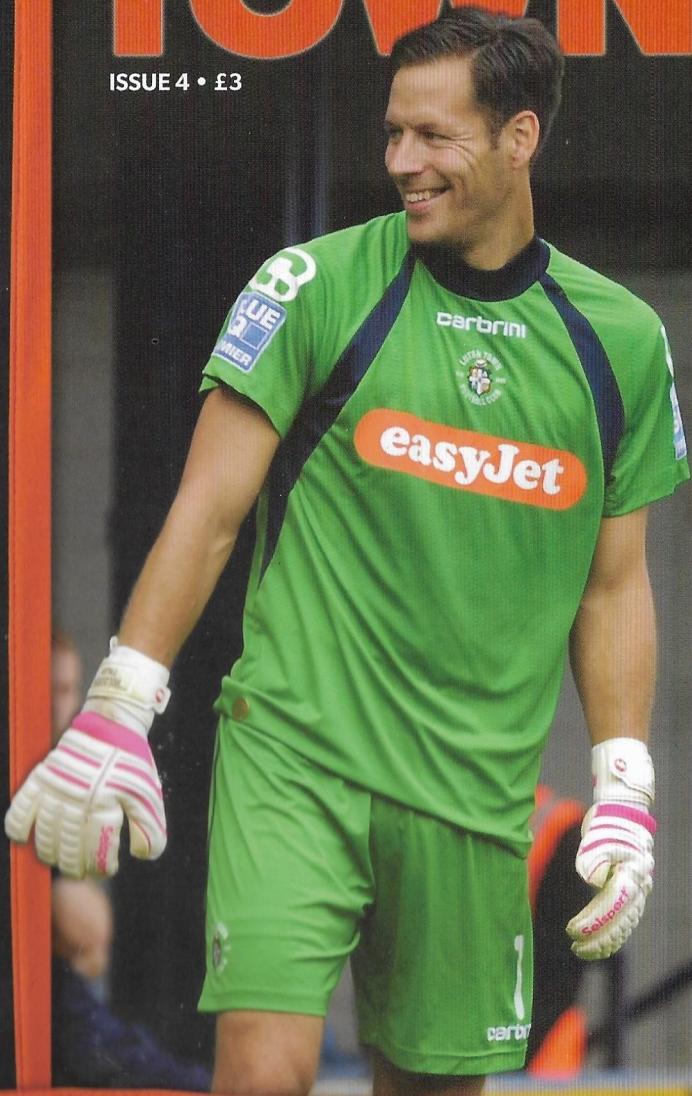




Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club

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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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





Paul Buckle is sponsored by

PAUL BUCKLE

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our first Tuesday night game under the floodlights this season.

Saturday's 4-1 win over Macclesfield Town here gives us a great platform to build on for tonight's encounter against Cambridge United.

I was thoroughly pleased with the three points and, even more significantly, delighted with our return of four goals. That made it seven goals in our last two matches, which is massive. If we keep that up, not many teams will be able to overcome our fire power and that's what we want.

I have said many times before that I want us attacking from the off and on Saturday against Macclesfield we got our noses in front very early on.

Attack

What pleased me on Saturday, too, was our work-rate and organisation when we didn't have the ball. For me, that is a vital part of the game and it was highlighted when we were able to pinch the ball off them and start another attack.

We go into tonight's game having taken 13 points from our first six matches and have a plus seven goal difference. Naturally, I would have liked a better start but, considering the injuries and suspensions we have had to contend with over the past month, it is a fantastic return.

That's not to say we've been perfect – far from it. I'm happy with our goal return but disappointed about certain areas still, especially at the back. We need to tighten up and be more ruthless in our own box, especially with regards to our heading.

However, to have recorded the points tally we have so far is a credit to the players. Due to the injuries and recent suspensions, their versatility has been vital in the first six matches.

It's a long season and, including tonight, we still have 40 league matches to play. Every campaign throws up different challenges and so far we have coped really well. We have been ready to deal with what's been thrown at us and will continue to do so for the

next eight months. As the season develops, we will encounter different problems along the way but we will be ready.

Already we have seen what a good blend of youth and experience we have in our ranks. Jake Woolley's cameos in the last two matches have shown everyone why we have signed him up on a two-year professional contract. His development in such a short space of time has been incredible.

Wouldn't it be great if we had a couple of months without any injuries and suspensions? To have a full quota of players available would be a massive bonus.

The injuries to Garry Richards and Danny Spiller have been hugely frustrating but we've dealt with it. The squad are together and I can't wait to have everyone available in the coming months.

First

Saturday's win was also our first here at Kenilworth Road. I've told the players time and time again that they must enjoy playing here. They are told to go out and express themselves. Importantly, they know if they do well then the crowd will be with them and when this place is buzzing it is a difficult proposition for any opposing team.

The early goal definitely helped against Macclesfield. We were quick out of the blocks, showed purpose on the ball and were fit enough to compete against a good team. If you start a game jogging around at half-pace, you set yourself up for a problem. We got a sweat-on early on against Macclesfield and we scored twice in the first 20 minutes.

Tonight, we need to continue from where we left off on Saturday. We want to make Kenilworth Road the hardest, toughest place for clubs to visit.

So, as always, let's stick together and make it an evening to remember.

Enjoy the game.

FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR MIKE HERRICK



Firstly, may we extend a warm welcome to all connected with Cambridge United – players, supporters and directors alike. Tonight's game will have the added spice that comes from playing against your nearest neighbours. Recent games against our two sides have rarely been dull and we look forward to another exciting fixture.

Cambridge currently sit in mid-table but, like us, they have lost only once so far this season. Our position has been enhanced by our good start away from home.

In all the years I have followed Luton Town it was generally our away form that held us back.

Indeed, it is over 30 years since we won our first three away games. In 1981/82 we started with six wins and a draw from our first seven away fixtures (but lost two of the first three at home).

That year we went on to win the Second Division (now the Championship) by eight points. Usually it's our home record that has seen us prosper, which is why it was so good to get that important first home win under our belts on Saturday.

Potency

The 4-1 scoreline might have flattered us a little against a good Macclesfield side but there can be no doubting the potency of our forward line.

Scoring goals towards the end of a game can often be attributed to greater all-round fitness and this is something that has been evident this year. Since

becoming more closely involved with the club I've been able to gain a greater insight into the way the club operates. One such opportunity occurred when I was privileged to join the squad during pre-season training in Portugal, and able to see at first hand just how detailed the preparations are to mould the squad into a force capable of challenging for the top honours.

Gruelling

Each day, training started with the whole squad cycling a few miles to and from an excellent complex where they worked for four hours in the morning and four hours in the late afternoon/evening.

Though quite gruelling, the sessions were very carefully planned and showed great variety. Even the hard running that had to be put in was done in such a way that that it held players' interest rather than becoming a drudge.

I was fascinated to watch the coaching staff walk the squad through specific moves and then practise these over and over again in controlled game situations. I was



The class of 1981/82 that Mike refers to - the last Luton side to win their first three away games in a season

able to see and understand the frustrations of those with longer-term injuries. They undertook individual programs which were equally intense but which were unable to give them the feeling of contributing to the cause.

They have to plough a lonely furrow that can last for many months and they gained my admiration for the way they stuck to their task. I hope that their efforts are rewarded as they deserve.

As a group, their camaraderie and professionalism shone through and gave me great heart for the future. It was a pleasure to be amongst them and feel their desire and determination to succeed.

As supporters, we are here for life. A player's career with a particular club can be relatively short, but I was impressed to see how they all regarded it as a privilege to play or work for Luton Town and how they were aware of our long history and the part they could play in adding another chapter to it.

If we want the success that they can bring to our club, then we have to play our part. This, of course, is to support them unreservedly.

We all deal with frustrations in different ways, and goodness knows we have had more than our fair share of those in recent years, but I sometimes wonder what the few loud critics that offer us the unsolicited benefit of their observations during matches hope to achieve.

I know that we, the overwhelming mass of true supporters, must use our enthusiasm in positive ways to support our team in their endeavours.

If there was any doubt as to the effect that a passionate crowd can have on performances then we need look no further than the Olympics. We have far more power than we probably realise. The vociferous encouragement of 6,000 or more of us standing together can generate the ability to turn a defeat into a draw and a draw into a win. Do that on just one or two occasions and it could make the difference between getting us over the line in first place or not.

Finally, and on a very personal note, I'd like to say how pleased I am that an old friend and former colleague of mine (and tutor of Kingsley Black) from Luton Sixth Form College is at the game tonight after coming through extensive chemotherapy treatment. Welcome back Barrie.

Let's hope that we make the Kenny rock tonight as of old.

Mike

HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

F.A. Cup:
Runners-up 1959
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Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup: Runners-up 1988
Football League Division Two:
Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One: Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

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

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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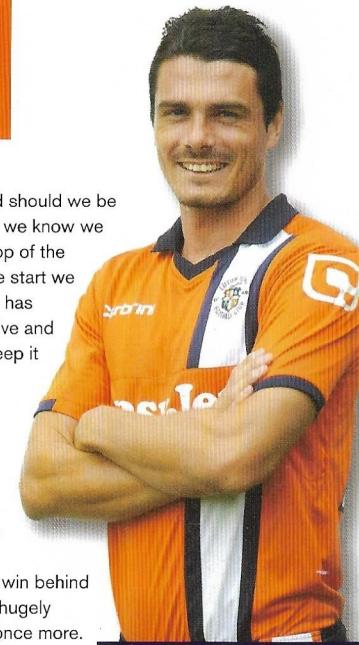
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RONNIE HENRY



"I am confident we can win another three points."

What a great result it was on Saturday. Three points and four goals was fully deserved and it sets it up nicely for another big game tonight against Cambridge United.

It was a fantastic start for us with Jake scoring so early. We've been talking about our need for the first goal, or an early goal, and you can't get much better than one after 40-odd seconds.

That goal provided the perfect platform for us to build on and Macclesfield couldn't live with us. It dictated the tempo of the game, especially early on, and it resulted in another goal before the 20-minute mark.

We knew it was going to be a tough game, and we give every team the respect they deserve, but I know that consistency can get you a long way in this league.

Class

That was proven on Saturday. Macclesfield were a good side but we showed our class and, after weathering their second-half fight-back, we did really well to go on and score a further two goals to seal an impressive 4-1 victory.

We go out to win every game and it's our intention to play attractive, attacking football. We want to put teams on the back foot and that's the way it should be – especially at Kenilworth Road.

It was disappointing that we conceded another goal from a set piece. That was the third goal we have conceded like that and we know it's imperative that we cut those kind of errors out. Obviously, it's not something we do on purpose – we're working hard to correct those kind of mistakes. We are not going to win 4-1 every week so we need to start keeping clean sheets. If we continue to sharpen up on this area, then I have no doubt the clean sheets will come.

For me, as captain, it was great to see the lads do so well on Saturday. I was watching in an executive box, kicking and heading every ball. At one point I was so excited I almost felt the urge to jump over and celebrate with them...but quickly realised another suspension wouldn't go down too well. It's obviously frustrating and tonight is the last match of my suspension, and needless to say I can't wait to get back.

The win on Saturday pushed us up to third in the table and two points off the top. The incentive is there

tonight and should we be successful we know we could be top of the league. The start we have made has been positive and we must keep it going.

It goes without saying that winning breeds confidence and with

Saturday's win behind us, we are hugely optimistic once more.

Cambridge will provide another stern test for us but we know if we're professional and positive right from the very first whistle then we will be hard to stop.

That early goal against Macclesfield was a huge psychological advantage for us and if visiting teams concede an early goal here it is always going to be tough to come back from.

Confident

We'll be all out to get off to the kind of start we got on Saturday this evening and, with you on our side, I am confident we can win another three points.

We are working hard and always striving for improvement. Suspension and injuries have hindered us somewhat recently but we have been tremendous in the face of adversity. The character we have shown since the AFC Telford defeat has been magnificent and long may it continue.

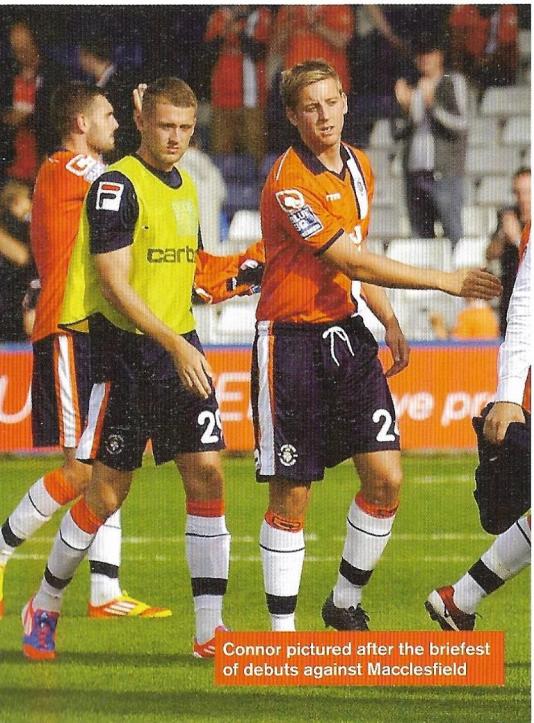
Once again, join me tonight in getting behind the boys.

AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

WELCOME CONNOR

Town boss Paul Buckle strengthened his defensive options by securing highly-rated Gillingham defender Connor Essam on a month's loan on transfer deadline day last week.



Connor pictured after the briefest of debuts against Macclesfield

The 20-year-old is a product of the Gills' youth system and last season played 18 times for the Priestfield outfit from February onwards.

In recent seasons, to aid his development, Essam has enjoyed loan spells with Bishops Stortford, Dartford and Dover in the Blue Square Bet South.

Buckle told lutontown.co.uk: "It's safe to say we're a bit light in the central defensive department.

"Lathaniel Rowe-Turner has done fantastic for us in that position but, with Ronnie Henry suspended, Alex Lacey's shoulder problem and Janos Kovacs still touch and go on his recovery, I felt we needed to get some protection in that area.

"In Connor, we've got someone who had League 2 experience last season and did very well.

"He's a proper centre-half who likes to attack the ball and, at this level, an aerial presence is vital."

Connor was handed squad number 24 and went straight into the Hatters squad for Saturday's game against Macclesfield Town at Kenilworth Road.

The defender came on for the shortest of cameos in the victory over the Silkmen.

"It was all a bit last minute," Essam told Hatters Player after the 4-1 win. "I was looking to get a move away and, when Luton came in, I snapped their hand off.

"My initial answer was 'yes!' I was delighted that a club as big as Luton were interested in me and I can't wait to get going.

"I know Danny Spiller and Garry Richards from Gillingham and it's unfortunate they are both injured at the moment but they are both quality players who will do very well for this club when they return to fitness."

Having played under Andy Hessenthaler last season, after being recalled to the club from a loan spell at Dartford, the youngster slotted in for the Gills at centre-half but has found opportunities this time around limited under new boss Martin Allen.

"It's a new season and a new manager and sometimes that's what happens," he said. "I came through the youth ranks at Gillingham and have been there since I was a boy."

"I've played at League 2 level last season and a lot of people say that the step between the Conference and League 2 isn't much."

"I've also played at Conference South level and, because of my size, I know I can deal with long balls being lumped into the box when teams go direct."

"I didn't manage a touch against Macclesfield but that doesn't matter – I'm looking forward to getting a few training sessions under my belt ready for the Cambridge game."

BIRTHDAY WISHES

We'd also like to wish Valerie Owen a very happy 80th birthday on behalf of all her family and friends.

Valerie, a season ticket holder for almost 40 years, was celebrating her birthday in style at Kenilworth Road last weekend to witness the AFC Telford game.

TOWN CHARGED

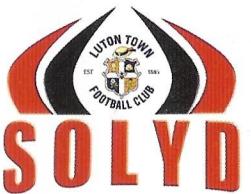


Last Thursday the Club received a charge from the Football Association for failing to control their players under rule E20 (a) during the match with AFC Telford.

The club had until yesterday to submit their response to the charge but due to printing deadlines we cannot include it inside this issue.

Furthermore, striker Jon Shaw was charged with misconduct following an incident in the same game, under rule E3. Jon accepted the charge and began a three-match suspension on Saturday. He will next be available when Wrexham are the visitors to Kenilworth Road a week on Saturday.

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).

Join us in helping develop the future stars of Luton Town.

DEVELOPMENT GAME ON WEDNESDAY

This season the Hatters will not be competing in any reserve league and will, instead, arrange a number of friendlies throughout the season for the development squad.

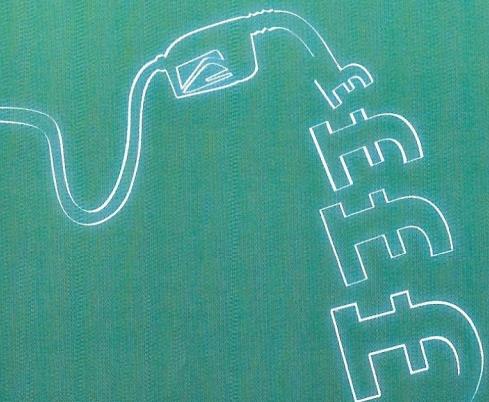
Last week, a Dan Walker goal earned the squad a 1-1 draw at Wycombe Wanderers, whilst tomorrow they take on Championship side Crystal Palace at Kenilworth Road.

This game is open to supporters and kicks-off at 12noon. Entry is via the press gate only in Kenilworth Road.

GOLDEN GAMBLE UNCLAIMED

One lucky Town fan is missing out on a tidy £580 as Saturday's Golden Gamble remains unclaimed.

Get checking those pockets and programmes for the ticket number 04968. If you possess the winning number get in touch with our commercial department on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.



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FROM THE TICKET OFFICE



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Adults (22-64) £302, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £215, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £141, Youths (10-16) £42, Juniors (under 10s) £42.

HOME TICKET PRICES

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



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).



TAMWORTH v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

We are awaiting ticket information from Tamworth for this fixture.



LUTON TOWN v SOUTHPORT

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at usual matchday prices



COMMERCIAL BREAK

EMAIL US COMMERCIAL@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

Welcome to Kenilworth Road to all supporters, our sponsors and corporate guests, for what is our second home game in three days.

You have seen on our new-look website that there have been a number of opportunities for sponsorship and hospitality at forthcoming home games.

Below, I have outlined the details of three of our popular packages: hospitality in the Eric Morecambe Lounge, a mascot package and matchball sponsorship. If you're interested in experiencing any of these packages then please do get in touch.

ERIC MORECAMBE LOUNGE

Seating in the directors' box with an exclusive pre-match two-course carvery meal with waiter service and cash bar before, during and after each game. A team sheet and programme is provided for each guest, as well as half-time refreshments and a chance to meet the man of the match and receive photographs with him.

MATCHDAY MASCOT

Treat your child to a matchday mascot experience at Kenilworth Road this coming season.

The mascot package is a day to remember for any young fan wanting to meet their heroes and lead Luton Town onto the Kenilworth Road pitch. Mascots and their families will enjoy a day of first-class entertainment and excellent hospitality in our popular Eric Morecambe Lounge.

As mascot, you will get the chance to meet the players, get photographs and autographs from them in the dressing room before heading out onto the pitch to join in with the warm-up. After the game you will meet the man of the match and will be presented with a signed and framed programme by him.



MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP

Matchball Sponsorship offers a unique opportunity for guests to sponsor the matchball at Kenilworth Road - and then keep it afterwards with the players' autographs. The package is a fantastic way to enjoy excellent hospitality whilst promoting your business or entertaining friends, family or clients.

Also hosted in our Eric Morecambe Lounge, the matchball sponsors will enjoy a two-course meal before being seated in the directors' box to watch the match. To top off a great day, you will get the chance to enjoy our post-match presentation and receive your signed ball from the man of the match.

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

It is with great pleasure we welcome the University of Bedfordshire this evening as our match sponsors.

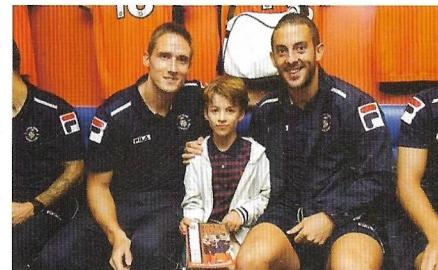
The University of Bedfordshire offers people from all backgrounds the opportunity to develop their potential and reach their goals. They have a diverse student population ranging from 18 to 78 years of age and provide a supportive, flexible environment to learn and develop in.

They offer a wide range of courses including football studies, computing, media, performing

arts, business, nursing and teaching, and were praised for their world-leading research in the

Government's 2008 Research and Assessment Exercise (RAE). In 2008, the Guardian newspaper rated them as having the best financial support of any university in the south of England.

Find out more by visiting: www.beds.ac.uk.



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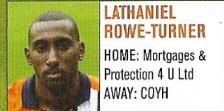
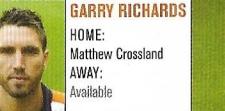
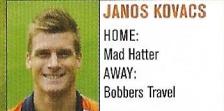
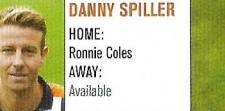
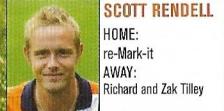
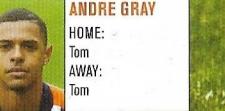
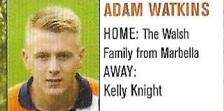
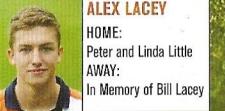
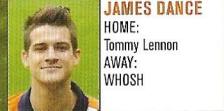
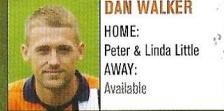
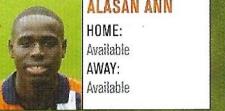
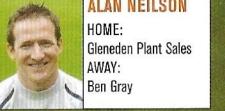
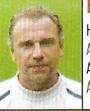
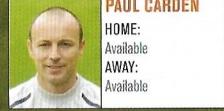
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WELCOME

CAMBRIDGE UNITED



Cambridge United will tonight visit Kenilworth Road after what can best be described as an inconsistent start.

The U's will be looking to put their indifferent form behind them as they look to capitalise on a ground they picked up all three points at last season.

United snatched a 1-0 win in last season's meeting at Kenilworth Road with Rory McAuley's looping header evading Mark Tyler, to send the travelling away fans into raptures as their side pulled off an early season scalp on their way to a nine-placed finish.

The return fixture again saw United pick up a point as an equaliser from Liam Hughes cancelled out Stuart Fleetwood's first half strike.

However it has not always been a rosy encounter for The U's. Does 26th September 2009 ring any bells? United blitzed a lacklustre performance from the Hatters in the first period heading in at the break 2-0 up against 10 men when Liam Hatch received his marching orders shortly before the break to provide a near-mission-impossible for the Town.

However after Kevin Gallen provided a lifeline briefly after the restart the comeback was on. Rossi Jarvis, now of course in the United ranks, then smashed home to reduce the deficit to one before Jake Howells levelled the tie with just over an hour gone. Gallen then completed the turnaround from the penalty spot to leave the Hatters

buoyant and United wishing they were still sat in the dressing room.

Jez George's men currently occupy 13th spot on the Blue Square Bet Premier table after being unable to secure three points in their previous three games.

Draws with Stockport County and Nuneaton have come either side of a 2-1 defeat to Dartford on Bank holiday Monday really put a dampener on what had been an ambitious start.

Seven points from their first three league games had United sniffing around the Play-Offs. However, after that unbeaten start was brought to an abrupt halt at the hands of newly-promoted Dartford they will be looking to put their name firmly back in the mix-up for early season contenders.

With former Hatter Robbie Willmott Rossi Jarvis in United's squad it will be a familiar stomping ground for George's U's as they look to kick-start a testing fortnight ahead, with fixtures coming thick and fast against Wrexham, AFC Telford United and early season front runners Hereford United.

George will be looking for top scorer Tom Elliot to continue his fine form after his impressive start to the season has seen the former Leeds youngster net five times in his first six appearances as he and his fellow attacking options look to give Town defenders a tough evening ahead.

THE U'S

AN AT-A-GLANCE VIEW OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNITED SQUAD

JEZ GEORGE

The boss. Former the U's director of football who took over as caretaker boss in February 2011 before taking over full-time. Arrived at the club in May 2006 and has overseen the production of a number of youth players that have gone onto become professionals.

JONATHAN HEDGE

Goalkeeper who arrived this summer from Tamworth. Capped at England C level, Jonathan also coaches the United centre of excellence goalkeepers.

KEVIN ROBERTS

Right-back who joined the U's from Chester City for whom he featured over 90 times in a two-year spell. His excellent form last season saw him rewarded with a new contract and the supporters' player of the year award.

JAMES JENNINGS

Former Kettering Town defender who signed for the U's in 2010. The left-back has been virtually ever-present since arriving at the Abbey Stadium.

JOSH COULSON

Talented centre-half who is the longest-serving player at the club. Came through the youth ranks at the Abbey Stadium and made his debut in the 2007/08 season.

MICHAEL WYLDE

Left-footed centre-back who signed from Tamworth last summer after spending three seasons at the Lamb. An England C international.

RORY MCAULEY

Blackpool-born defender who passed a century of appearances for the U's last season. Scored the winner at Kenilworth Road in last season's 1-1 draw.

SCOTT GARNER

Influential centre-half who arrived this summer from Grimsby Town on a two-year contract. Another player in the U's ranks with England C caps.

JONATHON THORPE

Young right-back who signed his first professional contract last season before going onto make 26 appearances.

BLAINE HUDSON

Commanding defender who is another product of the U's youth development system.

TOM SHAW

Central midfielder who became Jez George's first signing as permanent boss in the summer of 2011. Has considerable Conference experience having spent spells with Kidderminster, Tamworth and Rushden.

BILLY GIBSON

Right-winger who arrived this summer following his release from Yeovil. Came through the ranks at Watford before moving to Braintree.

RICKY WELLARD

Central midfielder who signed from AFC Wimbledon after initially impressing on a loan spell in 2010/11.

HARRISON DUNK

Highly-rated left-winger who signed from Bromley in August 2011. Scored on his home debut against Telford last term and recently penned a contract extension until 2014.

ROSSI JARVIS

Former Town midfielder who joined the U's in 2011. Started his career as a youngster at Norwich, he has also had spells with Torquay, Barnet and Rotherham.

LUKE BERRY

Box-to-box midfielder who came through the youth ranks at the Abbey Stadium. A two-time young player of the year, he finished last season as the U's top goalscorer.

ADRIANO MOKE

Winger who arrived at the Abbey this summer from York City.

ROBBIE WILLMOTT

Winger or attacker who is no stranger to Hatters fans after making 67 appearances in 18 months in Bedfordshire. Re-joined the U's having come through the ranks at the Abbey Stadium prior to his move to Kenilworth Road.

JACK EADES

Right-sided midfielder who signed a professional contract this summer having joined the U's from Nottingham Forest last season.

TOM ELLIOTT

6ft 4in striker who signed this summer from Stockport County. A former England Under-18 international, Tom holds the record for being the youngest ever player to appear for Leeds.

ANDY PUGH

January capture from Welling United who enjoyed a prolific spell with the Kent club. Former Gillingham scholar.

LIAM HUGHES

Another product of the U's youth system, the 6ft 4in centre forward made his debut for the club in 2010.

ADAM MARRIOTT

Young striker with a prolific record at Eastern Counties League level. Signed a contract extension until 2013.

SAM SMITH

Former Rushden & Diamonds striker signed from Lincoln City for an undisclosed fee in August 2012.



Established: 1912 (as Abbey United)
Nickname(s): The U's, United
Stadium: R Costings Abbey Stadium
Capacity: 9,617 (Avg. attendance '11/12 – 2,433)
Manager: Jez George (1 year, 7 months)
Final league position '11/12: 9th BSBP

Cambridge United were many people's pre-season tip for a Play-Off spot in the Blue Square Bet Premier this season after manager Jez George made some quality signings to improve a squad which finished nine last season. Former Hatter Robbie Wilmott, tricky winger Adriano Moke and powerful front-man Tom Elliott are the highest profile names of the 10 that have arrived at the Abbey Stadium this summer and they are likely to pose the greatest threat to the Hatters tonight.

How did they fare last season?

The U's finished ninth with 71 points last season after having a very impressive start to the campaign before falling away in the second half of the season. Despite finishing nine, United possessed the second best defensive record in the division. They only conceded 41 goals and kept a phenomenal 18 clean sheets. Away from home, Cambridge's form was relatively impressive. The U's earned the same amount of points as the Hatters (32) and lost only once away (Fleetwood) in their meetings with the top five sides. The recorded wins came here at Kenilworth Road and at Mansfield, whilst points were earned at Wrexham and York.

How have they started this season?

The U's have had a mixed start to the 2012/13 season. They have recorded two wins, three draws and a defeat at home against minnows Dartford on Bank Holiday Monday. All three of United's draws have come on their travels, but they were denied a shock win at Forest Green Rovers by a 90th minute Yan Klukowski penalty. Interestingly, there have been six goals scored in the final 10 minutes of Cambridge's games this season. Two of the three scored against them have cost United four points, while two of the three they have scored have earned them four points – so if the game tonight isn't already wrapped up, there may well be some late drama.

Summer-signing Tom Elliot, who turned down a new contract at Stockport County to join Cambridge, has started the season in fine form scoring five goals in six games and will be the one to watch at Kenilworth Road.



How will they play? Who are their key men?

The U's have set up in either a strict 4-4-2 or a 4-4-1-1 so far this season and are expected to go with the latter this evening. Manager Jez George still seems to be unsure of his best central defensive pairing and, to make matters worse, injuries have forced him to deploy regular centre-back Rory McAuley at right-back.

6ft 3in Josh Coulson – who is the club's longest serving player despite being just 23 – will likely be partnered by 6ft 5in Blaine Hudson to form one of the tallest central defensive combinations in the Conference. James Jennings, who is something of a free-kick specialist, will play at left-back.

In midfield, ex-Town winger Robbie Wilmott will operate predominantly down the right so he can supply early crosses for his teammates. Two-time Cambridge Young Player of the Year, Luke Berry, will certainly be one-to-watch in the centre of the park for his unrelenting work-rate and box-to-box bursts, but is still uncertain whether he will start in midfield or behind the striker. Former York City trickster Adriano Moke may well start behind the striker, or could be used as an impact sub on the left late on to make the most of his pace. Up front, Tom Elliott, who has registered five goals, eight shots on target and two shots against the woodwork in his six appearances, will be a constant threat to the Hatters' defence with his aerial prowess.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cambridge could field up to five players measuring 6ft 3in or taller tonight at Kenilworth Road.
- Cambridge United was a Football League club for 35 years until its relegation in 2005.

THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

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

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Doug Shulman

AGE?

44 on the outside, but still convincing myself I am 21.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

Since my Dad took me to a pre-season friendly at Haverhill Rovers in August 1982 - a game the U's won 10-0.

HOW'S YOUR SEASON GONE SO FAR?

Prior to the disappointing home loss against a well-organised Dartford outfit, we had won two and drawn two, although this could, and should, have been four straight wins. It underlines the fact that we are still a young team under development, with several new signings still bedding in.

WERE THE FANS PLEASED TO SEE ROBBIE WILMOTT RETURN TO THE ABBEY?

The majority of fans were pleased to see Robbie come home. He admitted that recent times had been difficult for him and, knowing Jez George and Nolan Keeley from his youth team days at the Abbey, he clearly felt that their discipline and United's branding of a particular ethos was what he needed. His commitment and desire have been unwavering since returning, with performances reflecting what a talent both United and Luton supporters know he is.

CAMBRIDGE SHARE LUTON'S RECORD OF LOSING CONSECUTIVE PLAY-OFF FINALS - ARE YOU STILL HAUNTED BY THOSE NEAR MISSES?

As Luton fans know all too well, losing one final is bad enough, let alone two. Our first defeat to Exeter, in truth, I expected. However, going into the 2009 game with Torquay I was convinced fate was on our side, especially after the barn-storming semi-final victory over Stevenage. Therefore, to lose at Wembley again was devastating. It still hurts and, will continue to, until we achieve promotion.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CLUB THIS SEASON?

The club have been on an upward curve on and off the pitch since the departure of Martin Ling in February 2011 and, with a 25 per cent cut in budget, the focus has been on youth team promotion and the development of young and hungry players – the latter being thanks to a tremendous scouting network.



Last year we finished ninth despite inexperience and a horrid injury list so, this time around, our Centenary season, the Play-Offs would represent decent progression.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO KENILWORTH ROAD BEFORE?

Yes, many times. I always enjoy the atmosphere, partly due to the number of travelling fans and the low roof on the away end helping with acoustics.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES FROM FACING LUTON IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE?

Some cracking encounters, but the one game that stands out is our 3-3 draw at the Abbey in November 1992. 3-0 down with minutes remaining, we somehow grabbed a draw thanks to the impact of substitute John Francis.

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

With the attacking options they have, surely the Play-Offs are a must. Promotion may depend on how effectively teams can be broken down – many of whom will 'park the bus' when visiting Kenilworth Road.

WHO'S YOUR PLAYER TO WATCH?

Luke Berry is one of many youth team graduates in the squad – a brave terrier of a midfielder who pops up with some important goals. (pictured with Doug)

WHAT'S YOUR CLUB'S FAVOURITE CHANT/SONG?

'I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts' which is played post-match after every victory at the Abbey.

WHAT'S THE SCORE GOING TO BE TODAY?

I don't normally like to make predictions, so I'll sit on the fence and say 1-1.

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS
TEN POST-WAR CAMBRIDGE UNITED CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1962/63

Jimmy Gibson netted 27 goals as Cambridge United finished as Southern League runners-up in 1962/63. Both United and local rivals Cambridge City made a good start to the season and City triumphed 2-1 in front of 6,892 at the Abbey Stadium in September. The 'Big Freeze' caused widespread postponements but United's eight-match unbeaten run put them top of the table before losing 2-1 at home to Bath City in March. Rivals Cambridge City won 2-1 in front of 11,574 at Milton Road and the championship was between the two clubs with five matches remaining. Cambridge City clinched the title and United finished as runners-up.

1968/69

Bill Cassidy and Tony Butcher scored 43 goals between them as Cambridge United achieved the Southern League double in 1968/69. Bill Leivers' side lost four of their first seven Southern League games before the arrival of Cassidy and Butcher from Chelmsford heralded a considerable improvement. Tony Butcher grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-0 victory at Margate and Cambridge went top for the first time with a 2-0 win over rivals Hillingdon in January. United were unbeaten in their final ten matches, clinching the title with a 3-0 victory over Kettering on the last day and beating Cheltenham 1-0 in the Southern League Cup final.

1969/70

George Harris netted 23 goals as Cambridge United retained the Southern League title in 1969/70. After a poor start, Bill Leivers signed George Harris and Colin Meldrum from Reading, then John McKinven from Southend. Cambridge lost their grip on the Southern League Cup with a 1-0 defeat at Wimbledon but results improved and they trounced Crawley 8-0 in February. United soared to the top with nine successive Southern League wins but two defeats to rivals Yeovil looked costly before victories at Worcester and Margate secured the title. A record 14,000 crowd saw a friendly match with FA Cup winners Chelsea.

1972/73

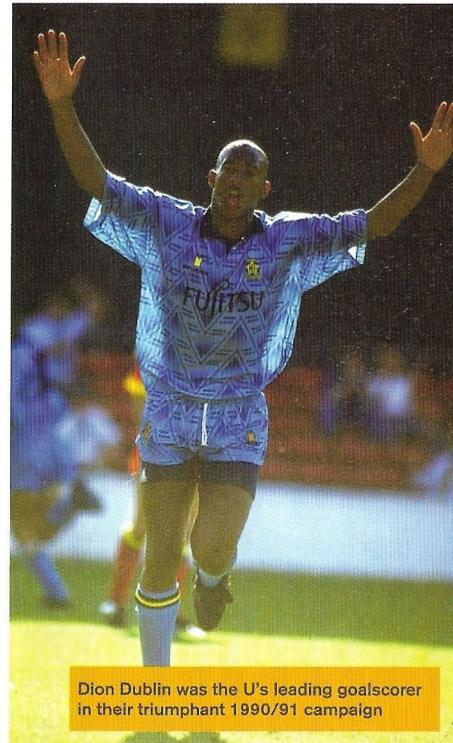
Leading marksman Brian Greenhalgh scored 18 goals as Cambridge United won promotion in 1972/73. Bill Leivers' side lost four of their opening five matches but the arrival of Graham Watson from Doncaster in September coincided with a 15-match unbeaten run that lifted Cambridge to third place in November. United maintained their promotion challenge, signing Bobby Ross from Brentford, but promotion hopes were dented with defeats against Exeter and Hereford. Another run of seven games without defeat revived hopes and Cambridge clinched promotion with a 3-2 win at home to rivals Mansfield watched by 10,542.

1976/77

Ron Atkinson managed Cambridge United to the Fourth Division title in 1976/77. The U's climbed to the top of the table with just two defeats in their opening 18 matches, strengthening the team with Tom Finney from Sunderland and Dave Stringer from Norwich. Cambridge regained pole position as newcomer Jim Hall scored in a 2-1 win over rivals Bradford City on New Year's Day, then extended their lead at the top with seven straight wins. Tom Finney netted hat-tricks against Southport and Brentford during the closing weeks. Alan Biley was top scorer with 19 goals as United clinched the title with a 0-0 draw at Stockport.

1977/78

Alan Biley was the leading marksman with 21 goals as Cambridge United won promotion in 1977/78. Sammy Morgan was signed from Brighton and Cambridge overcame a poor start, with the arrival of Lindsay Smith and John Cozens strengthening the team. United beat Peterborough 1-0 in front of 10,998 shortly before Ron Atkinson became West Brom's manager in January. John Docherty stepped up to replace him and United went top with a 3-0 win over Plymouth in February. Cambridge lost just one of their final nine matches, clinching promotion as runners-up with a 2-1 victory at home to Exeter City on the last day.



Dion Dublin was the U's leading goalscorer in their triumphant 1990/91 campaign

1990/91

Dion Dublin was the leading marksman as Cambridge United won the Third Division title in 1990/91. They managed just one victory in their opening six matches but six straight wins catapulted them into the promotion frame. Cambridge hammered Sheffield Wednesday 4-0 en route to the FA Cup sixth round for the second consecutive season, losing 2-1 at Arsenal. John Beck's side lost just one of their final 11 games and pipped Southend United to the title with a 2-0 victory at home to Swansea on the last day. Notable players included John Vaughan, Alan Kimble, Phil Chapple, Danny O'Shea, John Taylor and Lee Philpott.

1991/92

Cambridge United so nearly became founding members of the Premier League in 1991/92. John Beck's side kicked off in the Second Division with three straight wins, then trounced Leicester 5-1 and went top of the table with a 12-match unbeaten run. They faltered after Christmas but revived automatic promotion hopes with four wins in five matches, including a 6-1 demolition of Bristol Rovers. Top scorer Dion Dublin and Steve Claridge netted 27 goals between them as Cambridge qualified for the Second Division Play-Offs in fifth position. They drew 1-1 with Leicester in the semi-final first leg but lost 5-0 in the second leg.

1998/99

Martin Butler and John Taylor scored 34 goals between them as Cambridge United won promotion in 1998/99. Roy McFarland's side started with two wins but then lost four times in their next five matches. They soared into the promotion frame with just one defeat in ten games, including a 3-0 victory at Hull City. Richard Walker arrived on loan from Aston Villa in December and Cambridge maintained their challenge, winning 5-1 at Scarborough. Scott Eustace was signed from Chesterfield and United stayed top of the table with a 7-2 win over Mansfield. They lost 1-0 at home to title rivals Brentford on the last day.



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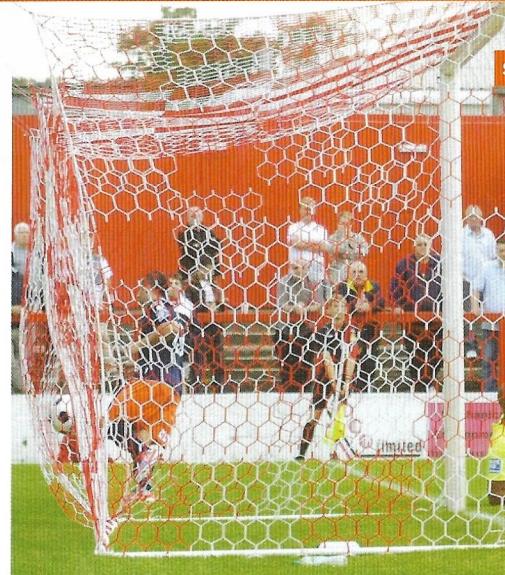


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EBBSFLEET 1-3 TOWN



Scott Rendell makes it 2-0 at Stonebridge Road



THREE IN A ROW AWAY FROM HOME

Town boss Paul Buckle was delighted to see his side return to winning ways after the comfortable 3-1 victory at Ebbsfleet United.

Two goals from Stuart Fleetwood and one from Scott Rendell ensured the Hatters responded in the best way possible after the home defeat to AFC Telford on Saturday.

Fleetwood got the ball rolling in the 10th minute when he slotted home Rendell's unselfish pass following Alex Lawless' right-wing cross.

And, nine minutes, later Fleetwood turned provider for Rendell to set the striker up for his first goal in Town colours to double the lead.

Fleetwood added a third – his sixth of the season – in the second half before Ebbsfleet pulled a goal back late on.

After the disappointment of the Telford result, the manager was in good spirits. "The only thing I was disappointed with against Telford was the loss, the result, itself," Buckle told Hatters Player afterwards. "I felt we created enough chances to win that game and we've come here still confident of scoring goals and done that today.

"This isn't an easy place to come. Liam Daish's teams are hard to play against and if you come to places like Ebbsfleet and don't work hard you won't get anything."

The boss started with four strikers on the pitch with scorers Fleetwood and Rendell joined by Andre Gray and Jon Shaw. "I've always said I want to attack," Buckle continued. "Andre's come in because he's deserved to. It's still early in the season, we're only five games in – we're still looking for that winning formula. "We've tried it in pre-season in training and used those four players when we've been chasing games recently.

"Today, we were bright and caused them lots of problems and we could have scored a lot more than three. We weren't afraid, and I want us to attack and score goals. All the strikers worked hard. They're all good on the ball and they were so selfless at times."

Defender Dean Beckwith also came in for praise from the boss after an assured first league appearance for the Town in almost a year. "Dean was great today and we needed him to be," Buckle said. "Ebbsfleet were hanging plenty of high balls in there and him and Lathaniel Rowe-Turner dealt with them well. Dean's not had an opportunity since I've been at the club but he grabbed his chance with both hands today.

"It's a pleasing all-round performance from everyone. We know as a team we've still got lots to work on.

"We're nowhere near where we want to be still but to come to Ebbsfleet and score three goals isn't such a bad thing."



EBBSFLEET 1

Elder 86



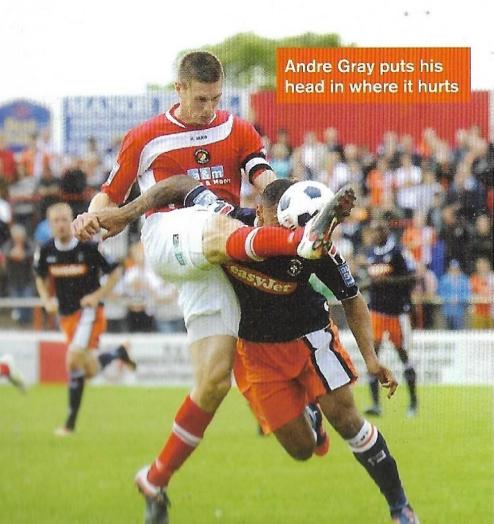
TOWN 3

Fleetwood 10, 73, Rendell 19

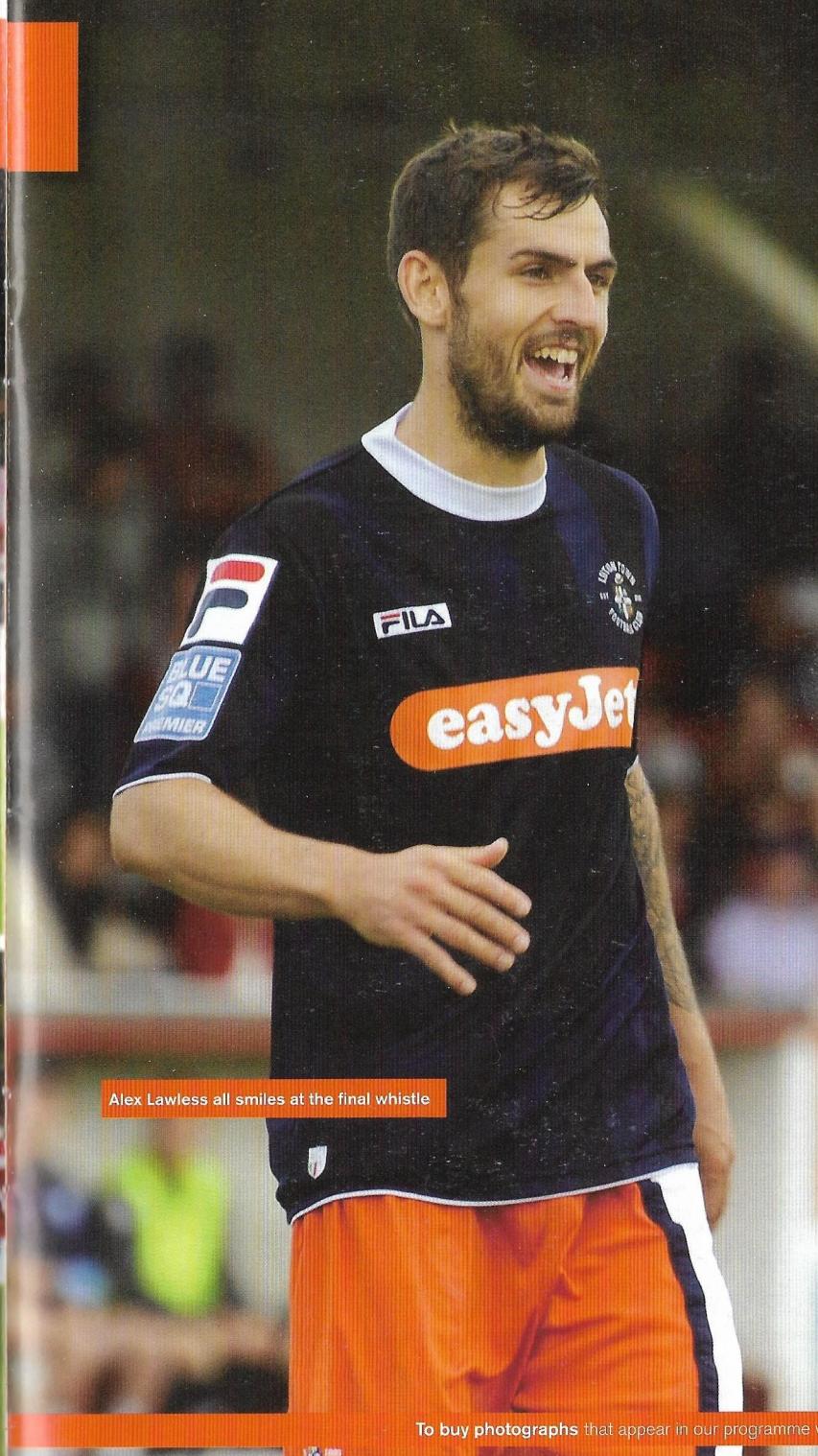
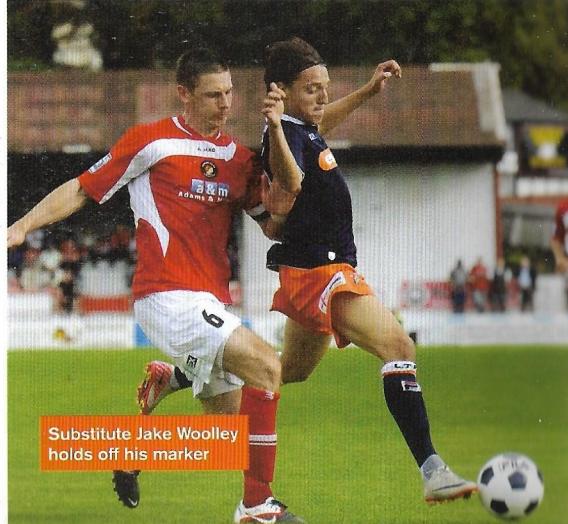
Stuart Fleetwood and Scott Rendell celebrate the opener



Andre Gray puts his head in where it hurts



Substitute Jake Woolley holds off his marker



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POSSESSION

49%	51%
CORNERS	
7	2
OFFSIDES	
	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	
7	9
SHOTS OFF TARGET	
5	5
FOULS	
14	24
YELLOW CARDS	
1	1
RED CARDS	
0	0

EBBSFLEET:

Edwards

Stone

Ada

Walsh

Lorraine

Enver-Marum

Ashikodi

Phipp

Howe

Barrett (sub Elder 82)

Azeez (sub Folkes 75)

Subs not used:

Blake

McNeil

Greenhalgh

TOWN:

Tyler

Lawless

Taylor

Rowe-Turner

Beckwith

O'Donnell

(sub Watkins 84)

Howells

Rendell

Gray (sub Woolley 80)

Fleetwood

Shaw

Subs not used:

Lacey

Brill

Kasim

ATTENDANCE:

2,018

(1,246 Luton)



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TOWN 4-1 MACCLESFIELD

MAIDEN HOME VICTORY

Town boss Paul Buckle was thoroughly delighted to see his side beat Macclesfield and with it earn their first home victory of the season.

Goals from Jake Howells, Andre Gray, Scott Rendell and Stuart Fleetwood saw off the Silkmen and the Hatters boss paid tribute to his side's determination after weathering a second-half fight back from the visitors.

The Town had raced into a 2-0 first-half lead but Silkmen skipper Nat Brown scored early in the second half to reduce the deficit.

Former Hatter Matthew Barnes-Homer almost made it 2-2 when he rattled the crossbar but the Town battled back and two goals in the final eight minutes secured the three points.

"I was delighted with our response to Macclesfield pulling a goal back," Buckle told Hatters Player afterwards. "We couldn't afford to be afraid. We made the right change at the right time and kept encouraging the lads and, in the end, I was thrilled with our composure to march on and win."

"I've got a bit of a croaky voice after shouting at the players in the second half because our start to the second half was the opposite to how we started the first. We were on the front foot and at 2-0 we were off and away with a flying start. But in the second half we were slow out of the traps and we paid the price."

"However, to overcome the edginess and nervousness I'm thoroughly pleased with the all-round performance."

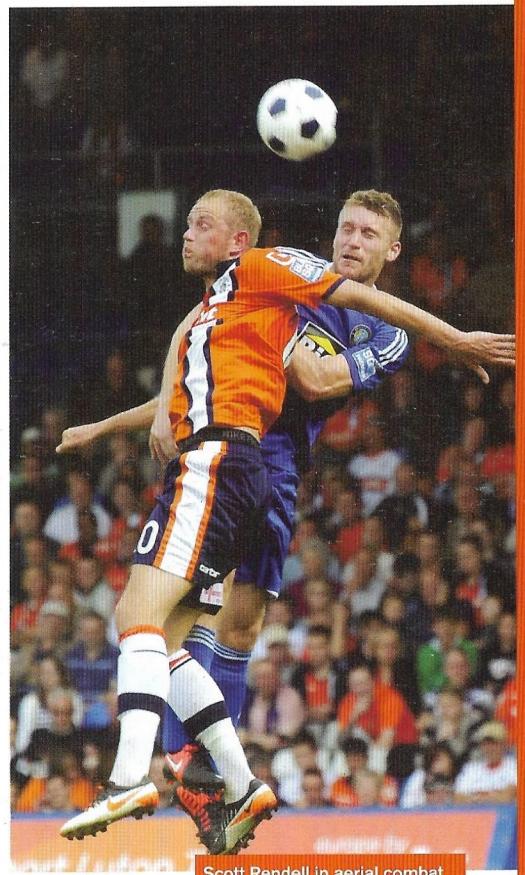
The boss went with a 3-4-3 formation using a centre-half trio of Dean Beckwith and Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, alongside the returning Janos Kovacs.

"I decided to freshen it up," Buckle said. "It worked two ways. One, to make the players relaxed and two, to combat Macclesfield's threat. We knew they'd come at us so when they came forward we were able to pick them off on the counter and it worked a treat."

"On another day, especially in the first half, we could have scored a couple more but the thing is we've still got lots to work on."

And, after Macclesfield's equaliser, that includes set pieces.

"We're there, we're in the right place and it's not even a free header," the boss said, shaking his head in disappointment. "We need to be brave and a bit nasty in those situations – it's a fine line."



Scott Rendell in aerial combat

"We need to understand that set pieces are a major part of our opponents' plan when they come here. We're also giving away silly free-kicks and we must cut that out."

But, all in all, Buckle was happy to end a week with another victory in the bag. "If we get on the front foot and score an early goal it makes it so much more easier for us," he said.

"We know that we can't panic. And we didn't after the Telford result. This week we've won six points and now we must march on from this."



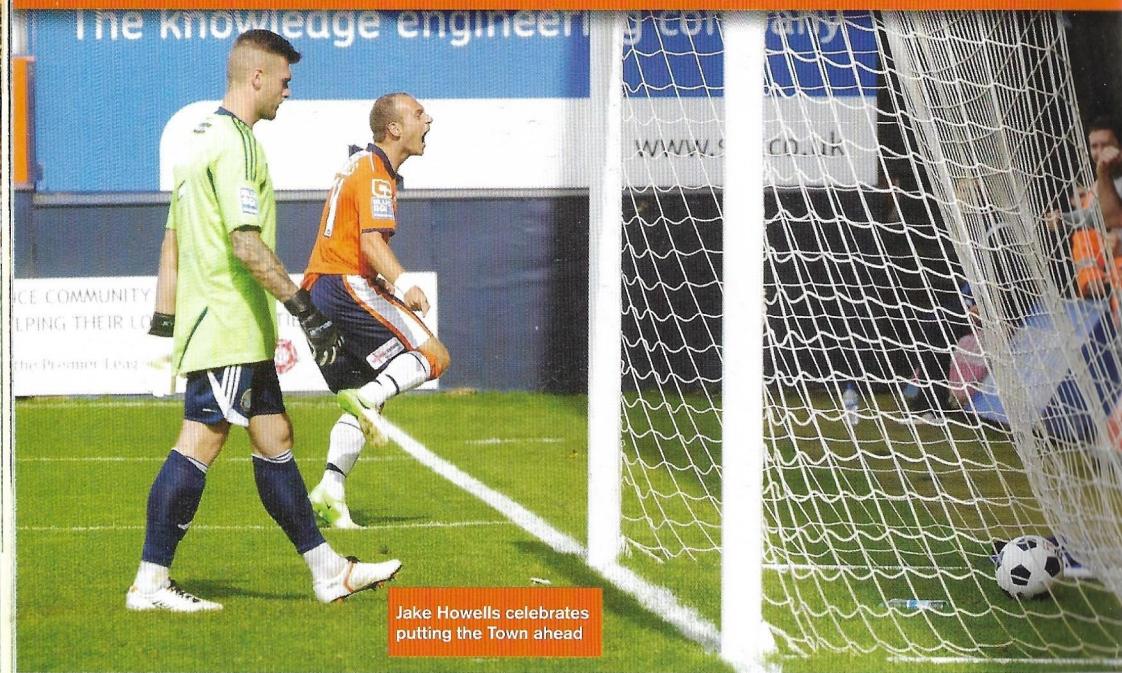
TOWN 4

Howells 1, Gray 18, Rendell 82, Fleetwood 90



MACCLESFIELD 1

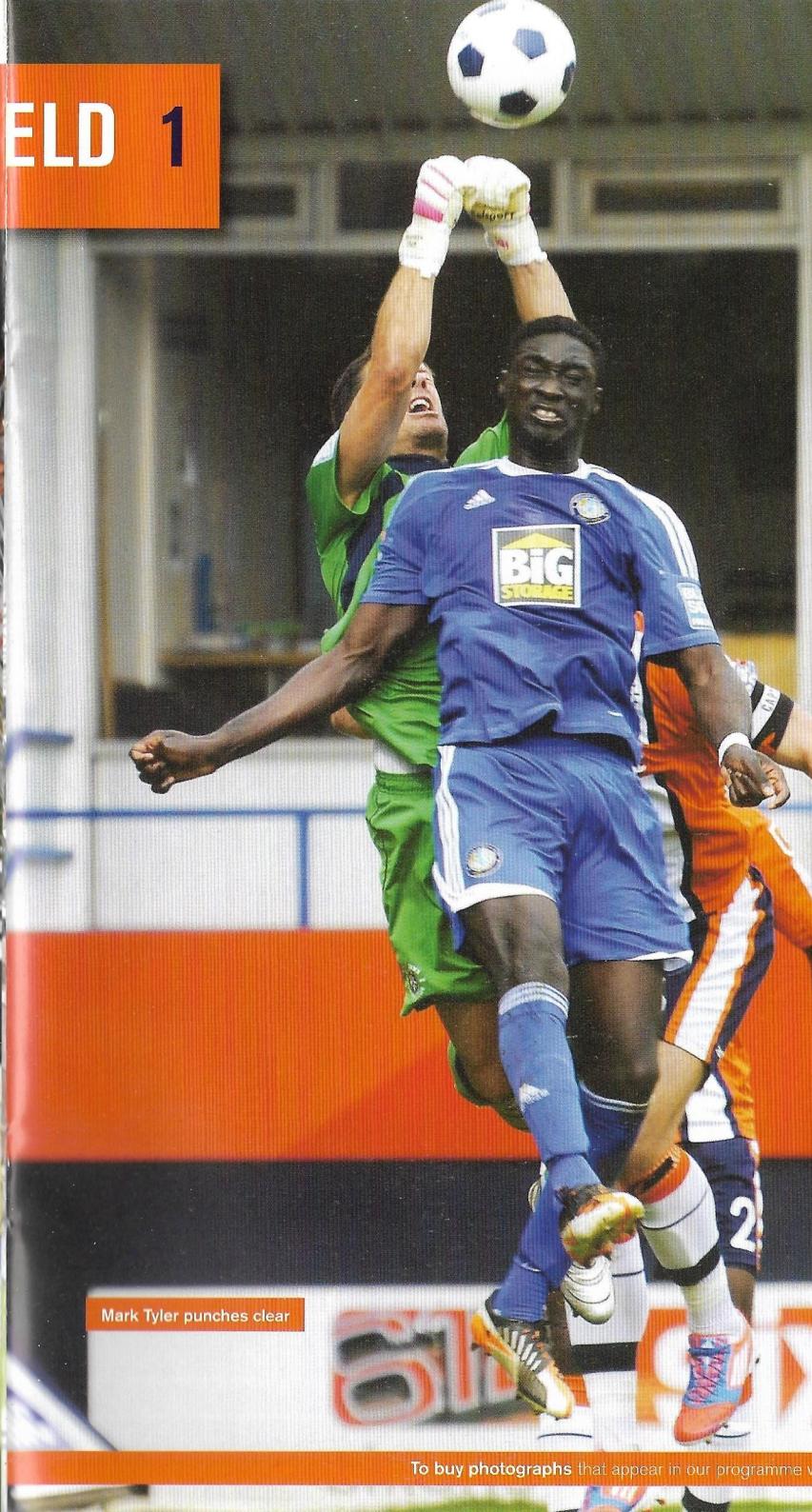
Brown 51



Jake Howells celebrates putting the Town ahead



Scott Rendell makes it 3-1



Mark Tyler punches clear

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

POSSESSION

56%	44%
CORNERS	
4	5
OFFSIDES	
6	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	
9	2
SHOTS OFF TARGET	
5	7
FOULS	
9	11
YELLOW CARDS	
1	2
RED CARDS	
0	0

TOWN:

Tyler
Beckwith
Kovacs
(sub Essam 90)
Rowe-Turner
(sub Watkins 73)
Lawless
Taylor
O'Donnell
Howells
Rendell
Gray
(sub Woolley 40)
Fleetwood

Subs not used:
Brill
Walker

MACCLESFIELD:

Cronin
Brown
Charnock
Braham-Barrett
Martin
(sub Diagne 81)
Mackrath
Murtagh
Mendy
Henry
(sub Morgan-Smith 74)
Barnes-Homer
Holroyd
(sub Hurfurd 80)

Subs not used:
Wedgbury
McNamee

ATTENDANCE:

5,803
(110 Macclesfield)

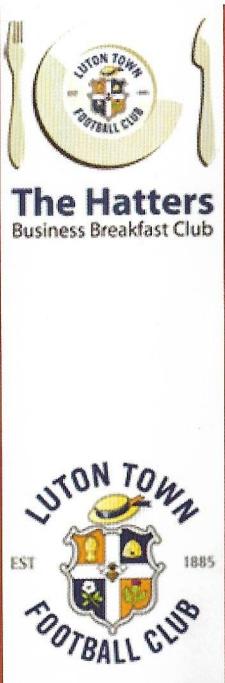


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HAPPY HARRY

How many footballs can you see?

ACROSS

1. Where do we play? (10, Road)
2. Who is our Manager? (4,6)
3. What colour is our new away kit? (4)
4. Where do away fans sit? (4,4)

DOWN

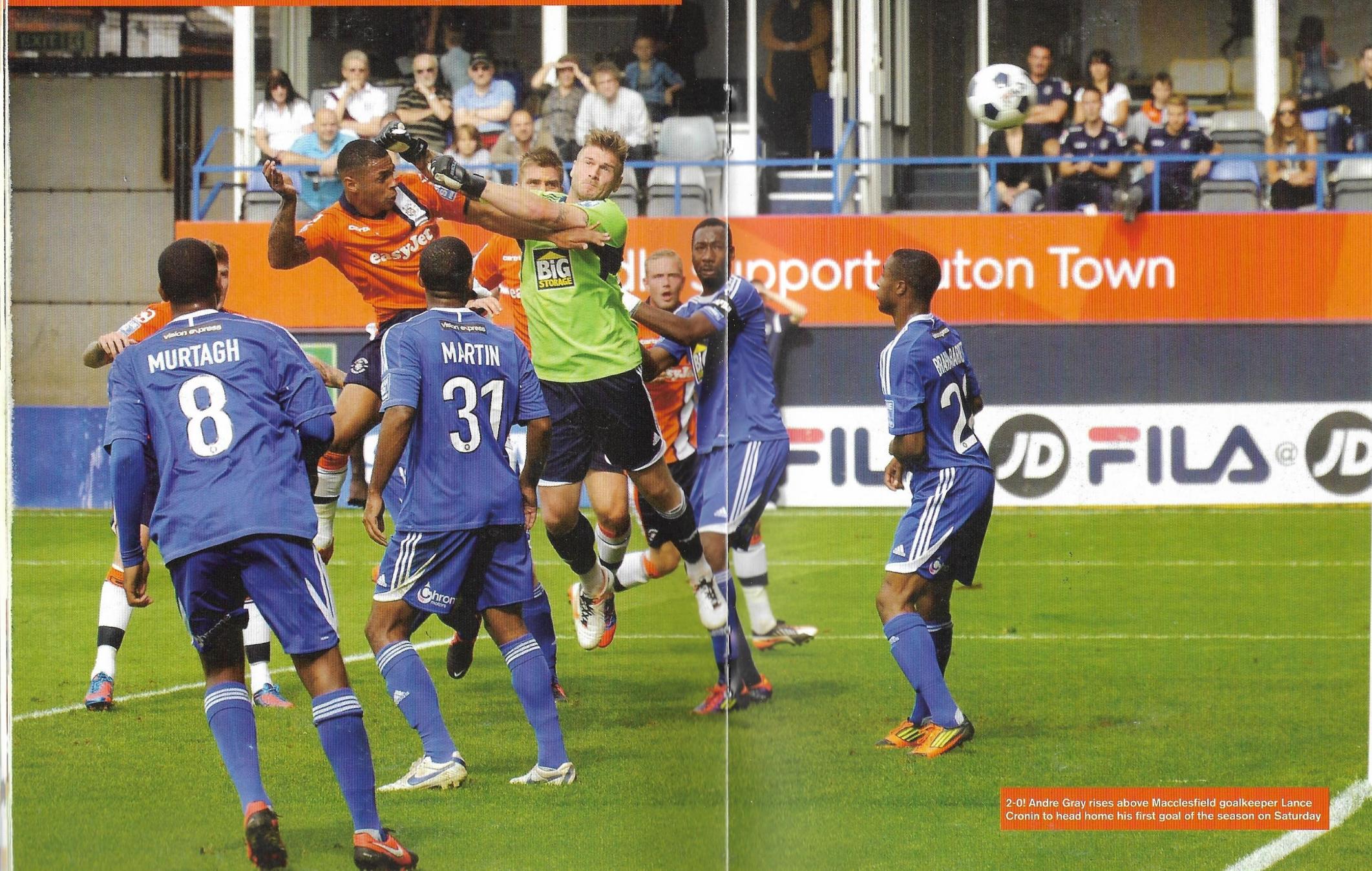
1. Who is our Manager? (4,6)
2. What is our nickname? (The,7)
3. Who's our captain? (6,5)
4. Where do away fans sit? (4,4)

NAME: _____

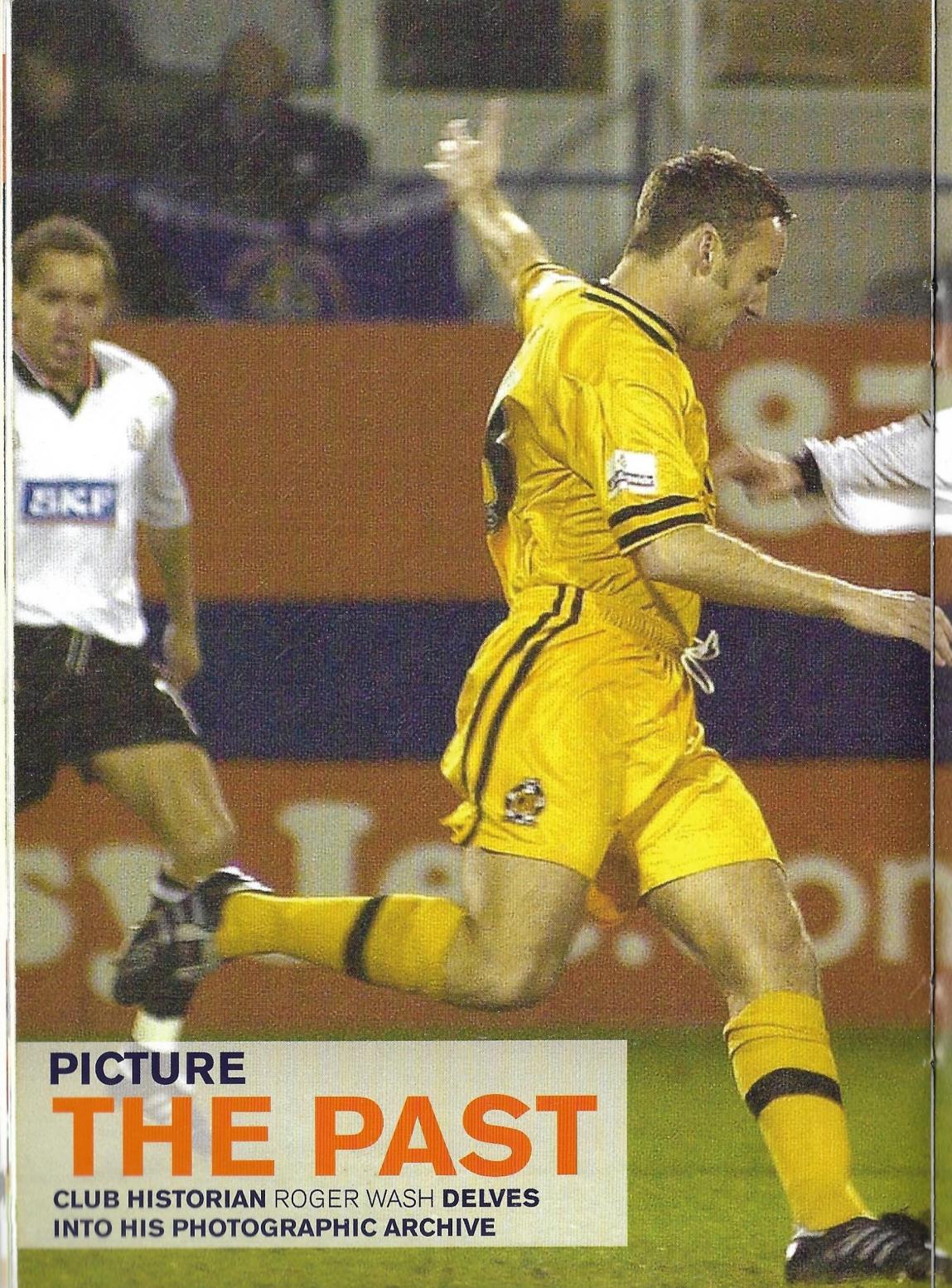
EMAIL: _____

COMPLETE THE PUZZLES AND FILL IN YOUR DETAILS, THEN RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE TICKET OFFICE BEFORE SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN FREE TICKETS!!

CENTRE SPOT

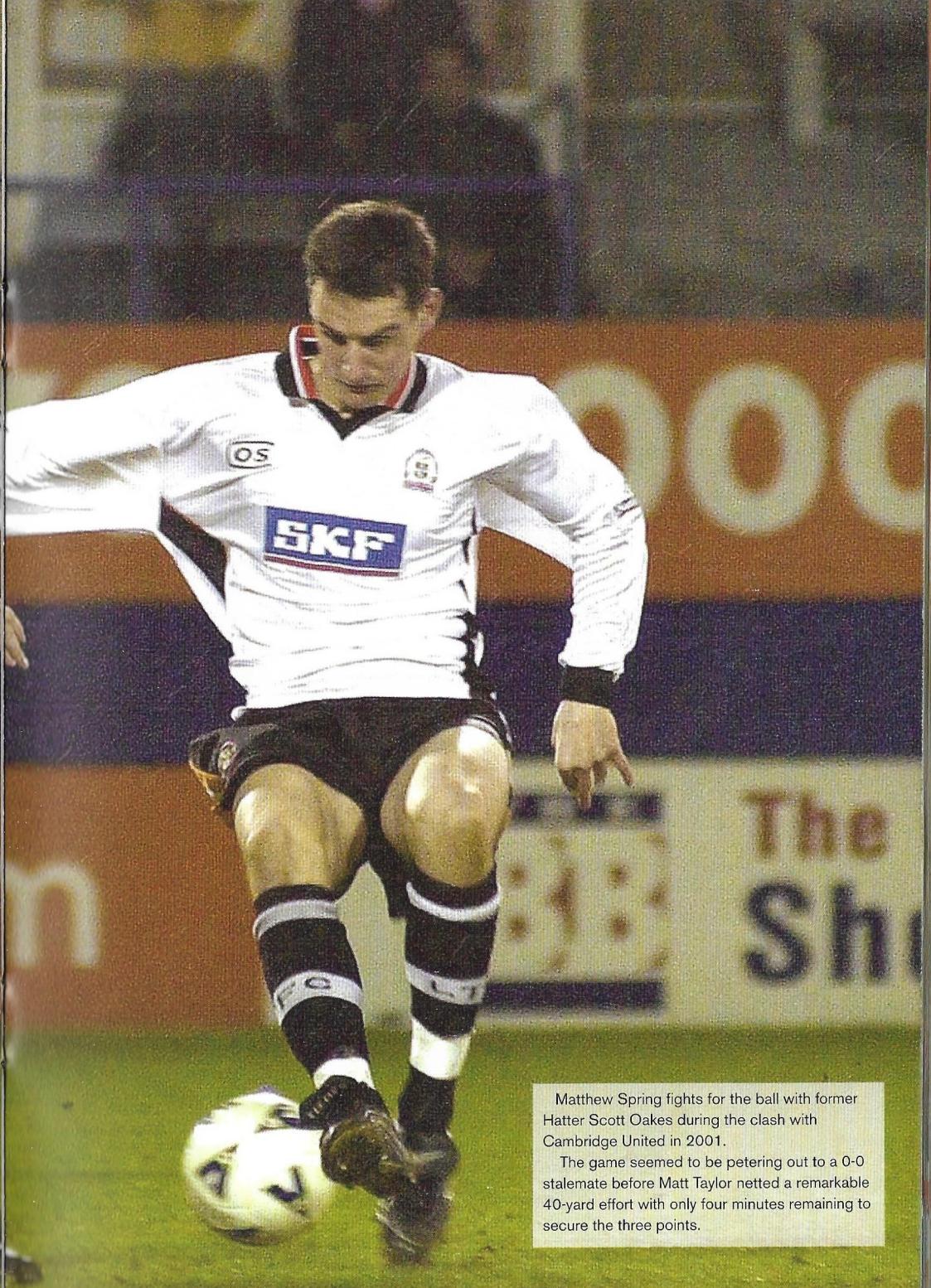


2-0! Andre Gray rises above Macclesfield goalkeeper Lance Cronin to head home his first goal of the season on Saturday



PICTURE **THE PAST**

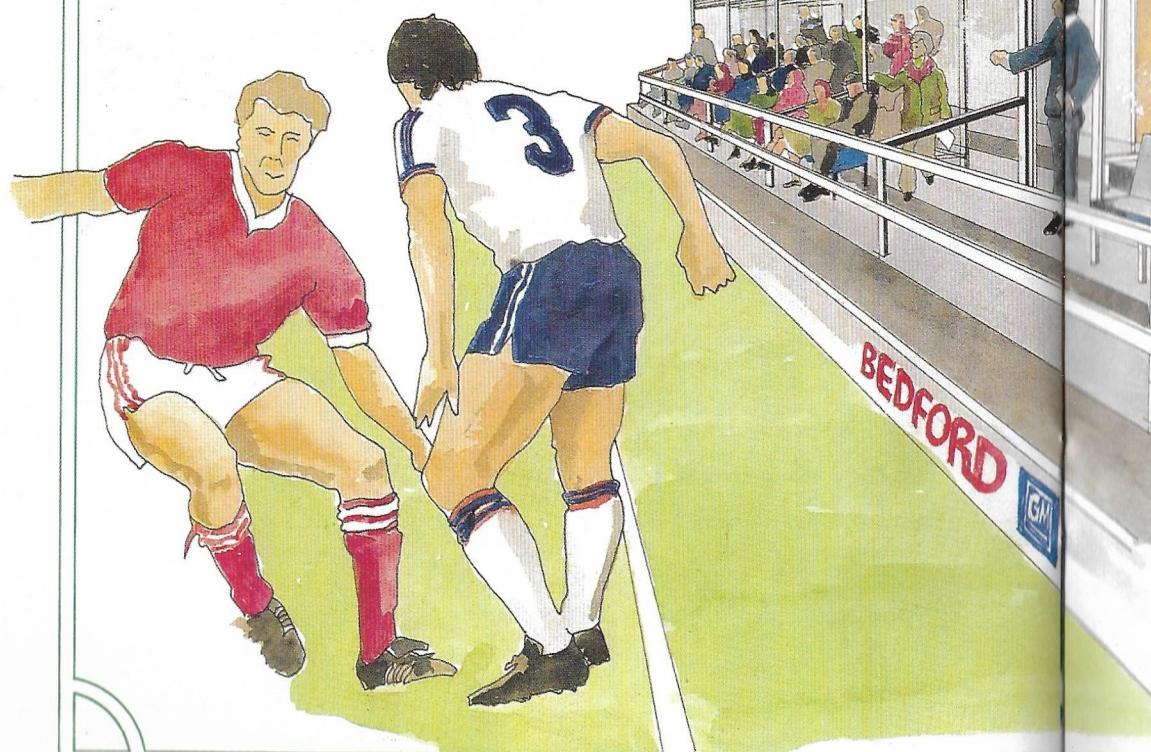
CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH **DELVES**
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Matthew Spring fights for the ball with former Hatter Scott Oakes during the clash with Cambridge United in 2001.

The game seemed to be petering out to a 0-0 stalemate before Matt Taylor netted a remarkable 40-yard effort with only four minutes remaining to secure the three points.

The perfect view of the perfect pitch.



TOWN **TREASURES**

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

Following on to the laying of an artificial surface at Kenilworth Road in 1985, at the start of the club's centenary season, even more changes were to take place at the ground 12 months later.

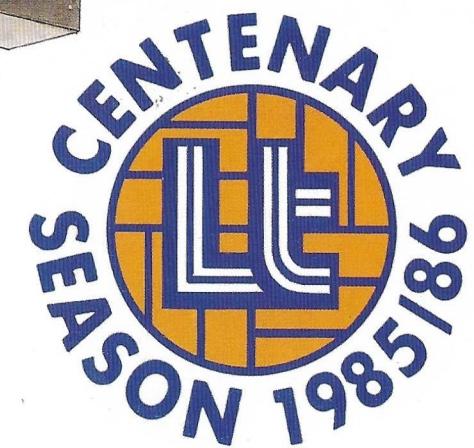
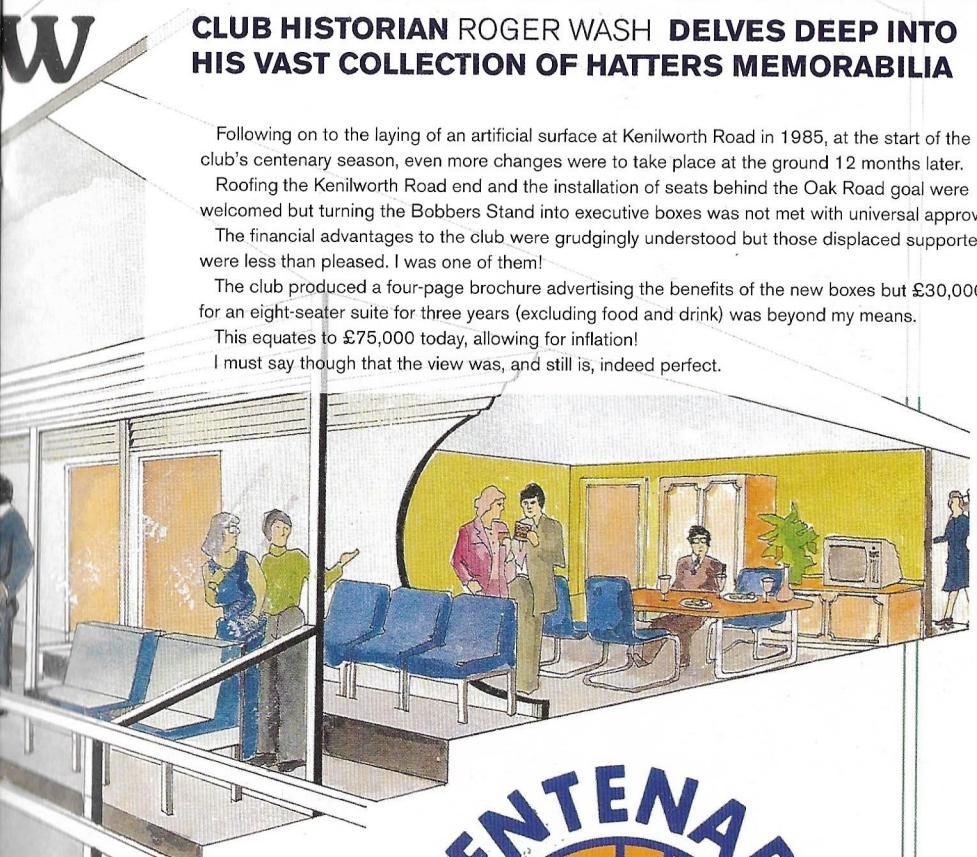
Roofing the Kenilworth Road end and the installation of seats behind the Oak Road goal were welcomed but turning the Bobbers Stand into executive boxes was not met with universal approval.

The financial advantages to the club were grudgingly understood but those displaced supporters were less than pleased. I was one of them!

The club produced a four-page brochure advertising the benefits of the new boxes but £30,000 for an eight-seater suite for three years (excluding food and drink) was beyond my means.

This equates to £75,000 today, allowing for inflation!

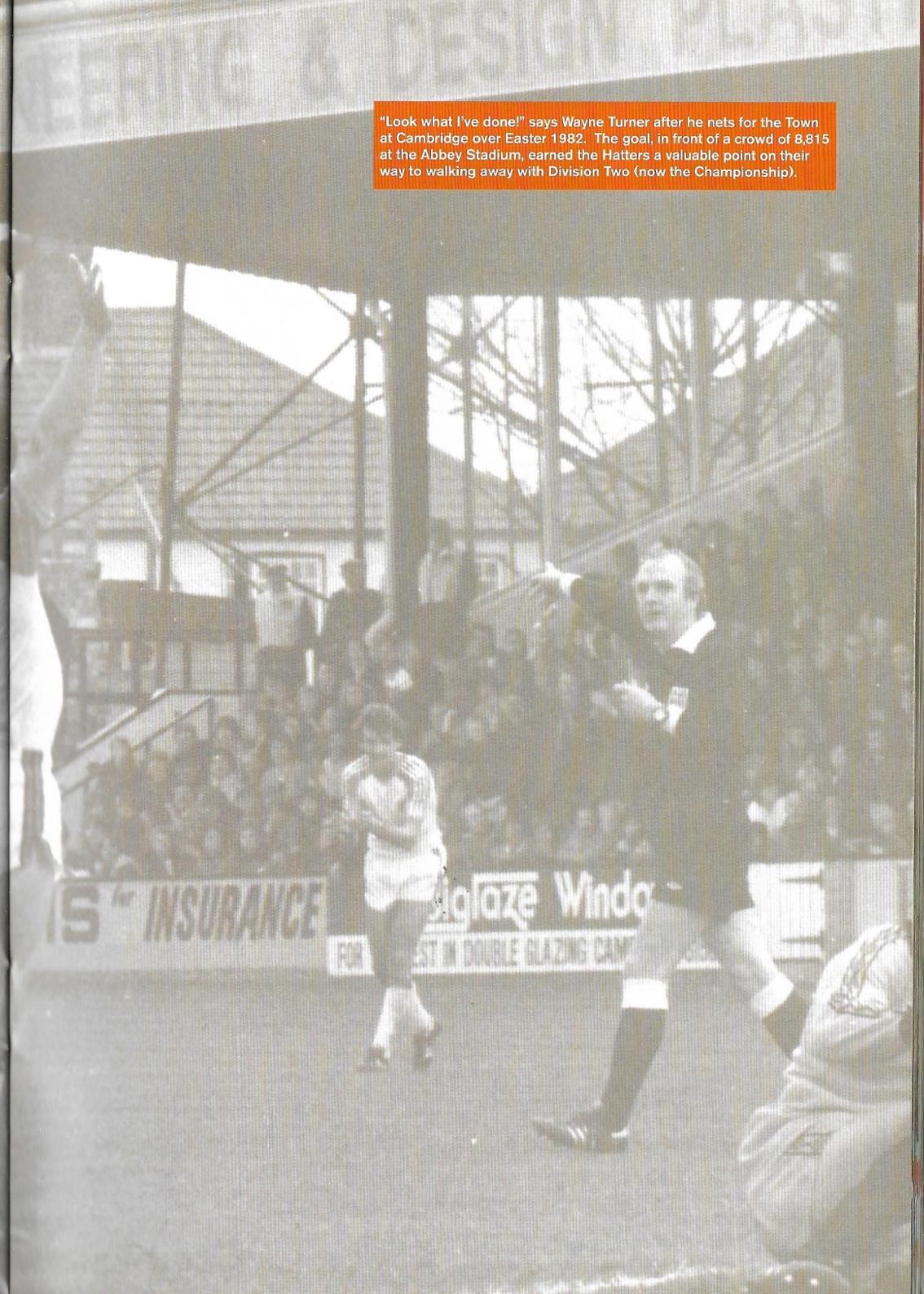
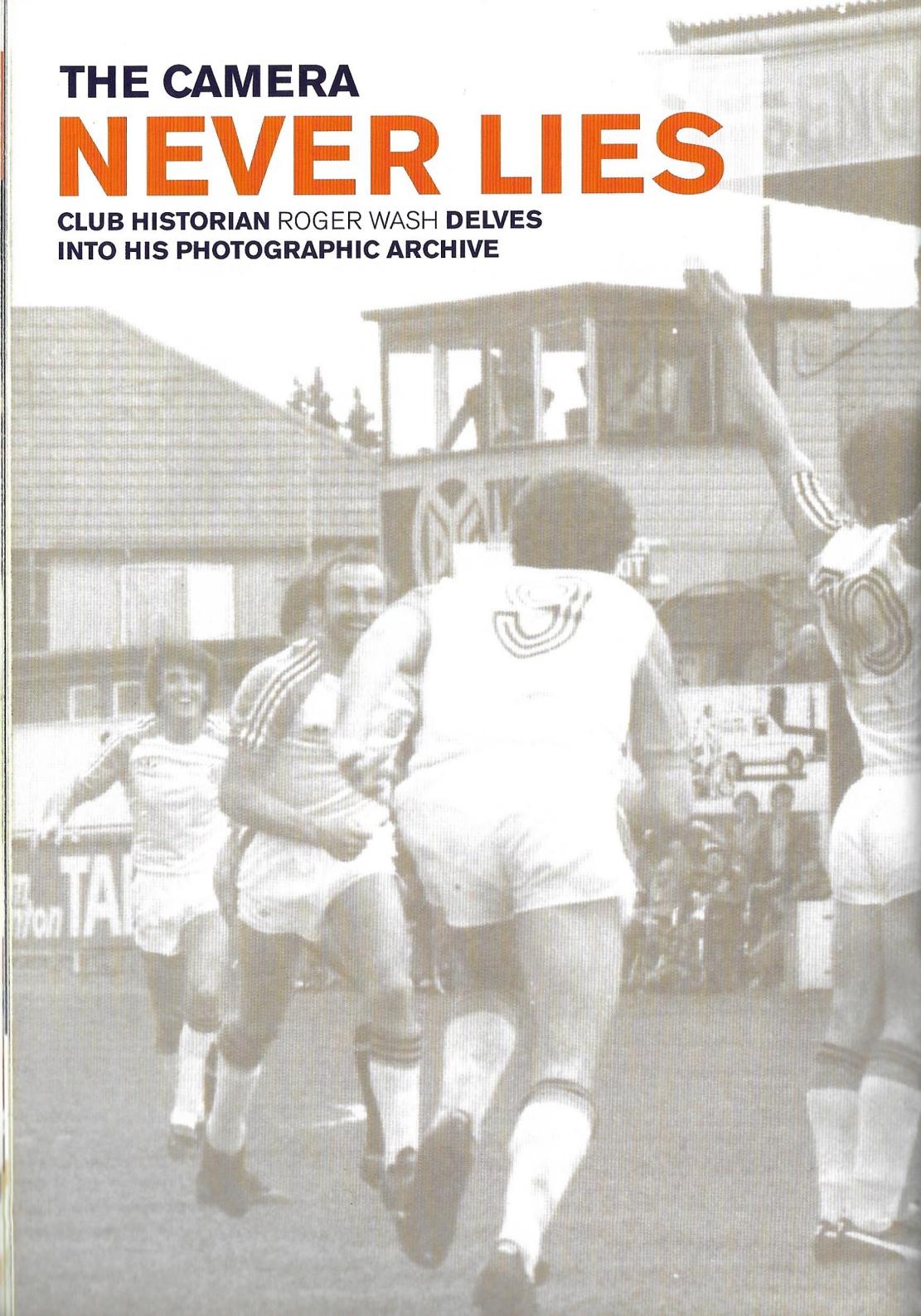
I must say though that the view was, and still is, indeed perfect.



LUTON TOWN F.C.

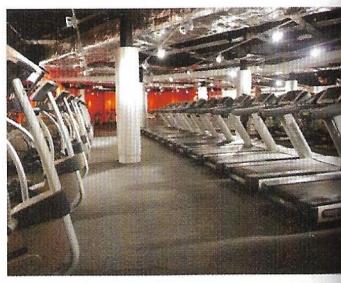
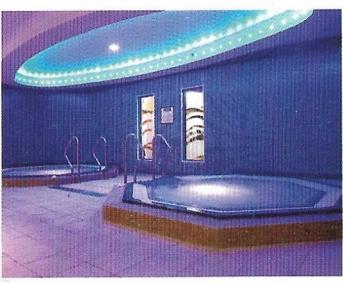
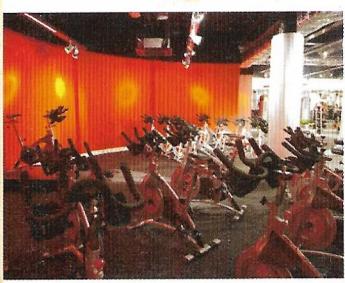
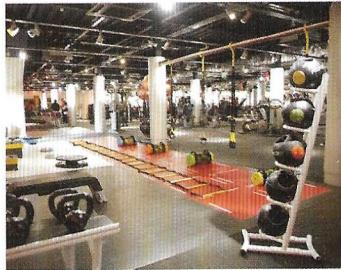
THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

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



"Look what I've done!" says Wayne Turner after he nets for the Town at Cambridge over Easter 1982. The goal, in front of a crowd of 8,815 at the Abbey Stadium, earned the Hatters a valuable point on their way to walking away with Division Two (now the Championship).

SEPTEMBER 4



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THE RECORD

It's a busy day when the 4th September is concerned, with the Town in action 25 times on this day. The record is mixed, too - nine wins, nine defeats and seven draws have taken place with the Hatters scoring 31 and conceding 30.

FIRST & LAST

The Town were last in action on this day two years ago when they were beaten 2-0 in front of the live Premier Sports TV cameras at Grimsby Town's Blundell Park.

The first game in the record books on this day took place 115 years ago in 1897 when Leicester Fosse held the Hatters to a 1-1 draw.

SOLE GOALS

The Town last tasted victory on this day in 2007 when goals from Don Hutchison and Paul Peschisolido earned a 2-0 win over Northampton Town in a Football League Trophy tie at Kenilworth Road. The strikes were both players' only goals in Luton colours.

RED DEVILS

The Hatters have twice taken on Manchester United on this day. A Bert Dawes goal gave the Town victory at Kenilworth Road in 1937 in the Old Second Division (now the Championship). However, the Hatters were defeated at Kenilworth Road in 1990 when a solitary goal from United's Mark Robins gave the Red Devils all three points on the plastic pitch.

MARGIN OF VICTORY

Only one of the Hatters' victories on this day have been by a margin of two or more goals. It came in 1922 when Brentford were beaten in a Division Three (South) fixture before a crowd of 7,361 at Kenilworth Road. Sid Hoar – with two – Harry Higginbotham and Robert Thompson were on target for the Town.

DON'T MENTION...

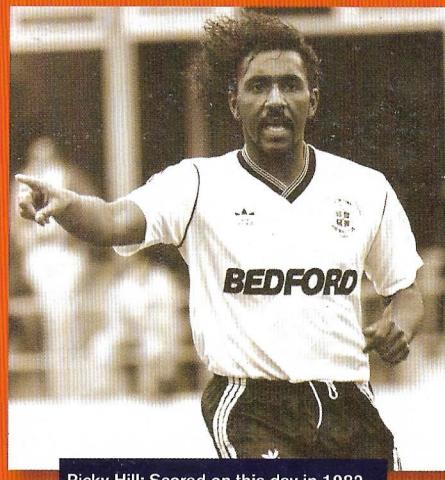
...Bradford Park Avenue. The Town travelled to face Bradford PA twice in three years with both matches falling on exactly the same date, 4th September. A 2-1 defeat in 1946 was followed by a heavier set-back in 1948 when Avenue ran out 4-1 winners.

B+

As well as Bradford PA, the Town have also taken on Brentford, Bournemouth, Brighton, Blackpool, Birmingham, Bury and Bristol Rovers on this day in history.

NOTTS LANDING

The Town trounced Notts County 5-3 on this day in 1982 with striker Paul Walsh netting a hat-trick in his first goals for the club. Further goals from David Moss and Ricky Hill secured the Hatters' first win back in the top flight. The victory also signalled the start of a goal-crazy sequence of results for the Town. This 5-3 win was followed by a 4-1 defeat, 3-3, 4-4 and 1-1 draws, and 5-0 and 3-2 victories in the next six games.



Ricky Hill: Scored on this day in 1982

OWLS END WINNING START

The Hatters began the 2004/05 season with six victories from the first six games after wins over Oldham, Swindon, Barnsley, Torquay, Blackpool and Bournemouth. But, in the seventh, Mike Newell's side had to settle for a point on this day in 2004 when they were held to a goalless draw by Sheffield Wednesday in front of 20,806 at Hillsborough.

ANDRE OFF THE MARK

Talk of The Town caught up with Hatters goalscorer Andre Gray after Saturday's 4-1 triumph over Macclesfield Town to hear his views on a handsome home win and his first goal of the season.

After his bullet header at the near post to give Luton a commanding 2-0 lead at the interval it was a sense of relief felt by the Hatters forward.

"I was glad to break the duck, I had been going through a bit of a drought so glad to finally get off the mark for the season," the 21-year-old.

"It was playing on my mind a little bit because everyone wants to score and watching the other strikers score, you want to score but it's not been a worry really because I think if I'm setting up and playing well they will come".

Gray who finished last season with 30 goals under his belt in all competitions for Hinckley and the Hatters, which included a Play-Off final strike against York, has given the new manager a real selection headache up top with new additions Jon Shaw and Scott Rendell challenging alongside Andre and Stuart Fleetwood for places.

But Gray insists there is no competitive streak between the individuals and the team comes first.

"There's not really competition," he says. "I think that's the good thing, everyone scores and it doesn't matter who scores or who creates the goal as long as we're winning games because everyone has the same goal which is getting promotion and the one thing we have in our team is unselfishness."

Since his arrival in January, Gray has been no stranger to finding the back of the net at Kenilworth Road but scoring a header is something the forward has not been recognised.

"I can't remember the last time I scored a header," he laughs "It's not the strongest point of my game."

"It's something I've been working on in training, I think I still need to work a bit harder but it was a great delivery from Jake Howells and it just dropped on my head."

After nodding home for the Hatters second, Gray was then influential in Scott Rendell adding to his seasonal tally, neatly whipping the ball across the box to leave Town's number 10 with a comfortable tap in after a devastating fast-break.

"That was a good break," continues the former Shrewsbury trainee. "If we can get that break going in

every game I don't think anyone in this league can handle that as we've seen against a lot of other teams and for a lot of our goals. As soon as we get going it's hard for anyone to defend against us."

On the back of a prolific season in front of goal last campaign and, with his fellow forwards starting to fire on all four cylinders, Gray is focused on the forwards as a collective effort rather than setting individual accolades and milestones to aim for.

"I've never really set a target, I just want to play and do well," says the striker, "I've said as long as you keep doing well in the position I am in you will score goals so I don't think that's ever been an issue."

With the early season selections by the manager seeming to indicate a front three will be preferred, Gray confirmed the flexibility of his fellow front-men to ensure the best comes out of everyone.

"We all interchange; everyone can play in every position so we all help each other out," he says. "That's the good thing that there is no selfishness in our team."

"Everyone will do the donkey work like we've seen and then Stuart Fleetwood is just standing there to tap in, it doesn't matter as long as we win games."

With the summer additions of Jon Shaw and Rendell adding to what is already a prolific frontline that would worry any defensive line in this division, Gray was quick to comment on how the differences between players would this season cause huge problems for opposing sides.

"Teams will be expecting me and Fleets to run in behind but he has got a lot more to his game than that, he won't just keep doing that, he'll drop in and everyone will do a different job for the team and I think that's where defences will struggle against us."

And, after breaking his duck on Saturday the Wolverhampton-born marksman paid tribute to the home support on Saturday afternoon – believing the support was a catalyst in the squad pushing on for an impressive result.

"The crowd play a big part in us scoring early and them getting behind us plays a major part," he says. "Teams come here and expect a bit of a result because of the pressure on us due to our large following but I think now we've kick-started our season we can go on a bit of a run at home and I think that's what we need."

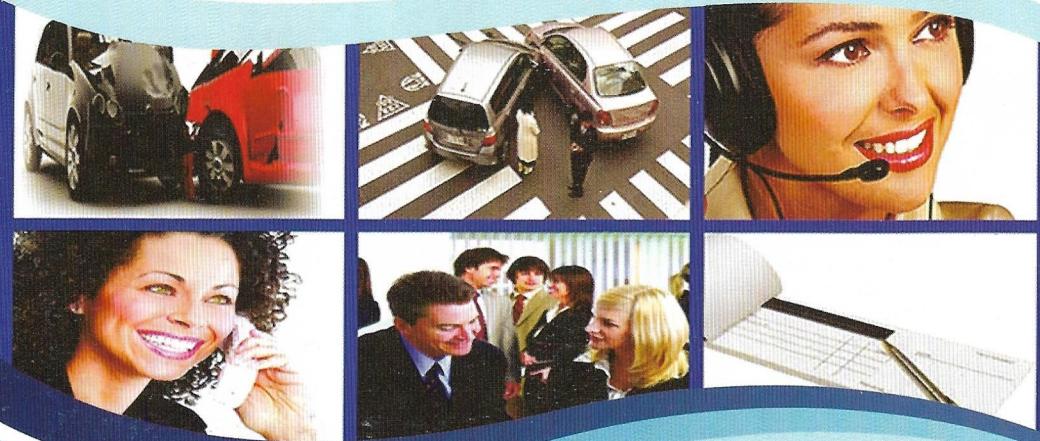
Andre feels the force of a Macclesfield challenge on Saturday



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MARVIN

FOR ENGLAND!

After leading the Luton Town Legends to an 8-1 demolition of Aston Villa's All-star XI, captain and goalscorer Marvin Johnson caught up with Talk of The Town to reminisce about his romance with the football club.

MARV, YOU'RE BACK! HAPPY?

Very happy, we got the win, everyone who knows me has seen on my facebook and twitter pages saying I don't want the lads turning up today thinking it's going to be a jolly hop and obviously it wasn't, but we got the result and we got a few goals to entertain the crowd as well.

WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN PUTTING YOUR TEAM TOGETHER?

Me personally, being a very competitive person, I was looking to do my best to try and get a performance out there, and get a result, which is the main thing. At the end of the day, the fun comes at the end of it.

A GOAL AS WELL FOR YOURSELF, WERE YOU DREAMING OF THAT LAST NIGHT?

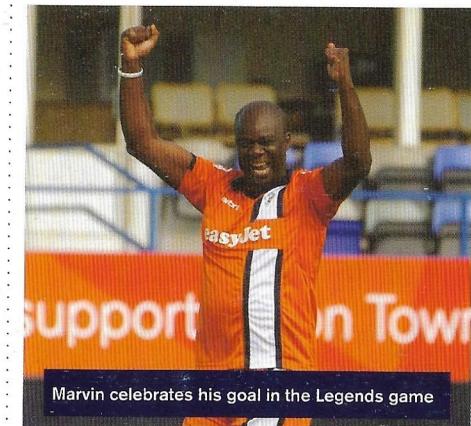
I wasn't dreaming of it but I've got a few friends at a boot camp I run with the girls and I was saying I probably will be man of the match. I didn't know I was man of the match but I scored a goal and speaking to the girls after the game I said, 'I told you so'.

WITH YOU RUNNING THE BOOT CAMP, HOW WERE THE FITNESS LEVELS?

The fitness levels were not too bad but I tried playing a bit of tennis on Thursday leading up to the game, just to get a bit of fitness behind me with Carl Emberson. I twinged my calf in the first set so I've been icing that Thursday, Friday and Saturday and managed to come out today and last long enough to get a result.

WITH OVER 400 APPEARANCES HERE INCLUDING TESTIMONIAL, YOU MUST HAVE HAPPY MEMORIES OF KENILWORTH ROAD?

Always happy memories. I spent my whole career here which is something I've never regretted. A lot of people ask me if I regret not moving on, but no, my life and my career have been the way it is and I've had more happy memories here than sad memories.



Marvin celebrates his goal in the Legends game

WITH YOURSELF AND FELLOW PLAYERS FROM THIS AFTERNOON'S FIXTURE PLAYING FOR LUTON IN THE HIGHER DIVISIONS, IS IT A LITTLE SURREAL SEEING THE CLUB WHERE IT IS AT THE MOMENT?

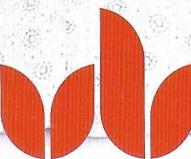
It makes me feel grateful to be honest. Conference football is something you would never have thought when you see a club like this, but the Premier League seems so far away now. That was where the club was when I joined, playing the likes of Manchester United. I may have taken it for granted, but I can appreciate those days now, very much so.

YOU POSTED A PICTURE UP ON YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE OF YOUR FIRST PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT. SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU BEGAN YOUR CAREER HASN'T IT?

Very much so. I didn't actually remember the wage amount when I first signed because at the time I was 16 and playing in the old first division. I remember walking into David Pleat's office and him basically just telling me I'd been given a professional contract and that was it. I didn't really hear the money side of it because I wasn't signing for money – I would have signed for a fiver, if I'm being honest. I was just happy to become a professional footballer and to sign my first professional contract.

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REACTION

RENDELL UP AND RUNNING

Tap-ins? Who cares. A goal is a goal and, in the case of Scott Rendell, the striker would take another 18 of them this season if it helped fire the Hatters to promotion.

His strikes against Ebbsfleet – his first for the club – and against Macclesfield on Saturday – ended the forward's search without a goal and guess what? They helped the Hatters on their way to successive victories after the disappointment of the home defeat to AFC Telford.

"It was a long time coming - every striker likes to score as many as they could but at the end of the day it's all about the team," the 25-year-old told Talk of the Town. "It was nice to get the first goal against Ebbsfleet and it's even better to know as strikers we're all helping each other."

Rendell has already set up several goals this term and it was his unselfish pass against Ebbsfleet that set-up Stuart Fleetwood for the Town's opener in the 3-1 win at Stonebridge Road on Bank Holiday Monday.

"I was tempted to shoot but Stuart's given me a shout from behind me and in those situations you've just got to trust each other," says Rendell.

"I knew I had my back to goal and he was in a better position. He scored – so it turned out the way we wanted. It's good to see us working together well as a front four. Knowing each others' game is vital."

In the opening fixtures of the campaign the forward, who spent a hugely successful spell with tonight's visitors Cambridge, had been used by manager Paul Buckle as a deep lying forward, just in front of the central midfielders.

And Rendell is embracing his influential position afforded to him by the boss.

"I have played there before," he said. "It's a little bit deeper and picking up a midfielder or two mark is fine by me."

"The gaffer has asked me to do it so I'm not going to complain. Hopefully I can get into the box like I have done and continue to score goals like I have."

The Town failed to break down AFC Telford two weeks ago but picked up their first home win of the campaign on Saturday against the Silkmen – something the striker hopes can be the start of a good record at Kenilworth Road.

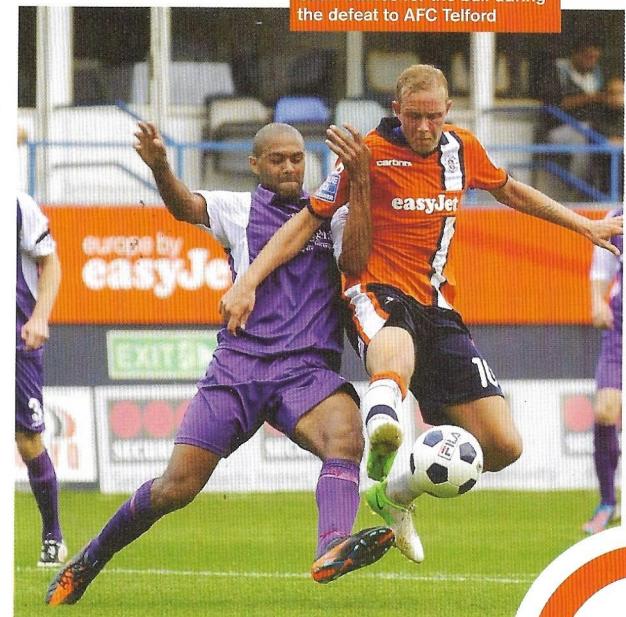
"Away from home the home team can't just sit there, but when teams come to our place nine times out of 10 they're just going to sit there and soak up pressure," says Rendell.

"We just need to learn to be a bit more patient, especially after the Telford game. They scored from one set-piece in the first half and in the second half they barely moved out of their own half."

"Teams know they will be in for a tough game when they come here but we just need to learn to deal with that. "The positive thing is we are creating chances and the goals will come – like they did against Macclesfield."

"We have responded brilliantly to the Telford result. Six points and seven goals is a great return from the last two games."

Scott battles for the ball during the defeat to AFC Telford



FROM THE PRESS BOX

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO'S BILL COLE REFLECTS ON THE PERILS OF OUTSIDE BROADCASTS

There has rightfully been great praise once again this season for the terrific support of Hatters fans. Great season ticket sales, a fantastic turnout at Ebbsfleet and at Hyde, too, where the journey to Manchester on a Friday night was horrendous.

Leaving Luton at 1 o'clock with the programme due to start on BBC 3CR at 7pm, we got there at 6.45pm after a nightmare trek across the country, having given up on the M6, and suffered a 100-plus mile crawl on the M1.

A broken connector also had to be overcome by moving out of the press box to share an alcove with a less than happy PA announcer. Nevertheless, my colleague Euan Duncan did a great job to remain calm enough to get us underway and we even had some genuine praise for the end result.

Adventure

Outside broadcasts can be a real test. Not so much lately, because the BBC equipment is so much better now. But in the Radio Bedfordshire days, it was a different story. Every outside broadcast was an adventure.

On one occasion I was covering an evening Southern League game at Tring. Then, we broadcast with the latest model mobile phones of the day – a full size telephone handset on top of a battery the size of a couple of house bricks. This had to be plugged in as soon as we got to the ground in an effort – usually a vain one it must be said – to get enough charge into the battery to last the match. That night it didn't last beyond the team news.

Background noise

So I had to use the club telephone on the bar of the clubhouse. It did mean leaving pitch-side to do regular updates but that proved to be the least of my problems.

At half-time, the bar was heaving so I turned my back to the throng to report with as little background noise as possible, only for someone to win the jackpot on the slot machine. Instead of my dulcet tones the listener got an earful of coins hitting the collecting tray.

Kick the dog

And getting some guidance from Dave Jones in dealing with adversity, when I pointed out how lucky his Cardiff side had been to win at Ninian Park. "You're from Luton aren't you? Go home and kick the dog" he advised with a grin.

That's outside broadcasts for you – full of highs and lows. Just like watching Luton Town actually!



Bill in the press box on Saturday

But there were some good times. Rafa Benitez was a great and charming interviewee for someone he didn't know from Adam – mind you Liverpool had just beaten Luton 5-3 in that epic cup tie a few years ago.

Some amusing times, too. Trying to prise a few sentences out of a diffident Steve Coppell at Reading was enough of a job without fellow scouser and Hatters manager Mike Newell heckling from the sidelines.

THE PRESS OFFICE PICTURE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER

LEGENDS

In my previous column, I touched on the fantastic performance our Legends side gave a week ago last Sunday to demolish a previously unbeaten Aston Villa side 8-1 at Kenilworth Road.

It was great to see some of the heroes from my teenage years in Graham Alexander, Julian James and Marvin Johnson strutting their stuff as if they were still involved in the game – and better still to interview them post-match.

However, it was a legend of a different kind who graced our presence on Saturday for Macclesfield Town's visit.

As a football-mad youngster, in the days before official websites and social media, the best way I could keep up-to-date with life at Kenilworth Road was via the words of Brian Swain, the Luton News sports editor.

Brian was back in the press box – his second 'home' – to witness Saturday's 4-1 victory over Macclesfield and it was great to catch up and reminisce about Town games from the past with a man who I always wanted to be when reading his match reports every Wednesday evening.

Granted, my journalistic background never took me to the Luton News, but I owe Brian a wealth of gratitude for giving me the motivation and interest to take up writing as a career, especially when it eventually led to me covering Luton Town.

FUTURE STAR

The future is most definitely bright at Kenilworth Road if the conversation I had on Saturday is anything to go by.

Before the match, I was briefly tasked by Under-11-14 coach Jordan McCann to keep an eye on young striker Luca Kapadia whilst the coach talked with his Luca's father.

I immediately switched on to interview mode and was quick to enquire where he played – "striker." Okay, so how many goals did you score last season? "76."

But, it wasn't his goal-scoring feats that impressed me – nor was the fact he is a Luton Town fan, either. It was the honesty and level-headedness of him that made me smile. He was quick to recognise that, as a striker, you need to work hard for the team and that defending as a team is just as important as scoring goals.

Luca told me Stuart Fleetwood was his favourite player, too. And, after watching Stuart and fellow forwards Andre Gray and Scott Rendell find the net on Saturday, his role models are certainly doing their best to inspire the younger generation.

FACEBOOK v TWITTER

The emergence of our online social media platforms continues to give us a market to a wider audience with presence on both Facebook and Twitter now reaching a combined 17,000 fans around the world.

In recent months, however, our Facebook page – which we launched first, in 2009 – has been caught rapidly by its rival Twitter, with Mark Zuckerberg's product ahead by just 300.

Why has Twitter caught up so much? I have no idea. But, the more the merrier. If you're on either, why not pop up and say hi, and let's try and get to 10,000 followers and fans on each by Christmas?

#COYH



Films at Luton Library Theatre



African Queen (PG)

Wednesday 5 September
2pm & 7.45pm
105 mins, 1951

Out of Africa (PG)

Friday 7 September
2pm
161 mins, 1985
(this film will have an interval)

Phantom of the Opera (12a)

Wednesday 19 September
2pm & 7.45pm
142 mins, 2004

► £4 / £3 concessions / £2 Culture Card Members

► These films are suitable for people from adult day centres.

► **Box Office: 01582 547474 / 878100**

www.lutonlibrarytheatre.com

► Luton Library Theatre, Luton Central Library,
St George's Square, Luton LU1 2NG

Luton
Library
Theatre

Arts Libraries & Museums
Luton Culture

ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH PHIL SIMONS

SHADOW SQUAD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

As many of you may well know, we are proud of our commitment to the community as well as the continued identification of talent and development of young players.

A vital part of this is the two further educational programmes that we run in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire College and Hitchin Town in Baldock and Cedars Upper school in Leighton Buzzard. Both of these schemes have been established and expanded in the last two years.

As far as the Baldock project is concerned, we currently have in the region of 45 players from the age of 16 to 19. The coaching is led by Adam Balletta (one of our UEFA A licence coaches and an ex Hatters schoolboy). He is supported on a day-to-day basis by Pip Davies.

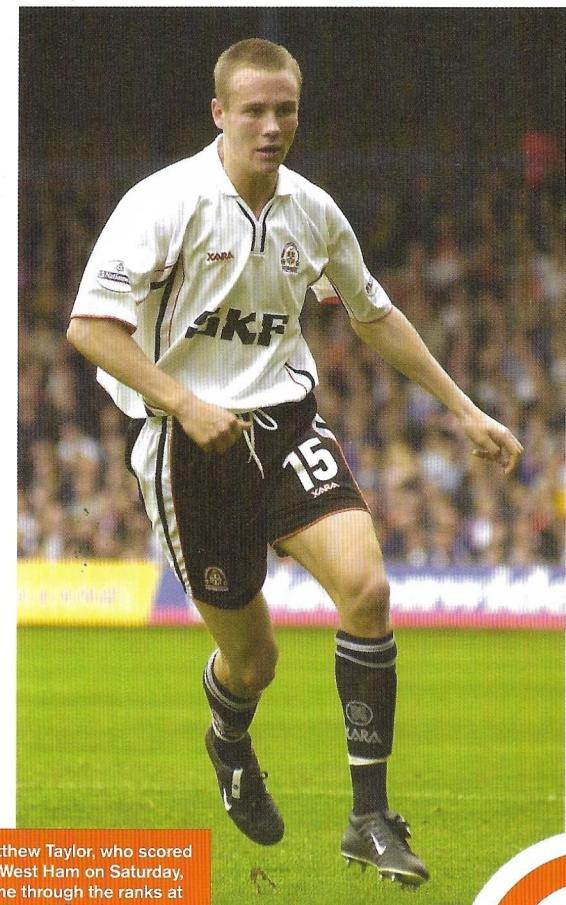
We run two teams in the Football Conference Youth Alliance division and they play their home games at Hitchin Town's training facility in Baldock.

As well as receiving 14 hours of quality coaching each week, the players also take an accredited BTEC course. Gareth Rose, who also oversees the educational requirements for our full academy team and day release for our younger players, delivers this education.

The Cedars Football Academy is a partnership between Cedars Upper School and Luton Town Youth Development for lads who have shown a high level of football ability and also wish to continue with their academic studying, by taking three A levels.

We currently have 28 players enrolled, doubling in size from last season. The team will also compete in the Conference Youth Alliance league and also in the Southern Counties midweek floodlit league. The players are coached by Stuart Smith (another UEFA A licence coach with a long association with us).

As part of this expansion, we have recently agreed with Winslow United to play the College League afternoon fixtures. This takes us to another part of the Home Counties that gives us exposure to Milton Keynes and Aylesbury/Buckingham areas which could prove fruitful in years to come.



Matthew Taylor, who scored for West Ham on Saturday, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road

YOUTH

FIXTURES

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

AUGUST

SAT 11 LEYTON ORIENT A 1-0
SAT 18 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE H 1-2 Jibodu (pen), Smith

SAT 25 STEVENAGE A 3-2 McKenzie-Lowe, own goal, Amu

SEPTEMBER

SAT 01 PETERBOROUGH UNITED A 2-0 McKenzie-Lowe, own goal

SAT 22 MILTON KEYNES DONS A 11.00AM

SAT 29 NORTHAMPTON TOWN H 11.00AM

OCTOBER

SAT 06 STEVENAGE 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 H 11.00AM

SAT 16 SOUTH CUP 3

SAT 23 ALDERSHOT TOWN A 11.00AM

MARCH

SAT 02 AFC WIMBLEDON H 11.00AM

SAT 09 AFC WIMBLEDON A 11.00AM

SAT 16 SOUTHEND UNITED H 11.00AM

SAT 23 PORTSMOUTH A 11.00AM

APRIL

SAT 06 GILLINGHAM H 11.00AM

SAT 13 CRAWLEY TOWN A 11.00AM

EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



The centre forward won a lot by gambling at the near post

YOUTH

LATEST

The Town Under-18s secured their second successive victory in the Youth Alliance with a fine 2-0 success at top-of-the-table Peterborough on Saturday.

An excellent performance and goals from Jemale McKenzie-Lowe and an own goal gave Paul Driver's side all three points against the Championship outfit.

After a goalless first-half the Town took the lead in the 47th-minute. Charlie Smith had a free-kick from 25 yards lipped over the crossbar. From the resulting corner, Jordan Davis regained possession and found Nick Burtenshaw who played the ball to Smith whose cross was drilled in at the back post by McKenzie-Lowe.

The Hatters came close to doubling their advantage but were almost pegged back as Posh pushed for an equaliser. But the Town then added a second in stoppage time to make the victory safe when a Jerome Jibodu cross was dropped into his own net by the unfortunate keeper.

Driver told Talk of the Town: "This was an excellent all-round performance with and without the ball - one of our best in this league over the last 13 months - so we are really pleased with the boys.

"Peterborough will be one of the best footballing sides in the league this season and have made an excellent start, so to play so well and win with our first clean sheet for a while is rewarding.

"It was great to have Zane Banton back after suspension and he made a real difference in midfield, linking things up nicely and Brett Longden looked to be back to his best after the injury when he came on."

Town v Ipswich: Carpenter, Burtenshaw, Galliford (sub Longden), Rees, Jibodu, Chabata, Amu, Smith, McKenzie-Lowe, Banton, Davis (sub Cobb). Subs not used: Barnes, Stanley, Haag.

2012/13 YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS



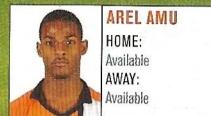
ZANE BANTON
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



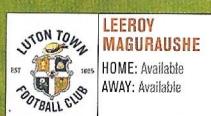
TINASHE CHABATA
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHISOLM AMADI
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



AREL AMU
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



LEEROY MAGURAUASHE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



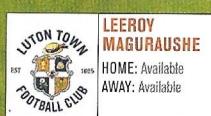
BEN MCFARLANE-BARNES
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available
GLOVES: Available



JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



IAN REES
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHARLIE SMITH
HOME: Peter Mitchell
AWAY: First Capital Connect



NICK BURTENSHAW
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



JOSEPH CARMER
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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* Valid for Super Off-Peak tickets only. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

First Capital Connect

YOUNG STARS



NAME: Charlie Smith

AGE: 16

POSITION: Central midfield

TIME SPENT WITH LUTON TOWN / WHEN JOINED:

Seven years. I joined the club as an Under-8.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST?

My range of passing

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

My agility and my weaker foot.

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

The club has a great record of bringing through young players and giving them an opportunity to play first-team football. I am also a supporter of the club.

WHO IS YOUR FOOTBALL IDOL?

Wayne Rooney.

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

My family.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To become a professional footballer.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER?

Wayne Rooney.

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

To make more appearances for the first team.

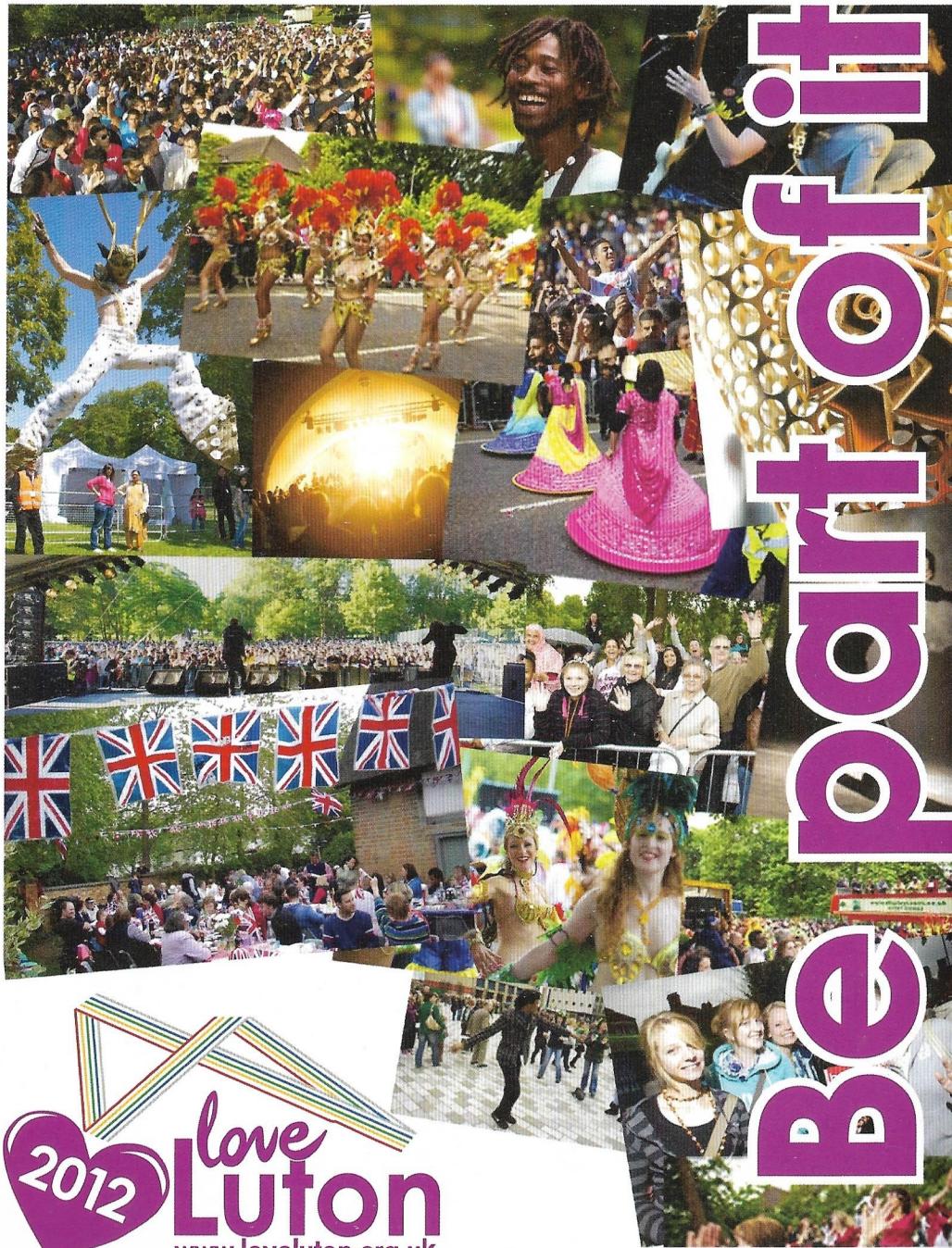
FACT

Did you know? Charlie made his Hatters debut last season in the home FA Trophy first round replay tie against Hinckley United. Charlie was also an unused substitute in two first-team games last season - in the FA Cup tie against Swindon Supermarine and the first Trophy meeting with Hinckley.



Charlie goes for goal against Hinckley last season

Charlie Smith is sponsored by Peter Mitchell and First Capital Connect



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LUTON LADIES

IPSWICH TOWN 3-2 LUTON TOWN

The Hatters' Ladies slipped to their second defeat of the season to a well organised Ipswich Town side on Saturday.

Ipswich showed their promotion credentials by taking an early lead on the counter attack after the Town had pinned them back during the opening minutes. However, the Ipswich striker collected the ball 45 yards from goal and ran past four defenders far too easily before finishing well.

Keeper beaten

Nicola Henman's shot for the Hatters whistled past the post with the keeper beaten as the Hatters searched for an immediate reply. The equaliser came shortly after though when a Rachel Kosky corner was headed goalwards by Jade Doherty and Rebecca Scott seized on the rebound to score.

The second period started very poorly for the Hatters when the ball was only half-cleared from a corner, and the Ipswich striker was able to pick her spot from 20 yards.

Minutes later it was a real uphill battle for the Town when another corner caused problems in the six yard box and the price as a grateful Ipswich striker fired home.

To their credit the Town reacted well and within 10 minutes they were back in touch when Lydia Radley fired the ball into the roof of the net from 18 yards.

With 25 minutes left the Hatters pressed for the equaliser, but without seriously threatening the Ipswich goal, they were left to reflect on what might have been having had the best of the second half.

Problems

Manager Dave Baker told Talk of the Town: "We are currently having problems in defence with players unavailable and injured, but that can be no excuse for some of the sub-standard defending.

"I don't think we threatened the opposition goal anything like enough, and this – together with the defending issues – have to be addressed quickly



Rebecca Scott: Scored the Town's first goal against Ipswich

as this is an unforgiving level when it comes to the punishing of mistakes.

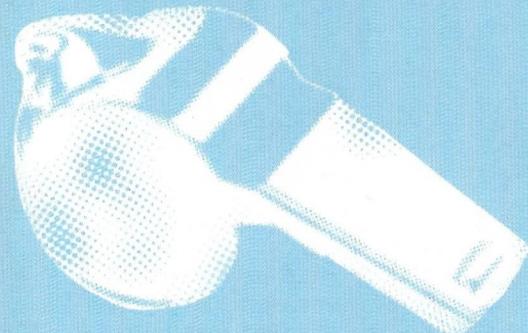
"We will have to improve rapidly as four out of the next five games are away from home and we need to climb the table quickly now."

The Ladies' next game is away to MKD at Newport Pagnell next Sunday (kick-off 2pm).

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

#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

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



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SAID.
JUST
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LEAGUE

LOOK

JOE FLEMONS ROUNDS-UP
THE LATEST IN THE BSBP

Newport County still sit top of the pile despite their 100 per cent league record being demolished at the hands of Wrexham.

The early kick-off on Saturday was one that had all eyes watching as last season's wounded semi-finalists take on the current front runners in an all-Welsh league classic.

Exiles goalkeeper Lenny Pidgeley was beaten by a magnificent individual effort by Wrexham's Adrian Cieslewicz. The Polish winger neatly shifted the ball onto his right foot before drilling a low shot into Lenny Pidgeley's far corner with less than half an hour on the clock. Danny Wright then finished off Newport's unbeaten start with a powerful header from close range.

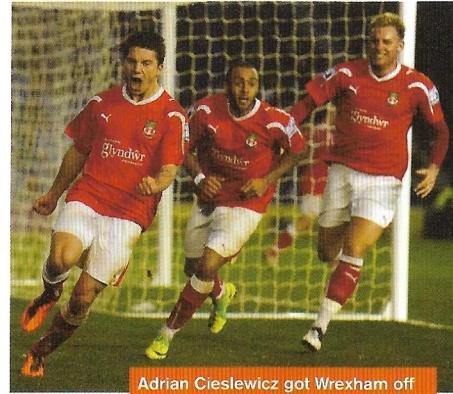
Forest Green were the main beneficiaries from Newport's defeat as they closed the gap to just a point at the top of the table. Former Hatter Ben Wright completed a 3-1 victory for Rovers as they continue their impressive opening to their campaign.

Gateshead leapfrogged Macclesfield into fifth after they extended their unbeaten start to the season when Yemi Odubade tapped in just after the hour mark which proved to be enough to overcome a tricky fixture away at Nuneaton.

Dartford hammered five past Alfreton Town as they start to hit top form with their third win in as many games. Harry Crawford opened the scoring for the Blue Square Bet Premier new boys with just 11 minutes on the clock. He then followed that up with his second and Dartford's fourth shortly after the restart, before capping off a memorable afternoon for the 20-year-old, who was released by Southend at the end of last season, by completing his hat-trick 10 minutes from time.

The Reds will need to put this disappointment behind them quickly as they travel to Lincoln City this evening before hosting the Hatters on Saturday afternoon.

Telford are unbeaten in four games after another impressive away display, this time at Southport. The Bucks started strongly and ensured their dominance paid off inside half an hour with Steve Jones finishing from close range. Kieron St Amie continued his purple patch in front of goal, finding the net just before the hour mark and capping off Telford's comfortable 3-0 win.



Adrian Cieslewicz got Wrexham off to the perfect start against Newport

Hereford slumped to their second successive defeat at the hands of Grimsby. The Mariners took the lead five minutes before the half-time oranges were dished out as Dayle Southwell's sweetly struck effort from inside the box found its way into the bottom corner. A sweet finish but a sour end to the first half for Hereford who then found things twice as bad heading into the break when Shaun Pearson doubled Grimsby's advantage and secured all three points.

Grimsby travel to Barrow this evening after the Bluebirds' disappointing 1-1 draw with Kidderminster which saw the Harriers secure their first point of the season.

Elsewhere Braintree picked up all three points with a 2-1 win against Tamworth who tonight travel to Mansfield. The Stags secured just their second home win of the season by beating Woking 3-1 at Field Mill on Saturday.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

BARROW v GRIMSBY

BRAINTREE v KIDDERMINSTER

DARTFORD v NEWPORT

FOREST GREEN v EBBSFLEET

HEREFORD v WOKING

LINCOLN CITY v ALFRETON

MANSFIELD v TAMWORTH

NUNEATON v TELFORD

SOUTHPORT v GATESHEAD

STOCKPORT v MACCLESFIELD

WREXHAM v HYDE

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



IN THE COMMUNITY

FREE SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT SPONSORED BY EASYJET WITH SUPPORT FROM THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE TRUST SUPPORTED BY THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS' ASSOCIATION



easyJet

Luton Town and the club's community trust are pleased to confirm that, thanks to continued support from our main club sponsor easyJet and the Football Conference Trust, our free schools visit project, which aims to provide free curriculum time football coaching and PE lessons to all schools within Luton and Bedfordshire, will once again be offered to all schools in our catchment area.

Last year, almost 60 schools and over 18,000 school children enjoyed a visit from our community department coaching staff.

The Football Conference Trust, which was launched last season for member clubs of the Blue Square Bet Premier and Blue Square Bet North and South, and involves both the Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association committing up to £400,000 each for the next two seasons, is designed to encourage member clubs to develop their work in their local communities. Each member club can apply for a maximum grant per season of £20,000.

Football Development Officer, James Hatch, who runs the easyJet free schools visit project on behalf of the Community Trust, told Talk of the Town: "Last season we had a great response from local schools who have asked us to come in and help with all kinds of requests from running lunch time clubs to coaching the schools' football teams.

"The funding is great because for the first time in quite a while we can now get all of our local schools involved with the club at no cost to them. We hope this project will not only help schools with providing quality PE lessons but also by getting the children involved with Luton Town to provide future supporters of the club. This year, due to increased funding, schools can apply for breakfast, lunch-time and after-school clubs as well as curriculum time coaching."

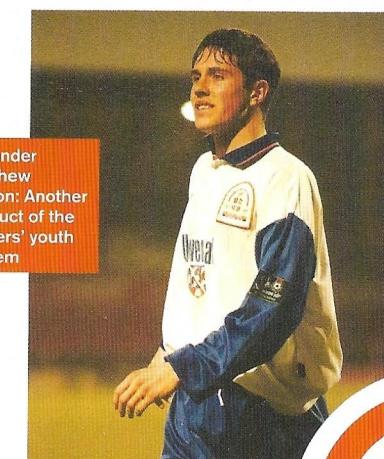
For any schools looking to be involved in the project you can contact James Hatch at the club on 01582 583618 or via email on ltfc.freeschoolsvisitproject@hotmail.co.uk.

TIPS PROGRAMME

To enrol on our TIPS programme is really easy; you can collect our leaflet from the club shop or ticket office tonight, or either email us at tips.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01582 583618 for further information and to register a place.

Players need to be in at least school year 2 from September to be eligible for a place and up to school year 11.

The courses take place in centres at Aylesbury, Bedford, Biggleswade, Bletchley, Dunstable, Flitwick/Amphill, Harpenden, Hitchin, Leighton Buzzard, Luton and Shefford.



Defender
Matthew
Upson: Another
product of the
Hatters' youth
system

FIXTURES AND

RESULTS

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

August

Sat 11	15:00	H	Gateshead	D 2-2	6,743	76	11	Tyler	Taylor**	Rowe-Turner	Henry	Kovacs	Kasim*	Howells	O'Donnell	Rendell	Gray***
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	Shaw**
TV Fri 17	19:30	A	Hyde	W 2-1	1,141	477	3	Tyler	Henry	Taylor*	Rowe-Turner	Kovacs	Kasim**	Lawless	O'Donnell 1	Rendell	Shaw
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	Shaw
Mon 27	15:00	A	Elfsbfeet United	W 3-1	2,018	1,246	5	Tyler	Lawless	Taylor	Rowe-Turner	Beckwith	Howells	O'Donnell**	Rendell 1	Gray*	Shaw

September

Sat 1	15:00	H	Macclesfield Town	W 4-1	5,803	111	3	Tyler	Beckwith	Kovacs***	Rowe-Turner*	Lawless	Taylor	O'Donnell	Howells 1	Rendell 1	Gray 1**
Tue 4	19:45	H	Cambridge United														
Sat 8	15:00	A	Alfreton Town														
Sat 15	15:00	H	Wrexham														
TV Fri 21	19:30	A	Grimsby Town														
Tue 25	19:45	A	Tamworth														
Sat 29	15:00	H	Southport														

October

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

November

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

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

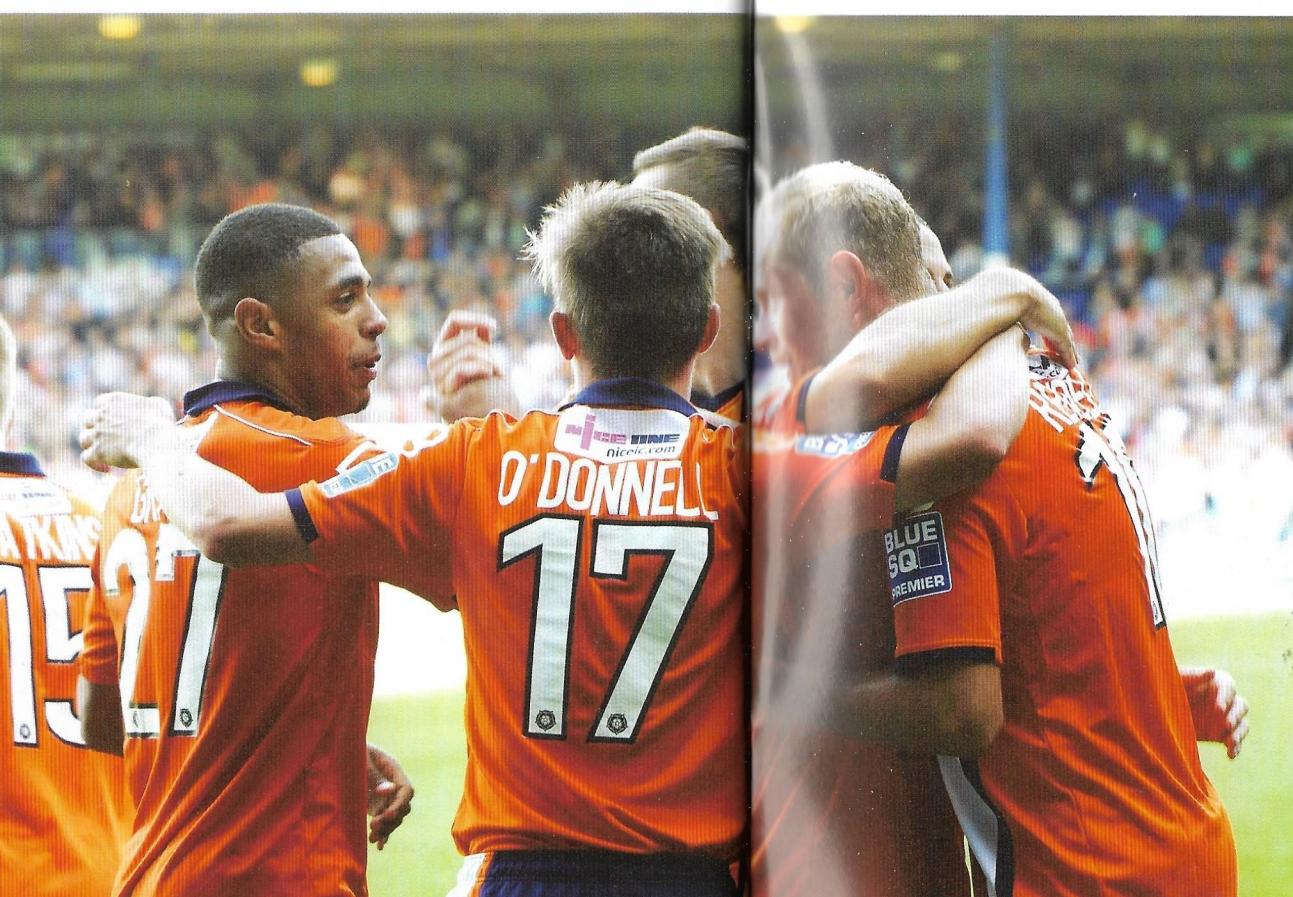
April

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														

SUBS

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

Fleetwood 1	Brill	Essam***	Watkins*	Woolley**	Walker



LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13

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

PLAYER STATS 2012/13

	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON		TOTAL		DISCIP	CAREER
LEAGUE APPS	LEAGUE GLS							
<th

LET'S GO

TO ALFRETON TOWN



After two successive home matches here at Kenilworth Road, the Town take to the road to face Nicky Law's Alfreton Town.

Where? Door-to-door (that's the Maple Road car park to the car park in Alfreton) it's just 107 miles. Straight up the M1 for 100 miles, until junction 28, and then a short three-mile trip on the B600 into Alfreton. Simples. If you're plotting your coordinates you can find the town at 53°06'00"N 01°23'00"W.

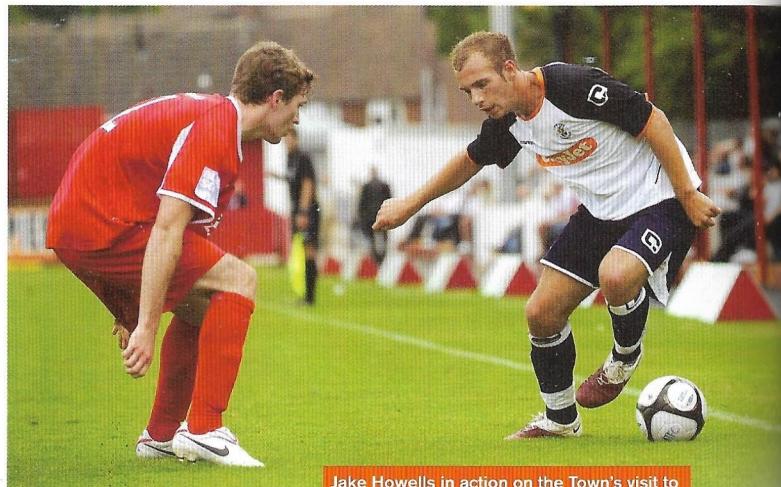
But I might get lost? Ah, trusty sat-nav...punch in – before you set-off, please – DE55 7FZ. That'll get you there with time to spare to pop into the social club just by the main entrance.

Sounds all too complicated, how else can I get there? The Bobbers, as ever, will be going from the Maple Road car park at 11.30am. It's £20 for adults and £17 for concessions, and if you want to book simply call 01234 856542. Also, if you want to take the train, the station in Alfreton is a mile's walk from the ground.

Alfreton. Talk to me. The Town is in the Amber Valley district in Derbyshire and has a population of 22,302. Alfreton's best home attendance so far this season is a mere 690, for when Hereford came to town on 18th August.

Hail the King! Alfreton is said to have been founded by King Alfred, aka Alfred the Great, and it's believed the town took its name from him.

Okay, enough. What about the football? The Reds, as Alfreton are known, are currently enjoying their second season in non-league's top flight after the club won the Blue Square Bet North title in 2011. The Impact Arena holds 3,600 with 1,500 of those seating.



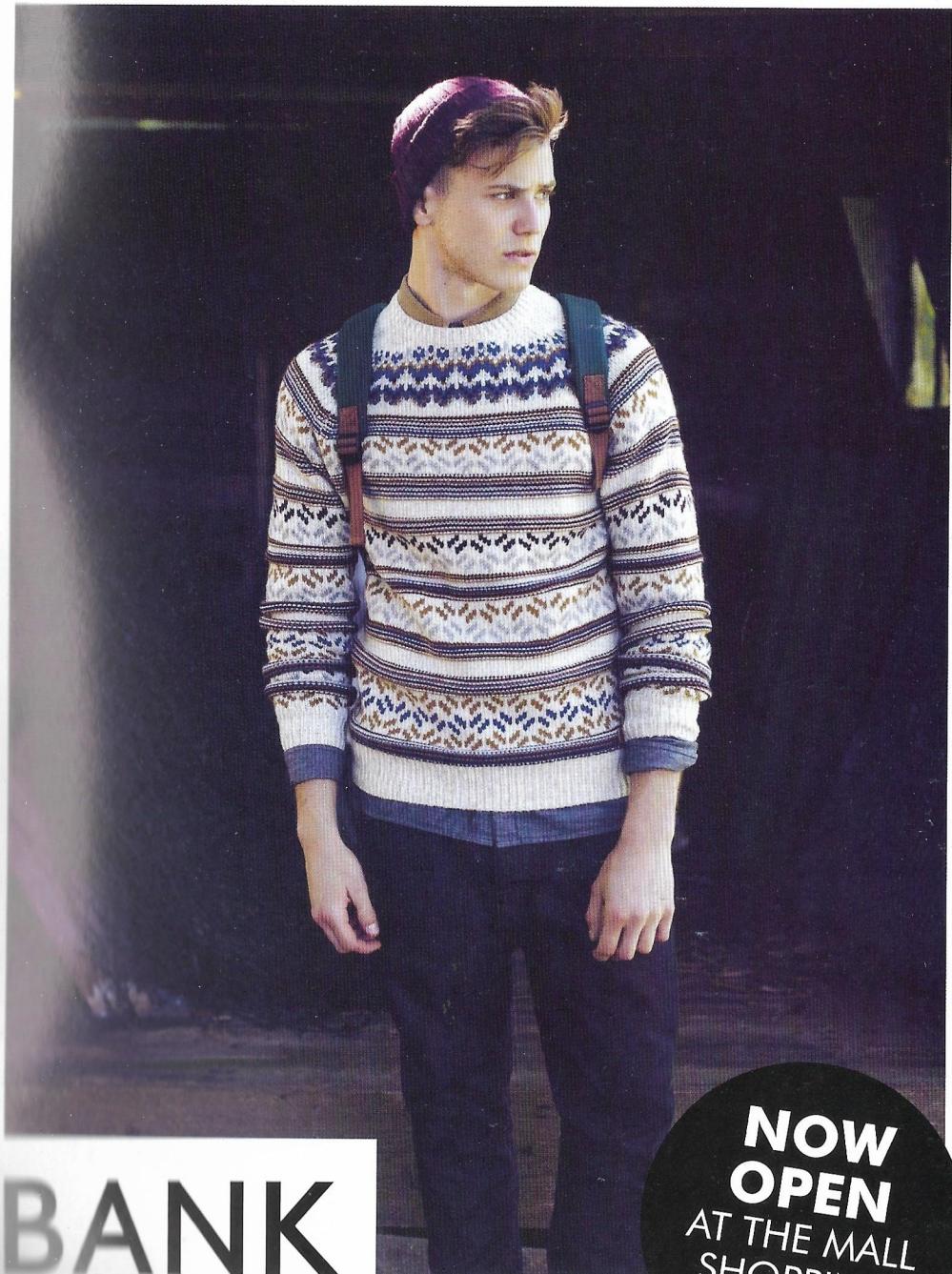
Jake Howells in action on the Town's visit to the Impact Arena in the pre-season of 2010

We've been here before right? Oh yes. Twice in fact. The bad news is the Hatters haven't scored a goal on either occasion. A 2010 pre-season friendly saw the Town given a 3-0 hiding. Then, last term, on the Town's first competitive visit to the Impact Arena, both sides drew a blank in a goalless draw in what was Paul Buckle's second game in charge. Two Andres – Gray and Bouaud – came close to grabbing the Hatters a winner but the Reds held on to secure a point.

Town travellers. Hatters fans will once again be housed in a partially covered terrace behind one goal. Last season, 889 supporter made the trip – outnumbering the Alfreton fans.

Close proximity. While it may not apply to many of our readers, it must be noted that the press box at the Impact Arena is handily located behind the home team dugout. During last season's stalemate, one comment from one of our well-known local journalists got a verbal volley from the hosts' manager after a harmless statement of opinion.

Food 'n' drink. A trip to the Impact Arena is up there when it comes to some of the best food served in the Blue Square Bet Premier. Pie, chips and gravy went down a storm last term. Burgers, hot dogs and hot and cold drinks are also on the menu. Be warned though; if the Hatters following is as large as it was last year, then expect to queue.



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TONIGHT'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**

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

1 Jonathon Hedge
2 Kevin Roberts
3 James Jennings
4 Josh Coulson
5 Michael Wylde
6 Tom Shaw
7 Billy Gibson
8 Ricky Wellard
9 Michael Gash
10 Tom Elliott
11 Harrison Dunk
12 Rory McAuley
13 Will Norris
14 Scott Garner
15 Andy Pugh
16 Rossi Jarvis
17 Liam Hughes
18 Luke Berry
19 Adam Marriott
20 Jonathon Thorpe
21 Adriano Moke
22 Robbie Willmott
23 Jack Eades
24 Craig Ross
25 Blaine Hudson
26 James Brighton
27 Luke Allen
28 Sam Smith

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: W. Barratt
ASSISTANT: S. Brown
ASSISTANT: M. D'Aguilar
FOURTH OFFICIAL: S. Leaf

HERE NEXT

WREXHAM

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2012
KICK-OFF 3PM