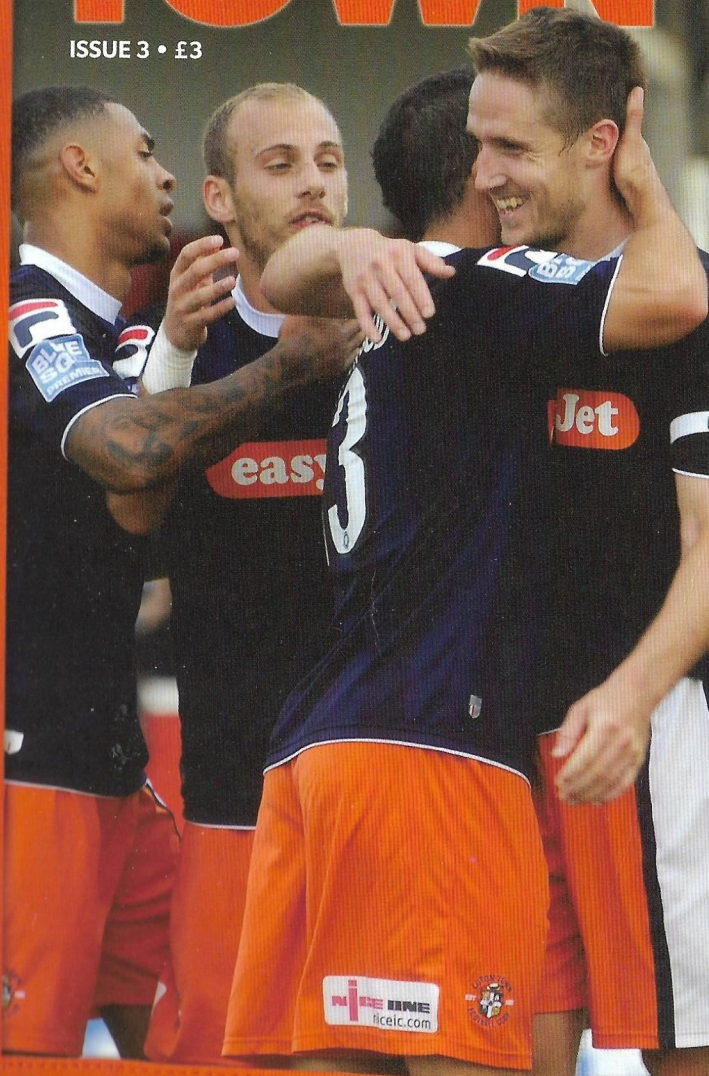




Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club

TALK OF THE TOWN

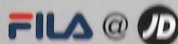
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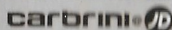
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LUTON TOWN v MACCLESFIELD TOWN

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012 • 3PM



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WELCOME

4



FROM THE BOSS
Paul Buckle's programme notes

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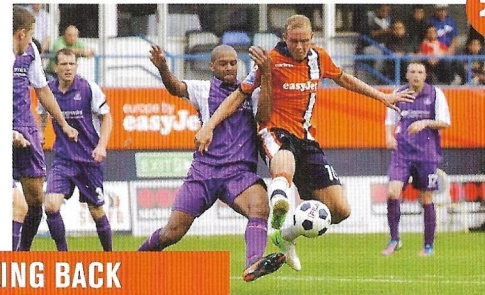
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Editor: Andrew Barringer

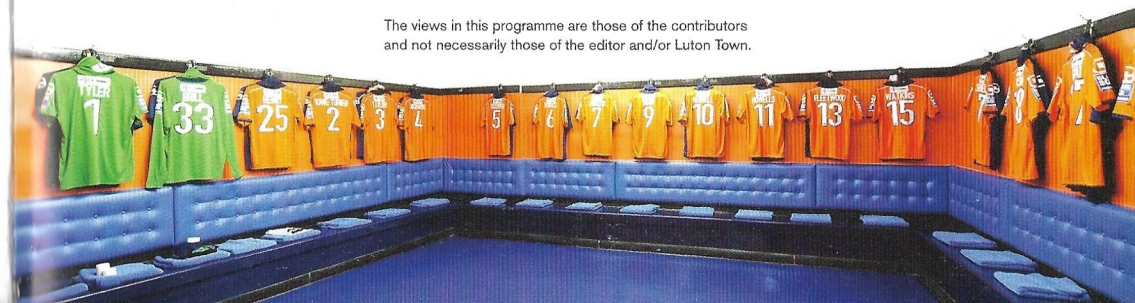
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PROUD KIT SUPPLIERS TO LUTON TOWN

PAUL

BUCKLE

Good afternoon and welcome to the first of two home matches here at Kenilworth Road in quick succession.

We go into today's game in good heart after our deserved Bank Holiday victory over Ebbsfleet United, which saw us successful for the third time away from home already.

Naturally, a lot was made of our home defeat to AFC Telford last Saturday. Yes, the result itself was disappointing – nobody likes to lose – but I was delighted with the way both the players and you, the supporters, kept going until the final whistle.

We may have lost the game and gone away frustrated that we didn't get a point or all three, but our performance levels were still incredibly high. The sole fact was we couldn't stick the ball in the back of the net despite our possession and the opportunities that fell our way.

The biggest thing for me is that we don't panic. And, at Ebbsfleet, we didn't. Nobody did. Not the players and not you either, as emphasised by the magnificent following of 1,200 that made the trip around the M25 to get behind us.

I've seen plenty of football in my time to know that knee-jerk reactions and panicking do more harm than good. The performance levels against Telford, and in the second half against Gateshead, have been as good as those games we've won away from home – that's football sometimes.

Today will be a tough game. Macclesfield have started the season well and were relegated from the Football League last season so they will be desperate to make an instant return.

Getting the first goal will be important to us this afternoon and once more I will be sending the players out on the front foot.

For me, I want this team to entertain and excite you and I know that you thought we could still win the Telford game with 10 minutes left, despite the fact we were a goal down.

Your backing was absolutely superb and I, like you, was frustrated that we couldn't find a way through last Saturday.

On Monday, we showed that if we stick with it we can get results and the support at Ebbsfleet was outstanding. In our last two games your encouragement to the team has been unbelievable. It's human nature that frustration is borne out of disappointment.

The Telford game is gone. Sometimes in football a draw or a scrappy win can paper over the cracks. Obviously you'd be happy with three points but you know deep down that you would have to work harder on the training ground the following week.

Victory at Ebbsfleet was encouraging but I know we still have a lot of work to do. We are nowhere near where we want to be and that gives me great hope because I know the group of players we have here are not only fantastic footballers, but also fantastic characters, and that is something I believe has been evident already in the five games we've played.

With another game in the diary on Tuesday, it will be a test for every club in this league, us included, but I am pleased to say our fitness levels are incredible.

The players have given me everything so far and I know they still have more to give. This afternoon we'll be going full-tilt to ensure we give you something to cheer.

The attitude and character of both the players and supporters has been fantastic – 1,200 of you at Ebbsfleet is something else.

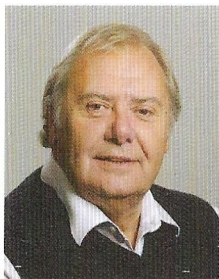
As always thank you for your support of me and the team and get behind us again this afternoon.

Paul Buckle



BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON



Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to you and all the officials, players and supporters from Macclesfield Town.

We will be playing host to quite a few 'old boys' this season, which always adds a little spice to the occasion and today we welcome back Matthew Barnes-

Homer, Charlie Henry and John Paul Kissock. They have started well and it should be a fascinating encounter and a real test for both sides.

These are my first notes of the season so, even though Nick has already done it, I would like to welcome all of our new signings and thank those that have left for their service to our club. It's probably wrong of me to single out anyone, but I must. George Pilkington and, particularly Keith Keane, were great servants to our football club. Keith had always been one of my favourites since first seeing him as a 16-year-old and who can forget his battling performances and great goals (I suppose that's easy because there weren't many, but those there were, were tremendous - Oxford, West Brom for example.)

Heart

Since my last notes last season, no one needs reminding that we missed out in the Play-Offs yet again. I know we didn't play our best, but yet again we were scuppered by a bad decision. I think this loss was the worst for me because Paul Buckle had got the squad playing with such heart and commitment, and the late season wins at Wrexham and Fleetwood really showed what we were capable of.

I was more down after Wembley than I can remember because not only is it so important to us all that we get back where we belong, but after a frustrating season we had, it seems, hit form at exactly the right time. It is

probably my age, but it seems to take longer to recover from anything than it used to, and this was no exception.

But I will just tell you one little anecdote, which helped the recovery process.

'Public nuisance!'

The day after the Play-Off Final, I was driving through Regents Park in London and was pulled over by a policeman in a panda car with lights flashing. I stopped, having no idea what I was supposed to have done, rolled down my window and waited to find out.

"Good afternoon, sir, are you aware that you may be guilty of causing a public nuisance?" asked the policeman.

I said that I didn't and could he please explain.

"I would like you to remove the 'We are Luton Town' sticker from your back window. It is inflammatory and likely to cause offence possibly leading to an affray," he said.

"What?" I replied.

"I would like you to replace it with a yellow and red one."

Slowly I twigged. He smiled and said that he just wanted to stop me and say how sorry he was that we had lost the day before. He wished that we were back in the Football League and hoped we would be playing each other again in a few years' time.

Inexplicably the actions of a Watford supporter made me laugh and I started to feel a bit better.

Rivalry stimulates and excites us and we miss not having it. How much better is it when the Oak Road is full and we can concentrate on out-doing the opposition, which, in turn, transfers to the players on the pitch?

Sometimes I feel you can cut the tension in the air with a knife and I believe it is up to all of us to ease it as best we can. Positive results come from positive behaviour, and nobody gets anywhere being negative.

Enthusiastic

I am enthusiastic about the future. I believe we have a quality squad with more than a few talented youngsters coming through the ranks. There is a positive vibe around the place and a commitment to succeed.

We have been here for four years now and continue learning by experience. There has been a substantial financial commitment with no prospect of a return, but that - to a large extent - is the point. Our ambition is, and must be, to have a profitable club in order to secure our long-term future and this will only be possible in a higher division and probably a new home.

On a personal note, I hope you will join me in congratulating Christina and Gary Sweet on the birth of their daughter Jessica two weeks ago. I don't know if it's a record, but she was there for the AFC Telford game looking very cosy in her LTFC baby-grow.

Thank you

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to all our travelling fans. As I get to most away games I know how difficult it can be to get to some of the far-flung places we have to visit and, in some cases, for those to even to travel to Kenilworth Road, but you never disappoint and I know that we, the management and the players, really appreciate it.

In the words of the other Morecambe and Wise song with a little poetic license:-

*Rain or shine you won't shake me
I don't mind where you take me
Spend my time following you around*

*Win or lose I will follow
I don't care about tomorrow
I'll be there following you around*

Enjoy the game

COYH

D~1

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Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

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

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

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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
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Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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RONNIE HENRY

Our last game here at Kenilworth Road ended in disappointment following a 1-0 defeat to AFC Telford.

For the second successive home match, it was frustrating not to pick up three points but, like the manager said to us afterwards, if we play like that week in, week out we will be winning more than losing.

It was a strange game. One we dominated in terms of possession and the number of chances we created. Sometimes that's just the way football goes.

Nine times out of 10 we would have won that game but we were punished after conceding a silly free-kick. Again, marking in our own penalty area proved to be our downfall and that is something we are increasingly working on improving. It is an area of our game that we are keen to iron out as quickly as possible.

Gut-wrenching

It wasn't nice to be sent-off and gut-wrenching to know you're going to miss three matches. The dressing room was pretty down after the final whistle but we knew we had to brush it off and focus on the next game. We were in training on Sunday preparing for the Ebbsfleet game so we didn't have a lot of time to reflect on the disappointment of the Telford encounter.

The good thing about the set-backs we've had so far this season has been that we have had a game almost immediately to bounce back from. It's when the chips are down that the character and spirit we have in the squad comes to the fore and we put the Telford result behind us with a great win at Ebbsfleet.

Watching from the stands, it was a fine performance from the lads and a great result to bounce back and redeem ourselves – to some extent – after the Telford game. It was great to see the strikers on form once more with Stuart Fleetwood scoring another two. We all hope it continues.

I can't put my finger on why we are achieving better results away from home at the moment. At the start of the season I said it was vitally important that we went to away grounds and picked up as many points as possible. I don't think I expected us to win every game but we have and it's a great record that we will attempt to keep up in the coming months.

At Kenilworth Road it has been a different story but it hasn't been for the want of trying. I believe we could, and perhaps should, have won our two home matches so far. We are extremely confident of playing in front of our own supporters and that will never change.

Today is the first of two home matches in quick succession and gives us a fantastic opportunity to right the wrongs of our previous two fixtures here.

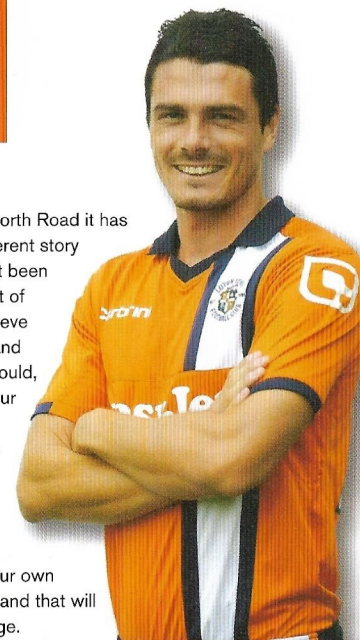
Both are big games, the kind of matches you want to be involved in. They are also teams who will be up there come the end of the season and, therefore, clubs we need to be beating if we are to be successful.

Truly magnificent

Your support can help us. Your backing has been superb, as the crowds at our first five games illustrates. 6,000 of you at home games, 500-odd at Kidderminster and Hyde and a truly magnificent 1,200 of you at Ebbsfleet on Bank Holiday Monday.

As players, we are all working hard to give you what you deserve and, on behalf of the lads, a big thank you to each and every one of you so far.

It is appreciated – but please keep it up. Join me in getting behinds the lads this afternoon.



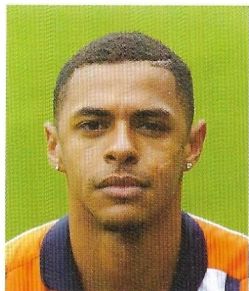
"We are all working hard to give you what you deserve."

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

AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

GRAY GETS ENGLAND CALL



Striker Andre Gray has been called up to the England C squad to face Belgium.

The young forward will join up with the Three Lions for the game in Belgium on 12th September but will not miss any action with the Town whilst he is overseas.

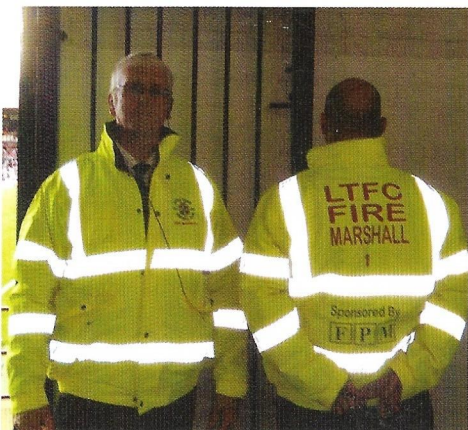
Fellow Hatters Adam Watkins and Greg Taylor have been named on standby.

NEW JACKETS FOR FIRE MARSHALLS

A big thank you to FPM Facilities Management who have helped finance new jackets for our stadium fire marshalls.

You may have seen them around Kenilworth Road but, if not, they are now even easier to spot as they go about their duties helping to maintain a safe environment on matchdays.

The marshalls' old coats have been replaced by two striking new yellow high-visibility jackets.

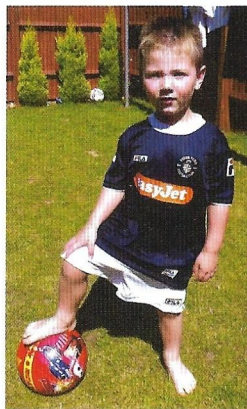
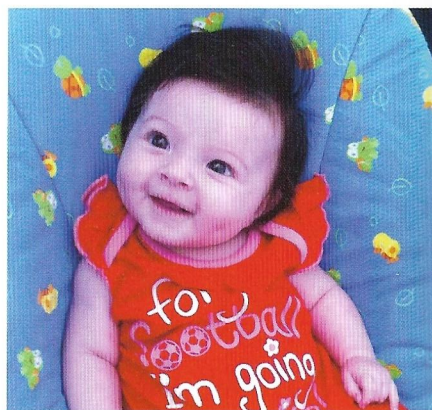


WANT TO BE A STEWARD?

On the subject of safety, the club will be enrolling new safety stewards on 13th October, and anyone wishing to be a steward at Kenilworth Road should email safety@lutontown.co.uk for an application form.

DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Town fans Elliott and Jacqui Kenyon welcomed another future Hatter as Bethany Dolores Kenyon was born on 25th April.



It is the couple's second child in a Hatters-mad family with Reece Nico Kenyon also in the house – and Reece is here this afternoon at Kenilworth Road celebrating his birthday.

He turns four tomorrow.

Many happy returns, Reece!

CONFERENCE LAUNCH RESPECT CAMPAIGN

The Football Conference will again be operating their unique campaign to improve respect amongst member clubs this season.

Entitled 3D Respect Campaign 2012/13, it will continue to concentrate on three key areas with an emphasis of encouraging managers and fans to make a meaningful contribution, let alone players during matches.

Recognising football is emotive and stirs obvious passions, people in the game still need to step back, take ownership of what one is about to do or say, and so avoid the consequences of those actions. Often the outcome reflects badly, not only on their club and the reputation of football in general, but more importantly the way others view those actions, deeds or words.

The member club earning the end-of-season accolade will need to demonstrate many attitudes from the boardroom to the terrace. The overall winning clubs from all three divisions will receive the Respect Trophy and two other clubs will be presented with certificates of commendation for their efforts towards the campaign. As a further incentive, Blue Square Bet, sponsors of the Football Conference, will be making financial awards to the top three clubs.

Last season, overall winners Altrincham were set a fine example by Manager Lee Sinnott. Alty chairman Graham Rowley said: "With Altrincham Football Club's increased presence in the local community we were proud winners of this award in its inaugural year, as it epitomises what the club stands for – fair play, respect for all and good sportsmanship."

Conference Chairman Brian Lee summed up his feeling towards the campaign, saying: "Last year was a success, so much indeed that the LMA and PGMO have adopted for the Premier League and Football League our initiative of match officials being allowed to exit the field of play at half time and full time with dignity, advocating and encouraging managers to make a respectful approach behind closed doors and out of sight of fans and cameras.

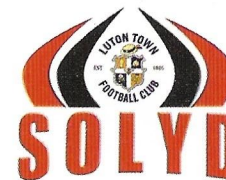
"Doing so on the field gives the wrong impression and managers should be role models to players and

youngsters who attend our matches. All managers in our competition, like Lee Sinnott did last season, have to set high standards."

In monitoring behaviour, all avenues of social networking and other media streams will be checked away from the field of play and if supporters feel that another club has shown that they can go that extra mile to make it a pleasant day out, then if they wish to share their experiences, they can do so by emailing media@footballconference.co.uk.

BE A DIRECTOR FOR A DAY

Ever wondered what it would be like to be a director of your football club? Or what it would be like to



socialise in the boardroom before kick-off and then take your seat in the directors' box? Now's your chance to find out.

Every person who donates to SoLYD

via monthly direct debit will be entered into the regular prize draw to win the opportunity to be a director for the day for themselves and one guest. Luton Town director David Wilkinson will host the lucky winners for the day, giving them a unique behind-the-scenes view of a matchday at Kenilworth Road.

The draw for this amazing prize will take place at half-time during the Wrexham game on 15th September. To be entered in the draw your direct debit will need to be in place before then. The minimum monthly donation is just £5, with every penny going to support the Hatters' youth development department. The prize will take place on a mutually agreed matchday.

If you don't already support SoLYD, now's the time to sign up and give yourself the chance to win a once in a lifetime matchday experience. The direct debit can be found on the SoLYD website www.solyd.co.uk (go to the support us section and click through to the direct debit form).

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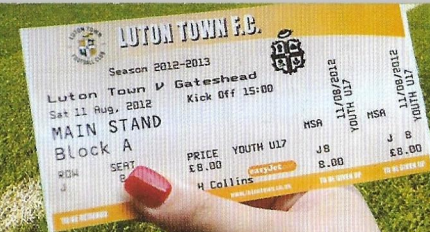
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LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

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

Supporters can either pay on the day at the Impact Arena or contact
Lisa Towerzey at Alfreton for Earlybird discounted prices from
3rd September between 9am and 3pm on 0115 9392090.

Prices: Adults £18 (£16 EB), Over 65s and Under-16s £12 (£11 EB).



LUTON TOWN v WREXHAM

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at usual matchday prices.



GRIMSBY TOWN v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 7.30PM

Please note the change in date and kick-off time for this match.
This game will be screened live by Premier Sports TV.
Town supporters can pay on the night at Blundell Park or can ring
Grimsby direct on 01472 605050 for Earlybird discounts.

Prices: Adults £18 (£16 EB), 1-14years £8 (£6 EB), 15-21s and Over 65 £12 (£10 EB).



Buy tickets online at www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown or call 01582 416976

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EMAIL US COMMERCIAL@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

As I have mentioned in my programme notes earlier this season, we have been extremely busy in the commercial department 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 campaign progresses.

We have also had a lot of interest in our Business Breakfast Club, which is held on a monthly basis in the newly-refurbished Eric Morecambe Lounge. There are no limited on the places in these exciting business networking meetings so if you like the sound of it, please get in touch.

We're also in the midst of planning our Christmas celebration evening and further information will be released over the next few weeks.

It has been a busy period over the past week; our Telford game was followed by our Legends game against Aston Villa last Sunday and we've been getting ready for this home double header, starting today and continuing on Tuesday when Cambridge United are the visitors.

On the subject of the Legends game, it was great to see so many former players return to Kenilworth Road.

I'd like to thank everyone involved, especially Marvin Johnson for helping get a team together for the game.

There was great enthusiasm from both sets of players and it is hoped we can make the fixture a seasonal occasion – although I'm sure ex-players associations of other clubs will be running scared after our 8-1 win.

This afternoon I am delighted to welcome our match sponsors who have come all the way from Australia to be with us today. I hope you have a fantastic day with us at Kenilworth Road, as I hope all our executive members, box holders and corporate guests do, too.

MATCH SPONSOR

M.C. NOBLE BUILDING DESIGNS

Town fan Michael Noble, a born-and-bred Lutonian, returns to Kenilworth Road this afternoon to sponsor today's game on behalf of M.C. Noble Building Designs, his company based in Reynella, South Australia. The firm, established in 1979, specialises in architectural design of residential, industrial and commercial projects.

For further information on Michael's company visit www.mc noblebuildingdesign.com

COMMERCIAL MASCOTS



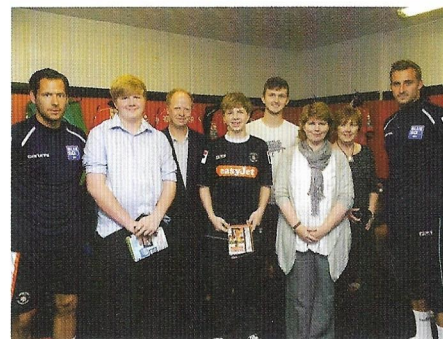
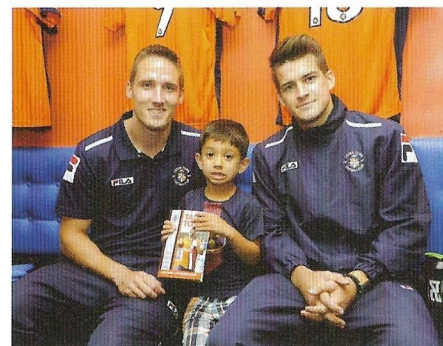
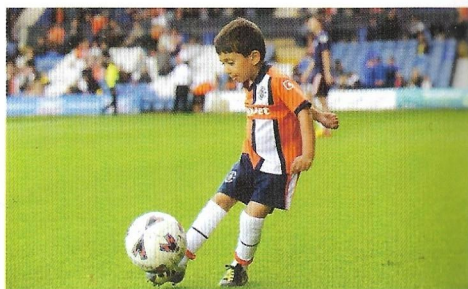
Please give a warm welcome to our two mascots this afternoon who will lead the Hatters out onto the pitch before kick-off.

First up is eight-year-old Toby Robson from Luton. We're told by Toby's grandmother Sheila that his favourite team is actually Brazil. Sheila is a lifelong Town fan and she is hoping to transform her grandson into a Hatters supporter today.



Our second mascot is eight-year-old Isabel Rose from Radlett. Isabel comes to matches with her dad and her favourite Town player is striker Stuart Fleetwood.

We hope you both have a fantastic afternoon with us.



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WELCOME

MACCLESFIELD



The Silkmen are today's visitors as they look to live up to their promotion-contender status and make an immediate beeline back to the Football League.

After a disappointing campaign last season, which saw them relegated from the Football League, the Macclesfield faithful have been treated to an Olympic-like start as they came steaming out of the blocks quickly, notching up four wins from their first five games.

This would seem to be the perfect cure for last season's hangover and with new manager Steve King at the helm, their bid to jump straight back into the Football League seems genuine. King made his reputation at non-league club Lewes and, in May 2012, landed the hot seat at Moss Rose to begin an exciting new era for the Cheshire club.

King quickly added to his squad bringing in former Hatters Matthew Barnes-Homer and Charlie Henry, as well as current Hatter John Paul Kissock on loan, to rejuvenate his current squad. Barnes-Homer, who spent two full seasons at Kenilworth Road, will be returning to the club for the first time since his move away from Bedfordshire at the beginning of this year. Barnes-Homer has made a storming start to his career at Moss Rose, slamming home four goals in the Silkmen's first five outings and, with the recent addition of Chris Holroyd from Preston, King's attacking options is one that will have many fellow managers casting envious eyes upon.

The Hatters and the Silkmen are no strangers to each other's presence; however, meeting at this rung on the footballing ladder is somewhat untested ground.

The last time these two sides met was back in 2008/09 when Luton were aiming to overturn the 30-point

deficit inflicted upon them by the football authorities. Town travelled to the Moss Rose on a cold Saturday in September and the result was one that hardly heated up Luton emotions as they were beaten 2-1. After a promising start to their relegation-threatened season, picking up seven points from their first four games, Hatters hopes were hanging in the balance when Simon Yeo gave the home side an early advantage netting past current Town shot stopper Dean Brill. Defender Paul Morgan then doubled the home side's advantage to put the result beyond reach for the Hatters, despite a late consolation from substitute Ryan Charles.

The return fixture ensured revenge was achieved by the Hatters when former hit man Tom Craddock slammed home a penalty in front of the Kenilworth Road end to give a glimmer of hope to the Luton faithful as the clock ran down on their Football League status.

The two sides will have the opportunity to get themselves fully reacquainted this campaign, but hopefully not for long as both sides maintain their focus on promotion to their rightful place, and on the basis of both sides start to the season, who would write off a Football League fixture between these two sides next season.

TOWN v MACCLESFIELD

HEAD2HEAD RECORD

1	WINS	3
6	GOALS	10

LAST MEETING:

March 2009: Town 1-0 Macclesfield

THE SILKMEN

AN AT-A-GLANCE VIEW OF THE MACCLESFIELD SQUAD

STEVE KING

The boss. Highly-rated manager who took over this summer. Fine track record built on success at Lewes and Farnborough. He guided the Rooks to the Conference from the Ryman League Division One (South) in five years. He then led Farnborough to the Conference South as Southern League Champions in 2010.

LANCE CRONIN

Experienced goalkeeper who arrived this summer having been released by Bristol Rovers. Started his career as a youngster with Palace before impressing on loan at Oldham. Then signed for Shrewsbury before joining Ebbsfleet, Gillingham and then Rovers.

RYAN JACKSON

Summer signing from AFC Wimbledon who can operate at right-back or on the right side of midfield. A graduate of the Dons' youth set-up, he also spent time out on loan with Cambridge and Fleetwood last season.

NAT BROWN

Centre-half who arrived at Moss Rose in November 2008 from Wrexham. Currently the club's longest-serving player having made over 150 appearances for the Silkmen. Started his career with Huddersfield.

TONY DIAGNE

French-born defender who joined the Silkmen in January after a spell in his homeland. Capable of playing at full-back, centre-half or on the left side of midfield, Tony also spent two years as a trainee with Nottingham Forest.

GRAHAM BRAHAM-BARRETT

Left-back who signed this summer after a successful trial. Former Charlton trainee who enjoyed a spell under Steve King at Farnborough. Has plenty of non-league experience but has played in the Football League with Peterborough.

CARL MARTIN

Summer signing following his release by Crewe Alexandra. Started his career in non-league circles with Wealdstone before moving to Gresty Road in 2009.

KIERAN CHARNOCK

Centre-back who signed on-loan from Fleetwood in August until January. Experienced defender who counts Wigan, Northwich, Peterborough, Accrington, Torquay and Morecambe amongst his former employers.

JACK MACKRETH

Another summer arrival, Jack signed from Barrow who he was almost ever-present for last season. Began his career as a youngster with Tranmere and scored against the Hatters at Kenilworth Road last season.

PETER WINN

Summer signing following his release from Stevenage, Winn is a pacey winger who has also enjoyed several successful loan spells with Gateshead, Cambridge and Grimsby in recent seasons.

ARNAUD MENDY

Young French midfielder who signed for the Silkmen last season. Started his career as a trainee at Derby before loan spells with Grimsby and Tranmere.

SAM WEDGBURY

Central midfielder now in his third season at Moss Rose, having joined the Silkmen at the start of the 2010/11 campaign. Began his career as a youngster at Sheffield United but found opportunities at Bramall Lane limited.

CHARLIE HENRY

Former Town winger who signed for the Silkmen this summer. His time at Kenilworth Road was hit cruelly by injury having joined the Hatters in 2010 from Newport County, who he had helped in the Conference South.

MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER

No stranger to Kenilworth Road having scored 22 goals in 77 appearances for the Hatters. Had a prolific spell with Kidderminster before signing for the Hatters. Moves to Rochdale, Nuneaton and Sweden followed last season before his arrival at Moss Rose this summer.

WAIDE FAIRHUST

Strong forward who signed for the Silkmen last season having been released by Doncaster.

ROB EDMANS

6ft 7in striker signed on-loan from Dagenham & Redbridge. Has served a number of non-league clubs over the past few seasons with his goalscoring ability enough to prompt the Daggers to snap him up.

CHRIS HOLROYD

Macclesfield-born striker who arrives on-loan from Preston until January. Made his name with a prolific spell at Cambridge before moves to Brighton, Bury, Rotherham and Stevenage prior to his move to Deepdale.



Established: 1874

Nickname(s): The Silkmen

Stadium: Moss rose

Capacity: 6,335 (Avg. attendance '11/12 - 2,227)

Manager: Steve King (3 months)

Final league position '11/12: 24th L2P



Since **Macclesfield Town's** 15-year stay in the Football League came to an end in late April, the club has undergone a complete overhaul. Manager Steve King – most famous for guiding Ryman League Division One side Lewes to the Conference National in just five years – was installed in May and has had a busy summer revamping his squad. No fewer than 24 players have left the Cheshire club in the past few months, while 15 new faces – including the likes of Matthew Barnes-Homer, Charlie Henry and John Paul Kissock – have come in with the intention of taking the club back to League 2 at the first time of asking.

How have they started the season?

Macclesfield sit just below early league-leaders Newport County with 12 points from five games in the Blue Square Bet Premier. After losing narrowly to Hereford United on the opening night of the season, King's newly-forged side went on to win four matches in a row – something the club hasn't managed in almost six years. Macclesfield fans certainly haven't had to wait for their new arrivals to bed in. The Silkmen have looked dangerous in attack, scoring 10 goals in their five games, as well as being solid at the back after keeping three clean sheets. However, it is worth noting those clean sheets have all been at Moss Rose. Away from home it is a slightly different story, King's side have conceded twice in each match.

How will they play? Who are their key men?

Macclesfield started the season in a fluid and quite exciting 4-2-3-1 formation against Hereford United, but after suffering defeat, partly due to a lack of incision, manager Steve King switched to a 4-4-2 and saw his side earn wins over Wrexham, Dartford, Lincoln and Barrow. The Silkmen's back five (including goalkeeper Lance Cronin) will likely be made up of all new summer signings. Full-backs Ryan Jackson and Craig Braham-Barrett will catch the eye with their eagerness to bomb forward and provide natural width on the overlap, whilst further up the pitch the likes of Charlie Henry and Sam Wedgbury will more often than not cut inside like typical inverted wingers.



In midfield, Kieran Murtagh is a well-rounded, jack-of-all-trades with the composure and passing range to dictate play from deep, as well as the energy and attacking prowess to break beyond the centre-forwards with late runs. He will be partnered by the domineering ball-winner Arnaud Mendy in what is arguably one of the most well-balanced central midfield combinations in the division.

Goal threat

Ex-Luton striker Matthew Barnes-Homer, who has scored four goals already for the Silkmen, will provide Macclesfield's main goal threat up-front and it is likely he will want to prove himself to a Kenilworth Road crowd. Barnes-Homer is likely to act as a second striker to Waide Fairhurst by working the channels and dropping off the front line to craft combinations with both wingers and the on-rushing Murtagh. John Paul Kissock will of course be unavailable for selection given the terms of his loan deal from Luton. Charlie Henry, however, will feature and is expected to spend the game swapping flanks with Sam Wedgbury to keep the Hatters' full-backs guessing their route of attack. If Macclesfield are chasing a goal late in the game, expect to see tall striker Rob Edmans make an appearance for a rather more direct approach.

THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

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

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Dave Lancaster

AGE?

30, just!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

Almost 23 years.

HOW ARE THE TEAM AND THE FANS ADJUSTING TO NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL AFTER 15 YEARS AWAY?

Pretty well so far. We've been crying out for some excitement and entertainment from our players for a long time and the new gaffer has delivered this. Home crowds have been quite positive, with 1,600 there for the Barrow match which is around the same number as we were getting last season in League 2.

HOW ARE FORMER LUTON PLAYERS MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER AND CHARLIE HENRY DOING FOR YOU SO FAR? WHAT ABOUT LOAN MAN JOHN PAUL KISSOCK?

MBH has started the season really well, he looks the part to me. He's quick, strong, skilful and intelligent but best of all seems to know where the net is. Charlie has been solid if unspectacular (apart from his goal celebration) but I imagine he'll grow as the season goes on and the side continues to gel. JPK has been a revelation, his ability on the ball is second to none and has played a part in probably half our goals so far this season. From his early showings, I'd be elated if we could take him off your hands full-time in January.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CLUB THIS SEASON?

From what I've seen so far we'll have no problems with making a top-10 finish at least, and should look to be making a push for the top five. But things can change very quickly in this game and we've got some tougher looking games coming up, starting with this afternoon.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES FROM FACING LUTON IN THE PAST?

We've got a pretty decent record over Luton - Rickie Lambert scored a cracking hat-trick for us in a 4-1 home win many moons ago. Look where he finds himself playing these days. I also remember a 2-1 win at Kenilworth Road with Simon Davies scoring a cracker – that was about all he did for us, mind.

WHO'S YOUR PLAYER TO WATCH?

Kieran Murtagh in the centre of midfield. Has a classy all round game with a good engine, great close control and picks the right pass just about every time.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

Cheap tickets, the fact it's local, the excitement you get ahead of big cup games, Brassington pies, and a real sense of being part of it all, not just being one of tens of thousands watching players you'll never have any chance of connecting with.

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

9th August, 1997. It was the first day of the club's first ever Football League season. It was a roasting hot summer day at the Moss with Torquay the visitors and Efe Sodje pops up seven minutes in to give us the lead. I've never felt the same euphoric feeling celebrating a goal like that since. Little did we know we wouldn't see the team lose at home for another year, when the riches of Fulham came to town in Division Two (now League 1).

WHAT'S THE SCORE GOING TO BE TODAY?

Heart says an entertaining 2-2 draw, but my head thinks we might struggle with your front men and end up on the end of a few goals conceded to none. I think I'll stick with my heart on this one.

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS TEN POST-WAR MACCLESFIELD TOWN CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1967/68

Macclesfield Town won the Cheshire League title and reached the FA Cup third round in 1967/68. The Silkmen were unbeaten in their opening 16 Cheshire League games, slamming five goals past Buxton, Mossley and New Brighton. They beat Stockport County 2-1 in an FA Cup first round replay, then beat Spennymoor 2-0 before losing 4-2 at top-flight Fulham in the third round: John Cooke, George Sievwright, George Forrester, Frank Beaumont, John Collins, Keith Goalen, Dave Goodwin, Fred Taberner, Brian Fidler, Dick Young, David Latham. Macclesfield clinched the title with a 1-1 draw at home to Oswestry.

1968/69

Macclesfield Town were the first winners of the Northern Premier League title in 1968/69. The Silkmen began life in the new competition with a 2-1 defeat at Boston United but lost just two of their next 23 matches to go top, scoring five times against both South Liverpool and Scarborough. Frank Beaumont's side recovered from a 5-2 defeat at Goole to draw 0-0 at rivals Wigan and clinched the title with a 2-1 victory at Netherfield on Easter Monday. They also beat Northwich 3-1 in the Cheshire Senior Cup final. Dick Young was top scorer, while Dave Berry, Merrick Corfield and Dave Roberts were ever-present.

1969/70

Player-boss Frank Beaumont guided Macclesfield Town to the Northern Premier League title and FA Trophy double in 1969/70. The Silkmen soared to the top of the table with a 16-match unbeaten run, also taking Scunthorpe to an FA Cup first round replay. They defeated Burscough 1-0, Gainsborough 2-0, Bangor City 1-0, Burton Albion 4-0 and Barnet 1-0 in the FA Trophy before beating Telford 2-0 in the Wembley final to become the first winners. Macclesfield pipped Wigan Athletic to the title on goal average with a 1-0 victory at Scarborough but lost 3-2 to Altrincham in the Northern Premier League Cup final.

1986/87

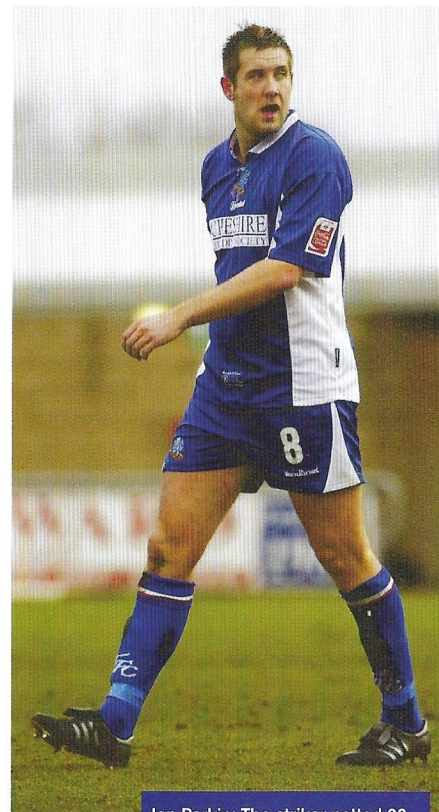
Macclesfield Town achieved the Northern Premier League treble in 1986/87. New signings included Elfyn Edwards and Mike Lake, with the Silkmen remaining unbeaten in their opening seven matches. Steve Burr scored hat-tricks as Macclesfield beat Barrow 3-0 and Mossley 4-1, but by the end of February they were 13 points behind leaders Bangor City. Peter Wragg's side hit top form as their rivals began to falter and in a crowded final week they beat Burton Albion 2-0 in the Northern Premier League Cup final, defeated Marine 2-1 on aggregate in the President's Cup final and triumphed 3-1 at Hyde to win the Championship.

1987/88

Peter Wragg managed Macclesfield Town to the FA Cup third round in 1987/88. The Silkmen began life in the Conference with a 1-0 victory at home to Maidstone and lost just one of their first seven games, beating Northwich 5-0. In the FA Cup they defeated Carlisle 4-2 in the first round, then Steve Burr netted a hat-trick as they won 4-0 at home to Rotherham: Alan Zelem, Micky Roberts, David Grant, Elfyn Edwards, Graham Tobin, Steve Hanlon, John Askey (Kevin Glendon), Nigel Shaw, Mike Lake, Steve Burr, Keith Mountford. Macclesfield lost 1-0 at Port Vale in the third round and finished mid-table in the Conference.

1994/95

Sammy McIlroy managed Macclesfield Town to the Conference title in 1994/95. The Silkmen had won the Bob Lord Trophy the previous season and kicked off with a 3-1 victory over Welling. They raced to top spot by November with a Conference record of ten successive wins, including a 2-0 triumph at home to rivals Woking, then completed the double over Southport. Sammy McIlroy became the club's first full-time manager in January and Steve Farrelly was ever-present as Macclesfield remained in pole position for the rest of the season. They won the title by five points but ground grading denied them Football League status.



Jon Parkin: The striker netted 22 times for the Silkmen in 2004/05

1995/96

Macclesfield Town won the FA Trophy for the second time in 1995/96. John Askey was sidelined with a broken leg but signings included Cec Edey, Ryan Price, Tony Hemmings and Darren Tinson. The Silkmen were top of the Conference for three months mid-season but finished in fourth position. They beat Runcorn 1-0, Purfleet 2-1, Sudbury 1-0, Gresley 2-0 and Chorley 4-2 in the FA Trophy before defeating Northwich 3-1 in the Wembley final: Ryan Price, Cec Edey, Mark Gardiner, Steve Payne, Neil Howarth, Neil Sorvel, Darren Lyons, Steve Wood (Kevin Hulme), Marc Coates, Phil Power, Tony Hemmings (Paul Cavell).

1996/97

Sammy McIlroy guided Macclesfield Town to their second Conference title in 1996/97. The Silkmen lost just once in their first 11 matches and maintained their title challenge despite losing 1-0 at home to leaders Kidderminster in December. Harriers also beat Macclesfield 3-0 in the FA Trophy first round but, with an attack boosted by former England star Peter Davenport and Chris Byrne, the Silkmen overtook them at the top with a 3-0 win at Bath in February. They triumphed 3-2 at rivals Stevenage, then trounced Woking 5-0 and Bromsgrove 4-0, clinching Football League status with a 4-1 victory at Kettering in their last match.

1997/98

Macclesfield Town won promotion for the second consecutive season in 1997/98. New signings Efe Sodje and Richard Landon scored on their debut as the Silkmen began life in the Football League with a 2-1 win at home to Torquay. They were early leaders after beating Doncaster 3-0 and lost only two of their first 14 matches. Newcomers Martin McDonald and Leroy Chambers helped Macclesfield win seven times in eight games as they soared back into the promotion frame, overcoming a 5-1 defeat at Colchester to be runners-up after winning their last four matches. Steve Wood was top scorer, while Ryan Price was ever-present.

2004/05

Jon Parkin scored 22 goals as Macclesfield Town qualified for the League 2 Play-Offs in 2004/05. New signings included Northern Ireland international goalkeeper Alan Fettis and the Silkmen raced to the top of the table after winning their first three games, then triumphed 2-1 at eventual champions Yeovil. Brian Horton's side remained in contention, with newcomers Kevin McIntyre, Dave Morley and Danny Swailes helping them to win six straight matches starting with a 5-0 triumph at Notts County in late January. They qualified for the Play-Offs for the first time, in fifth position, but lost 2-1 to Lincoln City in the semi-final.

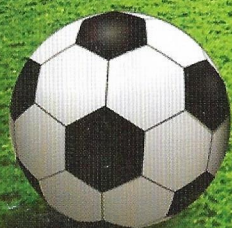




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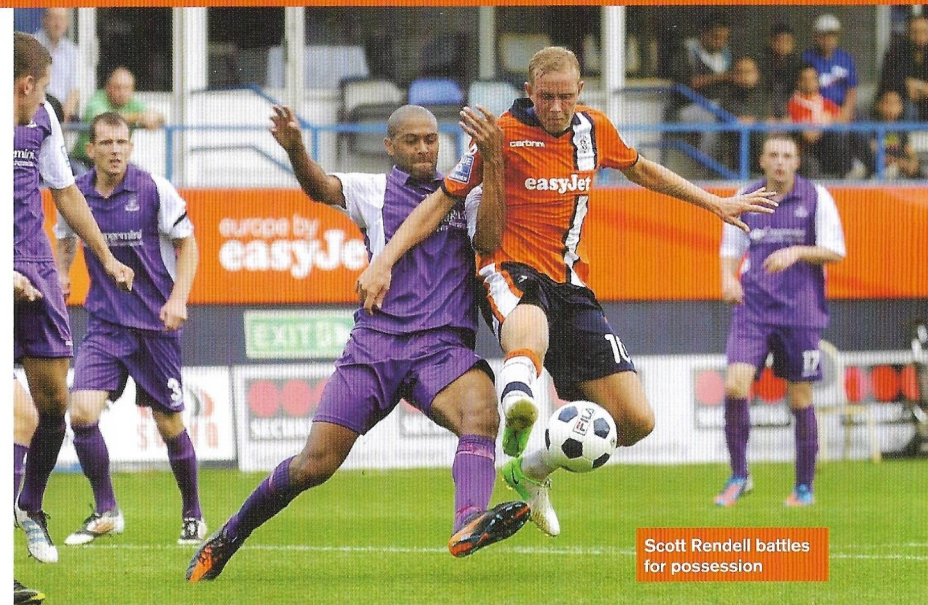


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TOWN 0-1 AFC TELFORD



Scott Rendell battles for possession

EVERYTHING BUT SCORE

Boss Paul Buckle thought his side did everything but score as the Town lost their first match of the season with a 1-0 defeat at home to AFC Telford United.

The Hatters created a string of chances but couldn't find a way past a resolute visiting defence who took the three points back to Shropshire thanks to Kieron St Aime's first-half header.

Telford were reduced to nine men, whilst the Town were reduced to 10 following the dismissal of captain Ronnie Henry and hit the crossbar in the last five minutes through Stuart Fleetwood but the Hatters were left pointless.

So, disappointment for the manager, yes, but Buckle was keen to reassure supporters of his belief in the side after Telford's victory.

"Of course, I'm disappointed – I'm always disappointed if we haven't picked up maximum points," he told Hatters Player afterwards. "But it wasn't through a lack of trying, a lack of creating chances or a lack of ball retention – we did everything but put the ball in the back of the net.

"You can't criticise strikers – they don't mean to miss the target. The records of our forwards speak for

themselves. Losing a game isn't the end of the world. After a defeat we need to look at why we lost and be sensible about it and not forget or throw away all the work we've done.

"The key was we created loads of the chances – any manager will tell you they'll be worried if there team isn't creating them – but we are.

"No game in this league is easy, no team in the league will give you an easy ride. If that was the case we'd be out of it by now.

"I'm pleased that the Luton Town team today was up for it and played on the front foot throughout. On another day we could have scored three or four."

Buckle revealed afterwards that a groin strain ruled out defender Janos Kovacs and thought the Hungarian's absences was felt with Telford's winner.

And, with Ronnie Henry facing a suspension after his red card in an altercation nine minutes from time, it leaves the Town short of central defenders at the club with Garry Richards also out injured. "Janos was a big loss," said the manager. "Every ball that comes into our 18-yard box, he clears. It's going to be tough.

We need to get a 6ft plus defender in because we're short of them now."

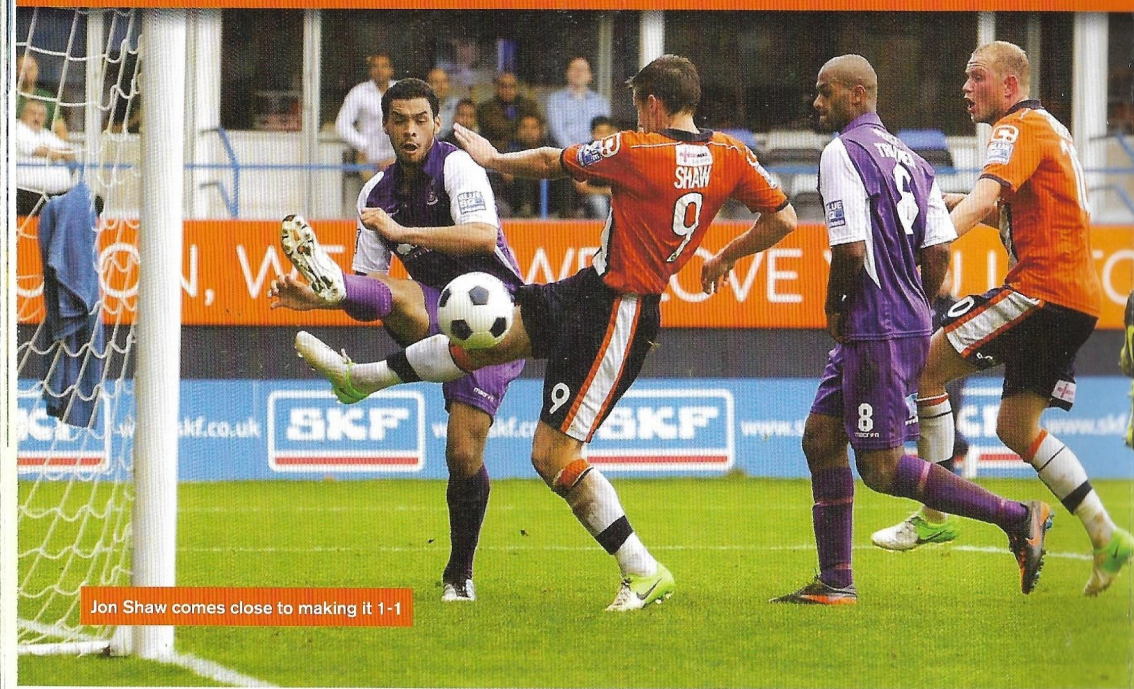


TOWN 0



AFC TELFORD 1

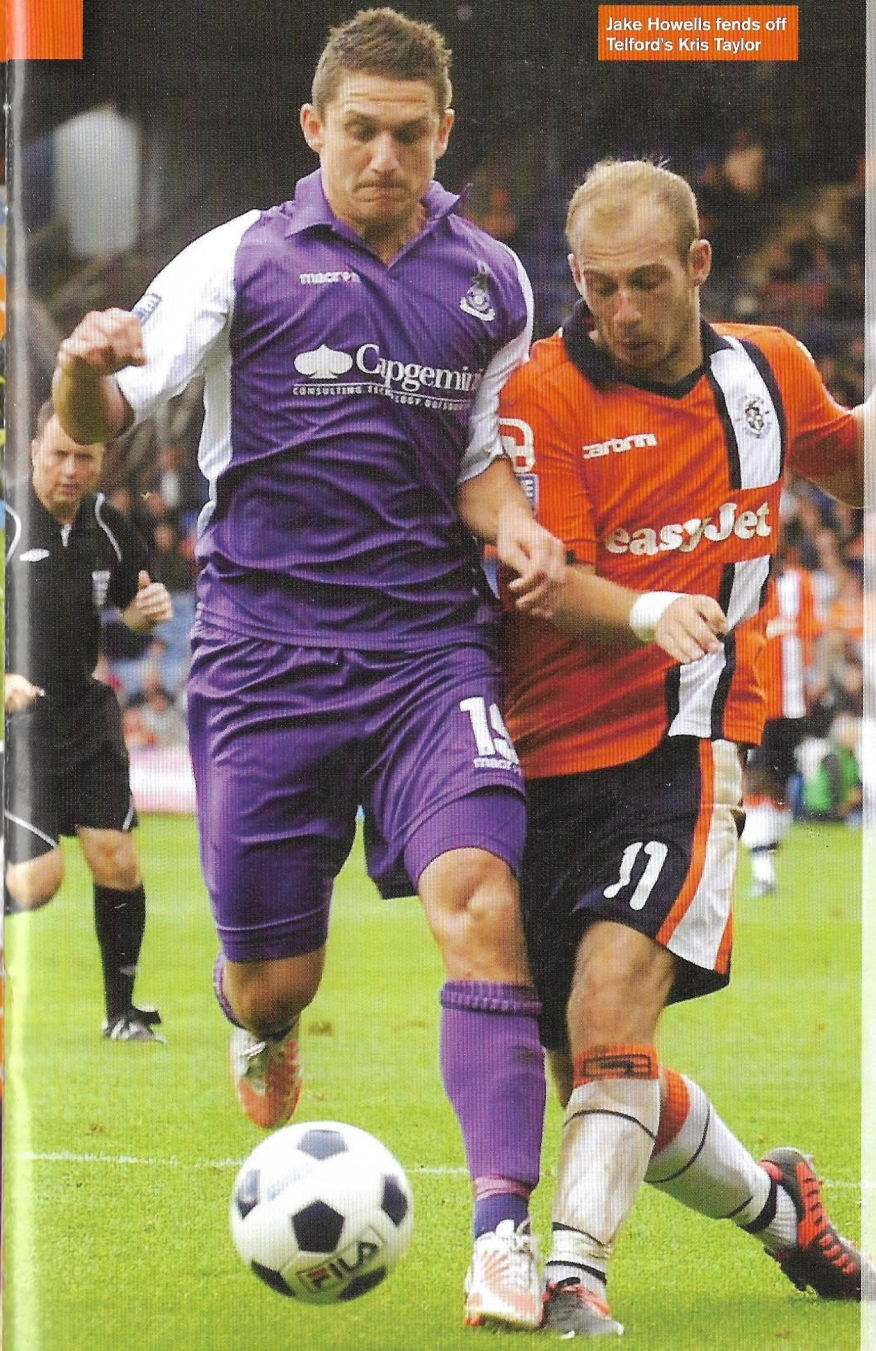
ST AIMIE 42



Jon Shaw comes close to making it 1-1



Andre Gray fires at goal



Jake Howells fends off Telford's Kris Taylor

POSSESSION

56% 44%

CORNERS

9 2

OFFSIDES

1 2

SHOTS ON TARGET

3 1

SHOTS OFF TARGET

3 0

FOULS

8 10

YELLOW CARDS

2 4

RED CARDS

1 2

TOWN:

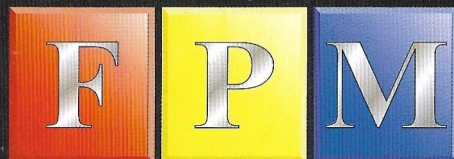
Tyler
Lawless
Howells
Rowe-Turner
Henry
Kasim (sub Taylor 46)
Watkins (sub Gray 55)
O'Donnell
Rendell
Shaw
Fleetwood
Subs not used:
Brill
Beckwith
Woolley

AFC TELFORD:

Young
Salmon
Valentine
Preston
Hubbins (sub Brown 67)
Rose
Rooney
Trainer
St Aimie (sub Reid)
Leslie
Spray (sub Taylor)
Subs not used:
Cudworth
Jones

ATTENDANCE:

5,970
(111 AFC Telford)



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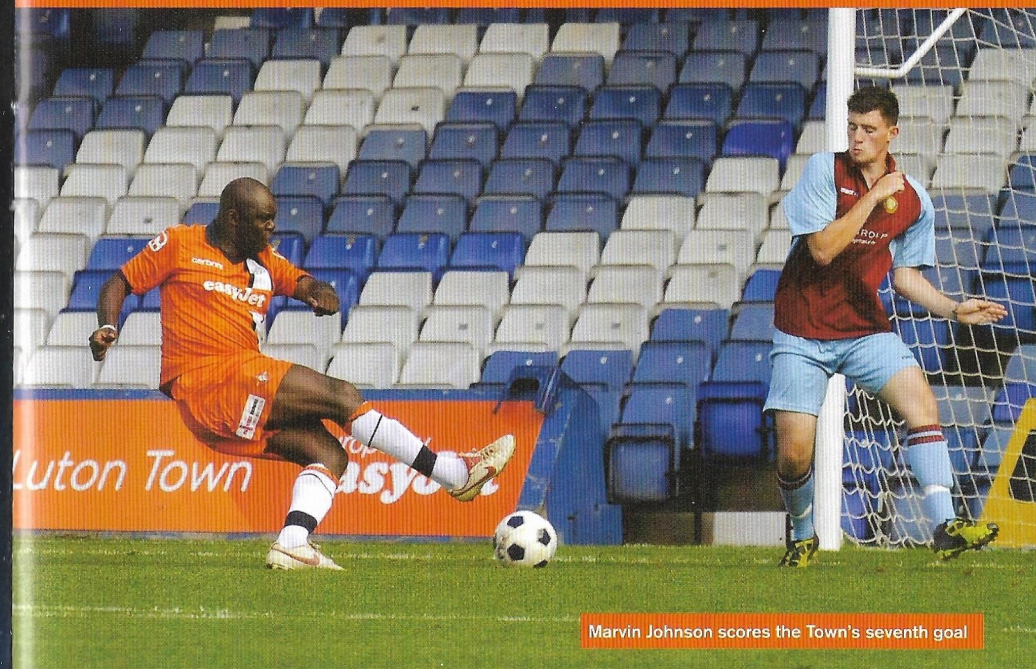
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LEGENDS 8-1 ASTON VILLA



Marvin Johnson scores the Town's seventh goal

OLDIES ARE GOLDIES!

Hatters Heroes from the past cruised past Aston Villa Old Stars at Kenilworth Road last Sunday.

Hat-tricks from Liam George and Scott Smith, plus goals from John Dreyer and Marvin Johnson, capped a fine win against the previously unbeaten Villans.

George headed the Town ahead in the ninth minute following Graham Alexander's right-wing cross but 20 minutes later Villa levelled it up when Ian King slotted home from 12 yards.

It was 1-1 at the break but the Hatters soon restored their advantage after the restart when George tapped in after Alexander's shot was saved on 47 minutes.

Two minutes later, it was 3-1 when Smith found the net before the same player - a youth coach at Kenilworth Road - hit a fine drive across the Villa keeper after taking a pass from Steve Robinson.

On 58 minutes, it was 5-1 when George netted his treble as the Town broke on the counter and Smith bagged his hat-trick when tapping home at the far post.

Johnson, who was subbed at half-time, re-appeared on the hour and two minutes later he found the target,

to herald the biggest cheer of the afternoon to make it seven. The Town then made it eight three minutes before the end when Alexander picked out Dreyer at the back post.

Commercial manager David Hoskins, who made the day possible, told Talk of the Town: "It was great to see so many of the former players back at Kenilworth Road.

"Villa hadn't been beaten before this game and they take games very seriously.

"A huge amount of credit goes to the team, though. To score eight goals was fantastic and we hope that this is the first of many games we will look to hold involving our former players.

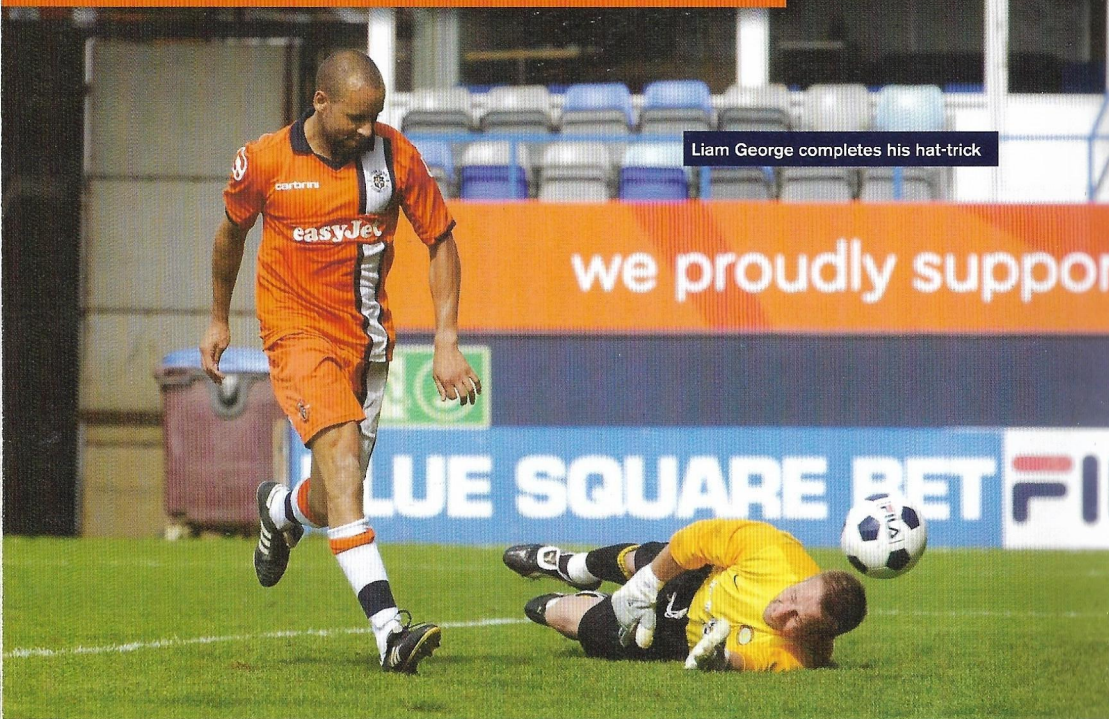
"There was a lovely buzz around the ground; in the stands, in the dressing rooms and in the Eric Morecambe Lounge, which was packed afterwards.

"I think the loudest cheer of the afternoon was when Marvin scored and he is as keen as anyone that we continue these kind of games in the future."

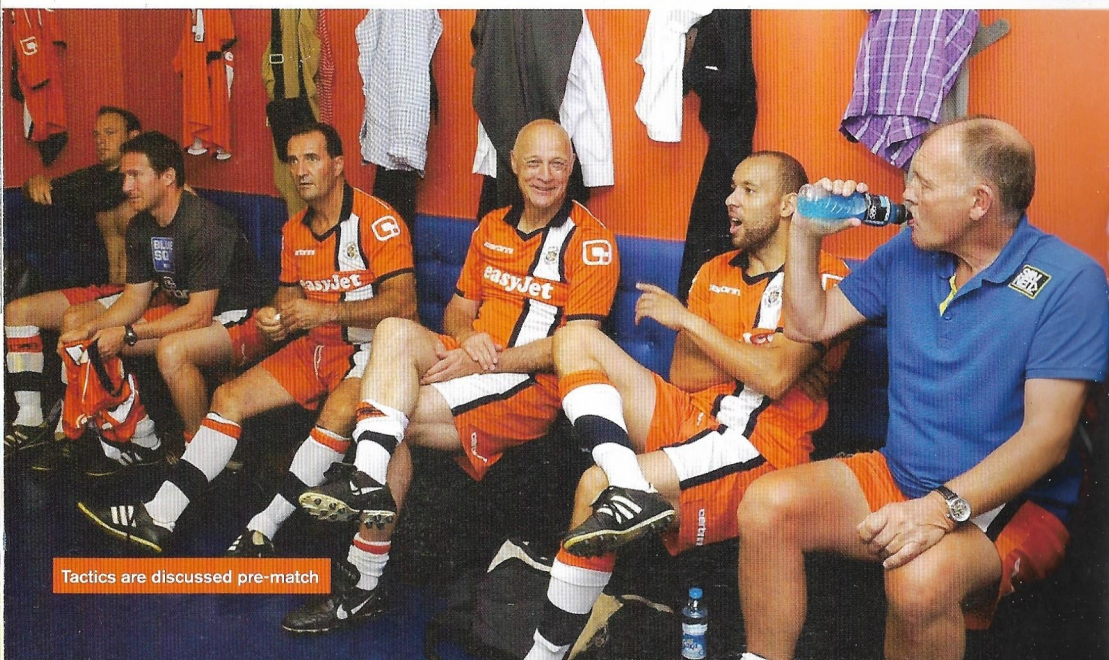


LUTON LEGENDS 8

GEORGE 9, 47, 59, SMITH 49, 53, 64, JOHNSON 62, DREYER 67



Liam George completes his hat-trick

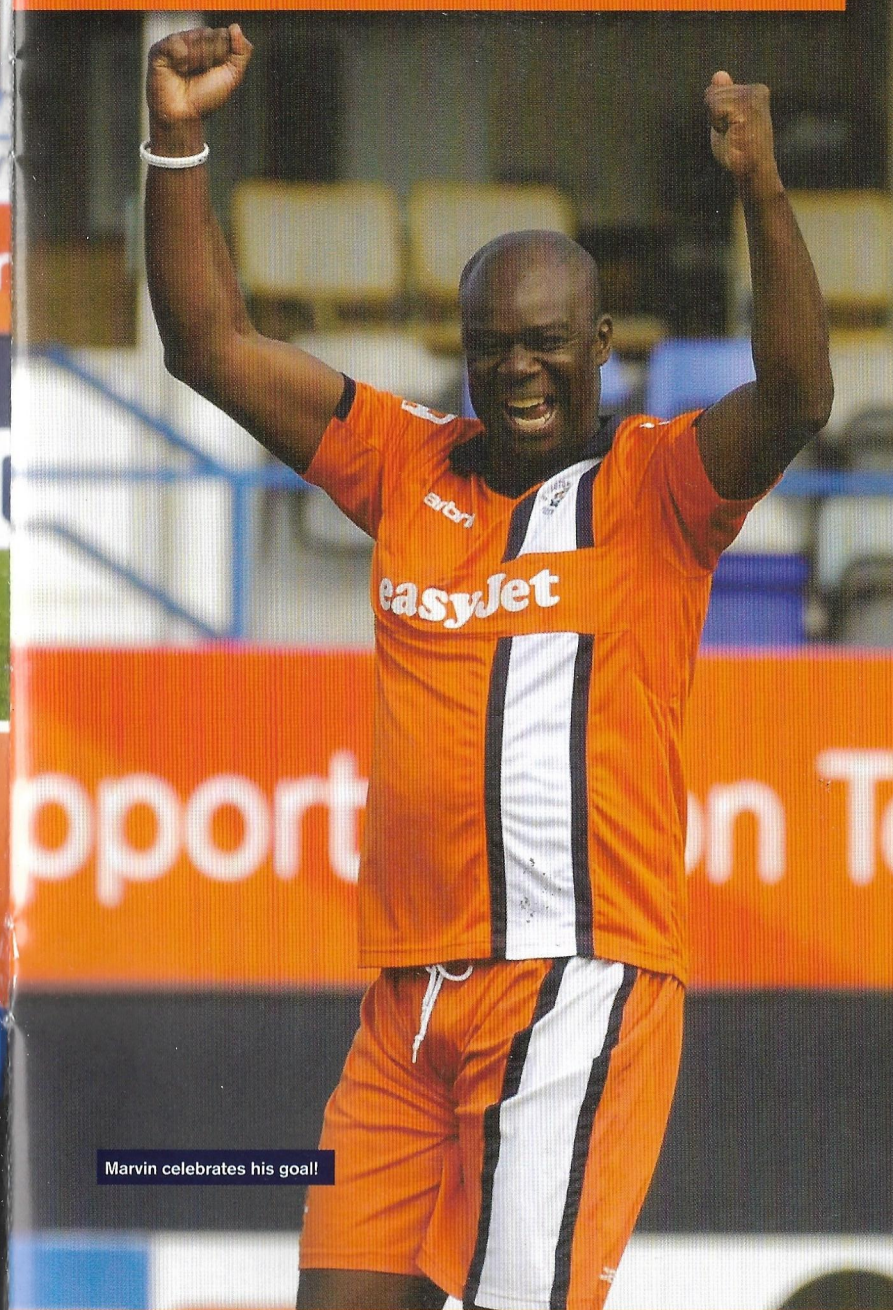


Tactics are discussed pre-match



VILLA OLD STARS 1

King 29



Marvin celebrates his goal!

TOWN:
 Ambler
 (sub Findlay 61)
 James
 Thomas
 (sub McGowan 36)
 Watson
 Johnson
 (sub Neilson 36)
 Robinson
 Oake
 Alexander
 George
 (sub Johnson 59)
 Fuccillo
 (sub Smith 36)
 Faulkner
 (sub Dreyer 22)

VILLA:
 Dudley
 Pearson
 Price
 Hastie
 Gardner
 (sub Adams 59)
 Bradley
 King
 Kinsella
 Morton
 Capaldi
 Sanderson


Report and match action of our win at Ebbsfleet will appear in Tuesday's programme




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- Only one member per business sector



The Hatters
Business Breakfast Club



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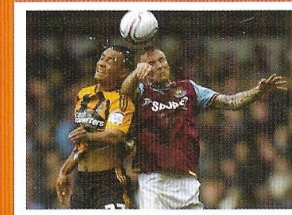
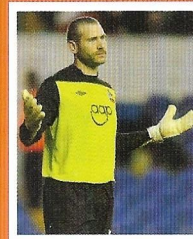
GOOD LUCK!!

HAPPY HARRY

N	I	E	T	S	B	D	N	I	N	H	Y
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T	I	I	L	O	A	B	S	N	F	L	A
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M	T	S	C	W	H	E	A	B	S	I	O
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E	D	I	O	B	R	E	A	C	K	E	R

DIBBLE	DONAGHY	B STEIN
BREACKER	WILSON	M STEIN
JOHNSON	HARFORD	GRIMES
HILL	PREECE	
FOSTER	BLACK	

WHO ARE THESE EX-HATTERS PLAYING IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?



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The Hatters legends that saw off Aston Villa 8-1 last Sunday.

Back row: Alan Neilson, Scott Smith, Julian James, Lil Fuccillo, Jack Ambler, Gavin McGowan, John Faulkner, Mitchell Thomas, John Dreyer. Front row: Liam George, Steve Robinson, Graham Alexander, Marvin Johnson, Scott Oakes, Kevin Watson.

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PICTURE

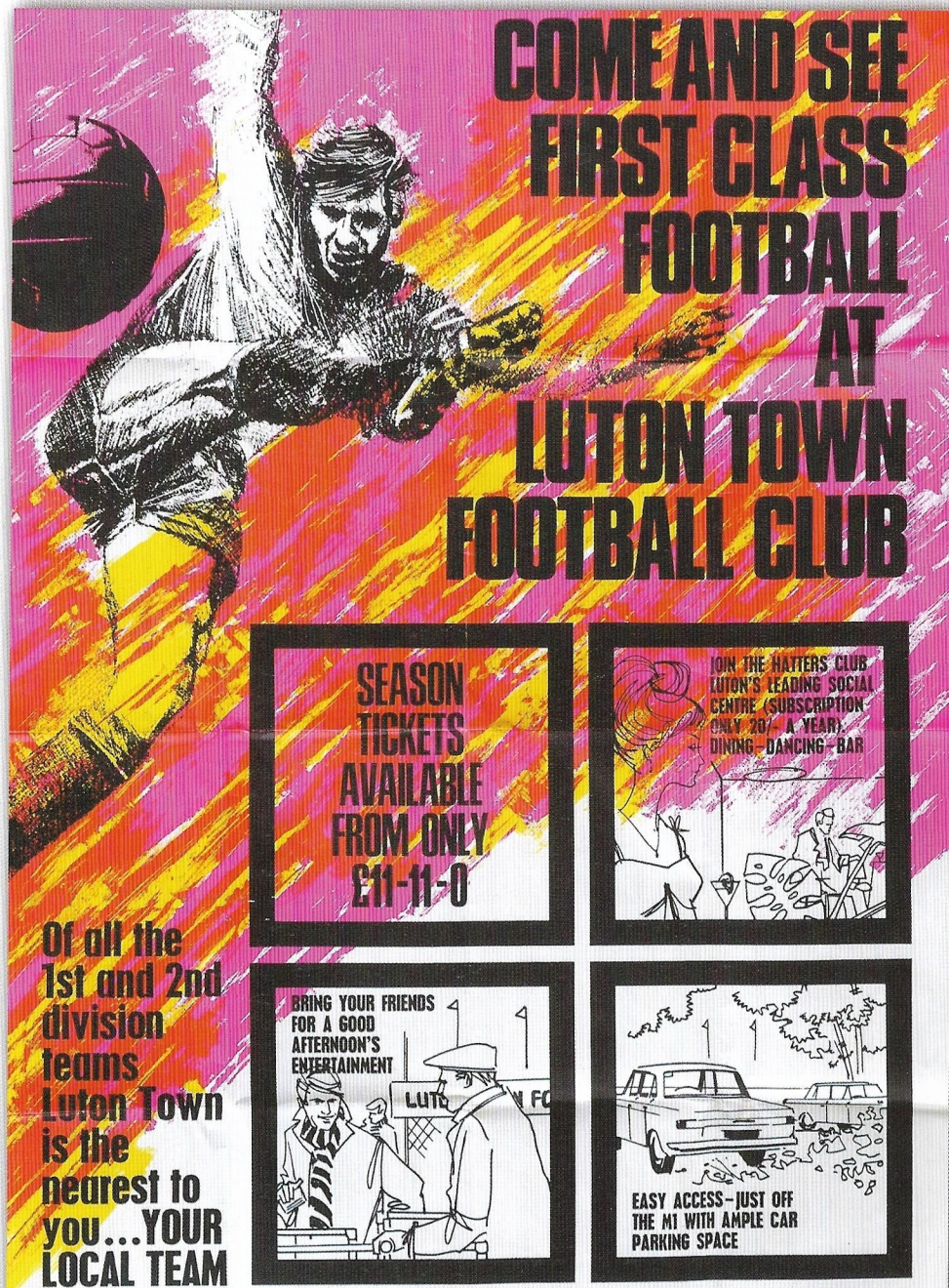
THE PAST

**CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE**

Burly Luton striker Vic Halom heads into the Hull net during the Kenilworth Road clash in October 1972.

Halom had been purchased from Fulham during the previous season and was always unfavourably compared to the departed Malcolm Macdonald by Luton supporters.

I always thought he was a good target man, proving the point later when enjoying a prolific spell at Sunderland with whom he won an FA Cup winners medal in 1973.



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TOWN TREASURES

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

The summer of 1970, when this poster was produced, was a good time to be a Luton Town supporter.

After finishing eighth from the bottom of Division Four (now League Two) in 1966, the Hatters romped to the title the following season buoyed by the wealth of new directors Tony Hunt and Reggie Burr of insurance giant Vehicle and General.

The Town started the 1968/69 campaign in the same blistering form as they had finished the last but eventually lost out to Swindon and Watford by finishing third in the days before Play-Offs.

Disappointment at failing to win promotion was followed by the shock of seeing top scorer Bruce Rioch sold to Aston Villa for £100,000, which was a figure the Luton board simply could not turn down.

Spending some of the money on little known Fulham full-back Malcolm Macdonald was underwhelming but, of course, Supermac, once converted to a forward, could do no wrong and his goals fired the Town to further promotion at the end of 1969/70. The Hatters were now back in Division Two (now the

Championship) for the first time since 1963 and with the crowds flocking back the feel-good factor was flowing through Kenilworth Road.

The poster opposite advertises season tickets at 11 guineas (£11.55) for Division Two football together with 'ample parking' for those arriving by car!

The Hatters Club (now the Eric Morecambe Lounge) had been built at a cost of £55,000 and was regarded as the place to be in Luton at the time - hence the ability to charge an annual fee for entry.

During that season the crowd peaked at 27,023 for the visit of Arsenal in a League Cup tie and with Macdonald banging in goals for fun again the Town narrowly failed to win promotion once more.

The collapse of Vehicle and General, which needed to enter into a voluntary arrangement with its creditors in early 1971, was felt throughout Kenilworth Road as its shares underpinned the club's debts.

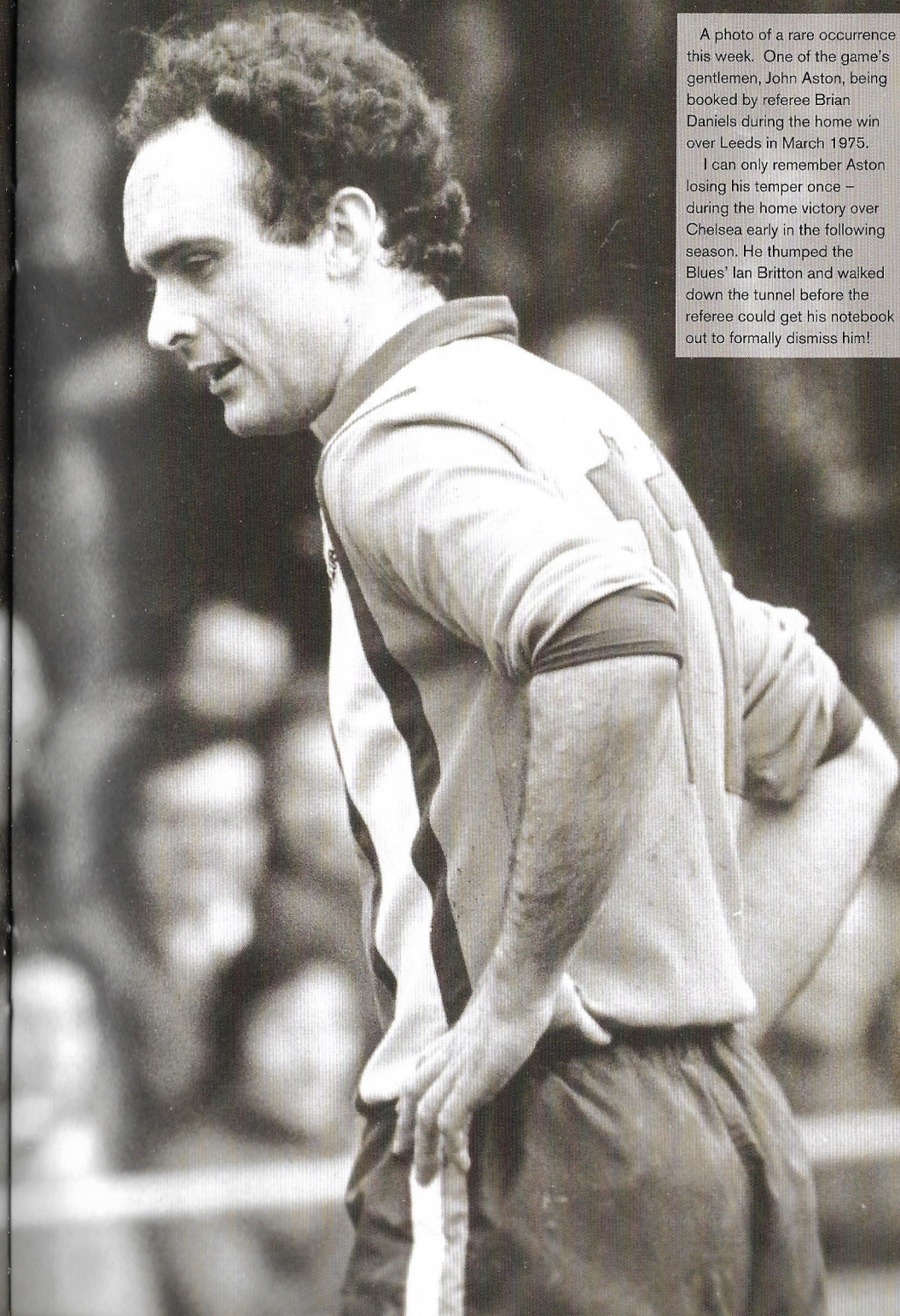
With the knowledge that assets such as Macdonald would need to be sold it was no surprise that the team failed to fire on all cylinders as the season drew to a close.

But what a four year spell it had been.



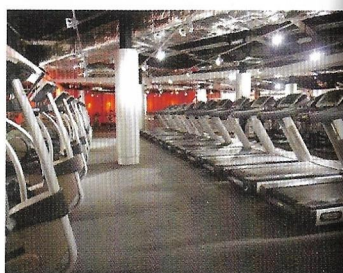
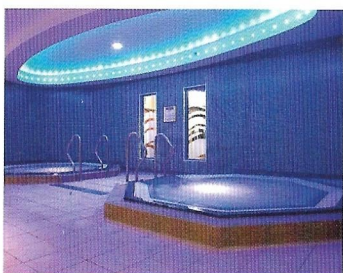
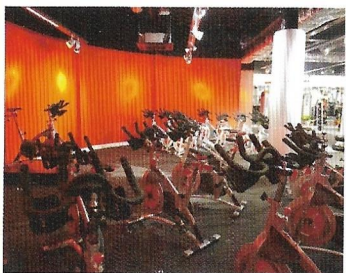
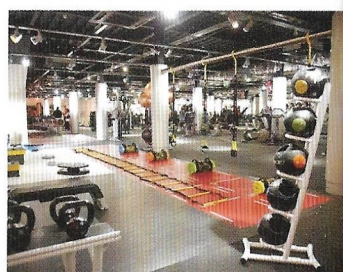
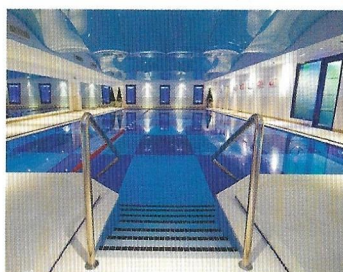
THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



A photo of a rare occurrence this week. One of the game's gentlemen, John Aston, being booked by referee Brian Daniels during the home win over Leeds in March 1975.

I can only remember Aston losing his temper once – during the home victory over Chelsea early in the following season. He thumped the Blues' Ian Britton and walked down the tunnel before the referee could get his notebook out to formally dismiss him!



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ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 1

THE RECORD

It's a pretty decent day for the Town, is 1st September. Of the 20 games played on this date, the Hatters have only lost four times - winning nine and drawing seven. 69 goals have been scored in those fixtures, 40 of which have been in the Town's favour. It doesn't take a maths whizz to work out that the Hatters have scored exactly twice per game on average on this day in history.

SIXY FOOTBALL

Of the nine victories, six have taken place at Kenilworth Road. One of those victories included a 6-1 thrashing of Carlisle United back on 1973. Tom Finney and Peter Anderson both scored twice, whilst John Aston and Barry Butlin also hit the target in front of 7,231 at Kenilworth Road. The season ended in glory for both sides as both the Town and the Cumbrians were promoted to the top flight.

PLASTIC FANTASTIC

In 1981, the first ever game on a plastic pitch saw the Town emerge with all three points at Queens Park Rangers. Ex-Hatter Andy King put the R's ahead but second-half goals from Mark Aizlewood and Ricky Hill won it for the Hatters in front of 18,703 at Loftus Road. It would be four years later before the Hatters would lay down an artificial surface themselves.

TOP-FLIGHT TRIUMPHS

The Town have played three times on this day in the top flight, winning two and drawing once. The first was a victory over current Premier League champions Manchester City in 1956 at Kenilworth Road with goals

from James Pemberton, Gordon Turner and Jimmy Adam securing a 3-1 win. It wasn't until 1984 when the Hatters were next in action on this day in the top flight but the least said about the 4-0 hammering at West Brom the better. Then, in 1990, two Lars Elstrup goals gave the Town all three points at Southampton.

FIFTH TIME LUCKY

The Town may have a good record on this day, but it wasn't until their fifth attempt at winning on 1st September that all the points came their way. After a defeat to Swansea in 1923, and draws against Millwall, Exeter and Bristol Rovers in 1924, 1928 and 1934 respectively, the Town finally won on this day when goals from Bert Dawes, Joe Payne and Ted Hancock saw off Aston Villa in 1937 before a crowd of 25,349 at Kenilworth Road.

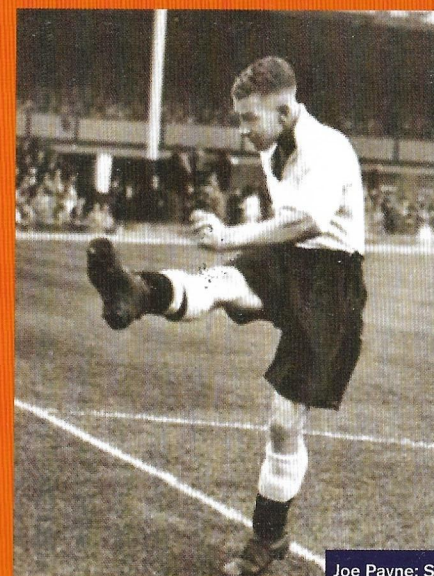
MOSSY ON FIRE

David Moss scored twice on this day for the Hatters in a 3-1 victory at Filbert Street against Leicester in 1979. The brace took the winger's tally to five goals

in the opening four games. He scored another two the following game against Swansea and went onto to hit 24 goals as the Hatters finished sixth in the old Division 2 (now Championship).

LAST TIME OUT

The Town were last in action on this day in 2009 in their first season in the Blue Square Bet Premier. Crawley Town were seen off comfortably thanks to two goals from George Pilkington and one from Tom Craddock in front of 6,389 at Kenilworth Road.



Joe Payne: Scored on this day in 1937



G-OLDEN GRAHAM!

After appearing in the Luton Legends fixture against an Aston Villa All-Star XI last Sunday, Talk of The Town caught up with Hatters hero Graham Alexander after his instrumental return to Kenilworth Road.

GRAHAM, GOOD TO BE BACK?

Yeah very good, it's been a long time, I only got to play here once or twice since I left in 1999 so it was good to come back and to see some old faces that I didn't expect to see, and it was great to get the kit on and to play with a few of my old team-mates - great fun.

YOUR ROLE TODAY, JUST BEHIND THE STRIKER?

I think I decided that one when we got on the pitch. All the shirts were up for grabs in the dressing room before hand and I thought I hadn't worn number nine in my career so I thought I'd take that one. I was supposed to be playing centre midfield but found myself roaming upfront just trying to enjoy the game and it was good, I really enjoyed it playing upfront with Liam George and Scott Oakes it was good fun all round.

THREE ASSISTS TO BOOT, TOO...

Well we said to ourselves at half time with it being 1-1 we want goals and shots for the crowd. They've paid to come on a Sunday to watch us old faces so we decided just to have a few more shots and crosses and just try and get the ball around the box so we could score a few goals. So hopefully they left happy as well.

SO HOW DID APPEARING IN THE GAME COME ABOUT?

Well I got an email from the club and then Marvin Johnson rung me up and wanted me to come down and I said yes straight away. We sorted the dates out so, as it was a Sunday, I thought why not come down seeing as it's been a while and any excuse to get the boots on now I've retired its great just to get out there and play on a full size pitch. It was quite a test on the lungs and I've only retired in the summer so I can't think what it's like for some of the boys that have been out for a while. The head's still there, though, and the touch is still there, so I think it's just the legs that are lacking but I think they all enjoyed it and it was great to come up against some of the Villa boys as well.

ANY FOOTBALLER MISSES THE GAME ONCE THEY RETIRE BUT YOUR STILL INVOLVED IN THE GAME AREN'T YOU?

Yes I'm fortunate enough to be given the role of Head of Youth at Preston North End so that's tied in with my retirement from football and that's where I see my future. Like I said, any excuse to get the boots on. It's okay getting involved in training and the five-a-sides, but playing on a full size pitch is what we've loved for 20 years so any excuse and it's great fun. Even being in the changing rooms with the lads, you sort of forget the characters behind the scenes and it's amazing that everyone switches straight back into 15 years ago, it's a great laugh and I really enjoyed it.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE GAME, WHO WAS CONTROLLING WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE PITCH?

Well it was really last minute, we were all sat there and I think there were four right-backs all trying to get that number two shirt. But it was one of them last-minute decisions that Kirk Stephens and Jake Findlay decided who was playing where. A few lads didn't really want to play the full game so they were happy getting into half-time and, obviously, a couple of the boys were itching to get on, so it worked well and everyone got on which is the main thing.

WHAT WERE YOUR MEMORIES OF KENILWORTH ROAD AFTER SPENDING FOUR SEASONS HERE?

Well they gave me my chance because I'd only played in the bottom division up until I was 23 at Scunthorpe and Terry Westley took a chance on me. He took me to the Championship to give me a taste of football at a higher level and gave me my chance before Lennie Lawrence took over. The club was going through a tough patch at that time, we got relegated in my first year and then we went through a difficult time money-wise and I felt my future was better off elsewhere. It was nothing against Luton personally, that's just how it was at the time, they were struggling financially and there were a few players leaving but I had a great time here, I've got fond memories of here. Unfortunately being based up north for the past 13 years, it's tough to get back so I wanted to take this opportunity to get back and see a few people.

YOU REACHED THE 1,000-GAME LANDMARK LAST SEASON AND SOME OF YOUR FORMER CLUBS GOT INVOLVED AND DID SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU LAST SEASON DIDN'T THEY?

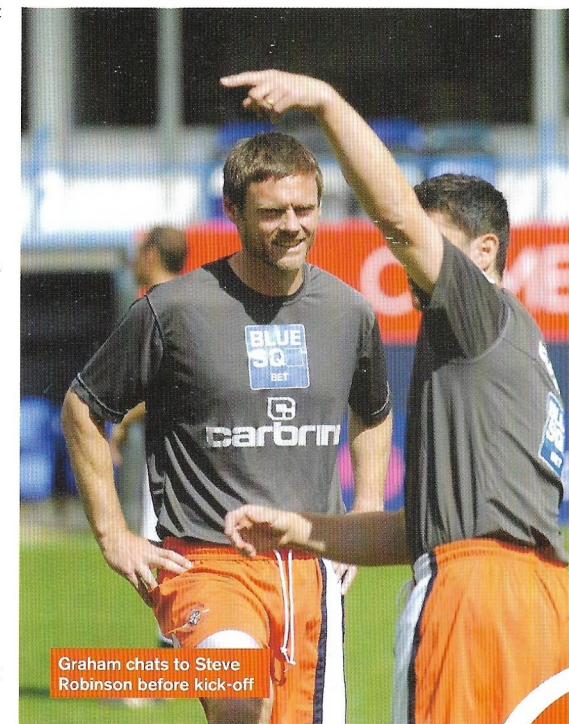
I think it was the Burnley chairman that organised it but I know Scunthorpe, Preston and Luton all contributed to the award. It was a fantastic award and I'm very proud of the four clubs I played for. If I enjoy it somewhere I'll stay, I'm not one of those players always looking to see where the grass is greener. I was very lucky to get that award and I'd like to thank Luton for their contribution to that.

AS A YOUNGSTER AT SCUNTHORPE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, DID YOU EVER THINK YOU'D GO ON TO PLAY SO MANY GAMES?

No, you don't think of something like that. It was probably only when I got to around 900 games that I started looking at it and thought I could get there, but I didn't like to talk about it because you know what football's like - you're thinking one thing and the next minute its turned on its head, but it was great to get to 1,000 because I didn't realise how good it would feel to get there until I actually did. Obviously now I've retired it's something I'll look back on and feel I've made my mark in the game and Luton's a part of that.

IS IT STRANGE TO SEE LUTON IN THE BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER?

Yes it is. I thought Luton got a real raw deal with the points deduction - it is terrible when you hear that happen to a former club like that because you still know some of the people affected. When you've got a personal attachment to the club it makes it even worse but hopefully they'll be back soon.



Graham chats to Steve Robinson before kick-off

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THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

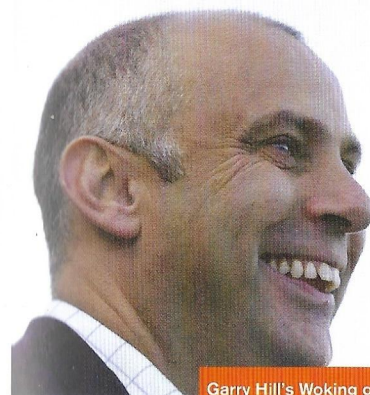
THE NLP VIEW BY SAM ELLIOTT

So, what exactly is in a start? If your team is sitting pretty near the top it probably means everything.

But those with a few defeats already under their belt can't stress enough the 10-game rule – no looking at that league table until the start of October!

Embracing the early few weeks of the non-league season is easy after racing out of the starting blocks, not so if your side is propping up the rest.

But how much can we read into the fledgling tables as August has come to a close? Let's examine it.



Garry Hill's Woking got off to a good start last season

Looking at the Blue Square Bet Premier this time last year and the answer is very little.

Top this time last season were Wrexham, with 13 points from a possible 15, with eventual run-away winners Fleetwood way down in eighth.

The early Play-Off pack consisted of York, they stayed the pace, but joining them were Gateshead, Kidderminster and Tamworth who clearly peaked too early.

The bottom four read Southport, who eventually went on to just miss out of the top five, Alfreton, Bath City and Ebbsfleet. Only the Romans went down.

The Blue Square Bet North and South gave a few better clues to the months ahead. Out in front in the North were Gary Lowe's Hyde – gold star for that – but down in ninth was the side that ended up joining them in the Premier. Nuneaton took just seven points from the first five games but things were soon to get better.

The top three in the South at the end of August were familiar. Welling, Woking and Dartford would be the trio up there the whole way, with Garry Hill's Cards taking the title and the Darts joining them having beaten Welling in the promotion shoot-out.

None of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League's three leaders stayed the pace. Chorley were overhauled by Chester, AFC Fylde got the better of Lancaster City in the NPL North, while New Mills topped the lot heading in September in the NPL South. But it didn't last, they ended in ninth while very slow starters Grantham, way down in 17th, stormed to the title.

Best ignored

The Ryman's early standings were best ignored, even more so considering they were a week behind the other leagues. Hendon led the way in the Premier but champions Billericay ended August in 11th, while Play-Off winners AFC Hornchurch were giving no sign of what was to come after three games brought two defeats.

In the North, champions-to-be Leiston were second with seven points, while in the South, Whitehawk were already soaring and topped the table. That's the way it stayed.

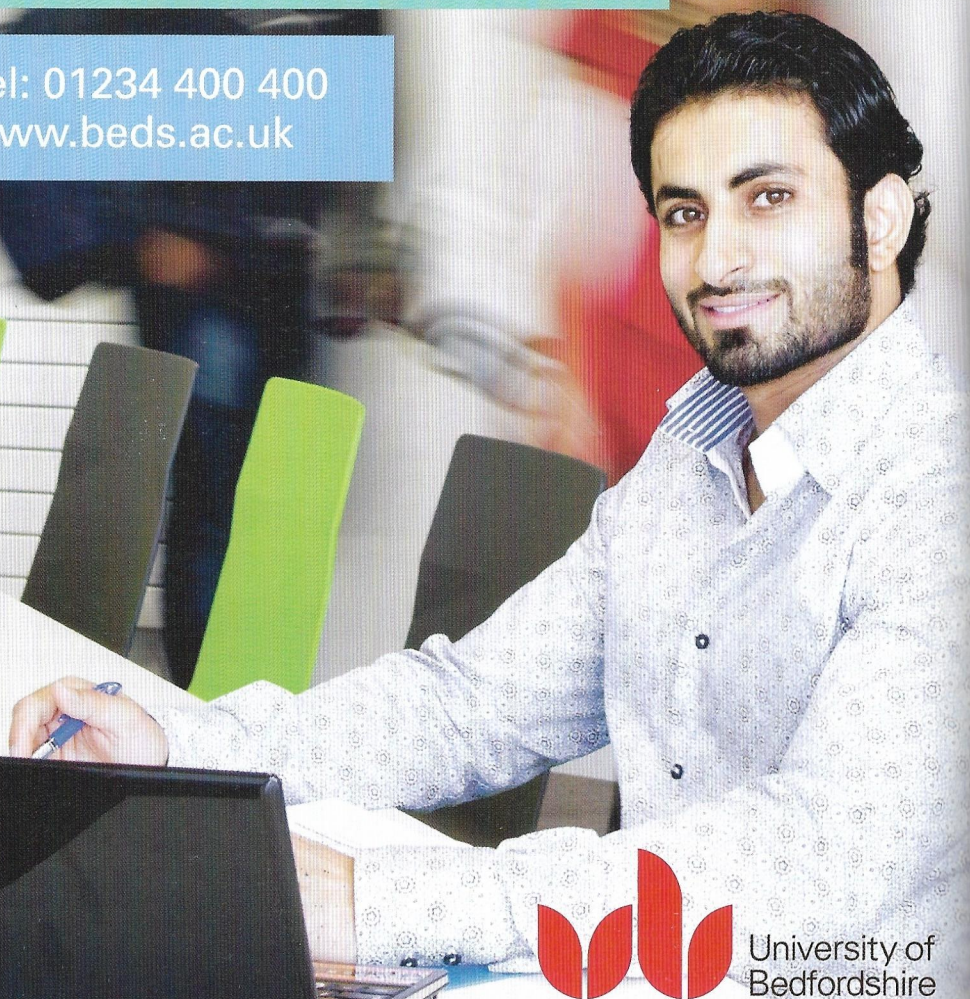
Brackley were joint top of the Evo-Stik Southern Premier after five games, perhaps a good omen a year on for Jon Brady's side in the Blue Square Bet North?

The Central's early runners were the eventual promotion riders. Bedworth United and St Neots held the top two places and both went up, while in the South & West, winners Bideford had 10 points on the board from 15 available but Play-Off winners Gosport won just once.

So what's in a start? Well that all depends on if your cup is half empty or half full, doesn't it!

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REACTION

IN-FORM FLEETS GOAL-HUNGRY

After his two goals at Ebbsfleet took his tally to the season for six goals in five games, Stuart Fleetwood is a striker on form.

And with competition in the shape of Andre Gray, Jon Shaw and Scott Rendell, the former Hereford man is relishing being a part of the Town's attacking threat – but is refusing to tell anyone his target for the season ahead.

"I always set targets personally, but you don't usually tell people so the pressure isn't on me," the 26-year-old said. "I've always got a figure in my head and once I reach that I go from there. I don't beat myself up too much if I don't get there, so long as I'm playing well and creating opportunities for other people.

"I could go the whole season without scoring a goal but if we got promoted I wouldn't be fussed at all. Very much this year is the team aspect of it rather than the individual goals. But, as a striker, I am based on my goals as well.

"Me and Andre are quite similar as we're quick and very direct and like to get in the box and score goals.

"Then you've got Jon and Scott who hold the ball up well and are target men, they can bring us into play.

Options

"It might be the season where some players are used for different situations, like the difficult teams away on a Tuesday night where we might have to grind out a 1-0 win, where the bigger players and target men are more involved and then the quick, direct players are used at home.

"But we've got so many options that the manager can do that and we all understand we may be used in different circumstances.

"As a striker, you need a bit of competition to keep you on your toes. With the players we've brought in, I've played against Scott many times. He's a great striker who brings a different threat to the team with his height, awareness and touch.

"Then Jon Shaw as well who was prolific last season and been prolific at most clubs he's been at. He's a great addition at this level.

"I think that's what you need. You need a 30-goal man and I think with us four you've got a few that could reach that target. Maybe the goals will be spread around a lot this year because you don't know who's going to be playing and who's going to be in the team.



Fleetwood celebrates his equaliser against Gateshead

"With that sort of strike force we are hoping goals won't be a problem.

"As strikers, we're based on our goals. Whatever formation we play and whatever team is picked the players will be going out there to score."

The striker also believes the faith boss Paul Buckle has shown in him has been a reason for his sparkling. Since the manager's arrival at Kenilworth Road, Fleetwood has netted 11 times in 14 games.

"Last year I was in and out and played in a various amount of positions, which I'm not fazed by," continued the striker. "I will play wherever I'm asked to and try and do a job as much as I can but I think when I've played down the middle last season, that's where most of my goals and probably my best performances have come from. So that's my ideal position but if I'm asked to play elsewhere I'll try and put my all into that and do my job for the team.

"I do feel settled, I do feel a big part of this team. The manager's told me this year I'm going to be a big part of it and that's what I want.

"I'm 26 now and I'm a senior member of this team with a lot of young lads coming through.

"I definitely feel part of it and my one main aim is to get out of this league."

FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH FORMER LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR BRIAN SWAIN

After getting over the latest disappointment last season, the summer highlight for me was, as usual, publication of the fixtures to show our route back into the Football League.

I try to find something positive from Play-Off failures, and this year, briefly, it was Macclesfield's relegation. I thought that might give me the chance to meet an old and much-respected football friend. Alas, it was not to be, because I quickly discovered that Brian Horton had stepped down as manager after his second spell with the Silkmen.

Happy memories

Living 300 miles away from Kenilworth Road, I plan three or four pilgrimages a season to re-live happy memories, and the first is in early September. While I wish Macclesfield and their new manager well, I am sorry 'Nobby' Horton is not still in charge today because we have always enjoyed each other's company, talking football and reliving some of the good old days.

He played over 600 league games as a no-nonsense midfield controller at four clubs and some of his best days were in his three years with us.

David Pleat built a wonderful footballing side, and in 1981 was putting the finishing touches to a team which was to run away with the old Second Division championship a year later.

Horton, already 32 and a veteran of the Brighton side that reached the top tier before we did, was recruited to complete that squad and lead it to what is now the Premier League.

Beaten the odds

The unforgettable highlight was at Maine Road in the last-day showdown to complete our first season back in Division 1. Manchester City needed only a draw to avoid relegation, and we had to win or we would go down instead. Horton was his usual inspiration in a terrific team display which culminated in Raddy Antic, sub for Wayne Turner, firing in the winner five minutes from the end of the season. Not until Wembley 1988 were we to experience anything nearly as gloriously enjoyable.

Horton left Luton a couple of years later, and became player-manager of Hull City, the start of a management career that clocked up over 1,000 games. After Hull, he



David Moss: One of Brian's all-time favourites

took charge of Oxford, Manchester City, Huddersfield, Brighton, Port Vale, and Macclesfield for two seasons until 2006, when he was sacked after they failed to win any of their first 12 matches.

He had beaten the odds to lead them to league safety at the start of that spell so when Macclesfield were in trouble again last March, they invited him back to try to work his magic again. Sadly, eight games were not enough to perform a miracle, and, after relegation, he resigned.

Another notable Luton-Macclesfield connection is David Moss. Yet another brilliant signing by Pleat, he later became a successful double-act as Horton's assistant at Oxford, Man City and Huddersfield. Perhaps the programme editor will give me a chance later in the season to sing the praises of the flying winger with a deadly left foot. Moss had only one tilt at being number one, at Macclesfield in 2001 - it ended with the sack two years later.

It's hard to believe he is now 60 and Horton 63 - they will always be young superstars in my memory.

THE PRESS OFFICE PICTURE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER

AWAY THE LADS

What a different 48 hours makes. For some, it seemed the world was about to come to an abrupt end after the 1-0 defeat against AFC Telford such was the frustration and disappointment following the shock reverse, but the team showed tremendous character to demonstrate bouncebackability (there's a hash tag there somewhere) to earn all three points at Ebbsfleet on Monday.

That made it three successive away victories for the Hatters, which lifted us back into the top five of the league table. The misery of that home defeat was soon forgotten thanks to two goals from Stuart Fleetwood and one from Scott Rendell.

Stonebridge Road has been a bit of a happy hunting ground for the Town having won two and drawn one of the three games there. Hatters followers have celebrated 11 goals in those three games and I can't think of many grounds on which the Town have such a good goalscoring record.

It hasn't just been the results that we've been treated to on the road, either. As you may read on Twitter, or in pages of this programme in the past written by my press colleagues, that we love to tuck in to some proper football food on our travels.

More often than not, we begin tucking into our grub in full view of some envious footballers and management.

And so far this season, we've been treated to some lovely stuff. Kidderminster's pies and soup: no change there (big tick). Hyde's burgers were reasonable (nothing to write home about), whilst at Ebbsfleet on Monday the Town support was treated to a barbecue on the away terrace. We were told it was done especially for our game in mind. With over 1,200 of you in the away end, their takings must have been pretty good.

LUTON LEGENDS

Sandwiched (food pun not intended) in between the games against Telford and Ebbsfleet was our legends match between former Town players and Aston Villa players.

The brainchild of our commercial manager David Hoskins, the day was a great success with the Hatters old boys running out emphatic 8-1 winners.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by those in attendance, none more so than the players themselves with a number of childhood favourites of mine impressing, too. We covered the game online, and had our broadcast partners DiverseFM in the gantry providing live coverage and the feedback was very positive.

I think it was the first and only time that the words Dreyer Net will be used as a hash tag on Twitter. Plenty of you did the honourable thing and retweeted #MarvinForEngland throughout the game but I'm not sure if Marvin has heard from England boss Roy Hodgson just yet, despite his goal and man-of-the-match performance.

LIVE ONLINE

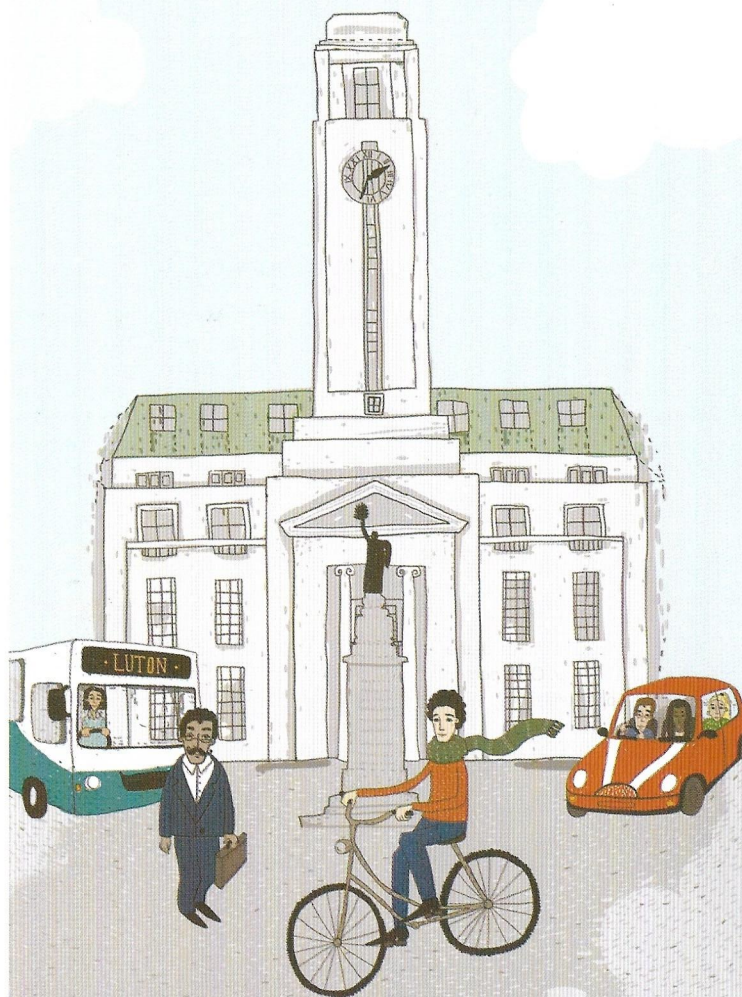
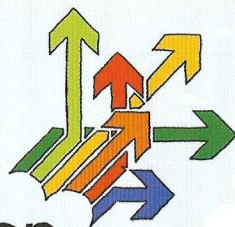
We'll have live coverage of this afternoon's game so once you get home remember to check out the official website and Hatters Player for a full report, match highlights, all the reaction and photographs.

And we'll be back to do it all over again on Tuesday - see you then.



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ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH JORDAN McCANN

It seems like only yesterday we were flying back from the Cordial Cup in Austria and the Wasa Cup in Finland on our penultimate end-of-season tours, yet here we are already at the climax of another hectic pre-season schedule for our academy players.

Fixtures against Norwich City, Liverpool, Crystal Palace, Southampton and Fulham have proven to be ideal preparation for the season ahead and the standard of performances and style of football that has been displayed is something all Hatters fans can be proud of.

The Under-11s have begun making rapid progress on their performances from the end of last season and I am delighted to welcome Marc Collier, James Petty and Jack O'Connor to the coaching staff who will be overseeing the boys' development this year. A fine 3-1 victory over Southampton, with goals from Avan Jones, Bam Beckwith and Tyler Fry, was the pick of their pre-season performances so far. The Under-11s will be gracing the Kenilworth Road turf at half-time this afternoon, so please give them a fantastic reception, as you always do.

After the disappointment of losing to German giants Bayern Munich on penalties in the Cordial Cup, the Under-12s have continued to impress so far this term. Convincing wins over Norwich, Crystal Palace and Southampton have epitomised the efforts of the players both on and off the pitch so far. On a personal note, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such a talented and ambitious group of young footballers again this season alongside Chris White and Andy Zeller, who will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in their respective fields.

Back from their conquest in Finland, bringing the highly prestigious Wasa Cup back to Kenilworth Road, the Under-13s have continued in the same vein this season. A warm welcome to another new member of the coaching staff in Roberto di Rubbo, who will assist the experienced pair of Darren Pickard and Andy Elderton in taking charge of the boys' development this year. A narrow 3-2 defeat to a strong Liverpool side and a hard-fought 4-4 draw against Crystal Palace, their stand-out performances.

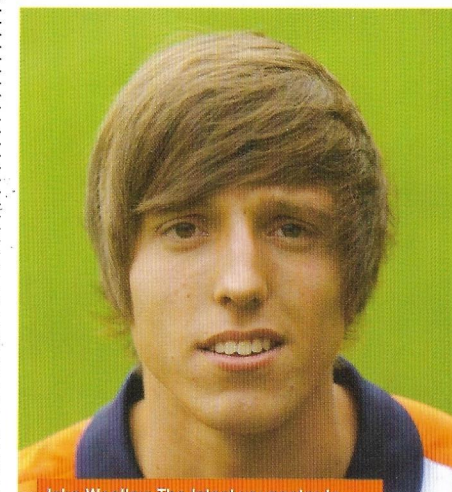
Our Under-14s came so close to European glory at the end of last season with a narrow 2-1 defeat to Hertha Berlin in the semi-final of the Cordial Cup. Hertha Berlin's victory over PSV Eindhoven in the final ensured a third-place finish for our boys, a feat to be proud of I'm sure you will agree.

We are also delighted to welcome Matt Stannard to the club who joins us as Academy Operations Manager from Wycombe Wanderers. Matt will be assisted by David Perry and Russell Preston in coaching and educating the boys through the most crucial of years in their development. A fantastic 2-1 victory over a physical Crystal Palace side the highlight so far.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jake Woolley, the latest product of Luton Town's youth system to sign a professional contract with the club. We have an academy that provides an outstanding holistic education for players both on and off the pitch and is something all Luton Town fans should be truly proud of.

I am sure we will produce players who light up the Kenilworth Road pitch for many years to come.

Thanks for all your support – COYH.



Jake Woolley: The latest youngster to sign professional forms with the Hatters

YOUTH FIXTURES

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

AUGUST

SAT 11	LEYTON ORIENT	A	L 0-2
SAT 18	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	H	L 2-3 Jibodu (pen), Smith
SAT 25	STEVENAGE	A	W 3-2 McKenzie-Lowe, own goal, Amu

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

SAT 02	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	A	11.00AM
SAT 09	STEVENAGE BOROUGH	H	11.00AM
SAT 16			SOUTH CUP 3
SAT 23	ALDRSHOT 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

YOUTH LATEST

The Hatters' Under-18s got their first win of the season on Saturday with two late goals sealing a 3-2 victory away at Stevenage.

There were three goals in the opening 15 minutes with Charlie Smith put the Town ahead but Stevenage swiftly equalised a minute later. Boro then took the lead in the 15th minute when another strike from distance eluded goalkeeper Ben Barnes.

In the early exchanges of the second half the Town had a shout for a penalty turned down when Arel Amu appeared to be pushed over in the box and a free-kick from Jerome Jibodu went just wide.

As the game entered the final five minutes of normal time, the Hatters grabbed an equaliser when Burtenshaw found Smith whose cross was turned into his own net by a Stevenage defender.

As the game entered the fourth minute of injury time, Leeroy Maguraushe anticipated a cross-field ball out

of the Stevenage defence and his header found Amu who drove into the box and placed the ball neatly past the oncoming keeper to complete a dramatic end to the match.

A pleased Paul Driver said afterwards: "It was nice to get our first win of the season against local rivals and I'm really pleased with how we fought back at the end to grab the win. This was probably the worst of our three performances of the season so far in terms of ball retention and possession but that's how it goes sometimes. We looked really fit at the end which is pleasing too."

Team: Barnes, Burtenshaw, Galliford, Nash, Jibodu, Chabata, Cobb (sub Davis 59), Amu, McKenzie-Lowe, Maguraushe, Smith. Subs not used: Carpenter, Stanley, Rees.

EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



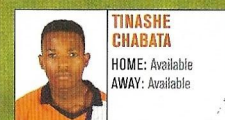
The reverse-mullet was a footballer haircut that never really caught on

2012/13 YOUTH TEAM

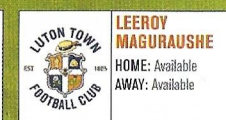
KIT SPONSORS



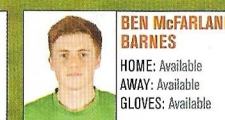
ZANE BANTON
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



TINASHÉ CHABATA
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



LEEROY MAGURAUSHE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



BEN MCFARLANE-BARNES
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available
GLOVES: Available



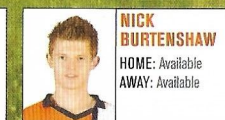
JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



IAN REES
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHARLIE SMITH
HOME: Peter Mitchell
AWAY: First Capital Connect



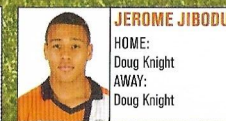
NICK BURTENSHAW
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



JOSH 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

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YOUNG STARS

NAME: Leeroy Magaraushe

AGE: 16

POSITION: Midfield

TIME SPENT WITH LUTON TOWN / WHEN JOINED:

Four years. I joined as an Under-13.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST?

My passing and skills.

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

The tactical side of my game, most of all. Also transferring my performances in training into matches.

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

Having so many good players around you and the fact you get the chance to play in the first team.

WHO IS YOUR FOOTBALL IDOL?

Andres Iniesta.

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

My mum and dad.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To play football at the highest level and play at international level.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER?

Ronaldinho

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

To play and be in and around the first team for as much as possible.

FACT

Did you know? Leeroy travelled with the Town squad to face Hinckley in the FA Trophy last season and would have been the Hatters' youngest ever player had he made an appearance. Leeroy was named on the bench for the replay but did not get on.



Leeroy, pictured third from the right, after the Hinckley game last season



REACTION

FIRST GOAL VITAL - LAWLESS

There were a lot of frustrated faces around Kenilworth Road last Saturday after the Town lost their unbeaten start to the season against AFC Telford and none more so than Alex Lawless.

The former York City man reverted to right-back for the visit of the Bucks and was unlucky not to see a first half effort hit the back of the net as the Hatters searched for the opening goal.

Sadly the Hatters failed to break the deadlock, leaving the visitors to do so three minutes before the break and, despite dominating the game for long periods, the Town could not find an equaliser to Lawless' obvious disappointment.

Frustration

"It is always crucial for us to get the first goal, especially at home where teams will come and frustrate us," the 27-year-old said.

"You see a lot teams do it. They want to disturb and frustrate us and our crowd. If they can nick a goal, like Telford did, you can see how much it means to them to protect that lead and it's very difficult for us to break down.

"It's always our aim to score first and as players we certainly don't miss the target on purpose. Sometimes that's just football.

"We had so many chances and we know we've got to stick them away but, as I say, when you're missing as many chances as we did you know it's not going to be your day.

Chances

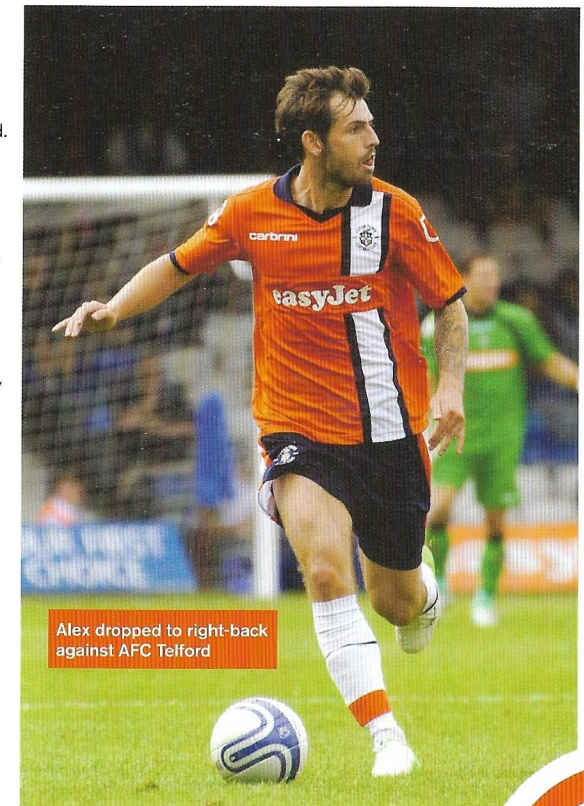
"The good thing is that we are creating chances. I think for any team the worry comes when you're not making opportunities.

"We are working so hard but we know we have so much more to give, too. The first goal, especially at home, is key for us and we know once we get off the mark at Kenilworth Road it is very difficult for teams to live with us.

"Against Gateshead we showed exactly that in the second half and we were unlucky not to get a winner having been 2-0 down at half-time.

"That showed the character and determination we have in the squad and that was evident again against Hyde.

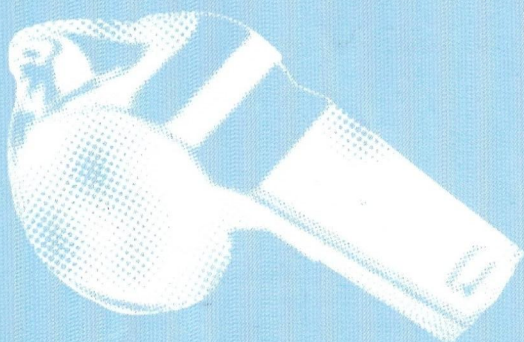
"Against Telford we just couldn't score. We know it will come off for us eventually and it's frustrating we haven't won at home yet but, as long as we keep working hard, it won't be long before we start picking up victories at Kenilworth Road because we want the place to be a fortress."



Alex dropped to right-back against AFC Telford

#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

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



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SAID.
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LEAGUE

LOOK

JOE FLEMONS ROUNDS-UP
THE LATEST IN THE BSBP

Newport County kept up their immaculate start to the Blue Square Bet Premier campaign with a comfortable 2-0 home win against Hereford United. Unsurprisingly, it was in-form former Hatter Aaron O'Connor's name which appeared on the Exiles' scoresheet after neatly finishing from close range following a tidy assist from another ex-Lutonian Danny Crow.

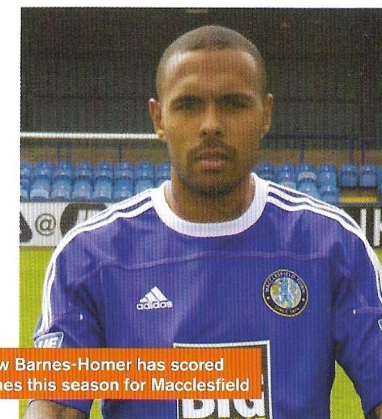
Today's visitors Macclesfield Town are hot on County's heels, however, after an impressive start that has seen them notch up 12 points from their first five games. Another ex-Hatter, Matthew Barnes-Homer, is in ruthless form for Steve King's men with four goals in five games, which included a double against Barrow on Saturday.

It seems to have been a fantastic start for former Town players with Ed Asafu-Adjaye's Forest Green Rovers sitting handsomely in third place after a 1-0 win over bottom-of-the-table Kidderminster Harriers, who have yet to register a point. James Norwood latched onto a defence-splitting pass before clinically delivering the killer blow 10 minutes from time.

However, the grass is not always greener away from Kenilworth Road with former skipper George Pilkington Mansfield's side slumping to 4-1 defeat at Blundell Park against Grimsby Town, leaving the Stags down in 16th place.

Tuesday night's visitors Cambridge United endured a difficult weekend picking up just a single point against two promoted sides - Nuneaton and Dartford. United were fortunate on Saturday as they relied on a last-gasp equaliser from defender James Jennings as he broke Nuneaton hearts. Despite the moral destroying antics in the dying seconds, it still meant Nuneaton picked up their first home point of the season. Despite the U's late heroics on Saturday, they were on the end of a Dartford side who came for, and left with, the three points they duly deserved with Nathan Collier's late finish giving the Darts their first points of the season.

After their victory here on Saturday, AFC Telford recorded a 2-2 draw at home to the 'other Hatters' - Blackpool County - on Monday. Top scorer Kieron St. Amie hit the target for the second time in as many days.



Matthew Barnes-Homer has scored four times this season for Macclesfield

Tamworth's unbeaten start was brought to a close on Monday afternoon at the hands of Andy Morrell's Wrexham, with the vital goal coming off the unfortunate head of Tamworth's Duane Courtney after Johnny Hunt's viciously whipped in delivery caused uncertainty in the Lambs' 18-yard-box.

Meanwhile, at the bottom of the Blue Square Premier League ladder, Braintree hammered four past Woking with the pick of the goals coming from the Iron's Nicky Symons. Symons smashed home from 35-yards 10 minutes after the restart, leaving Woking keeper Aaron Howe helpless. Another side down the bottom, Alfreton Town, picked up an important three points on Saturday as they recorded a vital win against fellow-strugglers Barrow, before Nuneaton heaped disappointment back on the Reds by beating them 3-0 just 48 hours later. Nicky Law's side face the Hatters at the Impact Arena next Saturday.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

WREXHAM v NEWPORT (1PM)

BARROW v KIDDERMINSTER

BRAINTREE v TAMWORTH

DARTFORD v ALFRETON

FOREST GREEN v HYDE

HEREFORD v GRIMSBY

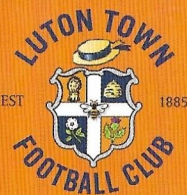
LINCOLN v EBBSFLEET

MANSFIELD v WOKING

NUNEATON v GATESHEAD

SOUTHPORT v AFC TELFORD

STOCKPORT v CAMBRIDGE



TIPs - Talent Identification Programme

Luton Town FC

Football Development for 6 to 16 year olds

Youth Development 2012-13

TERM 1

Sept 17th - Nov 23rd
2012

(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Sat 17th - Nov
2012

TERM 2

Nov 26th 2012 -
Feb 15th 2013

(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Sat 2nd Feb 2013

TERM 3

Feb 25th - May 10th
2013

(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Thurs 25th April 2013
and 2nd May 2013

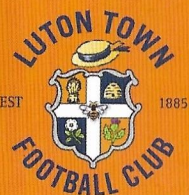
TERM 4

May 13th - July 19th
2013

(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

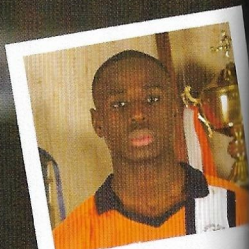
Thurs 4th July 2013
and 11th July 2013



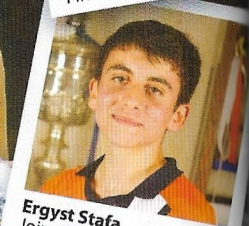
Coaching Programme 9 Weeks Plus Trial Match

Soccer Centres in Aylesbury, Bedford,
Biggleswade, Bletchley, Dunstable, Flitwick,
Leighton Buzzard, Harpenden, Hitchin,
Luton and Shefford

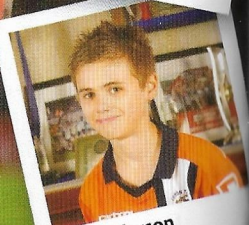
TIPs GRADUATES



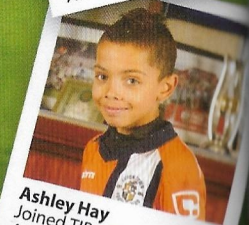
Alasan Ann
Joined TIPs at u13
First Team Debut: 2011



Ergyst Stafa
Joined TIPs at u12
Academy Player u14



Joel Anderson
Joined TIPs at u10
Academy Player u12



Ashley Hay
Joined TIPs at u7
Academy Player u10

TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

AYLESBURY • BEDFORD • BIGGLESWADE • BLETCHLEY • DUNSTABLE • FLITWICK/AMPTHILL
HARPENDEN • HITCHIN • LEIGHTON BUZZARD • LUTON • SHEFFORD

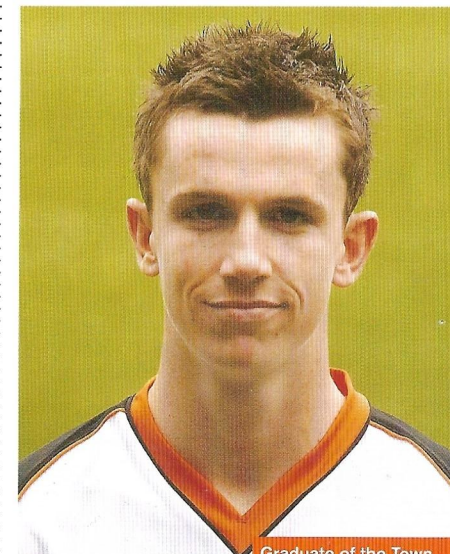
Our new 2012/13 season of talent identification begins in a couple of weeks time and, once again, we are inviting young players from around Luton, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire to join our TIPs Soccer Centre for a nine-week programme of coaching followed by a trial game.

The purpose of our talent identification programme is to provide high quality coaching for up-and-coming young footballers, whether they are ambitious players wanting to progress towards becoming a professional or a newcomer wanting to develop the basic skills.

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

Our successful TIPs development programme is now in its seventh year of operation and the club's youth section prides itself on the high calibre of its coaching team. Any youngster signing up to TIPs will receive the same standard of coaching that has helped produce players such as Curtis Davies, Matthew Upson, Matthew Taylor, Leon Barnett, Kevin Foley and Jack Wilshire. No other football club in our region can claim the same level of success in terms of youth development. The club have also nurtured two England youth internationals in the last two seasons in Dave Moli (now Wolves) and Cauley Woodrow (now Fulham). In addition, over 70 players have been signed by our youth academy during the last six seasons through our TIPs programme.

To enrol on our TIPs programme is really easy: you can download our application form opposite at www.ltyd.co.uk or either email us at tips.ltfcc@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01582 583618 for further information and to register a place.



Graduate of the Town youth set-up Kevin Foley

Players need to be in at least school year two from September to be eligible for a place and up to school year 11. We also run three specialist goalkeeping sessions in Luton, Hitchin and Dunstable and you can use the same application form for these centres.

OPEN TRIALS

As we reported in our last home programme, young footballers will get the chance to impress the Hatters coaching staff next week at our open trials.

The trials are taking place 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 player who are currently not registered to a professional club.

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

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

	DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	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	H	AFC Telford United	L 0-1	5,970	111	9	Tyler	Lawless	Howells	Rowe-Turner	Henry	Kasim*	Watkins**	O'Donnell	Rendell
	Mon 27	15:00	A	Ebbsfleet United	W 3-1	2,018	1,246	5	Tyler	Lawless	Taylor	Rowe-Turner	Beckwith	Howells	O'Donnell**	Rendell 1	Gray*
September																	
	Sat 1	15:00	H	Macclesfield Town													
	Tue 4	19:45	H	Cambridge United													
	Sat 8	15:00	A	Alfreton Town													
TV	Sat 15	15:00	H	Wrexham													
	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													
TV	Sat 10	15:00	H	Dartford													
	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	Ebbsfleet 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													

Stuart Fleetwood celebrates his first goal at Ebbsfleet on Bank Holiday Monday



Stuart Fleetwood celebrates his first goal at Ebbsfleet on Bank Holiday Monday

SUBS

Gray**	Fleetwood 1	Brill	Beckwith	Lawless**	Watkins***	Shaw 1
Gray**	Fleetwood* 2	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Gray*	Robinson**
Gray	Fleetwood*** 1	Brill	Beckwith	Howells*	Gray**	Robinson***
Gray	Fleetwood	Brill	Beckwith	Taylor*	Gray**	Woolley*
Gray	Fleetwood 2	Brill	Lacey	Watkins**	Kasim	Woolley*

LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13

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

PLAYER STATS 2012/13

	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON CUP		TOTAL		DISCIP		CAREER TOTAL	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Dean BECKWITH	1	0	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	12	1
Stuart FLEETWOOD	5	0	6	0	0	5	(0)	6	0	52
Andre GRAY	2	(3)	0	0	0	2	(3)	0	2	17
Ronnie HENRY	4	0	0	0	0	4	(0)	0	1	4
Jake HOWELLS	3	(1)	0	0	0	3	(1)	0	0	187
Yaser KASIM	4	0	0	0	0	4	(0)	0	1	0
Janos KOVACS	3	0	0	0	0	3	(0)	0	1	0
Alex LAWLESS	4	(1)	0	0	0	4	(1)	0	1	0
JJ O'DONNELL	5	0	1	0	0	5	(0)	1	0	14
Scott RENDELL	5	0	1	0	0	5	(0)	1	1	0
Matt ROBINSON	0	(2)	0	0	0	0	(2)	0	0	0
Lathanial ROWE-TURNER	5	0	0	0	0	5	(0)	0	0	5
Jon SHAW	4	(1)	1	0	0	4	(1)	1	1	0
Greg TAYLOR	4	(1)	0	0	0	4	(1)	0	0	0
Mark TYLER	5	0	0	0	0	5	(0)	0	0	143
Adam WATKINS	1	(2)	0	0	0	1	(2)	0	0	0
Jake WOOLLEY	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0

UP NEXT

CAMBRIDGE UNITED



CAMBRIDGE UNITED

We all return to our beloved Kenilworth Road this coming Tuesday when Cambridge United are the visitors in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

Who? Cambridge United. The U's. United. Don't

ever write Cambridge without adding the United. The Cambridge folk may get confused with the city's other team City, Cambridge City. Call it pedantic but that's just the way it is.

Where: It's only a short hop of 40 miles along the A505 and A10 that the visitors will make to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday. It was a Tuesday night last season that U's made their last visit to Bedfordshire.

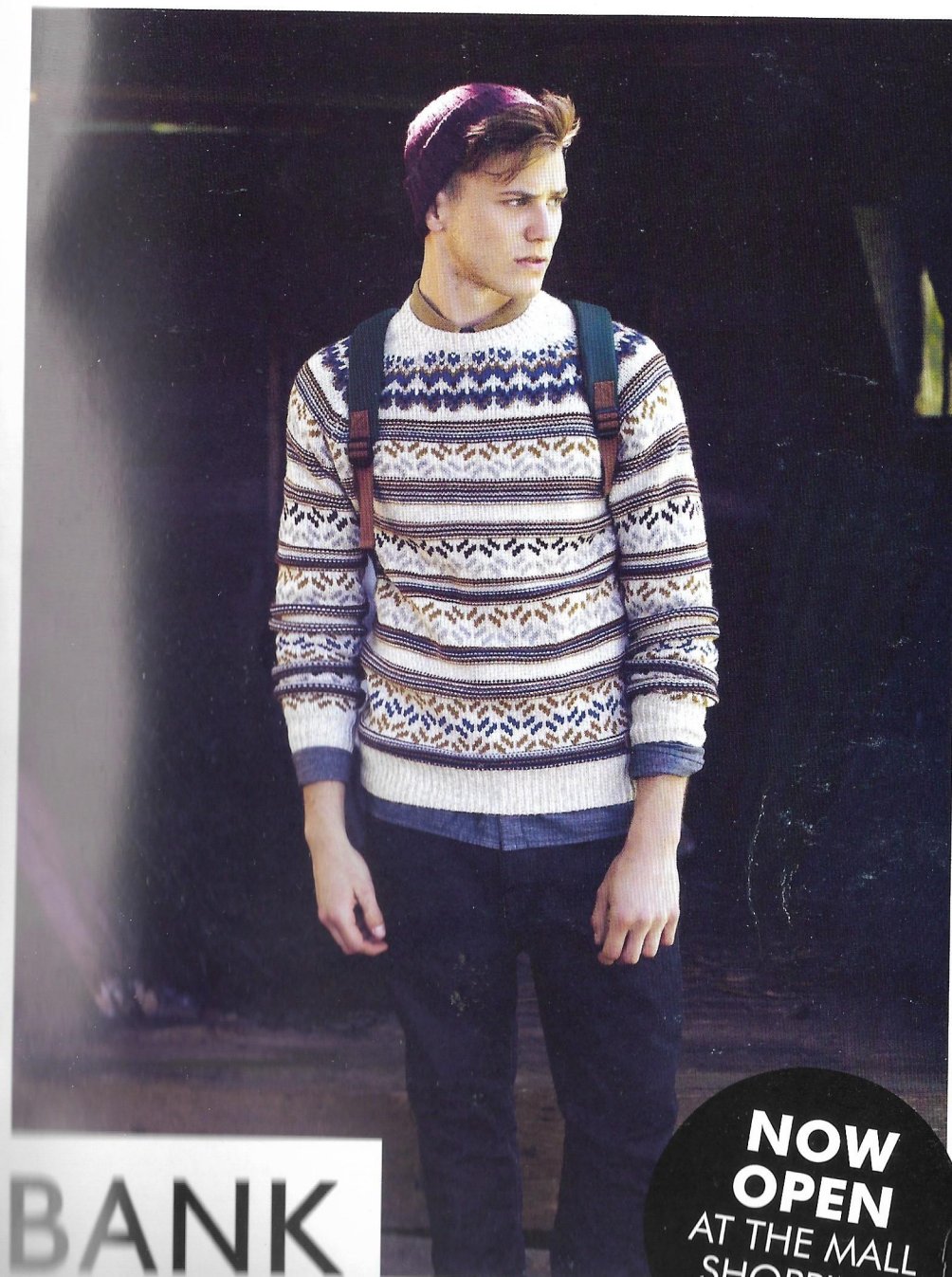
So it's a local derby, right? Anglia and Look East dub the game a regional derby, but despite the close proximity between the two sides there's no rivalry here. The U's don't reserve their hatred for Cambridge City either. It's traditionally a dislike for Peterborough that gets the goat of the U's faithful, although Histon's rise to the Conference in recent seasons was seen as more of an irritation.

How they doing? In two letters: OK. The U's are led by manager Jez George, who was previously in charge of the U's youth development programme. They finished ninth in the Blue Square Premier last season and hopes are high for a successful campaign this time round. As we went to press, United were, coincidentally, ninth in the table, having taken eight points from their first five games.

That doesn't sound so bad? Expectation at the Abbey Stadium is high and after their opening three games the U's were in the top five but a draw at Nuneaton and a home defeat to Dartford last time out have really put the cat amongst the pigeons.

Familiar faces: The U's' biggest coup of the summer was the re-signing of winger Robbie Willmott, who spent 18 months here at Kenilworth Road making 67 appearances and scoring 15 goals. He's yet to get off the mark this season and would probably love to put one over the Town. In the Hatters ranks, coach Paul Carden and strikers Scott Rendell and Dan Walker have had spells with the U's.

Head-to-head: 11 of the 23 meetings between the two sides have ended in draws but the Town haven't beaten United since a 2-0 victory in September 2010 at Kenilworth Road – secured thanks to goals from George Pilkington and Andy Drury. The U's were victorious here last season – also a Tuesday night in September. Let's hope history doesn't repeat itself.



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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	2
Greg Taylor	3
Garry Richards	4
Dean Beckwith	5
Janos Kovacs	6
Alex Lawless	7
Danny Spiller	8
Jon Shaw	9
Scott Rendell	10
Jake Howells	11
Stuart Fleetwood	13
Adam Watkins	15
Alex Lacey	16
JJ O'Donnell	17
Yaser Kasim	18
James Dance	19
Matt Robinson	23
Ronnie Henry	25
Andre Gray	27
Dan Walker	29
Dean Brill	33



MACCLESFIELD TOWN

1 Lance Cronin
2 Ryan Jackson
4 Euloge Ahodikpe
5 Nathaniel Brown
6 Kieran Charnock
7 Jack Mackreth
8 Keiran Murtagh
9 Matthew Barnes-Homer
11 Peter Winn
12 Arnaud Mendy
13 Andrew Mills
14 Tony Diagne
16 Junior Yiadom
17 Sam Wedgbury
18 Charlie Henry
20 Waide Fairhurst
22 Craig Braham-Barrett
25 Harry Agombar
26 Scott Brown
30 Rob Edmans
31 Carl Martin
32 Chris Holroyd

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: R. Whitton
ASSISTANT: M. Eva
ASSISTANT: O. Jackson
FOURTH OFFICIAL: G. Kinnear

HERE NEXT

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012

KICK-OFF 7.45PM