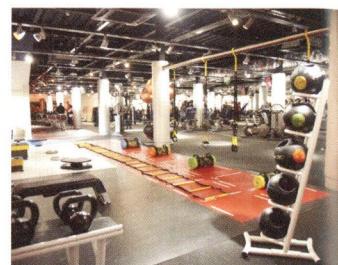
Sadly, Southampton scored what proved to be the winner just before the end to spoil the day.

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

It is 1975 and the Town players celebrate scoring at Birmingham while at the same time making sure they do not mess up their new perms!





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 - Personal programmes and advice
 - High quality changing areas
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 - Children welcome, please see website for childrens hours
 - Massive sports store with massive savings on top brands*

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** Available on full priced products only. Not including replica, large equipment and garden games.

* Please note facilities may vary between clubs. Prices vary between clubs.

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 25

THE RECORD

The Town have a mixed record on this day in history. Of the 14 games played, the Hatters have won six, drawn three and lost five. The first was played back in 1923 when Swansea Town (as the Swans were then known) beat the Hatters 1-0 at Vetch Field. The most recent game came in 2007 when Gillingham were seen off at Kenilworth Road by three goals to one.

OPENING DAY DRAW

In 1990, the Hatters opened their First Division (now Premier League) campaign with a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace at Kenilworth Road. Iain Dowie got the Town's goal.

PLAYING THE PIRATES

The Town have twice faced Bristol Rovers at the Memorial Ground on this day in recent years. The most recent was a 3-2 defeat in 2001. Matt Taylor and Lee Mansell were on target for the Town. In 1999, Rovers secured their place in the second round of the League Cup after a 2-2 draw.

FELLED AT FOREST

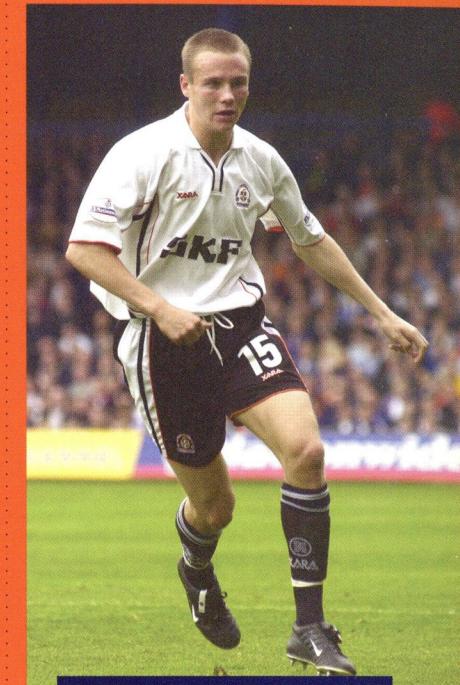
Hatters supporters who travelled back from the City Ground in 1973 would have been wondering what lie in store for the season ahead after watching a 4-0 defeat to Nottingham Forest. In a great example that it doesn't always matter how you fair on the first game of the season, the Town went on to finish runners-up and win promotion to the top flight.

AWAY THE LADS

Two of the Town's six wins have come away from Kenilworth Road on this day. A 1-0 victory at Bury came in 1951 in the Second Division (now Championship), whilst a 2-1 win at Charlton followed five years later in the old First Division.

NAUGHTY NEWELL

The Hatters began the 2002/03 season with Mike Newell in charge, the season before he guided the club to the League 1 title. But he was in the officials' bad books following a 2-0 defeat against Brighton at the Withdean when he stepped out of his technical



Matt Taylor: scored on this day in 2001

area to stop a ball from running out of play. "The ball had gone out. I was just trying to stop it so that I could get the ball back into play," Newell said afterwards. "The ref said I stepped outside the technical area. There was nowhere for me to sit, so I had to stand in the tunnel for the rest of the game." To compound the misery, Chris Coyne scored an own goal and Steve Howard was sent-off for foul and abusive language.

KENILWORTH COMFORTS

The Hatters have only lost one of seven home games on this date – a 3-2 defeat to Rotherham in 1962. The four victories include a 1-0 success over Brighton in 1928, a 2-1 win over Orient in 1979 (Bob Hatton and Ricky Hill on target) and a 2-0 victory over Stoke in 1984 (Steve Elliott and Frankie Bunn with the goals).

REACTION

BITTER-SWEET DEBUT FOR SHAW



Jon Shaw makes it 2-2 against his former club

For new signing Jon Shaw, the 2-2 draw against his former employers on Saturday was bitter-sweet.

The Hatters' new number nine hauled his side back into contention with a 61st-minute debut strike against Gateshead, before Stuart Fleetwood's equaliser wiped out the visitors' two-goal advantage. And after such a disastrous first-half display, the 28-year-old was content to take a point on the opening day.

"I don't think we deserved to win on the evidence of our first half display," Shaw told Hatters Player. "It's a bitter-sweet day for me though, it was good to get a goal and, in the end, we have to be slightly happy with the result."

Perfect season?

"We'll go back and work on the things we didn't do so well with and in some ways it's good that mistakes have been highlighted now, at this early stage."

"We can brush up on things and come back stronger. It's a long season and you never know we might look back

on the point come the end of the season and realise how important it was having been 2-0 down.

"Everyone wants to have a perfect season but that's almost impossible, we'll take a point after what happened in the first half."

Surprise

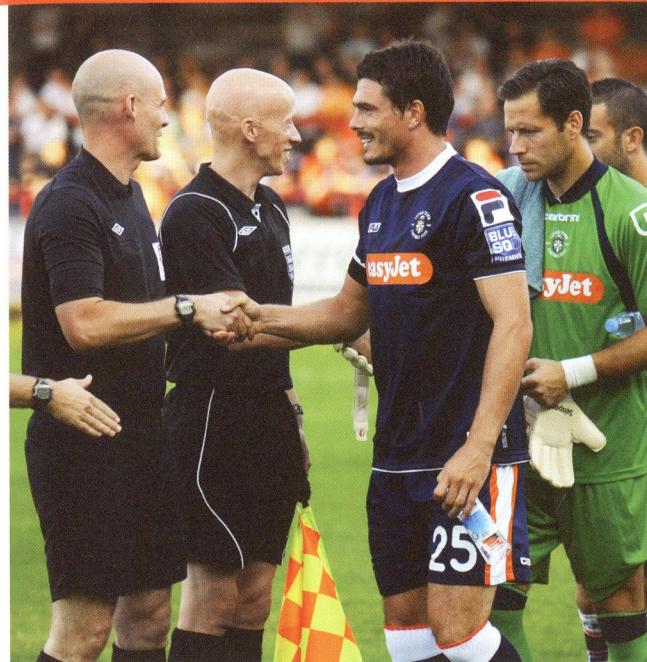
After 35 goals last season – which included one bullet header against the Town – it may have come as a surprise to some to see the striker lurking six yards out for a tap-in.

"I suppose everyone expects me to score the kind of goal I scored against Orient," Shaw continued. "It's a rare one for me to score at such close range but with the quality we have you need to be in the box and ready, and it was a great ball from Stuart Fleetwood."

"I was hoping to come on at some point in the second half, perhaps if we're 1-0 or 2-0 up, and play a role in a win but in the end we showed great character to come back and get a point."

REACTION

SKIPPER PLEASED WITH SHUTOUT



Captain Ronnie Henry was delighted the Hatters kept a clean sheet to ensure a comfortable first win of the season at Kidderminster.

The Town won 2-0 thanks to two goals from striker Stuart Fleetwood, but defender Henry felt Paul Buckle's decision to swap him, Lathaniel Rowe-Turner and Greg Taylor in defence helped the Hatters' cause at Aggborough.

Natural

He told Hatters Player: "It felt more natural, but then again in pre-season I was playing centre-half keeping clean sheets against Championship sides and it felt natural then."

"It's fine, Taylor left-back, Rowe-Turner at centre-half with Janos, and me right-back."

"It's all our natural positions apart from Lathaniel. He's a good centre-half and a good left-back."

"I don't think we really mind where we play but I'm sure a lot of people will say that's our natural positions and I'm sure a lot of people will say they're our best positions."

The skipper, who played a key role in the Stevenage side that won back-to-back promotions in recent seasons, doesn't mind where he plays – as long as the Hatters are winning.

"It doesn't bother me," he said. "Wherever we're told to play the lads are happy with that, they'll get their heads down, get on with it and get the job done, like we did."

"It's a big difference, there's a lot more leg work. I can get up and down the line. It's something that naturally comes to me and I've done it in League 1 and League 2."

"It doesn't bother me, centre-half, right-back - I enjoy right-back."

"I prefer to get my legs going for as long as I can. If we keep going like we are we will be OK."

After the disappointing first half against Gateshead in the season opener, Henry praised the Town's character to bounce back and earn four points from the first two games.

"It hit us quite hard against Gateshead that we conceded two sloppy goals, which we hadn't done in pre-season," he said.

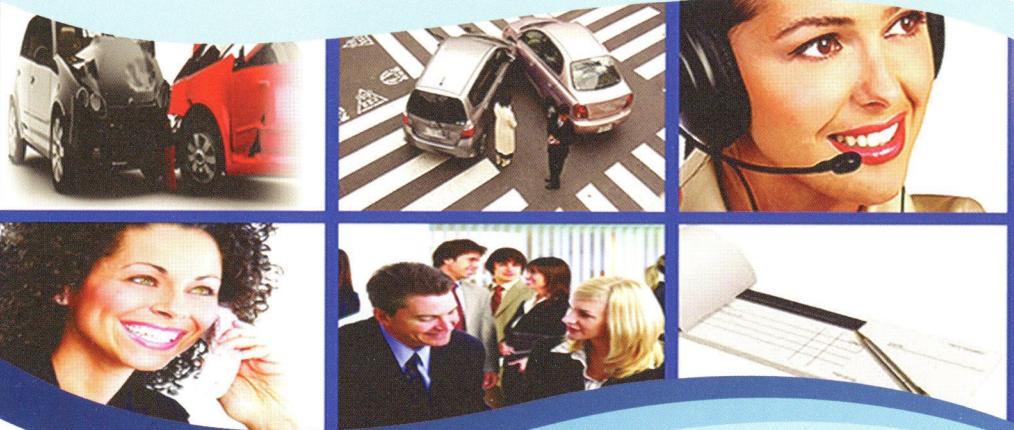
"It was a massive shock. When you keep clean sheets regularly and one goes in, it's a big shock but you've got to get over it quickly."

"To concede two goals is unlike us, but the lads have bounced back tremendously to come away with a 2-0 result, and it could have been more."

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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

THE NLP VIEW BY STUART HAMMONDS

I've just returned from a fortnight in a part of southern France which is the world's largest wine-producing region, and it's fair to say a bottle or two were sunk (most days).

But having missed the opening week of the 2012/13 season, it's also fair to admit that not everything was rosé in the Hammonds' apartment.

The shakes I experienced certainly weren't to do with any cold weather, after all, there were health warnings issued with temperatures in the mid to late-30s. I suppose they could have been connected with the alcohol.

My guess, however, is that it was from severe withdrawal symptoms of being situated in Languedoc at 3pm on the opening Saturday of the season when I'd much rather have been at Long Eaton United against Dunkirk.

Thankfully, I had a Non-League fix to help me through in the form of the autobiography of Eric Nixon, 'a larger than life goalkeeper'.

Entitled 'Big Hands Big Heart' and superbly written by one of Fleetwood Town's media men, David Mitchell, it tells the story of how 'Nico' fulfilled his dream of going from semi-pro football to the top of the English game.

Nixon recalled how he was working for a car valeting business in 1983 when ex-Manchester United and England keeper Gary Bailey's motor was brought in for a clean.

Nixon – then playing for Curzon Ashton – wanted a bit of the Sierra Sapphire lifestyle, and went straight to Maine Road, then home of his beloved Manchester City, after finishing his shift.

Met by City legends Tony Book, Denis Law and Ken Barnes in reception, he asked for a trial. A scout watched him

play in the North West Counties League the following day, then invited him to play in a reserve game at the stadium where he had watched his heroes from a being small boy.

To cut a long story short, Nixon earned a contract and went onto play 84 times for the Sky Blues. He then enjoyed great success at Tranmere Rovers, earning cult status over a decade, and Stockport before more recently working as goalkeeper coach at Fleetwood and now Macclesfield.

Picking up my the NLP after returning home last weekend, I then read an excellent interview my colleague Matt Badcock had done with current Stockport player Joe Connor.

After eight years studying and playing soccer in America, the 26-year-old returned to his native Stockport last November with his pregnant wife and child.

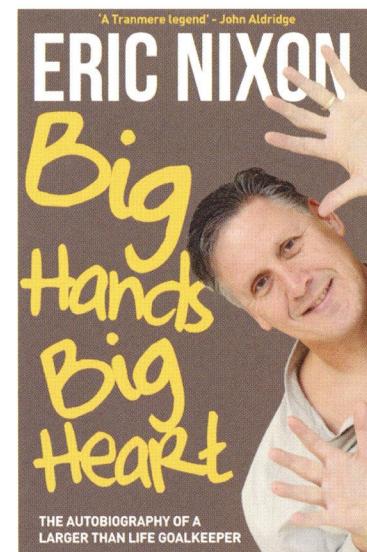
His granddad Jack and dad Jim had both played for County, so after seeing Stockport had been hammered 7-0 at Grimsby, he thought "I'm going to see if I can go and play for them".

The midfielder turned up at the training ground, asked if he could join in and was told 'No'. But he stayed to watch to "see what the standard was like", and when they needed an extra man, he was invited onto the training pitch.

Connor must have impressed Jim Gannon, because the Edgeley Park boss soon signed him and has since made him his captain.

Now, I did actually enjoy my holiday. And the wine wasn't half good.

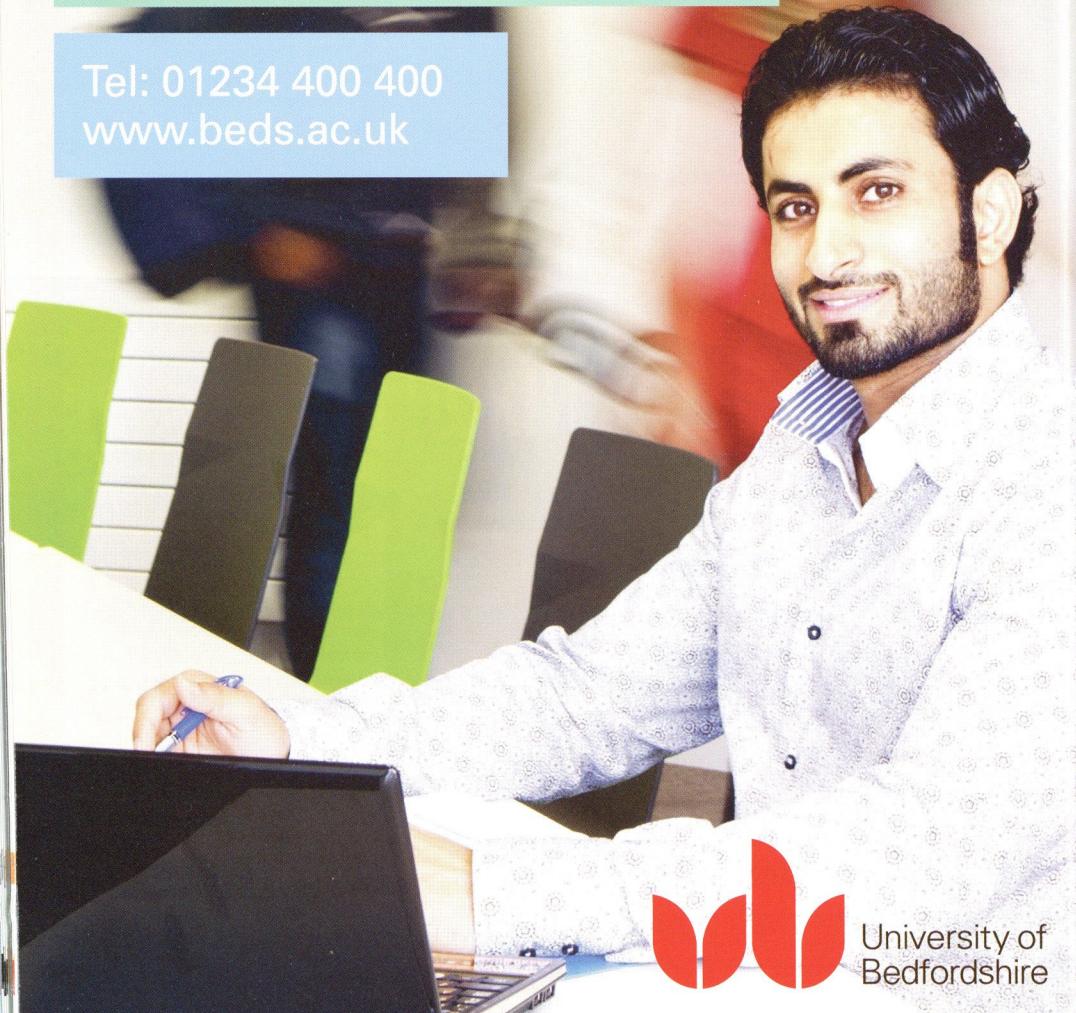
But it's equally refreshing to be back and able to report on rags-to-riches – or at least trialist-to-talisman – tales such as Eric and Joe's as another fine season matures!



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FLEETS' THOUGHTS

STRIKER'S THIRD BLOG GOES TO PRINT

Regular visitors to the official website over the summer will have seen striker Stuart Fleetwood give his thoughts from inside the Hatters changing room with two blogs focusing on what life is like as a professional footballer at Kenilworth Road. His third blog – and his first since the season begun – was so warmly received by supporters we thought it a good idea to get it published in print form. Enjoy.



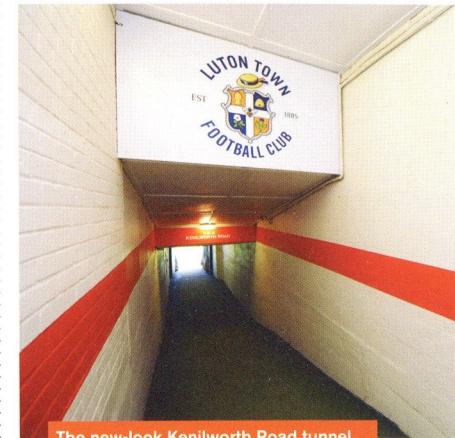
However cold, wet and miserable the weather is leading up to the first league game, you can guarantee that the temperature will be hot and filled with sunshine come 3pm at kick-off on the Saturday.

The familiar feelings are that of fresh starts, clean slates and ultimate belief and excitement. The dreaded 'cotton wool' mouth symptoms kick in whilst standing in the tunnel five minutes before kick-off. Shoulder to shoulder with your opponents as the shouts of "come on lads" and the usual clichés, those motivational words of wisdom echo around the tight space.

I prefer to keep quiet and wish every player and member of staff individually with a handshake and a good luck message for the season. However experienced you are, the butterflies definitely kick in and the nervous energy fills the body.

Over 7,000 expectant fans at home for our first game was a great boost for the players and certainly raised the adrenaline levels rushing around the body. To get through the game in the heat and electric atmosphere certainly takes its toll, but with each game you get your fitness up to speed and the rustiness soon disappears.

I think all the players have been fascinated by the recent Olympic Games in London. The changing rooms have been full of chat about the legendary Usain Bolt and ice cool Jessica Ennis! These sort



The new-look Kenilworth Road tunnel... and where nerves and excitement build

of competitors are superb role models for athletes and young people in general. The commitment and work put in to reach the games is hard enough but the pressure to deal with and competition during it is fierce.

To me it reiterated what I already know...crowds make a huge difference. I think every GB athlete was overwhelmed and spurred on by the noise and support from the home crowd. You as supporters, fans - lovers of the game - can lift a player or team to new levels with chanting or singing, and the goosebumps always raise up on my neck when I hear my name being sung. I feel fortunate to be able to entertain people enough for them to pay hard earned money to watch my play.

The league table starts to take shape after about 10 games, so although early season form is important it isn't time to get carried away or ahead of ourselves. It's a marathon not a sprint, and most of the time the best team in the league wins promotion.

The 'P' word is our main priority this season. The start has been promising but we'll strive for another 'P' word...perfection.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH DIVERSE FM COMMENTATOR SIMON PITTS

After 12 weeks of waiting, the season finally started a fortnight ago, and what a relief for one and all that we finally got to see some competitive action once again. Whilst the first half was obviously disappointing, it was great to see the team respond and put in a real determined performance in the second 45 minutes to gain a point.

Strikers always like to get on the score sheet as early as possible, and new signing Jon Shaw didn't have long to wait for his first goal after coming off the bench at half-time. Stuart Fleetwood also netted what was to turn out to be the first of four goals in three games for him, all in the opening week of the season, too.

It was quite a return for players and fans alike, with two away trips in four days to contend with since we were all here on the opening day. Like many other fans, and as a volunteer commentator for Diverse FM, I took time off work to travel to those games.

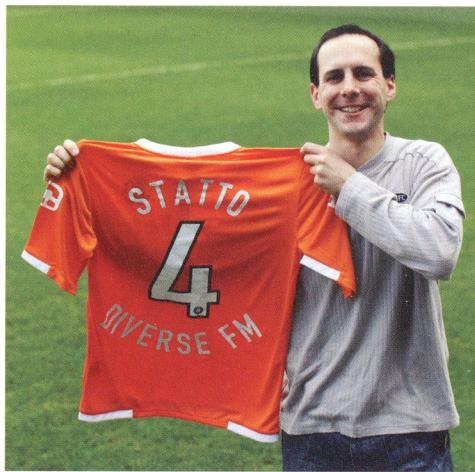
An unbeaten record at Kidderminster was continued, courtesy of two more goals from Fleetwood, and for Diverse FM it marked the beginning of a new era.

High demand

Listening figures for away games are obviously always higher than for home games, but last Tuesday night saw such a high demand from fans to listen to our Luton Town Show that unfortunately the computer servers that provide the online service could not cope with the sheer quantity of requests. The response far exceeded our expectations, and for this, the team at Diverse FM and I are immensely appreciative of the support from Luton Town fans.

The Station issued a statement the following day:

"We offer our sincere apologies to supporters who were unable to listen last night due to the issues mentioned, and to those people who suffered buffering problems during the match for the same reason. We can assure you we have immediately looked for resolutions to this and are currently in negotiations for the service to be moved to a server more able to provide an uninterrupted service to our thousands of listeners, and supporters of Luton Town. Please bear with us as we go through this change as there is the possibility of minor disruption whilst this occurs.



"Once again we would like to thank fans for their incredible support, and for choosing the Luton Town Show on Diverse FM for their Luton coverage.

"We can assure you Diverse FM, as a group of volunteers, are doing everything possible to bring you the best coverage on the Hatters this season, and hopefully in the long term, too."

The third Luton Town Show in just seven days came from Ewen Fields, home of Hyde Football Club, last Friday night.

Although once again falling behind, the team spirit was there for another fight back, and this time two second-half goals were enough to secure all three points.

With those two midweek victories in the bag, the Hatters have already equalled the number of evening kick-off away league wins recorded last season - at AFC Telford and Grimsby if you were wondering.

Long may the unbeaten start to the season continue, and - as always - Diverse FM will be there to cover every kick of the ball.

Enjoy the match,

COME ON YOU HATTERS!

THE PRESS OFFICE PICTURE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER

ON YOUR MARKS

It's fair to say it's been a steady start. Who wouldn't have taken two wins and one draw from the first three games? Especially after that first half against Gateshead. There's been plenty of talk about that first 45 against the Tynesiders - hopefully that's the last.

Looking back at the three previous seasons in the Blue Square Bet Premier, we have always enjoyed a decent start to each campaign.

Our first, in 2009/10 under Mick Harford, the team did not lose for eight games - winning four and drawing four - before succumbing to a 2-0 defeat at a packed Kassam Stadium against promotion rivals Oxford.

Top of the pile

Two seasons ago, the Town were top of the pile at this stage with a 100 per cent record from three games following victories over Altrincham, Kettering and Fleetwood. The fourth match in the sequence saw Newport County earn a point at Kenilworth Road (Charlie Henry scoring for the Exiles) before the unbeaten start came crashing to an end in the fifth game at Tamworth.

And then we have last season, unbeaten for the first 10 games, split between five wins and five draws, before a calamitous first half against York that saw the Minstermen record a comfortable 3-0 victory and knock the Town off top spot in the process.

Football is full of clichés - they say a good start is vital - but then it's not how you start it's how you finish. For the Town of course, the past three seasons have ended in heartache in the Play-Offs, twice at the very final hurdle, and I'm not sure we can all take a fourth successive season of that.

Top flight

Expectation is understandably high but it's worth remembering it's early days. Elsewhere in this programme, you'll read that once the Town began a season with a 4-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest in 1973/74 - but still went onto finish the season as runners-up and win promotion to the top flight.

I wasn't around then but can still remember wretched starts to seasons in more recent times. Three successive defeats at the start of 1996/97 before we finished third; even worse, five successive defeats in 2002/03 under Joe Kinnear before a mid-table finish was achieved.

I was also recently reminded of Norwich City's opening day 7-1 home defeat to Colchester a few years back in League 1, before they went on to march to the title nine months later.

It just goes to show football is a funny old game and, apologies for talking in clichés again, but it really shows titles aren't won or lost in August.

All I say is just enjoy the ride!

GREMLINS

Slowly but surely we are ironing out issues with our new official website. I have been besieged with frustrated emails and telephone calls from many of you struggling to view and navigate.

On Monday, I received a phone call from Bill Martindale - a Town fan for 61 years - who was at his wits end attempting to even click around the new website.

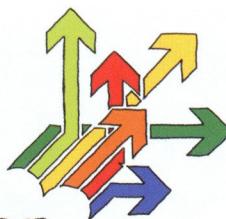
Download

Half-an-hour later he was (well, when the call ended) happily browsing away. The trick? Download Google Chrome. For me it's the best browser to view the site and it works for me - even on my little laptop that accompanies me to away games.

Again - it's not ideal that one browser works better than others but I'm reassured by Sapient, the company charged with building 90 new websites for clubs, that the site's performance will improve in Internet Explorer and other such browsers.

I'll update you with more news when I have it but, in the meantime, please feel free to get in touch if you're still having problems.

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ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH JOE DEENEY

With plenty of new additions to the youth department both in the playing and coaching staff, it has been a busy start to pre-season.

I have been delighted to see both Wayne Turner and Lee Cowley back in full-time roles having mentored me as both a young player and coach during my time at the club.

In addition to that is Matt Stannard, who we have recruited from Wycombe, as well as Phil Simons and both have crucial roles in the day-to-day operations of the club.

From a playing perspective I have been pleased with the early signs of progress within the Under-15 and 16 sides. This was highlighted with Isaac Galliford making his first team debut a few weeks ago in the friendly against Leyton Orient. Osamu Allman is another player who did well on tour for the Under-18s in the Gothia Cup in Sweden and is showing a good level of progression.

As a squad we as always like to test ourselves against the best clubs in the country during pre-season. Our Under 16s turned in an excellent performance when beating Norwich City 7-0 in the opening game. This was followed by narrow defeats against Crystal Palace (2-0) and Southampton (2-1). This week we bounced back from those defeats with a fine 3-1 win over Stevenage.

Our Under-15s started pre-season with a 6-0 victory over Norwich in which the performance was excellent. We suffered our first loss this week to a strong Liverpool side 2-1. The levels of performance have been pleasing in all the games even the results that haven't quite gone our way.

With so many games coming thick and fast, and with squads hampered by various injuries, we have had to rely upon our pre-academy players to make the step-up and all of those called upon have acquitted themselves well and have shown myself and the staff they are ready to push the academy players for positions.

With Isaac making his debut recently and Paul Buckle having a big involvement in our youth programme it shows our players that if they work hard and have the right attitude to go with their ability the manager will give them their chance.

There is real togetherness at the club and the work ethic has filtered down from the first team into the youth teams which has been very pleasing to see and there is a genuine belief this is the year we get back into the Football League.

From everyone within the youth department a big thank you to all the sponsors, SOLYD and the Board for continuing to back our youth department as we continue to strive to create the next batch of first team players to chart our rise back to where we belong.



The Town beat Swedish Premier League side Gothenburg in the Gothia Cup this summer

YOUTH

FIXTURES

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

AUGUST

SAT 11 LEYTON ORIENT A 11.00AM L 0-2
SAT 18 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE H 11.00AM L 2-3 Jibodu (pen), Smith
SAT 25 STEVENAGE BOROUGH 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
SAT 23 ALDERSHOT TOWN A 11.00AM

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

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

EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



Ratings soared after pirahnas were introduced to the cup draw

YOUTH

LATEST

An injury-hit start to the Hatters Under-18s' campaign has seen Paul Driver's side lose their first two matches in the Youth Alliance.

A 2-0 defeat away at Leyton Orient two weeks ago was followed by a 3-2 reverse at the hands of Dagenham & Redbridge last Saturday.

The Town went behind against the Daggers, managed by former Hatter Chris Perry, before a Jerome Jibodu penalty levelled things up.

Dagenham went 3-1 up in the second half but, after Charlie Smith's fine free-kick made it 3-2, the Daggers held on.

Driver said: "We've now had a reasonable performance - at Orient - and a good performance against Dagenham and have no points to show for our endeavours, which is frustrating. Having said that, we are a team with, predominantly, first year lads playing, and we have two big players in Brett Longden and Zak

Stephens missing from the defence through injury and this is going to affect games in a big way.

"Nevertheless, I thought we were excellent in possession at times but just lacked the kind of ability to go and win a game that Dagenham had. They made use of their set plays and capitalised on two of them and, in the end, that was the difference between winning and losing."

12/13 Appearances: Barnes 2, Burtenshaw 2, Jibodu 2, Rees 2, Chabata 2, Amu 2, Magaraushe 2, Cobb 2, Haag 2, Nash 1 (1), Galliford 1 (1), Smith 1, Hawkins 1, Stanley 1, McKenzie-Lowe 1, Ngwala 1.

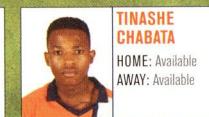
12/13 goals: Jibodu 1 (1 pen), Smith.

2012/13 YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS



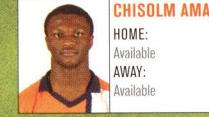
ZANE BANTON

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



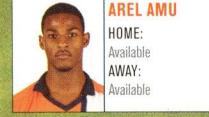
TINASHE CHABATA

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHISOM AMADI

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



AREL AMU

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



LEEROY MAGARAUSHE

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



BEN MCFARLANE-BARNES

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available
GLOVES: 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: Harborough Town Football Club
AWAY: Available
GLOVES: Available



JORDAN DAVIS

HOME: Lucy Francome
AWAY: Available



JEROME JIBODU

HOME: Doug Knight
AWAY: Doug Knight



BRETT LONGDEN

HOME: Mike Tearie
AWAY: Available



JERRY NASH

HOME: Moira Spain
AWAY: Available



ZAK STEPHENS

HOME: Available
AWAY: Available

To sponsor a youth player email commercial@lutontown.co.uk

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Travel by train to London and take advantage of our great value tickets. Visit firstcapitalconnect.co.uk and find heaps of ideas for free days out with all the top places to head to.

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First Capital Connect

YOUNG STARS



Brett Longden: With an eye on a place in the first team

NAME: Brett Longden

AGE: 17

POSITION: Right-back

TIME SPENT WITH LUTON TOWN / WHEN JOINED:

I joined as an Under-13.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST?

Going forward and attacking from full-back.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE THIS SEASON?

My range of passing and channel balls.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PLAYING FOR LUTON TOWN?

It has a great fanbase and a fantastic history.

WHO IS YOUR FOOTBALL IDOL?

Gary Neville.

WHO HAS HAD THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

My family.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To play football at the highest level.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER?

Cristiano Ronaldo

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS THIS SEASON? HAVE YOU SET YOURSELF ANY TARGETS?

To play in the first team

FACT

Did you know? Brett made his Hatters debut in last season's FA Trophy second round replay against Hinckley United at Kenilworth Road.



Brett in action for the first team against Hinckley last season



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 DEREK DUDLEY WANDERERS
2009 GRAHAM ALEXANDER DAVID NORTON 1981/82 **ASTON VILLA**
 RICHARD DRYDEN DARREN BRADLEY STEVE DAVIS OAK ROAD
 COLIN GIBSON DAVID BAYLISS GORDON COWANS
 JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY BRYAN SMALL
 TONY MORLEY KIRK STEPHENS ROB JOHNSON
HATTERS MARK WALTERS VILLA PARK MARTIN CARRUTHERS 1874
 ALAN NELSON MARVIN JOHNSON '59 MEMORIES 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

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

OPENING DAY AWAY WIN FOR LADIES

The Hatters' Ladies began their season with a fine 3-1 away win against newly promoted Arlesey Town last week.

The Town played some excellent passing football but were guilty at times of overplaying and sloppy finishing.

Rebecca Kane and Becky Scott both had chances to give the Hatters the lead but found the Arlesey goalkeeper in inspired form.

After 25 minutes, the deadlock was broken when Rachel Kosky burst down the wing and her pin-point cross was tucked in by Kane to give Town a deserved lead.

Punished

Seven minutes later, the home side won a corner and the Town's defence was punished for failing to clear the ball when the Arlesey forward found the top corner from 15 yards out.

The Hatters responded well and won a series of corners - one of which was smashed against the crossbar and out of danger.

Parity did not last long though, when Town skipper Michelle Byrne rose highest at the far post to nod

home a well-flighted Kosky corner and the Hatters had their noses in front at the break.

The Town continued to dominate the second half and a combination of poor finishing and a series of fine stops from Becky Scott in the Arlesey goal kept the home side in the game and prevented the Hatters from stretching further ahead.

Excellent

But the onslaught continued and the Hatters clinched the points when Kane was tripped from behind and Nicola Henman stroked home the resulting penalty.

Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "It was good to continue our excellent pre-season form, although we again brought unnecessary pressure upon ourselves by failing to finish a team off when we had the opportunity to do so.

"We must be more clinical in front of goal going forward if we are to have the impact on the league that we are capable of."

The Ladies are next in action tomorrow when they travel to pre-season promotion favourites Enfield Town.

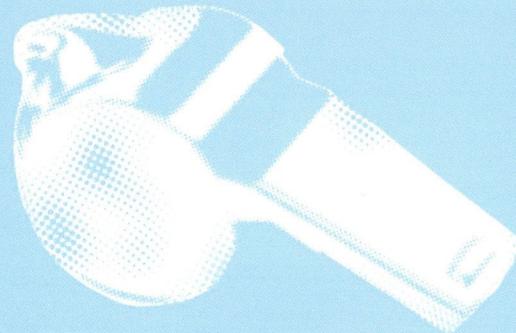


Michelle Byrne (right) scores the Town's second goal

For more information on the Ladies visit www.lutontownbelles.com

#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

"AN INCH OR TWO
EITHER SIDE OF THE POST
AND THAT WOULD HAVE
BEEN A GOAL."



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LEAGUE

LOOK

JOE FLEMONS **ROUNDS-UP**
THE LATEST IN THE BSBP

Newport County currently sit on top of the Blue Square ladder boasting a 100 per cent record thanks largely in part to former Hatter and summer signing Aaron O'Connor, who has bagged himself five goals including a brace against Lincoln City last Saturday.

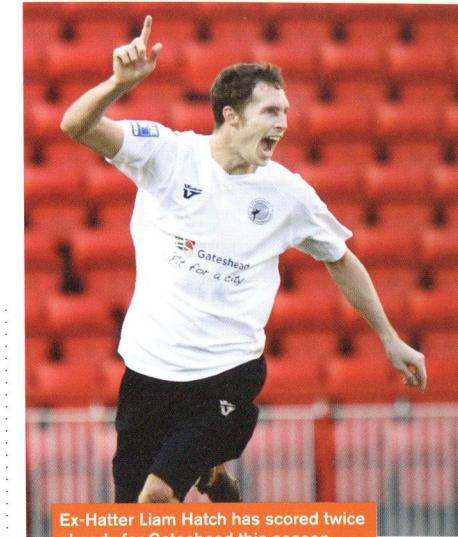
The Town are one of four sides currently occupying the Play-Off spots - level on seven points with Hereford United, Tamworth and Cambridge United. The latter will visit Kenilworth Road at the start of next month. Hereford will be looking to bounce straight back into the Football League after tasting a painful relegation last campaign and have made a solid start with impressive wins over fellow promotion contenders Macclesfield Town and Nicky Law's Alfreton Town.

Steve King's Macclesfield notched up a notable 2-0 home victory against last season's Play-Off semi-finalists Wrexham, as they recovered from an opening day defeat against Hereford to put themselves firmly in the early season promotion hunt. Stockport's unbeaten start was brought to an abrupt halt when Tamworth defender Sam Oji nodded in from close range leaving the early season front runners down in eighth on six points.

Today's visitors AFC Telford recorded their first win of the campaign with a 3-0 victory over Braintree, putting behind them an opening day stalemate with Barrow, which was then followed by a home defeat to Forest Green, who sit just above the Bucks in 10th. Gateshead also sit mid-table with Nathan Fisher picking up the mantle from Jon Shaw by notching up three goals in as many games helping the Heed to an unbeaten start which began with a 2-2 draw here at Kenilworth Road on the opening day.

The Hatters travel to Ebbsfleet on Monday who today host high-flyers Hereford. The Fleet are looking to add to their four points they have already collected after an opening day victory against Nuneaton in a 5-4 thriller, and a recent well-earned point at home to Wrexham.

Pre-season favourites Mansfield Town have endured a nightmare start to their promotion campaign with back-to-back defeats but salvaged a win against win-



Ex-Hatter Liam Hatch has scored twice already for Gateshead this season

less Kidderminster. Former Hatters captain George Pilkington saw his new side concede eight goals in their opening two fixtures with defeats to Newport County and Gateshead denting the Stags' spirits. However, with a 3-2 away win at Harriers last Saturday, they will be looking to put their poor start behind them and kick on to reform their promotion bid.

Newly-promoted clubs Nuneaton Town and Dartford sit dangerously close to the foot of the table with only pointless Kidderminster holding them from the bottom. Today Harriers travel to Dartford - it may be too soon to class it as a relegation six-pointer but both sides will be hoping they can see this as a kick-starting point for their season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

BARROW v ALFRETON TOWN

BRAINTREE v NEWPORT COUNTY

DARTFORD v KIDDERMINSTER

FOREST GREEN v WOKING

HEREFORD v EBBSFLEET

LINCOLN CITY v MACCLESFIELD

MANSFIELD v HYDE

NUNEATON v CAMBRIDGE

SOUTHPORT v TAMWORTH

WREXHAM v GRIMSBY



Luton Town FC

SUMMER HOLIDAYS SOCCER SCHOOLS



Barton, Bedford, Biggleswade, Caddington, Dunstable, Flitwick / Ampthill, Kempston, Harpenden, Houghton Regis, Linslade / Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Pitstone & Ivinghoe, Potton, Sandy, Shefford / Henlow, Stotfold, Toddington, Woburn Sands

Telephone and Credit Card bookings
01582 583618 or 07725 172345

TALENT IDENTIFICATION

HATTERS CUP 2012 – SPONSORED BY ARRIVA

Our youth football festival got bigger and bigger this year with almost 200 team applications, meaning Kenilworth Road was opened for a record three days this May to fit in 150 accepted teams and 1,500 players, along with almost 3,000 eager spectators over a hot and sunny May weekend.

Boys and girls from Under-7s through to Under-14s, from near and far, enjoyed the opportunity of a lifetime to play on the hallowed Kenilworth Road pitch to try and emulate their heroes and, of course, catch the eyes of our recruitment staff.

All of the players in the Under-7 and Under-8 age groups received medals and listed below is our roll of honour for this year's Under-9 to Under-14 finalists.

HATTERS CUP 2012 SPONSORED BY ARRIVA - ROLL OF HONOUR

UNDER-9S

Winners: Harpenden Colts
 Runners-up: Shefford Saints

UNDER-10S

Winners: Sundon Athletic
 Runners-up: Crawley Green

UNDER-11S

Winners: Oakmere
 Runners-up: Luton Old Boys

UNDER-12S

Winners Victoria Park
 Runners-up: Knebworth Youth

UNDER-13S

Winners Hollingbury Hawks
 Runners-up: St Gregory's Middle School

UNDER-14S

Winners Futsal Northants
 Runners-up: Letchworth Eagles

A big well done to all of the finalists and all of the participants. Details of our 2013 Hatters Cup tournament and how to enter will be announced in our programme in October.

SUMMER SOCCER SCHOOLS

Next week is the last week of the summer holidays and your last chance to join in the fun. Our 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 matches, competitions and fun games to practice ball techniques.

Our venues for next week are listed below and parents can either book their 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 game. All courses run 10am to 3pm and we do offer sibling discounts.

Venues: Tuesday to Friday 28th to 31st August are at Barton, Dunstable, Flitwick, Harpenden, Luton and Shefford.

OPEN TRIALS

Budding young footballers will get the chance to impress the Hatters coaching staff next month at our open trials.

The trials are taking part at Creasey Park in Dunstable for the very first time and will be held on 4th and 5th September for players born before 1st September 1997.

It is aimed at players who are currently not registered to a professional club, and Town boss Paul Buckle hopes that up-and-coming youngsters take advantage of the opportunity. He said: "We have already identified a number of young players with good potential to progress within the club and in to professional football.

"By making these trials available to lads of this age we want to identify the late developers and any talent that may have been missed by our extensive youth development and scouting process.

"We are encouraging as many local players as we can to attend. As many fans will know Luton Town have a proven track record of producing local players to play at the highest level and I would like to see that continue."

To apply you can either download a form from the official website or email trials.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk.

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

DATE TIME H/A OPPONENT SCORE ATT AWAY POS STARTING XI

August

Sat 11	15:00	H	Gateshead	D 2-2	6,743	76	11	Tyler	Taylor**	Rowe-Turner	Henry	Kovacs	Kasim*	Howells	O'Donnell	Rendell	
Tue 14	19:45	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,275	542	4	Tyler	Henry	Taylor	Rowe-Turner	Kovacs	Kasim	Lawless	O'Donnell	Rendell	
TV	Fri 17	19:30	A	Hyde	W 2-1	1,141	tbc	3	Tyler	Henry	Taylor*	Rowe-Turner	Kovacs	Kasim**	Lawless	O'Donnell 1	Rendell
Sat 25	15:00	A	AFC Telford United														
Mon 27	15:00	A	Ebbesfleet United														

September

Sat 1	15:00	H	Macclesfield Town	
Tue 4	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

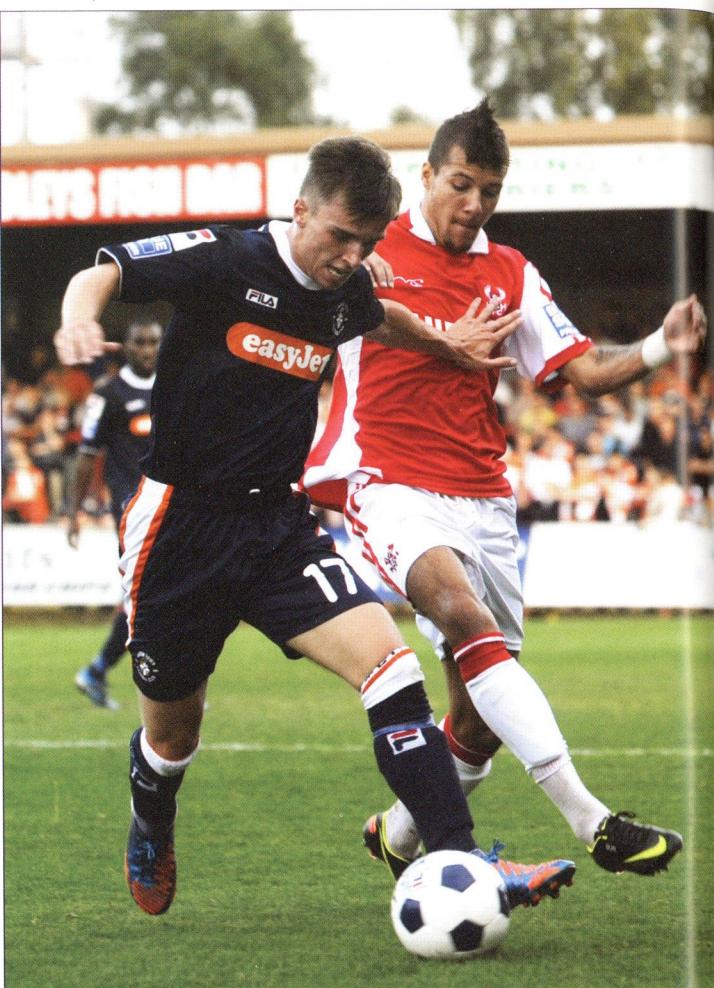
Sat 2	15:00	A	Barrow
Sat 9	15:00	H	Forest Green Rovers
Tue 12	19:45	A	Dartford
Sat 16	15:00	H	Newport County
Sat 23	15:00	H	Mansfield Town
Tue 26	19:45	A	Braintree Town

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



SUBS

Gray***	Fleetwood 1	Brill	Beckwith	Lawless**	Watkins***	Shaw 1
Shaw**	Fleetwood* 2	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Gray*	Robinson**
Shaw	Fleetwood*** 1	Brill	Beckwith	Howells*	Gray**	Robinson***

JJ'S JOY

Having only made his senior league debut against Gateshead, midfielder JJ O'Donnell was thrilled to grab his first goal for the Hatters in the 2-1 win at Hyde last Friday.

The youngster's goal was crucial as it got the Town back on level terms at Ewen Fields but the former St Albans man was quick to play down his role in the victory.

"The most important thing was that we won," the 20-year-old said. "It doesn't matter if Janos scores, or if Stuart Fleetwood scores – we just want to win games of football.

"It was great to score, though. My goal was part of what we achieved which was winning a game of football.

"I've come into the team and I want to work for all my team-mates and they want to work hard as a team for us.

"The goal's brilliant for me. It's a great thing to look back on but I just want to play – goals are just a bonus.

"But it was an important goal and victory. I didn't celebrate, I wanted to go and get the ball back into the centre circle as quickly as possible because we wanted to get another one – and that's what we did."

LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13

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

PLAYER STATS 2012/13

	THIS SEASON					CAREER		
	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL	DISCIP	APP	Y	APP	GLS
Stuart FLEETWOOD	3	0	4	0	0	3	0	50
Andre GRAY	1	(2)	0	0	0	1	0	15
Ronnie HENRY	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Jake HOWELLS	1	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	185
Yaser KASIM	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Janos KOVACS	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	64
Alex LAWLESS	2	(1)	0	0	0	2	1	7
JJ O'DONNELL	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	12
Scott RENDELL	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Matt ROBINSON	0	(2)	0	0	0	0	2	0
Lathaniel ROWE-TURNER	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Jon SHAW	2	(1)	1	0	0	2	1	0
Greg TAYLOR	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	26
Mark TYLER	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	141
Adam WATKINS	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	50

LET'S GO

TO EBBSFLEET UNITED



EBBSFLEET

Where: Not far away, I can tell you. Ebbsfleet play in Northfleet, a small settlement on the outskirts of Gravesend which is just 60.5 miles around the M25 clockwise, over the Dartford crossing and into Kent.

Sorry, where? There is no such a place as Ebbsfleet, per se. The football team play in Gravesend (and, admittedly always have done). The club used to be called Gravesend and Norfleet but the name change came about in 2007 to coincide with the opening of the new Ebbsfleet International EuroStar station.

Still don't know where I'm going: M1 south, M25 anti-clockwise. Come off M25 at junction at junction 1a and follow signs for Gravesend. It's only five miles away from the junction with the M25. Carefully punching in DA11 9GN into your sat-nav should do the trick for you drivers out there or the Bobbers coach will take you there. Leaving from the Maple Road car park at 11.30 it's £18 for adults and £15 for concessions.

Choo-choo: The new super-drooper train station at Ebbsfleet only goes to France but if you take trains from either London Bridge or Charing Cross you can get to the station at Northfleet and from there it's a few minutes walk to the ground.

That's a lot to write about getting there, it's only 60 miles: We know, but we want as many Luton fans there as possible. It's a Bank Holiday Monday and, if the weather's good, we could have almost 1,500 fans there. Hint, hint.

Costa-del-Ebbs eet then? Not quite, the old ground Stonebridge Road was built in 1905 – the same year that Kenilworth Road opened. Typically the away end has no cover but it's 80 degree heat it might be nice. If not, bring a brolly.

Sounds good to me: Okay, well if you really like it, why not become a member of the Ebbsfleet board. Since February 2008 the club has been owned by MyFootballClub.com, whose members vote on player transfers, budgets and ticket prices, among other things, instead of those decisions being made exclusively by the club's management and staff, like at most other clubs. However, I'm sure signing up in the next 48 hours and suggesting to pick their centre-half in goal will get approved.

We've been here before, right? Yep, twice – and what's more we've scored eight goals in those two games. It's probably best to mention the 2-2 draw last season first (we were 2-0 up with 10 minutes left) but forget that for a second – remember the incredible 6-1 win in March 2010? Trailing 1-0 at half-time to Janos Kovacs own goal (sorry Janos), the Hatters' second half performance blew the hosts away. Claude Gnakpa led the way with a hat-trick and strikers Tom Craddock, Kevin Gallen and Matthew Barnes-Homer also hit the target.

So shall we expect goals? Most definitely. The Fleet won 5-4 at Nuneaton on the opening day of the season. As we know, games between the Town and Ebbsfleet invariably serve up goals. We've mentioned the 6-1 win and 2-2 draw at Stonebridge Road but, at Kenilworth Road, the Town won 3-0 last season but lost 3-2 in January 2010. What are the odds on a 0-0 please?



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COMING SOON
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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1	1	Ryan Young
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	2	2	Will Salmon
Greg Taylor	3	3	Ryan Valentine
Garry Richards	4	4	Chris Blackburn
Dean Beckwith	5	5	Daniel Preston
Janos Kovacs	6	6	Richard Davies
Alex Lawless	7	7	Nathan Rooney
Danny Spiller	8	8	Phil Trainer
Jon Shaw	9	9	Chris Sharp
Scott Rendell	10	10	Steve Jones
Jake Howells	11	11	Luke Hubbins
Stuart Fleetwood	13	12	Jay Smith
Adam Watkins	15	14	Michael Briscoe
Alex Lacey	16	15	Jake Reid
JJ O'Donnell	17	16	Kieron St Amie
Yaser Kasim	18	17	James Spray
James Dance	19	18	Steven Leslie
Ronnie Henry	25	19	Kris Taylor
Andre Gray	27	20	Jack Cudworth
Dan Walker	29	21	Jon Brown
Dean Brill	33		

AFC TELFORD

1	Ryan Young
2	Will Salmon
3	Ryan Valentine
4	Chris Blackburn
5	Daniel Preston
6	Richard Davies
7	Nathan Rooney
8	Phil Trainer
9	Chris Sharp
10	Steve Jones
11	Luke Hubbins
12	Jay Smith
14	Michael Briscoe
15	Jake Reid
16	Kieron St Amie
17	James Spray
18	Steven Leslie
19	Kris Taylor
20	Jack Cudworth
21	Jon Brown

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: J. Hopkins

ASSISTANT: C. Francis

ASSISTANT: T. Goddard

FOURTH OFFICIAL: J. Burridge

HERE NEXT

MACCLESFIELD TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012

KICK-OFF 3PM

