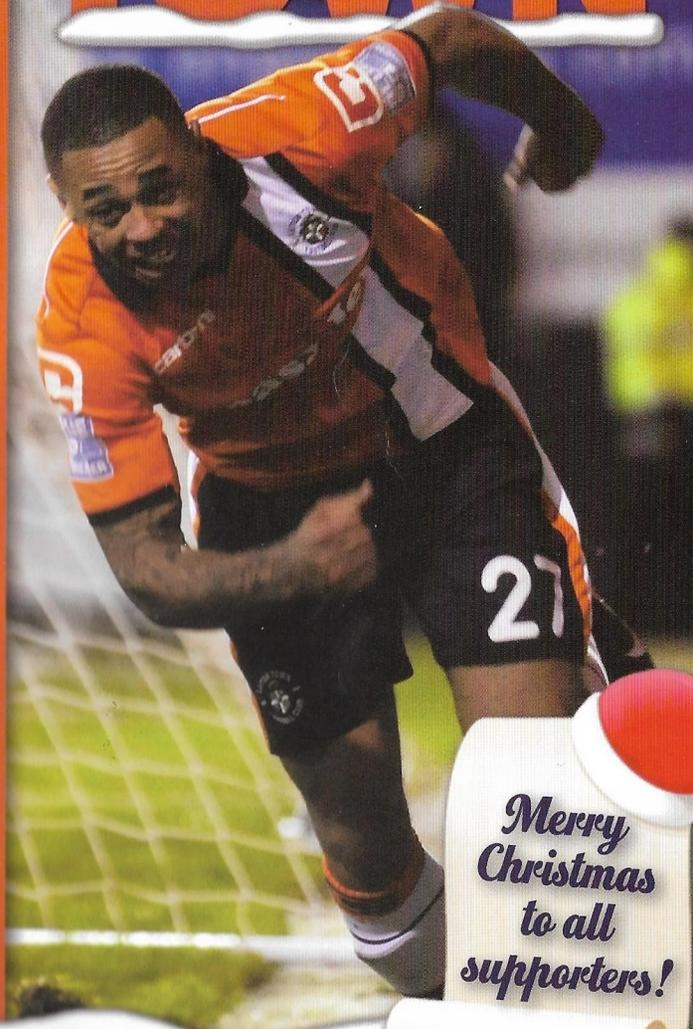


Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club



# TALK OF THE TOWN

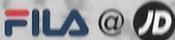
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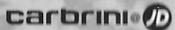
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# WELCOME

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- PHYSIOTHERAPIST:** Simon Parsell
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### OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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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

**Good afternoon and Merry Christmas to you all and welcome back to Kenilworth Road. I hope you are enjoying the festive period and had a great day yesterday.**

Boxing Day fixtures are always special and it's fantastic that we are able to play a home game today. Our record here at Kenilworth Road this season hasn't been as good as we expect it to be. To have lost three matches at home at this stage is hugely frustrating. But those games are in the past now and there's nothing we can do about them. All we can do now is focus on our remaining games.

There is a long way to go this season and it's vital we begin to turn this place into a fortress. Your support can help us. I know it can be frustrating at times but we need your backing for every minute of every game.

This run of festive fixtures can shape a club's season and we are no different. All the managers, chairman, players and supporters at other clubs will be thinking the same - but thinking about winning isn't good enough. It's about going out there and doing it, and that is what I will be telling the players.

It's also important not to get carried away and look too far ahead. Yes, we have games coming thick and fast, but when the stakes are so high the age-old cliché of taking every game as it comes really does make a lot of sense.

## Fantastic

I am writing these notes prior to our trip to AFC Telford United but these are my first set of programme notes since the home victory over Alfreton Town.

That afternoon I thought we were fantastic, especially in the second half where we scored three quick goals. The most pleasing aspect of the victory that day was that we learned to deal with the negative tactics of the opposition. We were not drawn down to their level

and we kept our patience. I hope that we have learned from that experience and go on and remain calm when teams decide to time-waste here at Kenilworth Road in future games.

It goes without saying that I was disappointed with the match at Newport and the manner in which we fell to defeat. All I will say is we knew the mistakes we made. Newport adapted to the conditions better, we didn't and we were punished.

## Winning ways

However, we got back to winning ways at Matlock in a thoroughly tough FA Trophy tie. Once more the players gave everything to ensure we left Matlock with a victory and with it a place in the last 16. That fact we scored our winner in the dying minutes shows a great character and that's something I felt we were missing when I first came to the club.

To still be in two cup competitions and in striking distance of the top of the table goes to show how well we have done this season. There's no doubt there's more to come but the players deserve a lot of credit for what they've achieved so far this season. Every player's attitude has been spot on and if we can continue the strides we have made this season then the New Year is going to be very exciting.

## In this together

Remember we're all in this together. 2012 has had its fair share of ups and downs but here's hoping that 2013 brings us all the success that this Club so richly deserves.

Thank you for the support - keep it up - Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you back here on Saturday when Ebbsfleet are the visitors.

*Paul*



# BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON



**Good afternoon everyone. We extend a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road and Season's Greetings to all the officials, players and supporters from Woking.**

Promoted last season, what an interesting first half of the season they have had. They have

conceded more goals than anyone, yet are half way up the table.

Since my last notes, against Dartford, we have won five, drawn two and lost two. I know some will say that most of those wins were against lowly opposition, but you can only beat what is put in front of you.

## Unacceptable performance

The major disappointment was the humbling by Newport on a frosty night in South Wales. It was a totally unacceptable performance and result and, although there may have been some excuses, none justified the way we were taken apart on the night in front of the television cameras.

The icy weather had put the game in doubt and our coaches inspecting the pitch felt it unlikely that it would go ahead. Gary Sweet and I had set off early and went to see for ourselves and both felt the same. The goalmouth was solid and the forecast was for the temperature to drop before and during the game. However, the referee decided the pitch was playable and the game would start. As it happened the temperature did not drop so the pitch didn't get any worse.

There were two forced changes from the team that did so well the previous Saturday against Alfreton and the rest is history.

The journey home was, as it always is when we lose, long and depressing. Gary and myself discussed the situation at length and gave a lot of thought as to how we

could best help resolve the dilemma. Was this a one off or a deeper problem?

The next day we met with Paul Buckle in the same vein. We wanted to know his analysis of the game and what went wrong and how, between us, we could put it right. This process was, in my view, the right one.

## The right man for the job

The reaction to the result from some quarters was extremely disappointing. The answer to a single defeat is not "let's sack the manager." If, as we do, you believe he is the right man for the job, he has to be helped to achieve the results we all so desperately crave.

We at 2020 are committed to and are passionate about this Football Club. We have invested, not lent, over £10 million in the last four years and put massive amounts of time and energy into running the club and looking towards the future. We need to be promoted, and anyone who doesn't believe we want it doesn't know us very well.

I expect that at some stage during the Wolves game we will be able to chant "who are you?" to the visiting supporters. Well I would like say the same to our so called fans, who hide behind anonymity whilst claiming to be in the know or on the inside.

Unattributed comments from the Luton Outlaws unofficial forum were printed at some length in the Newport programme.

As a group we welcome criticism and try to respond to all those who write, text, email or tweet. However, friends are not anonymous.

## Season of goodwill

I am proud to be associated with this football club, but not always of the way it comes across and we waste many hours, better spent in other areas, correcting misinformation and disinformation spread by a few with dubious motives.

I am conscious that I am harping on, but in this season of goodwill and new resolutions, can we think about how we can make everyone personally responsible for their comments, opinions and public utterances.

Rant over.



What a delight it was to welcome comedienne and actress Miranda Hart to the club at our game with Alfreton. She was filming a documentary about her hero, Eric Morecambe. She sent a note to Nick Owen thanking him and saying how much she had enjoyed the day.

At Matlock, former Hatter Barry Butlin joined us in the boardroom at and wrote said we thoroughly deserved the win. Of course, I remember him fondly as a player and it is tremendous that he keeps an interest in and affection for the Club.

Finally could I take this opportunity of congratulating Monty Panesar for his outstanding contribution to England's historic Test Series victory over India. Maybe the most telling point is that in the only game we lost he didn't play. I was fortunate to sit next to him at a Charity Dinner just before he left for India. He actually asked to sit next to me, would you believe, so that he could talk about us - Luton Town Football Club.

## Thank you

Thank you for shelling out your hard earned cash to support our beloved club in such difficult times.

We wish you all Season's Greetings and health, wealth and happiness for the New Year

Enjoy the game  
COYH

*David*

## HONOURS

**Littlewoods Challenge Cup:**  
Winners 1988  
Runners-up 1989

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

**Johnstone's Paint Trophy:**  
Winners 2009

**Simod Cup:** Runners-up 1988

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

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

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 1969/70

**League One:** Champions 2004/05

**Football League Division Four:**  
Champions 1967/68

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 2001/02

**Blue Square Premier:**  
Runners-up 2009/10

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

**Southern League Division Two:**  
Runners-up 1913/14

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

**Southern Alliance:** Runners-up 1913/14

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**RONNIE**

# HENRY

**Good afternoon and Happy Christmas to you all.**

As a player I have always enjoyed the festive period with so many games and big crowds and, as this is my first Boxing Day game as Luton captain, I am particularly looking forward to this afternoon.

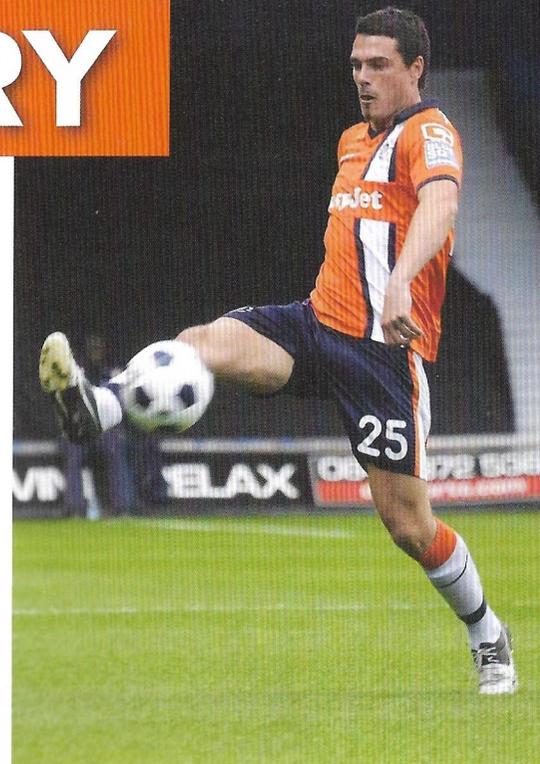
Due to printing deadlines I am writing these notes before Saturday's game at Telford where I hope we used the confidence taken from the gutsy win at Matlock to good effect.

Our form away from home has been good – with the exception of three heavy defeats, two to two of our promotion rivals. Before the Telford game we were still very nicely placed in the table and we went there hoping to win three points that we felt we should have won when we played them here at Kenilworth Road way back in August.

It seems hard to believe we are already at the mid-way point in the season. I remember writing my notes in the aftermath to that defeat to AFC Telford and, looking back, it's disappointing to read how many times I have been frustrated with aspects of our game. Against Telford we lost due to a goal from a set piece and that has been a rather annoying pattern this season.

Our performances on the whole have been good but we know they need to be better if we're to be a success this season. All the lads know what is expected of them from the directors, manager and supporters. The weight of expectation should not be used as an excuse because we are professionals – and very good players too.

It has been a strange first half of the season. In the past month or so we've not played many league matches yet still find ourselves within a couple of wins from first place. No team seems to be running away with it at the top. The Christmas and New Year period can give a club the chance to make a run for it. We know that a string of victories can ensure that we are that team. If we can do that I believe we will be hard to stop. Not just because I know about the quality in our squad but also because your support will help us on the way. If we can get the momentum going we are going to be a very difficult proposition.



First things first though we must make sure we get off to a good start today against Woking. Hopefully we kick-started the festive fixtures with a win at Telford and, with two home games here this week, we have the opportunity to start that momentum. Things don't always work out the way you want them to and I'm sure it won't be easy but we must remember to stay together.

I've used the word frustrating quite a bit in these notes and I guess that sums it up so here's for a better 2013.

Your support this year, however, continues to astound me. All the lads can't quite believe the level of support we get, especially away from home, and all I hope for in this new year is that we can give you something your passion and loyalty deserves. We'll certainly be giving it our all, that I promise.

Enjoy the game and keep up your fantastic support.

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

# AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

## BUSY, BUSY

We all know it's easy over Christmas and New Year period to lose track of time, so here's a little reminder that the Town are back in action again this Saturday, 29th, here at Kenilworth Road against Ebbsfleet United.

Then, on Tuesday - New Year's Day - we travel to face today's visitors Woking at Kingfield. Importantly this fixture kicks off at 1pm.

On 5th January we host Championship club Wolves in the third round of the FA Cup before we tackle Barrow on Tuesday 8th January.

And if that isn't enough home matches to get your teeth into, we're at Kenilworth Road again on 12th January when Skelmersdale United are the visitors in the third round of the FA Trophy.

As we went to press - before 22nd December - there were still two fixtures awaiting new dates: an away game with Macclesfield and a home match with Hyde.

## TROPHY TALES CONTINUE



As mentioned above, the Hatters host Skelmersdale United in the FA Trophy on 12th January following the 2-1 victory over Matlock Town on 15th December.

Skelmersdale play three divisions below the Hatters but, at the time of writing, were unbeaten in their league fixtures.

## FA CUP NOTICE

Tickets for our forthcoming FA Cup tie with Wolves are selling well and are now on general sale from the ticket office.

However, supporters should note that tickets are only on sale to those with a historical record on the club's database.

## MIRANDA BRINGS SUNSHINE

At our last home game, against Alfreton on 8th December, popular actress and comedienne Miranda Hart paid Kenilworth Road a visit.

Miranda at Kenilworth Road



The television star was on location to film a segment of a documentary on her comedy hero Eric Morecambe and paid the lounge in his name a visit pre-match.

She discussed Eric's affinity with the Hatters with chairman Nick Owen before she watched on from the lower tier of the Kenilworth Road end as the Hatters put Alfreton to the sword.

Unfortunately her prediction of a 200-0 Town was some way off but she left happy. She later tweeted: "Loved the vibe at Luton Town. Three nil. Three blooming nil. Go @LTFC\_Official P.s. I am all about No. 6!"

Lucky Janos!

## BEDS SENIOR CUP EXIT

The Town bowed out of the Bedfordshire Senior Cup on Tuesday 18th December after a 2-1 defeat to Arlesey after extra-time.

Trailing at the break, the Hatters equalised with three minutes left following a fine diving header from James Dance.

However, the Town's very own football in the community officer James Hatch restored Arlesey's lead two minutes into extra-time and the hosts held on to secure a quarter-final tie with Barton Rovers.

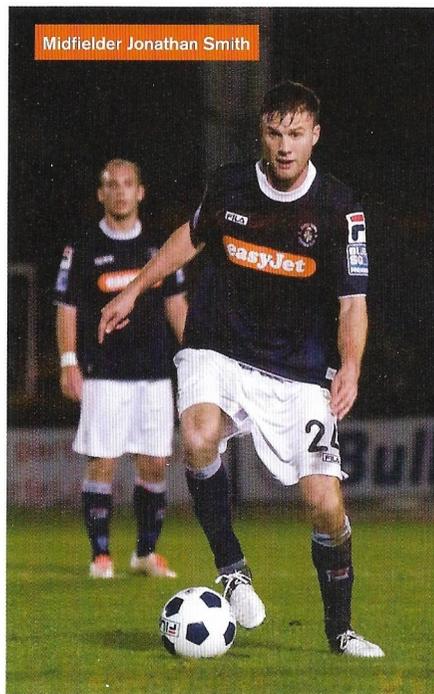
Team: Barnes, Audel, Taylor, Beckwith, Lacey, Robinson, Watkins, Dance (sub Amu), Walker, Woolley, Ann (sub McKenzie-Lowe). Subs not used: Jibodu, Smith, Longden.

## PLAYER MOVEMENT

Since our last home fixture, midfielder Jonathan Smith has been recalled from his loan spell by parent club York City.

Smith scored his first goal for the Town in the 3-0 win over Alfreton but was beckoned back by the Minstermen 48 hours later.

Midfielder Jonathan Smith



Meanwhile, young goalkeeper Lewis Kidd has joined Banbury on loan and youth team midfielder Jerry Nash has agreed to join Hitchin on loan.

## GOLDEN GAMBLE

Pat Ware went home even happier after our home game with Alfreton after scooping £585 on our half-time Golden Gamble draw.

This afternoon's draw is likely to see our biggest pay-out of the season so remember to buy your ticket off one of our friendly sellers in and around the ground for just £1.

## SAFETY FIRST FOR ELITE SQUAD

The Hatters' Under-19 Elite Squad paid a visit to Hertfordshire Fire Service to learn about the perils of road traffic collisions (RTCs).

The first-year student players, who are enrolled on BTEC level 3 National/Extended Diploma in Sports run by Central Bedfordshire College, visited Baldock Fire Station to be presented with the consequences of RTCs, especially during the festive season.

Academy Operations Manager Phil Simons, who attended along with the players, told Talk of the Town: "It was really eye opening, even for me. I could see from the players reactions that they felt the same way and it will make them respect other road users when they embark on driving."

It was not all hard hitting videos and talks, though. The players also got to see and participate in the fitness drills undertaken by firemen, as well as holding the heavy duty machinery that is used to cut free passengers from wrecked cars.

Indeed the session ended with the Fire Service inviting them back in the future to participate in a training drill when they will get the chance to cut up a real car!



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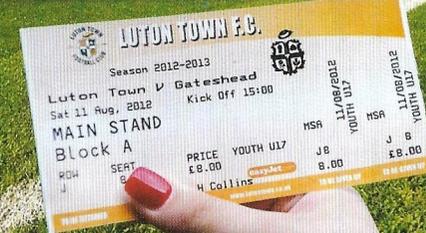
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### HOME TICKET PRICES

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



### LUTON TOWN v EBBSFLEET UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2012, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale normal matchday price.



### WOKING v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 1PM

This match is not all-ticket for Town supporters. Subject to availability tickets will be available on the day. However, due to our allocation supporters are strongly advised to purchase tickets in advance of the game.

We have received an allocation of 1,152 terrace tickets and 238 seated tickets from Woking.

(Further seating is available if required). Tickets are on sale now on general sale until 11am on 31st December 2012. Ticket prices are as follows for both seating and terracing:

£15 adults, £10 over-65s and students with ID, £5 under-16s. Wheelchair disabled tickets are available at these prices with a carer free of charge.



### LUTON TOWN v WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY 2013 KICK-OFF 3PM

Normal matchday prices apply for this fixture. 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.

Tickets are now on general sale to all supporters. Any Diamond Season Ticket holders that have not taken their free FA Cup ticket can do so by contacting the Ticket Office.



### LUTON TOWN v BARROW

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



### LUTON TOWN v SKELMERSDALE UNITED

FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 12TH JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Admission prices: adults £10, 65-75 & 17-21-year-olds £6, 10-16 & over-75s £4, under-10s £1.

Please be advised that certain areas of the ground will not be open.

News of this will be released once finalised.



Buy tickets online at [www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown](http://www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown) or call 01582 416976

# COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Merry Christmas and welcome to one of biggest matches of the season so far. The department have been incredibly busy over the past week gearing up to welcome our corporate guests which include our match sponsors Edac.

It's been a hugely successful year for us and there are a number of exciting projects and events planned for 2013.

Our last big event took place at the Chiltern Hotel earlier this month when former Town striker John Hartson took to the stage in one of our popular events in recent years.

We're lucky to have another match before the New Year is out when Ebbsfleet are at Kenilworth Road on Saturday and we also have a big game against Wolves to look forward to.

A number of sponsorship, hospitality and mascot packages are still available for that FA Cup third round tie with the Championship side on 5th January so if you're interested in please do get in touch.

## MATCH SPONSOR

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## MATCHBALL SPONSOR

Today's match ball sponsor is Neil Coles. Neil was brought up in Luton but has resided in the Turks and Caicos Islands for the past 18 years.

He still follows the Hatters avidly. Neil's son Lucas is the mascot today and Neil is accompanied by his wife Helle, daughter Jasmin and season ticket holders – dad Terry and nephews Ryan and Jamie.

## TODAY'S MASCOTS

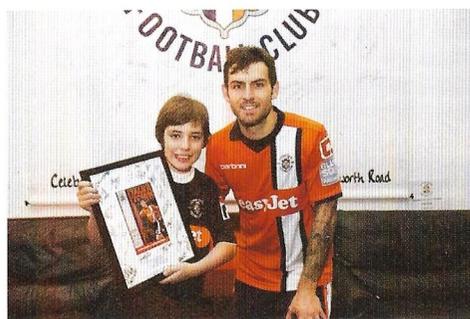


We have the pleasure of welcoming two mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon who will lead the team out onto the pitch before kick-off.

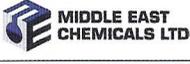
Lucas, who we have already mentioned above, is six years old and attends Provo Primary School. His interests include football, golf, cricket, hockey, tennis and reading. His favourite Luton player is goalkeeper Mark Tyler.

Our second mascot is Alex Marsh who celebrates his seventh birthday today. Alex plays for Pitstone & Ivinghoe under-8s and his favourite Hatters player is also goalkeeper Mark Tyler!

We all hope you have a wonderful afternoon with us.



## EXECUTIVE BOX HOLDERS

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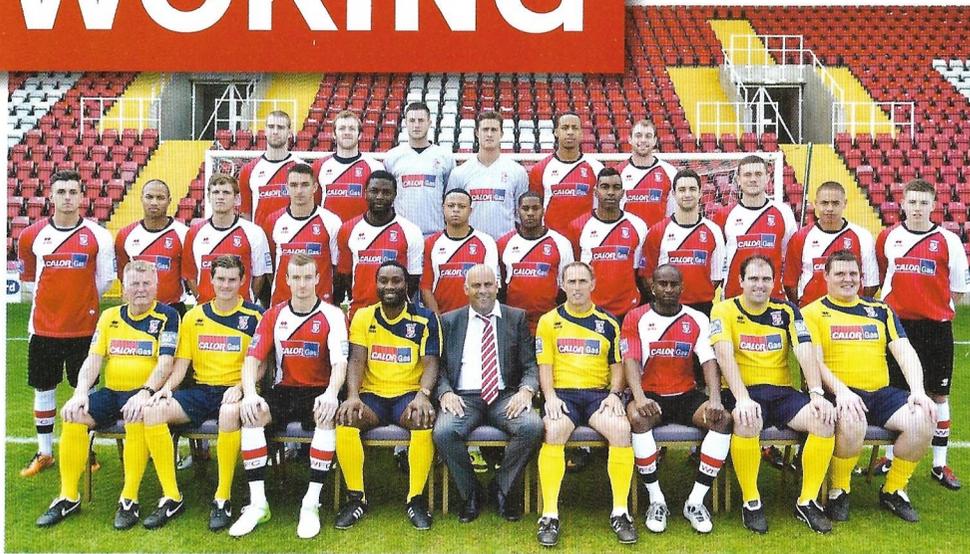
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# WELCOME WOKING



**This afternoon the Hatters welcome Woking for their first ever visit to Kenilworth Road. With neither team having met before in league action the teams will lock horns today before being reacquainted in six days time.**

The Cards may be unfamiliar with the Kenilworth Road turf but this is not the first visit to Bedfordshire for one in the Woking ranks. Adam Newton returns to Luton for the first time since his departure last season. The former England U21 International spent three years in Town colours making 54 appearances and finding the net twice during his tenure.

Woking boast a side littered with league quality. John Nutter, who is a former Conference winner with Stevenage, signed on loan for the Cardinals in November from Lincoln City.

Kevin Betsy provides an attacking threat for the visitors who has Football League experience with Wycombe Wanderers, Hull City and Southend United and is likely to feature alongside Portuguese front man Loick Pires. The latter has proven his quality in the Football League under Russell Slade at Leyton Orient and will be one for the Hatters to keep a wary eye upon.

Mark Ricketts will skipper the Cards this afternoon as he continues to rack up the appearances for Woking after passing the century milestone earlier this season.

The man in charge at Kingfield is Gary Hill, the former Rushden & Diamonds, St. Albans City and Dagenham & Redbridge manager. Hill took over the reins in 2011 and in the last campaign guided the Cardinals to promotion into the top tier of non-league football.

Woking, who sit firmly in mid-table have endured a competent start to the campaign recording notable victories over league leaders Newport County and an early season demolition of Nuneaton Town.

Despite some impressive results and sterling defensive performances their recent form has come under scrutiny. After a 7-0 drubbing of Farnborough in the FA Trophy first round it was their turn to feel the fire as Hyde slammed seven past them just a week later.

Hill's men have rallied since that disappointment and recorded back-to-back wins prior to their FA Trophy exit to Welling United. Finding the back of the net has not been something that has evaded Woking at home in the league as their goal return has them in the top six for marks this campaign.

Their potency in front of goal at home has come at a cost and their away finishing has been below average with just 15 goals scored and 31 conceded on their travels. Both sides will head into today's fixture hoping their Christmas wish comes true and three points complete a magical holiday.

# THE CARDS

## AN AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE WOKING SQUAD

### GARRY HILL

The boss. Appointed in January 2011, he guided the Cards to the Play-Offs in his first season before winning the Blue Square Bet South title last season. Extensive and successful managerial experience has taken him to Heybridge, St Albans, Dagenham & Redbridge, Hornchurch and Rushden & Diamonds.

### SAM BEASANT

Goalkeeper and son of former stopper Dave, who signed for the Cards at the start of the season. Started as a youngster at Chelsea before spells with Wycombe, Amersham and then in Cyprus.

### KEVIN BETSY

Experienced winger who has gone full circle, joining the Cards this summer having began his career at Kingfield. Has enjoyed a distinguished Football League career with a variety of clubs, including Fulham, Barnsley, Bristol City and Wycombe.

### BRADLEY BUBB

Prolific striker who joined Woking on a season-long loan from Aldershot this summer. Came to prominence with Farnborough for whom he notched 40 goals in 88 games which led to him signing for the Shots in 2011.

### MIKE CESTOR

French left-back or centre-half who signed for the Cards in the summer of 2012 from Leyton Orient having impressed at Kingfield on a loan spell last term.

### ADAM DOYLE

Combative centre-half who arrived at Kingfield in 2010 from Bisley Sports. Another former Farnborough man.

### GEORGE FRITH

Talented young central midfielder who has come through the ranks at Kingfield and was awarded a professional contract in the summer.

### AARON HOWE

Goalkeeper who came through the Woking youth system before signing for Carshalton in 2007. Signed for Hayes & Yeading and then Havant & Waterlooville before rejoining the Cards in 2011.

### BRETT JOHNSON

Defender at home at left-back or centre-half who signed from AFC Wimbledon in the summer. Has enjoyed a number of successful spells at Aldershot, Northampton, Brentford and with the Wombles.

### BILLY KNOTT

Energetic and skilful young midfielder who signed on loan from Sunderland in October. Began his career in the Chelsea academy before moving to Wearside.

### GAVIN MCCALLUM

Canadian international winger who signed on the eve of the season. Can name Yeovil, Hereford, Lincoln and Barnet as his previous clubs.

### ADAM NEWTON

No stranger to Kenilworth Road, Adam signed for the cards in 2011 after being released by the Hatters. The popular former West Ham trainee is a regular at right-back for the Cards.

### JOHN NUTTER

Experienced left-back currently on-loan from Lincoln. Has a vast number of appearances under his belt following spells with Stevenage, Aldershot and Gillingham.

### JACK PARKINSON

Midfielder or defender who joined the Cards from Welling in the summer. Made over 130 appearances for the Wings.

### LOICK PIRES

Another former Welling man who arrived at Kingfield this summer. Portuguese-born midfielder has an eye for goal and won the Wings' Player of the Year award last season.

### MARK RICKETTS

Highly dependable defensive midfielder who signed for the Cards in 2009 from Ebbsfleet. Began his career as a youngster with Charlton.

### LEE SAWYER

Former Chelsea trainee who joined this summer. Since leaving Stamford Bridge in 2009 the former England Under-16, 18 and 19 international has had spells with Barnet and Southend.

### DEAN SINCLAIR

Experienced midfielder who arrived at Kingfield this season. Made his name at Barnet before signing for Charlton prior to spells with Cambridge, Arlesey, and Hayes & Yeading.

### JAYDEN STOCKLEY

Promising young striker currently on loan from League 1 side AFC Bournemouth.

### BRETT WILLIAMS

On-loan from Reading, the young forward was reportedly signed by the Royals for £50,000 from Eastleigh after prolific form in front of goal.



**Established:** 1899  
**Nickname(s):** The Cards  
**Stadium:** Kingfield Stadium  
**Capacity:** 6,036 (Avg. attendance '12/13 - 1,525)  
**Manager:** Garry Hill (1 year, 11 months)  
**Final league position '11/12:** 1st BSBS

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Woking have lost 16 points from winning positions this season.
- The Cards have only failed to score in 2 out of 23 games in the BSP.



Probable line-up (4-5-1)

**Woking** won the Blue Square Bet South last season with 97 points to bring their three-year absence from the Blue Square Bet Premier to an end. Manager Garry Hill took charge of the club in January 2011 and steered the Cards to a Play-Off spot in the 2010/11 season, but they lost to Farnborough in the semi-finals. The next year, however, Woking racked up 30 victories and only lost five times which saw them win the title by nine points. This season, the club's primary aim is to survive and over the summer no fewer than 11 players were transferred in to help them do so.

#### A closer look at Woking's season so far

\*stats accurate as of Friday 21st December 2012\*

The side from Surrey currently occupy a mid-table slot in the Blue Square Bet Premier sitting in 12th place. They have played 23, won nine, drawn two, lost 12 and have 29 points. Despite being mid-table, Woking have actually lost the most games in the division. 'Mid-table mediocrity' is certainly not something you can level at the Cards: they have scored 38 goals – the fourth highest in the league – conceded 49 – also the most in the league – and, interestingly, they have had the fewest draws of any side in the league. With Woking's defence conceding an average of 2.13 goals per game, Hatters fans have the right to expect goals today.

After a glance at Woking's away record, Town fans will no doubt gain a great deal of confidence going into this fixture. Hill's side are ranked 21st in the away table. His team have lost the joint most games away from home and have only managed to win on three occasions, but two of those games were against formidable opposition – Newport County and Lincoln City. Of course, the Woking defence has been the biggest cause for concern, and the clean sheet they earned on the 4th December against Lincoln was their first on the road - and incredibly only their second in total this campaign. Before their victory over Lincoln, Woking were on the end of a 7-0 hammering at the hands of Hyde.

#### How will they play? Who are their danger men?

It is fair to say, Woking will have to tighten up at the back if they are to avoid embarrassment here at Kenilworth Road. The Cards possess a great deal of creativity in midfield and play with a refreshing fluidity, but of course, this has cost them defensively all too often this season. You can expect Hill to ask his players to stick to a more disciplined game this afternoon, but we should still see some attractive football being played by the visitors.

There will be a familiar face lining up in defence for the opposition today as Adam Newton comes back to Kenilworth Road. He will operate at right-back alongside powerful young centre-half Joe McNerney, who has also played as a centre-forward in the past, and the militant Adam Doyle. Frenchman Mike Cestor, who signed from Leyton Orient, should get the nod at left-back ahead of John Nutter. In midfield, Mike Ricketts will protect the back four with Dean Sinclair and Lee Sawyer (if he is passed fit) ahead of him hoping to compose the play. The dynamic and skilful Billy Knott will be one to watch out on the left. He has represented England at Under-16, 17 and 20 level. On the other flank, Kevin Betsy, who signed for Fulham in 1998 for a reported £150,000 transfer fee, is expected to provide a great deal of ingenuity for his side. Lone front-man Bradley Bubbb will be a threat off the shoulder of the last Luton defender and is known for his clinical accuracy.

# THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

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

### WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Brian Caffarey

### AGE?

62

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

Since the 1993/94 season, our second season in the Conference. To my great dismay I missed our glorious FA Cup run when we beat WBA 4-2 at the Hawthorns, with Tim Buzaglo scoring a hat-trick. But I enjoyed a trip to Wembley in my first season, seeing us beat Runcorn in the FA Trophy final.

### HOW HAVE WOKING FOUND LIFE BACK IN THE CONFERENCE FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S PROMOTION?

It's been as tough as I expected. The BSBP has changed almost out of recognition during our three-year absence. In the mid-90s we were probably the best non-league club in the country, but the Conference is now dominated by full-time former Football League clubs with greater resources than we can muster. The pleasing thing is that the quality of the football has improved considerably, with higher levels of skill and less sheer brawn.

We've played some lovely stuff at times. The highlight for me personally was our 2-1 win at Stockport but the victories at Newport County and Lincoln City are up there too.

### ADAM NEWTON WILL BE RETURNING TO KENILWORTH ROAD TODAY AS A WOKING PLAYER - HOW'S HE DONE SINCE JOINING YOU?

He's been brilliant – so calm. Oozes experience, which helps to make up for the fact that, understandably, he hasn't got quite as much pace as he used to have. He's been a great mentor to some of the younger players.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR MANAGER?

Garry Hill is a terrific manager – and he's got a fantastic coach in Steve Thompson. Garry's record at Woking and elsewhere speaks for itself. He's a winner and likes to play attractive football but what Woking fans especially like about him is his honesty. You don't get any excuses if we play badly – which we've had from some previous managers.

### WHO'S YOUR PLAYER TO WATCH?

I'd have to single out Kevin Betsy. What a player he still is! Incredibly skilful at holding the ball up and creating openings for others as well as scoring goals himself. It's wonderful to have seen him emerging as a talented young player at Woking and now to have him back again.

### IT'S A REASONABLY LOCAL GAME THIS ONE - ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR TRIP TO KENILWORTH ROAD?

Yes, very much. I spent the first 10 years of my life in Harpenden and remember the Hatters fans pouring through the town on the way to the 1959 FA Cup Final against Nottingham Forest. But I've never been to Kenilworth Road, so it will be a first for me. It will be great to be part of a large holiday crowd. I hope we are not fazed by it.

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

I now stick to boring shouts of 'Come on you Cards!' but, until recently at least, a song deprecating Stevenage was pretty popular on the terraces!

### WHAT'S THE BEST BOXING DAY GAME INVOLVING WOKING YOU CAN REMEMBER?

I'm not sure it was the best – we did a backs-to-the-wall job for a 0-0 draw – but the game at Oxford United in 2006 was memorable because the crowd of 11,065 was the highest-ever for a Conference league game.

### IF YOU COULD PICK ONE THING TO GET RID OF IN MODERN FOOTBALL, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Abusing officials. I'd like to see a complete culture change among managers and players.

### WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CLUB THIS SEASON?

Survival is the key in our first season back at this level, although most of us hope we could manage a mid-table finish. The league is so tight and unpredictable that you wouldn't put it past us challenging for a play-off place or having to scrap to avoid relegation.

### WHAT'S THE SCORE GOING TO BE TODAY?

I'd like to think we could emulate Dartford and give you a good hiding in your own backyard, but I'll settle for a 1-1 draw - with us winning at Kingfield on New Year's Day!

# CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

## FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS 10 POST-WAR WOKING 'CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS'

### 1957/58

Woking won the Amateur Cup for the first and only time in 1957/58. The Cards beat Aveley 6-1, Hendon 3-1, Hayes 5-1 and Finchley 3-2 in the Amateur Cup before defeating Barnet 3-2 in the semi-final replay at Griffin Park. Two goals by Hebdon plus another from Stratton gave Woking a 3-0 victory over Ilford in the final at Wembley: Burley, Ellerby, Parsons, Collingwood, Turner, Clacey, Littlejohn, Hebdon, Mortimore, Hamm, Stratton. Woking finished mid-table in the Isthmian League. Reg Stratton later played for Fulham and Colchester, while Roy Littlejohn had played for Bournemouth and Charlie Mortimore for Aldershot.

### 1990/91

Woking made national headlines as they reached the FA Cup fourth round in 1990/91. Geoff Chapple's side beat Bath City to reach the competition proper for the third successive season and overcame Kiddeminster Harriers 2-1 in a first round second replay. Mark Biggins grabbed a hat-trick as Woking beat Merthyr Tydfil 5-1 in the second round, then Tim Buzaglo claimed a place in FA Cup folklore with a hat-trick in the Cards' stunning 4-2 third round win at West Brom. They lost 1-0 to Everton in a fourth round tie switched to Goodison Park. Woking also beat Carshalton Athletic 2-1 in the Isthmian League (AC Delco) Cup final.

### 1991/92

Geoff Chapple managed Woking to the Isthmian League title in 1991/92. Summer signings Laurence Batty and George Friel made their debuts as the Cards kicked off with a 3-0 win at home to Carshalton and raced to the top of the table with just one defeat in their opening 26 Isthmian League games. The title was won with consummate ease as Woking led by 26 points at one stage and eventually finished 18 points ahead of their nearest challengers Enfield, having trounced them 5-0 at Kingfield. In the FA Cup, Woking defeated Windsor & Eton 4-2 and Yeovil Town 3-0, before losing 2-1 at Hereford United in a third round replay.

### 1992/93

Woking took Brighton to an FA Cup second round replay in 1992/93. The Cards received a bye to the FA Cup competition proper and defeated Nuneaton Borough 3-2 in the first round. Shane Wye's strike gave Woking a 1-1 draw at Brighton in the second round before the Seagulls triumphed 2-1 in the replay at Kingfield. Former Reading striker Trevor Senior was the leading marksman with 11 goals as Woking finished their first Conference campaign in eighth position, winning 5-1 at Merthyr Tydfil. Other favourites included Laurence Batty, Kevan Brown, Andy Clement, Colin Fielder, David Puckett and Scott Steele.

### 1993/94

Woking won the FA Trophy for the first time in 1993/94. Geoff Chapple's side defeated Bashley 4-2, Dagenham & Redbridge 2-1, Bromsgrove Rovers 3-2 and Billingham Synthonia 2-1 in the FA Trophy before beating Enfield 3-0 in a semi-final replay. Goals by Dereck Brown and Darran Hay gave Woking a 2-1 victory over Runcorn in the final at Wembley Stadium. The Cards also defeated Weston-Super-Mare 1-0 to reach the FA Cup second round for the fifth successive year but they lost 1-0 at Kidderminster. Former Chelsea winger Clive Walker was the leading marksman with 19 goals as they finished third in the Conference.

### 1994/95

Woking became only the second team in history to retain the FA Trophy in 1994/95. The Cards beat Chesham United 3-0, Cheltenham Town 3-1, Stevenage Borough 3-0 and Macclesfield Town 1-0 in the FA Trophy before overcoming Rushden & Diamonds 2-1 on aggregate in the semi-finals. Scott Steele and Colin Fielder scored to give Geoff Chapple's side a 2-1 win over Kidderminster Harriers in the Wembley final. Woking never looked a serious threat to Macclesfield's domination of the Conference but reduced the final points deficit to just five as they finished runners-up, also beating Barnet in the FA Cup first round.



### 1995/96

Clive Walker was the leading marksman with 18 goals as Woking finished Conference runners-up for the second consecutive season in 1995/96. They lost three of their opening five matches but soared up the table with seven straight wins. Junior Hunter scored four goals in a thrilling 5-4 win at Morecambe, then grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-1 victory over Telford United. Seven wins in eight games during the closing weeks of the season saw Woking finish Conference runners-up to Stevenage Borough. Geoff Chapple's team also defeated Barnet 2-1 and Enfield 2-1 in the FA Cup before losing 2-0 at Swindon Town in the third round.

### 1996/97

Woking won the FA Trophy for the third time in 1996/97. Geoff Chapple's side defeated Wokingham Town 1-0, St Albans City 3-1, Dorchester Town 3-2 and Heybridge Swifts 1-0 in the FA Trophy before beating Stevenage Borough 2-1 in the semi-final replay. Darran Hay's extra-time goal clinched Woking's 1-0 victory over 10-man Dagenham & Redbridge in the Wembley final. In the FA Cup, the Cards won at Millwall 1-0 and Cambridge United 2-0, before Steve Thompson's strike secured a 1-1 third round draw at Coventry City. They lost 2-1 at home to Sky Blues in the replay. Woking finished fifth in the Conference.

### 1997/98

New manager John McGovern guided Woking to third place in the Conference in 1997/98. The Cards failed to win any of their three opening games but then soared up the table with a six-match unbeaten run. They hammered Dover Athletic 4-0 and Leek Town 5-2 in consecutive home games, bouncing back from a 3-0 reverse at Farnborough to win 3-0 at Stalybridge Celtic with Darran Hay grabbing a hat-trick. Woking triumphed 5-2 at home to Stevenage Borough and won three of their last four games to finish with 74 points. The Cards were beaten finalists in both the Spalding Challenge Cup and Surrey Senior Cup.

### 2005/06

Glenn Cockerill managed Woking to the FA Trophy final in 2005/06. They defeated Uxbridge 2-1, Northwich Victoria 2-1, Welling United 3-2 and Stafford Rangers 4-2 in the FA Trophy before beating Boreham Wood 3-0 in the semi-final. Woking lost 2-0 to Grays Athletic in the final at Upton Park. The Cards won only one of their first six Conference games but soared clear of danger with a nine-match unbeaten run and finished mid-table. They reached the FA Cup second round before losing 2-1 at Northwich Victoria in a replay.



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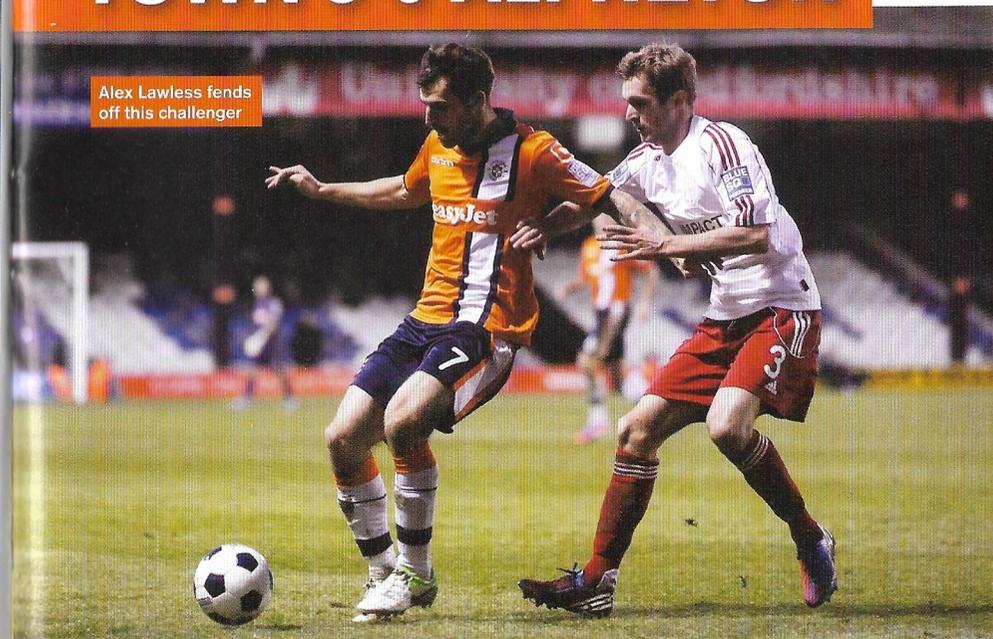
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## TOWN 3-0 ALFRETON

Alex Lawless fends off this challenger



### SECOND-HALF SUPER SHOW

**Town boss Paul Buckle believes his side are now finding their form at Kenilworth Road after three second-half goals saw off a stubborn Alfreton.**

It was a three-goal blitz in the space of five minutes that won it for the Hatters with JJ O'Donnell, Jonathan Smith and Andre Gray finding the target.

And the manager was in an understandably buoyant mood after watching a third straight home victory.

"We're finding our feet at home as well as away now," Buckle told Hatters Player afterwards. "We've changed our game at Kenilworth Road. We've worked on a few things and in the past I thought we passed it too much at home. We've tweaked the way we play slightly, we've got a rugged look about us and we're in people's faces more - in the second half we were fantastic.

"It was a good result and performance against a dogged team. You saw they were time-wasting and it was frustrating but we finally look as though we're getting used to such tactics. We've shown that we've added a real steel to our game now and the players were in no mood to surrender this afternoon."

It was hard to remember that before the second-half super show the score was blank at the break - but it wasn't for the lack of trying according to the boss.

"We went in at half-time having missed several gilt-edged chances," said Buckle. "We put lots of balls into the box but we didn't panic. It's all about belief. I believe in the players and so do the crowd.

"You could sense that in the second half and the atmosphere was electric.

"It was crucial that we came out after half-time and put Alfreton on the back foot. We didn't want to wait or sit back - we went for it, and for it to happen to so quickly was fantastic.

"They were three great goals and we move forward and look ahead to a massive game on Tuesday.

"We're on a good unbeaten run in all competitions but nothing's won yet. We'll keep focused and stay on our game for what is a crucial time of the season. To do that we've got to work hard and today we did just that."

With the scores goalless at the break, O'Donnell broke the deadlock on 53 minutes, meeting Alex Lawless' cross and it soon became 2-0 when Smith headed home another Lawless cross.

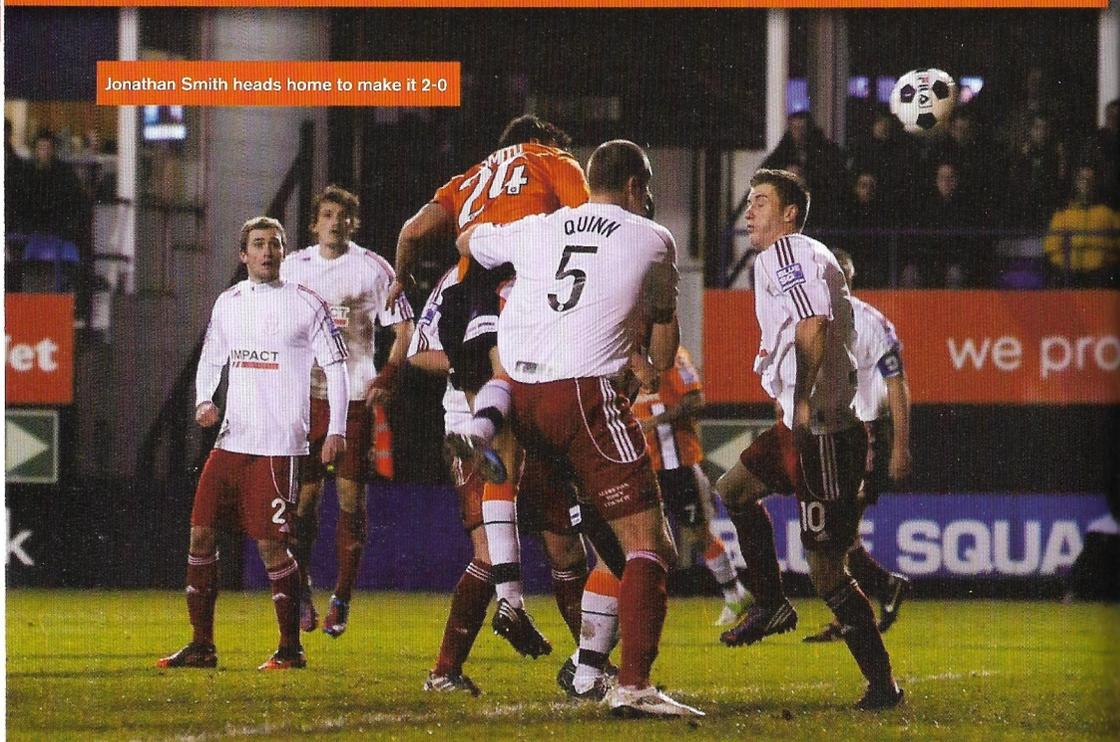
Gray then fired home the pick of the goals - a sweet first-time volley that flashed home following a wonderful cross from Ronnie Henry.



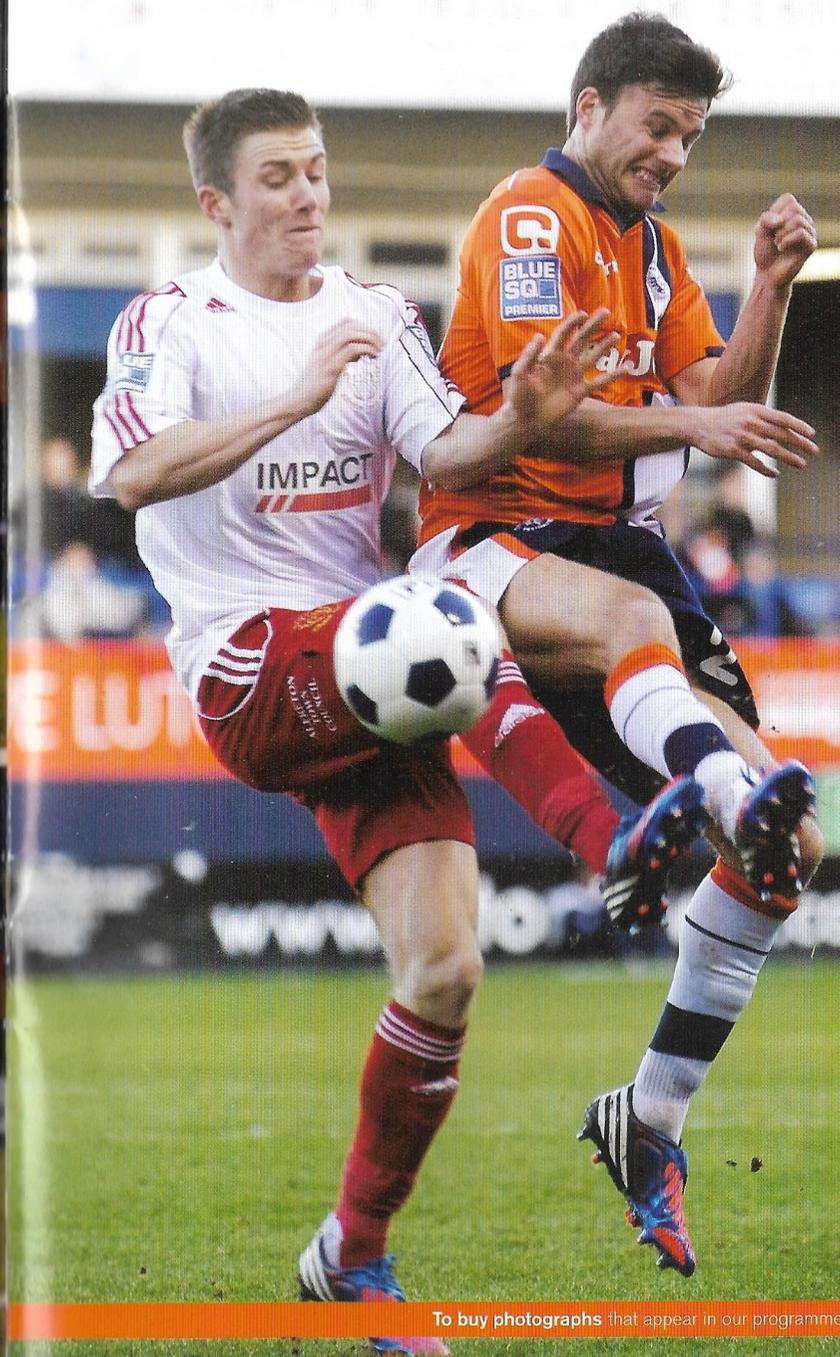
# TOWN 3 ALFRETON 0

O'Donnell 53, Smith 56, Gray 58

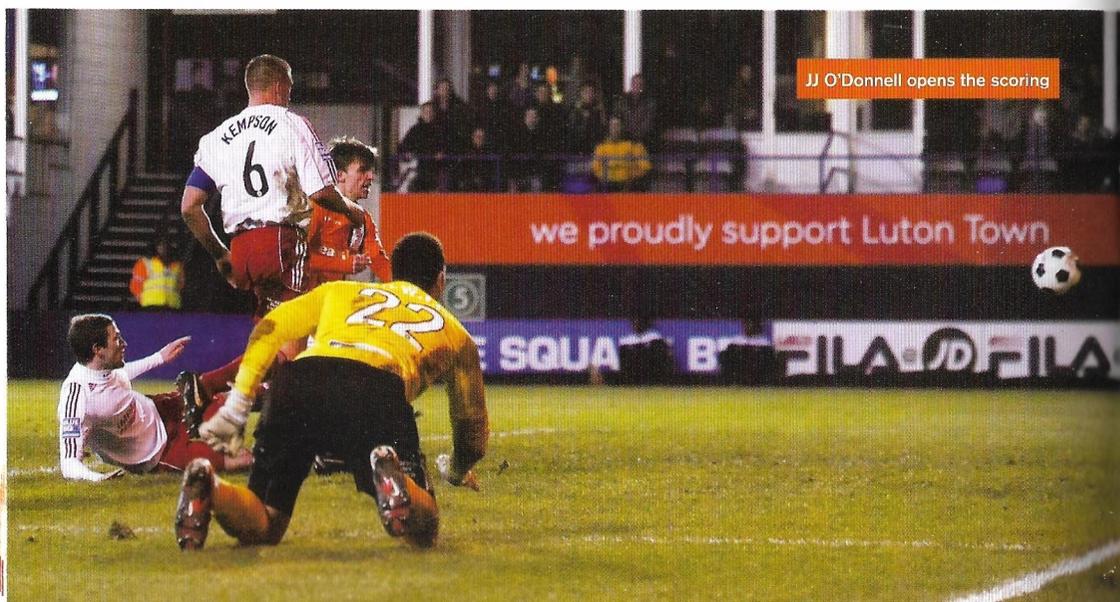
Jonathan Smith heads home to make it 2-0



Smith in typical combative action



JJ O'Donnell opens the scoring



<b>POSSESSION</b>	
65%	35%
<b>CORNERS</b>	
6	4
<b>OFFSIDES</b>	
4	3
<b>SHOTS ON TARGET</b>	
5	4
<b>SHOTS OFF TARGET</b>	
10	2
<b>FOULS</b>	
14	13
<b>YELLOW CARDS</b>	
1	3
<b>RED CARDS</b>	
0	0

### TOWN:

- Tyler
- Rowe-Turner
- Kovacs
- Howells
- Ainge
- Henry
- Lawless
- O'Donnell (sub Walker 90)
- Smith
- REndell (sub Shaw 86)
- Gray (sub Fleetwood 86)
- Subs not used:** Brill, Mendy

### ALFRETON:

- Stewart
- Law
- Franklin
- Quinn
- Kempson
- Bradley (sub Meadows 82)
- Franks (sub Killock 71)
- Harriott
- Clayton (sub Denton 71)
- Arnold
- Tomlinson
- Subs not used:** Streete, Brown

### ATTENDANCE:

5,648 (58 Alfreton)



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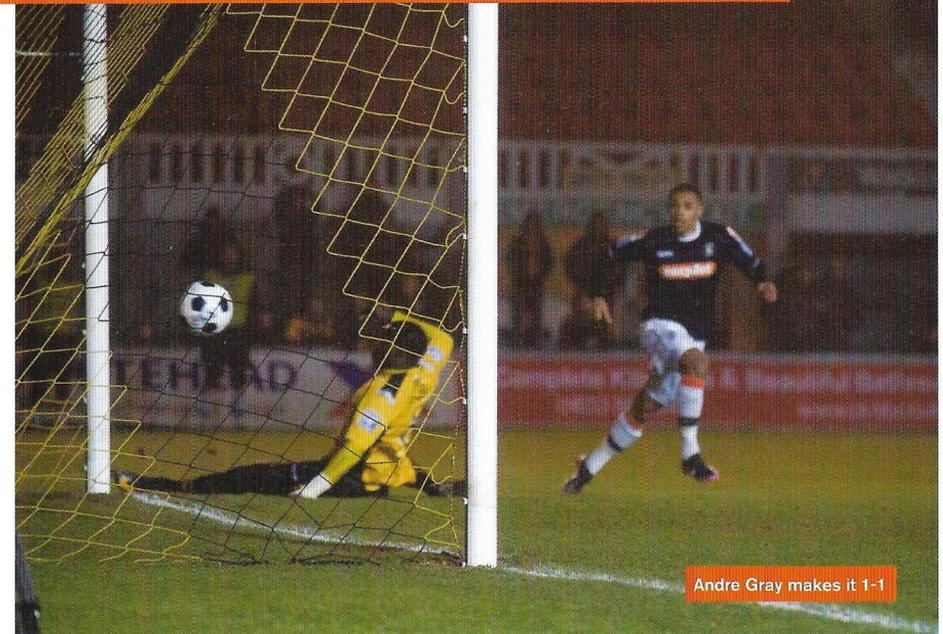
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## NEWPORT 5-2 TOWN



Andre Gray makes it 1-1

### TOWN COME UNSTUCK IN SOUTH WALES

**The Town's six-match unbeaten run came to abrupt end as they were soundly beaten by promotion rivals Newport County.**

Former Hatter Aaron O'Connor had the hosts ahead on 13 minutes before Andre Gray stole an equaliser five minutes later when pouncing on a goalkeeping error from home stopper Alan Julian.

County struck twice before half-time through Christian Jolley and a Ronnie Henry own goal to give them a 3-1 lead.

After the break, half-time substitute Jon Shaw scored to get the Town back in it but the hosts ensured they ended the evening top of the table as two goals in three minutes from Andy Sandell and a second from Jolley killed off the Town's chances of earning a point.

Afterwards, boss Paul Buckle felt his side did not adjust to the freezing conditions as Newport ran out comfortable winners at Rodney Parade.

The pitch passed two inspections before getting the go ahead as temperatures in South Wales plummeted to below zero, but the Town were left to reflect on a bad day off against a rampant County side - much to Buckle's dismay.

"We knew when we turned up and saw the pitch we needed to fight," the manager said. "It was a night where you couldn't afford to be soft or weak - you needed to put through things and not poke and tap at things."

#### Struggle

"Unfortunately Newport adjusted best to the conditions and we struggled. We were bullied in certain areas - but that said we could have scored four or five ourselves."

"Missing Jonathan Smith [who was recalled from his loan by parent club York] and Janos Kovacs [missing through suspension] meant we didn't really have that fight, that steel tonight."

"At 3-2 you could have heard a pin drop inside the ground and in my opinion we had a real chance then but our defending let us down and we gave ourselves little chance to come back into it."

"We know where the faults were but we didn't live up to anything. We didn't adapt, Newport did and they were better than us. Missing Smith and Kovacs didn't help."



# NEWPORT 5

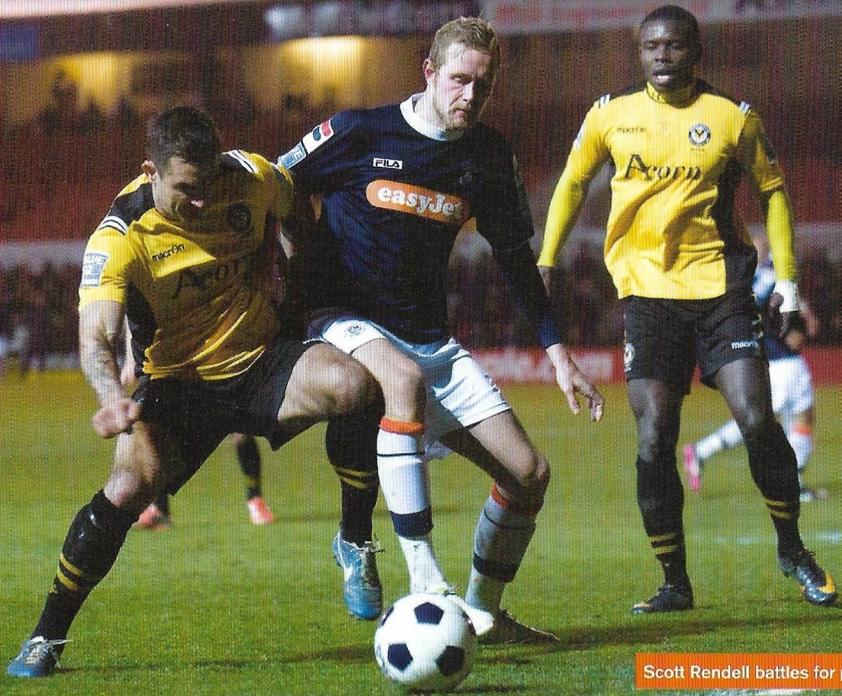
O'Connor 12, Jolley 23, 67, Henry (og) 38, Sandell 64



# TOWN 2

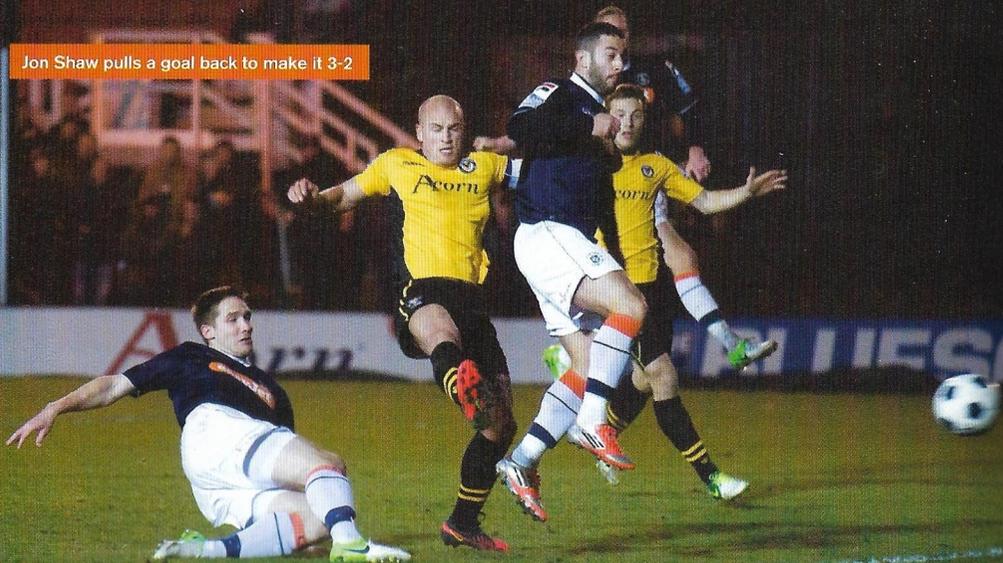
Gray 16, Shaw 61

Celebrations after Andre Gray's earlier equaliser



Scott Rendell battles for possession

Jon Shaw pulls a goal back to make it 3-2



<b>POSSESSION</b>	<b>SHOTS OFF TARGET</b>
30%	5
<b>CORNERS</b>	<b>FOULS</b>
5	12
<b>OFFSIDES</b>	<b>YELLOW CARDS</b>
4	1
<b>SHOTS ON TARGET</b>	<b>RED CARDS</b>
6	0

**NEWPORT:** Julian, James (sub Hughes 46), Yakubu, Pipe (sub Minshull 80), Porter, Sandell, Evans, Flynn, Jolley (sub Charles 85), O'Connor, Smith. **Subs not used:** Pidgeley, Swallow.

**TOWN:** Tyler, Rowe-Turner, Beckwith, Howells, Ainge, Henry, Lawless, Mendy (sub Shaw 46), O'Donnell (sub Fleetwood 59), Rendell, Gray. **Subs not used:** Taylor, Dance, Brill.

**ATTENDANCE:** 2,247



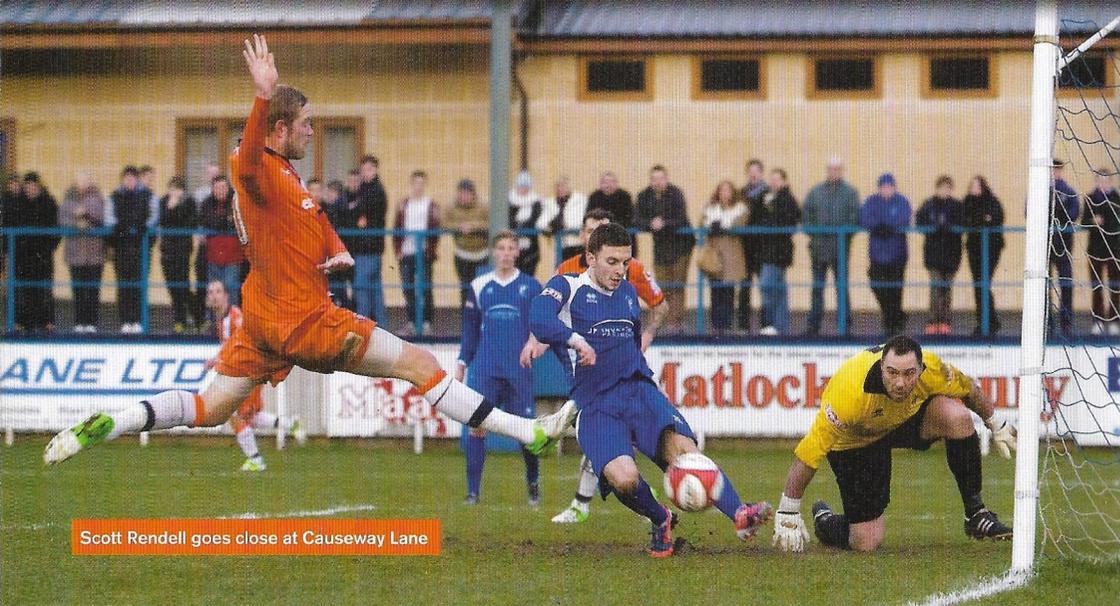
# MATLOCK 1

McMahon 62 (pen)



# TOWN 2

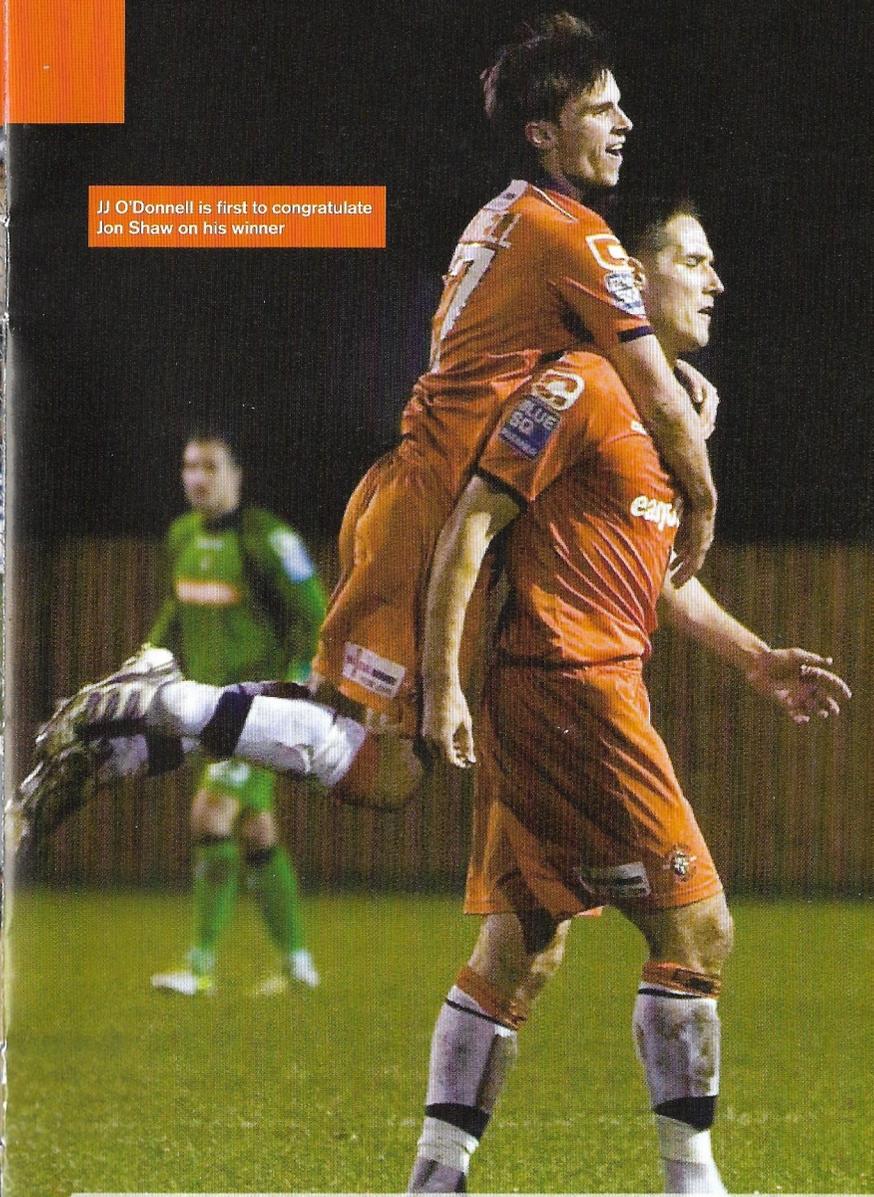
Ainge 17, Shaw 90



Scott Rendell goes close at Causeway Lane



Simon Ainge heads the Hatters ahead



JJ O'Donnell is first to congratulate Jon Shaw on his winner

**An injury-time winner from Jon Shaw booked the Hatters' place in the last 16 of the FA Trophy.**

The striker's effort from 10 yards crossed the line a minute into three added minutes to prevent Northern Premier League Matlock earning a replay at Kenilworth Road.

The Town led 1-0 at the break thanks to Simon Ainge's first-half header – after Shaw had headed a Jake Howells corner into the defender's path.

The Gladiators rallied in the second half and levelled from the penalty spot when McMahon fired past Dean Brill after Ainge was harshly adjudged to have fouled Phil Roe. Having been pegged back, the Town went all-out in search of a winner.

And, after Stuart Fleetwood and Janos Kovacs were frustrated by efforts hitting the woodwork, the pressure paid off late on when Shaw struck to earn a place in the third round on 12th January.

**MATLOCK:**

- Kennedy
- Harcourt
- Roe
- Foster
- Yates
- Lukic
- Grayson
- (sub Hazel 46)
- Ashmore
- Cotton
- McMahon
- Davies
- (sub Ellington 78)

**Subs not used:**

- Leesley
- Gaughan
- Buxton

**TOWN:**

- Brill
- Henry
- Kovacs
- Ainge
- Howells
- O'Donnell
- (sub Rowe-Turner 90)
- Mendy
- Lawless
- Rendell
- Gray
- (sub Fleetwood 36)
- Shaw

**Subs not used:**

- Lacey
- Dance
- Robinson

**ATTENDANCE:**

823

# CENTRE SPOT

JJ O'Donnell celebrates his goal against Alfreton



PICTURE

# THE PAST

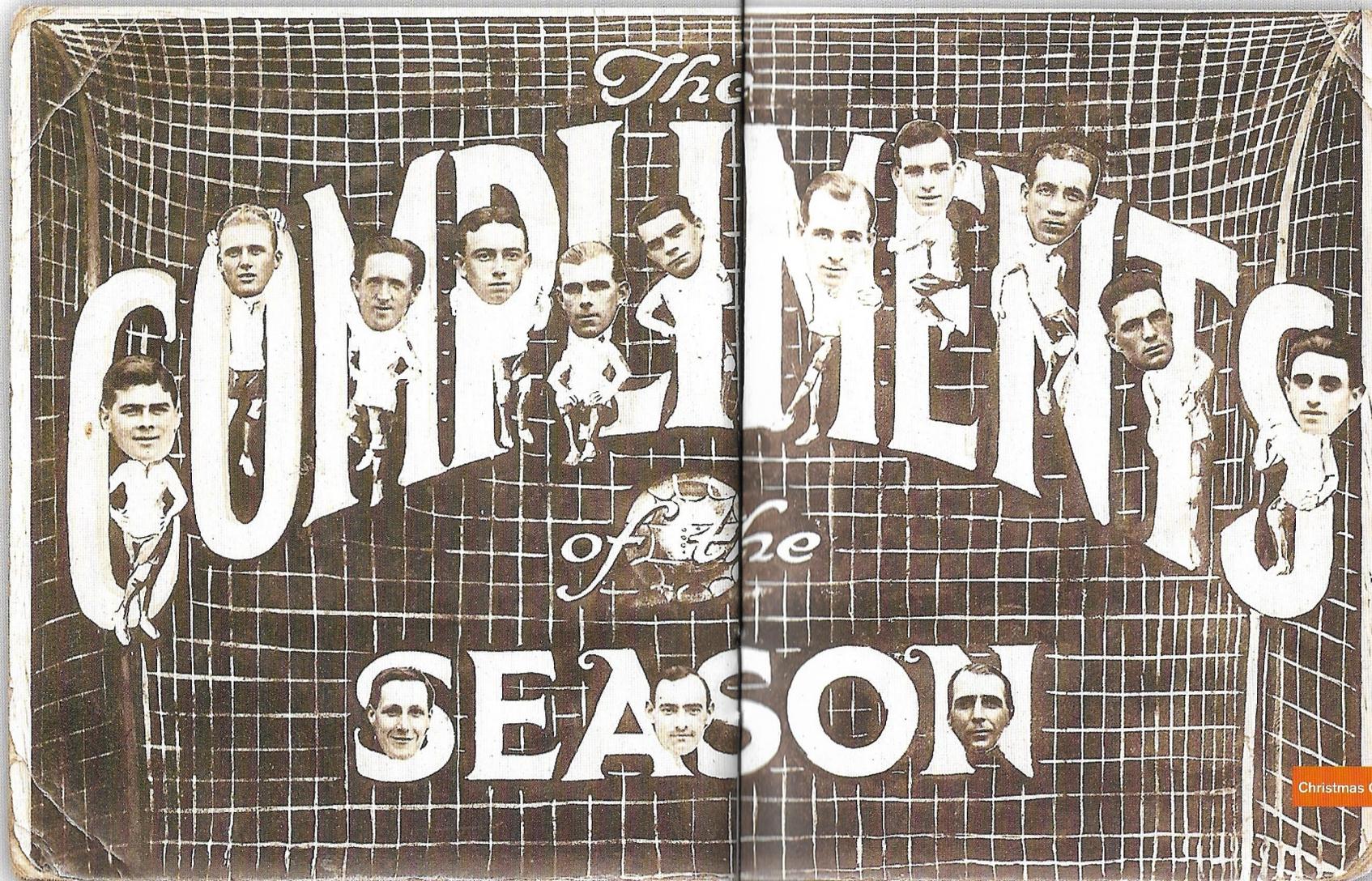
CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES  
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



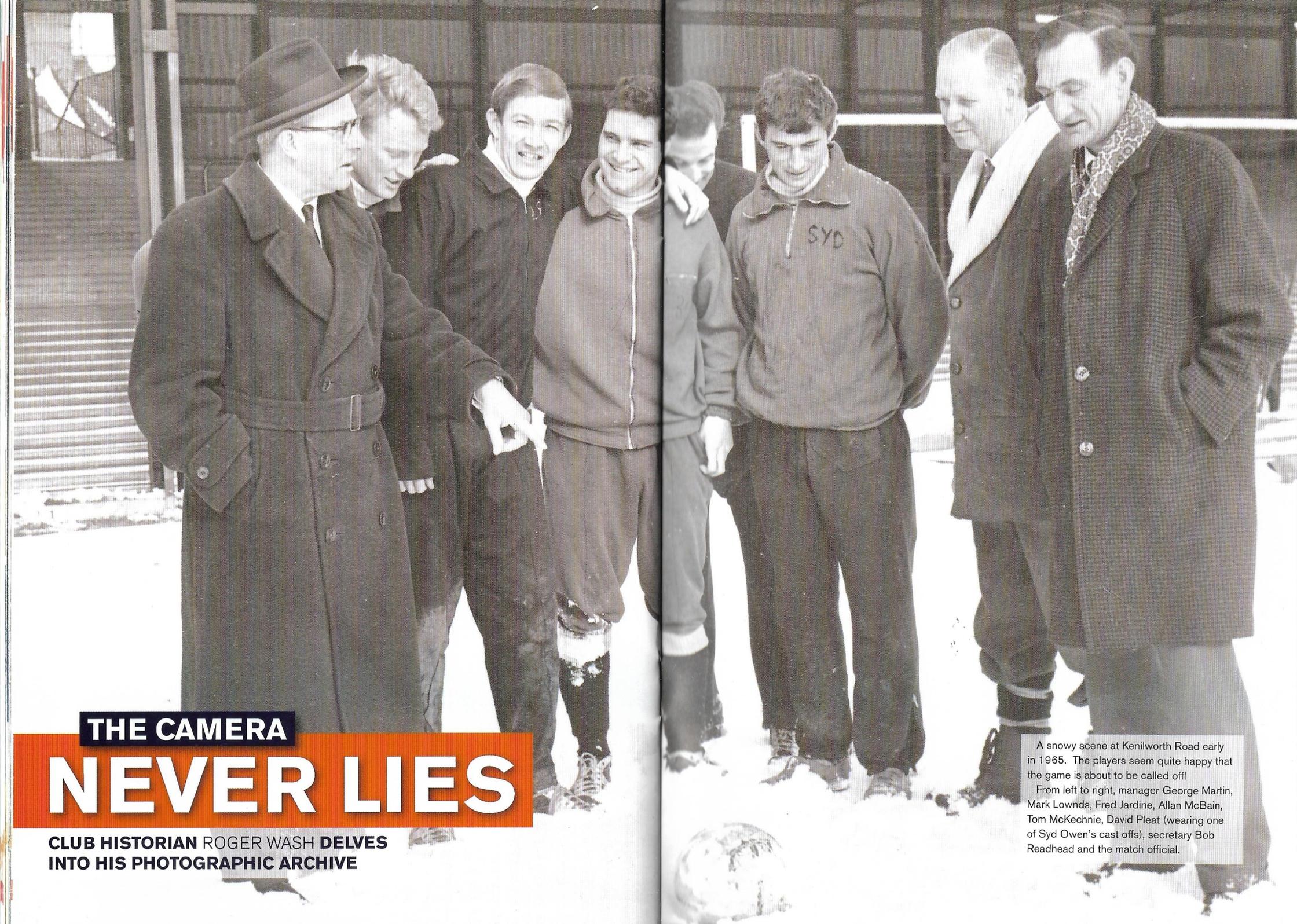
Action from the Town's last ever football fixture played on Christmas Day. In front of the day's biggest crowd, a young Bobby Charlton of Manchester United lashes the ball past Luton goalkeeper Ron Baynham during the 3-0 defeat at Old Trafford in 1957.

# TOWN TREASURES

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



Christmas Greetings 1921 style!



**THE CAMERA**

# NEVER LIES

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

A snowy scene at Kenilworth Road early in 1965. The players seem quite happy that the game is about to be called off!

From left to right, manager George Martin, Mark Lownds, Fred Jardine, Allan McBain, Tom McKechnie, David Pleat (wearing one of Syd Owen's cast offs), secretary Bob Readhead and the match official.



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# JJ O'DONNELL

## BREAKING IT DOWN

**It's been an all too common theme at Kenilworth Road. Jose Mourinho famously once called it "parking the bus".**

But the Hatters overcame Alfreton's negative time-wasting tactics thanks to a three-goal burst just after half-time.

JJ O'Donnell was the man to break the deadlock – his second goal in as many matches after his strike against Dorchester in the FA Trophy – and the midfielder was delighted at the Town's patience which put Alfreton to the sword.

"It's good but it's more about the team performance and that the team is winning," said the young midfielder.

"Teams come to Kenilworth Road and tend to shut up shop straight away – but once you get the first they have to come out at you. Then you get one, two, three so we need to break teams down eventually. If that's after 60 minutes, 70 minutes or 80 minutes that's what it has to be and I'm glad I got the first goal which set us off.

"That why teams do that at Kenilworth Road, you saw the keeper wasting time after about 30 seconds. They are trying to get the crowd on our back.

"As long as the crowd stick with us for 90 minutes we might win it in the 90th minute, like we did against Nuneaton in October.

"We might have to do that but we'll keep grinding them down to get the first and hopefully, like today, more."

With goals becoming more frequent in O'Donnell's game, he was probed about possible milestones he has set for himself.

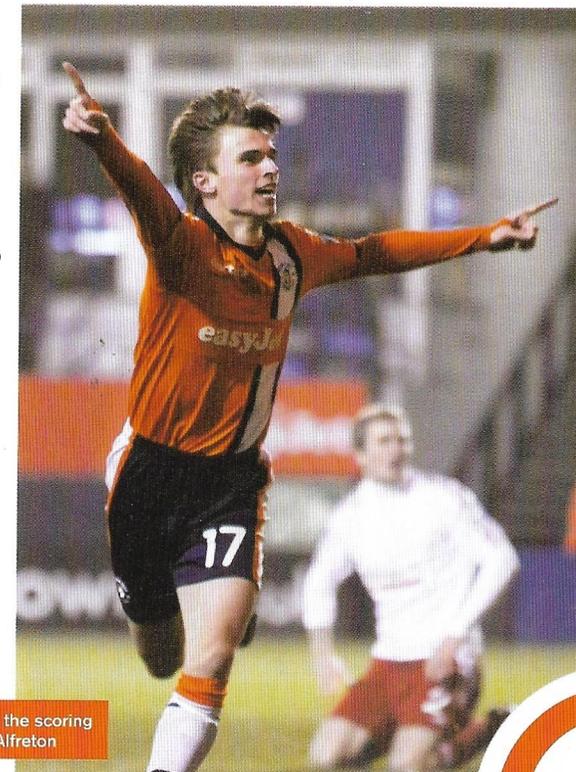
"Personally I don't set targets, to be fair I'm just happy to be playing," said the former St Albans man.

"I thought at the start of the season I'd be used here and there and hopefully try to force my way in as a first-team regular and my target at the start of the season was to play a first-team game here and thankfully I have."

O'Donnell's pace and agility has seen him wreak havoc down the left-hand flank in recent weeks but his enthusiastic exuberance saw his season begin in the middle.

Despite his versatility being put to the test, the talented youngster reiterates he has no preference to positional availability and will do a job for the team wherever asked.

"Perhaps I prefer playing out on the left but I'm happy to play anywhere," said O'Donnell. "Maybe I prefer being out wide because I can come inside more to get the ball rather than having to drift out to the left to receive the ball but I enjoy playing wide trying to create chances for the forwards and also try and help out with my fair share of goals."



JJ opens the scoring against Alfreton

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# BOXING ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 26

### THE RECORD

One, if not the, most regular fixture on the calendar, Boxing Day has been kind to the Town over the years with 31 victories from 68 matches played in Football League and Conference football since 1898.

The Hatters have only lost 19 of the 68 games, scoring 112 goals and conceding 95. That combined is 207 goals which works out at a smidgen over three goals per game. Of the first 12 matches, the Town only won twice, losing seven. Home victories over QPR, in 1922, and Gillingham, in 1925, were the only successes on Boxing Day for the Hatters between 1898 and 1931.

Between 1936 and 1960, the Hatters hit a purple patch on this day, winning a remarkable 11 of the 13 fixtures - drawing twice and remaining unbeaten. Six defeats out of seven then followed! Again, between 1972 and 1985 the Town won eight of 11 successive fixtures, again going unbeaten in that sequence. The Hatters recorded six successive Boxing Day wins between 1978 and 1985 - a run ended by a 2-0 home defeat to local rivals Watford in 1986. Bah! Humbug!

It may not be as prolific as earlier sequences, the Hatters go into today game showing a record of just one defeat in the last 15 encounters on Boxing Day. The sole defeat in that time came in 2006 when the Town were thumped 4-1 at Colchester. The other 14 fixtures in the run since 1991 have yielded seven wins and seven draws.

### MILESTONES

The Town's last victory came on this day last year when five different players found the target in a 5-0 thumping of Kettering at Kenilworth Road. The last time the Hatters lost at home on Boxing Day was a 1-0 reverse at the hands of Sheffield United.

The first Football League fixture involving the Town on this day was a 1-1 draw at Burton Swifts in 1898, with the first victory coming against QPR in 1922, as mentioned above.

It wasn't until a 2-0 win at Bournemouth in 1932 that the Hatters registered a first Football League away win.

Stuart Fleetwood scores in the 5-0 win over Kettering on Boxing Day last season

### SIX OF THE BEST...AND WORST

The Town have twice scored six goals on Boxing Day. A 6-1 win over West Ham United at Kenilworth Road was recorded in 1951, in which Gordon Turner grabbed a hat-trick. Then, in 1958 the Town - now in the top flight - stuck six past Arsenal in a 6-3 victory in front of 21,870 at Kenilworth Road. In 1927, the Town the Town were 5-1 up at Northampton in Division Three (South) but contrived to blow the lead in a fierce blizzard and lost 6-5. Two years later on the same day the Cobblers beat the Town again, this time only winning 4-1.

### DO MENTION

The Town have won all three encounters with both Arsenal and West Ham on Boxing Day. Wins against the Hammers came in 1946, 1951 and 1953, while victories over the Gunners came in 1991, 1959 - at Highbury - and 1958.

### DON'T MENTION

Watford. The Town may have a good record on this day as a whole but the Hornets have won three of the four past meetings on Boxing Day between the two clubs. The Town's sole win came in 1979 at Vicarage Road but the Hertfordshire club triumphed in 1924, 1964 and 1986 - all at Kenilworth Road.

### AND FINALLY

At a first glance the Town's 1-1 draw at Bristol Rovers doesn't warrant a mention but the point gained at the Memorial Ground came after the Hatters were reduced to eight men. The Town were a goal down and a man down after Chris Coyne's 16th-minute dismissal before Steve Robinson was sent-off for a second bookable offence just before half-time. David Edwards got the nine men level before Anthony Grant was red carded with 13 minutes left but the eight men held on to record a point.



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# THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY CHIEF REPORTER STUART HAMMONDS

**If you could have thrown a net over Harwood Park Crematorium in Knebworth last Monday, you'd have landed yourself a dream team.**

England internationals Joe Cole, Michael Carrick and Jermaine Defoe are all present. Norwich City striker Steve Morison and Hull City's Aaron McLean would add to a potent front three, while QPR's Anton Ferdinand could tie things up at the back.

Then there were names familiar to Non-League and lower Football League fans. Like Charlton's Lawrie Wilson, Preston left-back Scott Laird, Bournemouth's Mark Molesley, Gillingham's Dennis Oli, Oxford United's Alfie Potter, Wycombe's Stuart Lewis, Aldershot's Peter Vincenti, Barnet's Jon Nurse and Barry Fuller, Bradford's Luke Oliver, Stevenage's Mark Roberts and Chris Day.

Luton's Ronnie Henry and Jon Shaw were there, along with Lincoln's Gary Mills and John Nutter, Newport's Alan Julian, Basingstoke duo Ashley Bayes and Tim Sills, Chelmsford's David Bridges, Dover's Daryl McMahon, Leiston's Danny Potter, Brackley's Eddie Odhiambo, Thurrock's Stuart Thurgood, AFC Sudbury's Lee Boylan and the now-retired John Martin and Mark Beard.

I could use up all 500 words here listing the Who's Who of English football that turned out to give Mitchell Cole a send-off of which he'd have been proud.

Cole died on November 30th, aged just 27. Of course, the name at the top of the list would always be there – Liverpool midfielder Joe Cole being the brother of former Grays, Southend, Stevenage and Oxford winger Mitchell's wife, Charly, and uncle to his three young children.

The biggest names knew Mitch from his youth team days at West Ham United, where a routine screening 10 years ago uncovered the heart condition – hypertrophic cardiomyopathy – that would eventually claim his life as he collapsed ahead of a kickabout with family and friends.

The others – including his former chairmen and managers Mick Woodward, Mark Stimson, Scott Barrett, Paul Fairclough and Phil Wallace – won things with him during a glittering career that may have only lasted until he was 25, but has to go down as one of Non-League's all-time greats. Cole won the 2004/05

Conference South and FA Trophy double with Grays. A £75,000 transfer took him to Southend, where he won the League 1 title in 2005/06.

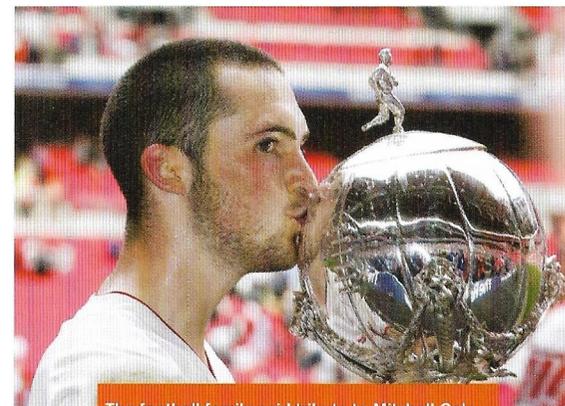
He moved to Stevenage in January 2007 and scored as Boro won the first competitive game at the new Wembley, lifting his second FA Trophy.

His hat-trick arrived in 2008/09

as Stevenage won the Trophy. The following year he helped them to the title as well as another Trophy final, this time losing to Barrow. That summer he moved to Oxford, and manager Chris Wilder and former chairman Kelvin Thomas – the pair who had to sit down with Cole early last year and implement his retirement on medical advice – also paid their respects.

In addition, the 2008 England C player of the year award, a Four Nations Trophy win and seven goals in 12 appearances make Cole the second-highest scorer of all-time for the Non-League international side.

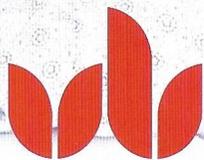
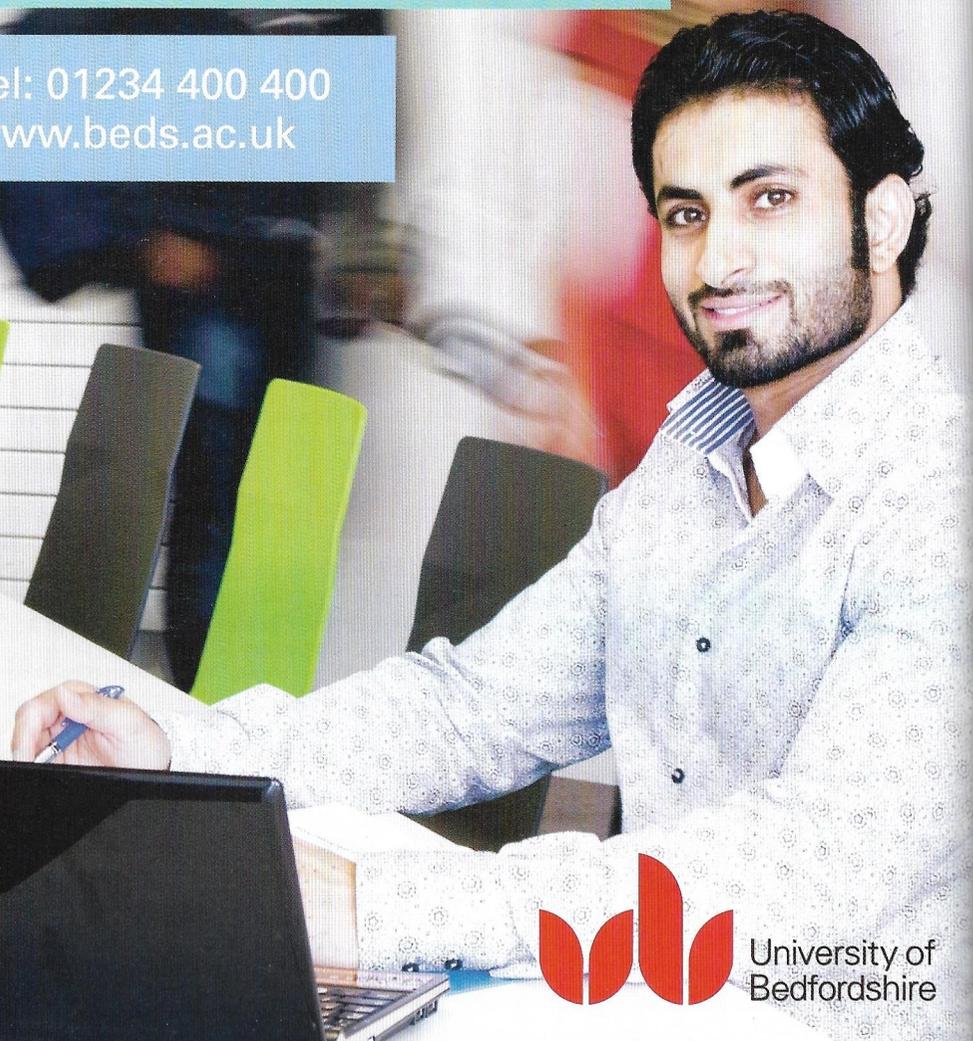
So it was fitting that the great and good of our national game were there to ensure a Non-League legend is resting in peace.



The football family paid tribute to Mitchell Cole

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## A SEASON'S STORY

PART SIX BY DAVID CAIN

### A HATTERS CHRISTMAS CAROL

One cold, bleak, biting Christmas Eve, despairing of our journey around the non-league, I vowed enough was enough. Bah Humbug! This year I would skip Woking on Boxing Day.

The words still on my lips the spirit of Eric Morecambe appeared. With a W-h-h-hey! He lifted me high to Farley Hill.

This ghost of Christmas past asking me if I remembered the way to the ground? Why, I could have walked it blindfolded!

We would stroll down Long Croft Hill towards the match. My dad, brother, and uncles leading the way, my younger self walking hand-in-hand with my granddad, Thomas Hodge - A man who knew more about football than any I have met.

I longed to be back there, my love for the town growing with every step, but alas I was lifted high once more.

Snatched from this scene and dumped on to a Blue Square Christmas present. I sat alone and miserable, having carried out my vow to miss the game. Next year I promised, next year, I would not miss a single match.

No sooner had I said these words than there I was. The ghost of Christmas yet to come leading me to 2016. Yet something was not right. Kenilworth Road eerily empty. Where was everyone? The answer awaited me pinned to the turnstile gates. Ground closed. Club Liquidated.

"Why?" I pleaded with the faceless ghost of Christmas future. "What's happened?" "It is simple," was his reply. "You were not the only one to stay away that Boxing Day. Others followed, match by match, until the club ran dry." "You must do something," I pleaded with the spirit, "Do something!"

With a jolt I awoke from this nightmare cold with fear. Thankful that it was all a dream. Quickly, I realised I had not lost a single day and resolved to do something myself, come to the match after all.

Those spirits of Christmas having taught me an important lesson. For football's not about winning. It's about supporting, and it's up to us to make sure there will always be a Luton for little lads to walk to with their granddads on Boxing day. So look to the future now, it's only just begun.



David Cain is an experienced writer, researcher and follower of the Hatters

# FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH GARETH DAVIS

**Matlock Town v Luton Town in the second round of the FA Trophy. If, when we trailed at Eastwood Town – by a long way the worst team in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division – someone had have told me it was going to happen, I would have just laughed.**

Given that we then trailed again in the second qualifying round, and the third, plus both of our matches in the first round proper against Mansfield Town, the laughter would have just continued.

By the time of our replay against Mansfield, we knew that the winners could be at home to Luton, if they got past Dorchester, and after we did our bit the week's wait was painful – no disrespect to Dorchester, but having beaten Mansfield we wanted the Luton tie and nothing else.

So it came to pass that the Hatters did their bit too, setting up the visit to Matlock of a club that a little over five years ago was still playing Championship football. There could never have been a bigger visitor for a competitive match.

For me there were also professional reasons why Luton was such a big draw as I used to write former player features for this very publication, and it also finally presented me with an opportunity to finally meet up for the first time with press officer Andrew Barringer, having first dealt with him three years ago!

The weather was a concern leading up to the day of the game, as was my Man Flu, but thankfully both had relented enough come the morning of Saturday December 15th – it was on.

Segregation of fans meant Dad and I had to move from the spot on the terrace we have occupied for some 24 years but we didn't mind too much. You don't for an occasion like this.

Our pre-match hopes were lessened with the suspension of our star striker Massiah McDonald thanks to his own stupidity in collecting bookings at a ridiculous pace, and also by news that our inspirational skipper James Lukic – nephew of John – would be absent with an elbow injury.

Lukic made a miraculous recovery to take his place at the heart of our defence but the absence of McDonald, and his deputy due to illness, meant we couldn't play in the manner that saw off Mansfield and that was reflected with how the first 45 minutes panned out.



The introduction of an extra striker at half time gave us a lift, though I have to admit that the decision for our penalty equaliser was fortunate to say the least. I had a great view and couldn't see a foul at all.

At 1-1 anything can happen and while we didn't really threaten going forward, we dug in to hold on to what we had.

We were definitely riding our luck but when the board went up for stoppage time thoughts turned towards a possible trip down the M1 for a replay.

Football punishes you when you do that and it punished us this time. The winning goal had an air of controversy at the time but later evidence showed the ball was definitely over the line, and in all honesty Luton had deserved to go through.

It was a privilege to welcome a club of Luton's standing to Causeway Lane and Matlock went down fighting, we went down with pride. Our heads are still held high because of what we achieved.

# THE PRESS OFFICE PICTURE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER

## BOXING DAY MEMORIES

There's no game like a Boxing Day one, is there? Big crowds, exciting games and that feel-good festive cheer in the air.

What's even better is that the Town have only lost one of the last 15 matches on this day and by and large have an excellent record on the 26th.

Doing my research for this programme I counted only three goalless draws in 68 matches. That's the jinx right there, so feel free to email abuse should it end goalless today.

I can't really recall much from my first Boxing Day football experience and it's probably just as well as we lost 1-0 at home to Sheffield United.

Since then a 2-2 draw at home to Northampton (2-0 down), a fine 2-1 win at Oxford in the 2001/02 promotion season and a narrow but crucial 1-0 victory at Chesterfield – thanks to Enoch Showunmi's late winner – stand out.

As does a 1-1 draw at Bristol Rovers in 2007. Trailing 1-0 at half-time with nine men, a David Edwards goal brought us level before another red card saw us hanging on with eight men with 13 minutes left. Never had a 1-1 draw been celebrated so much.

My first Boxing Day game as press officer was a 2-2 draw at Chesterfield with the point earned late on thanks to good old Ian Roper's 95th-minute equaliser.

Those who have been around longer than I have will no doubt recall their own memories.

A 1-0 win at Vicarage Road probably will top a lot of people's lists.

Let's not go forgetting spells in the 1950s where top-flight Town beat Arsenal twice and drew with Manchester United.

Matlock in all its glory



## TROPHY TALES

Our sojourn in the FA Trophy continues thanks to Jon Shaw's late strike at Matlock. Skelmersdale United are up next at Kenilworth Road with a place in the quarter-finals at stake. If Matlock could win points gained on picturesque settings for football then they'd be in the Football League by now. And let's not forget their pies, mushy peas and gravy – and hospitable club house. It was a lovely day out – made even sweeter by the last-gasp goal.

## TALK OF THE TOWWWW.N

As you may have already read, our programme has been available electronically online and has been an instant success. We have been giving the issue out free of charge in the lead up to the turn of the New Year from which time we will begin to charge for the privilege. There are a number of ideas in the pipeline for 2013 linked to electronic programmes and our online media coverage. I will explain these in future issues but please feel free to leave us your feedback on our current offering, especially the e-programme.

## MIRANDA!

At our last home game, against Alfreton, we had the pleasure of welcoming comedienne and actress Miranda Hart to Kenilworth Road. Miranda was here filming segments of a forthcoming BBC documentary on her comedy hero Eric Morecambe, as those supporters in 'his' lounge on the day will know. A big thanks to those who dressed as Eric, too.

The production team and Miranda thoroughly enjoyed their brief stay with us with Miranda taking a particular interest in Janos Kovacs, who she later tweeted! Once I hear of when it is due to be aired I will publicise in a future programme on via our social media outlets.

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# UPDATE

WITH PAUL DRIVER

**As we reach the halfway point of our season and move into the break that comes in the league programme over the Christmas and New Year break, the youth team are starting to reap the rewards for the efforts of all of those involved in their development.**

Despite being a young team – eight of the recent starting line-ups are first years and another is an Under-16 schoolboy as are those making up the outfield part of the bench – we have won our last three games to move up to third in the Football League Youth Alliance and sit within striking distance of Watford and Dagenham & Redbridge above us.

### Pleasing

The pleasing things from those three victories – as well as the age factor mentioned – is that the performances have been team efforts, two games have seen clean sheets and two of the victories have come against established Championship sides in Watford and Peterborough (who had both beaten us in the previous encounters, albeit while our minds were focused on the FA Youth Cup).

A definite factor in our positive progression has been our fitness and general strength levels and this has to be as a result of the excellent work done with the boys on a day to day basis by our Sport Science team of Chris White and Jack O'Connor as well as the medical boys led by Jon Chatfield who have kept our injuries to a minimum thus allowing consistency in selection.

The big competition for the youth lads is the FA Youth Cup and we progressed through the qualifying rounds with comfortable victories over AFC Kempston and Peterborough Northern Star before victory in an exciting and close encounter with local rivals Barton Rovers.

This set up an away tie with Stevenage which bought, probably, our biggest disappointment of the season when we lost 3-0 in a game where we performed well at times and had enough chances to have back into the match and won.

This season has seen the end of the reserve league which has been replaced by Under-21 Development games, and a number of the players have played for Carl Emberson in these matches and have performed well. Nick Burtenshaw, Brett Longden, Jerome Jibodu and Charlie Smith have been part of almost every game and Jemale McKenzie-Lowe was amongst the scorers in an excellent performance and win against an experienced Peterborough side.

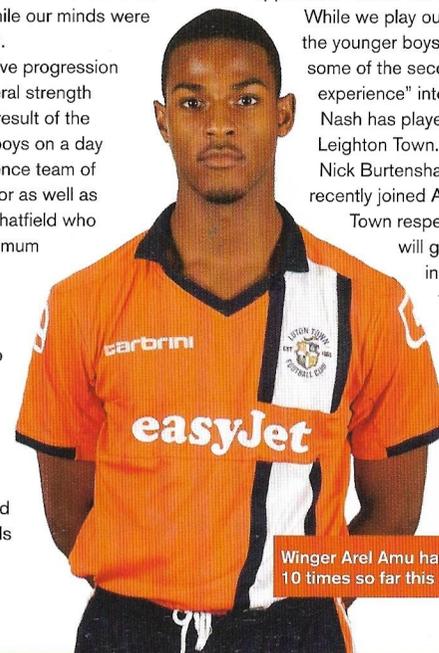
### Progress

With Ben Barnes making his senior debut in the recent Beds Senior Cup tie at Arlesey where Jemale and Arel Amu came on as a substitutes, the boys are getting good game time under their belts against older oppositions which can only help their progress.

While we play our competitive games using the younger boys, this has given the chance for some of the second years to go out "on work experience" into senior football and Jerry Nash has played upwards of 20 games for Leighton Town.

Nick Burtenshaw and Jordan Davis have recently joined Arlesey Town and Hitchin Town respectively, and we hope that they will get exposure to men's football in the busy period coming up for those clubs.

Finally, on behalf of the youth team squad and staff, can I take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Winger Arel Amu has scored 10 times so far this season

Paul Driver is the Town's Under 17-18 Head Coach

# YOUTH FIXTURES

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

### AUGUST

Sat 11 Leyton Orient	A	L 0-2	
Sat 18 Dagenham & Redbridge	H	L 2-3	Jibodu (pen), Smith
Sat 25 Stevenage	A	W 3-2	McKenzie-Lowe, (og), Amu

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 01 Peterborough United	A	W 2-0	McKenzie-Lowe, own goal
Wed 18 AFC Kempston Rovers	A	W 4-0	McKenzie-Lowe 2, Amu 2
Sat 22 Milton Keynes Dons	A	D 2-2	Amu, Smith (pen)
Sat 29 Northampton Town	H	D 1-1	Davis

### OCTOBER

Wed 03 P'boro Northern Star	H	W 6-0	Banton 3, Amu, McKenzie-Lowe, Trotman
Sat 06 Stevenage	A	L 2-3	Smith 2 (1 pen)
Sat 13 Northampton Town	H	D 0-0	
Wed 17 Barton Rovers	H	W 3-1	Amu 2, Smith
Sat 20 Watford	H	L 0-3	
Sat 27 Peterborough United	H	L 2-6	McKenzie-Lowe, Banton
Tue 30 Stevenage	H	L 0-3	

### NOVEMBER

Sat 03 Milton Keynes Dons	H	L 2-4	Banton, Amu
Sat 17 Watford	A	W 2-1	Banton, McKenzie-Lowe
Sat 24			In Service Training

### DECEMBER

Tue 04 Peterborough United	H	W 2-0	Amu, Nwagala
Sat 08 Northampton Town	A	W 3-0	Jibodu, Banton, Amu

### 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	

# YOUNG STARS



**NAME:** Jordan Davis

**AGE:** 17

**POSITION:**

Winger or striker

**TIME SPENT WITH  
LUTON TOWN / WHEN  
JOINED:**

Five years. I joined the club as an Under-12.

**WHAT PART  
OF YOUR  
GAME DO YOU  
CONSIDER  
THE BEST?**

My pace and finishing

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

My physical strength.

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

The fanbase.

**WHO IS YOUR FOOTBALL IDOL?**

Steven Gerrard.

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

My mum.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?**

To earn a professional contract.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER?**

Lionel Messi.

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

To earn a professional contract at the end of the season.

## EXTRA TIME *by Elliott Quince*



"... a 35-goal-a-season striker, 12 points over Christmas, a decent referee once in a while and a keeper that can catch"

## 2012/13 YOUTH TEAM

# KIT SPONSORS



**ZANE BANTON**  
HOME: First Capital Connect  
AWAY: Available



**TINASH CHABATA**  
HOME: Available  
AWAY: Available



**LEEROY MAGURAUSHE**  
HOME: Available  
AWAY: Available



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



**JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE**  
HOME: Available  
AWAY: Available



**IAN REES**  
HOME: Available  
AWAY: Available



**CHARLIE SMITH**  
HOME: Peter Mitchell  
AWAY: 2MB



**NICK BURTENSHAW**  
HOME: Available  
AWAY: Available



**JOSH CARPENTER**  
HOME: Harborough Town Football Club  
AWAY: Available  
GLOVES: Available



**JORDAN DAVIS**  
HOME: Lucy Francome  
AWAY: Available



**JEROME JIBODU**  
HOME: Doug Knight  
AWAY: Doug Knight



**BRETT LONGDEN**  
HOME: Mike Tearie  
AWAY: Available



**JERRY NASH**  
HOME: Moira Spain  
AWAY: Available



**ZAK STEPHENS**  
HOME: Available  
AWAY: Available

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## YOUNGSTERS

# VICTORIOUS

### THREE ON THE SPIN FOR UNDER-18S

**The Hatters' Under-18s won their third game in succession with a comfortable 3-0 win away to Northampton Town at Moulton College in their last match before Christmas.**

With Brett Longden injured and Kyle Davison unavailable, Jerome Jibodu returned to the squad and Under-16s centre back Zac Jules got his first chance to show coach Paul Driver how far his game has progressed in the season so far.

The Town started the game well and were two up within the first 12 minutes. Firstly, Jibodu got the ball on the edge of the box following a corner and his cross-shot looped over the home goalkeeper and into the corner of the net. A few minutes later, Jules won a strong header to find Jemale McKenzie-Lowe and the striker linked up with his partner, Zane Banton for the latter to hold his nerve and place the ball past the keeper.

#### A positive showing

There were plenty of chances to extend the lead in a positive showing during the remainder of the half. From a Charlie Smith corner, the Hatters hit the bar twice and Arel Amu had two good chances to extend the lead but the keeper made good saves to restrict the lead to 2-0 at the break.

With the next goal being vital, the Hatters again started the half well and extended their lead within the first 90 seconds. Tinashe Chabata won an important header and found Ian Rees.

The midfielder linked with McKenzie-Lowe and Banton and they found Amu in space in the box and the winger made no mistake this time to put the Hatters three goals to the good.

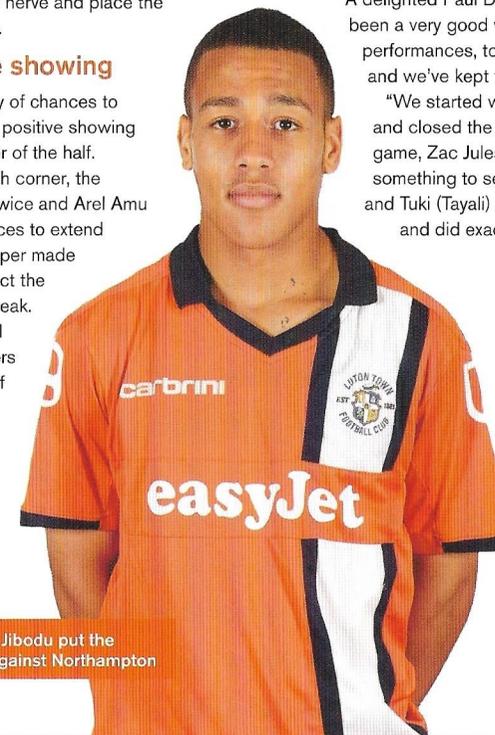
Northampton continued to work hard to get back into the game and their best chance came when their striker got in behind the Hatters defence but Ben Barnes made an excellent save to maintain the advantage.

#### Clean sheet

Daril Ngwala and Tuki Tayali replaced Leeroy Maguraushe and McKenzie-Lowe as the game entered the final 15 minutes and the Hatters were able to control the last period of the game to record their second consecutive clean sheet.

A delighted Paul Driver told [lutontown.co.uk](http://lutontown.co.uk): "It's been a very good week for us after two excellent performances, today and against Peterborough; and we've kept two clean sheets.

"We started well, maintained the pressure and closed the game out well. For his first game, Zac Jules was outstanding and gives us something to seriously consider going forward and Tuki (Tayali) came on for his first game too and did exactly what was asked of him."



Skipper Jerome Jibodu put the Hatters ahead against Northampton

**Town:** Barnes, Burtenshaw, Jibodu, Rees, Jules, Chabata, Amu, Smith (sub Trotman), McKenzie-Lowe (sub Tayali), Banton, Maguraushe (sub Ngwala). **Subs not used:** Carpenter (GK), Pittfield.

# MONSTER Creepy Crawlies

30 March - 3 November 2013

Stockwood Discovery Centre

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Coming Soon!

# JON SHAW

## REASSURING AFTER SET-BACK

**Striker Jon Shaw summed up the obvious disappointment in the Town dressing room after the 5-2 defeat at Newport.**

Trailing 3-1 at the break, the 29-year-old was introduced at half-time and momentarily pulled the Hatters back into the game by converting Ronnie Henry's perfect cross to make it 3-2.

County scored twice more to seal victory but despite the set-back Shaw knows a good festive period can propel the Town right into contention at the top.

"We've got an agenda and from day one that has been to win the league," the former Gateshead man said. "Results like this are disappointing but the bigger picture is we have five games over Christmas and New Year so let's see where we are at the start of January. We've still in touch - it's not panic stations just yet."

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of the defeat was the fact the Hatters dropped points against their promotion rivals - something Shaw believes the Town need to learn from.

"In our hearts we will never forget about it - we've come away from two sides that are challenging for titles, Newport and Grimsby, and been beaten," said Shaw. "That's not how we want it and that's not how we show people we are going to win the league."

### We'll work hard

"We now go back work hard and we have a real honest bunch of lads, its banded about a lot but this is one of the most honest bunch of lads I've ever worked with and we'll go back, we'll work hard."

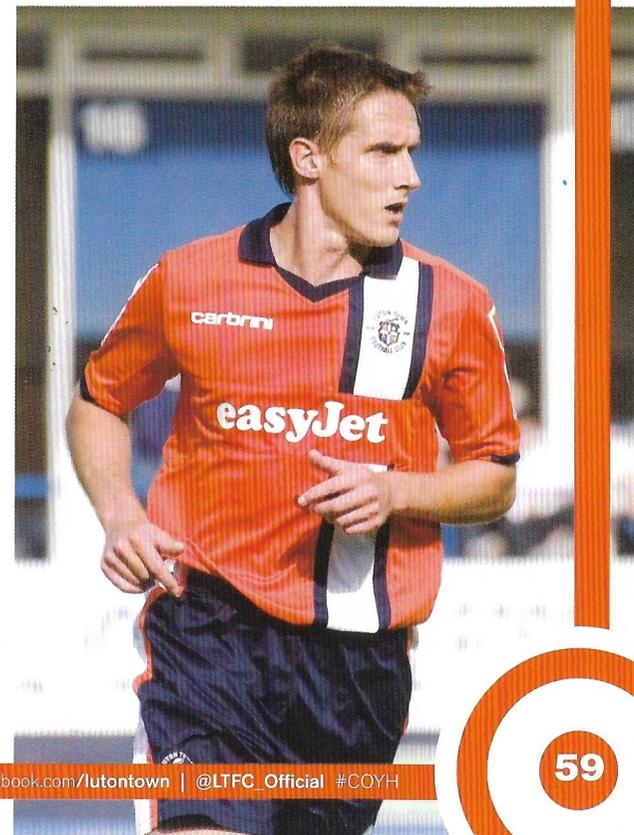
"I think it's happened before where we seem to be in the grasp of it we then go and chuck the result but I don't think that's a mental aspect, we don't think about it like that."

On the game itself, the Sheffield-born forward admitted the Town didn't help themselves in South Wales. "We admitted in the changing room were a bit soft at the minute," he said. "It's a disappointing result. I think if we'd have gone down 5-2 fighting no-one would have really complained - but it looked like we gave up."

"I'm sure the lads' hearts didn't give up but we started giving away soft goals and things we worked on disappeared."

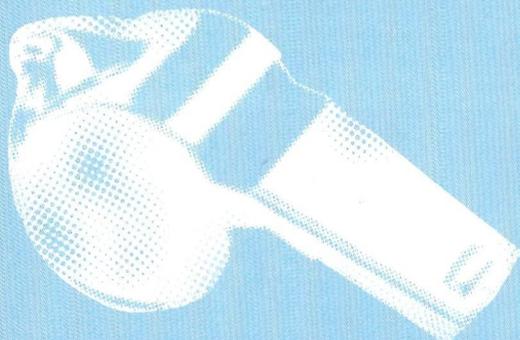
"When we got it back to 3-2 I think everyone thought we would go on and win it. Their fans went silent, we got a quick free-kick and then I think the fourth goal kills us and your chasing again. It's disappointing but we have to kick on again."

For Shaw, his fourth goal in Luton colours meant little in the overall context of the game. "Bitter sweet is the perfect way to describe it," he said. "It was a great ball in from Ronnie, I've timed my run well and managed to get on the end of it, first thing I thought was to get back to the half way line and get it back to 3-3 but like I said to go down 5-2 is disappointing."



#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

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



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LEAGUE

# LOOK

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

With very little Blue Square action in recent weeks, it has been a chance to turn our attention to domestic cup competitions with four of the league's elite still holding firm in the FA Cup and eight of the 16 teams still standing in the FA Trophy coming from non-league's top tier.

Mansfield Town will host Merseyside giants Liverpool at Field Mill as Louis Briscoe's precise finish was the difference in their replay with Lincoln City.

The Hatters also play host to higher league opposition in the New Year and there may be one or two upsets on the cards, none more so than Barrow or Macclesfield. Barrow marched into the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy with an emphatic 5-1 win over Chesham and face a replay with Macclesfield to host Championship front-runners Cardiff City in the FA Cup.

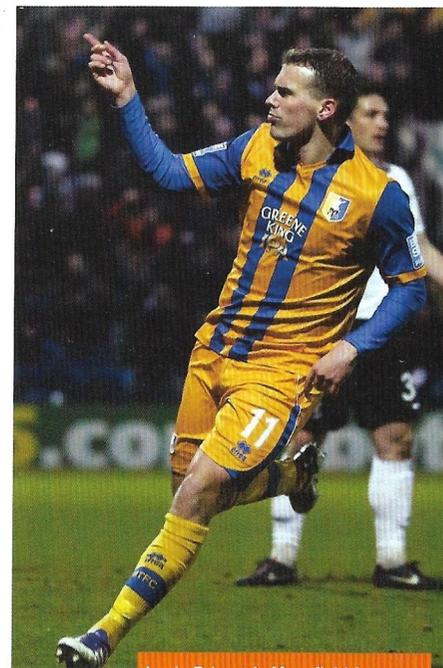
These four sides bare the Blue Square Bet Premier's hopes in this season's FA Cup competition with Hastings United the only lower ranked side left in the draw. Their penalty victory over Harrogate Town won them a dream visit to the Riverside Stadium to lock horns with Tony Mowbray's Middlesbrough.

Cup clarity now runs side-by-side with league points, as teams juggle ambitions in order to compete on numerous fronts. However, with courageous cup runs filling club's with a beckoning glint, will it enforce an overturn in the league's continuance come the start of 2013?

As we went to press, Newport sat top of the table with Grimsby in second place, and Wrexham and Forest Green sitting above the Hatters in the league standings.

In the latest results in the division prior to 22nd December, Braintree continued their fight away from relegation danger with an impressive 3-1 victory over high-flyers Forest Green with Sean Marks scoring the pick of the goals shortly before the half-hour mark.

The Iron leapfrogged Alfreton Town into 17th place after the Reds were again frustrated at home. Nicky Law's men were combative from the outset and took a well-earned lead against Cambridge United through



Louis Briscoe's Mansfield face Liverpool in the FA Cup third round

a stunning free-kick from Josh Law. Alfreton were then reduced to 10 men when Theo Streete was given his marching orders after a second booking. The 10 men could not hold out as Michael Gash fired home an injury-time penalty to earn Richard Money's United a share of the spoils.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

- DARTFORD v EBBSFLEET (1PM)
- FOREST GREEN v NEWPORT (1PM)
- LINCOLN v GRIMSBY (1PM)
- WREXHAM v AFC TELFORD (1PM)
- BARROW v GATESHEAD
- BRAINTREE v CAMBRIDGE
- HEREFORD v KIDDERMINSTER
- MANSFIELD v ALFRETON
- SOUTHPORT v MACCLESFIELD
- STOCKPORT v HYDE



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## FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

### EASYJET FREE SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT

SUPPORTED BY THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE COMMUNITY TRUST



## easyJet

Thanks to continued support from our main club sponsor easyJet and the Conference Community Trust, our free schools visit project, which provides free curriculum time football coaching and physical education lessons to all schools within Luton and Bedfordshire, goes from strength to strength.

Due to increased funding this season, the Luton Town community coaches are visiting 30 schools and coaching over 2,000 school children each week.

The Conference Community Trust was launched last season for member clubs of the Blue Square Bet Premier and Blue Square Bet North and South divisions, and involves both the Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association committing up to £400,000 each for the next two seasons.

It 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 club's 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 their school's football teams.

"This season, with the extra funding, we have been able to go into far more schools each week to promote the club to the next generation of supporters.

The funding is great because 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, provide future supporters of the club.

This year, due to increased funding, schools can apply for breakfast, lunch-time and after schools clubs as well as curriculum time coaching.

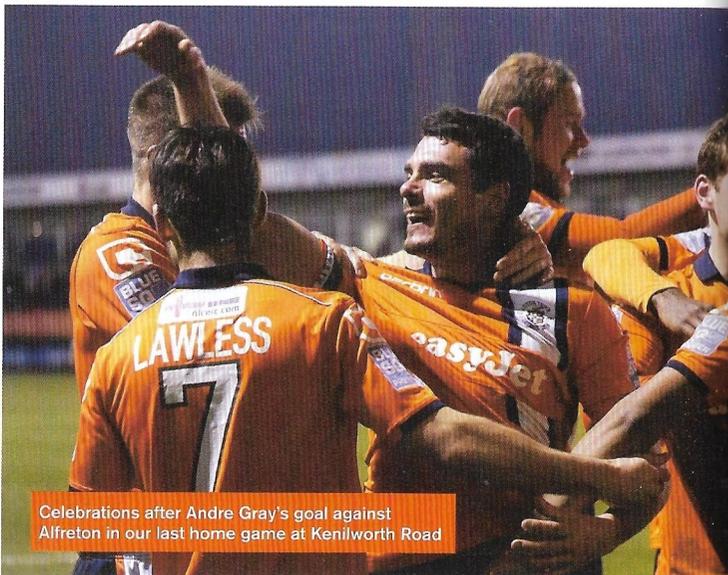
For any schools looking to be involved in the project you can contact James Hatch or Kyle Durcan at the club on 01582 583618 or via email on [ltfc.freeschoolsvisitproject@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ltfc.freeschoolsvisitproject@hotmail.co.uk).



# FIXTURES AND

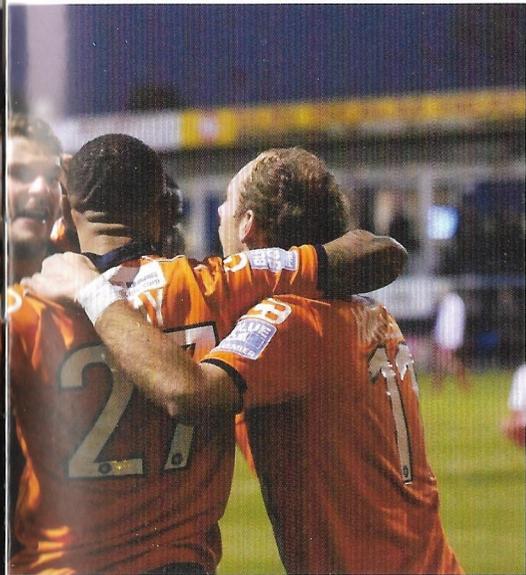
# RESULTS

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	
<b>August</b>									
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**	
<b>TV</b>	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	Ebbsfleet United	W 3-1	2,018	1,246	5	Tyler Lawless Taylor Rowe-Turner Beckwith Howells O'Donnell** Rendell 1 Gray* Shaw	
<b>September</b>									
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	W 3-2	6,742	622	2	Tyler Rowe-Turner Taylor Beckwith 1 Kovacs*1 Lawless O'Donnell Howells Rendell Gray 1	
Sat 8	15:00	A	Alfreton Town	L 0-3	1,392	768	5	Tyler Henry Taylor* Beckwith Kovacs** Lawless O'Donnell Howells Watkins*** J. Robinson	
<b>TV</b>	Sat 15	15:00	H	Wrexham	D 0-0	6,675	319	5	Tyler Henry Howells* Beckwith Kovacs Lawless O'Donnell Rendell Fleetwood** Gray***
Fri 21	19:45	A	Grimsby Town	L 1-4	4,074	125	6	Tyler Henry** Howells Beckwith Kovacs* Lawless O'Donnell Rendell 1 Fleetwood*** Gray	
Tue 25	19:45	A	Tamworth	W 2-1	1,137	390	5	Tyler Henry* Rowe-Turner** Beckwith Essam Lawless O'Donnell Howells Gray Rendell	
Sat 29	15:00	H	Southport	W 3-1	5,696	77	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam Ainge Lawless O'Donnell Kasim* Rendell 2** Gray	
<b>October</b>									
Sat 6	15:00	A	Lincoln City	W 2-1	2,970	864	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam Ainge Lawless O'Donnell Rendell* J. Robinson** Gray***	
Tue 9	19:45	H	Braintree Town	L 2-3	5,523	55	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam** Ainge 1 Lawless O'Donnell J. Robinson Gray Shaw	
Sat 13	15:00	H	Nuneaton Town	W 2-0	6,148	264	3	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Essam* Lawless 2 O'Donnell Rendell Gray** Shaw	
Sat 20	13:00	A	Cambridge United (FAC4U)	W 2-0	2,321	601	-	Tyler Henry Howells Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless* O'Donnell Mendy Gray 1*** Shaw 1	
Sat 27	15:00	A	Forest Green Rovers	W 2-1	2,112	1,002	2	Brill Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge Howells Mendy Rendell 1 Gray Shaw	
<b>November</b>									
Sat 3	15:00	H	Nuneaton Town (FAC1)	D 1-1	3,089	355	-	Brill Henry Howells Kovacs Rowe-Turner* O'Donnell Mendy Rendell 1 Gray Walker	
Tue 6	19:45	A	Hereford United	L 0-1	2,108	372	3	Brill Henry Rowe-Turner*** Kovacs** Ainge Smith Mendy Howells Gray* Rendell	
Sat 10	15:00	H	Dartford	L 0-2	6,567	484	6	Brill Lawless Howells Henry Ainge Smith Mendy* O'Donnell Gray Rendell	
Tue 13	19:45	A	Nuneaton Town (FAC1R)	W 2-0	1,596	471	-	Tyler Rowe-Turner Henry Kovacs Howells Mendy Lawless O'Donnell** Walker* Rendell 2	
Sat 17	15:00	A	Mansfield Town	D 2-2	2,619	522	6	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge Mendy Smith Lawless Howells Rendell	
Tue 27	19:45	A	Dorchester Town (FAT1)	D 2-2	688	163	-	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge O'Donnell Smith Lawless** Howells Rendell	
<b>December</b>									
Sat 1	15:00	H	Dorchester Town (FAC2)	W 2-1	3,287	458	-	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Beckwith* Lawless 1 Howells Smith O'Donnell*** Rendell	
Tue 4	19:45	H	Dorchester Town (FAT1R)	W 3-1	897	16	-	Brill Lawless Lacey* O'Donnell 1** Watkins Robinson Dance*** Walker 2	
<b>TV</b>	Sat 8	15:00	H	Alfreton Town	W 3-0	5,649	58	5	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Ainge Kovacs O'Donnell 1*** Smith 1 Howells Lawless Rendell**
Tue 11	19:45	A	Newport County	L 2-5	2,247	177	5	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Ainge Beckwith O'Donnell** Mendy* Howells Lawless Rendell	
Sat 15	15:00	A	Mattlock Town (FAT2)	W 2-1	823	tbc	-	Brill Henry Howells Ainge 1 Kovacs O'Donnell** Mendy Lawless Rendell Gray*	
Sat 22	15:00	A	AFC Telford United						
Wed 26	15:00	H	Woking						
Sat 29	15:00	H	Ebbsfleet United						
<b>January</b>									
Tue 1	13:00	A	Woking						
Sat 5	15:00	H	Wolves (FAC3)						
Tue 8	19:45	H	Barrow						
Sat 12	15:00	H	Skelmersdale United (FAT3)						
Sat 19	15:00	A	Nuneaton Town						
Tue 22	19:45	H	Lincoln City						
Sat 26	15:00	H	Stockport County						
<b>February</b>									
Sat 2	15:00	A	Barrow						
Sat 9	15:00	H	Forest Green Rovers						
Tue 12	19:45	A	Dartford						
<b>TV</b>	Fri 15	19:45	H	Newport County					
Tue 19	19:45	A	Macclesfield Town						
Sat 23	15:00	H	Mansfield Town						
Tue 26	19:45	A	Braintree Town						
<b>March</b>									
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						
<b>April</b>									
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						
TBA		H	Hyde						



Celebrations after Andre Gray's goal against Alfreton in our last home game at Kenilworth Road

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	Watkins**	Gray**	Woolley
Fleetwood 2	Brill	Lacey	Watkins**	Kasim	Woolley*
Fleetwood 1	Brill	Essam***	Watkins*	Woolley**	Walker
Fleetwood**	Brill	Essam**	Watkins	Woolley**	Kasim
Gray	Brill	Lawless**	Kasim**	Fleetwood***	Rowe-Turner
Shaw	Rowe-Turner*	Essam	Kasim**	J. Robinson	Walker**
Shaw	Rowe-Turner	Essam**	Kasim**	J. Robinson***	Walker
Shaw***	Fleetwood*** 1	Kasim** 1	J. Robinson*	Kovacs	Walker
Fleetwood 1**	Brill	Rowe-Turner*	Shaw**	Robinson***	Walker
Fleetwood	Brill	Rowe-Turner** Shaw 1*	Kasim**	Walker	Walker
Fleetwood	Brill	Kovacs**	Lacey	Kasim*	Walker 1**
Fleetwood	Brill	Rowe-Turner	J. Robinson	M. Robinson	Walker*
Fleetwood**	Brill	M. Robinson*	J. Robinson***	Beckwith**	Walker Lacey Woolley
Fleetwood 1*	Essam	O'Donnell**	M. Robinson	J. Robinson	Walker
Fleetwood**	Tyler	Lacey	Langden	Watkins**	Dance
Fleetwood	Tyler	Smith	Lawless**	O'Donnell***	J. Robinson*
Fleetwood	Tyler	Rowe-Turner	Kovacs	Watkins	Walker*
Gray**	Brill	Beckwith	Langden	Dance***	Robinson*
Gray 2*	Brill	Beckwith	O'Donnell	Robinson	Fleetwood*
Gray*	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Fleetwood 1*	Dance**
Gray 1**	Brill	Lacey*	Mendy***	Watkins	Dance Shaw
Shaw	Fleetwood**	Gray	Mendy	Woolley***	Fleetwood**
Gray 1*	Brill	Mendy	Shaw**	Fleetwood*	Walker***
Gray 1	Brill	Taylor	Dance	Shaw 1*	Fleetwood**
Shaw 1	Brill	Lacey	Dance	Robinson	Rowe-Turner**



LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS		
1	Newport County AFC	22	13	3	6	50	32	18	42	
2	Grimsby Town	22	11	7	4	36	16	20	40	
3	Wrexham	22	11	6	4	42	22	20	39	
4	Forest Green Rovers	21	11	5	6	36	24	12	38	
5	Luton Town	21	11	3	7	37	32	5	36	
6	Dartford	22	10	3	9	35	29	6	33	
7	Kidderminster Harriers	22	8	6	8	29	21	8	32	
8	Mansfield Town	20	9	5	6	33	31	2	32	
9	Macclesfield Town	22	9	5	8	33	35	-2	32	
10	Lincoln City	21	8	5	8	34	33	1	29	
11	Hereford United	20	8	5	7	31	32	-1	29	
12	Woking	23	9	2	12	38	49	-11	29	
13	Cambridge United	22	7	7	8	40	39	1	28	
14	Gateshead	22	6	9	7	27	30	-3	27	
15	Tamworth	23	8	3	12	26	31	-5	27	
16	Hyde FC	22	7	5	10	38	37	1	26	
17	Braintree Town	21	7	5	9	26	35	-9	26	
18	Alfreton Town	21	6	8	7	26	35	-9	26	
19	AFC Telford United	21	5	10	6	31	29	2	25	
20	Stockport County	21	6	6	9	30	34	-4	24	
21	Southport	21	6	6	9	31	41	-10	24	
22	Ebbsfleet United	22	5	7	10	32	45	-13	22	
23	Nuneaton	23	4	9	10	26	41	-15	21	
24	Barrow	21	4	8	9	25	39	-14	20	

PLAYER STATS 2012/13													
	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON DUPE		TOTAL		DISCIPL		CAREER TOTAL				
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS			
Simon AINGE	10	0	1	3	0	1	13	0	2	0	13	0	
Dean BECKWITH	8	0	1	1	(1)	0	9	(1)	1	3	0	21	2
Dean BRILL	3	0	3	0	0	6	(0)	0	0	0	103	0	
James DANCE	0	0	0	1	(2)	0	1	(2)	0	0	0	31	4
Connor ESSAM	5	(4)	0	0	0	0	5	(4)	0	2	0	9	0
Stuart FLEETWOOD	15	(5)	0	2	(4)	1	17	(9)	11	2	1	73	27
Andre GRAY	16	(3)	6	6	0	2	24	(3)	8	4	0	39	15
Ronnie HENRY	16	0	6	0	0	24	(0)	0	3	1	24	0	
Jake HOWELLS	19	(1)	1	6	(1)	0	25	(2)	1	2	0	210	16
Yaser KASIM	5	(6)	1	0	0	0	5	(6)	1	2	0	11	1
Janos KOVACS	12	(1)	1	6	0	0	18	(1)	1	5	0	80	6
Alex LACEY	0	0	0	1	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	9	0
Alex LAWLESS	18	(2)	2	6	0	1	24	(2)	3	4	0	102	10
Arnau MENDY	5	0	0	4	(1)	0	9	(1)	0	2	0	10	0
J.J. O'DONNELL	18	(2)	2	7	0	1	25	(2)	3	1	0	36	3
Scott RENDELL	19	0	6	5	0	3	24	(0)	9	1	0	24	9
Jake ROBINSON	3	(4)	0	0	(2)	0	3	(6)	0	0	0	9	0
Matt ROBINSON	0	(2)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(4)	0	1	0	5	0
Lathaniel ROWE-TURNER	14	(3)	0	6	(1)	0	20	(4)	0	0	0	24	0
Jon SHAW	10	(5)	3	3	0	2	13	(5)	5	1	0	18	5
Jonathan SMITH	4	0	1	2	0	0	6	(0)	0	2	0	6	0
Greg TAYLOR	7	(1)	0	0	0	0	7	(1)	0	1	0	31	0
Mark TYLER	18	0	4	0	0	0	22	(0)	0	0	0	160	0
Dan WALKER	0	(5)	1	3	0	2	3	(5)	3	0	0	28	4
Adam WATKINS	2	(3)	0	1	(1)	0	3	(4)	0	0	0	56	8
Jake WOOLLEY	0	(3)	0	0	(2)	0	0	(5)	0	0	0	10	0

# UP NEXT

EBBSFLEET UNITED



You won't have to wait long for your next football fix as the Town are back in action on Saturday when they host Ebbsfleet United at Kenilworth Road.



## EBBSFLEET UNITED

**Who?** Ebbsfleet United. Or, in old money, Gravesend and Northfleet. The club changed their name in 2007 to coincide with the opening of the new Ebbsfleet International EuroStar station

and are in the midst of their second successive season at this level following promotion in 2010/11.

**Hello, Mr Chairman:** You can become a member of the Ebbsfleet board if it's something that tickles your fancy. Since February 2008, the club has been owned by MyFootballClub.com, whose members vote on player transfers, budgets and ticket prices, among other things, instead of those decisions being made exclusively by the club's management and staff, like at most other clubs. Unfortunately the option to pick the team is no longer available, so you can put the phone down if your in the middle of asking to them to select their striker in goal.

**Haven't we met before?** Oh yes. The Town have the upper hand when it comes to meeting with the Fleet, winning three of the five meetings – including the 3-1 victory at Stonebridge Road back in August. Ebbsfleet have won at Kenilworth Road before, however, recording a shock 3-2 victory back in January 2010 that left then manager Richard Money speechless. That was soon forgotten when the Town triumphed 6-1 at Stonebridge Road in the return match two months later. The Hatters were also victorious when Ebbsfleet last stepped foot inside Kenilworth Road back in April, when two goals from Stuart Fleetwood and one from Craig McAllister sealed a 3-0 win.

**Town trialists.** At a first glance it would seem there are no players in the Ebbsfleet squad with a connection to Kenilworth Road – until the press officer delves deep into his memory bank of previous pre-seasons. Three current Fleet players have trialled with the Hatters. Goalkeeper Preston Edwards even won a winners medal in the South West Challenge Cup in 2009. Midfielder Neil Barrett and striker Nathan Elder, meanwhile, featured for the Hatters in pre-season last season with Elder notching in the home friendly against Azerbaijani outfit Gabala.

**Trophy Tales.** Among the silverware at Stonebridge Road is their pride and joy: the FA Trophy. The Fleet triumphed 1-0 at Wembley in 2008 over Paul Buckle's Torquay United. But it's Kent Senior Cup that dominates their trophy cabinet. The Fleet have won the competition seven times.

**How they doing?** Well, Christmas printing deadlines prevents us from really making an accurate summary. Depending on their results on Saturday 22nd, and their Boxing Day clash with Dartford, they could arrive at Kenilworth Road on Saturday either as high as 13th place – or as low as, er...bottom of the league. As we went to press the Fleet were in 22nd place with 22 points from 22 games.

**On the road.** Ebbsfleet are at local rivals Dartford this afternoon chasing a fourth victory away from Stonebridge Road. Their record on their travels up until today is three wins, two draws and six defeats from 11 matches. Those three victories have come at Macclesfield, Tamworth and, on the opening day of the season, Nuneaton, in a topsy-turvy game the Fleet won 5-4.

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# TODAY'S TEAMS



## LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	2
Greg Taylor	3
Garry Richards	4
Dean Beckwith	5
Janos Kovacs	6
Alex Lawless	7
Danny Spiller	8
Jon Shaw	9
Scott Rendell	10
Jake Howells	11
Simon Ainge	12
Stuart Fleetwood	13
Arnaud Mendy	14
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
Jake Woolley	28
Dan Walker	29
Dean Brill	33



## WOKING

1	Aaron Howe
2	Adam Newton
3	Mike Cestor
4	Mark Ricketts
5	Joe McNerney
6	Adam Doyle
7	Loick Pires
8	Jack Parkinson
9	Bradley Bubb
10	Guisepppe Sole
11	Kevin Betsey
14	Brett Williams
15	Lee Sawyer
16	Brett Johnson
17	Dean Sinclair
18	Sam Beasant
19	Gavin McCullum
20	Josh Griffiths
22	George Frith
24	Billy Knott
25	Jayden Stockley
26	John Nutter

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: K. Johnson  
ASSISTANT: S. Feerick  
ASSISTANT: J. Burridge  
FOURTH OFFICIAL: S. Pawley

## HERE NEXT

### EBBSFLEET UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2012

KICK-OFF 3PM

